



**OAKFORD
ARCHAEOLOGY**

**Archaeological monitoring and recording at St
Michael's Church, Alphington,
Devon**



on behalf of
Alphington PCC

Report No. 14-05

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OAKFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeological Groundworks and Historic Buildings

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Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out by Oakford Archaeology in the churchyard of St Michael's, Alphington, Devon (SX 9183 8997), between January and May 2014. The work comprised the monitoring of construction works associated with a new annex, church path and internal gallery.

Groundworks exposed the remains of three undated graves inside the church, and a further five undated graves and a single, possibly 13th-14th century, grave in the area immediately to the south and west of the church tower and south aisle. Monitoring of the demolition of the 19th century boiler house foundations recovered two architectural fragments associated with an earlier phase of windows at the church of St Michael's.

The groundworks also exposed four major phases of facework within the west wall of the south aisle, as well as the relationship between the tower and the south aisle. In addition a number of 18th-19th century gravestones were recorded prior to being moved.

1. INTRODUCTION

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out by Oakford Archaeology (OA) at St Michael's churchyard, Alphington, Devon (SX 9183 8997), between January and May 2014. The work was commissioned by Heighway Associates on behalf of the Alphington Parochial Church Council. The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with a 'written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by Oakford Archaeology (Steinmetzer 2014) in response to a condition attached to the Faculty (102/13).

1.1 The site

The site (Fig. 1) lies at the junction of Chudleigh Road and Dawlish Road. It lies at a height of 18m AOD, on a slight spur overlooking the floodplain of the River Exe to the east and north-east, and the valley of a tributary, the Alphin Brook, to the north. The underlying solid geology of the area is part of the Alphington Breccia Formation; sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 251 to 299 million years ago in the Permian Period (BGS Sheet 326).

1.2 Archaeological and historical background

Alphington is an ancient settlement and prior to the modern period, all routes to the south-west of Exeter had to pass through Alphington to avoid the marshy flood plain of the Exe. The earliest route is thought to have been of Roman origin¹, and ran from Exeter through Alphington to Kennford and over the Haldon Hills towards Kingsteignton. This is shown on a late 17th-century route plan by John Ogilvy as part of the main road from Dartmouth to Exeter.² The medieval road from Exeter to Plymouth also passed through Alphington.

Little is known of the history and development of this area in the immediate post-Roman and early Saxon period. The manor of *Alfintone* was held by Earl Harold prior to 1066. During the Norman reorganisation of the land holdings following the Conquest (recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086), and the death of Harold at Hastings, the village of *Alfintone* and its land became a royal manor held by King William³. The place-name probably derives from the Old English name *Ælf*, *-ing* and *tūn* meaning *Ælf's estate*⁴. It is thought that the original settlement grew up around the parish church of St Michael, where five routeways converged.

¹ Margary 1973, route 491.

² Ogilvy 1675.

³ Thorn and Thorn 1985, 1.43.

⁴ Mills 2003.

These roads still converge today on a triangular site to the north of the church. It is possible that this area was the site of a market place, although no evidence of a royal grant for a market has been found. Cattle fairs were, however, held in the village until 1870.⁵ A document of 1304 refers to Alphington as a borough and mentions rent from eight burgages, however, the borough status appears to have been short-lived.⁶ The village does not display signs of a planned layout with ‘burgage’ plots, but rather reflects the strong influence of the road system with most of the buildings strung out along the length of the main axial north-south roads (Chudleigh Road and Church Road). The 1675 Ogilvy map (Fig. 2) depicts houses along Church Road although, as it fails to show Alphington Bridge, its accuracy may be questionable. Donn’s 1765 map of Devon (Fig. 3) shows buildings on both sides of Church Road between the brook and the church.

The manor of Alphington was acquired by the Earls of Devon in exchange for that of Nuneham Courtenay in Oxfordshire during the reign of Richard II, and remained in Courtenay hands until the early 20th century.

The present building is believed to date from around 1480 and is built on the site of an earlier church with possible pre-Conquest origins. The early Norman font is the earliest feature to survive: this is a notable example, with a dragon being attacked by an archer within the scrollwork: this was copied for the 1842 font in the Temple Church, London. The Courtenays of Powderham became patrons of the church in 1403 and their arms are incorporated into the north porch to mark their contribution towards the church's rebuilding. A large upper gallery was erected at the west end in 1625 and removed in 1875-6 as part of a major restoration by Hayward & Son: the chancel was lengthened, and a vestry added. John Hayward (1808-1891) and Pearson Barry Hayward (1838-1888) were an Exeter-based practice which carried out various restorations to Devon churches. Further enrichment took place in the 1880s and after. A fire in 1986 caused severe damage to the south-east of the church, necessitating a major programme of restoration including the reconstruction of the vestry, a new organ and loft, and restoration of the roof and furnishings.

2. AIMS

The aims of the archaeological investigations were to record any historic building fabric not already observed during previous investigations prior to and during the alterations and repairs; to determine the presence, extent, character and date of any archaeological deposits or features of historic importance that would be disturbed or removed by the proposed extension and gallery. This was to be achieved through controlled archaeological excavation, and by recording any archaeological features or deposits exposed during the process; and finally, to record any archaeological features or deposits exposed that would be disturbed or removed by the proposed excavation of the new access path.

3. METHODOLOGY

The work was undertaken in accordance with a method statement prepared by OA (Steinmetzer 2014), submitted to and approved by the DAC Archaeology Officer prior to the commencement of work on site. This document is included as Appendix 1.

⁵ Worthy 1892.

⁶ Reed & Collings 1991–2.

3.1 Building survey

The repair and renovation work was monitored and any exposures of historic fabric were recorded. 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.

3.2 Watching Brief

The site of the new vestry had previously been excavated by the Victorians during construction of a boiler house. The work to the south of the tower comprised the machine excavation of an area 5m in length, 5m wide and approximately 1.8m deep, while the groundworks to the west of the church tower encompassed an area approximately 15m long, 5m wide and 0.5-1.2m deep. The works inside the church consisted of six trenches. These were on average 1.2m long, 0.6m wide and approximately 0.6m deep. Six burials, which would otherwise have been destroyed by the development were recorded in plan and archaeologically excavated in accordance with a Ministry of Justice licence (14-0064) and following consultation with the PCC representative. The positions of the excavations as excavated are shown on Fig.7.

Machine excavation was undertaken under archaeological control using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. Topsoil and underlying deposits were removed to the level of either natural subsoil, or the top of archaeological deposits (whichever was higher). 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 for each trench were drawn at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and a detailed black and white print and colour (digital) photographic record was made. Registers were maintained for photographs, drawings and context sheets on *pro forma* sheets.

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

4. RESULTS

Relevant detailed plans and elevations are included as Figs 7-11. A generally uniform overlying layer sequence of topsoil, charnel soil, onto weathered natural subsoil was encountered. The depth of the overlying deposits was on average 1.8m.

4.1 External works (Figs. 7-9, pl. 3-14)

A trench measuring 5m x 5m was excavated following the removal of the foundations of the 19th century boiler house. The trench was excavated to the impact level 1.8m below the current graveyard level. The natural geology, a mixture of yellow clay and gravels, was cut by at least 10 approximately west-east orientated graves. The graves were closely packed and there was considerable intercutting of features. Only burials that would be disturbed by drainage works were excavated. A total of five grave cuts containing five skeletons were excavated. Only a single coffin was identified and the lack of clothes fastenings, such as

buttons toggles or buckles, suggests that the dead had been laid out in shrouds. No earlier archaeological deposits were found below the graves.

Located at the to the south of the tower, Grave 103 measured approximately 1.85m in length and 0.55m in width. This contained a single adult inhumation (skeleton 104). The fill 105 consisted of mid reddish brown silty clay. The grave truncated the top of Grave 106 and no finds were recovered from the excavation. Skeleton 104 was in a good state of preservation, and was 76-100% complete. The individual was a young to mature adult male and was 173.2cm (5 foot 8) in stature. The burial was laid out in an extended and supine position, with the head to the west and the feet to the east, and arms folded over the lower abdomen. No evidence of a coffin survived.

Grave 106 was located immediately to the west and underneath Grave 103, and measured approximately 1.95m in length and 0.6m in width. This contained a single adult inhumation (skeleton 107). No finds were recovered from fill 108. This consisted of mid reddish brown silty clay. The grave was cut grave 109. Skeleton 107 was in a poor state of preservation, and was 51-75% complete. The remains were of an adult female and were 158.8cm (5 foot 3) in stature. The burial was laid out in an extended and supine position, with the head to the west and the feet to the east, and arms folded over the lower abdomen. No evidence of a coffin survived.

Grave 109 was located immediately to the north of Grave 106, and measured approximately 1.05m in length and 0.35m in width. This contained a single adult inhumation (skeleton 110). No finds were recovered from fill 111. This consisted of mid reddish brown silty clay. The grave was cut into the underlying geology. Skeleton 110 was in a poor state of preservation, and was 26-50% complete. The remains were of an adult female. The burial was laid out in an extended and supine position, with the head to the west and the feet to the east, and arms folded over the chest. No evidence of a coffin survived.

Located immediately to the west of the south aisle, Grave 124 measured approximately 0.42m in length and 0.43m in width. This contained a single adult inhumation (skeleton 125), truncated the south aisle. The fill 126 consisted of mid reddish brown silty clay. The grave was cut into the underlying geology and no finds were recovered from the excavation. Skeleton 125 was in a poor state of preservation, and was 0-25% complete. The remains were of an adult. The burial was laid out in an extended and supine position, with the head to the west and the feet to the east. No evidence of a coffin survived.

Grave 131 was located immediately to the south of the tower, and measured approximately 1.01m in length and 0.47m in width. This contained a single adult inhumation (skeleton 132). No finds were recovered from fill 133. This consisted of mid reddish brown silty clay. The grave was cut into the underlying geology and no finds were recovered from the excavation. Skeleton 132 was in a good state of preservation, and was 26-50% complete. The remains were of an adult. The burial was aligned E-W, and was laid out in an extended and supine position. The head of the grave extended beyond the western limit of the excavation. No evidence of a coffin survived.

An additional area to the west of the tower was subject to a watching brief. Measuring approximately 15m x 5m the area was excavated to the impact level 0.5-1.2m below the graveyard level. The work revealed a homogeneous charnel soil and a single west-east

orientated grave was identified. The proposed development did not impact on the lower lying burials with the exception of grave 220. Details of this are presented below.

The last burial, Grave 220, was built of limewashed brick and located to the west of the tower. It measured 2.23m in length and 0.65m in width and contained a single adult inhumation (skeleton 221). The grave was cut into the underlying charnel soil. The Skeleton 221 was in a good state of preservation, and was 76-100% complete. The remains were of an adult. The burial was laid out in an extended and supine position, with the head to the west and the legs to the east. The head of the grave extended beyond the western limit of the excavation. The skeleton lay within the remnants of a coffin, indicated by the presence of a breastplate. The top of the brick lining was removed and the remains left *in situ*.

Breastplates are commonly found overlying post-medieval skeletons. These plates, originally attached to the coffin lid identified the deceased, commonly displaying the name, age-at-death and date of death of the deceased. On cheaper iron breastplates the inscription was often painted on in contrasting colours. A single breastplate, consisting of a stamped iron sheet, was identified during the works. Some black paint was present but unfortunately no contrasting paint for lettering was identified.

Monitoring of the demolition of the 19th century boiler house wall foundation (130) recovered two architectural fragments. The window jamb with a flat back illustrated in pl. 10 is probably from the same window as the arch shown on pl. 11 and both were carved from pieces of volcanic trap. The two pieces also throw light on the subsequent history of these windows, suggesting that they may have been part of an earlier phase of windows.

In addition a single fragment from a probably 19th century gravestone was also recovered from the foundations.

4.2 Internal works (Fig. 7, pl. 15-18)

Groundworks inside the church were limited to the excavation of six trenches, 1.2m long, 0.6m wide and approximately 0.6m deep. Following the removal of a section of 19th century suspended timber floor in the south aisle and 20th century concrete flooring in the nave and north aisle the outline of four graves (118, 121, 135 and 137) were identified truncating the natural subsoil. These were reduced to formation level and recorded in plan. Grave 118 contained the partially exposed remains of a single articulated skeleton (119). This was located at the western end of the nave, immediately to the south of the pier. The remaining two trenches revealed a homogeneous charnel soil.

The internal work, although restricted in scale, has shown that all earlier floors and surfaces at the western end of the nave, south and north aisles have likely been removed in the 19th-20th centuries.

4.3 The monuments inside the church (Pls. 19-22)

As part of the works inside the south aisle five funerary monuments had to be moved. These dated to between the 17th-19th centuries and are briefly described below.

A large multi-coloured stone monument, located on the south wall of the south aisle, was dedicated to Elizabeth Hurding who died in 1680. The monument has a highly decorated apron with a carved cherub's head and flowers. The inscription is on a central rectangular panel surrounded by an ornamental frame with stylised quoins and key stone. The frame is

further decorated with carved flowers and leaves, as well as two cherub's heads, and is surmounted with a coat of arms.

A second monument, located to the east of the previous monument, was dedicated to Joseph Somaster (1733), his wife Julian (1749) and their daughter Frances (1762). It had a plain apron and bottom shelf. The inscription is again on a central rectangular panel surrounded by a simple frame with a single gold band. The monument has a simple upper shelf decorated with a single gold band and flat top surmounted with a coat of arms.

Two memorial plaques with plain black marble backing were mounted on the west wall of the south aisle. The left one was dedicated to the Revd William Butterfield, who died in 1859, his wife Anne (1850) and their son William (1879). The other plaque was dedicated to Charles Porter died in 1864. Both monuments had a simple pediment.

Above these, mounted on a circular dark grey marble backing, was an elaborate tablet with a curved structure with crest and surmounted by a funerary urn. The monument was dedicated to Colin Campbell, a native of Argyleshire, who died in 1799.

4.4 Building recording

Groundworks for the new two-storey annex involved the removal of an existing 15th century window in the west wall of the north aisle and the insertion of a new doorway underneath. A stretch of 3.2m of facework of the western wall of the south aisle was recorded. The upper part of the west wall was not accessible and although internal render was removed this didn't allow sufficient detail to be visible. Four main facework builds were seen on the external elevation.

Main facework builds

Phase I

An area of mixed rubble forming part of the earlier fabric of the western south aisle wall, consisting largely of roughly squared volcanic trap, with some breccia blocks. The return for the south wall was located 0.4m north from the location of the later wall, suggesting that grave 124 would have butted-up against the exterior of the original southern south aisle wall. It had been re-pointed using a reddish white lime mortar; no areas of original mortar were identified. This build is likely to precede the major re-building of the church in the mid to late 15th.

Phase II

Roughly dressed breccia (Heavitree stone) and volcanic trap rubble with large stressed breccia quoins. Slate was also used to pack out joints and to level individual blocks. All of the elevation was re-pointed using light reddish white lime mortar with coarse grit, making it impossible to identify areas of primary mortar. Some very large breccia blocks appear in this facework, up to 0.85m x 0.53m. The build is likely to represent the major rebuilding of the church in the mid to late 15th century.

Phase III

The earlier mixed breccia and trap rubble is cut and replaced by medium and large well-squared closely jointed blocks of breccia laid in 16 horizontal courses associated with the tower. Although the northern edge of the elevation was partially obscured by a down pipe the coursing corresponds to the coursing seen in the tower. This section had been re-pointed with

cement, making it impossible to see areas of primary mortar. This build is likely to be late 15th century in date.

Phase IV

External brick arch at the base of the wall, also seen on the inside. 19th century flue providing access for cast-iron heating pipes from the boiler house.

In addition the excavation of the annex exposed the relationship between the south aisle wall and the tower. Inspection of the junction showed that the tower is later – a point evident at their foundations. The footings of the south aisle were truncated by the foundation of the tower, with the masonry of the tower butting up to the west wall of the south aisle.

4.5 The gravestones

5 gravestones, located at the western of the nave and north aisle, had to be removed prior to the construction of the new gallery. These dated to between the 18th-19th centuries and were in a very good state of preservation. It was therefore felt that a full and comprehensive survey of these should be undertaken prior to them being moved. A sixth gravestone was recovered during work on grave 220. This had been re-used, lying over the foot of the grave and has been included in the survey. For a full listing of the inscriptions see Appendix 2.

5. HUMAN REMAINS

by Charlotte Coles

5.1 Introduction

During excavations in 2014 seven skeletons and 441 disarticulated bones were recovered. The condition of the remains varies from good to very poor and many of the skeletons have been truncated and elements have been lost. The skeletons represent the remains of three possible males, two possible females and two individuals of unknown sex. The articulated remains are all adult individuals.

5.2 Methodology

The human remains were excavated by hand and then washed. Where measurements were possible these were taken with an osteometric board or digital calipers. For articulated remains all bones in each skeleton were recorded, for disarticulated remains bones were recorded where at least 50% of one of the articulate surfaces was present and MNI (minimum number of individuals) was calculated through dividing the amount of each element by the number of times those elements appear in the skeleton. Both side and proximal or distal ends were taken into account, but ageing information was not.

Sex calculation was ascertained by skull and pelvis morphology based on Buikstra and Ubelaker, 1994, for disarticulated material this is less reliable as only one part of the skeleton is available. For age calculation bone fusion and auricular surface (Meindl and Lovejoy, 1989) were studied (all pubic symphysis were missing), however for disarticulated remains it is not possible to compare other parts of the skeleton and an age can only be suggested and is not reliable. The age of older individuals is also known to be underestimated using these techniques.

For stature estimations the equations of Trotter (1970) were used. Non-metric trait information was taken from Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994).

5.3 Articulated Remains

SK104 (Fig. 8)

Skeleton 104 was the best preserved and most complete in the collection. Most of the skull was present as were all vertebrae, all long bones, scapulae, both ilium and right ischium, thirteen rib ends, both patella, parts of the sacrum, five metacarpals (all from the left hand), seventeen hand phalanges, both calcaneus, both talus, both navicular, both cuboid and the left third cuneiform, nine metatarsals and two proximal foot phalanges. The shape of the pelvis and the narrow nature of the sciatic notch, along with morphology of the skull (including nuchal crest, mastoid process and mental eminence) imply that this individual is male. All bones are fused and all teeth have erupted, however the pelvis is too damaged for age analysis, the sutures of the skull are generally fused but not obliterated, therefore this individual is likely to be a young to mature adult rather than an older adult.

Non metric traits (these are non-pathological, non-measurable traits spotted generally within populations) were recorded, these are a right supra orbital foramen on the skull and two lambdoidal ossicles also present on the skull. Stature was calculated by measuring both of the complete femurs (only the femurs were complete) these produced an average of 173.2cm, (5 foot 8). The average height for a male during the post-medieval period is 5 foot 7 (Roberts and Cox, 2003) therefore this individual is slightly taller than average for this period.

Minor amounts of pathology were noted on the several vertebrae, this includes Schmorl's nodes, this is where the intervertebral disc exerts pressure on the vertebral body surface, resulting in a depression, this is caused by disc degeneration, a symptom of joint disease, (Roberts and Manchester, 2010). Schmorl's nodes were seen on five thoracic vertebrae and small areas of osteophytic growth on six of the thoracic vertebrae bodies, these can be connected to age related changes. All right mandibular molars and the left first molar were lost ante mortem with the mandible sockets reabsorbed. The remaining teeth are all slightly worn, with small amounts of calculus (plaque) and enamel hypoplasia especially present on mandibular incisors. Enamel hypoplasia is defined as deficiencies in enamel matrix composition, often seen as lines, pits and grooves, these are thought to occur due to stresses such as malnutrition while the enamel was forming. (Roberts and Manchester, 2010).

SK107 (Fig. 8)

Skeleton 107 is moderately well preserved. Bones present are most of the skull, the mandible, all the arm bones, two carpals, three metacarpals from each hand, two hand phalanges, parts of the sacrum, the left ilium, a small part of the right ilium, all of the leg bones, left and right calcaneus, left and right talus, left cuboid, left second and third cuneiform, right navicular, left metatarsal one, three and four, right metatarsal two, three and four. The vertebral column and ribs are badly damaged, with only two vertebral bodies, eight neural arches and eight rib ends surviving. The individual is female, this is based on skull and pelvis morphology. Age is unknown as auricular surface and pubic symphysis are too badly damaged for analysis, all bones are fused though, therefore the individual was an adult.

Stature was calculated by measuring the humerus and was 158.8cm (5 foot 3), the average female stature in the post-medieval period was also 5 foot 3 (Roberts and Cox, 2003). Non-metric traits were identified in the form of a supra orbital spicule present in the right frontal and a lambdoidal ossicle. One of the only remaining vertebrae bodies have a Schmorl's node present in the inferior joint surface. Several teeth were lost ante-mortem from the maxilla,

these are right molar one and the left molars one and two. The remaining teeth are slightly worn but have no caries or calculus.

SK110 (Fig. 9)

Skeleton 110 is in very poor condition, as the skeleton was truncated by the digging of the grave for skeleton 107. Sk110 is only represented by part of the right ilium, the distal right humerus, ulna and radius and five fragmentary pieces of rib. The sciatic notch of the surviving pelvis is very wide and therefore possibly female, however without any other diagnostic parts of the skeleton, recording of sex is not conclusive. All of the bones surviving have fused epiphyseal ends, indicating that these are the remains of an adult. No signs of pathological change were noted.

SK1119

The remains of skeleton 119 are represented only by incomplete left and right tibias and fibulas, therefore further analysis is not possible.

SK125 (Fig. 9)

The remains of skeleton 125 are in very poor condition, the only bones present are parts of the skull, the mandible, left humerus, two small fragments of clavicle, parts of the left scapula and one metacarpal. This individual was truncated by the construction of the south aisle of the church in the mid to late 15th century. The parts of skull used in sex analysis are damaged and the pelvis is missing, therefore sex is unknown. The remains are adult, further age analysis is not possible due to the fragmentary nature of the remains. Five teeth were lost ante mortem from the mandible, these are the two left premolars and the three left molars. The only tooth present is a loose maxillary molar which has a single cari (cavity) on the occlusal surface.

SK129

The remains of skeleton 129 are in poor condition, the skeleton is represented by a small amount of cranium, mandible, both proximal scapula, small parts of the right humerus, distal radius, proximal ulna, ilium, left femur, left tibia and left distal fibula. All bones are fused therefore the individual is adult, further ageing analysis is not possible. Only the mental eminence of the mandible is present for sex analysis, this has male characteristics, however as the remaining skull and pelvis are not present it is not possible to accurately determine this. Dental pathology was recorded in the form of ante mortem tooth loss from all the left maxillary molars and the second and third Mandibular molars. All the remaining teeth have severe enamel hypoplasia.

SK132 (Fig. 9)

The upper half of the skeleton 132 has been truncated, only leaving a right distal ulna, three metacarpals and only eight hand phalanges from both hands, three small pieces of pelvis, both femurs, tibias, fibulas, both calcanei, both talus, left and right navicular and cuboid, left first, second and third cuneiforms. All left metatarsals, right metatarsals one, three, four and five and eleven foot phalanges. No parts of the skull survive and very little of the pelvis are present, therefore sex analysis is not possible, although the robustness of the leg bones could imply male. All the bones are fused, however there are fusion lines present on both proximal femur and distal ulna, implying that the bones had only recently fused at time of death, implying this may be a young adult. No pathology was noted.

Skeleton Number	Condition	Sex	Age	Pathology
104	Good	Male	Adult	Schmorl's nodes, Ante-mortem tooth loss, calculus.
107	Moderate	Female	Adult	Schmorl's nodes, Ante-mortem tooth loss.
110	Very poor	Female?	Adult	
119	Very poor	Unknown	Adult	
125	Very poor	Unknown	Adult	Ante-mortem tooth loss, caries.
129	Poor	Male?	Adult	Ante-mortem tooth loss, enamel hypoplasia.
132	Poor	Male?	Young Adult	

Appendix 1. Skeleton Catalogue

5.4 Disarticulated Remains

A total of 441 disarticulated bones were recovered, of these of only 184 were recordable (42%). All elements of the body were present, the femur was the most frequently recorded bone. MNI was calculated as at least six individuals.

Sexing analysis could only be calculated for eleven of the bones, these are four male, six female and one unknown, this is fairly even between the female and male individuals present, however with sex analysis impossible on most of the bones, this is not conclusive.

Age analysis was calculated for only four of the bones, three of these are mature adults and one is a young adult, as ageing techniques have methodological problems especially with disarticulated remains, it is not possible to be any more specific. All of the disarticulated remains were fused, therefore they all came from adult individuals.

One single complete long bone survived in the disarticulate assemblage, as this was a tibia, it is not possible to calculate stature.

Twenty of the bones had signs of pathological change, of these eleven are vertebrae with signs of joint disease in the form of osteophytic growth, schmorl's nodes and macro pitting. A further five bones have signs of joint disease such as osteophytic growth on the articulating surfaces, these are a fibula, a humerus, two sacrum and a talus. Another fibula had extensive infection, making the shaft thicker and distorted, this is likely to be osteomyelitis, an infection from within the bone which causes bone destruction and pus formation, (Roberts and Manchester, 2010), both conditions are common during the medieval and post medieval periods. The remaining three bones with pathology are a mandible with calculus on several of the teeth and a mandible and maxilla with several teeth lost ante-mortem with complete healing of the alveolar sockets.

5.5 Conclusion

A total of seven skeleton were excavated from St Michael's Cemetery, Alphington, these are three males, two females and two of unknown sex, they are all adult, although further age analysis was very limited due to the fragmentary nature of the remains, the individuals

displayed minor pathological changes such as joint disease and dental pathological, these were very common during the medieval and post-medieval periods. The heights calculated for two of the individuals were also within normal ranges for these periods.

For the disarticulated bones the remains of at least six people are present, the remains come from all parts of the body, therefore it is likely they were not moved very far within the churchyard, as small fingers and toe bones were present. A fairly equal amount of bones from male and female individuals were recorded. All individuals were also adult. A similar range of pathologies were seen in the disarticulated remains as with the articulated skeletons.

6. CONCLUSIONS

The works exposed the remains of five individuals immediately to the west of the south aisle and a single individual to the west of the tower. The human remains, which would otherwise have been destroyed by the development were recorded in plan and archaeologically excavated in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation, under a Ministry of Justice licence (14-0064) and following consultation with the PCC representative.

With the exception of burial 124 the majority of the graves are likely to be medieval or post-medieval in date. Butting up against the original line of the south wall of the south aisle the burial was overlain by the foundation of the later rebuilding, suggesting that skeleton 125 pre-dates the rebuilding of the south aisle in the mid to late 15th century.

The observations and recording at St Michael's church have provided important and new information about the structural development of the building. The works have shown that some early fabric may have survived within the south aisle. Following the partial dismantling of the earlier south aisle, the new south wall was pushed out and a two-light perpendicular window inserted into the west wall. Subsequently the tower was built and tied into the south aisle wall. No evidence was found during the works to date the construction of the tower.

The recovered architectural stonework provides evidence for some remodelling of the windows in the south aisle. The most likely objective of this was to increase the amount of glazing in the west wall. This may have been part of a more general remodelling of the church during this period.

7. PROJECT ARCHIVE

The site records have been compiled into a fully integrated site archive currently being held by Oakford Archaeology (project no. 1140) pending deposition with the Alphington PCC. Details of the investigations, including a copy of this report have been submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (oakforda1-195921).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was commissioned by Paul Heighway the project architect on behalf of the Alphington Parochial Church Council with the support of the rector the Stephen Bessent. Thanks are due to the Revd Martin Fletcher (DAC), Dan Durant (Bovey Construction Ltd) and Alan Douglas (Alphington PCC). The fieldwork was carried out by the Jonathan Martin and Marc Steinmetzer. The historic research was undertaken by Lucy Brown, the

osteoloarchaeological work was done by Charlotte Coles and the illustrations for this report were prepared by Marc Steinmetzer.

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APPENDIX 1: METHOD STATEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document has been prepared by Oakford Archaeology (OA) for Alphington PCC to describe the methodology to be used during an archaeological watching brief at St Michael's and All Angels, Alphington, Devon (SX 9183 8997). This document represents the 'Written Scheme of Investigation' for archaeological work required under DAC Faculty (102/13) for the grant of planning permission for the construction of a new extension and church path. 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 immediately south of the tower. The church is a grade II* listed building located on the site of an earlier church with possible pre-Conquest origins, although the current building largely dates to the 15th century. A large upper gallery was erected at the west end in 1632 and removed during major restoration work in 1875-6, while further works were carried out in the 1880's. A fire in 1986 caused severe damage to the south-east end of the church.

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 One bound and illustrated hard colour copy and 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. This will be deposited with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (deposition currently suspended until 2013- RAMM *ref. number pending*).
- 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 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. Oakford Archaeology is managed by an Associate Member of the 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
19 January 2014
WSI/OA1140/01

APPENDIX 2: GRAVESTONE INSCRIPTIONS

1

SACRED
To the Memory of Mary
Wife of W^m Blatchford
of this Parish
who departed this Life
[...] 24th 1793
Aged 66 Years
Also of
William Blatchford
SON OF THE ABOVE
DIED NOV 24TH 1822
AGED [...]
OF ELIZABETH
WHO DIED MAY 24TH 1833
AGED 70 YEARS
ALSO OF WILLIAM THEIR SON
WHO DIED AUGUST 24TH 1856
AGED 40 YEARS
ALSO
JANE BLATCHFORD
GRAND DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE
WHO DIED AUGUST [...]
AGED [...] YEARS

2

In Memory of
JOHN SWALE
who died Aug. 4th 1800
Aged 42 Years

3

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
THE
REV^D RICHARD ELLICOMBE
TWENTY YEARS RECTOR OF THIS PARISH
WHO DIED THE 4TH AUGUST 1831
AGED 71 YEARS
ALSO ELIZA WIFE OF THE
REV^D RICHARD ELLICOMBE WHO DIED
APRIL 30TH 1865 AGED 78 YEARS

4

IN MEMORY
OF
REAR ADMIRAL
WILLIAM TOWNSEND DANCE
WHO DIED
SEPTEMBER 3rd 1837
AGED 67

5

UNDERNEATH
LIETH REMAINS OF
SAMUEL SYMONS
OF THIS PARISH
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
JANUARY 24TH AD 1841
AGED 81 YEARS
ALSO OF
SAMUEL HIS SON
WHO DIED JANUARY 1789
AGED 3 YEARS & 7 MONTHS
AND OF ANN
WIFE OF THE ABOVE NAMED
SAMUEL SYMONS
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
APRIL 1ST AD 1844
AGED 83 YEARS

6

[...]
Aged 27
She bore a long and
Painfull illness with
Exemplary resignation

Prepare to follow

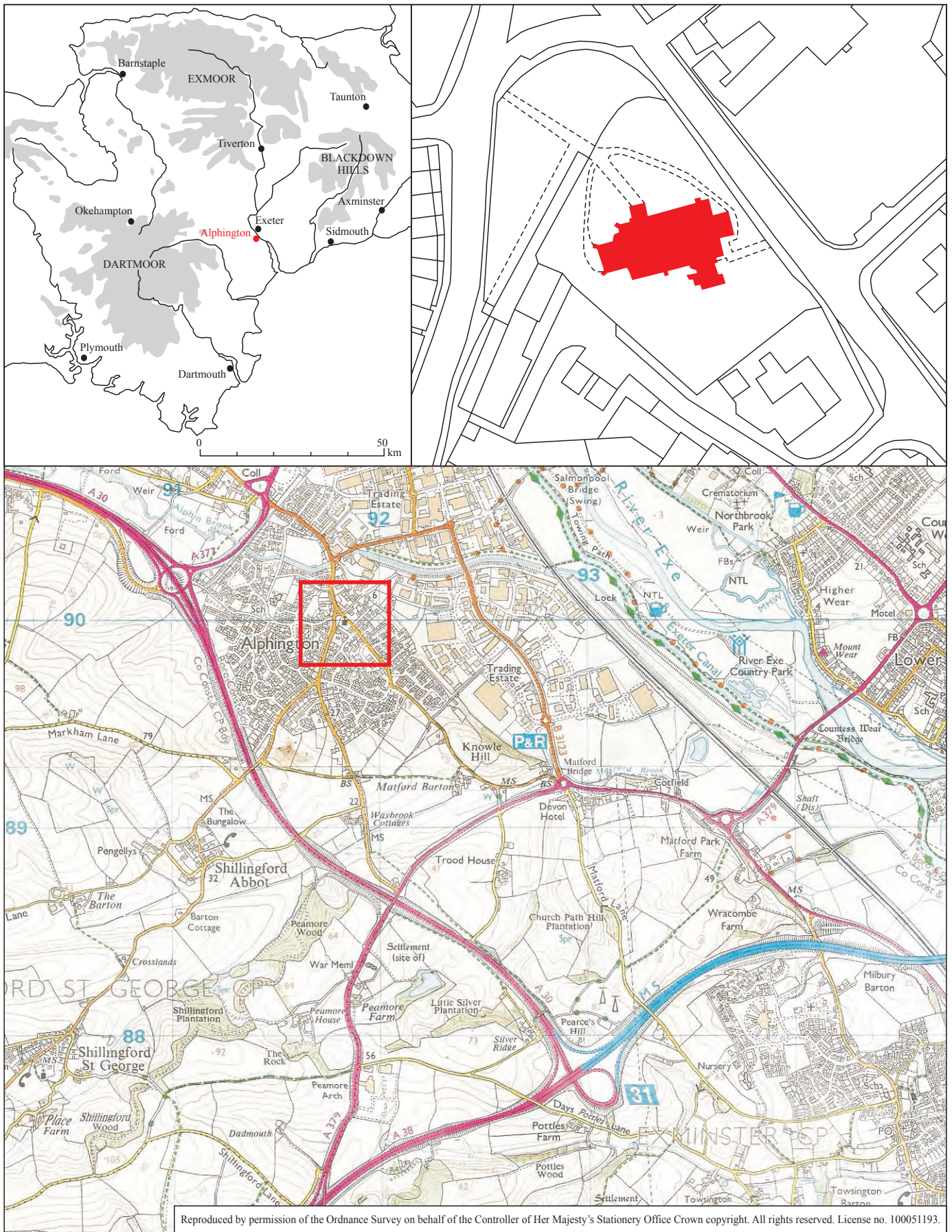


Fig. 1 Location of site.



Fig. 2 Detail from John Ogilvy's 1675 map of the route between Exeter and Dartmouth.

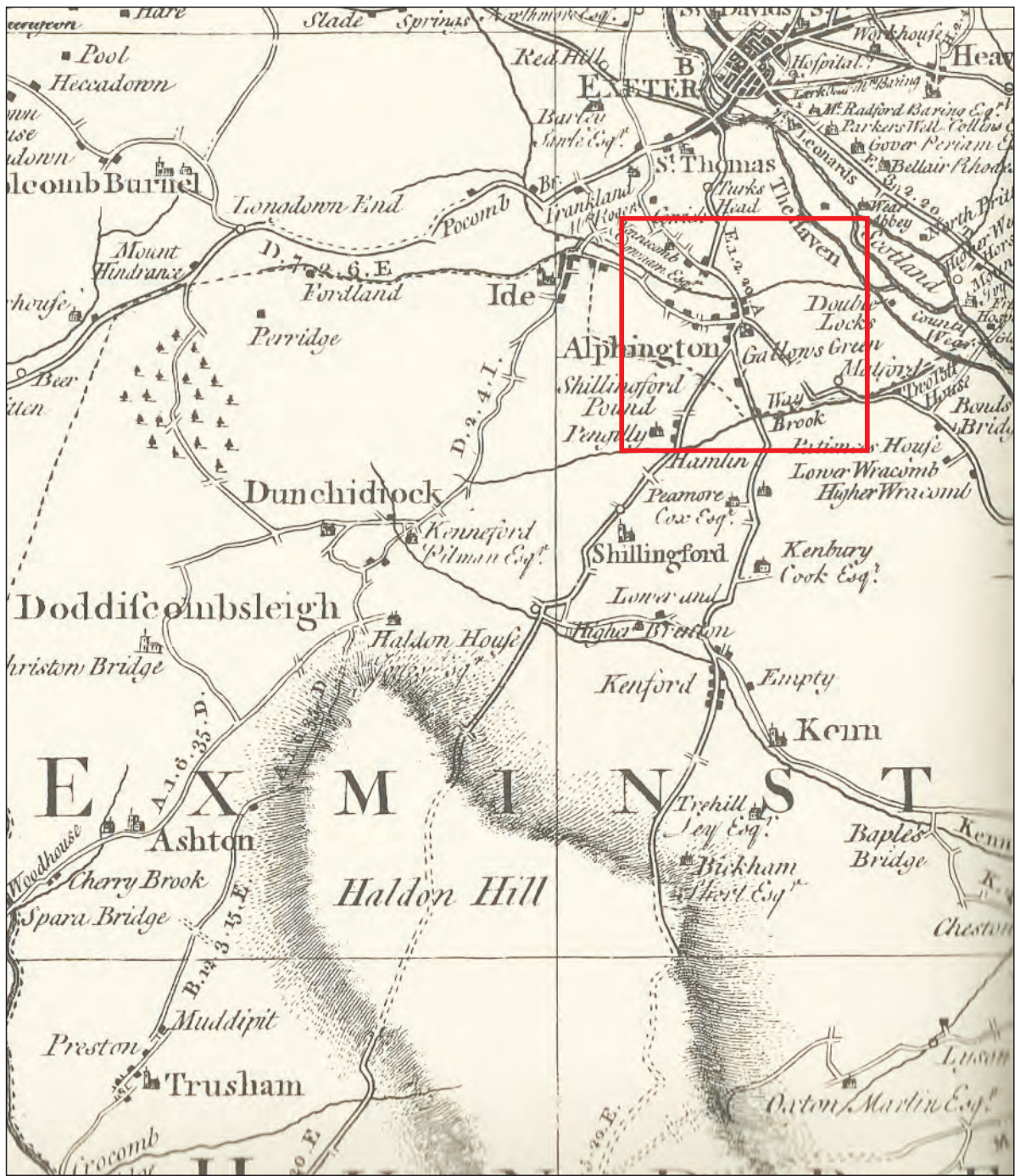


Fig. 3 Detail from Benjamin Donn's 1765 map of Exeter and Devon.



Fig. 4 Detail from the 1842 Alphington Tithe map.

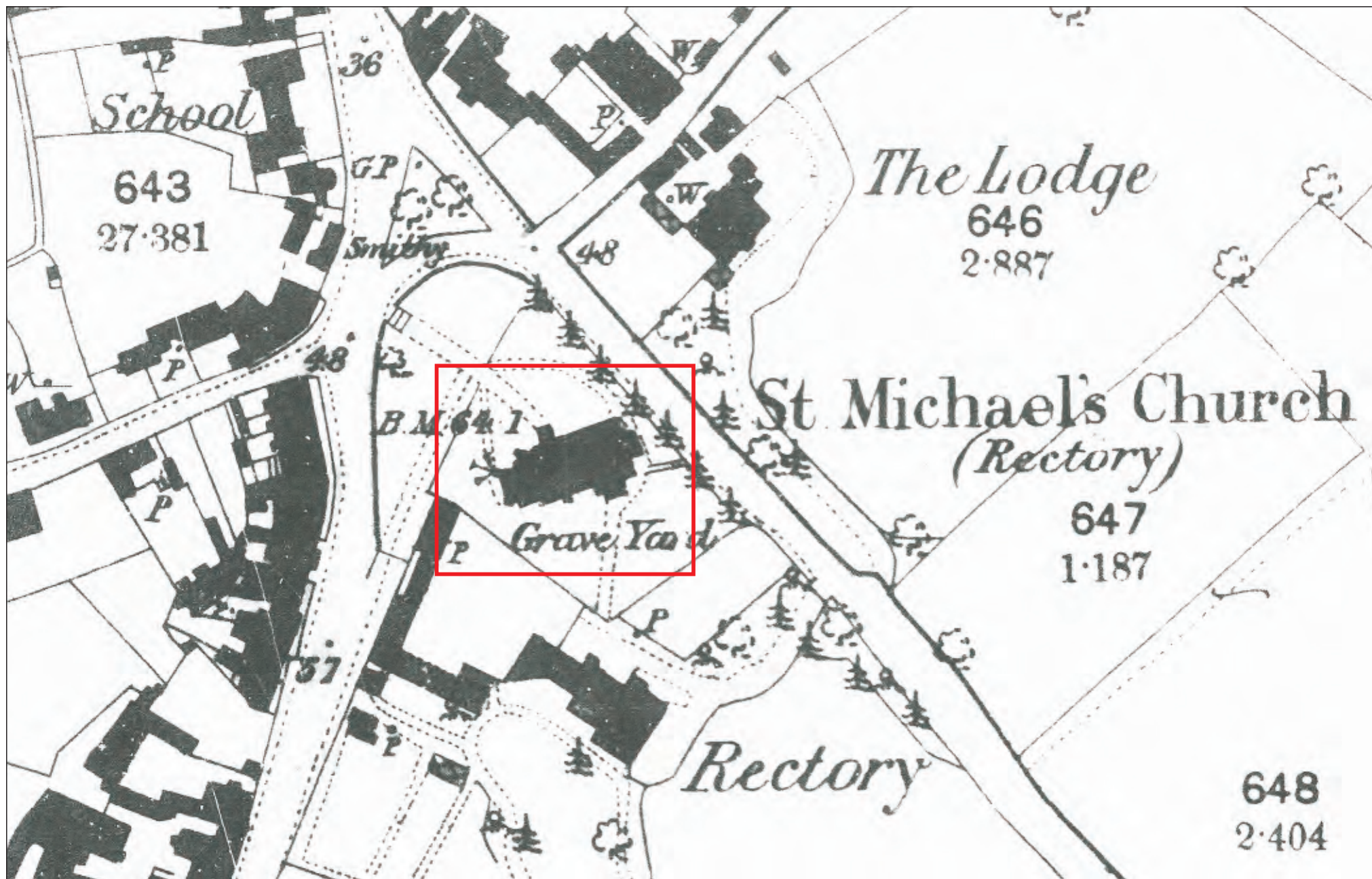


Fig. 5 Detail from the 1890 1st edition Ordnance Survey map Devonshire Sheet LXXX.14.

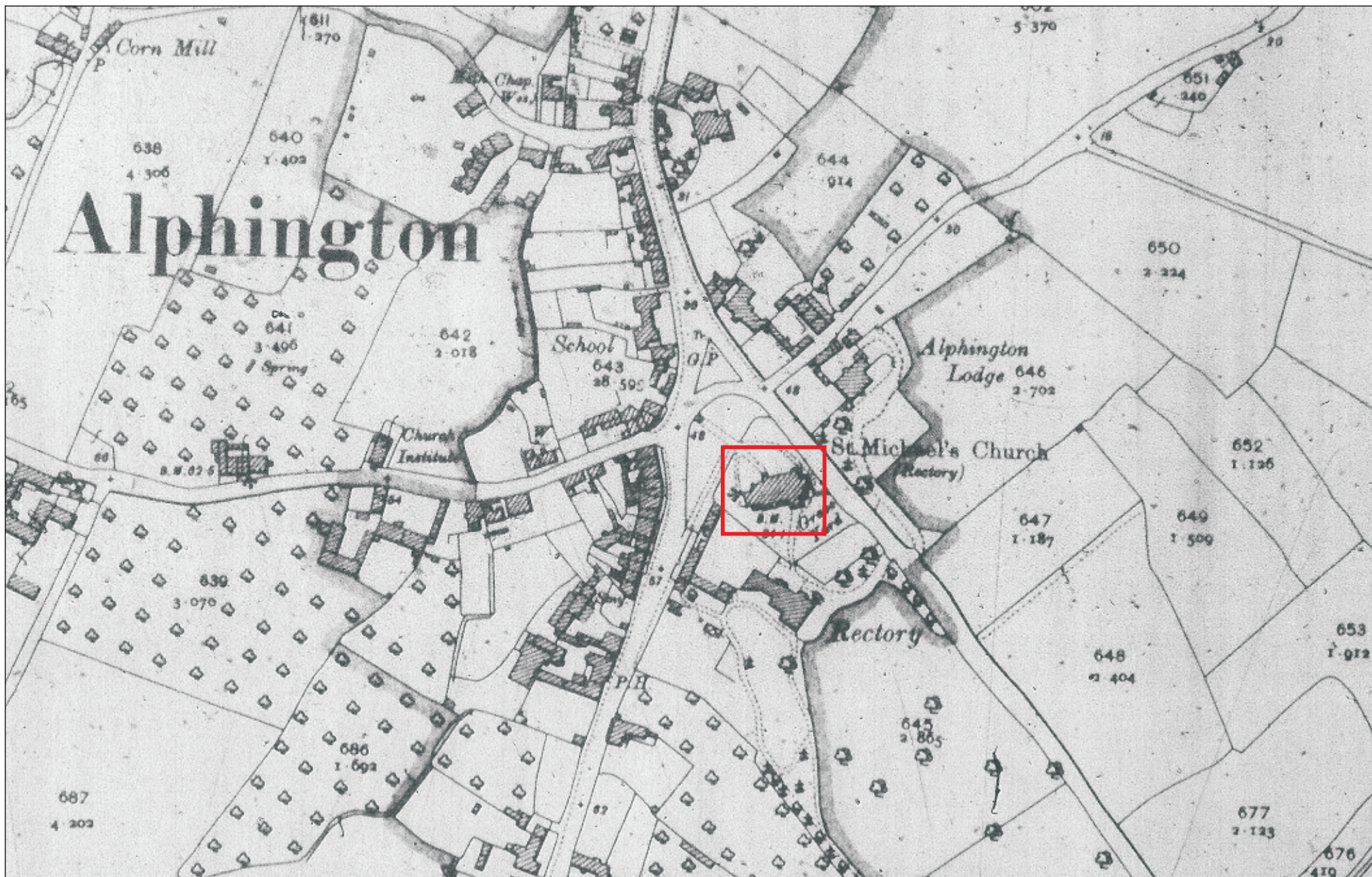


Fig. 6 Detail from the 1903 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map Devonshire Sheet LXXX.14.

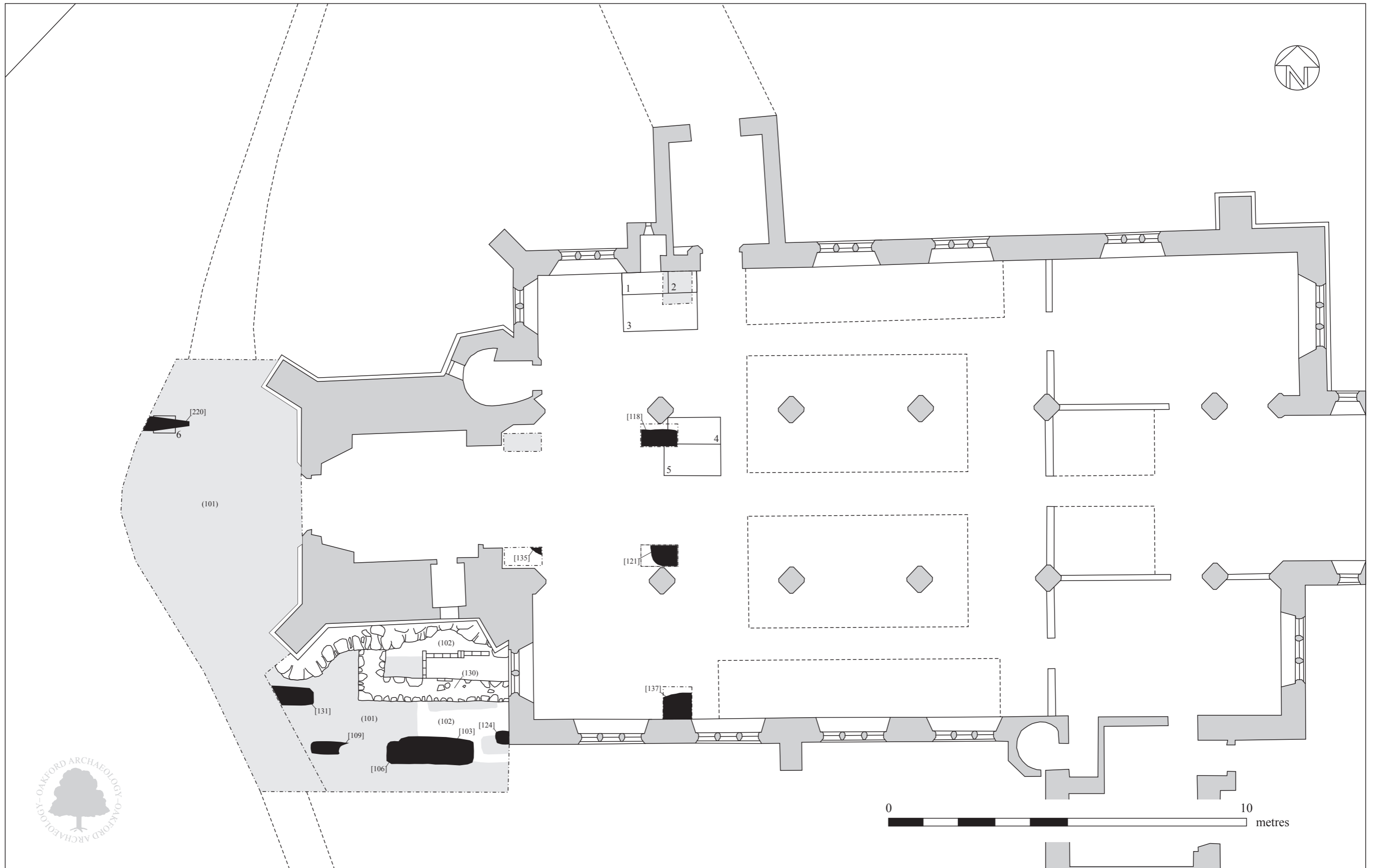
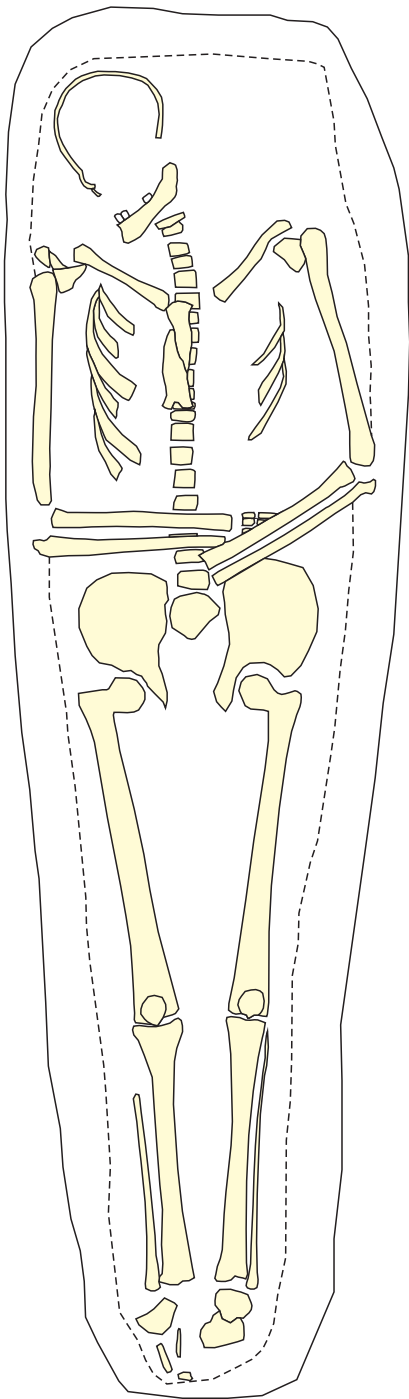
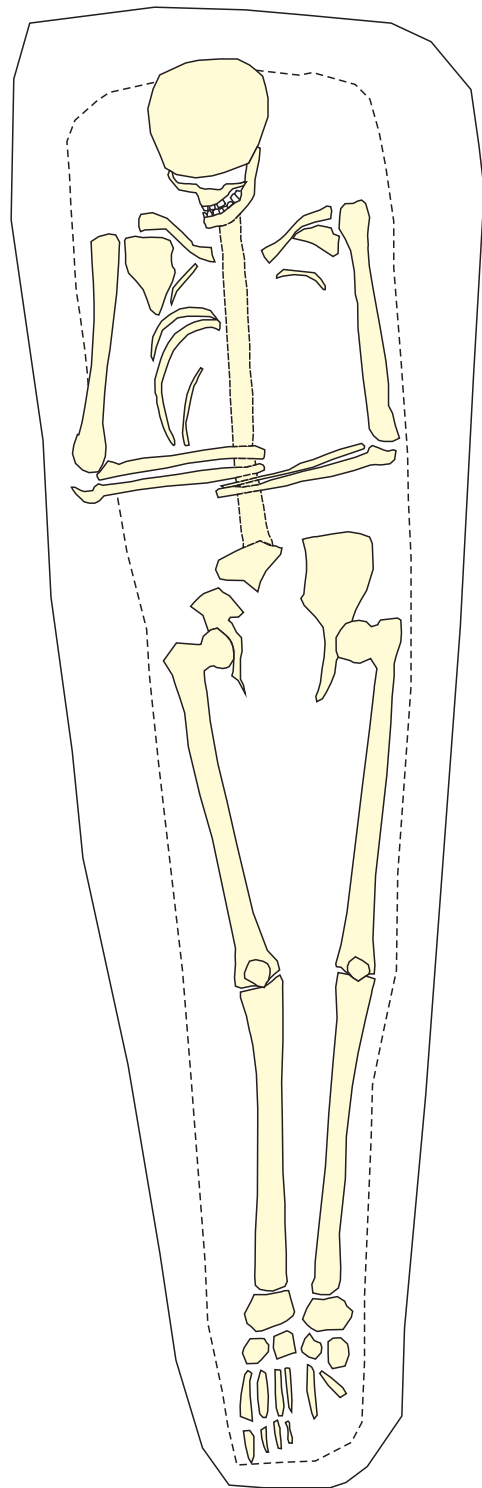


Fig. 7 Plan showing location of charnel soil (grey), graves (black) and recorded grave slabs (numbered).

104



107



0



1

metre

Fig. 8 Annex: skeletons 104 and 107.

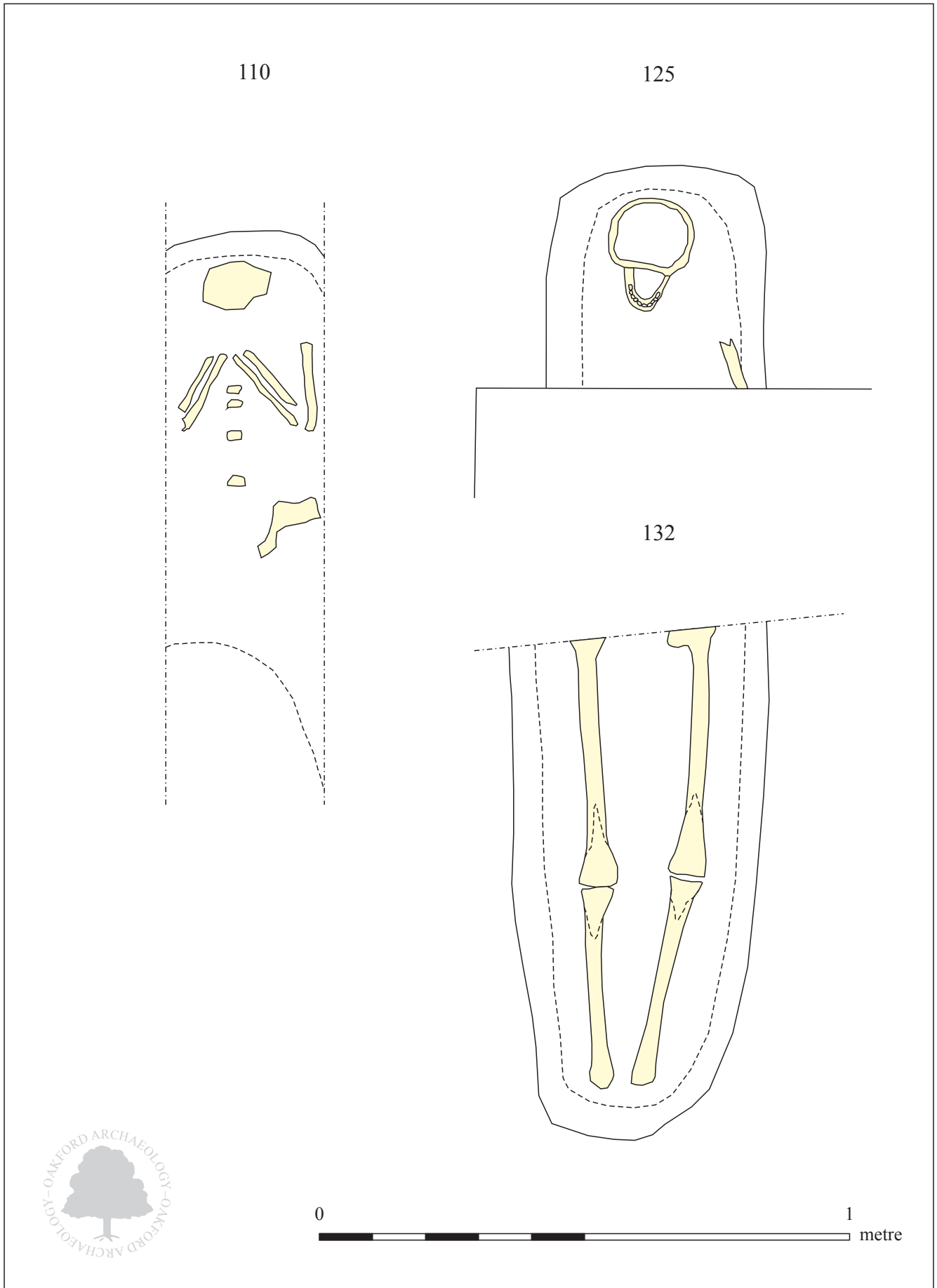


Fig. 9 Annex: skeletons 110, 125 and 132.

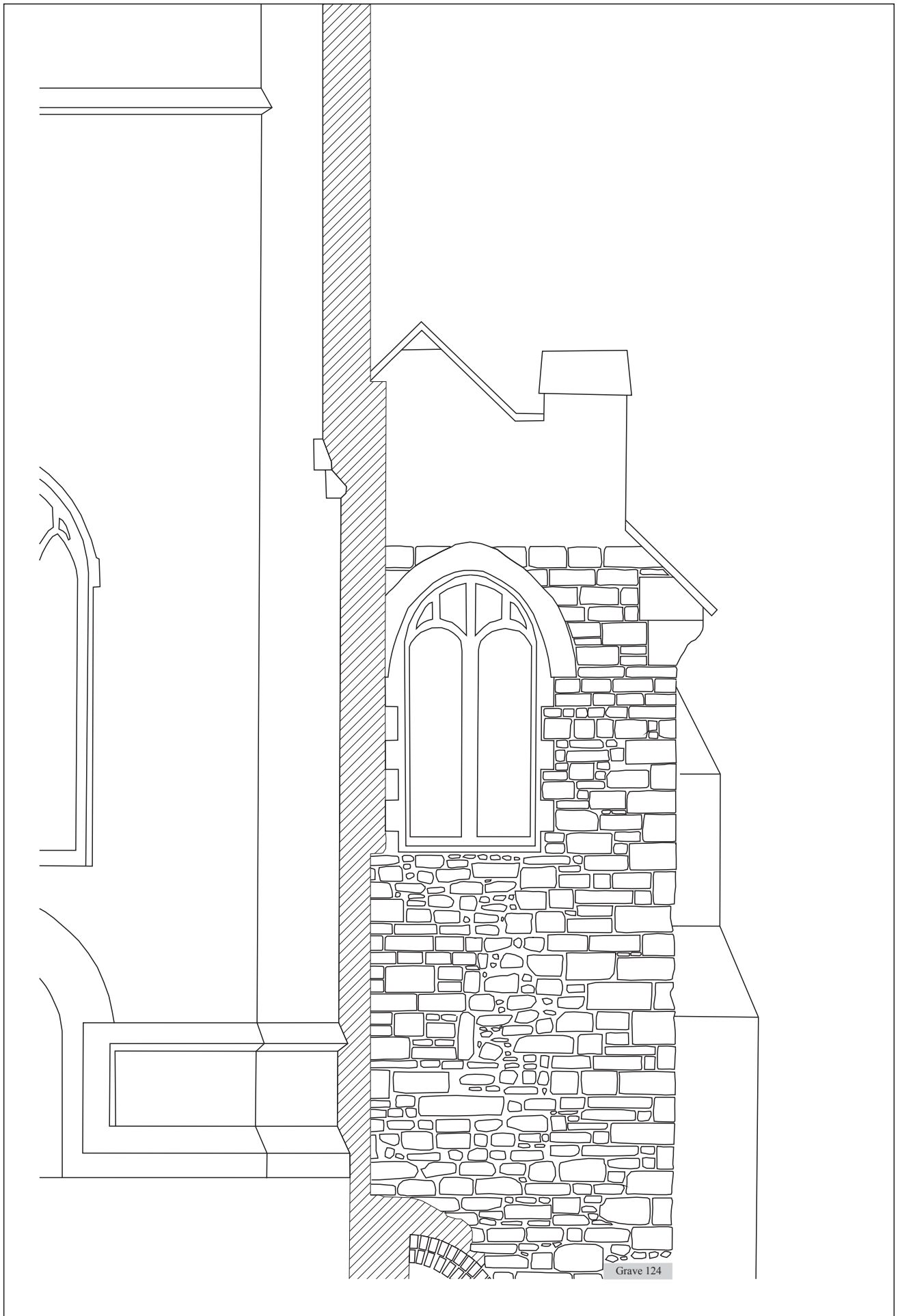


Fig. 10 Elevation of West end South Aisle.

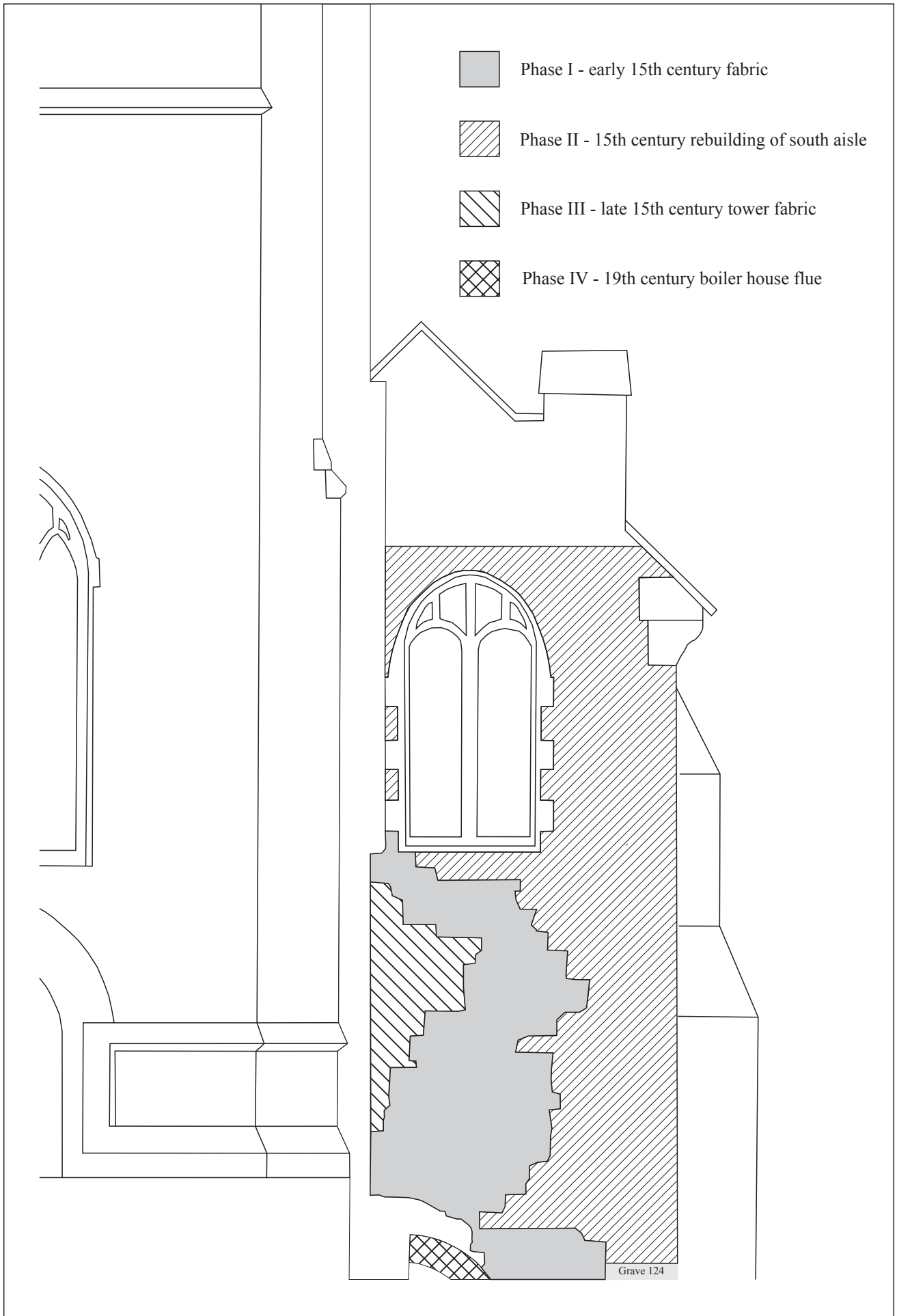


Fig. 11 Interpretation of West end South Aisle.



Pl. 1 South Aisle exterior view. Looking northeast.



Pl. 2 South Aisle western elevation.
Looking northeast.



Pl. 3 Annex showing foundation of 19th century boiler house, foundations of tower and burial horizon. 1m and 1m scales. Looking northeast.



Pl. 4 Annex showing foundation of 19th century boiler house, foundations of tower and burial horizon. 1m and 1m scales. Looking northwest.



Pl. 5 Annex: Skeleton 104. 1m scale. Looking southwest.



Pl. 6 Annex: Skeleton 107. 1m scale. Looking southwest.



Pl. 7 Annex: Skeleton 110. 0.5m scale. Looking southwest.



Pl. 8 Annex: Skeleton 125. 0.5m scale. Looking northeast.



Pl. 9 Annex: Skeleton 132. 0.5m scale. Looking southwest.



Pl. 10 Close-up medieval window jamb re-used in 19th century boiler house foundations. 0.5m scale.



Pl. 11 Close-up of medieval window arch re-used in 19th century boiler house foundations. 0.5m scale.



Pl. 12 Grave slab fragment re-used in 19th century boiler house foundations. 0.25m scale.



Pl. 13 Close-up of mortar lined grave 220 with Skeleton 221. 1m scale.
Looking north.



Pl. 14 Close-up of coffin breastplate grave 220. 0.25m scale.



Pl. 15 South aisle: Close-up grave [137]. 0.5m scale. Looking southwest.



Pl. 16 Nave: Close-up grave [121]. 0.5m scale. Looking southwest.



Pl. 17 Nave: Close-up of grave [135]. 0.5m scale. Looking southeast.



Pl. 18 Nave: Close-up of Skeleton 119. 0.5m scale. Looking northwest.



Pl. 19 South Aisle: Hurding monument.



Pl. 20 South Aisle: Somaster monument.



Pl. 21 South Aisle: Butterfield monument.



Pl. 22 South Aisle: Porter monument.