

# ST MARY'S CHURCH, HENNOCK, DEVON

(NGR SX 8298 8088)

Results of an archaeological watching brief

Dartmoor National Park Authority planning reference 0551/15,  
condition 3

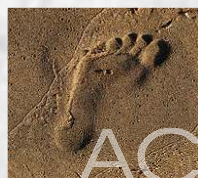
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Prepared by:  
Alex Farnell  
and Charlotte Coles

On behalf of:  
St Mary's PCC

Document No: ACD1400/2/0

Date: September 2016



AC archaeology

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# Dartmoor National Park Authority Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Hennock, Teignbridge	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SX 83002 80882	<b>Number:</b>							
<b>Subject:</b> Land Adjacent to St Mary's Church, Hennock, Devon: Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief								<b>Photo attached?</b> Yes	
<b>Planning Application no:</b> Dartmoor National Park Authority ref: 0551/15, condition 3				<b>Recipient museum:</b> N/A					
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 262453				<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A					
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> ACD1400				<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 2 August 2016					
<b>Description of works:</b>									
<i>Introduction</i>									
<p>Archaeological monitoring of groundworks for a new car park was carried out by AC archaeology for St Mary's Parochial Church Council. The site was situated in an area of unused graveyard, to the southwest of the church (Fig. 1), which is a Grade I listed building (National Heritage List no. 1166001). It was located on moderately sloping pasture between 194 and 191m aOD, with the underlying geology comprising Upper Devonian Mudstone, siltstone and sandstone (BGS Online Viewer).</p> <p>The church of St Mary is noted for its medieval tower and the likelihood that it may have Saxon origins. The site is located within the medieval core of Hennock within an historic boundary which may mark the area of earliest settlement in the village. The tithe map of 1841 depicts several buildings constructed to the south of the church along Bell Lane. It is possible that these buildings stand on earlier medieval sites and that the buildings once continued along the frontage to the west.</p>									
<i>Results</i>									
<p>An area measuring approximately 18m by 27m was stripped of topsoil using a tracked machine fitted with a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision (Fig. 2; Plates 1-2). Following removal of topsoil, the works included further levelling of the site by cut and fill, comprising a reduced dig on the western upslope side of site and building up of the ground level on the eastern side of the site with stone.</p> <p>Natural subsoil (context 101) consisted of firm mid yellowish-brown silty clay with common stone inclusions, and was exposed below the topsoil (100; a friable very dark grey-brown silty loam with occasional sub-rounded pebbles) at a depth varying between 0.15m and 0.5m below existing levels (Plates 3-4). The topsoil was shallowest along the western and southern extents of the site becoming deeper downslope to the northeast corner of the stripped area. Along the eastern site boundary a 20th-century deposit (102) was exposed between the topsoil and the natural. It comprised moderately dark grey-brown clay loam with occasional pebbles, and was a build-up or deliberate deposition of debris along the upslope side of the extant hedgebank which formed the eastern site boundary. A small representative assemblage of finds was recovered from layer 102 (see below). This deposit was not fully excavated. No further deposits, features or finds of archaeological interest were exposed.</p>									
<i>The finds, by Charlotte Coles</i>									
The small assemblage of finds was recovered from deposit 102. These are summarised in the table below, with a selection illustrated in Plate 5.									
Post-medieval pottery		Clay tobacco pipe		Kiln furniture		Glass		Animal bone	
No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
13	53	2	16	1	9	2	57	1	3

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The post-medieval pottery mainly consists of 19th- and 20th-century industrial wares, including English stoneware and blue and white Staffordshire transfer printed pottery. The only exception to this are two small pieces of porcelain, one of which is part of a very small plate, presumably from a late Victorian doll's house.

The two pieces of clay tobacco pipe comprise a plain stem and a highly decorative stem, which has the design of scales and is likely to be a pipe in the shape of a bird's foot. These claw clay tobacco pipes represent an eagle clutching an egg (the clay tobacco pipe bowl) and were in use from 1830 to 1920s; without the bowl it is not possible to pinpoint its date further.

The single piece of kiln furniture is the end of a kiln spacer known as a 'trivet', which dates from the late Victorian/Edwardian period.

The only other finds were two glass bottle bases and a piece of bird bone, which is a chicken tarso-metatarsus.

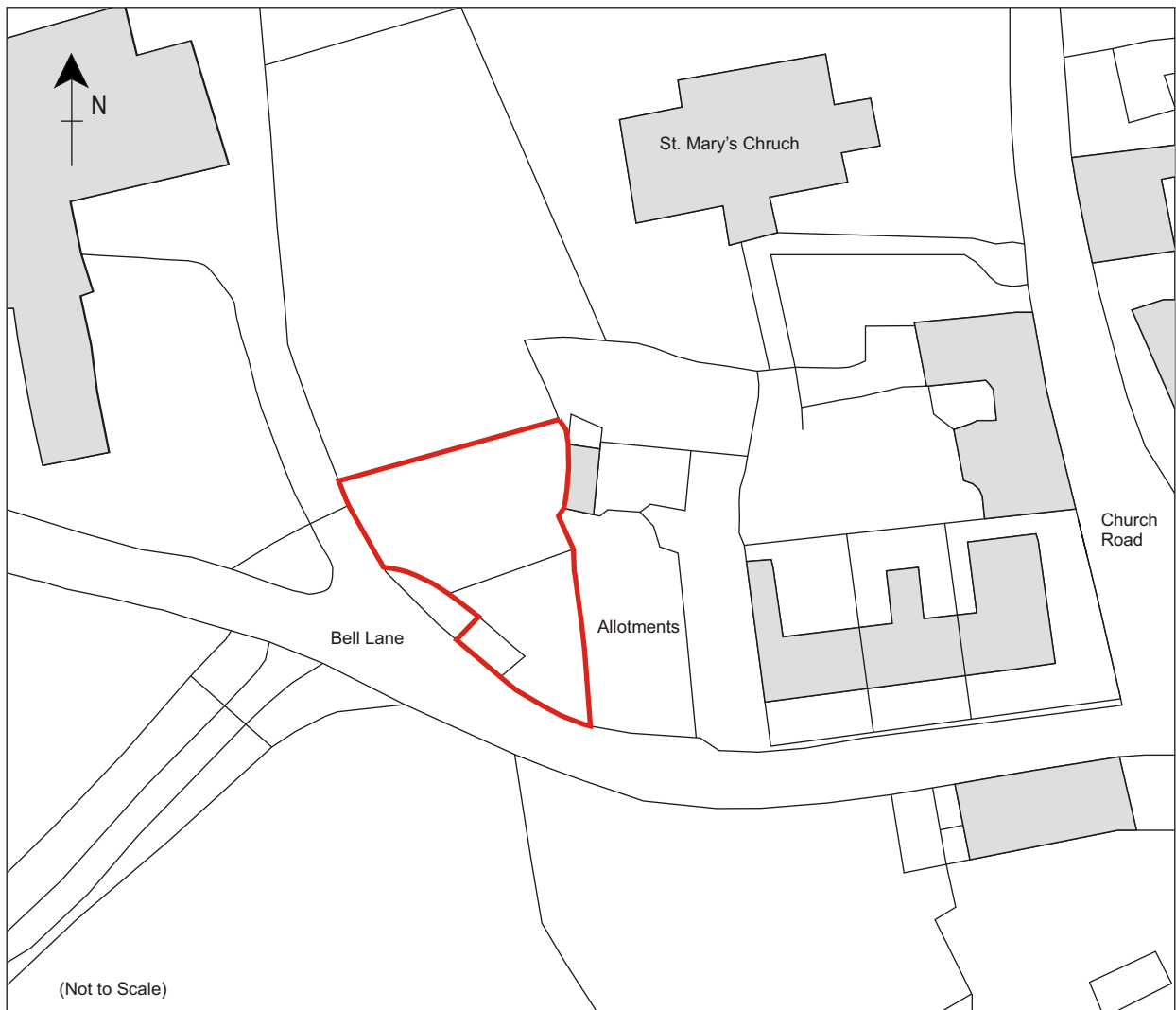
### *Comment*

Removal of topsoil exposed no evidence for medieval buildings along the frontage of Bell Lane and no evidence to indicate that this part of the graveyard had previously been used for burials. Natural subsoil was exposed across the western (upslope) side of site. To the east, an early 20th-century deposit was exposed but not removed during the works. The presence of a kiln trivet in this deposit is a mystery as no historical reference has been found to pottery manufacture of that date in Hennock.

This report and the associated OASIS entry form the archive for the project.

The finds will be offered to St Mary's PCC, but if they do not wish to retain them, they will be disposed of in accordance with the written scheme of investigation.

<b>Recorder:</b>	<b>Date sent to HER:</b>
Alex Farnell, AC archaeology	15 September 2016



(Not to Scale)

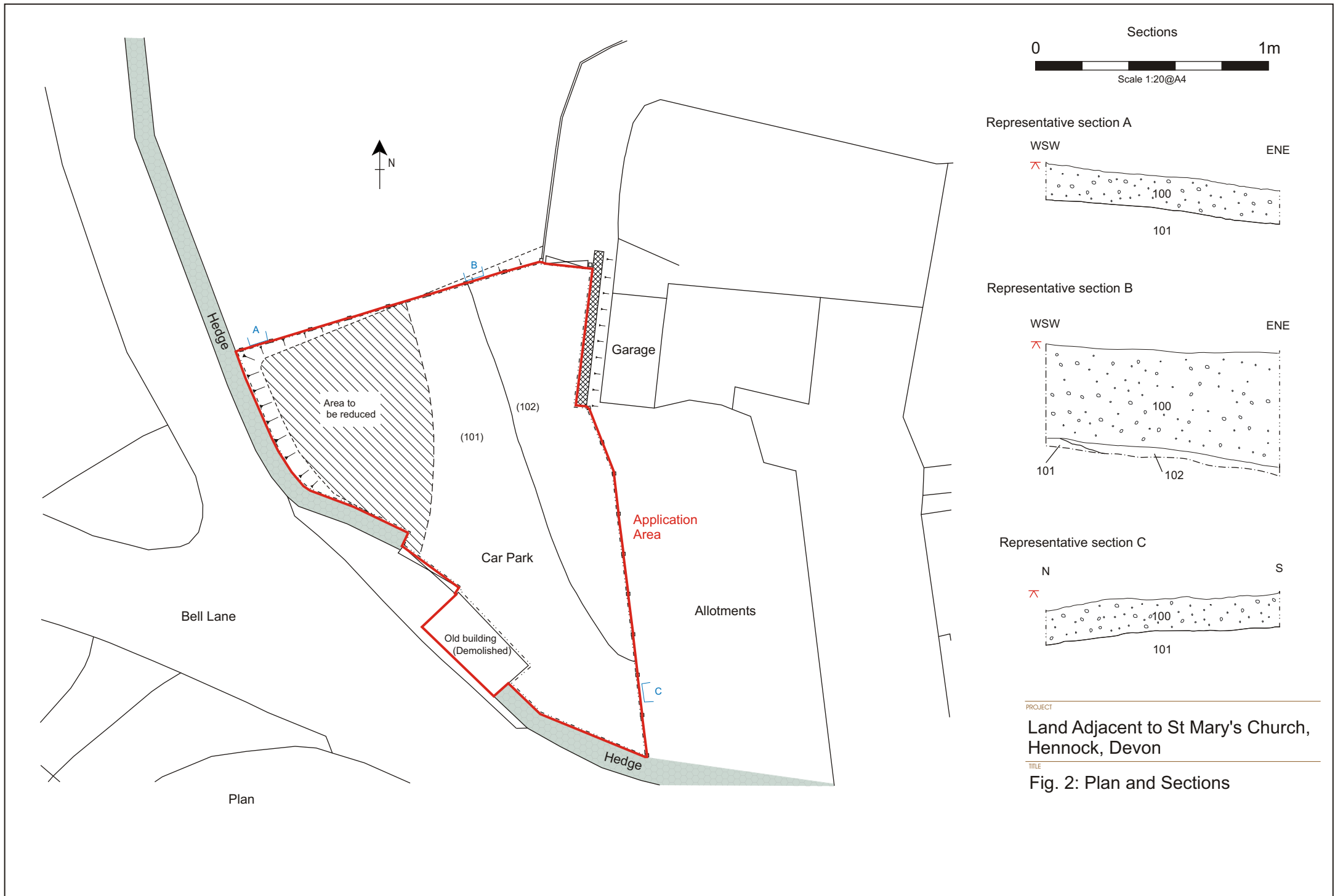
PROJECT

Land Adjacent to St Mary's Church,  
Hennock, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site with  
investigated area shown





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Fig. 2: Plan and Sections



Plate 1: General view of site, looking north



Plate 2: General view of site, looking northeast



Plate 3: Representative section A, facing northwest (scale 1m)



Plate 4: Representative section B, facing northwest (scale 1m)



Plate 5: Selected finds: piece of kiln furniture (top left); doll's house porcelain plate (top right); decorative stem of clay tobacco pipe (bottom)



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