



St Laurence's Church, Upwey, Weymouth, Dorset

Observations and Recording During Erection of New Extension



Report No. 53502/3/1

November 2018

St Laurence's Church, Upwey, Weymouth, Dorset

Archaeological Observations and Recording During Erection of
New Extension, September – November 2018

Report No. 535027/3/1

November 2018

Client: Upwey St Laurence PCC

Agent: John Stark and Crickmay Partnership, 13 –14 Princes Street, Dorchester, DT1 1TW

Report Author: Peter Bellamy BSc (Hons) MCIfA

Illustrations: Peter Bellamy BSc (Hons) MCIfA

Document Version Control

Version	Status	Prepared By	Approved By	Date
1	Final	P Bellamy		13/11/2018
2				

DISCLAIMER

Terrain Archaeology and the individual authors of this report have made every effort during its preparation to provide as complete and accurate an assessment as possible within the terms of the Written Scheme of Investigation. All statements and opinions presented in this document are offered in good faith. Terrain Archaeology cannot accept responsibility or liability for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or accept liability for any future loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

COPYRIGHT

Terrain Archaeology retains full copyright of this report and its images, excepting any data held under third party copyright and presented under license, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that Terrain Archaeology grants exclusive license to the client for the use of the aforesaid report and images by the client in all matters directly relating to the project. License is also granted to the client, the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor and Dorset County Council's Historic Environment Record and Historic Environment Advisor to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes, provided that Terrain Archaeology is duly acknowledged as its author. This license agreement excludes commercial use of the report, report images or archive by the client or any third party.

The authors of any specialist contributions or images within the report or the archive shall retain intellectual copyright of their work, and may make use of said work for educational or research purposes for further publication.

Table of Contents

Project Report Summary Page.....	iv
Part 1: Introduction	
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	1
1.7 Groundworks.....	2
1.8 Methods	2
1.9 Archive and Dissemination	2
Part 2: Results	
2.1 Introduction	2
2.2 Churchyard Soils.....	2
2.3 Revetment Walls.....	3
2.4 Graves.....	3
Part 3: Finds	
3.1 Finds Assemblage.....	3
Part 4: Discussion and Conclusions	
4.1 Discussion	3
4.2 Conclusions	4
Part 5: References	
Figures	
1 Location plan	5
2 Plan of Archaeological Observations	6
Plates	
1 Area of new extension after clearance, looking west	7
2 Area outside south door with disturbed top of brick-lined shaft 103	7
3 Plate 3: Revetment wall 105 partially destroyed for new drain, looking south.....	7
4 Possible ledger slab 107, looking north	8
5 Possible broken headstone 108, in situ	8
6 Ledger slab 110 (broken parts removed), looking south	8
Appendix 1: Context Summary	
9	

Project Report Summary Page

Project Details			
OASIS Reference	terraina1-333697		
Project Title	New Extension, St Laurence's Church, Upwey, Weymouth		
Short Description of Project	An archaeological watching was carried out by Terrain Archaeology during the construction of a new extension and associated services at St Laurence's parish church, Upwey, Weymouth in September/November 2018. No significant archaeology other than that related to the graveyard was revealed. The seven graves encountered included two brick-lined shafts and two with ledger slabs and one broken stub of head stone. None of these graves were dated, but are likely to be eighteenth or nineteenth century in date.		
Project Dates	Start: 04-09-2018	End: 06-11-2018	
Previous/Future Work	No/No		
Project Code	53502		
Monument Type and Period	Grave (post-medieval), Grave Slab (post-medieval)		
Significant Finds	None		
Project Location			
County/District/Parish	Dorset/ Weymouth and Portland/Weymouth		
Site Address	St Laurence's Church, Church Street, Upwey, Weymouth, DT3 5QE		
Site Coordinates	SY 6606 8523		
Site Area	c. 17 m ²		
Height OD			
Project Creators			
Organisation	Terrain Archaeology		
Project Brief Originator	None		
Project Design Originator	Terrain Archaeology		
Project Supervisor	Peter Bellamy		
Project Manager	Peter Bellamy		
Sponsor or Funding Body	Upwey St Laurence PCC		
Project Archive			
Archive Type	Physical	Digital	Paper
Location/Accession No	None	None	None
Contents	None	None	None

|

St Laurence's Church, Upwey, Weymouth, Dorset

Archaeological Observations and Recording During Erection of New Extension, September – November 2018

1. Introduction

1.1 Project Introduction

Terrain Archaeology was commissioned by Upwey St Laurence PCC, through their agents, John Stark and Crickmay Partnership, to undertake archaeological observations and recording during the construction of a new extension and associated services to the Grade II* listed parish church of St Laurence, Church Street, Upwey, Weymouth.

Fieldwork was carried out between the 4th September and the 6th November 2018 by Peter Bellamy.

1.2 Brief

No written brief was issued.

1.3 Site Location and Topography

The church (centred on OS NGR SY 6606 8523) lies on the lower north-facing slopes of the Wey valley between Windsbatch and Goulds Hill (Figure 1). The church lies on the south side of Church Street which runs along the bottom of the valley and the churchyard rises up steeply to the south.

1.4 Geology

The underlying geology is mapped as sand of the Jurassic Portland Sand Formation, with superficial deposits of Alluvium (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

1.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

The Parish Church of St Laurence is built of rubble Ridgeway stone with ashlar dressings. The earliest surviving part of the church is late fifteenth century in date and comprises part of the west wall of the Nave, the North Aisle and the West Tower (RCHME 1970, 365-6). The North Porch is also fifteenth century but has been partly rebuilt. The South Aisle was added or rebuilt in 1838 and a clerestory added in 1841. A new larger Chancel was built in 1906-7, together with a Vestry to the south. The original fourteenth century chancel arch was re-erected at the east end of the South Aisle.

1.6 Aims and Objectives

Aims

- The principal aim of the Archaeological programme of works was to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.
- The programme of works aims to place the archaeological results within the local, regional and national context, as appropriate, and advance understanding of the archaeology of the site and its surroundings.

Objectives

- To investigate and record all the in situ archaeological deposits and features revealed during the programme of works to an appropriate professional standard.
- To record recovered artefacts and other materials to an appropriate standard.

- To present the results in a report to the appropriate standard.

1.7 Groundworks

The groundworks comprised the clearance of the area of the new extension by the partial removal of the revetment walls to the south of the church and the partial demolition of the steps and path to the south door of the church and the digging of a new drain trench through the churchyard. The area of the new extension measures about 4.6 by 1.8 m and the new drain trench was 0.4 m wide and between 0.7–1.0 m deep.

1.8 Methods

All archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA 2014).

The removal of the revetment walls and steps south of the church was undertaken without archaeological supervision, but with two site visits by the archaeologist undertaken during the work. The trench for the new drains was dug by machine and was observed and recorded archaeologically. The location of the observations was recorded 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 Terrain Archaeology's system of complementary written, drawn and photographic records.

A photographic record of the watching brief was maintained in digital format. This record includes specific aspects of its technical detail as well as its conduct and wider landscape setting of the project.

1.9 Archive and Dissemination

1.1.1 Paper Archive

No paper archive will be retained beyond the end of the project.

1.1.2 Artefacts

No artefacts or other materials were recovered from the site.

1.1.3 Report

A copy of this report will be lodged with Dorset County Council's Historic Environment Record (HER). The HER is a publicly funded and accessible resource, and deposition of the report will place it, and the project results, in the public domain.

A digital summary of the archive will be placed with the OASIS project (www.oasis.ac.uk) under the reference code *terrains1-333697*. A digital copy of this report will be uploaded for inclusion in the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) online 'grey literature' library.

2. Results

2.1 Introduction

The observations were undertaken on the area of the new extension, where the existing retaining walls and steps and path were removed to form the area. The sections through the graveyard soil revealed by the removal of the revetment walls were not recorded as they were hidden behind timber shuttering at the time of recording (Plate 1). The machine excavation of the new drain trench was observed for the whole of its length from the SE corner of the Vestry to the north churchyard boundary wall (Figure 2).

2.2 Churchyard Soils

The churchyard soil consisted of a mixed mid to dark greyish-brown gritty clay (101), with frequent stone rubble and stone flecks. This soil was encountered across the whole area of observation. No individual grave cuts were

identified within this soil. Overlying the general graveyard soil 101 was a 0.15 m thick dark greyish-brown clay loam topsoil (100).

In the southern part of the trench, there was a thin layer of flint gravel (106) between the topsoil and the underlying churchyard soil. This may be the remains of an earlier path through the churchyard.

2.3 Revetment Walls

The churchyard soil is retained by stone revetment walls along the south and east sides of the Vestry (Figure 2, Plate 3). The walls are constructed from roughly shaped mortared stone rubble brought to courses (105). The walls are 0.85 m thick and up to 1.0 m high. Along the south side of the Vestry the wall sits about one metre in front of the earlier churchyard revetment wall along the south side of the church and the area between the two walls is filled with rubble and a stone flag path laid on top with stone steps (104) down to the south door of the church. The steps and part of the path were removed for the construction of the new extension.

2.4 Graves

Traces of seven graves were identified during the observations (Figure 2; Plates 2, 4–6). They included two brick-lined shafts (103, 111), two graves marked by ledger slabs (107, 110) and two exposures of articulated human bone (102, 109). Both brick-lined shafts were constructed from similar red brick bonded with pale grey mortar. Grave 103 to the south of the church had a single break plan and the eastern end and upper part was disturbed, perhaps by the construction of the Vestry. Only part of one side of Grave 109 was exposed, so its size and shape are not known. The size, location and orientation of the stone slabs 107 and 110 suggest they were grave ledger stones. No inscription was noted on the exposed portions of these slabs. Immediately to the north of the west end of Slab 107, a vertical roughly shaped broken limestone slab (108) was found below the topsoil (Figure 2). This may be the remains of the base of a broken headstone (Plate 5).

Graves 102 and 109 were both identified by the presence of articulated human bone, in both cases part of the skull and some neck vertebrae. Grave 102 lay to the south of the church and it appears likely that most of the skeleton had been removed by brick-lined shaft grave 103. The human remains in Grave 109 were slightly exposed at the base of the trench. No attempt was made to expose any more of the skeletons.

3. Finds

3.1 Finds Assemblage

No finds were retained from this watching brief.

4. Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Discussion

The observations recorded a number of graves partially exposed by the groundworks. Only small parts of two articulated skeletons were exposed and it is likely that the majority of burials lay at a depth greater than the base of the trenches. The seven graves exposed fitted within the regular arrangement of graves apparent in the present day churchyard and can be regarded as forming part of the planned graveyard layout. None of the graves were dated, but it is likely that they were eighteenth or nineteenth century in date.

The revetment wall 105 can be associated with the construction of the Chancel and Vestry in 1906–7. The flint gravel layer 106 beneath the topsoil 100 may be part of a former path running up through the churchyard along the east side of the church as shown on the 1929 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map.

4.2 Conclusions

No significant archaeology other than that related to the graveyard was revealed. The seven graves encountered included two brick-lined shafts and two with ledger slabs and one broken stub of head stone. None of these graves were dated, but are likely to be eighteenth or nineteenth century in date.

5. References

- | | | |
|--|------|---|
| ClfA | 2014 | <i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> . Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. |
| [RCHME] Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) | 1970 | <i>An Inventory of Historical Monuments in the County of Dorset, Volume 2: South East</i> , (London; HMSO). |

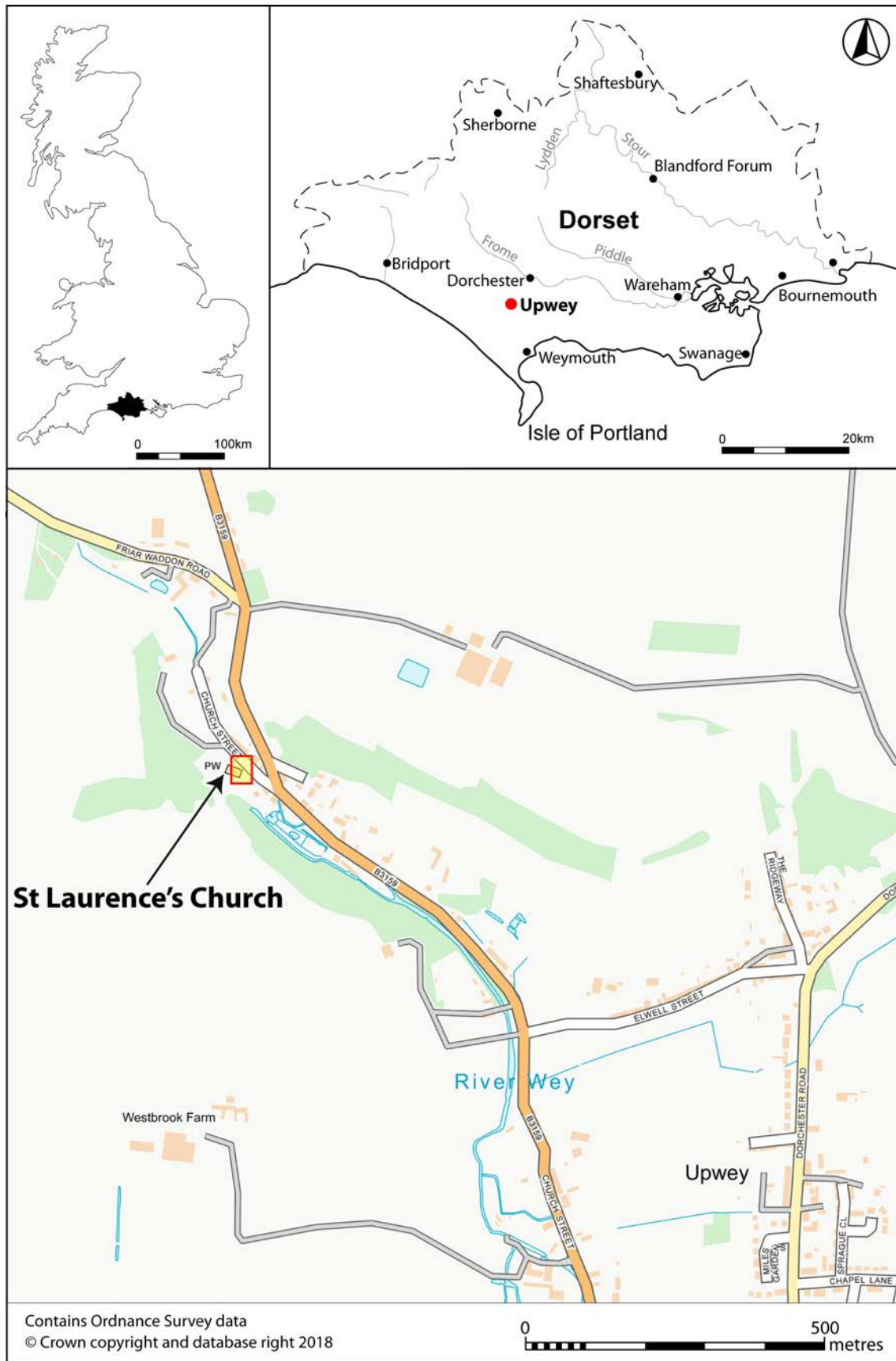


Figure 1: Location map

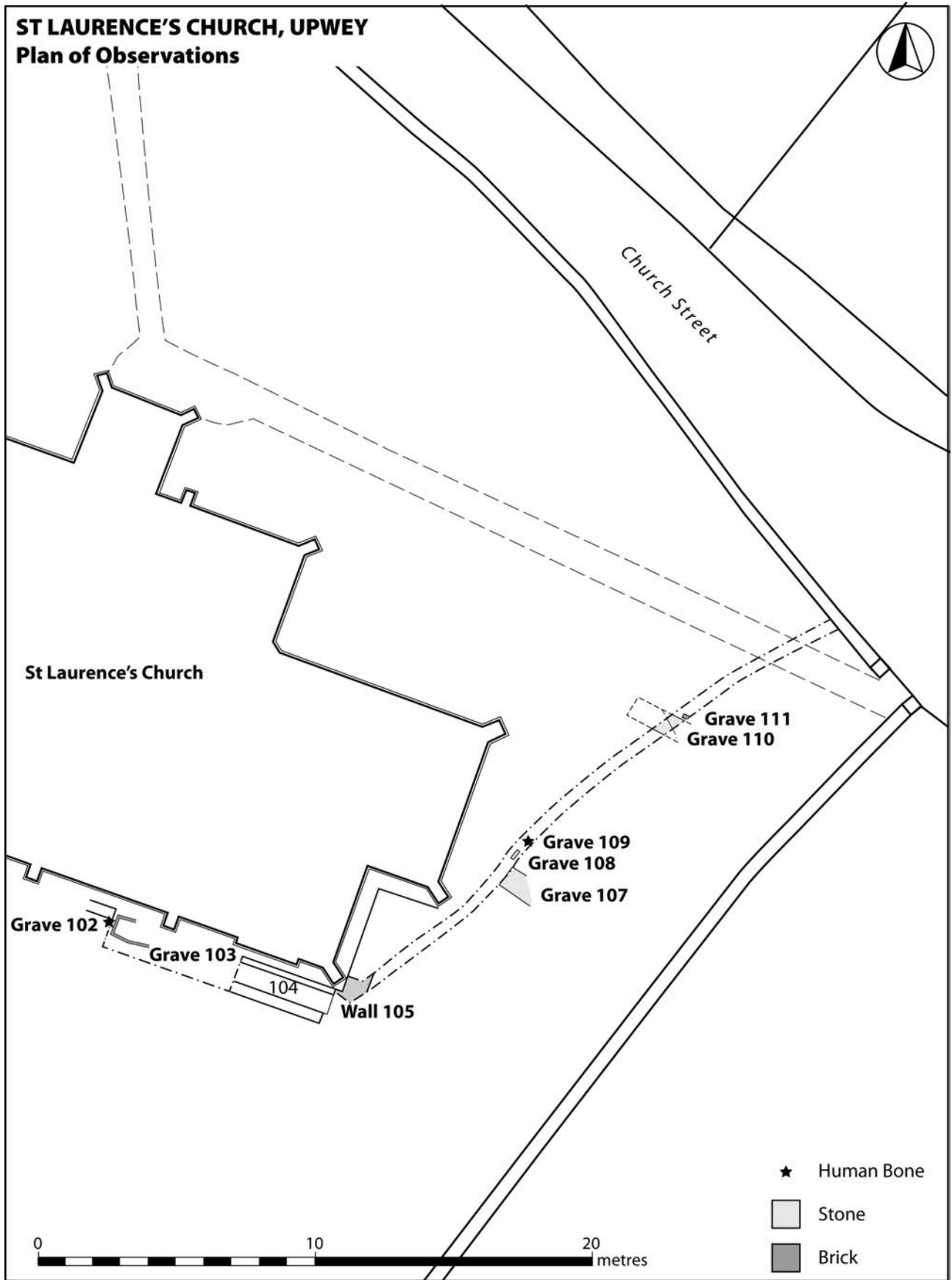


Figure 2: Plan of Archaeological Observations



Plate 1: Area of new extension after clearance, looking west.



Plate 2: Area outside south door with disturbed top of brick-lined shaft 103. 1m scale.



Plate 3: Revetment wall 105 partially destroyed for new drain, looking south.



Plate 4: Possible ledger slab 107, looking north.



Plate 5: Possible broken headstone 108, in situ.



Plate 6: Ledger slab 110 (broken parts removed), looking south.

Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
100	Topsoil: Dark greyish-brown humic clay loam and turf.	0 – 0.15m
101	Churchyard Soil: Mixed mid/dark greyish-brown gritty clay with frequent stone rubble and stone flecks with occasional stray human bone.	0.15 – 1.0m+
102	Grave: Part of skull, mandible and neck vertebrae in edge of cut behind removed revetment wall at west end of new extension. Immediately west of Grave 103 and probably cut by it.	1.05m
103	Brick Shaft Grave: Single skin brick grave, single break plan. Red brick with pale grey lime mortar. Upper part and east end of grave destroyed. Filled with churchyard soil.	1.0m+
104	Steps and Path: Revetment wall, path and steps down to south door of church. Partially removed for new extension.	0 – 1.0m
105	Revetment Wall around Vestry: Rubble stone mortared wall, 0.85 m thick, running along south and east sides of Vestry to form French drain. It forms part of 104 also.	0 – 1.0m+
106	Gravel Path?: Thin layer of rounded small flint gravel between 100 and 101, found in southern part of service trench.	0.10 – 0.15m
107	Grave Ledger Slab: Rectangular stone slab, 0.09 m thick, 0.85 m wide and over 1.35 m long. Slab aligned E-W and laid horizontal. Upper surface and edges dressed flat and smooth. Underside left rough.	0.15 – 0.25m
108	Grave: Possible end of grave marked by upright stone 0.35 m wide and 0.05 m thick. Immediately to north of grave slab 107.	0.15– 0.35m
109	Grave: Skull and neck vertebra in base of trench, immediately north of 108. The bone appeared to be in situ.	0.85m+
110	Grave Ledger Slab: Broken rectangular stone slab, 0.10 m thick, 0.8 m wide and over 2 m long. Slab aligned E-W and laid horizontal. Surfaces and edges dressed flat and smooth.	0.15 – 0.25m
111	Brick Shaft Grave: Over five courses of mortared red brick, forming one side of probable brick grave lining. Found adjacent to Grave 110.	