

# Archaeological Recording associated with the Part Replacement and Repairs to the South Boundary Wall of the Churchyard of All Saints Church, West Alvington, Devon

NGR SX 7239 4384

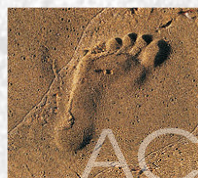
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Prepared by  
Kerry Dean

On behalf of  
South Hams District Council

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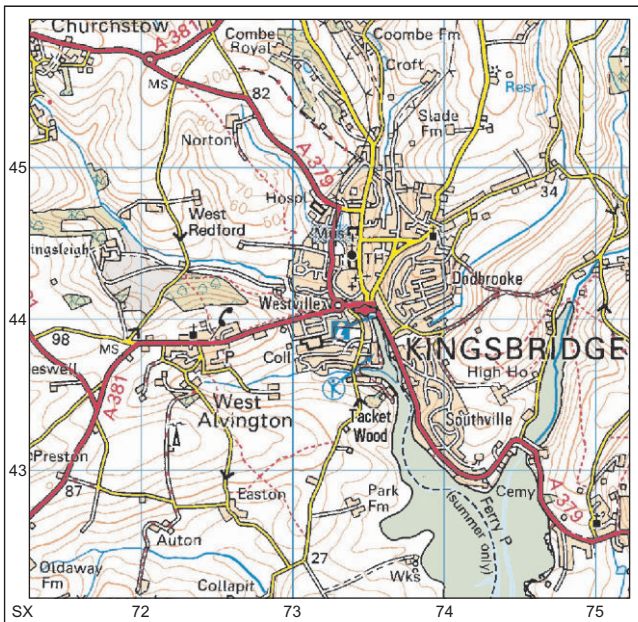


archaeology

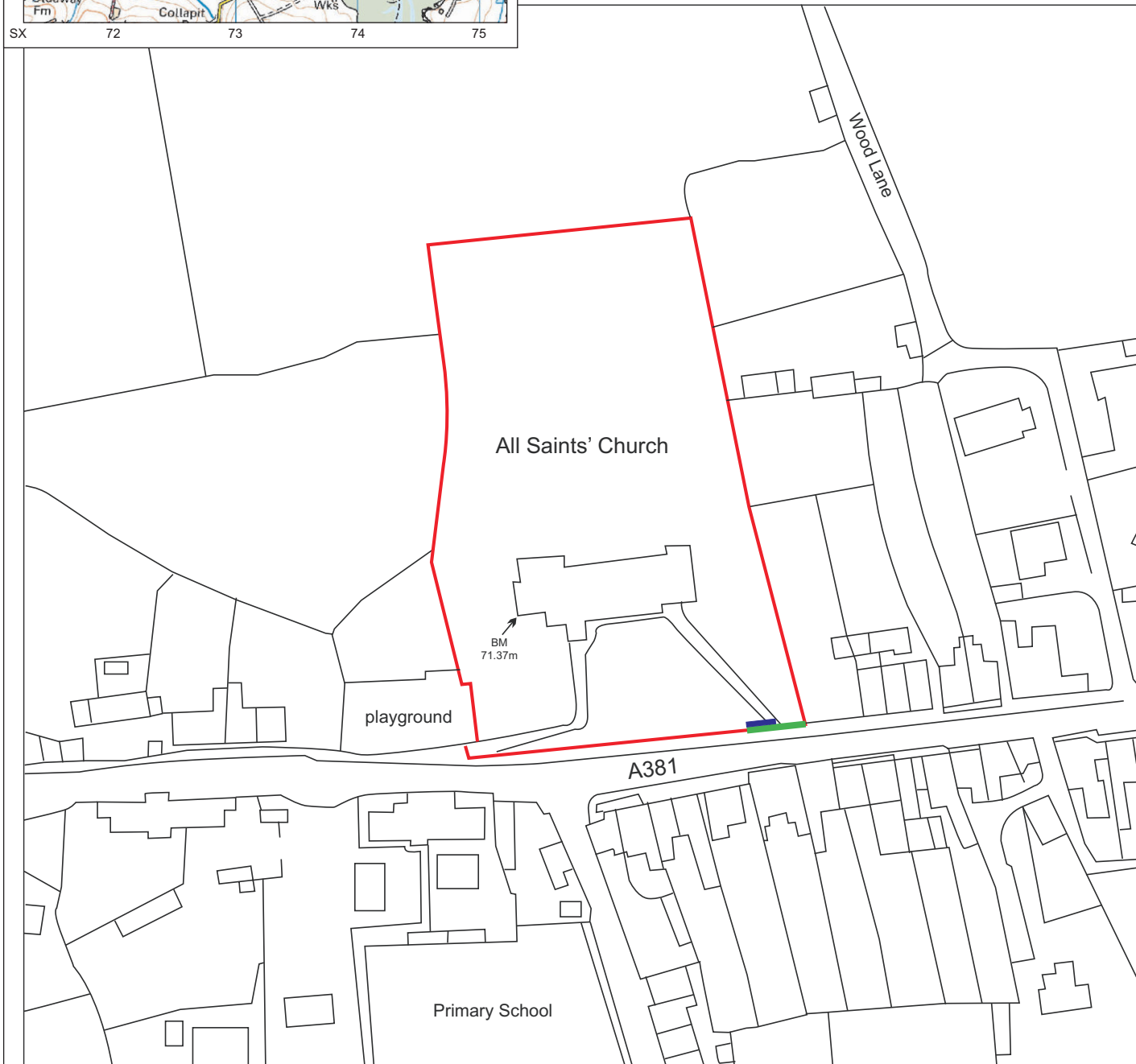
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# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> West Alvington & South Hams	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SX72394384	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological recording associated with the part replacement and repairs to the south boundary wall of the churchyard of All Saints Church		<b>Photo attached:</b> Plates 1 - 6
<b>Planning Application no:</b> N/A	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Plymouth City Museum	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 92061	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> TBC	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> ACD07	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 22.07.2010 & 7-10.09.2010	
<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>Archaeological recording was carried out prior to and during the part replacement and repairs to the south boundary wall of the churchyard of All Saints Church, West Alvington. The work was commissioned by South Hams District Council and was undertaken in accordance with a faculty licence granted by the Exeter Diocese.</p> <p>A settlement is recorded at West Alvington in the Domesday Survey of AD 1086 and it is likely a church existed in the village before AD 909. The current Grade I listed All Saints Church dates originally to the 13th century. It was remodelled during the 15th century and again during the late 19th century.</p> <p>The 67m long south boundary wall acts as a retaining wall for the churchyard, but a 12m long section towards its east end the wall had suffered considerable degradation and needed replacement.</p> <p><b>Method</b></p> <p>A detailed and general digital and black and white print photographic survey was undertaken in order to record the wall prior to its replacement and repair.</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was also carried out during the removal of the 12m section of wall and the excavation of a trench approximately 1m wide and 10m long along the north side of the wall.</p> <p><b>Results</b></p> <p>The wall (103) was constructed from locally derived slate slabs, approximately 0.20m long by 0.10m wide and 0.05m thick, placed together in a 'dry stone' wall construction of random coursing. The section of wall repaired was approximately 3m in height (Plates 1-4).</p> <p>The trench excavated on the north side of the wall revealed that there were no <i>in situ</i> graves present within that part of the churchyard. The general layer sequence exposed consisted of 0.20m depth of dark brown humic silty clay churchyard topsoil (100). This was cut by an approximately 2m wide and 0.20m deep deposit of gravel standing for a tarmac path at the east end of the wall (101). These overlay a 1.1m thick layer of disturbed medium yellowish-brown silty clay with common angular slate fragments and shillet inclusions (102). This disturbed ground contained a few fragments disarticulated human bone, which were collected for re-burial in the churchyard. This overlay light grey and yellow shillet and slate natural subsoil (104). The total thickness of overlying deposits was 1.3m.</p> <p>No other archaeological features or deposits were exposed.</p> <p><b>Finds</b></p> <p>These were recovered from layer 102 and consist of 16 fragments of animal bone (460g) including horse, pig and sheep, some displaying cut marks. Nine sherds of post-medieval pottery (345g) were also recovered, which comprise one piece of 20th century industrial whiteware, five 19th century lead-glazed earthenware sherds, one fragment of stoneware jar and two 17th/18th century lead glazed earthenware pieces. Three fragments of mid 19th century clay tobacco pipe (21g) were collected, which comprise two plain stem pieces and one bowl with a thistle and a rose moulded decoration.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>The layer sequence recorded in the exposed section was what would normally be expected within a churchyard, comprising deep overlying soils above natural ground. No <i>in situ</i> burials or other archaeological features were recorded.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> Kerry Dean, AC archaeology		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 26 January 2010



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-  Demolished Wall
-  Area of archaeological monitoring



PROJECT

All Saint's Church, West Alvington, Devon

TITLE

Fig 1. Location of site





Plate 1: Detail of section of wall prior to its removal, view to northeast (Scale 2m).



Plate 2: Detail of wall, view to east (Scale 2m).



Plate 3: East end of wall and steps, view to west  
(Scale 2m)



Plate 4: Steps at southeast corner of churchyard,  
view to west (Scale 2m)



Plate 5: Works to remove wall, view to northwest



Plate 6: Exposed soil profile to rear of wall (Scale 2m)

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