

LAND AT ST PETER'S CHURCH, STOKE FLEMING, DEVON

(NGR SX 86181 48313)

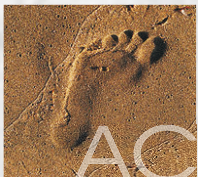
Results of archaeological monitoring and recording

Prepared by:
Chris Caine

On behalf of:
Parochial Church Council, St Peter's
Church, Stoke Fleming

Report No: ACD1508/1/0

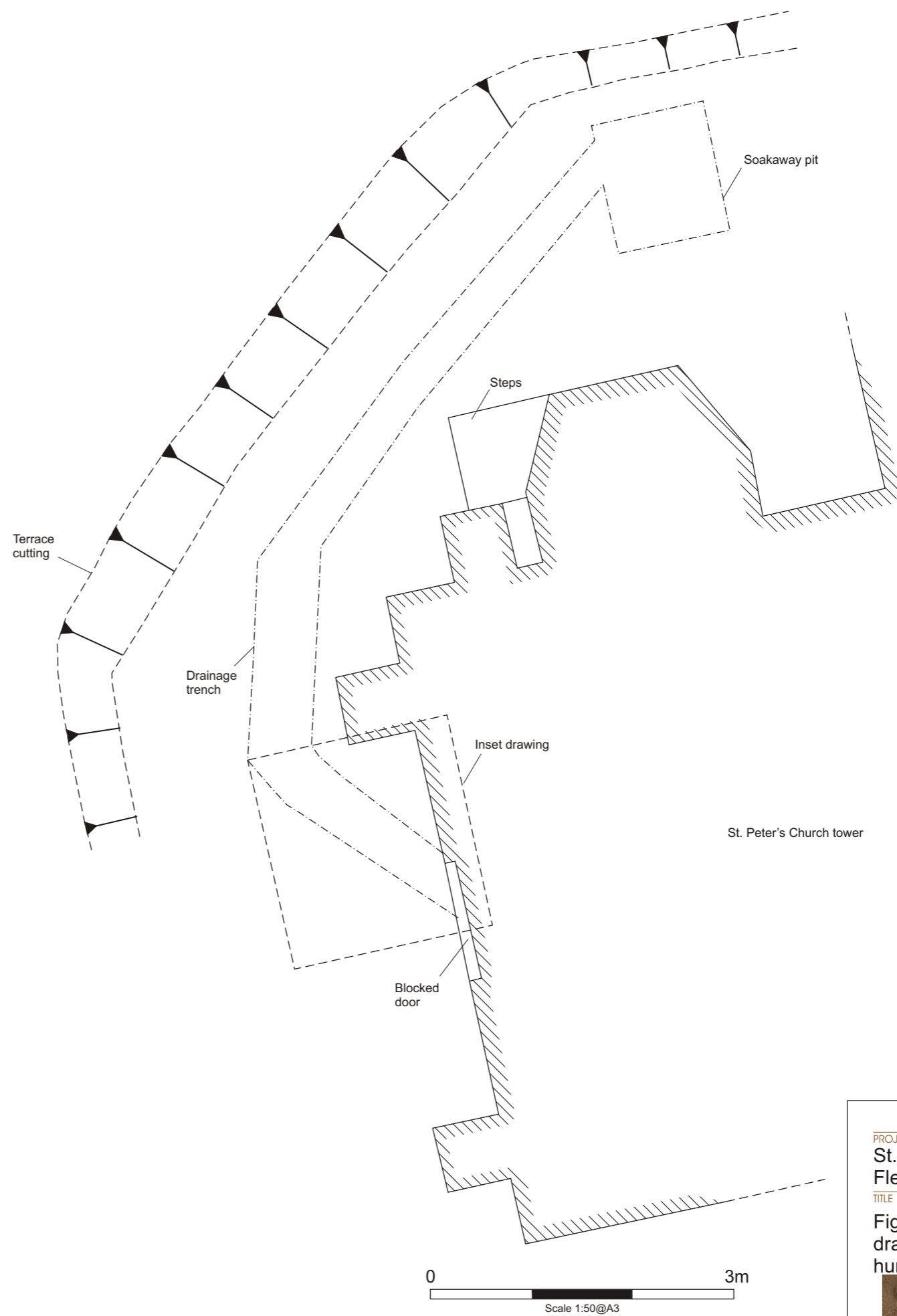
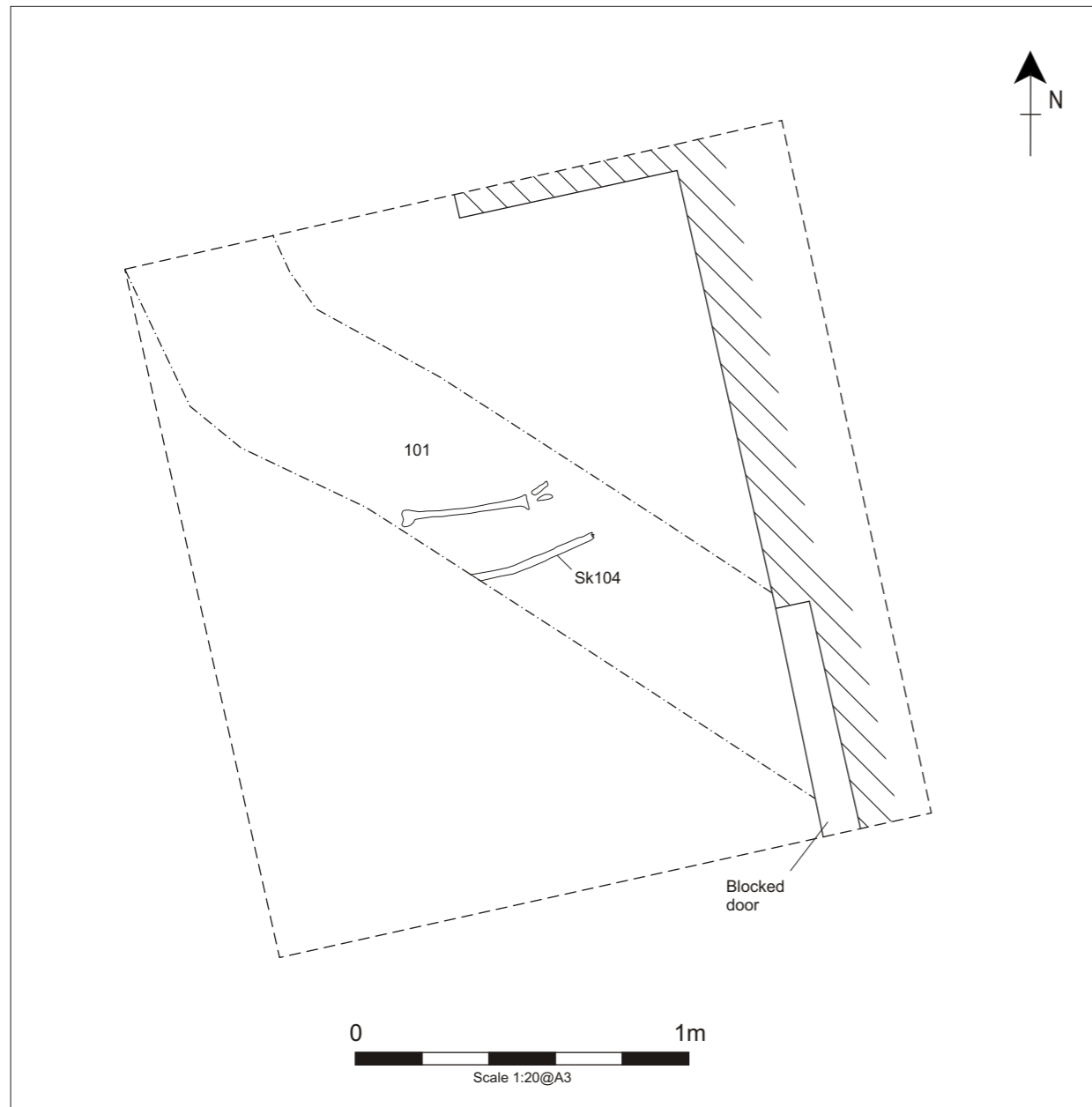
Date: November 2016



archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Stoke Fleming, South Hams	National Grid Reference SX 86181 48313	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: Land at St Peter's Church, Stoke Fleming, Devon: Results of archaeological monitoring and recording		Photo attached? Plates 1-3
Planning Application no: N/A	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: 269856	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD1508	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 15th November 2016	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by AC archaeology during the construction of a new drainage system on land St Peter's Church, Stoke Fleming, Devon (SX 86181 48313). The monitored groundworks were located around the northwest portion of the church tower and within a perimeter terrace cutting (Fig. 1 and Plate 1).</p> <p>A church is thought to have been on the site since the pre-conquest period. However, the current St Peter's Church is Grade II*-listed and is likely to date from the 13th century. Subsequent remodelling of the church took place during the 14th and 15th century, before restoration in the later 19th century. Among the elements having a 13th century origin is the tower, adjacent to which the drainage works were carried out.</p> <p>Results</p> <p>Monitored groundworks consisted of the machine-excavation of a trench and a soakaway pit (Fig. 1). The trench measured between 0.45m and 0.6m wide and was excavated to a depth of between 0.3m and 0.45m deep (Plate 2). At the northeast extent of the trench was the soakaway pit, which measured 1.3m long, 1m wide and was excavated to a depth of 1m.</p> <p>The natural subsoil, which consisted of the weathered slate bedrock in a light reddish-brown silty-clay matrix, was exposed at a depth of around 0.4m below existing levels. This was overlain by a 0.2m thick mid greyish-brown silty-clay layer (101) that contained a number of disarticulated human bones. At the southern extent of the trench was a partially-exposed probable-articulated skeleton (Sk104) set within deposit 101, but with no discernible grave cut (Plate 3). The exposed portion of SK104 consisted of a pair of east to west aligned femurs that were damaged and cut away at their eastern extent. Layer 101 was overlain by mixed topsoil or former gravel path surface (100).</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>The excavations exposed a buried soil deposit in which a probable in situ burial and disarticulated human bone were present. This layer is likely to be the base of the churchyard grave soil, which given the shallow depth of the exposed remains, is likely to have been truncated by the terrace cutting that extends around the church.</p> <p>The human remains exhumed during these works remained on site for subsequent re-burial.</p>		
Recorder: Chris Caine, AC Archaeology		Date sent to HER: November 2016



PROJECT
St. Peter's Church, Stoke Fleming, Devon

TITLE
Fig. 1: Location of monitored drainage works and exposed human remains





Plate 1: View of St Peter's Church tower. Looking south



Plate 2: General view of drainage trench. Looking northeast



Plate 3: Showing exposed human remains SK104, view to southeast (scale 1m)

Devon Office

AC archaeology Ltd
Unit 4, Halthaies Workshops
Bradninch
Nr Exeter
Devon
EX5 4LQ

Telephone/Fax: 01392 882410

Wiltshire Office

AC archaeology Ltd
Manor Farm Stables
Chicklade
Hindon
Nr Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP3 5SU

Telephone: 01747 820581
Fax: 01747 820440

www.acarchaeology.co.uk