

**St Mary's Church, Church Lane,
Hartley Wintney, Hampshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For

Hartley Wintney with Elvetham Parochial Church Council

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SWH 09/02

January 2009

Summary

Site name: St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Hartley Wintney, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 7680 5588

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 6th January 2009

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andrew Weale

Site code: SWH 09/02

Summary of results: A brick-built vault was exposed and recorded. A collapsed wooden coffin and a lead coffin were revealed within.

Monuments identified: 19th-century (or later) vaulted tomb.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Hampshire Museum Service in due course.

This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 24.01.09 Steve Preston ✓ 23.01.09

St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Hartley Wintney, Hampshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Report 09/02

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Hartley Wintney, Hampshire (SU 7680 5590) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Jane Robertson of Hartley Wintney with Elvetham Parochial Church Council, St John's Church Office, Fleet Road, Hartley Wintney, Hampshire, RG27 8ED. A faculty (no. 2842) has been gained from the Diocese of Winchester for emergency repairs to correct a void which has formed within the churchyard, presumably representing a collapsed vault or similar. The faculty is subject to a condition requiring an archaeological excavation and recording of the hole prior to reinstatement. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Weale on 6th January 2009 and the site code is SWH09/02.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Hampshire Museum Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in the grounds of St Mary's Church which stands on the east side of Church Lane, immediately south of the modern village and 1 km north of the M3 (Fig. 1). Church House Farm is to the south, with open fields on all other sides (Fig. 2). According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 1981) the underlying geology is Bracklesham Beds: a silty clay which may have been the natural geology was observed in this investigation. The site lies at a height of 85m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The parish church is usually considered to lie at the centre of the historic core of a settlement. In this case the church of St Mary's at Hartley Wintney is not mentioned in Domesday Book (Williams and Martin 2002) and is likely to be of medieval origin. However, in Domesday Book, two churches are mentioned within the manor of Odiham, one almost certainly at Odiham itself, the other possibly at Hartley Wintney. The presence of a rector at the chapel at *Hurley* is documented in 1221 with a Cistercian nunnery (Wintney Priory) established some 20

years earlier. The nuns opened a new stone church in 1234, presumably where the current church stands. In 1870 a new church (St John's) was built within the modern village of Hartley Row (Gorsky 2006).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the remediation works, to determine the extent to which human remains survive within the area of the works, and to observe the presence of graves and vaults.

Results

The existing void was expanded by hand to 2.50m by 0.90m and *c.* 2.40m in depth, where a brick-built barrel vault was exposed (Fig. 3 and Pl. 1). The crypt measured 2.10m by 1.97m and was in good condition except for the east end wall which had collapsed causing the void to open up in the churchyard, the western internal wall of the crypt was intact and showed evidence of a blocked doorway for entrance into the crypt. The wall of the vault was made of a double skin of brick with a whitish yellow mortar, as was the lower part of the wall of the crypt. The collapsed section of wall was only single skinned (Pl. 2). All the bricks measured 220mm x 110mm by 71mm. Bricks rarely reached depths of 70mm ($2\frac{5}{8}$ inch) before the middle of the 18th century; this size of brick would have been on the large side, but not abnormally so, for the second half of the 18th or first half of the 19th century, but is also that specified in 20th century standards. The base of the crypt was a brown silty clay which may be the natural geology.

Two coffins were visible within the vault. The southern coffin was made of wood and had collapsed, while the other coffin was of lead and was mostly intact although it had been pierced. Loose bones were observed on and to the side of the lead coffin which could indicate the presence of a third body in the crypt (Fig. 4). The coffins within the crypt were left undisturbed. Neither the crypt nor the coffins give the impression of any great age.

Finds

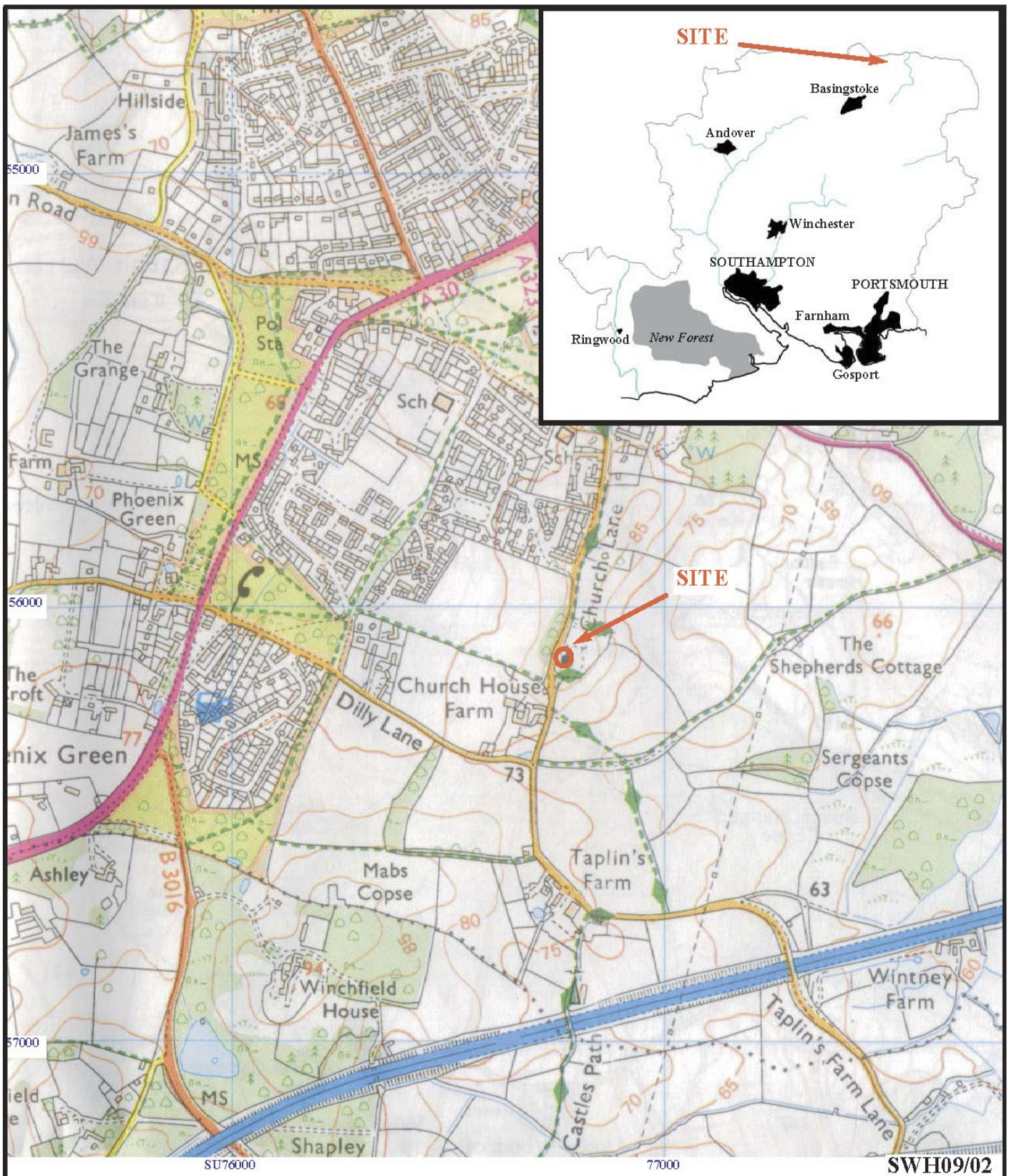
No artefacts or bones were retrieved from the site.

Conclusion

The watching brief has recorded a partially collapsed brick-built crypt prior to its repair. The crypt contained two burials in coffins, possibly with a third burial present. The dating obtained from the brick types suggests that the crypt is of 19th century date. No archaeological finds or deposits were observed which could relate to the medieval church and burial ground.

References

BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 284, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
Gorsky, D, 2006, *St Mary's Church, Hartley Wintney, Hampshire*, Hartley Wintney Parish Council.
PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, A Complete Translation*, London

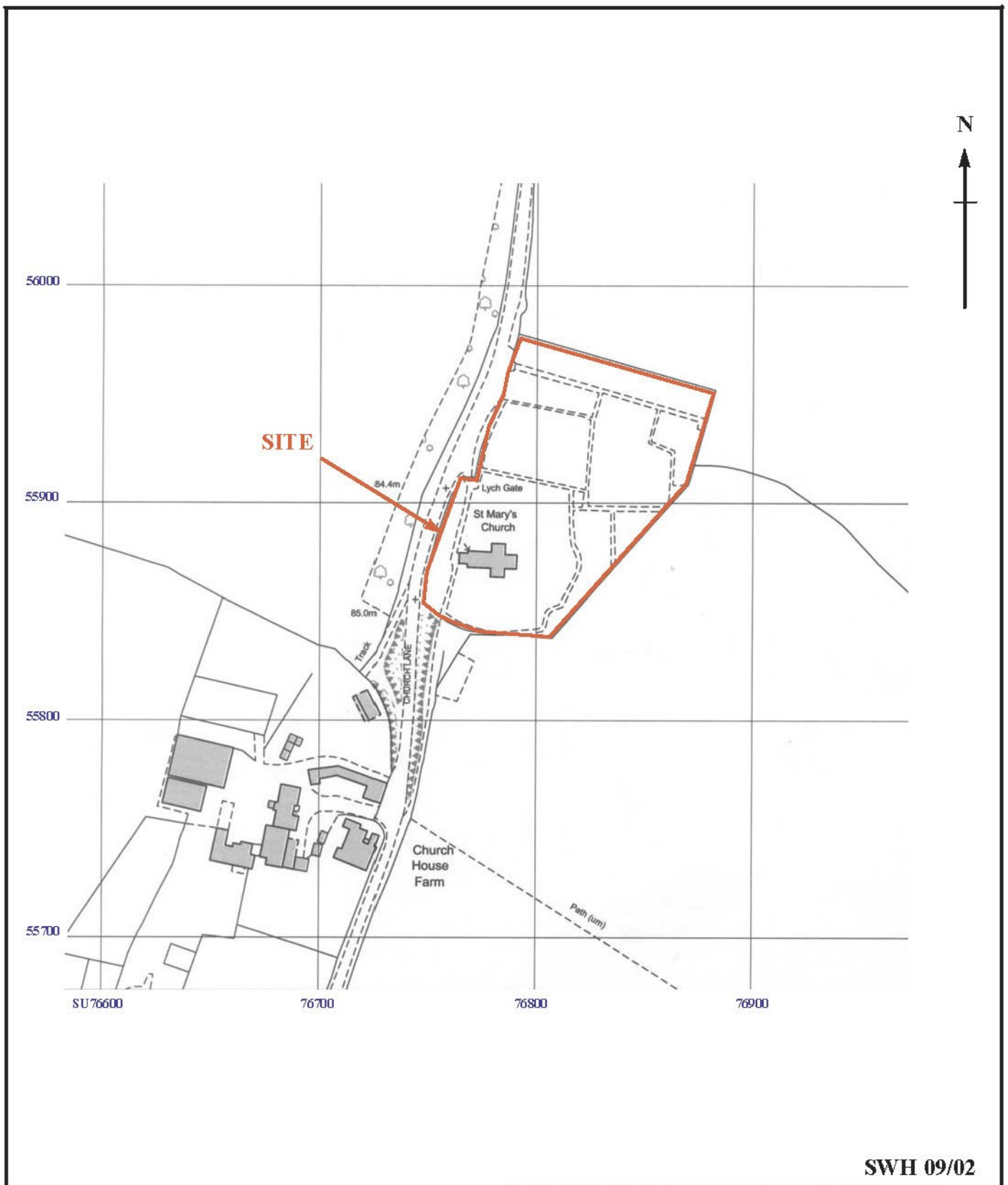


**St Mary's Church, Hartley Wintney,
Hampshire, 2009
An Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 1. Location of site within Hartley Wintney and Hampshire.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Explorer map 144 at 1:12500
Ordnance Survey Licence 100025880

T H A M E S V A L L E Y
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
 S E R V I C E S



SWH 09/02

**St Mary's Church, Church Lane,
Hartley Wintney, Hampshire, 2009
Archaeological watching brief**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Church Lane.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital mapping under licence.
Crown copyright reserved. Scale: 1:2500

T H A M E S V A L L E Y
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL
 S E R V I C E S

St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Hartley Wintney, Hampshire 2009

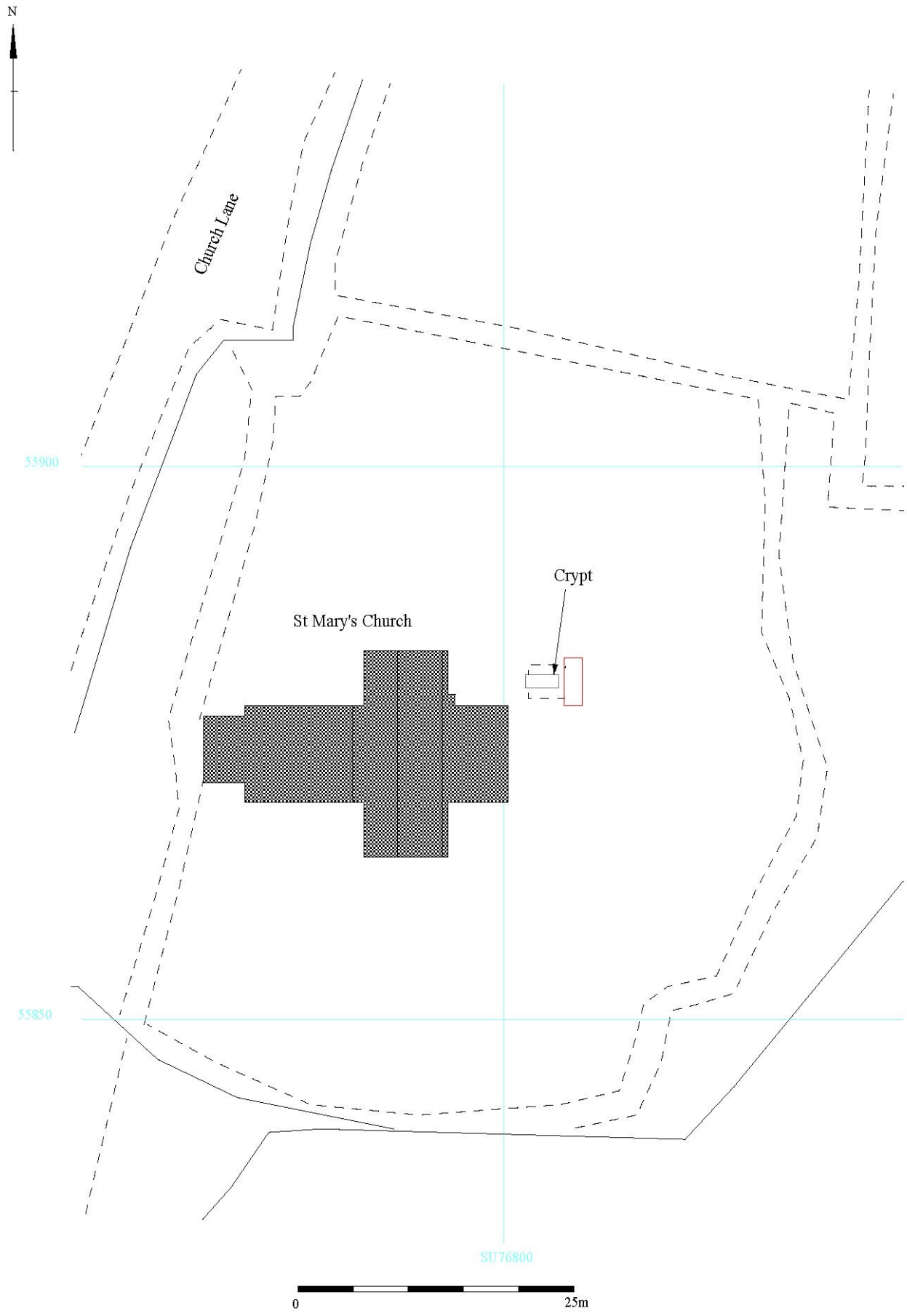


Figure 3. Location of Void

St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Hartley Wintney, Hampshire, 2009

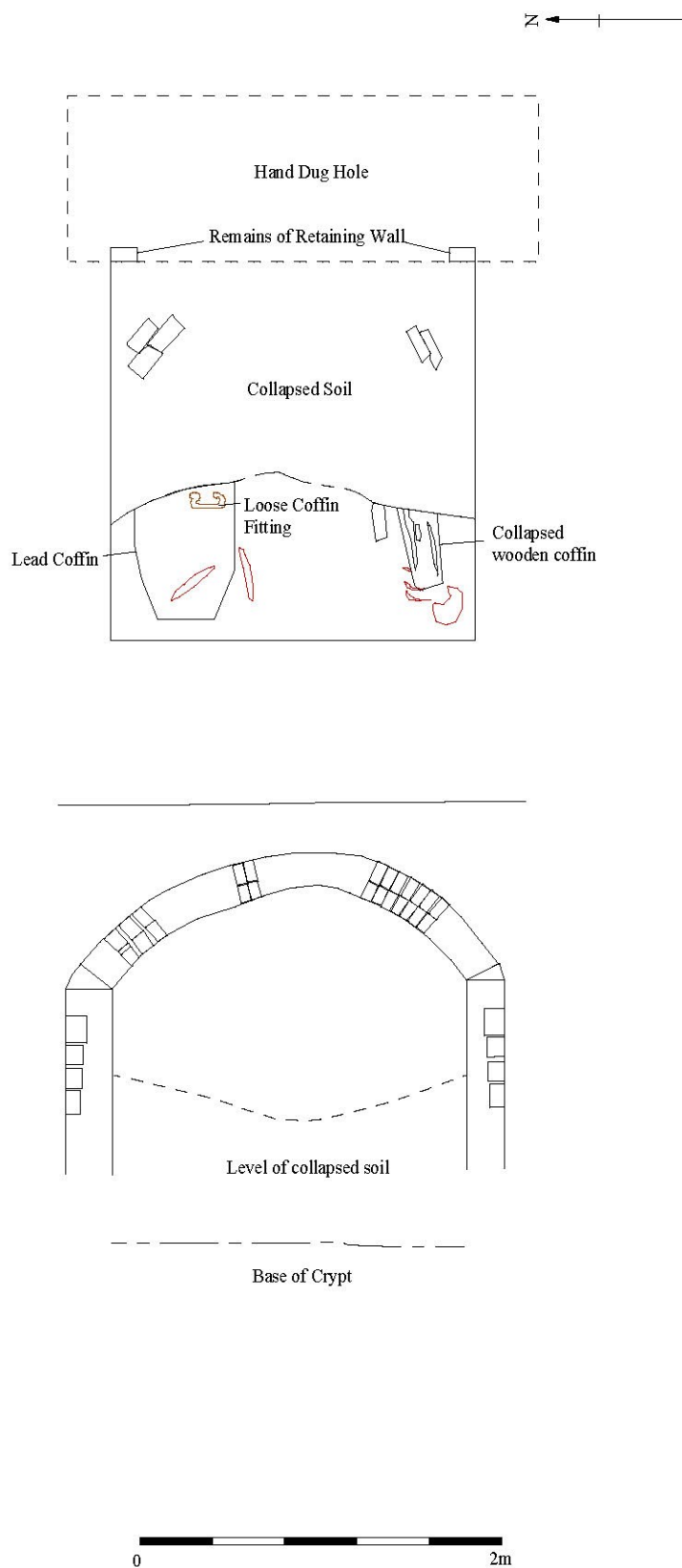


Figure 4. Plan of crypt and section through vault.



Plate 1. Crypt as exposed looking west, horizontal scale 2m, vertical scale 1m.



Plate 2. Crypt interior, showing wall repair and new vault.