

**A Photographic Survey and
Archaeological Watching Brief at
St Cuthbert's Church, Great Glen
Leicestershire
(SP 652 977)**

Gerwyn Richards

for

St Cuthbert's Parochial Church Council

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Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) was commissioned by St Cuthbert's Parochial Church Council to undertake a photographic survey and archaeological watching brief at St Cuthbert's Church, Church Street, Great Glen, Leicestershire (SP 652 977).

A photographic record was made of the external elevation of the north aisle where this would be obscured by the construction of a new north porch. In addition a photographic, plan and written record was made of two internal grave slabs within the north aisle, before these were covered over by flooring for a new kitchenette area. A visual inspection did not locate any reused stonework in the north wall of the church, over and above the one known block with carved Saxon decoration immediately adjacent to the new porch.

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundwork for the laying of water and drainage pipes serving toilet facilities within the new porch and the new kitchenette, and grading of the footpath to provide suitable disabled access. No significant archaeological remains were encountered in the course of this work. Human remains found during the excavation of footings for the new north porch were reburied.

The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, under the museums accession number X. A170.2008.

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) was commissioned by St Cuthbert's Parochial Church Council to undertake a photographic survey and archaeological watching brief at St Cuthbert's Church, Church Road, Great Glen, Leicestershire (SP 652 977). Planning permission was granted for the construction of a new combined porch and toilet block on the north side of the Church and construction of a new kitchenette area inside the north aisle (Planning Application Number 06/01242/FUL).

The Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council, as advisor to Harborough District Council, advised that the proposed works would impact upon the historic fabric of the building and that groundwork may impact upon earthfast archaeological remains. It was therefore recommended that provision be made for a programme of archaeological attendance for inspection and recording. Specifically a

photographic survey should be carried out to record the affected areas of the building prior to commencement of the alteration works and an archaeological watching brief should be maintained on all groundwork.

St Cuthbert's is a Grade II* Listed building located on the western fringe of Great Glen. It appears mainly to be of the late 13th and early 14th centuries but with earlier Norman elements. It was largely rebuilt in 1875-6 by Carpenter & Ingelow of London, except for the tower and north arcade; the tower had been partly rebuilt by John Wing in 1769. The north aisle was rebuilt on its original foundations in 1875-6. Three Anglo-Saxon reused stone fragments are located in the north aisle, two visible internally at its east end and the third on the outside above the north door (VCH 1964, 102-112; Pevsner 1992, 168-9). The listing description is as follows:-

GREAT GLEN SP 69 NE CHURCH ROAD 3/28 (South Side) Church of St. Cuthbert 26.12.66 GV II Church. C14 tower, rest restored and much rebuilt 1876. Restoration and rebuilding by Carpenter and Ingelow of London. Ashlar rubble stone and granite rubble stone. Plain tile roof with stone coped gables, finials, ornamental ridge tiles and N aisle stone stack. Angle buttresses with set-offs and hood moulds mostly with head stops. W tower, nave, N aisle, chancel, N chancel vestry and S porch. C14 ashlar tower of 3 stages with moulded plinth, angle buttresses with set-offs, 2-light W window, triangular W window on 2nd stage, with S bull's eye window and N and S clock faces, 4 2-light bell openings with Y or Reticulated tracery, and battlements. Triple chamfered nave arch, the outer 2 continuing to ground, the inner on polygonal responds. 4 bay N arcade with double chamfered arches on keeled quatrefoil piers and keeled responds. 3 S windows with Y or Intersected tracery. C19 5 bay wagon roof. N aisle has windows with Y or Intersected tracery, N door, piscina and NE window with stained glass of 1926 by Heaton, Butler and Bayne. Rood screen doorway. Many moulded chancel arch on demi-quatrefoil responds. Chancel has windows with Y or Intersected tracery, S door, C19 piscina and E window with stained glass of 1910 probably also by Heaton, Butler and Bayne. C19 wagon roof. S porch has many moulded arch on shafted responds. Probably C12 round font. V.C.H., Vol.V and Pevsner.*

2. Aims and Methodology

The specific aims of the archaeological work were to:-

- Monitor the excavation of foundation trenches for the new north porch.
- Monitor groundwork for drainage adjacent to the new porch and during ground reduction work for the new path and drain on the north side of the new porch.
- Record grave slabs within the north aisle obscured by the proposed works.
- Record the external face of the north wall (photographic record) within the area affected by the construction of the new porch.
- To record any archaeological deposits or parts of the historic fabric of the building to be affected by the works.



Figure. 1. Site location Scale 1:50000
Licence number AL 10002186

The project involved the monitoring of works carried out by the client's contractors. A faculty had been granted allowing the disturbance and re-interment of any human remains. Excavations were carried out by mini digger and exposed surfaces were then examined during archaeological visits and recorded. Building recording work consisted of the recording through photographic record of the north wall and north doorway in the area of the new porch. The external wall face would be partly covered over within the area of the new north porch. The north door and doorframe were to be lowered, within the existing opening, by the removal of the stone step in order to provide disabled access. A re-used stone with Saxon decoration was incorporated into the north wall, immediately above roof level on the west side of the new porch; the recording work served to confirm that no further reused Saxon stonework was incorporated into the north wall within the area of the new porch. Internally a record was made of two grave slabs set into the floor of the north aisle which would be concealed by new flooring within the area of a proposed kitchenette.

The watching brief on groundwork was carried out by Jon Coward and the photographic survey by Neil Finn. The site visits were carried out on October 17th and 30th 2007.

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing buildings or Structures* and their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological watching briefs*. In addition, Leicestershire County Council's *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire* was adhered to. *Understanding Historic Buildings* (English Heritage 2006) has been used as a basis for defining levels of recording.

3. Photographic Survey

The photographic survey provides a permanent visual record of that part of the north wall affected by the construction of the new porch and of the north door prior to its relocation. Construction work on the new porch had already commenced when notification was provided and the first site visit was made (*Figures 2 & 3*). The re-used Anglo-Saxon stone in the north wall above the new porch was not affected by the development work (*Figure 4*). A visual inspection of the north wall indicated that no other early stonework was impacted upon by the new porch.

Internally, there were two grave slabs within the north aisle which it was proposed to conceal beneath the new suspended floor of the proposed kitchenette area. A photographic record and location plan was made of these slabs (*Figures 5, 6 & 10*). The inscriptions on both slabs were badly worn, with only a few legible fragments remaining:-

Slab 1 Western Slab

*_nn the wife of
_____odgkin
departed this life
the 6 of October
1727 aged 45 years
_____*

Slab 2 Eastern Slab

*Illegible
_____of
Illegible
____dgkin
who departed this life
the ___day of February
(Numbers) in the
_____of life*

Although worn there are two identifiable names ending in "odgkin" and it can be assumed that this is the name Hodgkin. The Victoria County History records a Green Hodgkin as an important landowner at the time of the 1758 Enclosure Act and notes that there were formerly numerous inscribed floor slabs within the church dating from the 18th century, many of which were taken up and used to pave the tower in 1876 (VCH 1964, 102-112).

Nichols records the existence of several grave slabs in the north aisle to members of the Hodgkin family (Nichols 1798, 577-8). Although the wording does not match

exactly that recorded by Nichols (below), the two grave slabs can be confidently identified as those of Green Hodgkin and his wife Ann:

‘Here lieth interred the body of
Green Hodgkin, gent. Son of Edmund Hodgkin,
died 18 Feb. 1754, aged 74.

Ann, the wife of Green Hodgkin,
died the 6 of Octr., 1727, aged 45.’

The style of lettering on the two slabs is similar in appearance but the border designs vary (*Figure 10*).

4. Photographic Index

Black & White	Colour Slide	Description	Dir
001	001	North Aisle and Door.	S
002	002	North Aisle and Door.	S
003	003	North Aisle.	SE
004	004	North Aisle.	SE
005	005	Saxon Stone.	
006	006	Saxon Stone.	
007	007	Slab 1 Detail.	
008	008	Grave Slabs.	
009	009	Grave Slabs.	
010	010	Grave Slabs.	

5. Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on the groundwork associated with laying services for toilet facilities within the new porch and the kitchenette. Other works included reducing the area around the porch to provide a level access. The watching brief was carried out by Jon Coward on October 30th 2008.

Ground level around the porch was reduced by between 300mm and 500mm. Approximately 300mm of topsoil overlay the weathered bedrock substratum of yellow brown boulder clay. Nothing of archaeological significance or any burials were observed during this phase of work. Further service trenches were excavated below this level; these trenches were approximately 300mm deep (approximately 700mm below former ground level) and cut into the boulder clay. Once again no burials or other features of archaeological significance were observed.

The footings for the porch had been excavated prior to the archaeological site visit, contractors stated that the ground appeared disturbed and only a limited number of disarticulated human bones were recovered and re-interred.

6. Conclusion

The photographic survey produced a permanent visual record of the external elevation of the north aisle prior to it being partially concealed by the new porch. Construction of the porch did not affect the reused Anglo-Saxon stone incorporated into the north wall of the north aisle and no other early decorated stonework was identified in this wall.

The worn grave slabs of Green Hodgkin (d.1754) and his wife Ann (d.1727) were recorded. Further grave slabs commemorating other members of the Hodgkin family were formerly located within the north aisle, as recorded by John Nichols, but were removed when the north aisle was rebuilt in 1875-6.

The archaeological watching brief did not uncover anything of archaeological significance; most of the monitored groundwork encountered only disturbed ground and weathered bedrock substratum. The contractors were careful to avoid marked graves; disarticulated human bones that were uncovered during the excavation of foundation trenches for the new porch were re-interred by the contractors.

7. References

English Heritage, 2006, *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice*. London: English Heritage

Nichols, J., 1798, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester* Volume II, part 2, the Hundred of Gartree.

Pevsner, N., 1992. *The Buildings of England: Leicestershire and Rutland* 2nd edition revised by Elizabeth Williamson. London: Penguin Books.

Victoria County History (VCH), 1964. 'Great Glen', *A History of the County of Leicestershire: Volume 5: Gartree Hundred*, pp.102-112.

8. Archive & Publication

The site archive consists of

- 1 A3 permatrace sheet containing sketch plan of grave slabs & site notes
- 10 Black & White negatives & contact prints
- 10 Colour slide transparencies
- CD containing 2 digital images
- 1 A4 contact sheet
- A4 Photo Index Sheet
- 6 A1 paper plans supplied by client
- 1 A4 watching brief sheet
- Unbound Copy of This Report (ULAS Report Number 2008-199)

The archive will be held at Leicestershire County Council under the Accession Number X.A199.2008

A version of the summary (above) will be submitted to the editor of the local journal *Transactions of Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* for inclusion in the next edition.

9. Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by the Revd. Mary Ireland on behalf of St Cuthbert's Parochial Church Council. The assistance of the architect Martin Russell and the contractors on site in facilitating the archaeological work is acknowledged with gratitude.



Figure 2 Northern wall and door.



Figure 3 Northern wall.



Figure 4 Detail of Re-used Saxon Stone in North wall.



Figure 5 Westernmost Grave Slab (Slab 1).



Figure 6 Easternmost Grave Slab (Slab 2).



Figure 7 External Groundworks (looking east-south east).

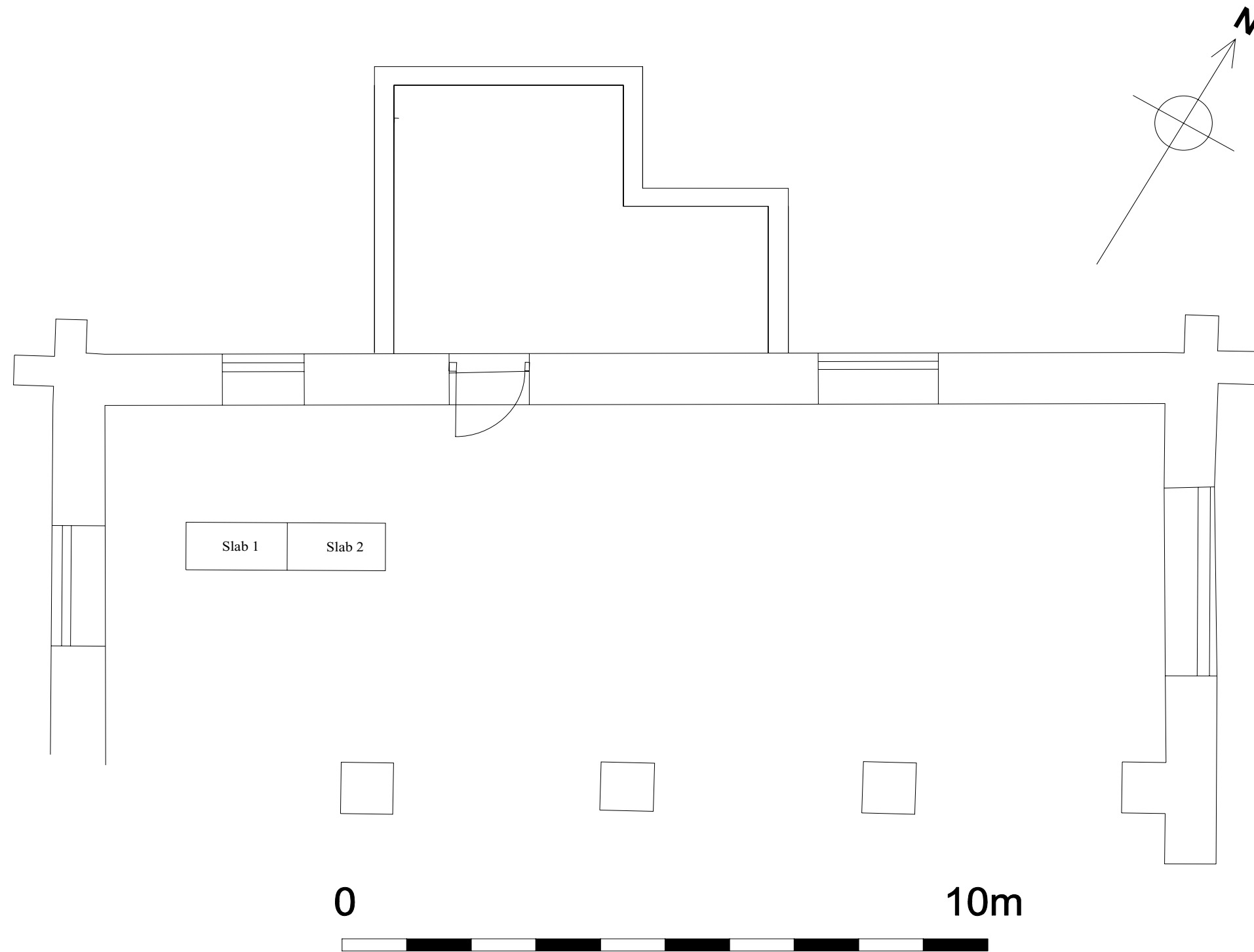


Figure 8: Ground Plan of New Porch.

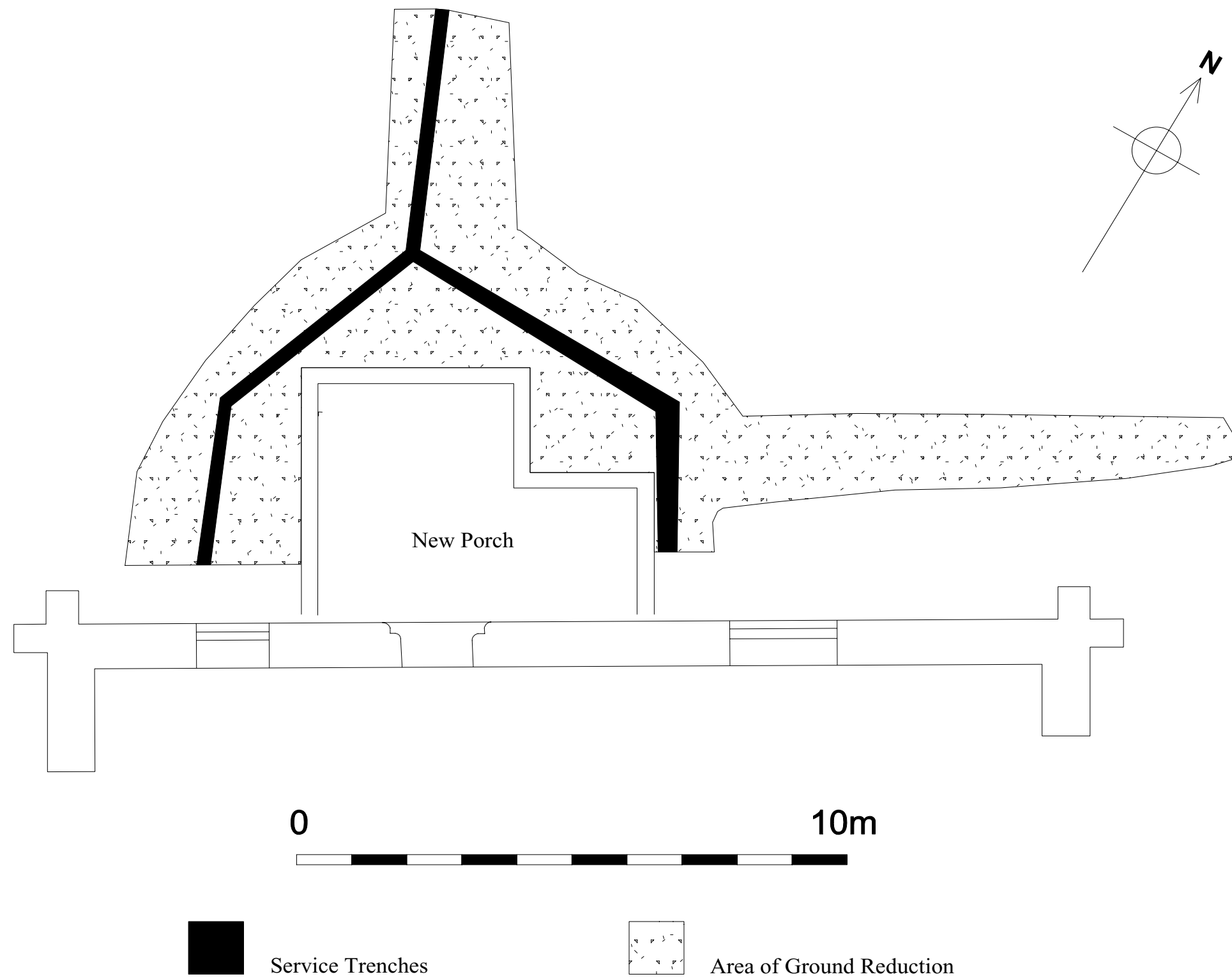


Figure 9 Extent of External Groundworks.

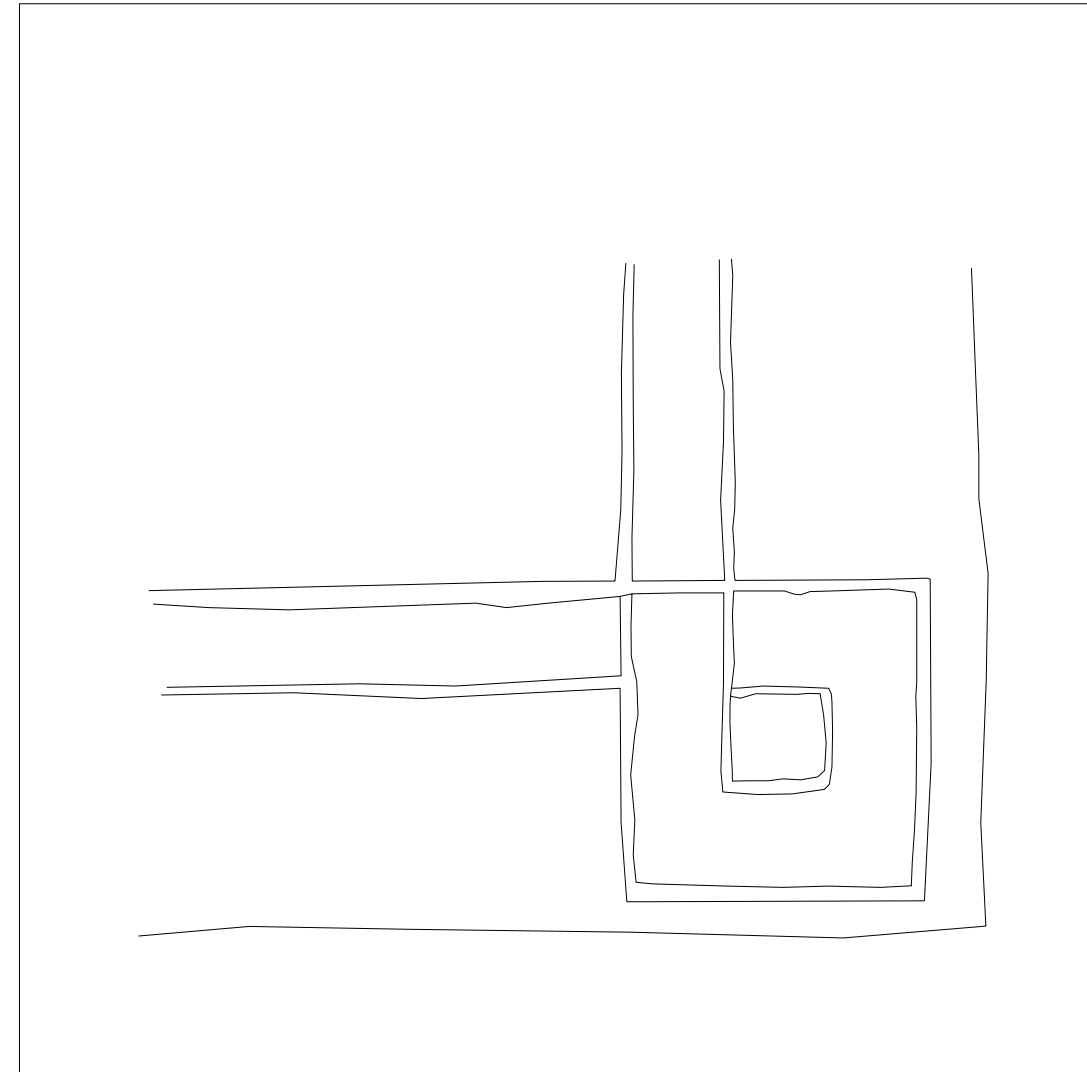
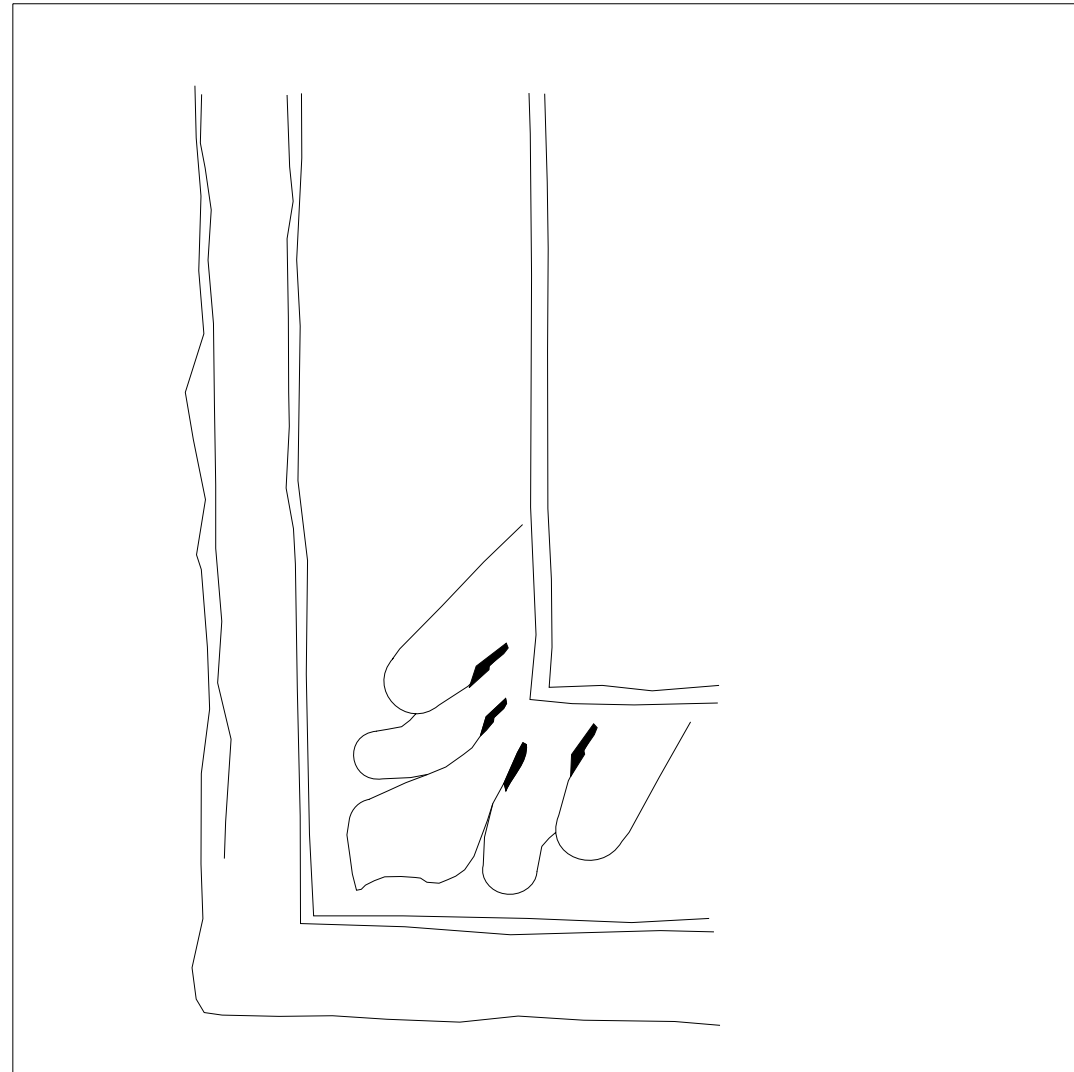


Figure 10 Sketches of Detail on Grave Slabs (Slab 1 Right, Slab 2 Left).
Not to Scale.