

Church of St Mary with St Ethelbert Luckington Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Watson, Bertram & Fell

on behalf of
Luckington Parochial
Church Council

CA Project: CR0190
CA Report: CR0190_1

October 2019



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A	24 October 2019	Alison Roberts	Laurent Coleman	External review		Clifford Bateman

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Church of St Mary with St Ethelbert
Location: Luckington, Wiltshire
NGR: 383730 184040
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 16 September 2019
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery
Site Code: MWE 19

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the restoration of stone chest tombs at the Church of St Mary with St Ethelbert, Luckington, Wiltshire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Watson, Bertram & Fell, on behalf of Luckington Parochial Church Council (centred at NGR: 383730 184040; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition (iii) attached to a Faculty judgement (ref 2017-016118), relating to a petition for the restoration of seven stone chest tombs in Luckington Churchyard.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2019) and submitted to Mr Peter Fell, Watson, Bertram & Fell. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014).

The site

- 1.3 The site is approximately 0.25ha in extent and comprises the graveyard of the Church of St Mary with St Ethelbert, Luckington, albeit the areas subject to archaeological watching brief only represent part of this area (Fig. 2). The graveyard itself is bounded to the west and north by Luckington Court, to the east by Luckington Court Farm and to the south by open ground. The site lies at approximately 109m AOD and is broadly level.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Great Oolite Group - Sandstone, Limestone and Argillaceous Rocks of the Jurassic Period (BGS 2019). No superficial deposits are recorded (ibid.). The natural geological was not seen during the groundworks.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has not been subject to previous archaeological assessment. The following is a brief summary of publically available information pertinent to the site.
- 2.2 There is very limited evidence for prehistoric, Roman, early medieval and/or medieval activity in the immediate vicinity of the current site. Several enclosures of possible prehistoric or Roman date are noted in the wider area, though none appear to have been investigated.

2.3 Luckington Church itself (a Grade I listed building) represents one of the oldest structures in the area, originally built between the 13th and 15th centuries before being restored and rebuilt 1892. Luckington Court, located c.100m to the north of Luckington Church, was built in 1700 before being restored in 1921 (HE 2019).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2019). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of soil over the footprint of each tomb to form a flat base for the required foundation slabs (Fig. 2). Archaeological watching brief was undertaken during excavations associated with the restoration of the first tomb. As no features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during these works, the watching brief was curtailed at this point, in consultation with Mr Peter Fell.

4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.3 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive will be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery, along with the site archive. A summary of

information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIG 2)

5.1 The natural geological substrate was not revealed during the excavation. Dark grey brown silty clay topsoil, 100, was revealed to a depth of 0.2m below present ground level.

5.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

8. DISCUSSION

8.1 The watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks due to the limited depth of the works.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alison Roberts. The report was written by Alison Roberts. The illustrations were prepared by Gemma Bowen. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

10. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 27 September 2019

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 *Church of St Mary with St Ethelbert, Luckington, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for a Archaeological Watching Brief.*

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

HE (Historic England) *List Entry* <https://historic-England.org.uk/the-list/listentry/1199767>
Accessed 27 September 2019

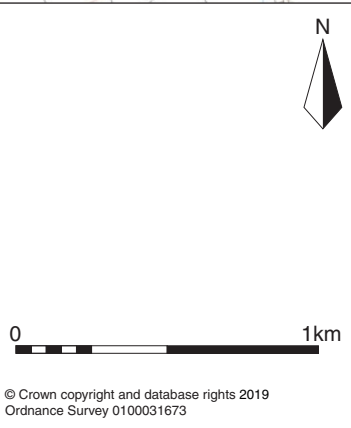
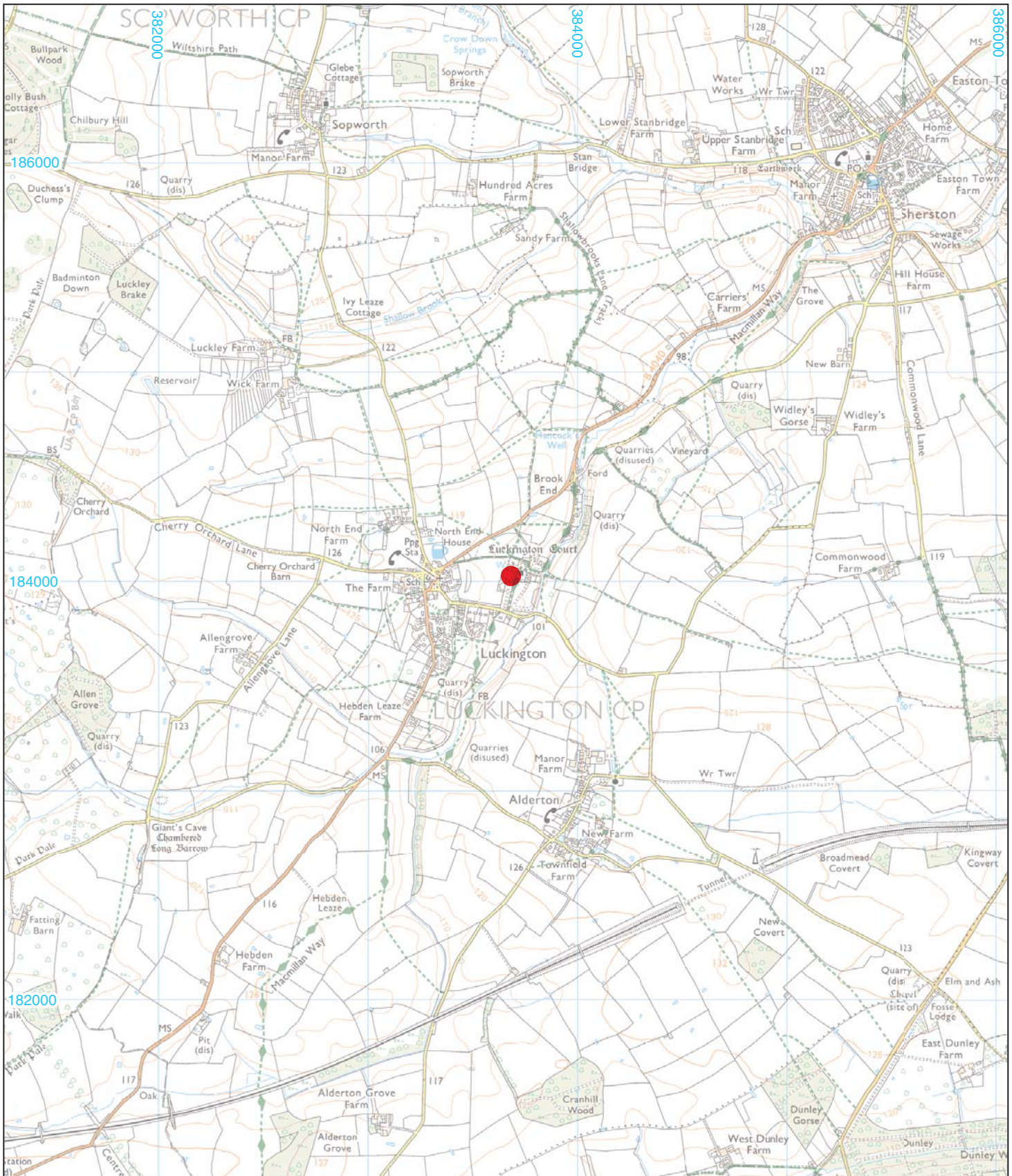


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		topsoil	dark grey brown silty clay	2.4	1	0.2

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Church of St Mary with St Ethelbert	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the restoration of stone chest tombs at the Church of St Mary with St Ethelbert, Luckington, Wiltshire.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	16 September 2019	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Church of St Mary with St Ethelbert, Luckington, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)		
Site co-ordinates	383730 184040	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Alison Roberts	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Paper	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery	Trench Sheet, Photographic Register
Digital	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery	Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 <i>Church of St Mary with St Ethelbert, Luckington, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report CR0190_1		



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PROJECT TITLE
 St Mary with St Ethelbert Church,
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FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

FIGURE NO.
 1

DRAWN BY GB
CHECKED BY DJB
APPROVED BY AR

PROJECT NO. CR0190
DATE 24/09/2019
SCALE@A4 1:25,000

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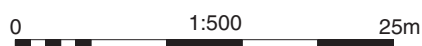
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 Observed groundworks

PROJECT TITLE
 St Mary with St Ethelbert Church,
 Luckington, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing location of observed
 groundworks

<small>DRAWN BY</small>	GB	<small>PROJECT NO.</small>	CR0190	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small>	DJB	<small>DATE</small>	24/09/2019	2
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