

LAND ADJACENT TO ST.ANDREWS CHURCH, GREAT ROLLRIGHT
PARISH: ROLLRIGHT
GRID REFERENCE: SP 3268 3148

INTRODUCTION

St. Andrews church propose to extend its graveyard to incorporate an area of paddock to the south of the church grounds. In advance of this the Oxford Archaeological Unit undertook an evaluation of the field over two days in March 1994. The results are detailed below. The church dates to the Norman period, and has recently been renovated.

RESULTS

Six test pits were excavated, and measured 1 m x 1 m. Pit 4 measured 2 m x 1 m. Topsoil consisted of a rich humic loam which overlay a light brown sandy loam, interpreted as natural subsoil. The subsoil sealed thick layers of limestone cornbrash, the natural geology. The cornbrash was identified in each test pit between 0.50 m-0.60 m below the surface. Modern finds (clay pipe, Willow Pattern pottery and glass) were recovered from the topsoil in pits 4 and 1. The subsoil in pit 1 appeared to have been cultivated or been disturbed by animal burrows, and one sherd of medieval pottery was recovered along with several post medieval sherds. No archaeological features were identified in any of the test pits.

CONCLUSION

The results of the evaluation suggest that the area of land in question is archaeologically sterile. The existence of a flower bed by the side of the church gates and the disturbed subsoil in pit 1 may indicate that the flower bed extended further across the paddock at one time.

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March 1994



Location of test pits

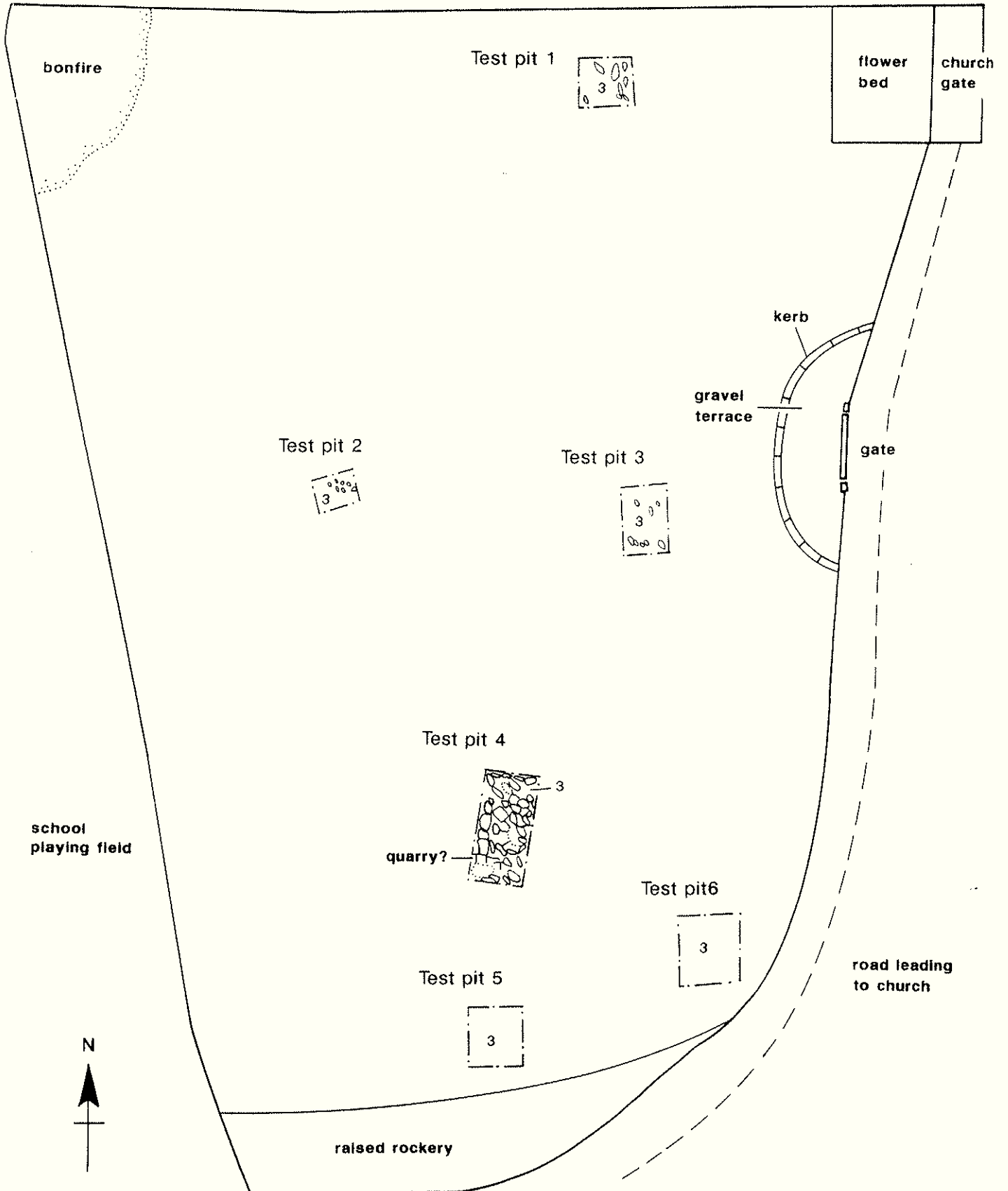
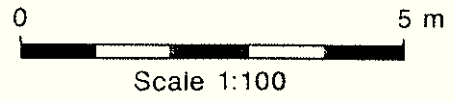


Figure 2