THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET
NORTHAM
DEVON

Results of Historic Building Recording

South West Archaeology Ltd. Report no 200912

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES & HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING
SOUTHWEST ARCHAEOLOGY

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The Church of St. Margaret, Northam, Devon
Historic Building Recording

By E. Wapshott & N. Boyd
Report Version: Final

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Work undertaken by SWARCH for Jonathan Rhind Architects (the Agent)
on behalf of the PCC of St. Margaret (the Client)

SUMMARY

South West Archaeology were commissioned to undertake a desk-based assessment and historic building recording during a programme of renovation works to resolve issues with the roof appraisal on St. Margaret's Church, Northam.

There has been a church in this location since at least the thirteenth century, with the potential that some of the 13th century fabric remains at the base of the tower. There have been multiple phases of rebuild, aggrandisement, repair and restoration, of varying styles, quality and sympathy.

The previous building appraisal identified inconsistencies within the roof structure and in the materials used, providing clear evidence for the different phases of repair carried out. The appraisal also concluded that much of the medieval roof remains, which raises the significance of the building. The appraisal noted many problems with the construction and covering of the roof, and how these contribute to the present and historic issues with water ingress.

The historic building recording confirmed that more of the medieval fabric survives than had previously been appreciated.

September 2020

CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF APPENDICES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

LOCATION: THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET
PARISH: NORTHAM
DISTRICT: TORRIDGE
COUNTY: DEVON
NGR: SS. 44874 29099
SWARCH REF: NSM19

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was asked to undertake historic building recording at the Church of St. Margaret, Northam, during conservation works to the roof. The site represents an example of a medieval Devonshire church, with extensions in the early post-medieval period and multiple phases of repair and restoration from the 18th century onward.

1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The town of Northam sits on the east-facing slopes of a valley that drops down on the western side to the River Torridge. It sits less than 2km south-west of Appledore and *c.*2.5km north-west of the centre of Bideford at an altitude of approximately 60m AOD. The Church of St. Margaret is located in the north-eastern part of the Northam Conservation Area that covers the historic core of the town.

The underlying bedrock of the area is the Ashburton Mudstone Member and Crackington Formation (BGS 2017). The church stands upon the well-drained fine loamy soils of the Neath Association (SSEW 1983).

1.3 METHODOLOGY

This work was undertaken in accordance with best practice. The desk-based assessment follows the guidance as outlined in the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (CIfA 2014). The study involved the examination of cartographic, documentary and published sources held at the Devon Heritage Centre (DHC) and North Devon Record Office (NDRO) as well as material held in the Devon County Council Historic Environment Record (HER). The building recording was undertaken by E. Wapshott followed the guidance laid out in *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good practice* (Historic England 2016).

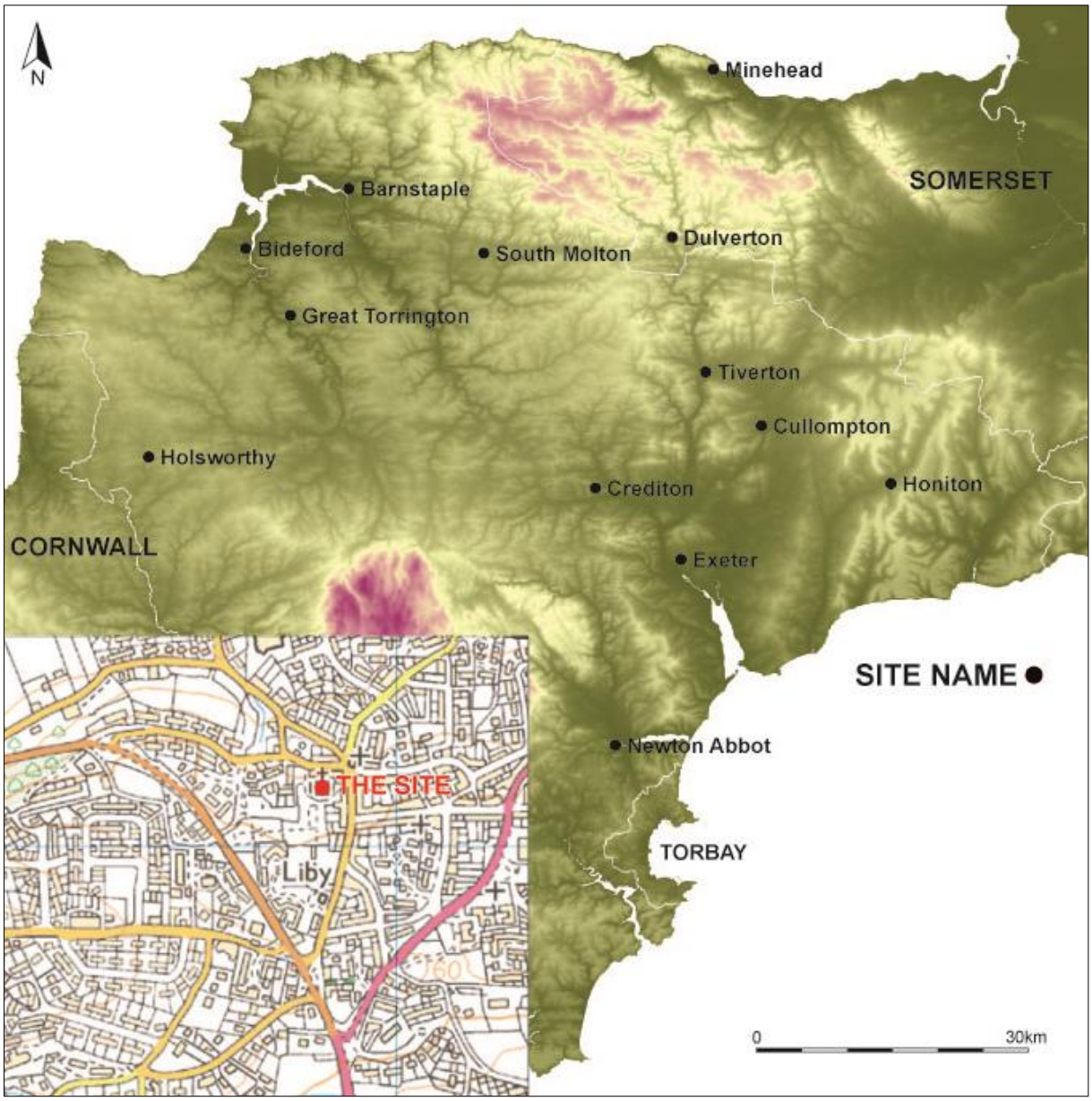

FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION (THE SITE IS INDICATED).

2.0 DESK-BASED APPRAISAL

2.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

The first documentary record of the Church of St. Margaret dates to the mid-13th century. The font is believed to date to this phase, and it is possible the base of the tower dates to this period. The nave and chancel of the church appear to be 15th century, with the north aisle and Lady Chapel added in 1593 (Cherry & Pevsner 1989; Passmore 2009; Laing-Trengove 2013; though see below). Repairs took place in the 1740s and an extensive programme of restoration was carried out during the period 1849-65, including the two porches and St. George's chapel; these works were initially carried out by D. Mackintosh but completed by his assistant W. F. Cross (Gale 1991). A vestry was added to the church in the early 20th century.

The 1593 phase of works saw the construction of the North Aisle. A contract for this work (NDRO: 1843A/PW61, see Appendix 1 for transcription) exists and indicates the North Aisle was to extend an existing aisle 'by forty four feet to the west within the walls and in breadth'. This would indicate part of the North Aisle predates 1593. The document also talks of reusing existing materials and resetting two windows from the old north aisle wall to the new, with a third, new window to be added.

The 1740s phase of works is detailed in a number of records held by the North Devon Record Office. These detail materials and costs, along with directions for the churchwardens and workmen. The records cover the period 1744-47, and contain lists of materials required to repair the roof/ceiling of the North and South Aisles, and the main roof. Much of the record consists of calculating the amount of 'board' required to create the 'pannells' in each bay of the roofs. These boards are described as 'Irish pine' or 'New England Board' in the 1744 accounts.

Directions to the parish and churchwardens and workmen – South Aisle ('Ile) in the church include:

- The Parish to provide boards, pole boards, ropes and teakels for the scaffold;
- Workmen to take the boards and 'plain' them and 'tende[.]' them and put in the sun, and take them in when it rains that it may be fit to work the sooner;
- That all the principels to be concave and every moulded principel to have a concave piece of wood nailed against it to keep out the ends of the boards and to 'neal if same to it';
- Each 'pannel' with 2 concave pieces must have 75 nails and every nail has to be punched and puttied to keep off rust;
- That the workmen do complete above work in 3 weeks after they begin to work in the church;
- Every 'pannill' to be fastened and glued together and all the 'pannills to 'acadea parallel with cavetto'.
- That the workmen are not to have no 'mony' till the above work be complete.

2.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Archaeological recording of the heating system in the tower was carried out by Exeter Archaeology in 2009 (Passmore). A desk-based assessment and historic building survey was carried out in 2013 by SWARCH (Laing-Trengove 2013) prior to the removal of pews, lowering of the raised plinths and some modification of the heating system. This work revealed a small vault dating to the mid 19th century. There does not seem to be a record of any other archaeological work carried out at St. Margaret's, and both of these reports focus on very specific aspects of the church – the heating system and the pews. This, coupled with the rather terse Listing text, suggest that very little study has been carried out on the church and very little record of its fabric and architecture despite its Grade I Listing.

3.0 BUILDING RECORDING

3.1 SUMMARY

The site was visited by Emily Wapshott on the 22nd March 2017 to monitor and record 'opening up' investigation works into the wall tops and waggon roof of the church's nave and vestry where there is established water ingress. This is part of wider conservation works to the church, managed by architects Johnathan Rhind, as part of an HLF funded project. The church was then re-visited during the repair works to the roof on the 4th June 2020.

The church is a large and well preserved example, lying within the heart of the community, with an unusually tall tower, of North Devon type. The church is Grade I Listed and of medieval date; the church displays complex phasing indicative of a 15th century reconstruction of an earlier church with a significant phase of enlargement and aggrandisement in the 16th century, a datestone of 1593 included in the north aisle. There are two known phases of restoration works carried out in the mid to later 19th century.

3.1.1 LISTING TEXT

15-JUN-1951 NORTHAM
846/2/72 CHURCH OF ST MARGARET
I
Mainly C15, lower part of tower older. Thoroughly restored between 1849 and 1865. Fine position overlooking sea. C14 "Kyrie" discovered here. Parish Church.

3.1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE VESTRY ROOF

The vestry is a small, later 19th century Gothic style structure, built into the north-west angle between the tower and north aisle, accessed from the exterior in its west wall and internally through a large forced opening in the medieval north wall of the tower. The exposed position of this vestry makes it vulnerable to the westerly coastal winds and this, coupled with the rather insubstantial build, has left the building in poor condition.

The single storey building has a raised, crenellated parapet of slatestone rubble with limestone dressings. The merlons have been rebuilt or heavily repaired at some point in the later 20th century with inappropriate hard cement-mix mortars which are forcing water further into the building. Several of the merlons are loose and unstable, requiring reconstruction. The vestry has been repointed in a hard mortar at some point and in places this is clearly coming away, again allowing for water ingress.

The roof behind the parapet is a shallow mono-pitch leading to a deep lead box gutter against the west gable of the north aisle, immediately under the window. This gutter also serves the heavy lead hopper and down pipe to the south of the window, which drains the large valley gutter between the nave and north aisle. This gutter and downpipe are both damaged and in need of conservation. The shallow pitch has allowed standing water on the lead, which has a green moss covering despite regular cleaning. The flashings on the lead roof have all been cemented, again pushing water beneath, and are very shallow; the roll joints in the leadwork do not have timber cores, but have merely been folded and the 'lap' between the lead sheets is short; again water is getting beneath.

Where the lead was lifted, as part of the 'opening up', wide, beaded pine boards were seen beneath, covered with a thin fibre sheeting, which has laminated and displays evidence of water ingress. A former skylight has been poorly covered over in the south-east corner of the roof, no doubt allowing further ingress into the structure.

From within the interior of the vestry, it is not immediately clear that there is an issue, as there is a later 19th or possibly very early 20th century secondary phase of additional boarding lining the office. This has been done in a pseudo-Gothic style, using very narrow pine boards, with moulded, chamfered, surface mounted ribs creating the effect of panelling on the walls and box-framing on the roof. Behind this panelling, through a very small hatch, a section of cruder, simpler and earlier pine boarding and beams/joists could be seen on the ceiling. The light scantling and close set of the joists may suggest a simple common rafter roof carrying the single pitch, but this cannot be confirmed until more of the roof is exposed.

3.1.3 ANALYSIS OF THE VESTRY ROOF

The vestry was built in an austere Gothic style, intended to blend with the grandiose 15th and 16th century phases of the medieval church, however, what has been observed of the roof structure suggests that whilst considerable attention was paid to the aesthetics of the vestry, its 19th century construction form and quality was lackadaisical at best. It appears the later phase of interior works was probably commissioned to hide the inevitable evidence of structural issues. Poor quality 20th century wall repairs, using inappropriate materials have furthered any problems. The roof is no longer the pristine 19th century structure it once was and the various phases of repair clearly evident, allow for some further flexibility in current planned works to recondition this roof for the future.

FIGURE 2: THE ROOF AND CRENELATIONS OF THE VESTRY; FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.

3.1.4 DESCRIPTION OF THE NAVE ROOF

St Margaret's nave has a *waggon roof*, of the 'common rafter' type; constructed of a series of close-coupled double arch-braced trusses. The trusses are plain and of fairly light scantling, the arch bracing is carried under the collars, with five additional moulded ribs running longitudinally along the roof, east-west and every fourth arch-braced truss has applied roll moulding, with decorative bosses at the various joints in the ribbing. This type of roof was quite common in church building across Devon and Somerset in the medieval and late medieval period.

Internally, the nave roof is stained a dark colour, obscuring patina with a tar, or creosote type substance and from the floor of the church, at a considerable height, it is difficult to fully distinguish between the timbers, but for their difference in surface texture and scantling weight. The early timber is adze cut and therefore slightly cruder in shape, the mouldings chunkier; the 19th century timbers more regular in shape. Clearly the majority of the arch bracing, shields and mouldings are also original. The wood used in the 19th century phase, probably pine or green oak, would be different from the medieval wood, which would likely have been oak or elm and this may account for the staining, to disguise obvious colour differences. The nave roof is unusually open beneath, allowing us to see the supportive beams above the arch bracing; often roofs were enclosed by plasterwork infilling between the moulded ribs forming a barrel shaped vault, sealing the roof above. Instead, the roof has lath and plaster panels between the base trusses. It is not clear, with only limited examination of a small part of this roof internally, from a single scaffold tower, if there is evidence of further plaster between the ribs at some point. This can be confirmed from the exterior, however, as there is clear evidence of laths on the back of some of the barrel-vaulted arch bracing, suggestive there was a more typical closed vault in the 16th century.

Examination of the roof from the exterior, where the north side of the nave roof was exposed, shows that the roof has a single layer of very thin and poor quality 19th century laths attached to battens. The internal thick white lime plaster is attached directly to these laths, which are tacked onto the battens with iron nails. The lime mix plaster is of very high lime content, a bright white colour and very hard. Infilling between the trusses above the plaster ceiling is 19th century rubble, of stone, plaster and even some broken bricks, which presumably does not come from the church, as no brick is obviously present elsewhere; or may relate to poor quality 18th century patching of stonework removed in the 19th to unify appearance. The tops of the walls of the nave here also appear to have been extended upwards and reset/repaired in lime mortar; this 'raising' occurred in the 16th century when the waggon roofing was installed, as the north aisle (built in this period) timbers are set into this wall; the nave roof sitting on the wall tops. There is also a phase of cement patching to both interior and exterior, where a cement render has been applied, possibly in an attempt to seal and protect from water damage.

FIGURE 3: THE INTERIOR OF THE NAVE ROOF; FROM THE NORTH-WEST.

The 'opening up' again exhibited the two distinct phases of trusses in the roof, with heavy adze shaped truss blades and a few smooth, lighter weight, machine sawn truss blades; again highlighting the majority of surviving medieval roof, supplemented with some 19th century superstructure, replacing those timbers which could not be saved. There are also at least two timbers reused as truss blades, identified as having chunky ¼ ovolo mouldings on them, now 'upside down'; their decorative nature suggesting they were part of the internal framework; at least one having a truncated mortice and tenoned end. One similar timber was noted on the south pitch, where the nave and chancel adjoin.

Phases of more intrusive repair can also be seen with some new wood scarfed in and loose timber pegs and copper nails, as well as piles of long coiled wood shavings from planning off damaged wood; there have gathered and caught on the irregular wall tops. Also on the north side, some of the truss blades have also had lining timbers added, thinner planks laid on the back, upon which the battens have been nailed; this is due to significant wear on the back of these timbers, again from historic water ingress. Many of the massive truss blades on the north side of the roof show water damage and rotten ends which have dried out and been braced; the water damage arrested and this is probably due to 19th century work on the valley gutter between the nave and north aisle.

The exterior view of the roof also allowed a brief appraisal of the slates. This was a scantle pegged roof, with graded sizes of slates from ridge to gutter; the oldest here appearing to be heavy weight Delabole. The roof is now of irregular sizes and forms, with a heavier grey and a thin, darker, more modern slate intermixed, possibly Welsh slate. The 'opening up' of the exterior of the roof along the north side of the nave allowed multiple copper handmade tacks to be viewed, lost in and among the rubble infill. These relate to an earlier, heavier weight roof; the current slates attached with iron nails which are mostly rotten and rusted.

FIGURES 4A & 4B: LEFT; SOUTH SIDE OF THE ROOF, WITH REUSED MOULDED TIMBER. RIGHT, NORTH SIDE OF THE NAVE ROOF, WITH A SIMILAR MOULDED TIMBER, CLEARLY REUSED FROM ELSEWHERE OF TYPICAL 16TH CENTURY MOULDED FORM.

3.1.5 DESCRIPTION OF THE NORTH AISLE ROOF AND VALLEY GUTTER TO THE NAVE

The valley gutter at the west end of the church, between the nave roof and north aisle roof, is of unusually tapered form, indicative of the phasing in this structure. To the west end, adjacent to the tower, it is c.0.4m wide, widening to the east end, at the coping between nave/chancel and north aisle/lady chapel to c.1.2m. What this means is that whilst the nave roof alignment fits the walls below on an east-west line; the roof above the north aisle is cranked, lying slightly south-west, north-east, and runs away on its south side from the wall alignment. The valley gutter is leaded and beneath is constructed of massive planks with chamfered edges, oak and elm, with many cut marks and carpenters marks; these have evidence of water damage on their north sides and are nailed loosely to narrow pine cross-braces, presumably a 19th century fixing. They are c.0.4m wide and c.10cm deep to the centre, the sides chamfered and tapered to sit in the angle between the roofs; multiple boards infill at the wider end, all appear to be historic reused offcuts. These timbers are massive and earlier in date, likely reused here. The lead gutter and flashings are again shallow but this structure is largely suffering due to the wind funnel created along its length and the open position of the church on the knoll before the Northam Burrows, with no protection from the direct sea winds. The width of the gutter will naturally retain water along its length, the very shallow drop providing ineffective drainage. Standing water even in small quantities poses a threat to a historic timber roof structure.

On the coped gable between the north aisle and lady chapel the exposed stonework and scarring suggest a different roofline formerly occupied this area, centred and of much steeper pitch. We can track the roofline change by the sudden exposure of formerly internal stonework to the weather requiring heavy 19th century repointing in lime mortar and that yet again this irregularity is a side-effect of well intentioned but poorly executed 19th century restoration works. After dismantling the roof timbers, the north side presumably required more wood to be removed than expected or calculations before reassembly were misjudged. When viewed from the interior, the lower arch bracing and ribs of the north aisle roof appear to fit the walls but the ridge above, the upper (base) A-

frame, the collar of which is holding that arch bracing, are totally offset to the north side. From the exterior the socket for the former ridge pole has been crudely blocked with a thick patch of mortar and a slate. The western end of the aisle and roof fits exactly, there being a slight crank to the centre; the 16th century texts do talk of extending the aisle to the west, so the wall alignment changes may indicate phasing within the aisle structure itself, an anomaly the 19th century builders uncovered only after starting the work.

The weight of the beams to the north aisle roof are much lighter and many are obviously 19th century replacements, in fact much of this roof looks to date to the later renovations, but some of the internal arch bracing and vaulting is adze cut and appears to be 16th century. There are some heavier timbers to the east end which may be original. One timber on the south face has regular shallow joist or wide split batten notches in the back of it, suggestive of it having been part of an earlier roof. The slates over the north aisle are irregular in size and type, as with the nave roof. Again, nail rot of the iron nails is obvious and heavier, larger Delabole slates appear to represent the earliest of the current phases on this roof. Originally, as with the nave, the north aisle would have had a pegged graded scantle roof of good quality Delabole.

FIGURE 5: THE NORTH AISLE ROOF STRIPPED OF SLATE; FROM THE EAST-NORTH-EAST.

3.1.6 ANALYSIS OF THE NAVE AND NORTH AISLE ROOFS

The roof over the nave represents a considerable survival of late medieval fabric, incorporated within the 19th century repairs, with visible scarfed and raking joints seen along the length of the roof, supporting elements of both the medieval arch-bracing and medieval plain base trusses. This would suggest the roof may have been completely dismantled, conserved, elements remade in the same form and style and the whole roof reconstructed during one of the phases of 19th century work. There are lots of broken, knocked out pegs to be found discarded within the roof and recut peg holes in timbers of a scantling and patina which can only be medieval, supporting this theory. The roof is of

fourteen bays, with fifteen trusses and almost every bay has elements of original roofing incorporated. This dismantling and reconstruction could explain the misconception of the roof being 19th century.

It is mere speculation, as we have no definitive dateable evidence but the odd replacement timbers, reusing materials, likely dates to the more minor 1740s works; the more comprehensive scarfing in of joints and wholly new timbers, as part of a dismantling and reconstruction, the more rigorous 19th century phase of restoration. The wear and patina of the timbers would suggest that a significant proportion of the structural timbers or elements of trusses, are of the 15th or 16th century, remodelled and not wholly replaced. The north aisle roof however looks to be mostly 19th century in date.

3.1.7 SIGNIFICANCE

The Listing text for this church is limited and it is unclear how much detailed modern archaeological study the building had received before this programme of works. Certainly, it appears little attention has been paid to the interior of the building and the visible 19th century phases of renovation may have led to the misunderstanding of the roofs being largely 19th century replacements.

The 'opening up' has primarily highlighted the significance of the roof within the wider church structure. It is of considerable aesthetic value, obvious historical value and high evidential value. Certainly dating at least to the 16th century phase of aggrandisement, possibly even earlier the nave roof is of high historic integrity, holding narrative value and being very authentic; the north aisle roof less so but is a good example of Victorian Tudor-Gothicism and master-carpentry.

This process has also identified multiple phases of repair and resetting. The 19th century carpenters included as much historic fabric as was possible in the reassembly of the waggon roof. This approach to restoration, which we would recognise as 'modern conservation' today, is both unusual for the period and highly valuable, as a far more interesting and complex structure now survives than in other churches where 19th century work was more comprehensive. The increased significance of this roof further establishes the need for conservation and repair and may justify a more involved and significant change to the exterior treatment above and between the trusses to ensure the ongoing survival of the whole. The historic phases of work noted during appraisal should build in flexibility for both architect and builder to provide solutions to these issues as the roofs inherent complex phasing mean it is not a pristine structure.

The 'opening up' of the nave roof exhibits a similar story to that of the vestry: a 19th century significant phase of works which focused very heavily on the interior appearance and visuals, rather than the quality. The care and attention given to incorporating the old timber in the newly reassembled waggon roof, and expense of that, may have overwhelmed better intentions when considering the later finishing of the roof, hence the odd open vault being left exposed. It may also indicate workers were possibly expecting the roof to be sealed and may be why 'corners were cut' on the plasterwork. For whatever reason, no barrel vault ceiling was seemingly ever installed.

There is great local folkloric value in the story of the Victorian vicar raising his own money for works and the current project is supported via Heritage Lottery Funding with a focus on community value.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

There has been a church in this location since at least the thirteenth century, with the potential that some of the 13th century fabric remains at the base of the tower. There have been multiple phases of rebuild, aggrandisement, repair and restoration, of varying styles, quality and sympathy.

The building recording identified inconsistencies within the roof structure and in the materials used, clear evidence of the different repairs carried out. The works have demonstrated that much of the medieval roof remains.

The 'opening up' has primarily highlighted the significance of the roof within the wider church structure. It is of considerable aesthetic value, obvious historical value and high evidential value. Certainly dating at least to the 16th century phase of aggrandisement, possibly even earlier the nave roof is of high historic integrity, holding narrative value and being very authentic; the north aisle roof less so but is a good example of Victorian Tudor-Gothicism and master-carpentry.

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1843A/PW37A; 1843A/PW57; 1843A/PW61; 1843A/PW94/4-5; 1843A/PW94/9; 1843A/PW109

APPENDIX 1: TRANSCRIPTION OF NDRO: 1843A/PW61 BY HELEN JONES (EXETER CATHEDRAL ARCHIVIST)

1. Inprimis the said Richard Browne and Edward Browne for themselves and either of them their executors and administrators do covenant grant and agree to and with the said
2. Thomas Leigh? Faithfull Fortescue William Olrdige William Hallott and to and with the residence of the said parish more of Northam before named their executors and admins and
3. [bit blurred on the fold] them by their executors that the said Richard Browne and Edward Browne their executors and assigns shall or will at or on [the side] the feast of all Saints
4. next ensuing the date here at their own p per cost and charge erect new build and furnish one aisle [superscript blurred] strong and sufficient on the north side of the parish of church of
5. Northam in the county of Devon aforesaid extending in length from the north aisle there already built westward forty four feet within the walls and in breadth
6. [8/80?]. Item also the said Richard Browne and Edward Browne do covenant grant and agree for themselves their executors and admins to and with the said Thomas Leigh
7. Faithfull Fortescue, William Olridge and William Hallett and to and with the residence of the said parishioners before named their executors and admins and every of them by
8. their presents that they the said Richard Browne and Edwarde Browe [sic] their executors & assigns shall and will at their own p per cost charge and expense find and provide
9. all manner of stones timber nails lead lime iron glass nails laths and plasterings (except such stones as are their already in place and such glass
10. iron and lead as are two windows on the north side of the said church needful requisite and necessary for the erecting building and furnishing of the roof of
11. the said aisle and shall also at their own p per cost and charge make and set [ ] in the north wall of the said [ ] two fair glass windows as are now on the north
12. side of the said church and in the west end of the same aisle another fair glass window sufficient and substantial for such building and also they the
13. said Richard Browne and Edward Browne do further covenant grant and agree for themselves and either of them their executors and admins to and with the said
14. Thomas Leigh, Faithfull Fortescue, William Oldridge and William Hallet and to and with the residence of the said parishioners before named that if any part of the said
15. church there now already built shall hereafter in any respect happen to be hurt spoiled defaced or impaired or to fall down by reason of the plucking
16. down or taken away of the said wall thereof or otherwise by reason or occasion of the new building of the aisle and or [ ] church that then they the said Richard
17. Browne and Edward Browne their executors and assigns shall at their own p per cost and charge again [ ] erect repair and amend the same in as good
18. sufficient substantial and decent manner as the same now is at the time of then sealing and delivery of their presents and in consideration hereof the same
19. Thomas Leighe, Faithfull Fortescue, William Oldridge and William Hallet and the residence of the said parishioners before named do covenant grant and agree
20. for themselves their executors and assigns and for every of them to and with the said Richard Browne and Edward Browne their executors and assigns by their
21. presents that they the said Thomas Leigh, Faithfull Fortescue, William Oldridge, William Hallet and the residence of the said parishioners shall pay unto the said Richard
22. Browne & Edward Browne for the new building erecting and furnishing of the said aisle the sum of three score and fifteen pounds of lawful money of England
23. in manner and form following that is to say five and twenty pounds thereof at then sealing hereof other five and twenty pounds thereof [ ] the said aisle
24. shall happen to be half made and built and the other five and twenty pounds $^{\text{when the said aisle}}$ shall be fully made executed and furnished Item also the said Thomas
25. Leigh, Faithful Fortescue, William Oldridge, William Hallett and the residence of the said parishioners before named do further covenant grant and agree to and

26. with the said Richard Brown and Edward Browne that the said Richard Browne and Edward Browne shall hand free liberty to work dig delve
27. in any ground or grounds within the said parish of Northam and there to take such stones as unto them shall be thought meet for the building
28. of the said aisle paying unto the said owner or owners of such ground and grounds where the shall happen to work dig or delve for such trespass or
29. trespasses by them to be [ ] as by different [damaged on fold line] and reasonable Item also the said Thomas Leigh, Faithfull
30. Fortescue, William Oldridge, William Hallet and the [ ] of the said parishioners before named do farther covenant grant and agree to and with the said
31. Richard Browne and Edward Browne that the said Thomas Leigh, Faithfull Fortescue, William Oldridge, William Hallet and the residence of the said
32. parishioners before named or their assigns shall carry or cause to be carried all such stones timber and other things necessary for the erecting and building of the said aisle
33. as shall happen to to [sic] be within the said parish of Northam or brought out of any other parish or place unto [ ] by the said Richard Browne,
34. Edward Browne or their assigns & bring them in place where the said aisle shall be erected and built at the p per cost and charge of the them the
35. the [sic] said Thomas Leigh, Faithfull Fortescue, William Oldridge and William Hallet and the residence of the said parishioners before named in witness
36. whereof the [ ] aforesaid to this present writing their seals interchangeably are sett upon the day & year first above written.

APPENDIX 2: DETAILS FROM THE 1744×7 ACCOUNTS OF WORK ON THE CHURCH

Carpenter Accounts April 12th 1744: Sawing 139 feet of pine; poles to make scaffolding; one 'pannel' and getting up on 'the same'

April 16th 1744: 712 feet 'Irish pine boards', 152 feet; 30 feet

July 23rd 1744: 5 pounds putty; 5 pounds glue; 1000½ 6 pence nails; 5 thousand ?nails

Letter July 28th 1744: £9 15s for wages due for the ceilings of the main roof

Undated (Possibly still 1744): South Aisle 12 bays and in every bay 6 'pannels' and every 'pannel' 30 feet; therefore every bay = 180 feet and 12 bays = 2160 feet, therefore up to 2500 feet of 'New England Board' will cover it; '1584' Board in the 'whole main roof'. Add 150 feet of board for deficiency in measure and waste; Labour and nails itemised as one figure.

15th June 1747: Measure of the North Aisle – 50x22, 10 bays; 4 'pannels' in every bay, 30 feet per 'pannel', therefore 120 per bay = 1200 board; £33 11s 6p = total sum put in the churchwarden's hand for repairs to the North Aisle.

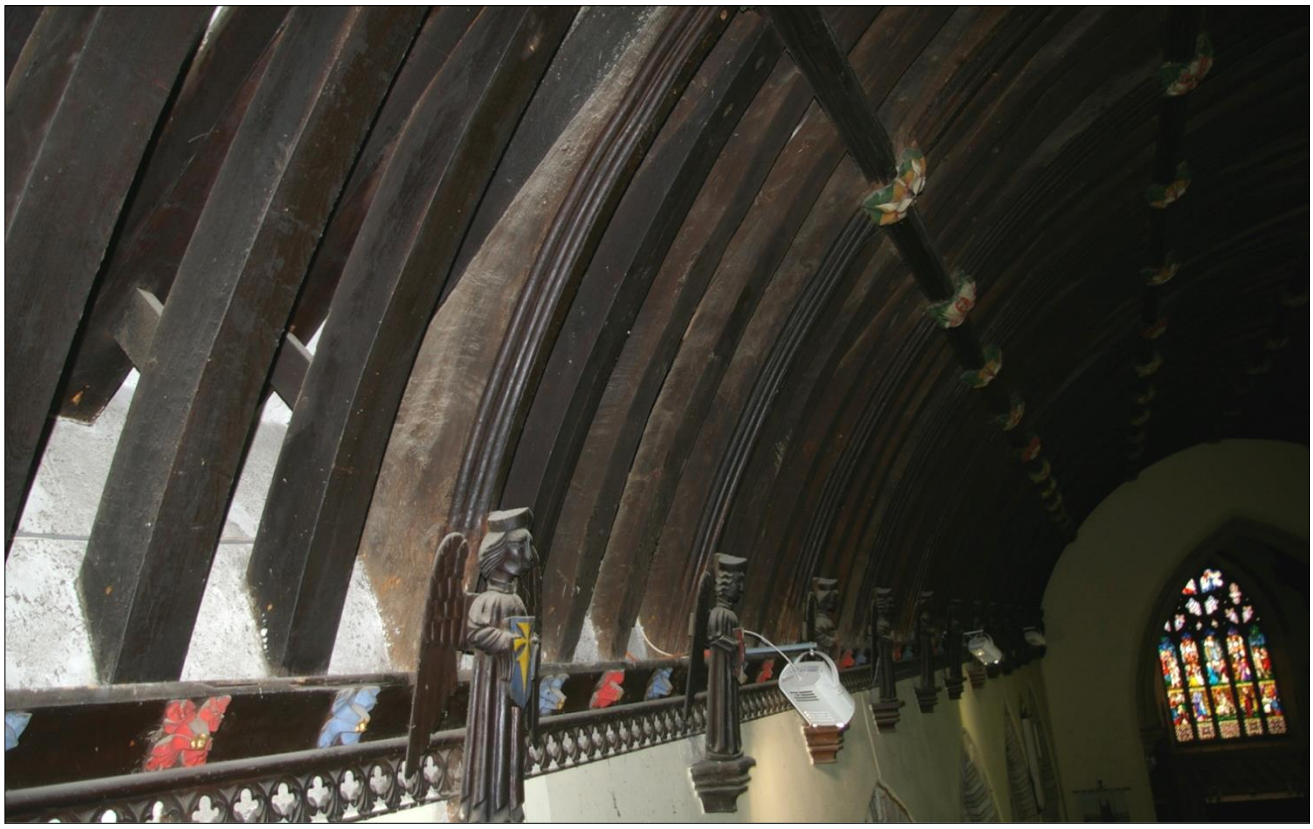
APPENDIX 3: PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

1. THE LEAD GUTTER AND DOWNPIPE THAT SERVES THE VALLEY GUTTER BETWEEN NAVE AND NORTH AISLE AND LEADS INTO THE BOX GUTTER THAT RUNS ACROSS THE ROOF OF THE VESTRY; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST.

2. THE LEAD SHEETING LIFTED ON THE VESTRY ROOF, SHOWING THE PINE BOARDS BENEATH; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.

3. THE LEAD BOX DRAIN AND SHALLOW MONOPITCH OF THE ROOF UNDER THE WEST WINDOW OF THE NORTH AISLE; VIEWED FROM THE WEST-NORTH-WEST.

4. THE INTERIOR OF THE NAVE ROOF SHOWING THE LIME PLASTER BETWEEN THE TRUSSES AND VERY THIN LATHS; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH.



5. THE NORTH SIDE OF THE NAVE ROOF, CLEARLY SHOWING THE DIFFERENCES IN TEXTURE AND SLIGHT VARIATIONS IN COLOUR, WHERE MEDIEVAL TIMBERS HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED INTO A 19TH CENTURY ROOF REPAIR; VIEWED FROM THE WEST-SOUTH-WEST.

6. THE CEMENT RENDER TREATMENT OF THE WALL TOPS, THE RUBBLE BUILD IN LIME MORTAR BEHIND IT, AND AN ATTEMPT TO COVER THE FAILING LIME PLASTER WITH FIBRE PANELS; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.

7. EXTERIOR FACE OF THE ROOF WITH SLATES LIFTED AND FELT REMOVED. THERE ARE TWO HEAVY ORIGINAL TRUSS BLADES AND ONE NARROW 19TH CENTURY TRUSS BLADE; VIEWED FROM THE EAST-NORTH-EAST.

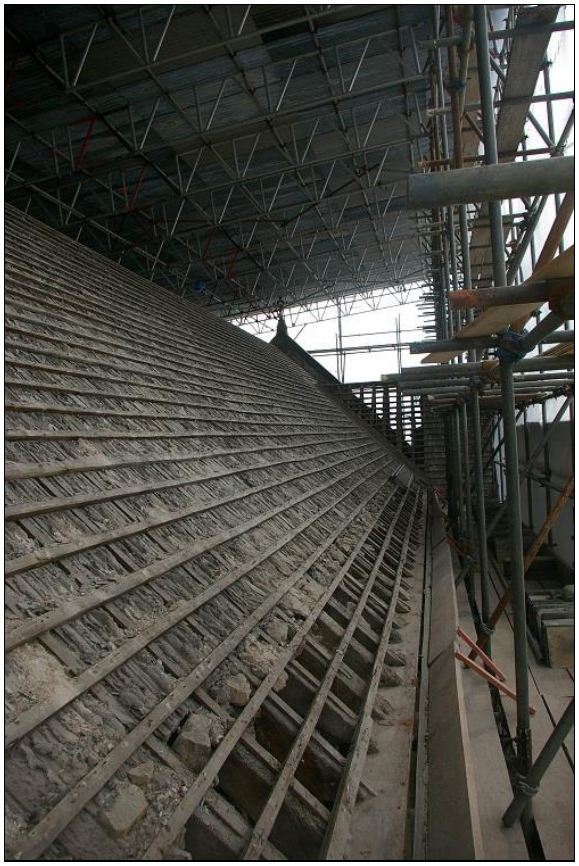
8. MEDIEVAL HEAVY TRUSS BLADE, JUST BEYOND THE LIGHTER 19TH CENTURY ONE; THIS MEDIEVAL TRUSS HAS HAD A LIGHT PINE BATTEN FOR THE SLATES ATTACHED TO ITS REAR WITH IRON NAILS; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-NORTH-EAST.

9. THE WIDE END OF THE VALLEY GUTTER WHERE THE NORTH AISLE AND NAVE MEET THE EASTERN PART OF THE CHURCH; VIEWED FROM THE WEST.

10. VIEW BACK ALONG THE VALLEY GUTTER AND TO THE TOWER, SHOWING HOW IT NARROWS AND HOW THE ROOFS ARE OFFSET; VIEWED FROM THE EAST-NORTH-EAST.

11. THE RAISED GABLE BETWEEN THE NORTH AISLE TO THE LEFT AND THE HIGHER PROFILE OF THE ROOF OF THE LAY CHAPEL TO THE RIGHT, SHOWING HOW OFFSET THE ROOF OF THE NORTH AISLE IS IN COMPARISON TO THE REST; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.

12. VIEW FROM WITHIN THE NORTH AISLE SHOWING THE OFFSET ROOF; VIEWED FROM THE WEST.



13. THE NORTH FACE OF THE NORTH AISLE ROOF; FROM THE EAST-NORTH-EAST.

14. THE NORTH FACE OF THE NORTH AISLE ROOF; FORM THE WEST-NORTH-WEST.

15. THE NORTH AISLE AND NAVE ROOFS STRIPPED OF SLATE; FROM THE WEST-NORTH-WEST.

16. THE ROOFLINE SCAR AND SOCKET HOLE ON THE NORTH AISLE, EAST END; FROM THE SOUTH-WEST.

17. LEFT: SAW MARKS ON TRUSSES OF NORTH AISLE, INDICATING 19TH CENTURY DATE.
18. RIGHT: ONE OLDER ADZE CUT TRUSS BLADE ON THE SOUTH FACE OF THE NORTH AISLE ROOF, WITH SHALLOW NOTCHES FOR RAFTERS/BATTENS.

19. THE EXPOSED PLANKS OF THE VALLEY GUTTER; FROM THE EAST.

20. THE VALLEY GUTTER AND DRAIN TO THE WEST END; FROM THE EAST.

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