

**HOLY CROSS CHURCH
HANKERTON
WILTSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

For

ANDREW TOWNSEND ARCHITECTS

on behalf of

HANKERTON PCC


CA PROJECT: 2855
CA REPORT: 09201

JANUARY 2010

HOLY CROSS CHURCH
HANKERTON
WILTSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CA PROJECT: 2855
CA REPORT: 09201

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date	2 February 2010
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SUMMARY

Project Name: Holy Cross Church
Location: Hankerton, Wiltshire
NGR: ST 9725 9076
Type: Watching Brief
Date: June to September 2009
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes
Site Code: HCS 09

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with construction of a new extension at the western end of the North Aisle and associated works at Holy Cross Church, Hankerton, Wiltshire.

Structural elements associated with the church were identified during the watching brief. These comprised wall footings associated with construction of the north wall of the Tower and the west wall of the North Aisle. The arched doorway within the west wall of the North Aisle was found to have been blocked during or after the 16th to 17th centuries. A deposit (dating to the 14th century) may have related to the repair or construction of part of the church.

The watching brief also identified two previously unrecorded east/west-aligned inhumation burials within the eastern part of the North Aisle of the church. Although undated artefactually these are believed to be of medieval or later date. No burials were identified within the service trenches in the churchyard.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between June and September 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Andrew Townsend Architects (ATA) on behalf of Hankerton Parochial Church Council (PCC) at Holy Cross Church, Hankerton, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: ST 9725 9076; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken to monitor any disturbance of deposits within the interior of the church or the churchyard during intrusive groundworks associated with the demolition of a former boiler house, construction of a new extension, the installation of new services across the churchyard and removal of the wooden floor within the church. The objective of the archaeological watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.3 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the *Brief for Archaeological Consultant* (ATA 2009), and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2009). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008), the *Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire* (Wiltshire County Council 1995), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991), the *Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England* (English Heritage 2005) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006).

The site

- 1.4 Holy Cross Church is located off Church Lane at the south-eastern edge of the village of Hankerton (Fig. 1). The site, approximately 0.49ha in area, comprises the church and adjacent churchyard and lies at approximately 89m AOD.
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Oxford Clay of the Upper Jurassic era (BGS 1974). The natural geology encountered across the site comprised orange-brown clays and sands.

Archaeological background

- 1.6 Holy Cross Church is Grade II* listed. It is constructed in limestone ashlar, rubblework (with some lime render covering) with stone slate roof coverings; cast-iron goods drain to below-ground drainage via gullies. The main body of the church (Nave and Tower) dates from the early 13th century with subsequent additions throughout the medieval period. Restoration of the church was carried out in the 1850s and the Chancel was re-built in 1903. The former boiler house is thought to have been built in the mid 20th century (Andrew Townsend Architects 2009).

Methodology

- 1.7 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2009). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks associated with the demolition of a former boiler house, construction of the new extension, the installation of new services across the churchyard and removal of the wooden floor within the church (Fig. 2). Re-opening of a blocked doorway at ground floor level in the west wall of the North Aisle was also observed.
- 1.8 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007). All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).
- 1.9 The archive and artefacts from the watching brief are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the finds will be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes along with the archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-8)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the watching brief results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.

Trenches 1 and 2 (footing trenches for new extension, Fig. 2)

- 2.2 The natural geological substrate 103/201 comprising limestone fragments and orange-brown clay was identified at 0.4m below present ground level (bpgl) and was cut by east/west orientated construction trench 105 for the footings of the north wall of the Tower. It was also cut by north/south orientated construction trench 203 for the footing 204 of the west wall of the North Aisle. The footings, 101, for the former boiler room were also identified.

Trench 3 (reopening of blocked doorway in North Aisle, Figs 2-6)

- 2.3 Reopening of a blocked arched doorway (Fig. 3), 2.35m in height and up to 1.25m in width, in the west wall of the North Aisle 301 revealed mortared limestone foundations 304, 305 and 306 at the limit of excavation. These structural remains were abutted by clay and stone deposit 302.
- 2.4 A rebate revealed around the inside of the doorway (Fig. 6) may have originally housed a timber door frame or stone moulding. The doorway had been carefully and neatly blocked with a series of level, regular, courses of limestone 300, bonded with lime mortar, set flush with the interior and exterior faces of wall 301. The internal core of the blocking comprised alternate layers of clay soil and limestone fragments.
- 2.5 Artefacts recovered from the blocking material 300 included two sherds of 16th to 17th-century or later Cistercian ware, fragments of medieval or post-medieval window glass, two stone roof tile fragments and eight fragments of worked limestone. The worked stone fragments included door or window embrasures of 13th to 14th-century and 15th to 16th-century date and an undated rectangular stone fragment, with a smooth upper surface, possibly representing a threshold stone/step or bench seat fragment (the latter artefact has been retained within the church).

Trenches 4, 5, 6 and 7 (drainage and service trenches, Fig. 2)

- 2.6 The natural geological substrate comprising clay and sand was identified at depths of between 0.3m and 0.9m bpgl in Trenches 4 to 7. In Trench 5 the natural substrate was sealed by a 0.15m thick deposit comprising limestone fragments, 502. This deposit contained two flat peg tile fragments, three sherds of Minety ware pottery and a fragment of Minety ridge tile which probably date to the 14th century. Deposit 502 was covered by subsoil 501, which contained a sherd of mid 16th to 18th-century glazed earthenware, and modern topsoil 500.

Trench 8 (renewal of wooden floor within church, Figs 2 and 7-8)

- 2.7 At the limit of excavation, at approximately 0.3m bpgl, a mortar-rich clay soil 801 was cut by two east/west-aligned inhumation burials. Burial 1, grave cut 802, was 2.5m in length, between 0.4m and 0.5m in width and contained a lead coffin 803, without a lid, which was filled by a stony-clay deposit fill 804 (Fig. 7). Burial 2, grave cut 807, was at least 1.2m in width, between 0.35m and 0.45m in width and contained stone-built grave lining 805 which was lime-washed and was filled by mortar-flecked clay fill 806 (Fig. 8). Neither grave was excavated and investigation was limited to defining the extent of the features.

The Finds

- 2.8 Quantities of pottery, ceramic building material, worked stone, glass and animal bone were recovered from three deposits (Appendix B).
- 2.9 Three sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from deposit 502. The fabric is identified as Minety ware, a type common locally which dated from the 12th to 15th centuries. This deposit also produced three fragments of ceramic building material: one fragment is a ridge tile in Minety-type fabric and two joining sherds of Minety flat peg tile. A late medieval, probably 14th century, date is likely for this material.
- 2.10 Pottery of post-medieval date was recovered from deposits 501 and 300. Deposit 501 contained one sherd of glazed earthenware, probably Ashton Keynes ware, dateable to the mid 16th to 18th centuries. Two fragments of Cistercian ware, including a handle from a small cup, and one fragment of a mottled brown glazed ware cup, were recovered from deposit 300. This material suggests a date for the context within the 16th century or 17th centuries.
- 2.11 Deposit 300 contained 11 fragments of green 'forest' glass identified as medieval or earlier post-medieval window glass: one fragment exhibits a grozed (clipped) edge and another preserves lead staining.
- 2.12 Eight architectural fragments were recovered from deposit 300. All are of Cotswold oolitic limestone and are mainly medieval work, but probably reused during the post-medieval period. Each fragment has been given a registered artefact number (RA) and is described individually (Appendix B). Two limestone roof tile fragments were also recovered from this deposit.

- 2.13 Only one fragment of animal bone was recovered during the watching brief from deposit 100. It is identified as part of a cattle femur from a sub-adult animal.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Structural elements associated with the church were identified during the watching brief. These comprised wall footings in Trenches 1 and 2 which were associated with construction of the north wall of the Tower and the west wall of the North Aisle. The arched doorway within the west wall of the North Aisle (Trench 3) was also examined and was found to have been blocked during or after the 16th to 17th centuries.
- 3.2 Deposit 502 appeared to date to the 14th century and the quantity of tile fragments recovered from it may suggest that the deposit resulted from repairs or construction of part of the church.
- 3.3 The watching brief also identified two previously unrecorded east/west-aligned inhumation burials within the eastern part of the North Aisle of the church. Although undated artefactually, these features are believed to be of medieval or later date. No burials were identified within service trenches 4, 5, 6 and 7.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alistair Barber, Jon Bennett, David Cudlip and Pippa Mitcheson. The report was written by Alistair Barber. The finds report was prepared by Angela Aggujaro incorporating comments on the architectural stone by Peter Davenport. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Alistair Barber, and prepared for deposition by Victoria Taylor and Jon Hart. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

5. REFERENCES

Andrew Townsend Architects 2009 *Alterations to Holy Cross Church, Hankerton, Wiltshire for Hankerton PCC: Brief for Archaeological Consultant*

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1974 *Geological Survey of Great Britain, Swindon, Solid and Drift Geology Edition*, Sheet 252, 1:63,360.

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 *Holy Cross Church, Hankerton, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Deposit	Modern make-up deposit: light brown silt with modern debris			0.4	
101	Structure	Modern footings for previous boiler room: worked and unworked limestone .			0.1	
102	Cut	Modern construction cut for 101			0.4	
103	Layer	Natural geological substrate: limestone and orange-brown clay				
104	Structure	Limestone foundations of church tower			>1	
105	Cut	Construction cut for 104		0.1	>1	
106	Fill	Fill of 104. Redeposited natural clay.			>1	

Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Deposit	Modern topsoil: mid-brown silt-clay with fragmentary limestone			0.3	
201	Deposit	Natural geological substrate: limestone and orange-brown clay				
202	Structure	North Aisle wall		0.3	0.3	
203	Cut	Construction cut for 202		0.3	0.3	
204	Fill	Fill of 204. Redeposited natural clay.		0.3	0.3	

Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Deposit	Limestone courses, with lime mortar bonding, forming external and internal blocking faces within former doorway. Associated with inner core of alternate layers of mid-brown clay and courses 0.05-0.1m thick of small limestone fragments.	1.1	1.2	2.3	C16-C17+
301	Structure	North Aisle internal wall face				
302	Deposit	Orange-brown gritty-clay and stone, abutting lowest courses of wall 301	1.1	0.85		
303	Structure	Limestone ?footings, only partially exposed	>0.3	>0.1		
304	Wall	Limestone block ?foundation for wall 301	>1.1m	>0.6 m		
305	Wall	Limestone block in-situ at rear (east side) of doorway	>0.1	0.2	0.12	
306	Wall	Limestone block in-situ at rear (east side) of doorway	0.4	0.2	0.12	

Trench 4

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Deposit	Modern topsoil: dark grey-brown silt-clay			0.2	
401	Deposit	Modern make-up deposit: light brown silt with modern debris			0.7	
401	Deposit	Natural geological substrate: limestone and orange-brown clay				

Trench 5

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
500	Deposit	Modern topsoil: dark grey-brown silt-clay			0.2	
501	Deposit	Subsoil: light brown sand-silt with fragmentary limestone inclusions			0.15	MC16-C16
502	Deposit	Redeposited, fragmentary, limestone			0.16	C14+
503	Deposit	Mid grey-brown sand-silt			0.28	
504	Deposit	Natural geological substrate: light red-brown sand				
505	Deposit	Natural geological substrate: limestone and orange-brown clay				

Trench 6

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
601	Deposit	Modern dump deposit: mid-brown silt-clay with fragmentary limestone			0.2	
602	Cut	Modern service trench			0.4	
603	Fill	Fill of 602: grey-brown clay			0.4	
604	Deposit	Mid brown silt-clay with abundant fragmentary limestone			0.5	

Trench 7

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
700	Deposit	Modern topsoil: dark grey-brown silt-clay			0.25	
701	Deposit	Subsoil: grey-brown clay			>0.2	

Trench 8

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
801		Mortar/lime-rich soil exposed beneath former timber floor				
802	Cut	Burial 1 grave cut. Vertical sides.	2.5	0.5		
803	Coffin	Burial 1 lead coffin. Tapered with rolled upper edges, no lid.		0.2-0.4		
804	Fill	Fill of Burial 1 grave cut 002. Brown clay with occasional fragmentary limestone				
805	Structure	Stone-lined grave for Burial 2, comprised of limestone pieces typically 0.3m in length and 0.1m in depth.				
806	Fill	Burial 2 grave fill. Mortar-flecked clay.				
807	Cut	Burial 2 grave cut. Vertical sides.	1.2+	0.35-0.45		

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context No	Artefact type	Description	Count	Weight (g)	Ra N	Spot date
100	Animal bone	Cow SA	1	51		-
300	Worked stone	Roof tile	2	472		C16-C17+
	Glass	Window glass	11	52		
	Post-med pot	Cistercian ware, Brown mottled glazed ware	3	19		
	Worked stone	Building stone	1	0	8	
	Worked stone	Building stone	1	0	5	
	Worked stone	Building stone	1	0	6	
	Worked stone	Building stone	1	0	4	
	Worked stone	Building stone	1	0	3	
	Worked stone	Building stone	1	0	1	
	Worked stone	Building stone	1	0	2	
	Worked stone	Building stone	1	0	7	
501	Post-med pot	Glazed earthenware	1	34		MC16-C18
502	Medieval pot	Minety ware	3	18		C14+
	CBM	Minety ridge tile	1	45		
	CBM	Minety flat peg tile	2	309		

Catalogue of worked stone

RA 1: cylindrical column 'dying' into a square base. One side has been flattened perhaps for a secondary use of the stone. *Date: 13th and the 14th centuries.*

RA 2: part of a door or window embrasure: one side is well finished with a claw chisel.

Date: medieval (reused during the post-medieval period).

RAs 3-6: parts of the same window or door moulding frame.

Date: probably between the 13th and the 14th centuries.

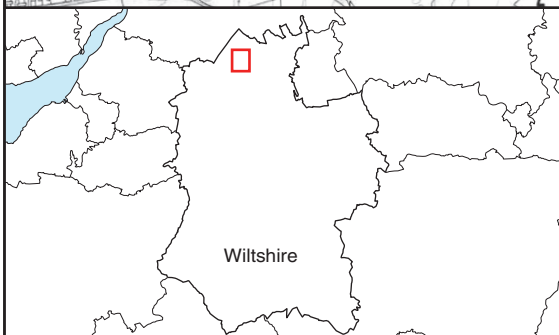
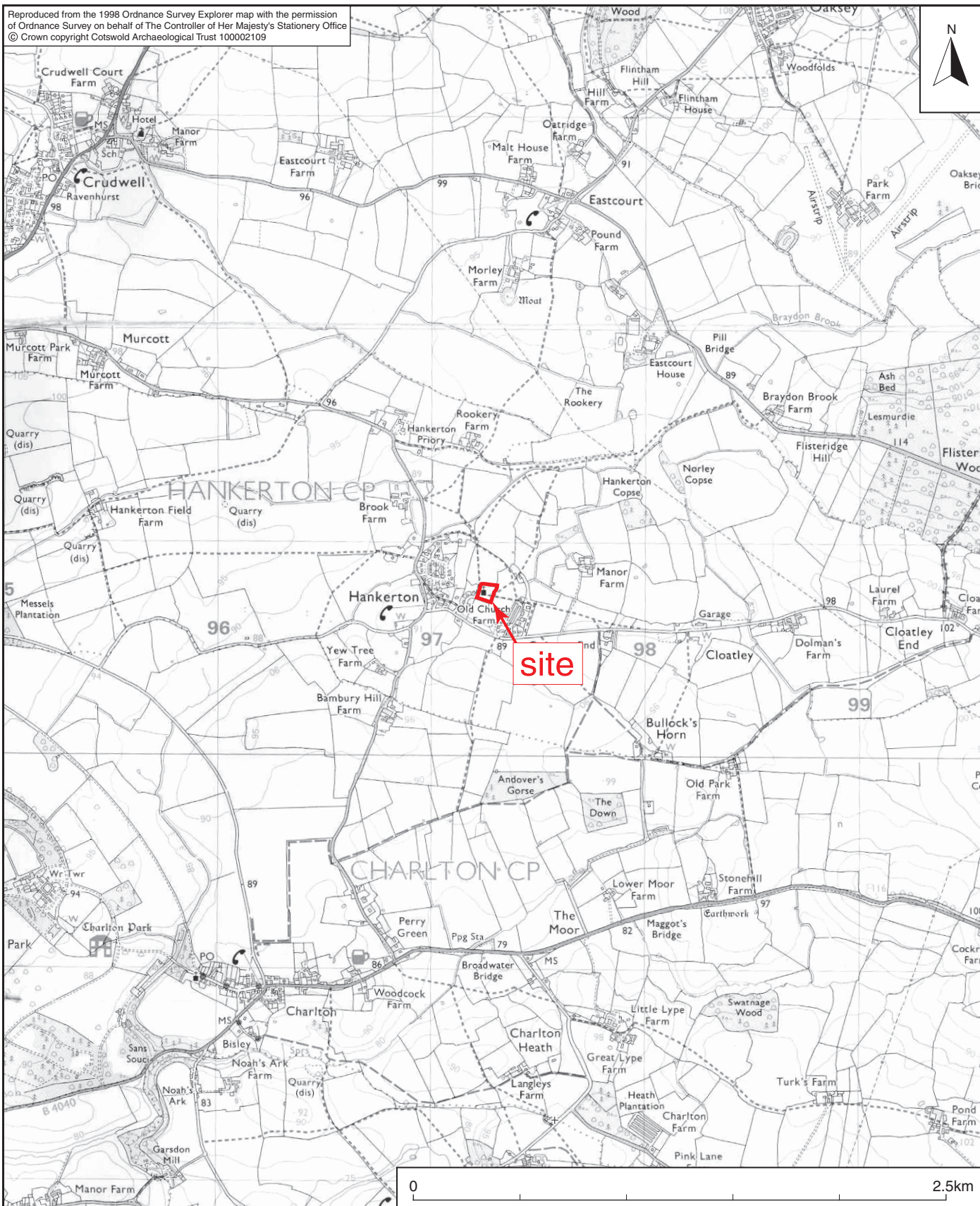
RA 7: Rectangular shaped-stone with wear possible suggesting use as a step.

RA 8: two joining pieces forming part of a door or window frame. One side has been chiselled for a second use of the stone.

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Holy Cross Church, Hankerton, Wiltshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with construction of a new extension at the western end of the North Aisle and associated works at Holy Cross Church, Hankerton, Wiltshire.</p> <p>Structural elements associated with the church were identified during the watching brief. These comprised wall footings associated with construction of the north wall of the Tower and the west wall of the North Aisle. The arched doorway within the west wall of the North Aisle was found to have been blocked during or after the 16th to 17th centuries. A deposit (dating to the 14th century) may have related to the repair or construction of part of the church.</p> <p>The watching brief also identified two previously unrecorded east/west-aligned inhumation burials within the eastern part of the North Aisle of the church. Although undated artefactually these are believed to be of medieval or later date. No burials were identified within the service trenches in the churchyard.</p>	
Project dates	June to September 2009	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Watching brief	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	N/A	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Holy Cross Church, Hankerton, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.49ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 9725 9075	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Andrew Townsend Architects	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisors	Alistair Barber, Jon Bennett, David Cudlip and Pippa Mitcheson	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes	Ceramics, glass, animal bone, worked stone
Paper	Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes	Context Sheets, Trench Recording Form,

		Permatrace drawings, Drawing Register, Levels Register, b/w photos
Digital	Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA 2009 <i>Holy Cross Church, Hankerton, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 09201		



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Holy Cross Church, Hankerton
Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

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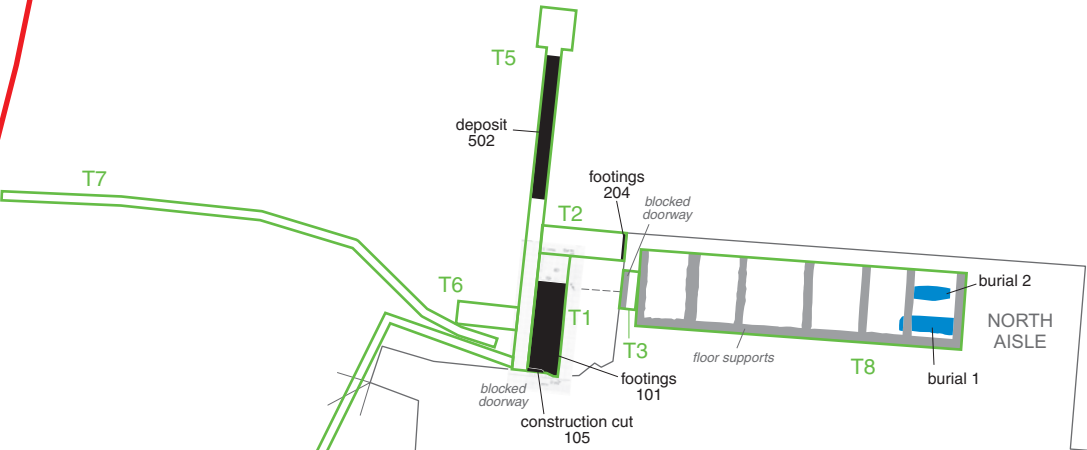
2855

FIGURE NO.

1



Old School House



Holy Cross Church


CHURCH LANE

- site
- trench
- archaeological feature
- burial





3

3 Trench 3, blocked doorway of North Aisle, looking east	 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
	PROJECT TITLE Holy Cross Church, Hankerton Wiltshire			
	FIGURE TITLE Photograph			
	DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
	LG	n/a	2855	3



4

4 Trench 3, blocked doorway of North Aisle during opening, looking east



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

**Holy Cross Church, Hankerton
Wiltshire**

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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PROJECT NO.

2855

FIGURE NO.

4



5

5 Trench 3, exterior face of opened North Aisle doorway, looking east



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Holy Cross Church, Hankerton
Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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2855

FIGURE NO.

5



6

6 Trench 3, interior face of opened North Aisle doorway, showing rebate for timber frame or stonework, looking west



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Holy Cross Church, Hankerton
Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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PROJECT NO.


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FIGURE NO.

6



7

7 Trench 8, burial 1, showing lead coffin, looking east	 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
	PROJECT TITLE Holy Cross Church, Hankerton Wiltshire			
	FIGURE TITLE Photograph			
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8

8 Trench 8, burial 2, showing stone-lined grave, looking east



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

**Holy Cross Church, Hankerton
Wiltshire**

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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PROJECT NO.

2855

FIGURE NO.

8