



OAKFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeological monitoring and recording at St Andrew's Church, Ashburton, Devon



on behalf of
Ashburton PCC

Report No. 16-04

Project No. 1260

June 2016

Moor than meets the eye
Landscape Partnership





OAKFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeological Groundworks and Historic Buildings

44 Hazel Road,
Wonford
Exeter,
Devon
EX2 6HN
tel: 07834 591406
e-mail: info@oakfordarch.co.uk
web: www.oakfordarch.co.uk

AUTHOR

MFR Steinmetzer

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY

John Allan

Report No 16-04

Revision: 01
Date: June 2016

Contents

Summary

1 Introduction	1
1.1 The site	1
2. Methodology	1
3. Archaeological and historical background	2
3.1 General background	2
3.2 The church	3
3.3 The 19 th century re-ordering	4
3.4 Description of the church	5
4. Results	7
4.1 Introduction	7
4.2 The early church	7
4.3 The later church	8
4.4 Burials	8
4.5 The Victorian under-floor heating system	9
5. The Finds	10
6. Discussion	11
7. Conclusions	14
8. Project Archive	14

Acknowledgements

Bibliography

List of illustrations

- Fig. 1 Location of site.
- Fig. 2 General view of St Andrew's. Looking northwest.
- Fig. 3 Close-up of north porch with possible re-used mid-14th century arch. 2m scale. Looking south.
- Fig. 4 Close-up showing blocked south doorway and enlarged later window. 1m scale. Looking south.
- Fig. 5 General view of south aisle wall showing blocked doorway and enlarged later window. Looking northwest.
- Fig. 6 General view of north doorway (centre) and staircase to porch room (left). Looking northeast.
- Fig. 7 General view of nave looking towards chancel. Looking east.
- Fig. 8 General view of bell tower. Looking south.
- Fig. 9 Close-up of west doorway. Looking east.
- Fig. 10 Close-up of north crossing pier showing volcanic material at base of arch rather than granite highlighting the position of early 15th century rood screen. Looking northwest.
- Fig. 11 Close-up of south crossing pier showing volcanic material at base of arch rather than granite highlighting the position of early 15th century rood screen. Looking southwest.
- Fig. 12 General view of north transept. Looking north.
- Fig. 13 General view of south transept. Looking south.
- Fig. 14 General view of Lady Chapel. Looking north.
- Fig. 15 General view of chancel with chancel screen in foreground. Looking east.
- Fig. 16 General view of nave ceiling. Looking east.
- Fig. 17 General view of St John the Baptist chapel. Looking south.
- Fig. 18 Close-up of decorated intersecting beam ceiling in Lady Chapel. Looking west.
- Fig. 19 General view of south aisle ceiling. Looking west.
- Fig. 20 Plan showing location of observations with principal features identified.

- Fig. 21 General view of 12th century wall. 0.5m and 1m scale. Looking east.
- Fig. 22 Close-up showing 19th century heating duct truncating 12th century wall. 0.25m and 0.5m scale. Looking west.
- Fig. 23 General view of 12th century wall fragment. 0.25m and 0.5m scale. Looking southeast.
- Fig. 24 Close-up of 12th century wall fragment. 0.5m scale. Looking west.
- Fig. 25 General view of 12th century wall fragment. 0.5m scale. Looking west.
- Fig. 26 Close-up showing 12th century wall overlain by early 15th century pier base. 0.25m scale. Looking east.
- Fig. 27 Section through 12th century wall (102) and early 15th century pier base and pillar (112).
- Fig. 28 Close-up showing early 15th century pier base truncating probable 13th century foundations. 0.5m scale. Looking west.
- Fig. 29 General view of 13th century foundations. 1m scales. Looking southwest.
- Fig. 30 Close-up of 13th century foundations partly overlain by early 15th century church. 1m scale. Looking west.
- Fig. 31 General view of nave showing probable 17th-18th century stone lined burials and Victorian heating duct (foreground). 1m scale. Looking east.
- Fig. 32 Close-up of stone-lined graves. 1m scale. Looking east.
- Fig. 33 General view of stone-lined graves and vaults. 1m scale. Looking south.
- Fig. 34 General view of stone-lined graves and vaults. 1m scale. Looking east.
- Fig. 35 General view of stone-lined grave in south transept. 1m scale. Looking south.
- Fig. 36 Close-up of stone-lined vault under crossing. 1m scale. Looking east.
- Fig. 37 General view of north transept showing late 18th century floor makeup. 1m scales. Looking north.
- Fig. 38 General view of western gallery footings. 0.5m scale. Looking south.
- Fig. 39 Close-up of western gallery footing. 0.5m scale. Looking west.
- Fig. 40 Close-up of western gallery footing. 0.5m scale. Looking west.
- Fig. 41 Phase plans showing development of church: late-12th century (top), 13th century (middle), mid-14th century (bottom).
- Fig. 42 Phase plans showing development of church: early 15th century (top), early-mid 16th century (middle), late 16th-18th century graves (bottom).
- Fig. 43 Phase plans showing development of church: 1718 (top), 1776, (middle), 19th and 20th century (bottom).

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Oakford Archaeology inside the church of St Andrew, Ashburton, Devon (SX 7552 6976), between October and November 2015. The work comprised the monitoring of construction works during extensive re-ordering of the interior of the church.

The work, undertaken during the laying of a new floor in the nave, aisles and transepts, exposed wall foundations from the earliest stone church, built probably in the late 12th century, as well as seven later phases of alterations and additions. The early church plan is likely to have comprised a narrow nave, transepts and chancel. No evidence was found of a tower over the crossing and it is unclear where the early tower was located. To this was added a south and north aisle. The early church was demolished when the current church was built, probably between 1405 and 1446. The present tower was probably built first. The south porch was removed in 1776. Medieval floor levels and other stratified deposits were removed in 1883 by groundworks carried out during the reordering of the church. A small area of 18th century flooring survived in the north transept.

The works also exposed 6 burial chambers dating from the 18th and early 19th centuries and a number of stone-lined graves dating to the 16th and 18th centuries. Two foundation pads for the western gallery were identified at the western end of the nave, although no evidence survived below-ground for the galleries in the south and north aisles.

Fragments of medieval and early post-medieval earthenware floor tiles, dating to the 15th-17th century, were recovered from the charnel soil.

1. INTRODUCTION

A comprehensive archaeological investigation, excavation and recording project was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology between October and November 2015 at St Andrews Parish Church, Ashburton, Devon. The archaeological work was required as a condition attached to a faculty for re-ordering the internal arrangements of the church which included replacing the floor surface. The archaeological work was commissioned by the Ashburton Parochial Church Council.

The re-ordering of the church interior included the temporary removal of the fixed pews in the nave, both aisles and the north and south transepts. A Portland stone slab floor was laid throughout the church and moveable pews and some additional seats introduced. The electrical wiring, lighting and heating was also upgraded and the interior redecorated.

The tower, chancel and chancel chapels were not included in the re-ordering project.

1.1 The site

The site (Fig. 1) lies immediately to the southwest of the historic core of the town of Ashburton. It lies at a height of 74m AOD, on a south facing slope overlooking the Dart and Yeo valleys. The underlying solid geology of the area is part of the Foxley Tuff Formation, igneous bedrock formed approximately 385 to 392 million years ago in the Devonian Period (BGS Sheet 326).

2. METHODOLOGY

The work comprised the excavation of an area 21.5m in length, 14m wide and approximately 0.35m deep inside the church. Removal of the 19th century flooring throughout the church exposed, in addition to elements of the earlier church, the top of 6 vaults, 16 stone lined graves and a single earth burial. The positions of the excavations are shown on Fig 20.

Machine excavation was undertaken under archaeological control. The 19th century flooring and underlying deposits were removed to the formation level. Areas of archaeological survival were then cleaned by hand, investigated and recorded.

The standard OA recording system was employed. Stratigraphic information was recorded on *pro-forma* context record sheets, plans and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and a detailed digital photographic record was made. Registers were maintained for photographs, drawings and context sheets on *pro forma* sheets.

Building recording observations were recorded by means of a written description on watching brief record sheets, annotation of existing architect's plans, and black and white print and colour digital photographs. Detailed scale drawings were made of any architectural features or exposed details of particular significance that could not be recorded by the above means.

Gravestones were recorded using standard OA recording system. Information was recorded on *pro-forma* gravestone record sheets and a detailed digital photographic record made.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 General background

Ashburton is an ancient settlement and prior to the modern period, the main route from Exeter passed through the town. Little is known of the history and development of this area in the immediate prehistoric, Roman and early Saxon period but the manor of *Essebreitone* had become part of the vast estate of the bishops of Exeter some time before the Norman Conquest.¹ It remained episcopal property following the Norman reorganisation of the land holdings following the Conquest and until the time of James I, when it was alienated to the Crown, and subsequently sold to lay-men.

The town derives its name from the stream on which it stands, the Ashburn, now called the Yeo. The place-name probably derives from the Old English *Æscburnan lande* meaning 'farm by the Ashburn stream'.² It is mentioned for the first time in the early 11th century in the will of *Ælfwold* bishop of Crediton and dated 1008-1012. In addition, the circular nature of the graveyard suggests the presence of an early Christian site, c.f. Gulval, Kingsteignton, Woodbury and Lustleigh,³ and it is probable that the original settlement grew up around the site of the parish church of St Andrew. The later urban pattern of the town is characterised by long, narrow burgrave plots extending at right angles to the main streets.⁴ These were presumably laid out during a period of replanning of the town, sometime after it had become the property of the Bishops of Exeter in the pre-conquest period, or before the creation of a borough under Bishop Brewer in 1238.⁵ The burgrave plots are most noticeable in East, West and North streets, while the plots in St Lawrence Lane are different in character.⁶ The presence of the chapel of St Lawrence in the lane does not preclude this interpretation since the chapel, like the parish church today, may have occupied a peripheral site in the medieval town.⁷

Various known as *Essebretona*, *Aisbernatonam*, *Eispreton* and *Aysshpertone*,⁸ the town owed much to the bishops of Exeter, as well as to its natural location in the midst of rich farmland and at the margin of the mineral wealth of Dartmoor.⁹ Ashburton had its own market by 1155, and a borough had been created by Bishop Brewer in 1238. In 1310, Bishop Stapledon obtained a charter to hold a three-day fair in addition to the market, the town becoming a considerable centre for the cloth, tin, corn and cattle trade until the mid-14th century.¹⁰ The roads still converge today on the triangular site of the market place.

The town's prosperity throughout the medieval period was based on the tin mining of Dartmoor. By the middle of the 12th century the quickly developing tin trade across Dartmoor brought prosperity to the town and Ashburton became the natural collecting centre for the south-eastern side of the Moor, subsequently becoming a Stannary town with Tavistock and Chagford in 1305.¹¹ Although nearly 40% of Devon's tin was sold through Ashburton in

¹ Thorn and Thorn 1985, 16.114.

² Gover et al. 1932, 462.

³ Pevsner 1952, 545.

⁴ Parker 2014.

⁵ Hoskins 1954, 320, Parker 2014.

⁶ Parker 2014.

⁷ Parker 2014.

⁸ Gover et al. 1932, 462.

⁹ DNPA Conservation Area Character Appraisals - Ashburton.

¹⁰ DNPA Conservation Area Character Appraisals - Ashburton.

¹¹ DNPA Conservation Area Character Appraisals - Ashburton.

1515 the tin trade entered a period of gradual decline throughout the following two centuries. While the process of weighing, stamping and taxing took place between two and four times a year, bringing tinnerns, merchants and royal officials to the town, by the early 1700s the trade had all but died out.¹²

Simultaneously with the rise of the tin trade, the cloth industry was established along the banks of the Ashburn, which supplied the power for a number of fulling mills that once lined its banks.¹³ A revival of the woollen manufacture occurred in the 1580s, arising from the development of the "new draperies" and a flourishing in the wool trade.¹⁴ The industry remained important through to the early years of the 19th century. In 1831 and 1832 the trade was at its very height, with exports worth more than £100,000 per annum destined for China.¹⁵ However, this trade was lost almost overnight – and with it the town's woollen industry – when in the following year, 1833, the East India Company changed its policy and ended the trading monopoly with China that Devon had previously enjoyed.¹⁶

Another significant factor in Ashburton's importance throughout the medieval and early post-medieval periods was its location astride the principal highway around the southern fringe of the moor.¹⁷ This assumed greater importance as the coaching industry grew during the 17th and 18th centuries. Ideally placed as a staging post halfway between Exeter and Plymouth, the town built several coaching inns and subsidiary trades and entertainments, such as cock fighting, bull baiting and gambling.¹⁸

The period after 1600 also saw a brief rise in iron-mining above Holne Bridge, on the east bank of the River Dart. The ruins of one furnace still exist, and the old shafts are found in the hillside immediately above.¹⁹

Unfortunately, just as the tin and woollen industries had all but disappeared, so did the coaching industry when the South Devon Railway between Exeter and Plymouth was opened in 1848, bypassing the town. The arrival of the branch line from Totnes in 1872 made little difference, and between 1851 and 1931 the town lost more than a quarter of its population to the developing centres of nearby Newton Abbot and Torquay.²⁰

3.2 The church

The first documented parish Church of St Andrew's dates back to at least the late 12th century, when John the Chanter, Bishop of Exeter (1186-91) gave it to the Chapter of Exeter Cathedral. Further mention of the church is made in the visitation reports of bishops Bitten and Stapeldon in 1301 and 1314 respectively.

The earlier visitation states that the tower was not yet entirely covered with lead, but that the work was proceeding,²¹ while in 1314, Walter de Stapeldon, Bishop of Exeter, Lord Treasurer of the Realm, and a trusted servant of King Edward II, hearing of its dilapidated

¹² DNPA Conservation Area Character Appraisals - Ashburton.

¹³ DNPA Conservation Area Character Appraisals - Ashburton.

¹⁴ DNPA Conservation Area Character Appraisals - Ashburton.

¹⁵ DNPA Conservation Area Character Appraisals - Ashburton.

¹⁶ DNPA Conservation Area Character Appraisals - Ashburton.

¹⁷ DNPA Conservation Area Character Appraisals - Ashburton.

¹⁸ DNPA Conservation Area Character Appraisals - Ashburton.

¹⁹ DNPA Conservation Area Character Appraisals - Ashburton.

²⁰ DNPA Conservation Area Character Appraisals - Ashburton.

²¹ Cornelius 1959.

condition, formally visited the church. He found amongst other defects the North aisle in ruins, ordered a vestry to be made on the north side of the chancel, complained of the deficiency of the of the sacred ornaments, ordered the rebuilding of said north aisle and further enjoined that that the repairs should be finished and the deficiencies supplied by the ensuing Michaelmas under a penalty of £20 payable to the fabric of Exeter cathedral.²²

There is no further documentary evidence for St Andrew's church until the early 15th century when it is mentioned in a document dated 15th May 1405. The document is preoccupied with the defects and repairs needed in the chancel, houses and closes of the vicarage of the parish church of *Aysberton*. A subsequent report to the bishop mentions the cost of repairing the chancel roof which was to be debited to the estate of the deceased vicar.²³ The current structure is largely a single phase and it is probable that the present church was built sometime between late 1405 and 1449, when the current tower was viewed as a possible model for a new tower at Totnes.²⁴ A further context for this might be the expanding tin and cloth trade; the wealth of the tin workers and wool guilds might have provided help with rebuilding the church at this time and it is interesting that each subsequently took over the chapels in the two transepts.

Many changes took place in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries but these were largely swept away in the Victorian era when a massive restoration programme, carried out by the architect G. E. Street, gave the church it's present character.

In light of the possible early medieval date of the church it is interesting to note that no previous archaeological work has been undertaken.

3.3 The 19th century re-ordering

St Andrew's church, in common with a high percentage of churches in Devon, was subjected to extensive internal re-ordering in the 19th century. This was commemorated on a brass plaque now mounted on the south wall of the tower thus: *"To the Glory of God and to commemorate the re-opening of this church of St Andrew, Ashburton, after restoration, on November 29th 1883, St Andrews eve, by the right reverend Frederick Temple D.D. Lord Bishop of Exeter [...] the right honourable Lord Clinton, chairman of the restoration committee and G. Edmund Street F.S.A. Architect"*.

The re-ordering was undertaken by G. E. Street in 1883; there are no known written accounts of this extensive work, which included in addition to the removal of the 18th century galleries, the excavation of the nave, north and south aisles, north and south transepts, chancel chapels and chancel floors. This excavation comprehensively destroyed any surviving medieval and post-medieval floor levels which would have included tiled floors, as well as ledger stones and other grave monuments.

This work was undertaken against a background of poorly maintained church buildings across the country. Church restorations were strongly influenced by the Cambridge Camden Society and the Oxford Movement, which advocated moving the centre of importance in the church from preaching to the sacrament of the Eucharist, from the pulpit to the altar. This included moving the pulpit from a more central position to the side of the church, replacing box pews with open pews, creating a central aisle to give a better view of the altar,

²² Cornelius 1959.

²³ Cornelius 1959.

²⁴ Cornelius 1959, 46.

and the removal of galleries. Another consequence was that a larger chancel was required for the associated ritual. The change was embraced by the Church of England which saw it as a means of reversing the decline in church attendance.

It is estimated that around 80% of all Church of England churches were affected in some way by the movement, varying from minor changes to complete demolition and rebuilding. Influential people like John Ruskin and William Morris were opposed to such large-scale restoration, and their activities eventually led to the formation of societies dedicated to building preservation, such as the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings.

3.4 Description of the church

A comprehensive photographic survey of the interior of the church was undertaken by OA prior to the beginning of the project. The church fabric has been extensively described by C. Fryer Cornelius in “St Andrews Church, Ashburton: A history and description of the fabric” and only a brief summary will be reproduced here.

The church is a Grade I listed building and located within the Conservation area. The current building largely dates to the 15th century, although it was heavily altered during the late 19th century. The church is cruciform and consists of a vestry, a chancel, north and south chancel chapels, north and south transepts, a nave, north and south aisles, a north porch, and tower. The main body of the church has stone rubble fabric with granite and Beer stone dressings; the slate roofs have coped gable ends.

The graveyard is entered through a set of 18th century wrought-iron gates surmounted by the arms of the Borough of Ashburton depicting the early medieval cruciform church with a west doorway and a tower with a spire. Whether the tower is over the crossing or the choir is unclear. A wide path then leads to the north porch which is situated at the centre of the north aisle elevation. This is a large, square structure with projecting embattled parapets and twin set-back buttresses, and would originally have had an upper chamber. This would have been accessed from a small circular stair immediately to the right of the entrance and was removed sometime during the 18th or early 19th century. The outer doorway has a pointed, double-chamfered arch springing from two rounded triple shaft half-columns. The latter are similar to the pillars in the nave at Exeter Cathedral (built between 1328 and 1342)²⁵ and it is therefore possible that they are earlier in date than previously thought (John Allan *pers. comm.*). In addition, unlike the piers in the nave at Ashburton the pillar and arch are not made of granite and it is possible the arrangement was re-used from the arcades in the earlier church (John Allan *pers. comm.*). A carved figure of St Andrews, dating to 1937, stands in a niche over the internal doorway.

Once inside the church the nave aisles consist of a simple three bay arcade arrangement leading onto the nave. The arcades consist of composite granite columns supporting double-chamfered two-centered pointed granite arches and supported on octagonal columns with hollowed faces to the shafts, and moulded Beer stone capitals. The shaft of one of the piers in the south aisle arcade is made from a single piece of granite. The presence of a monolithic pier might suggest a later date than the composite piers., c.f. the north aisle in Trusham church dated to about 1430. The window tracery and mullions are entirely modern, though presumably based on the original 15th century Perpendicular style, with four light cinquefoil circular heads, while the secondary lights in the heads of the windows are trefoiled. They all

²⁵ Orme 2009.

contain 19th century stained glass. These were put in by the Michelmores and a number of other prominent local families. The windows in the west elevation of the north and south aisles were reopened in 1883.

A wooden gallery was built in 1718 and occupied the west end of the nave. This may have contained materials from the 16th century roodscreen and other screenwork present in the church, with the exception of the screen of St Catherine's chapel which was only removed in 1776. The entire church was repaved at this time, presumably leading to the loss of some ledger stones, while additional galleries were built in the south and north aisles. In addition, the church was re-seated with box pews and the choir stalls removed, while the 16th century lectern and pulpit were sold to Bigbury in 1777. Until this period the church was a double cruciform shape with a south porch opposite the north porch. The former was removed in 1776 and the existing medieval rere arch over the window suggests a less impressive arrangement with a smaller window above a low doorway (John Allan *pers comm.*).

Interestingly both of the western arcade responds were inserted into the existing tower masonry, suggesting that at least this part of the church post-dates the construction of the tower. The tower rises in three stages with setback buttresses and a five-sided stair turret set centrally on the north face. The top originally had a lead spire, but this was removed in 1785 and the tower is now finished with battlemented parapets and angle pinnacles. The bell chamber windows have simple chamfers jambs and mullions. The great west doorway and the three niches above, containing 19th century figures, were probably heavily restored sometime in the 19th century. The great west window above was inserted in 1883, destroying any medieval predecessor.

Moving east across the nave would have stood the roodscreen. Nothing is known of the appearance of the original medieval screen and only its location, defined within the north and south arcade by volcanic stone rather than granite, is known. There is no indication of a stair rising to the rood loft and it is probable that it may have been reached by an internal staircase. A second roodscreen, set back from its predecessor to close off the choir and chancel, was built in 1524 and subsequently removed in 1718. Chapel screens were added in 1520. The transepts are lit by windows in their respective front and east elevations.

The chancel chapels are prolongations of the aisles beyond the transept and are of similar construction and design.²⁶ The chapels are lit by windows in their respective side and east elevations with the east window in the south chapel blocked-up in the 19th century when the vestry was added and the organ placed in its current position. The tracery of the remaining windows was probably replaced in the 19th century. Both the chapels and transepts contain trefoil-headed piscinas probably reused from the earlier church. The Lady chapel piscina is dated to the 13th century while the other three date to the 14th century.

The chancel consists of a large aisleless bay lit by large windows in the three external elevations. The reredos, depicting scenes of the Annunciation and stories of the apostles Peter and Andrew, was carved by Herbert Read and placed in the chancel in 1928. The two doors either side of the altar lead to the vestry built in the 19th century. The current chancel and chapel screens were built in 1883.

²⁶ Cornelius 1959.

The main roof over the nave and chancel is continuous and consists of a 15th century wagon roof running the entire length of the church. The transept roofs are of a similar type as that of the main part of the church, and are carried across the aisles supported on beams inscribed with the date 1679. These may be replacements of the original timbers. The aisles and chancel chapels have cambered roofs with intersecting beams and carved bosses.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

The excavations undertaken in 2015 confirmed that the works carried out in 1883 had caused extensive damage to earlier archaeological remains. Works in the nave, the aisles and the south transept had removed all earlier floor surfaces and stratified deposits above the homogeneous charnel soil. The only remains of medieval and later flooring consisted of some 108 fragments of floor-tiles recovered from the base of the late 19th century construction level or incorporated in 17th-18th century stone-lined graves. However, a small area of 18th century floor make-up material survived in the north transept, while remains, comprising largely wall foundations and later stone-lined graves, had survived the attention of the medieval and Victorian builders and truncation by later burials. The works undertaken in 1883 also included the insertion of an under-floor heating system, the construction of which caused further damage to the surviving archaeology.

The wall foundations and burials were exposed and recorded so far as possible within the limitations of the project. Relevant detailed plans and sections are included as Figs. 20 and 27.

4.2 The early church

The earliest wall foundations (101 and 102) consisted of local limestone rubble set in white lime mortar and trench built. These were approximately 0.9–1.1m wide and their extent is shown in Fig. 20. Although only a small section of the south wall (104) survived it seems likely that the foundations once extended continuously along both sides of an aisleless nave. At the east end of the nave a small section of wall foundation (103) was located immediately to the north of the wall foundation. Given the rather modest scale of the early building and the lack of evidence for buttresses elsewhere this has been tentatively interpreted as the remains of the north transept. A series of small trial holes were excavated on the suspected line of the east wall of the early north transept. Unfortunately, these only revealed a succession of earth-dug graves which may have truncated any remains associated with the early church. Although no structural evidence of a corresponding south transept has been uncovered during the works it seems likely that, given the presence of transepts in the later church, the early church would have had a corresponding south transept. In addition, the angle of the late medieval south transept and crossing pier base must surely perpetuate the angle of an earlier structure.

It is unclear where the early tower was located. Although the Ashburton seal depicts a tower over the crossing of the church no evidence for foundations associated with a tower were found in this location during the works. In light of the subsequent rebuilding of the west front sometime in the 13th century it is unlikely that the early tower is located under the 15th century tower. Therefore, the foundations of the early tower have either been removed by later activity or the tower was located over the choir.

Further foundations (105-109) to the west and south are associated with the addition of a south aisle and re-building of the west front. The foundations are built largely of local limestone rubble set in compact reddish brown clay and lime mortar. The south wall of the later church partially incorporates these earlier foundations.

The nave was subsequently enlarged by the addition of a north aisle. The only remaining foundation (110) is located at the west end of the current north aisle. Its relationship with the previous foundations is unclear. The phasing described below assumes that the church, like so many other parish churches, expanded with the gradual addition of the two aisles rather than the single phase large-scale addition of both aisles. The lack of further wall foundations associated with the early north aisle might be explained by the fact that the wall remains lie outside the footprint of the current building.

No evidence was found of the early arcade pier bases defining the aisles from the nave, although they have been tentatively reconstructed using the dimensions of the north porch archway and are discussed below.

Finally, it is unclear from the excavated evidence whether the transepts were rebuilt when the aisles were added or simply incorporated into the new aisles.

4.3 The later church

The church was extensively rebuilt in the early 15th century. A tower was built at the west end of the nave, while work proceeded at the same time from the east end of the church, with the arcade subsequently inserted into the standing fabric of the tower. The new church was as wide as the earlier structure; the new nave was more spacious while the aisles were reduced in width. The foundation of the south aisle was built partly on top of the existing footings while the foundations of the western responds cut through the earlier footings. The foundations for both arcades consisted of individual pier bases rather than a single continuous sleeper wall. Interestingly the foundation of pier base 119 is on an identical alignment with the east and west walls of the south transept. This might suggest that both respect an earlier building alignment, the structural evidence of which has since been destroyed.

The northern arcade was partially built over the earlier foundations (see Fig. 20 and 27), with the two easternmost piers set on the earlier masonry. The pier base for the western column had been heavily truncated by later burials making identification of earlier masonry impossible.

While the western gallery and its two foundation pads (144 and 145) were added in 1718 further works were undertaken in 1776. This included the removal of the south porch and the blocking of the opening, the addition of north and south galleries and the re-flooring of the entire church. A small area of floor make-up material consisting of a thick layer of lime mortar, measuring 4.9m long and 4.85m wide, and located in the north transept survived the later Victorian re-ordering. A large quantity of early post-medieval window glass was recovered lying immediately above this deposit, suggesting that the medieval glass had already been at least partly removed sometime prior to the Victorian period.

4.4 Burials

Inspection of the area showed the outlines of numerous burials. These were uncovered only so far as to identify their nature, but not fully excavated owing to the limitations of the project. Those which were located were plotted in outline (Fig. 20). No areas of natural

subsoil were identified within the nave, aisles and transepts, and further burials doubtless survive below formation level within the charnel soil (100).

A number of burials had been interred within stone-and-brick chambers (139-143). These date from the late 17th-18th centuries, although none of these had access steps leading into the chamber. The bricks are hand-made local bricks dating from this period. The condition of the burials inside was not investigated as part of the works programme. All had been completely filled with loose soil, stones, fragments of hand-made brick, roof slates, mortar and blocks of local stone. The graves were presumably infilled prior to the re-flooring of the church in 1776. The ledger stones were probably removed at this time, while the wall plaques were subsequently moved in the late 19th century, making it impossible to identify the occupants or the precise dates of the burial chambers and stone-lined graves.

The two burial chambers (139 and 140) in the north transept had four large sockets built into the wall tops, two on the each of the long sides. These sockets would have held timbers supporting the ledger stones; fragments of decaying wood were recorded in some of the sockets. The well-constructed coursed stone walls of both burial chambers had level wall-tops each with a thin lime mortar capping and covered by the late 18th century floor make-up. The two supports in chamber 143a, made of single pieces of granite, were still *in situ* although they had split under the weight of the later floor.

16 stone-and-mortar lined graves (120-135) was located across the eastern end of the nave, while a single stone-and-mortar lined grave (136) was located in the south transept, immediately in front of the likely position of the altar. All the graves were constructed of limestone rubble bonded with white lime mortar, and graves 122 and 127 contained fragments of local micaceous floor tiles dating to the 15th and 16th centuries within the wall construction. and again the ledger stone had been removed in the 19th century. All the graves had been filled with earth and rubble, probably immediately prior to the re-flooring of the church in 1776.

Most of the burials within the church would have been made within earth-dug graves and the nave, aisles, and transepts were covered in a homogeneous charnel soil (100). A considerable quantity of disarticulated human bone was recovered from this deposit. Most of these probably date from the post-medieval period, although some may possibly be earlier. All human remains recovered from the excavations were passed to the present vicar of the church for reburial in the churchyard.

4.5 The Victorian under-floor heating system

As the re-ordering of the church in 1883 included the re-flooring of the whole church it is likely that the under-floor heating system was built at that time. It comprised an external boiler house located at the angle of the south aisle and south transept. The warm air was conducted through a large duct to floor grilles in the north and south aisles. Remains of the system were uncovered by the excavations and found to have been built with stone walls and stone and slate capping above the heating ducts. A series of cast-iron pipes were subsequently inserted into the duct to serve the large radiators positioned throughout the church.

5. THE FINDS

by John Allan

5.1 Floor-tiles

The floor-tiles are of great interest because they provide one of the few opportunities which has arisen so far to examine the range of tiles which might be employed in a parish church in south Devon. There is a surprising variety of sources: from the Totnes area, North Devon, the Low Countries and France. A modest collection (about a standard boxful), considering the large scale of the work, which entailed the removal of the floors of the nave, aisles, crossing and transepts of this large church. In total six groups were identified:

Group 1: local micaceous tiles (Totnes-type tiles)

155mm square, 25–27 mm thick, many circular pinholes perforating back dating to the 15th and 16th centuries. One with slip & yellow glaze (green patch in glaze seems accidental); one with painted wavy lines in white slip. Others all unglazed & undecorated. Painted slip decoration may have been more common & worn off, but they were not generally glazed; the upper surfaces are oxidised. The backs are treated with a variety of sharp narrow stabs, some needle-like, others crescentic (Taylor 2006, Fig. 2.1–2). The petrology of this fabric type and its probable origins are discussed in Taylor 2006, 234–5 (tile 6). Widths 155–160mm, i.e. close to 6 inches, 75 fragments.

Group 2: North Devon gravel-tempered tiles

A group of thin tiles with some granite-derived inclusions similar to the Totnes type, but with very coarse piercings on the back from sharp rounded tools. 143–5mm square, 23–5mm thick, one tile cut diagonally. One tile with crude greeny-brown and orangey-brown glaze, remainder no glaze seen on surfaces but formerly glazed since the top surfaces are reduced whilst sides and bases are oxidised. The edges are almost upright. 15 fragments.

Group 3: Normandy tiles

No full dimensions, thickness c. 25mm. Copper-green & yellow represented. Plain back and levelled square tiles with white or pink fabrics showing the typical poor mixing of the clays and streaky appearance of these distinctive tiles. The series has been fully discussed recently (Allan 2013). The presence of these tiles almost certainly suggests a chequered floor and reflects the important early Tudor trade with Rouen. 10 fragments.

Group 4: Low Countries redware tiles

Two frags noted, one with slip and yellow glaze; pre-1550. 3 fragments.

Group 5: ?East Devon/S. Somerset

One redware fragment without visible inclusions. Large circular piercings. Worn surface without traces of glaze. 4 fragments.

Group 6: North Devon relief-decorated tile

A thin tile gravel-tempered. 140mm square with knife-cut edges and relief stamped upper face, fleur-de-lys motif. 1 fragment, no glaze seen. 17th-early 18th century.

5.2 Slate

Partial examples of South Devon roofing slate. Varied widths, tapered heads, one used twice, torching front and back in several examples as discussed e.g. by Stuart Blaylock in his report on the slates from Bowhill House, Exeter (Blaylock 1984).

Probably Norton slate, consistently very thin (5-7mm), a feature typical of slates from the 15th–17th centuries (Allan 1984, 302, fig. 170).

5.3 Window glass

100 fragments, clear to dull, pale green, some pitted, no definite grozed edges, no painting, no definite medieval pieces, early post-medieval.

5.4 Plaster

A few fragments with lime wash and red ochre, probably 17th-century decorative scheme cf. Bratton Clovelly.

5.5 Clay pipes

Seven stems, one bowl, unmarked, c. 1650-80.

5.6 Pottery

Four sherds of post-medieval date were recovered from the charnel soil (100). This consisted of a single sherds of North Devon gravel free pottery, probably a tankard and dating to the 17th century; a single sherd of 18th century South Devon whiteware, c.f. Folly pottery; a single sherd of early 18th century Delftware and two sherds of Totnes-type ridgetile with traces of green glaze and dating to the 16th and 17th centuries.

5.7 Other

Three worked stone fragments were discovered during the works in the south aisle. These consisted of a Beer stone window fragment with setting for window bars and probably part of the original perpendicular fenestration, and two early 19th century cement composition window repairs.

6. DISCUSSION

Examination of the church building by C. Fryer Cornelius has shown that the current structure is a relatively uniform build, while the earlier church building, exposed during the current works, developed over a long period and in the usual manner of medieval parish churches, that is by the addition of aisles and possibly chapels around an earlier core.

Phase I *The Romanesque church* (late 12th century)

No evidence of the Anglo-Saxon church was uncovered during the works, and the earliest building phase has been dated to the late 12th century on the basis of documentary evidence for a church at Ashburton by the year 1186-91. The first church comprised a nave, transepts, and chancel. Norman parish churches were usually small simple structures containing no more than a nave and chancel, and the presence of transepts in the early church at Ashburton indicates the importance of the church, the aspirations of its founder and the association of the manor with the Bishops of Exeter. The cruciform plan, rather than a simple two-cell arrangement, became more popular from the 12th and 13th centuries and supports the idea of a later date. Unfortunately, the chancel and side chapels fell outside the remit of the project and little can be said or surmised about the shape and development of the east end.

No evidence for a tower above the crossing or choir was uncovered. Like many churches the original tower was replaced in the late medieval period and nothing now survives within the

excavation area to suggest evidence of the original arrangement. with. It is likely that the Norman tower was originally located over either the crossing or the choir.

Finally, the church was either accessed through an opening in the south wall of the nave, a common position in Norman churches, or, depending on the aspirations of the founder, through a richly decorated façade in the west front.

Phase II *Addition of the south aisle* (early to mid-13th century)

The chancel of the church may have been the first part of the church to be modified, as suggested by the presence within the later church of a 13th century piscina. The increasing economic and demographic growth throughout this period would have provided the impetus to enlarge the church with the addition of a south aisle. The foundations along the south side of the nave were replaced and new foundations built along the west end of the nave and the south edge of the south aisle. The aisle arcade has been reconstructed using the dimensions of the north porch archway and may have comprised five bays with an arcade of five arches supported by a respond at each end. It is unclear how much of the earlier south transept was incorporated into the new aisle and what form, if any, the new south transept would have taken.

Phase III *Addition of the north aisle* (mid to late 13th century)

The church at Ashburton would have followed a similar development to other churches, such as Bere Regis in Dorset for example, with the addition of successive aisles, and necessitated no doubt by a growing congregation. Although very little survives of the north aisle it has been reconstructed along identical lines to the south aisle. Again it is unclear how much of the earlier transept was incorporated into the new aisle and what form, if any, the new north transept would have taken.

Phase IV *Rebuilding of the north aisle and additional works* (mid-14th century)

If the identification of the north porch archway as being re-used from the earlier church is correct then the north arcade was probably rebuilt sometime between 1328 and 1342, when the nave at Exeter Cathedral was finally completed. This may have been part of a wider programme of rebuilding following the visit by Bishop Stapeldon in 1314, and might be further attested by the presence of three 14th century piscinas incorporated in the later church fabric.

Phase V *Rebuilding of the church and provision of a new tower* (early 15th century)

The recent work undertaken at Ashburton confirmed C. Fryer Cornelius view that the current church was completely rebuilt sometime in the early 15th century. The new parish church was planned on a great scale, with a large nave and aisles, north and south transepts, north and south chancel chapels, a chancel and a large tower at the west end. The foundations of the new church were consistent throughout the excavations. Elements of the earlier south aisle, west front and north wall were incorporated into the new build, while the pier foundations of the new arcade responds cut through the earlier footings. Interestingly the foundation pad of the third pier in the north arcade was on the same alignment as the west wall of the south transept, perhaps respecting an alignment from the earlier church which is no longer visible. Some Romanesque elements, such as the main west doorway, piscinas and the small north porch doorway were retained or reset within the new building, perhaps in order to display and affirm the antiquity and importance of the church.

Closer examination of the arcades and the tower would suggest that the latter is earlier in date. This is perhaps not entirely surprising as the tower was the most demanding part of the new church construction. With work on the new church proceeding simultaneously from the east end this would have allowed part of the early church to remain in use during the construction and allowed the stability of the tower to be established with certainty without adversely affecting the new building (Parker *pers. comm*). As soon as the tower was completed the west end the new church would have been completed, explaining the rather untidy junctions of the arcade with the east wall of the tower.

The north porch was added some time after the construction of the north aisle, with the porch walls butting up against the buttresses of the north aisle. It is unclear if this arrangement was reflected in the south porch.

Phase VI *Addition of the transept screens and replacement of rood screen* (early to mid-16th century)

It is known from the churchwarden's accounts that there was a rood screen with a rood loft above it until sometime before 1524, when the screen was removed and a new one built. Additional parclose screens had been built for the north and south transepts around 1520 further enhancing the status of the transept chapels associated with the tin workers and wool guilds.

Phase VII *Addition of the west, north and south galleries* (18th century)

A major loss within the interior of the church was the removal of the late medieval screens and benches. The rood screen and the north transept parclose survived until the early 18th century, when both were removed. At the same time a small wooden gallery was built at the western end of the nave. The south transept screen was removed in 1776 and two additional wooden galleries built in the south and north aisle, and the entire church re-floored. The galleries may have been built as a result of liturgical reforms, with churches trying to accommodate larger congregations and improve their function as auditories for the preaching of sermons (Parker *pers. comm*). It was at this time that the south porch was removed, the opening blocked and a larger window created to mirror the two medieval windows either side. Finally, it is likely that at least some of the medieval window glass was replaced at this period.

Phase VIII *Later alterations* (19th century and modern)

By the 19th century the most drastic alterations were undertaken. A new vestry was added on the east side of the chancel in the early 19th century, with access provided by two new doorways either side of the altar. The great east window was rebuilt in 1840. Although the current windows may be based on their medieval predecessors no original tracery survives and all the windows were re-glazed in the 19th century.

The works of 1883 included the complete re-ordering of the church. Wall monuments and any surviving ledger stones were either relocated or removed. The plaster covering the church was removed, exposing the rubble walls and destroying any surviving medieval or post-medieval decorations, while the whole church was re-floored. This removed any surviving earlier floor surfaces and stratified deposits above the homogeneous charnel soil in the nave, both aisles and the south transept. Further alterations to the fabric of the building included the insertion of a new doorway in the east wall of the south chancel chapel, while the window above was blocked when the organ, built by Henry Willis, was completed that same year. Additional alterations included opening up the two windows in the west wall of the aisles,

which had been blocked when the north and south galleries were built, and opening up the tower towards the nave. The great west window was inserted in the west wall of the tower at this time. The Victorian works also included the construction of a boiler house immediately outside the south aisle and the insertion of two large heating ducts within the nave and both aisles.

Finally, the current chancel and chancel chapel screens were added at this time, while the reredos was built in 1928 and a parclose added for St Catherine's in 1934. The latter included some of the 16th century woodwork.

7. CONCLUSIONS

The works provided an incredibly rare opportunity to expose almost the entire interior floor plan of the church, exposing graves and burial chambers of late medieval and post-medieval date. The excavations have exposed the remains of the Norman church, illustrating how the structural development of parish churches at this time can be incredibly complex.

The recovery of a wide variety of floor tiles has provided one of the few opportunities to examine the range of tiles which might be employed in a parish church in south Devon in the medieval and post-medieval periods. There is a surprising variety of sources which mirrors assemblages previously identified in other large parish churches in Devon.

8. PROJECT ARCHIVE

The site records have been compiled into a fully integrated site archive currently being held by Oakford Archaeology (project no. 1260) pending deposition with the Ashburton PCC. Details of the investigations, including a copy of this report have been submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (oakforda1-253599).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The work was commissioned by Brian Lewis Designs on behalf of the Parochial Church Council of St Andrew Ashburton. The project was administered by Brian Lewis (Brian Lewis Designs) and Pat Dalzell (Corbel). Further thanks for their involvement and hard work are due to the Sub-contractors Rob, Chris, Luke, Mark and Connor of Erwin Rhodes. The fieldwork was carried out by Jonathan Martin and Marc Steinmetzer, and the illustrations for this report were prepared by Marc Steinmetzer.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Unpublished sources

- Cresswell, B. 1921 Notes on Devon Churches.
 Dartmoor National Park Conservation Area Character Appraisals – Ashburton.
 Parker, R. 2014 Historic Building Survey of premises at the rear of Nos 24-26 St Lawrence Lane, Ashburton. Report No 2014.05.

Published sources

- Allan, J.P. 1984: *Medieval and Post-Medieval Finds from Exeter, 1971–1980*, Exeter Archaeol. Rep. 3. (Exeter).
- Allan, J.P. 2013: ‘The late medieval tile pavement at Cotehele, Cornwall’, unpub. client rep. for National Trust.
- Allan, J.P. & Keen, L. 1984: ‘The medieval floor-tiles’ in Allan 1984, 232–47.
- Bond, Bligh, F. Camm, B. 1909 Roodscreens and Roodlofts, Vol II.
- Boggis, R.J.E. 1922. A History of the Diocese of Exeter.
- Buitska, J.E. and Ubelaker, D.H. 1994. *Standards for Data Collection from Human Skeletal Remains*. Arkansas Archaeological Survey Research Series No. 44.
- Cornelius, C. F. 1959 St Andrews Church, Ashburton: A history and description of the fabric, Trans. Devon Archaeol. Assoc. vol 91.
- Cramp, C. 2015 ‘North-Devon relief decorated ceramics in the household’, in West Country Households 1500-1700.
- Edwards. R.A. and Scrivener. R.C. 1999 geology of the Country around Exeter. Memoir of The British Geological Survey. Sheet 325.
- Ekwall, E. 1947. Oxford dictionary of English place names, (Oxford).
- Glover. J.E.B., Rawer. A., F.M. Stenton (Eds), 1931-32. The Place-Names of Devon, (Cambridge)
- Hanham, A. 1970 Churchwarden’s accounts of Ashburton 1479-1580.
- Keen, L. 1969 ‘A series of seventeenth and eighteenth century lead-glazed relief tiles from North Devon’, *J. Brit. Archaeol. Assoc.* **32**, 144-170.
- Oliver. George, 1840. Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Devon, Vol I, (Exeter).
- Orme, N. 1991 Unity and Variety: A history of the church in Devon and Cornwall.
- Orme, N. 2009 Exeter Cathedral: The first thousand years 400-1550.
- Polwhele, Richard, 1793. History of Devonshire, 1977 edition. II, p 117 – 123.
- Taylor, R.T. 2006 ‘Petrological study of the medieval floor-tiles’ in Parker, R.W, Allan, J.P. *et al.* The Bishop’s Palace at Chudleigh’, *Proc. Devon Archaeol. Soc.* **64**, 232–5.
- Soil Survey of England and Wales. 1983. *Soils of England and Wales: Sheet 5 South West England*. Ordnance Survey, Southampton.

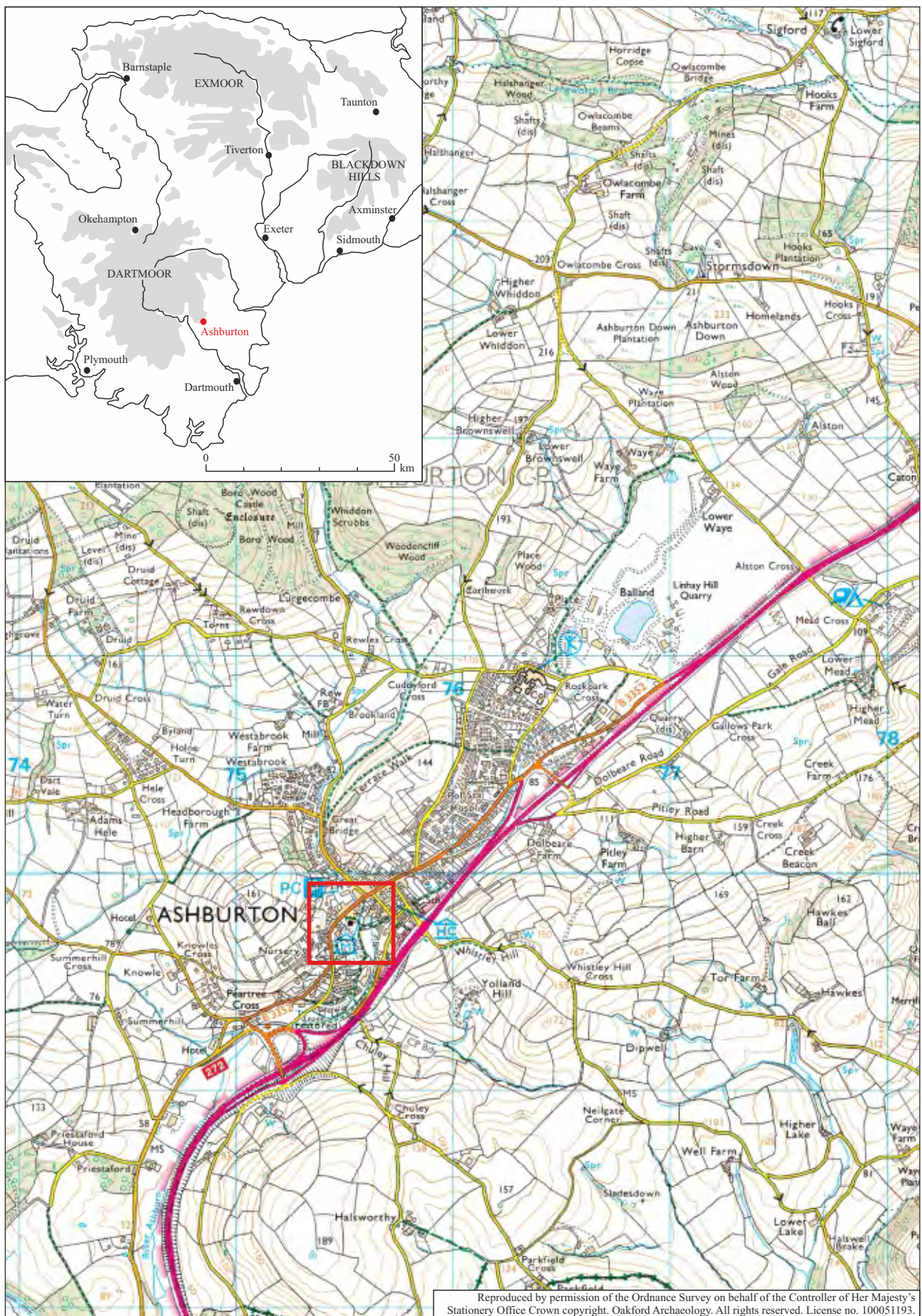


Fig. 1 Location of site.



Fig. 2 General view of St Andrew's. Looking northwest.



Fig. 2 Close-up of north porch with possible re-used mid-14th century arch. 2m scale. Looking south.



Fig. 4 Close-up showing blocked south doorway and later enlarged window. 1m scale. Looking south.



Fig. 5 General view of south aisle wall showing blocked doorway and later enlarged window. Looking northwest.



Fig. 6 General view of north doorway (centre) and staircase to porch room (left). Looking northeast.



Fig. 7 General view of nave looking towards chancel. Looking east.



Fig. 8 General view of bell tower. Looking south.



Fig. 9 Close-up of west doorway. Looking east.



Fig. 10 Close-up of north crossing pier showing volcanic material at base of arch rather than granite highlighting the possible position of early 15th century rood screen. Looking northwest.



Fig. 11 Close-up of south crossing pier showing volcanic material at base of arch rather than granite highlighting the possible position of early 15th century rood screen. Looking southwest.



Fig. 12 General view of north transept. Looking north.



Fig. 13 General view of south transept. Looking south.



Fig. 14 General view of Lady Chapel. Looking north.



Fig. 15 General view of chancel with chancel screen in foreground. Looking east.



Fig. 16 General view of nave ceiling. Looking east.



Fig. 17 General view of St John the Baptist chapel.
Looking south.

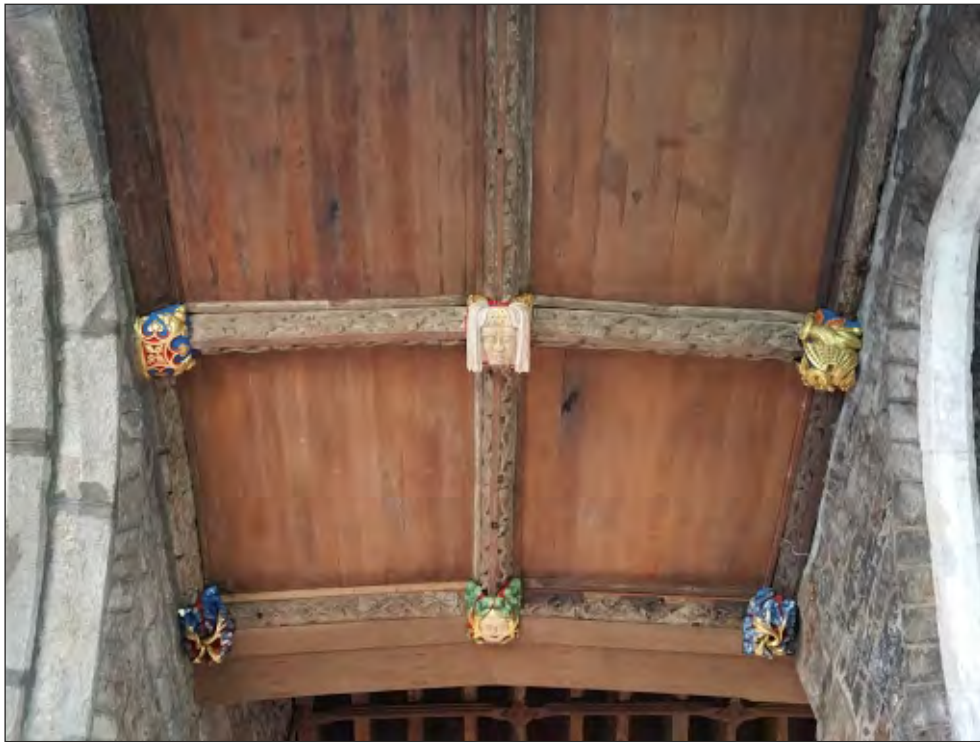


Fig. 18 Close-up of decorated intersecting beam ceiling in Lady Chapel.
Looking west.



Fig. 19 General view of south aisle ceiling. Looking
west.



Fig. 21 General view of 12th century wall. 0.5m and 1m scale. Looking east.



Fig. 22 Close-up showing 19th century heating duct truncating 12th century wall. 0.25m and 0.5m scale. Looking west.



Fig. 23 General view of 12th century wall fragment.
0.25m and 0.5m scale. Looking southeast.



Fig. 24 Close-up of 12th century wall fragment. 0.5m scale. Looking west.



Fig. 25 General view of 12th century wall fragment. 0.5m scale. Looking west.



Fig. 26 Close-up showing 12th century wall overlain by early 15th century pier base. 0.25m scale. Looking east.

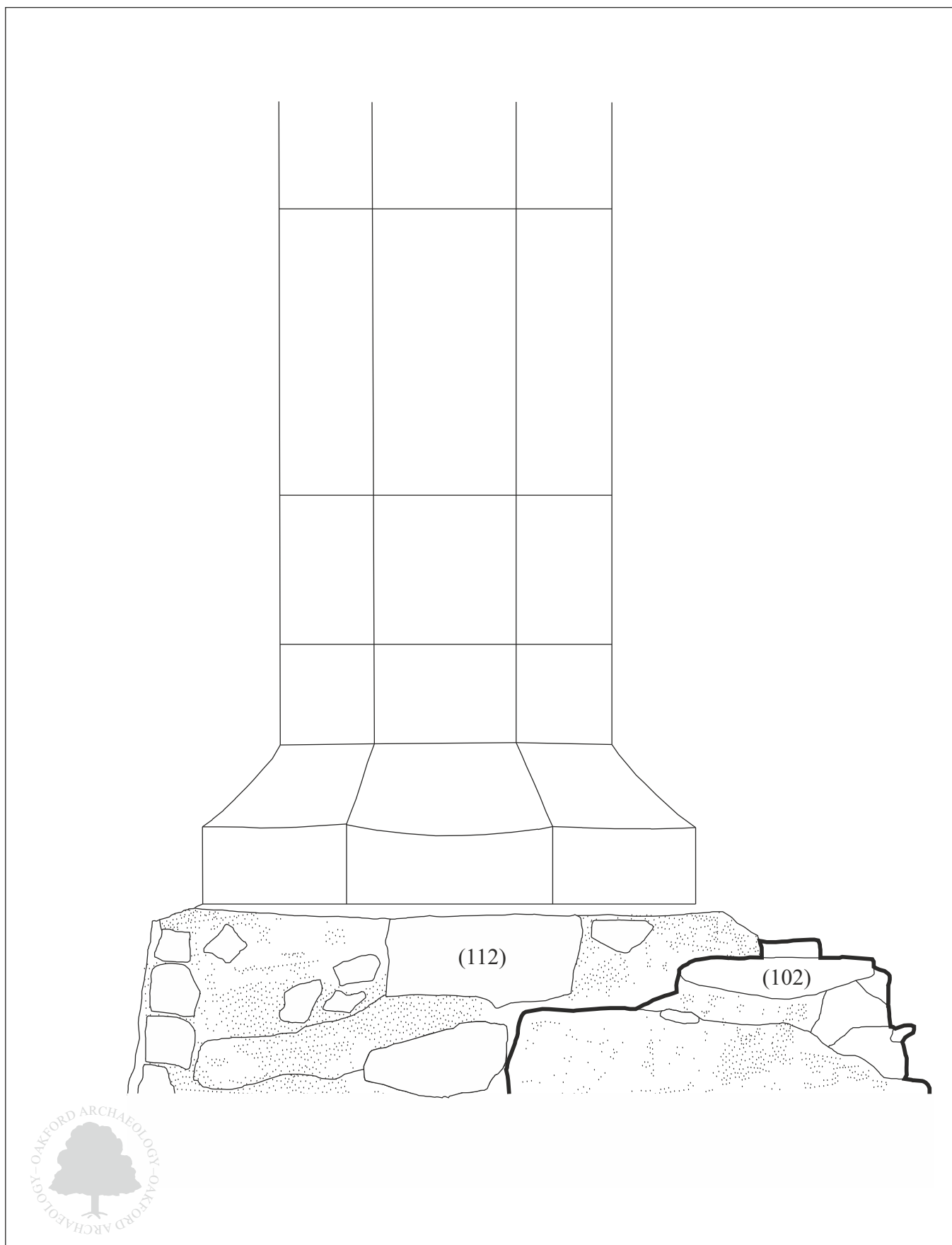


Fig. 27 Section through 12th century wall (102) and early 15th century pier base and pillar (112).



Fig. 28 Close-up showing early 15th century pier base truncating probable 13th century foundations. 0.5m scale. Looking west.



Fig. 29 General view of 13th century foundations. 1m scales. Looking southwest.



Fig. 30 Close-up of 13th century foundations partly overlain by early 15th century church. 1m scale. Looking west.



Fig. 31 General view of nave showing stone lined burials and Victorian heating duct (foreground). 1m scale. Looking east.



Fig. 32 Close-up of stone-lined graves. 1m scale. Looking east.



Fig. 33 General view of stone-lined graves and vaults. 1m scale. Looking south.



Fig. 34 General view of stone-lined graves and vaults. 1m scale. Looking east.



Fig. 35 General view of stone-lined grave in south transept. 1m scale. Looking south.



Fig. 36 Close-up of stone-lined vault under crossing. 1m scale. Looking east.



Fig. 37 General view of north transept showing late 18th century floor make-up. 1m scales. Looking north.



Fig. 38 General view of western gallery footings. 0.5m scale. Looking south.



Fig. 39 Close-up of western gallery footing. 0.5m scale. Looking west.



Fig. 40 Close-up of western gallery footing. 0.5m scale. Looking west.

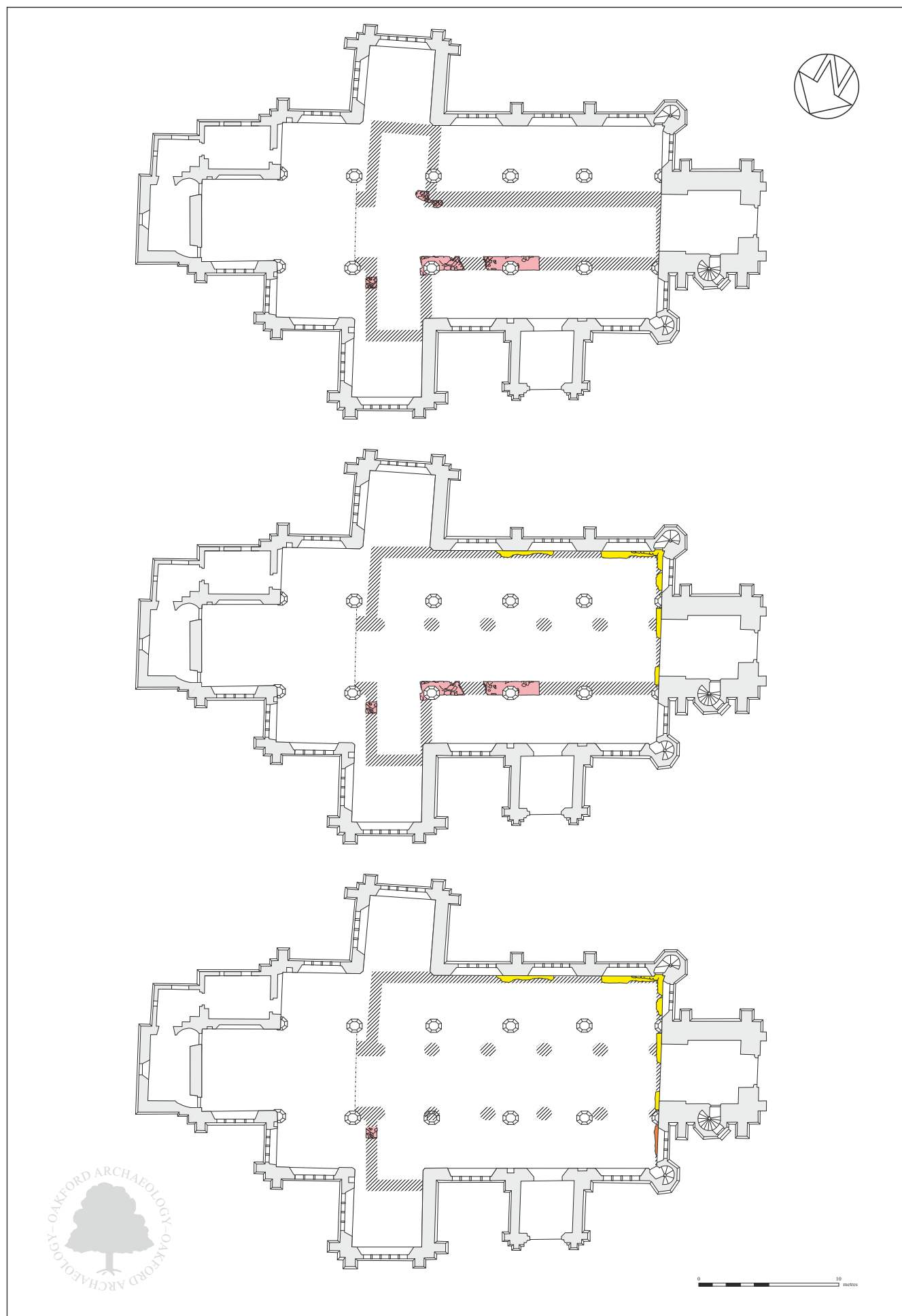


Fig. 41 Phase plans showing development of church: late-12th century (top), early-mid 13th century (middle), mid-late 13th century (bottom).

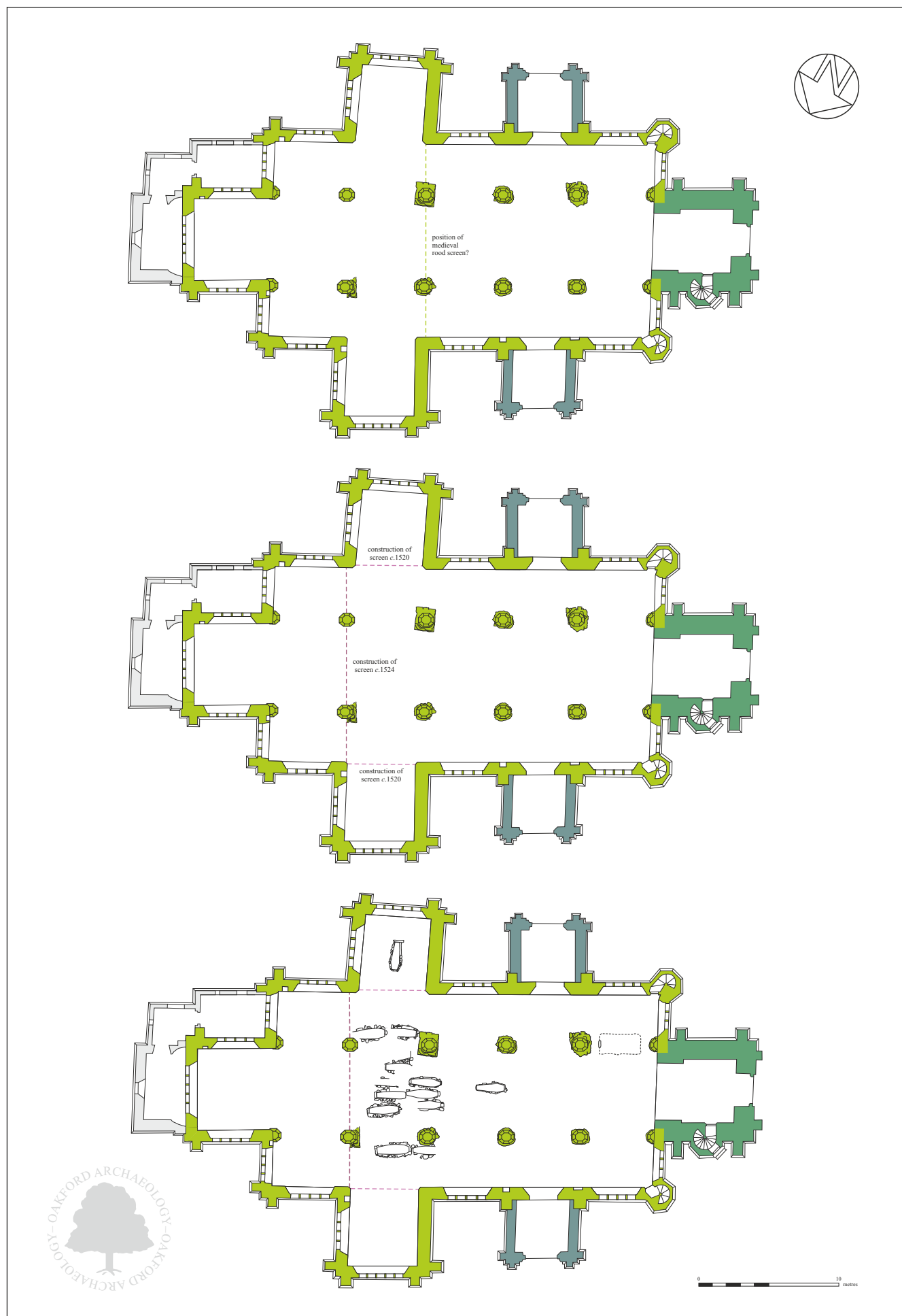


Fig. 42 Phase plans showing development of church: early 15th century (top), early-mid 16th century (middle), late 16th-18th century graves (bottom).

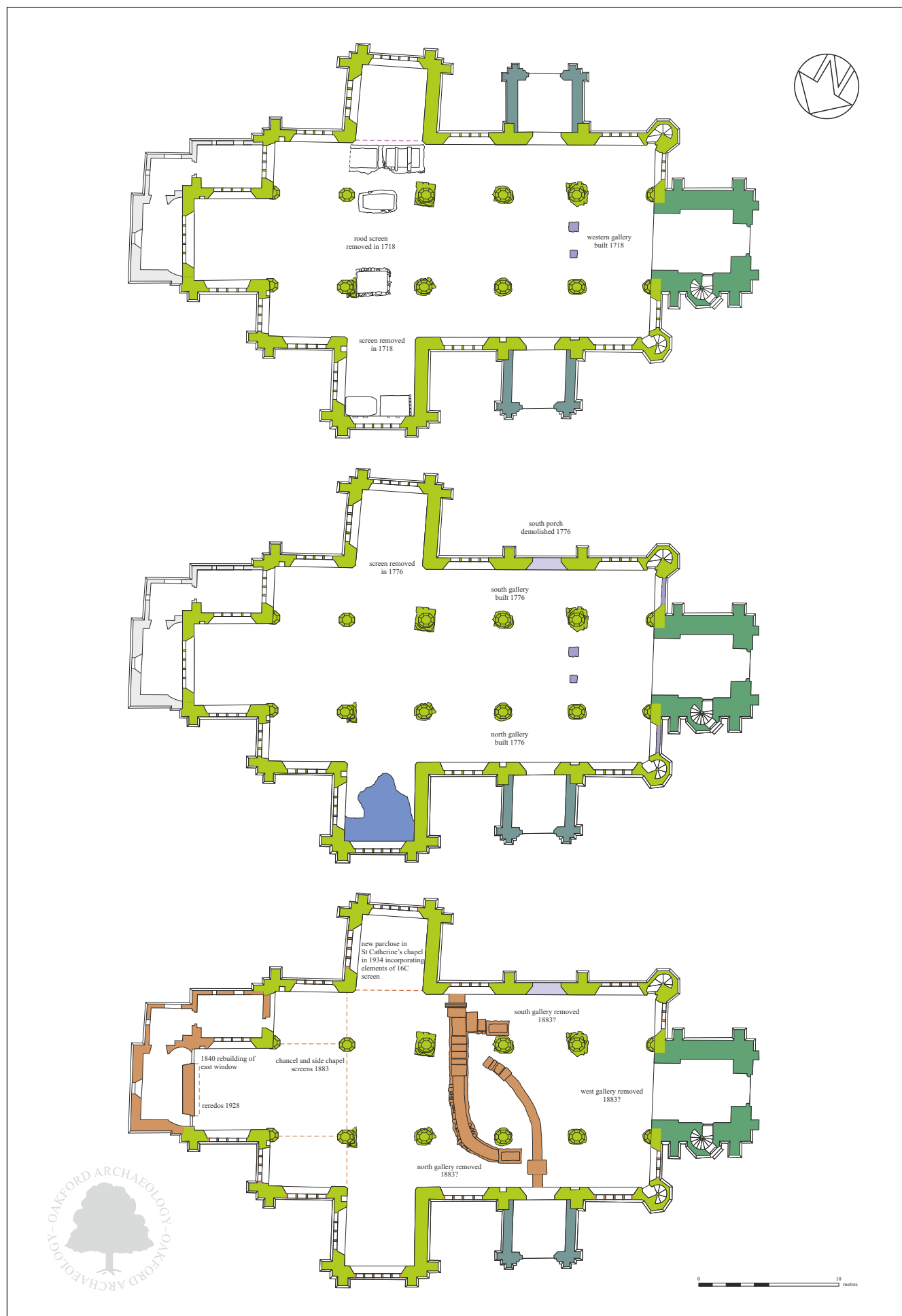


Fig. 43 Phase plans showing development of church: 1718 (top), 1776, (middle), 19th and 20th century (bottom).

Appendix 1

Method Statement

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document has been prepared by Oakford Archaeology (OA) for Ashburton PCC to describe the methodology to be used during an archaeological watching brief at St Andrews's, Ashburton, Devon (SX 7552 6976). This document represents the 'Written Scheme of Investigation' for archaeological work required under DAC Faculty for the grant of planning permission for the construction renewal of the flooring in the nave, aisles and transepts. The work is required by the Diocese Advisory Committee (DAC), advised by the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor (DAA).
- 1.2 The proposed development lies in an area of high archaeological potential inside the church. The church is a grade I listed building located on the site of an earlier church with 12th century origins, although the current building largely dates to the 15th century. St Andrew's church, in common with a high percentage of churches in Devon, was subjected to extensive internal re-ordering in the 19th century.

2. AIMS

- 2.1 The aim of the project is to investigate and record any buried archaeological deposits exposed during groundworks associated with the development, and to report on the results of the project, as appropriate. The aim of the archaeological works is to further improve our understanding, to inform the formulation of approaches to repair or change and to inform decision-making during the course of repairs/change, as well as for academic purposes and the archaeological record.

3. METHOD

The DAC has required that a watching brief be undertaken during groundworks, and monitoring will take place on all excavations that are likely to expose archaeological deposits.

- 3.1 Liaison will be established with the client and their contractor prior to the works commencing, in order to obtain details of the works programme and to advise on OA requirements. If a good working relationship is established at the outset any delays caused by archaeological recording can be kept to a minimum. However, localised delays to site operations may be caused and time should be allowed within the main contractor's programme for the adequate investigation and recording of archaeological material.

In consultation with the contractors the times of churches services (including funerals) will be established in advance. Prior to these services the site will be secured and all work stopped.

- 3.2 All machining will be carried out under direct archaeological control, using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. Machining will proceed in spits, and will cease if archaeological deposits are exposed in order to allow those deposits to be investigated, excavated and recorded. This

may cause localised delays to the groundworks programme, although every effort will be made to keep any such delays to a minimum. If no such deposits are present then, once natural subsoil has been confirmed, or formation/invert level reached, across the whole of the development area, archaeological monitoring will be terminated. Similarly, if it can be demonstrated that there has been significant modern truncation, then archaeological monitoring will be terminated in these areas.

3.3 If archaeological features are present, then hand-excavation will normally comprise:

- The full excavation of small discrete features;
- half-sectioning (50% excavation) of larger discrete features;
- the excavation of long linear features to sample up to 10% of their length - with hand-investigations distributed along the exposed length of any such features, specifically targeting any intersections, terminals or overlaps.
- Spoil will also be examined for the recovery of artefacts.

Should the above percentage excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined, full excavation of such features/deposits will be required. Additional excavation may also be required for the taking of palaeo-environmental samples and the recovery of artefacts.

General project methods

3.4 Environmental deposits will be assessed on site, on site by a suitably qualified archaeologist, with advice as necessary from Allen Environmental Archaeology or the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor, to determine the possible yield (if any) of environmental or microfaunal evidence, and its potential for radiocarbon dating. If deposits potential survive, these would be processed by AC Archaeology using the EH Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology (EH CfA Guidelines 2002/1), and outside specialists (AEA) organised to undertake further assessment and analysis as appropriate.

3.5 Initial cleaning, conservation, packaging and any stabilisation or longer term conservation measures will be undertaken in accordance with relevant professional guidance (including *Conservation guidelines No 1* (UKIC, 2001); *First Aid for Finds* (UKIC & RESCUE, 1997) and on advice provided by A Hopper-Bishop, Specialist Services Officer, RAM Museum, Exeter.

3.6 Should artefacts be exposed that fall within the scope of the Treasure Act 1996, then these will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner according to the procedures relating to the Act. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

3.7 Should any articulated human remains be exposed, these will initially be left *in situ*. If removal at either this or a later stage in the archaeological works is deemed necessary, these will then be fully excavated and removed from the site subject to the compliance with the relevant Ministry of Justice Licence,

which will be obtained by OA on behalf of the client. Any remains will be excavated in accordance with Institute of Field Archaeologist Technical Paper No. 13 (McKinley and Roberts 1993). Where appropriate bulk samples will be collected. No artefacts or human skeletal material will be removed from the curtilage of the church without the express permission of the client. When human skeletal material is recovered during the excavation it will be collected and placed in secure storage. The material will be reinterred in the churchyard by a member of the clergy at the close of the project.

- 3.8 The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve artefacts or report on other aspects of the investigations can be called upon (see below). The client will be fully briefed and consulted if there is a requirement to submit material for specialist research.
- 3.9 Health and Safety requirements will be observed at all times by archaeological staff working on site, particularly when machinery is operating nearby. Personal protective equipment (safety boots, helmets and high visibility vests) will be worn by staff when plant is operating on site. A risk assessment will be prepared prior to work commencing.
- 3.10 The DAA will be informed of the start of the project, and will monitor progress throughout on behalf of the DAC. A date of completion of all archaeological site work will be confirmed with the DAA and the timescale of the completion of items under section 5 will run from that date.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

- 4.1 The standard OA recording system will be employed, consisting of:
 - (i) standardised single context record sheets; survey drawings, plans and sections at scales 1:10, 1:20, 1:50 as appropriate;
 - (ii) colour digital photography;
 - (iii) survey and location of finds, deposits or archaeological features, using EDM surveying equipment and software where appropriate;
 - (iv) labelling and bagging of finds on site from all excavated levels, post-1800 unstratified pottery may be discarded on site with a small sample retained for dating evidence as required.

5. REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

- 5.1 The reporting requirements will be confirmed with DAA on completion of the site work. If little or no significant archaeology is exposed then reporting will consist of a completed DCC HER entry, including a plan showing location of groundworks and of any significant features found. The text entry and plan will be produced in an appropriate electronic format suitable for easy incorporation into the HER, and sent to the DCHET within 3 months of the date of completion of all archaeological fieldwork.

5.2 Should significant deposits be exposed the results of all phases of archaeological work and historic building recording will be presented within one summary report within six months of the date of completion of all archaeological fieldwork. Any summary report will contain the following elements as appropriate:

- location plan and overall site plans showing the positions of the trenches and the distribution of archaeological features within them;
- a written description of the exposed features and deposits and a discussion and interpretation of their character and significance in the context of the known history of the site;
- plans and sections at appropriate scales showing the exact location and character of significant archaeological deposits and features;
- a selection of photographs illustrating the principal features and deposits found;
- specialist assessments and reports as appropriate.

5.3 A .pdf version of the report will be produced and distributed to the Client and the DAC on completion of sitework. A copy of the report and .pdf version will also be deposited with the site archive.

5.4 An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared with reference to *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991 2nd edition) upon completion of the project.

The archive will consist of two elements, the artefactual and digital - the latter comprising all born-digital (data images, survey data, digital correspondence, site data collected digitally etc.) and digital copies of the primary site records and images.

The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) with the permission of the parish as landowner within 6 months of the completion of site work, while the artefactual element will be deposited with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum. Any artefacts not taken by the RAMM will be offered to the parish before being discarded. The hardcopy of the archive will be offered to the RAMM and if not required will be disposed of by OA.

OA will notify the DAA upon the deposition of the digital archive with the ADS, and the deposition of any material (finds) archive with the RAMM.

5.5 A .pdf copy of the updated summary report will be submitted, together with the site details, to the national OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological investigationS) database within three months of the completion of site work.

5.6 A short report summarising the results of the project will be prepared for inclusion within the “round up” section of an appropriate national journal, if merited, within 12 months of the completion of site work.

- 5.7 Should particularly significant remains, finds and/or deposits be encountered, then these, because of their importance, are likely to merit wider publication in line with government planning guidance. If such remains are encountered, the publication requirements – including any further analysis that may be necessary – will be confirmed with DAA, in consultation with the Client. OA, on behalf of the Client, will then implement publication in accordance with a timescale agreed with the Client, and the DAA. This will be within 12 months of the completion of all phases of archaeological site work unless otherwise agreed in writing.

6. CONFLICT WITH OTHER CONDITIONS AND STATUTORILY PROTECTED SPECIES

- 6.1 If topsoil stripping or groundworks are being undertaken under the direct control and supervision of the archaeological contractor then it is the archaeological contractor's responsibility - in consultation with the applicant or agent - to ensure that the required archaeological works do not conflict with any other conditions that have been imposed upon the consent granted and should also consider any biodiversity issues as covered by the NERC Act 2006. In particular, such conflicts may arise where archaeological investigations/excavations have the potential to have an impact upon protected species and/or natural habitats e.g. SSSIs, National Nature Reserves, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites, County Wildlife Sites etc.

7. COPYRIGHT

- 7.1 OA shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in this document.

8. PROJECT ORGANISATION

- 8.1 The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced archaeologists, in accordance with the Code of Conduct and relevant standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (*Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, 1994, revised 2008), plus *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* 1994, revised 2008). The project will be managed by Marc Steinmetzer MCIfA. Oakford Archaeology is managed by a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Health & Safety

- 8.2 All monitoring works within this scheme will be carried out in accordance with current *Safe Working Practices (The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974)*.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Specialists contributors and advisors

The expertise of the following specialists can be called upon if required:

Bone artefact analysis: Ian Riddler;

Dating techniques: University of Waikato Radiocarbon Laboratory, NZ;

Building specialist: Richard Parker;

Charcoal identification: Dana Challinor;

Diatom analysis: Nigel Cameron (UCL);

Environmental data: Vanessa Straker (English Heritage);

Faunal remains: Lorraine Higbee (Wessex);

Finds conservation: Alison Hopper-Bishop (Exeter Museums);

Human remains: Louise Loe (Oxford Archaeology), Charlotte Coles;

Lithic analysis: Dr. Linda Hurcombe (Exeter University);

Medieval and post-medieval finds: John Allan;

Metallurgy: Gill Juleff (Exeter University);

Numismatics: Norman Shiel (Exeter);

Petrology/geology: Roger Taylor (RAM Museum), Imogen Morris;

Plant remains: Julie Jones (Bristol);

Prehistoric pottery: Henrietta Quinnell (Exeter);

Roman finds: Paul Bidwell & associates (Arbeia Roman Fort, South Shields);

Others: Wessex Archaeology Specialist Services Team

MFR Steinmetzer
10 September 2015
WSI/OA1260/0

