



# St Mary's Church, Glanvilles Wootton, Dorset

## Observations and Recording

Report No. 53342/3/1

December 2011





# St Mary's Church, Glanvilles Wootton, Dorset

Archaeological Observations and Recording During Provision of  
New Electricity Supply, November 2011

Report No. 53342/3/1

December 2011

Client	Agent
PCC of St Mary's Church, Glanvilles Wootton	John Stark & Crickmay Partnership 13 & 14 Princes Street Dorchester Dorset DT1 1TW

Version	Status	Prepared By	Approved By	Date
1	Final	P Bellamy	P Bellamy	22/12/11

Disclaimer

# Table of Contents

Project Report Summary Page .....	iii
Non Technical Summary .....	iv
<b>Part 1: Introduction</b>	
1.1 Project Introduction .....	1
1.2 Brief .....	1
1.3 Site Location and Topography .....	1
1.4 Geology .....	1
1.5 Archaeological and Historical background .....	1
1.6 Aims and Objectives .....	2
1.7 Fieldwork .....	2
1.8 Methods .....	2
1.9 Human Remains .....	2
1.10 Archive .....	2
<b>Part 2: Results</b>	
2.1 Natural Deposits .....	3
2.2 Graveyard soils .....	3
2.3 Graves .....	3
2.4 West Tower .....	3
2.5 Finds .....	3
<b>Part 3: Discussion and Conclusions</b>	
3.1 Conclusions .....	3
4 <b>References</b> .....	3
<b>Figures</b>	
1 Location plan .....	4
2 Plan of Archaeological Observations .....	5
<b>Plates</b>	
1 Overview of electricity cable trench, viewed from South .....	6
2 Probable Grave 103, viewed from East .....	6
3 West Tower footings exposed in trench .....	6

## Project Report Summary Page

Project Details			
<b>OASIS Reference</b>	terraina1-115338		
<b>Project Title</b>	New Electricity Supply, St Mary's Church, Glanvilles Wootton		
<b>Short Description of Project</b>	Archaeological Observations and Recording was undertaken during the excavation of a new electricity cable trench across the northern part of the churchyard of St Mary's Church, Glanvilles Wootton. The trench was dug along side the path from the north entrance to the churchyard to the West Tower of the church. The backfill of a single grave was observed. No finds were recovered.		
<b>Project Dates</b>	Start: 29-11-2011	End: 29-11-2011	
<b>Previous/Future Work</b>	No/No		
<b>Project Code</b>	53342		
<b>Monument Type and Period</b>	Grave (Uncertain)		
<b>Significant Finds</b>	None		
Project Location			
<b>County/District/Parish</b>	Dorset/ North Dorset/Glanvilles Wootton		
<b>Site Address</b>	St Mary the Virgin, Glanvilles Wootton, Dorset, DT9 5QE		
<b>Site Coordinates</b>	ST 6800 0817		
<b>Site Area</b>	7.0 m <sup>2</sup>		
<b>Height OD</b>			
Project Creators			
<b>Organisation</b>	Terrain Archaeology		
<b>Project Brief Originator</b>	None		
<b>Project Design Originator</b>	Terrain Archaeology		
<b>Project Supervisor</b>	Peter Bellamy		
<b>Project Manager</b>	Peter Bellamy		
<b>Sponsor or Funding Body</b>	PCC of St Mary's Church, Glanvilles Wootton		
Project Archive			
<b>Archive Type</b>	<b>Physical</b>	<b>Digital</b>	<b>Paper</b>
<b>Location/Accession No</b>		Terrain Archaeology offices, pending deposition with Dorset County Museum.	Terrain Archaeology offices, pending deposition with Dorset County Museum.
<b>Contents</b>	No Physical Archive	Digital photography	context sheets, photographs, plans, report

## Non-technical Summary

*Terrain Archaeology observed the excavation of a trench for a new electricity supply for St Mary's Church, Glanvilles Wootton in November 2011. The new electricity trench ran along the west side of the path from the north gate of the churchyard into the west tower of the church. The remains of a single probable grave of unknown date were recorded. No human remains or other finds were disturbed during these works.*

# St Mary's Church, Glanvilles Wootton, Dorset

## Archaeological Observations and Recording During Provision of New Electricity Supply, November 2011

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 Project Introduction

Terrain Archaeology was commissioned by the PCC of St Mary's Church, Glanvilles Wootton, through their architects John Stark & Crickmay Partnership Ltd, to undertake a programme of archaeological observations and recording at the Grade II\* listed parish church of St Mary, Glanvilles Wootton, Dorset, during the digging of a cable trench for a new electricity supply to the church.

'Archaeological observations and recording', also more colloquially known as an archaeological watching brief, is defined by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) as "a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons, within a specified area or site where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed" (IfA 2008).

The fieldwork was carried out on the 29th November 2011 by Peter Bellamy.

Terrain Archaeology wishes to acknowledge the assistance and cooperation of Bugler Builders Ltd, Chris Dickson (PCC of St Mary's Church, Glanvilles Wootton) and Michael Howarth (John Stark & Crickmay Partnership).

#### 1.2 Brief

No written brief was issued by, or on behalf of, the Salisbury Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC).

#### 1.3 Site Location and Topography

Glanvilles Wootton is a small village and parish in North Dorset. It lies within the Blackmore Vale to the north of the scarp of the Dorset Downs. The church of St Mary lies on the eastern edge of the village, centred on Ordnance Survey NGR ST6802508155, between the Old Rectory to the west and Church Farm to the East (Figure 1).

The church lies on the lower southern slopes of an east-west ridge, one of a number of parallel limestone ridges lying to the south of the South Dorset Ridgeway. The land to the south is part of an undulating clay vale. The land immediately around St. Mary's church slopes moderately steeply from northwest to southeast into a small coombe, the base of which lies beneath North Square. Ground levels within the site drop from c. 34 m above OD immediately north of the church to c. 30 m above OD at the south churchyard gate.

#### 1.4 Geology

The underlying geology is mapped as Mudstones of the Hazelbury Bryan Formation of the Corallian. No superficial deposits are recorded ([http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html)).

#### 1.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

No pre-medieval remains are known from the site or its immediate environs. The Iron Age hillfort of Dungeon Hill lies about one kilometre to the south east.

The earliest surviving part of St Mary's church appears to be its South Chapel, which may date to AD1344, corresponding with an endowment wherein Sibyl de Glaunvill alienated certain lands to a chaplain who was to say mass daily at the altar of St Mary in the parish church of Wootton Glanville. The West Tower dates to c. 1400 and the

nave, original chancel and south porch were constructed in the 15th century: The chancel was rebuilt and the nave extensively restored in 1876 (RCHME 1970, 95) under the supervision of G.R.Crickmay.

## 1.6 Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the archaeological works were laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Terrain Archaeology 2011).

The aim of the archaeological observations is to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource, including historic built structures, existing on the site.

The archaeological works will observe and record all the in situ archaeological deposits, features and historic building elements revealed during the redevelopment to an appropriate professional standard.

The results of the archaeological works will be presented in a report.

## 1.7 Fieldwork

A trench measuring 0.35 m wide and 0.5 m deep was dug by machine along the western side of the footpath entering the northern side of the churchyard as far as the west face of the West Tower (Figure 2; Plate 1). This work was carried out under archaeological supervision.

The course of the electricity cable trench beyond the area of the churchyard was not observed archaeologically.

## 1.8 Methods

The methodology and scope of the works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by Terrain Archaeology in August 2011 (Terrain Archaeology document no. 3342/0/1).

The work was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA 2008), and following the Church of England/English Heritage document *Guidance for Best Practice for Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England* (Mays 2005) and the Association of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists Guidance. (ADCA 2004).

The excavation of the trench was undertaken using a small tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothed bucket, which observed for the whole length of the trench by a suitably qualified archaeologist. A plan of the course of the trench and any observations made during the works was drawn on site using taped measurements to the church and churchyard wall.

All features and deposits, regardless of their perceived date and archaeological significance, were recorded using components of the Terrain Archaeology's system of complementary written, drawn and photographic records. These have been compiled in a stable, cross-referenced and fully indexed archive in accordance with current AAF guidelines (AAF 2007) and the requirements of the receiving museum. A digital photographic record of the works was maintained. This includes aspects of their setting, conduct and technical detail.

## 1.9 Human Remains

No human remains were uncovered during the works. No unstratified human bone was observed within the graveyard soil.

## 1.10 Archive

The project archive, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and appropriate background documentation, is currently stored by Terrain Archaeology under the project code 53342. In due course, and subject to the legal agreement of the PCC of St Mary's Church, Glanville's Wootton to full Transfer of Title, it is anticipated that those components of the archive not re-interred on-site, or selected for discard in accordance with appropriate policies will be accessioned for long-term curation and storage by the Dorset County Museum, Dorchester, which has agreed, in principal, to accept it.



## 2. Results

### 2.1 Natural Deposits

The natural deposits comprised a stiff mid yellowish-brown clay with moderate stone pieces (101), exposed at a depth of 0.23 m below ground level.

### 2.2 Graveyard soils

The graveyard soil is represented by a 0.23 m thick layer of dark brown humic clay topsoil (100).

### 2.3 Graves

The remains of a single possible grave were identified (Figure 2; Plate 2). This comprised of an E-W aligned, straight-sided vertical cut 0.7 m wide (103) filled with dark yellowish-brown clay with moderate small stone pieces (102).

### 2.4 West Tower

A small section of the footings of the west face of the West Tower was exposed at the end of the trench (Plate 3). The base of the footings was not exposed. The top of the chamfered plinth lay at ground level and a single course of ashlar 0.25 m high lay buried below ground. This was founded on rubble footings with a 0.15 m external offset visible at a depth of 0.39 m.

### 2.5 Finds

No finds were observed or retained as part of the works.

## 3. Discussion and Conclusions

### 3.1 Conclusions

The new electricity supply cable ran along the western edge of the path running south from the northern entrance to the churchyard, in an area with no marked graves. Only the remains of a single unmarked probable grave were identified. There was only a thin layer of graveyard soil and no fragments of residual human bone found within the trench, suggesting the path had been in existence for a considerable length of time and had not been impinged upon by graves.

## 4. References

- |  |      |   |
|--|------|---|
| AAF,   | 2007 | <i>Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation.</i> Archaeological Archives Forum.  |
| ADCA,  | 2004 | <i>Archaeological requirements for works on churches and churchyards.</i> Association of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists Guidance Note 1.   |
| IfA,   | 2008 | <i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief.</i> (Revised Edition). Institute for Archaeologists.   |
| Mays, S.,  | 2005 | <i>Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England.</i> English Heritage and The Church of England.  |
| [RCHME] Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) | 1970 | <i>An Inventory of Historical Monuments in the County of Dorset, Volume 3: Central Dorset,</i> (London; HMSO)   |
| Terrain Archaeology  | 2011 | New Electricity Supply, St Mary's Church, Glanvilles Wootton, Dorset. Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Observations and Recording. Terrain Archaeology Document Ref. No. 3342/0/1. August 2011. |

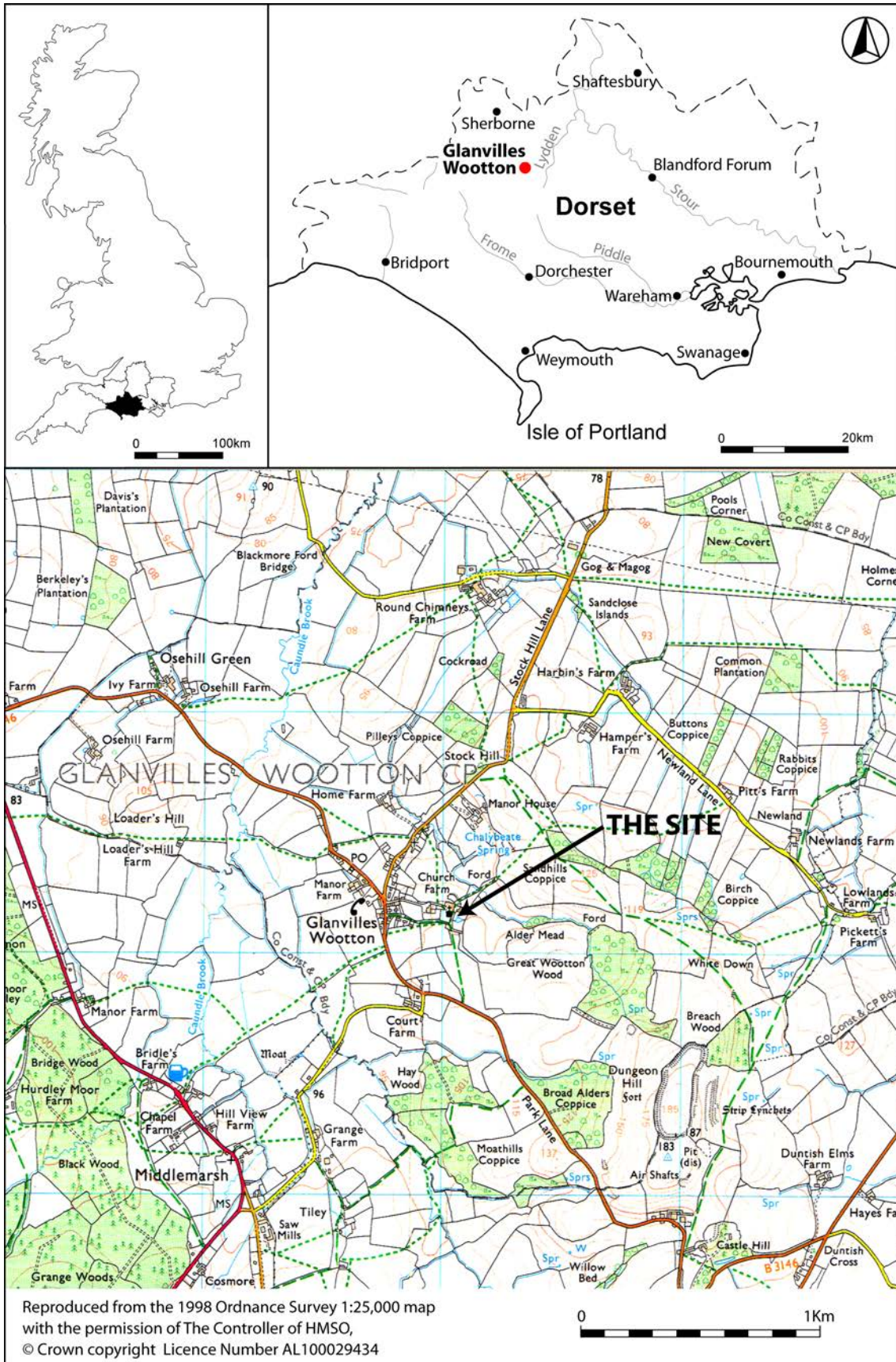


Figure 1: Location map

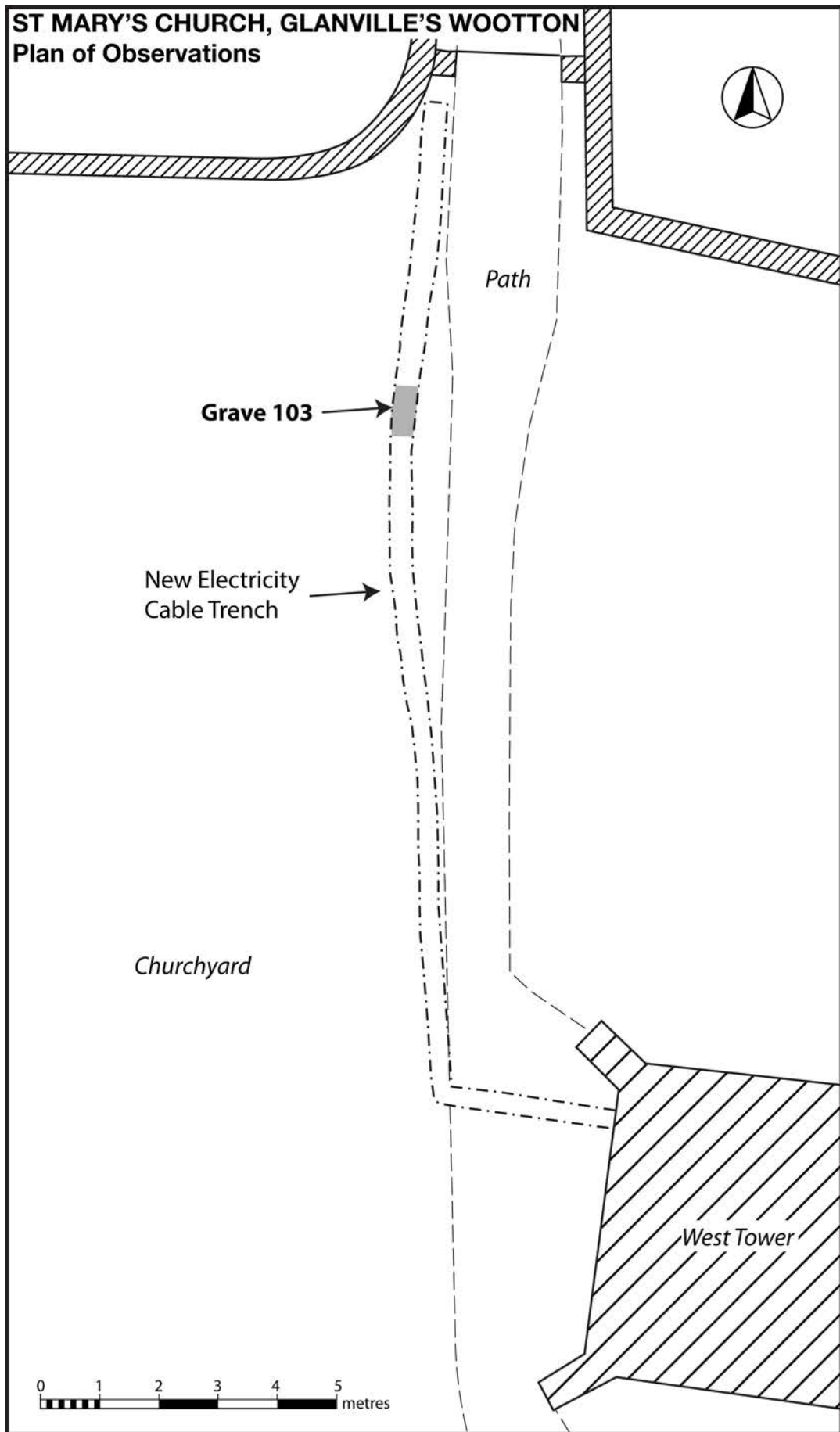


Figure 2: Plan of Archaeological Observations



*Plate 1: Overview of electricity cable trench, viewed from South. 1m scale.*



*Plate 2: Probable Grave 103, viewed from East. 1m scale.*



*Plate 3: West Tower footings exposed in trench. 1m scale.*