



ST Michael and
All Angels Church
Letcombe Bassett
Oxfordshire

Historic Building Recording



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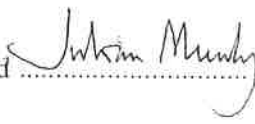
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St Michael and All Angels, Letcombe Bassett, Oxfordshire

HISTORIC BUILDING INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

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St Michael and All Angels, Letcombe Bassett, Oxfordshire

Historic Building Recording and Investigation

SUMMARY

St Michael and All Angels is an attractive 12th-century church with a number of later alterations and the current investigation has contributed significantly to our understanding of the historical development of the building. The structure of both the walls and roof has been obscured for much of the 20th century by later render and cladding but they have been temporarily exposed in the current restoration and the work has confirmed some assumptions about the building while casting doubt on others.

The original church appears to have had a broadly similar footprint to that which survives today and the same primary construction (roughly coursed flint with an ochre mortar) has been found in patches relatively widely in the chancel and nave. The most substantially surviving primary wall is the north side of the chancel whereas due to the number of insertions in the nave wall only small areas of primary wall remain. In addition patches of what appears to be identical mortar have been found in the lower parts of the tower suggesting that this may also be original (albeit with later alterations).

The Victoria County History (VCH) has previously speculated that the chancel may have been extended eastward and although the VCH concludes that this is unlikely the current investigation has clearly shown that the construction of the eastern 3m of the chancel is quite different to the primary construction and that it must have been extended. The VCH and Pevsner both date the window in the east wall to the later 13th century and as the current investigation has shown that the window is contemporary with the extension this provides a possible date for the extension. Removal of tiles from the chancel roof has revealed that the current roof structure is of a single date for its full length (both the primary chancel and its extension) and that this roof is old (potentially dating to the extension of the chancel).

Other than the extension of the chancel (and possible late 13th-century addition of the tower) the footprint of the building was little altered from its original construction until the second half of the 19th century when the church was restored by Butterfield and these works included the addition of a south aisle, a vestry and a porch. The current works have revealed the construction of each of these elements. The work has also revealed that the walls of the nave were originally the same height as the chancel and that it would have had a steeply pitched roof similar to that which survives above the chancel.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) has been commissioned by Architects Design Partnership to undertake a programme of historic building investigation and recording at St Michael and All Angels Church in Letcombe Bassett, Oxfordshire. The work has been undertaken prior to (and during) the restoration of the historic, Grade II* listed church. A brief detailing the recording required was issued by the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor in January 2004.

1.1.2 The restoration comprised two main elements:

- the removal of mid 20th-century cement render from the external walls to allow its replacement with a more permeable and sympathetic lime plaster
- various alterations to the roof including the removal of a 1950s roof over the nave which will allow the reinstatement of the historic lower roofline in this area. Other works to the roof include general repairs and reinforcements.

1.2 Aims and objectives

1.2.1 There were three principal objectives for the work:

- to create for posterity a record of the building prior to its alteration in the development, particularly concentrating on those elements to be lost or altered;
- to take the opportunity to investigate the history of the building during the intrusive elements of the works (particularly the removal of the render and the exposure of the roof structure);
- to make the results of the record (and the archive itself) publicly accessible.

1.3 Methodology

1.3.1 The recording was largely restricted to those parts of the building on which the main restoration works were being undertaken (roof and external walls) so the work was not intended as a comprehensive investigation of the building.

1.3.2 The work comprised three principal elements: a photographic survey, a drawn survey and a written, descriptive survey.

1.3.3 The *photographic survey* consisted of general shots and specific details (external and internal) and was undertaken using 35 mm black and white print film and colour slide film. The *drawn survey* was largely based on an existing architect's survey which was annotated with descriptive detail but further detail drawings were

made of features of interest. The *descriptive survey* complemented the other two surveys and added further analytical and descriptive detail.

- 1.3.4 The work was undertaken in a phased programme with the initial recording undertaken in late March 2005 prior to the start of the development. This recorded the external walls covered in cement render and the roof with its modern (1950s) raised form. The main recording works were undertaken in several watching brief visits during April and May 2005 at suitable points during the restoration.
- 1.3.5 No substantial new historical research has been undertaken although the principal secondary sources have been consulted (see bibliography).
- 1.3.6 All the material produced by the current study (site drawings, photographs, slides, photographic negatives, site notes, a copy of the current report etc) will be ordered and labelled with an agreed site code before being deposited with an appropriate museum or other body.

2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Letcombe Bassett

2.1.1 The parish of Letcombe Bassett is located c. 4 miles to the south of Wantage and c.15 miles to the south of Oxford. It lies on the north side of the Berkshire Downs and although it was formerly in the County of Berkshire but it is now in South Oxfordshire.

2.1.2 As mentioned above no substantial programme of historical research has been undertaken as part of the current investigation but there are several easily available sources which show that the church has been previously studied and what the current understanding of the date and development of the building is. The Victoria County History (written in 1914, published in 1924) includes a detailed assessment of the church (see Appendix IV) as does the list description (see Appendix III). Another valuable source is the web site churchplansonline.org which includes a plan of the church from 1861 detailing Butterfield's proposed restoration works. The resolution of the plan is good for studying on screen but is not high enough to allow it to be reproduced in this report.

2.2 St Michael and All Angels: summary of phasing

2.2.1 From previous studies of the building and the current investigation the following chronology for the church has been developed:

2.2.2 **12th century:** original construction of church. It appears that the original church would have comprised the nave with the same footprint as that surviving today, a shorter chancel and (probably) the tower.

2.2.3 **Late 13th century:** Chancel extended eastwards by c.3 m and new window inserted into south wall of (original) chancel. North door (possibly) inserted.

- 2.2.4 **14th century:** Window inserted into south wall of nave. Chancel roof also possibly constructed
- 2.2.5 **15th century:** Window inserted into north wall of nave.
- 2.2.6 **17th century:** Nave roof replaced by new, lower pitch structure
- 2.2.7 **18th century:** West wall of tower rebuilt in brick.
- 2.2.8 **1860s:** major renovation of church undertaken by Butterfield including new south aisle, vestry and porch
- 2.2.9 **20th century:** walls clad in cement render (to replace previous lime render). New higher roof constructed over nave in 1950s whilst leaving previous 17th-century roof intact beneath.

3 DESCRIPTION

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 As mentioned above the current work is not intended to be a fully comprehensive building investigation into the form and fabric of the church. The recording was targeted on the construction of the external walls exposed by render removal and on the previously hidden roof structures. The description below forms a summary of the main phases visible in each wall. It does not include a description of every phase or context (eg minor patches of repair) although these are shown on the figures are included in the context table (Appendix V). The numbers in the text (eg [21]) relate to the contexts shown on the elevations. The dates given for the windows are taken from the VCH, the list description and Pevsner.

3.1.2 The church divides into three principal blocks: the nave (c.13.5 m x c.7 m) , the chancel to the east of this (c.8 m x c.5.5 m) and the tower to the west (c.3.5 m²). Prior to the start of the current restoration the external walls of the church were almost entirely covered by 20th-century cement render. The render has been added to and patched up in the mid 20th century but it appears from the photographs and description in the VCH (written in 1914) that it already had a cement render coating by that date.

3.2 North elevation

3.2.1 **Before current works:** The north elevation of the nave includes a porch over the main entrance to the church (added in Butterfield's 1862 works) as well as two windows to the east of the porch and one to the west. That to the west was added in the 19th-century (VCH) while that furthest to the east was added in 1909 (VCH) and that immediately to the east is thought to be of 15th-century date (VCH). The door opening within the porch is believed to be original (12th century).

- 3.2.2 The north face of the chancel contains two of the oldest and most interesting features of the building each of which is original to this part of the building (12th century). These features are a door adjacent to the nave with a roll moulded arch and scalloped capitals and a small, high round-headed window immediately to the east.
- 3.2.3 Prior to the start of the current programme of works each element of the north elevation was substantially covered with mid 20th-century cement render. This render appeared to be largely of a single phase but there was a large section of a later repair to the render above the porch and the window immediately to the west. The render was applied to respect the earlier features so that the jambs, quoins, stonework around the openings and the stone buttress to the tower remained visible.
- 3.2.4 ***Evidence revealed by render removal:*** The clearest and most significant evidence revealed by the removal of render from the chancel wall is a straight joint two-thirds of the way along the wall towards the east. The older part of the wall (the western two-thirds containing the 12th-century window and door) is formed of flint set in a dark ochre coloured soft mortar with flint speckles and some hairs but no straw [1]. The flint is not squared or faced and is of various sizes (average c.15 cm x 10 cm). It is generally roughly coursed but uncoursed in patches and it contains a number of chalk blocks apparently randomly mixed in. The 12th-century door and window are of the same phase as this wall. The lower c.40 cm of the wall is of a distinct construction (although there is not a clearly defined horizontal joint) with a lighter mortar [4]. The flint construction is similar to the wall above and it is likely to all be primary but having used a different mortar mix for the base.
- 3.2.5 The uppermost section of the wall (c.40 cm) immediately below the eaves was also of a similar construction to the main primary wall but with a slightly different mix of mortar [7]. This area is also of interest as it retains patches of a historic base lime render and smaller fragments of a white lime surface render. From the rough construction of the wall it would clearly have historically had a lime render coating, prior to the cement render, and the top of this wall is one of the very few areas where any traces of this historic render survives.
- 3.2.6 There is also an interesting feature at the west end of the primary wall, at the point where it adjoins the nave wall. At this junction the upper part of the chancel wall steps out with two flat, stone 'corbels' at c.80 cm and c.1.9 m above ground level. The wall was rendered but the removal of this has revealed that the stonework is partly built over the jamb of the primary door and is clearly later than the main wall. It has a soft, light grey mortar and the main material is a mixture of chalk, flint and a small number of bricks [8]. At its top it partially overlies the small fragment of surviving primary render.
- 3.2.7 The main fabric of the later eastern third (c.1 m) of the chancel wall comprises a large area of roughly squared and coursed chalk blocks of various sizes (eg 25 cm x 15 cm - 7 cm x 10 cm). The mortar is again soft with chalky flecks in and it is a

very light grey/white colour [2]. The eastern part of the wall (c. 1 m) is contemporary with the rest of the wall but it is of more regular, larger blocks (25 x 15 cm - 15 x 10 cm) reflecting the fact that this is the end of the gable wall [5].

- 3.2.8 It is not possible to give a definite date for the construction of the extension from the construction of the walls. The relatively regular coursed nature of the chalk blocks is very different from the primary, 12th-century flint walls and it is broadly similar to the construction of the elements added in the 19th-century by Butterfield (detailed later). This suggests that the extension may have been relatively recent (18th-19th century) but the roof which extends over the whole chancel is much older than that (detailed later) and the window in the east wall of the extension has been dated to the late 13th century (VCH, list description) so the most likely date for the extension is the late 13th century. This demonstrates the difficulty in dating stone walls and how walls 500 years apart in date can appear very similar.
- 3.2.9 The north elevation of the nave is more complicated and has more distinct contexts than the chancel. The most significant feature of the elevation is the fact that there are three distinct patches of the wall [9] which appear to be identical to the primary wall of the chancel, both in terms of the main construction material (uncoursed flint) and the mortar used to bond it (soft, ochre coloured). This implies that the nave is contemporary with the chancel although it has been much altered since its original construction.
- 3.2.10 The main patch of the primary wall is the lower part to the east of the porch which extends up to a height of c.1.75 m between the windows and to the east of the eastern window. Clearly when the two windows in this part of the elevation were inserted (in the 15th and early 20th century) this necessitated the truncation and partial removal of part of this wall. The infill around the eastern window is chalk and flint with a light grey soft mortar [11] while that around the western window (ie immediately east of the porch) is also chalk and flint but with a different mortar [18].
- 3.2.11 The base [12] of the wall to the east of the porch, immediately beneath the main patch of primary wall [9], appears the same as the base of the chancel wall [4]. Presumably this is the primary, 12th-century base of the wall and as with the chancel a slightly different mortar mix was used for the base from the main wall. There are further small patches of primary wall immediately east of the porch roof [9] and immediately west of the porch wall. Above the western side of the porch roof is a large patch of brick rebuild [13].
- 3.2.12 The western part of the nave wall (immediately west of the porch to the corner of the wall) has a construction broadly similar to the extension of the chancel [2] but with larger blocks including some quite large up to 40 cm x 30 cm [14]. This section of the wall has sandstone quoins and the faces of the larger blocks have visible tooling marks.

- 3.2.13 It is interesting to note that the uppermost c.1.5 m of the wall (above the height of the windows) has been rebuilt for much of its length [16, 17] suggesting that the wall was raised, presumably when the roof was built, possibly in the 17th century. It is also worth noting that the main horizontal line above which has been rebuilt is the same height as the eaves of the chancel strongly suggesting the walls of the nave were originally of the same height as the chancel. The central section [17] (above the porch and the central window) is constructed of regular coursed chalk blocks of a similar form to the construction of the whole of the western end [14] of the wall although with a darker mortar.
- 3.2.14 The north elevation of the tower is of regular construction for its lower half with small nodules of tightly compacted, uncoursed flint [19]. There are patches where the flint is coursed and the soft ochre coloured mortar is of a form which appears to be the same as the primary mortar of the chancel (and nave) although it has been largely covered by later pointing and render. The upper half of the tower elevation is of regular coursed, squared chalk blocks and may be a later extension or rebuild of the tower [20].
- 3.2.15 Among the interesting features revealed in the western half of the nave elevation and the tower are a series of put-log holes which would have been used to erect scaffolding when the tower was first constructed and rendered. There are two clear levels of holes in the north face of the tower (c.1.75 m and c.3.5 m above ground) and two further levels at the same height in western half of the nave wall. The lower two holes in the tower are particularly well constructed with clear 50 cm long lintels over the 15 cm² holes and lined by chalk blocks (although the main walling is of flint nodules).
- 3.3 **South elevation**
- 3.3.1 **Before current works:** The south elevation is more complicated than the north as much of both the chancel and nave walls have been obscured by two secondary lean-to structures each of which were added in Butterfield's c.1861 works. The eastern lean-to is towards the centre of the south elevation of the chancel and it encloses the vestry. It has no windows but there are two windows in the chancel, one to either side of the vestry. That to the west comprises two separate lancet arches while that to the east comprises two lights in a single arch. Each of these windows is believed to date to the 13th century (VCH and list description).
- 3.3.2 The lean-to against the south wall of the nave was added in the 1861 works as a south aisle and it necessitated the removal of two-thirds of the original nave wall. The only surviving section of the nave wall is at the east end and it contains a three-light window which the VCH dates to the late 14th century.
- 3.3.3 Prior to the current work almost the whole elevation was covered by mid 20th-century cement render apparently largely of a single phase although some patching-up work had been undertaken. The one area without render was the upper third of

the tower where the stone was left exposed [34]. The stonework in this area comprises regular partially coursed limestone.

- 3.3.4 ***Evidence revealed by render removal:*** As detailed above the eastern third of the chancel is known to be a later addition (possibly in the late 13th century) and this is confirmed by the removal of render from the south wall of the chancel to the east of the vestry lean-to [22]. This has shown that the construction of this wall is the same as the east elevation of the chancel and the eastern part of the north wall with relatively regular chalk blocks of various sizes (eg 20 cm x 15 cm).
- 3.3.5 Unfortunately most of the primary south wall of the chancel is covered by the c.1861 vestry but there is a c.1.75 m wide strip of the primary chancel wall which has been exposed adjacent to the nave. In this area the primary wall survives [24] and its construction is the same as the north wall of the chancel with non-faced flint, roughly coursed and set in a soft ochre colour mortar. It is partly obscured by later patching with a white mortar but it is apparent that the main wall is primary. The two-lancet 13th-century window in this area is a secondary insertion shown by the later stone clearly around the jambs and sill. At the western corner of the chancel, where it steps out in the nave, the wall appears to have been partly reconstructed to allow the quoin to be partly rebuilt but it is clear that in parts the construction and primary mortar extends around the corner confirming that they are all of the same date.
- 3.3.6 Similarly to the north elevation of the chancel the top 20-30 cm of the wall, immediately below the wall plate, has traces of a soft white render with hair mixed in. This part of the wall is constructed of relatively flat chalk stones contrasting with the flint below and probably dates to the reconstruction of the roof (possibly in the 13th century or later). Removal of render has shown that the 19th-century vestry [23] is constructed of regular chalk blocks.
- 3.3.7 Immediately west of the chancel is the only surviving (and externally visible) section of the primary nave wall. Removal of render from this c.4 m wide section has shown that there is a clear constructional division between the main lower part of the wall and the upper c.1.5 m. The lower part of the wall [25] appears to be substantially the primary wall (albeit heavily patched up) and is of similar construction to the north face of the chancel. It comprises non-squared and non-faced flint nodules roughly coursed and laid with a soft ochre colour mortar. Although the wall is believed to be largely primary it is obscured in several areas by later patching including many bricks, stones and reused flint mixed in and with a later mortar (light grey/white) which bonds the later elements and hides much of the primary mortar. The upper part of this section of the wall or context [ie upper part of 25] has a large patch of flints very roughly compacted together without any attempt at coursing which suggests that the top of the original wall may have collapsed and it was roughly rebuilt reusing the same flints but without the original coursing. The window within [25] has a number of chalk infill blocks surrounding it and although there is surprisingly little mortar immediately around the window

what there is is secondary confirming that the window is a secondary insertion. The VCH dates it to the late 14th century.

- 3.3.8 The upper part of the wall [26] has clearly been rebuilt and it comprises chalk blocks with a light beige, medium hard lime mortar. The blocks are roughly coursed similarly to elsewhere. This corresponds with evidence in the north wall of the nave showing that when the roof was rebuilt (possibly in the 17th century) the walls of the nave were raised by c.1.5 m and that they would originally have been of the same height as the chancel walls.
- 3.3.9 The south face of the secondary aisle which dates to the c.1861 alterations is almost entirely of roughly squared chalk blocks [27] bonded with a relatively hard lime mortar. The blocks are of various sizes from very small up to 35 cm x 20 cm. There is a later brick pier which has been added to the wall and two small low sections of brick patching [28].
- 3.3.10 As referred to above the upper third of the south face of the tower was not rendered but the removal of render from the rest of the tower has revealed that the main construction of this wall [19] is the same as that of the north face. It comprises small nodules of generally uncoursed flint (roughly coursed in patches) bonded with a soft ochre coloured mortar. There are several patches of brick infill half way up the south elevation of the tower.

3.4 East elevation

- 3.4.1 **Before current works:** the east elevation of the nave has a tall two-light lancet window which is thought to date to the late 13th century (VCH, listing and Pevsner) and prior to the current works the whole elevation was covered by mid 20th-century render other than the stone dressings around the window and stone quoins.
- 3.4.2 **Evidence revealed by render removal:** Beneath the 20th-century render the east elevation of the chancel is almost entirely of a single phase construction [35] the same as the eastern end of the north and south elevations. It clearly dates to the extension of the chancel referred to previously possibly undertaken in the 13th century. It is of chalk blocks of various sizes roughly coursed in some areas and uncoursed in others. The blocks are roughly squared but as elsewhere many of the blocks have lost their faces (possibly frost damage). The main distinction in the sizes of the blocks is that those in the lower part of the elevation (beneath the window) are generally larger to make the wall more stable. In addition those stones at the northern and southern ends of the wall are generally larger to increase the stability of the corners of the building so therefore there are 'panels' of smaller, flatter stones either side of the window and towards the apex of the gable. From the construction and mortar of the jambs and sill the window appears primary to this wall. The only secondary features in the wall are a few isolated holes (some put logs) which have been infilled with bricks and cement mortar. Unlike those at

the western end of the north elevation these possible put-logs are not regularly spaced or in a clear pattern.

- 3.4.3 Removal of render from the east elevations of the two lean-to's on the south side of the church has confirmed that they are of the same regular construction as the south walls of each of these structures.

3.5 West elevation

- 3.5.1 ***Before current works:*** The west elevation of the tower was the only substantial part of the church that was not covered with external cement render before the start of the current restoration. It is formed of English bond brickwork, of probable late 17th or early 18th-century date and clearly replaced (or possibly just refaced) an earlier west well to the tower. The tower is supported by two stone corner buttresses and within the brick at ground floor level is a reset 2-light 13th-century window.

- 3.5.2 The west wall of the nave (both to north and south of the tower) was covered with cement render prior to the works as was the wall of the south aisle.

3.5.3 ***Evidence revealed by render removal:***

- 3.5.4 The removal of render from the west wall of the nave to the east of the tower revealed that this wall was of regular coursed chalk blocks and almost certainly this wall was entirely (or substantially) rebuilt in the 19th-century works when the south aisle was added. The construction of the aisle wall and the nave wall appear the same. To the north side of the tower the west wall of the nave is older but has been substantially rebuilt at the same time as the west end of the north wall. Towards the corner the wall is now of coursed chalk but to the south of this (towards the tower) the wall is of rough flint, rubble construction.

- 3.5.5 The west side of the 19th-century porch is formed of a combination of flint and stone clearly designed to blend with the rest of the church and to give it an 'evolved' or historical feel to it.

3.6 Chancel roof

- 3.6.1 The chancel has a steeply pitched gabled roof and the removal of the clay pegged tiles in the current works have revealed a greater understanding of its structural form.

- 3.6.2 Although the roof structure is in a moderately poor condition the historic form and fabric is substantially intact and it has not been greatly altered since its construction, possibly in the 14th century. It is a common rafter roof with no full trusses but 18 pairs of coupled rafters (including two pairs which are built into the east gable wall). Each pair of rafters (11 cm x 9 cm) is braced by a collar (11 cm x 9 cm, 130 cm below apex) and by two raking struts the upper ends of which meet at the centre of the underside of the collar and the lower ends of which are pegged

towards the centre of the underside of each rafter. Immediately below this point on the underside of each rafter is a vertical ashlar post (12 cm x 10 cm) which sits on an ashlar plate (10 cm x 17 cm) which runs parallel to the wall plate c.80 cm inset from it. Between the wall plate and ashlar plate are a series of 80 cm long horizontal spurs aligned with each pair of rafters. There is a single purlin (21 cm x 10 cm) to each slope which runs beneath the rafters at a height just below the collar but there is no ridge piece. The purlin is jointed with secret bridle scarfs, a type of scarf joint which has been noted by OA in several buildings in South Oxfordshire in recent years (eg Drayton St Leonards Barn, Half Moon pub in Cuxham). However the carpentry of the purlins and the fact that they have sunk considerably relative to the rest of the roof suggests that they may have been a secondary insertion. The wall plates and ashlar plates are jointed with bridle scarfs.

- 3.6.3 Although there are no full trusses there are three tie-beams which brace the roof. There is one central tie together with one at each end of the chancel roof and these tie-beams (29 cm x 16 cm) are set immediately above the height of the horizontal spurs. They are not jointed to any rafters and are likely to have been a secondary insertion.
- 3.6.4 The roof members are pegged, they are largely of elm and they have long, scratched carpenters marks typical for a medieval roof. The main members are all primary. The rafters are laid flat and there is little clear evidence of reused timbers. The timbers used are of good quality (although the purlins are waney) with each one roughly squared although some sections have now worn away and a small number of edge sections have been used. The roof has clearly been recovered at least once since its original construction and a relatively small number of secondary props and supporting timbers have been added. Several of these are towards the feet of each primary rafter to add support to the lower part of the roof and in various areas the purlins have sunk so battens have been added to their upper faces to directly support the rafters. In addition on the north side of the roof additional ashlar posts have been added as the primary posts have started to spread or diverge.
- 3.6.5 One of the interesting features of the roof is the fact that close to the foot of each rafter is a circular hole (2.5 cm diameter, 7 cm deep) in one side of each rafter. Small holes such as these have been identified during investigations of many historic buildings and they are known as rafter holes in the field of vernacular architectural studies (See "Rafter holes at Old Hall, Calverly, North Yorkshire" by Mennim A M (1973) *Vernacular Architecture* 14: 54 and <http://www.ccurrie.me.uk/vag/walker/aisled3.htm>). Their precise function is a matter of some conjecture but it thought that they are associated with the initial setting out of a roof on the ground prior to its final erection.
- 3.6.6 Beneath the roof structure is a sloped lath and plaster ceiling which is fixed to the undersides of the ashlar posts and the raking struts. The lath and plaster is later than the main structure, with thin post-medieval laths, and it probably dates to the 19th-century.

3.6.7 **Interpretation of chancel roof:** it is not possible to give a definitive date for the construction of the chancel roof but there are pieces of evidence and various diagnostic features that can provide some indication. The overall form of the roof with steep pitches and coupled rafters (but not trusses) is indicative of a relatively early roof (ie probably 13th or 14th century) as are specific features such as the lack of a ridge piece, the long carpenters marks and the fact that rafters and other members are laid flat. The nave roof was originally steeply pitched, similarly to the chancel roof, before it was replaced possibly in the 17th century. The chancel roof is almost certainly significantly older than that of the nave and may date to the 14th but it could well date to the extension of the chancel, which is believed to have been undertaken in the late 13th century.

3.6.8 If the roof does date to the late 13th century then the purlins are likely to have been a secondary addition as they are not normally found on roofs as early as this but if they are original to the roof then this suggests the roof is slightly later (possibly 14th-century or even 15th century). It was not possible to confirm with certainty whether the purlins were original to the roof but from the overall form of the they appeared to probably be later additions.

3.7 Nave roof

3.7.1 The roof above the nave is later and distinctly different to that above the chancel. Its modern profile (prior to the current works) dates to 1952 when a softwood rafter roof with tile cladding was added above the previous roof. However the structure of the older roof remains substantially visible within the church and the current works to return the roof to its previous lower profile have revealed that much of the upper part of the structure also remains intact. It is in very poor condition (worse than the older roof above the chancel) and there is a considerable sag between each truss. The substantially surviving historic roof above the nave is likely to date to the 17th century although the VCH speculates that it may be of 15th-century date.

3.7.2 The historic roof above the nave comprises five full trusses with intermediate principal rafters between each truss and with the undersides of each main member decorative moulded to provide an impressive appearance inside the church. The current works involved scaffolding the inside of the church and this has allowed a close inspection of the trusses within the church. Each truss comprises a cambered tie-beam (29 cm tall x 22 cm wide) with moulded underside, a pair of principal rafters, a central post between tie and the apex and a low post to each side between rafter and tie immediately beneath the single purlin to each slope.

3.7.3 The ends of each tie-beam are supported on a short curved post which sits on a stone corbel in the wall and which has a moulded inner side to match that of the tie-beam. An axial plate (31 x 14 cm) rests on top of the tie-beam, directly above the curved post, and this supports the principal rafters in each truss and the intermediate principals (21 cm wide x 24 cm tall). The rafters continue over this plate and the ends rest on an outer wall plate (14 cm²) aligned with the outer edge of the church

wall. There is also an inner wall plate (15 cm tall x 21 cm wide) aligned with the internal face of the wall and the wall plates are jointed together with horizontal spurs which have plain mortice and tenon joints at each end. The wall plates have simple bridle scarfs.

- 3.7.4 Between each truss and each intermediate principal rafter are two common rafters (12 cm x 8 cm) laid flat. The principal rafters are all jointed at their heads to a large, wide ridge piece with tapered underside similar to that of the purlins (one to each slope). As referred to above the roof has suffered considerable sagging and perhaps related to this a number of iron bracing plates have been bolted to the undersides of some purlins and other members to tie various joints together.
- 3.7.5 The main roof members together with most of the rafters are of oak and they largely appear to be sawn (although some show adze marks). The carpenters marks are much shorter than those in the chancel roof and they appear to have been made using a thin chisel (rather than inscribed). They also appear to follow a Roman numeral sequence although few are visible and it is not easy to follow the pattern.
- 3.7.6 The modern ceiling within the nave is of 1950s boards but the roof investigation has revealed that directly above this the historic lath and plaster substantially survives. Above the plaster are 9 cm wide boards (contemporary with the main roof) which would have supported the former lead covering of the roof.
- 3.7.7 The removal of the 1950s roof and the roof tiles has revealed various phases of construction in the gable between the nave and chancel. The uppermost part of the gable clearly relates to the 1950s raising of the roof and is formed of mid 20th-century pink and yellow brick. Beneath this is the partially surviving stone coping from the 17th-century roof which has a shallower pitch than the 1950s roof and the lower third has been removed from each side as it would have interfered with the later roof. The most interesting feature however is towards the apex where the chancel roof extends through the 1950s brickwork by c.30 cm and is set on top of the 17th-century stone coping. A pair of rafters is clearly visible beyond (ie to the west of) the brickwork with thick battens for the roof tiles. These rafters almost certainly pre-date the stone coping and their lower parts must have been truncated to allow the insertion of the coping stones.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1.1 The building investigation at St Michael and All Angels, Letcombe Bassett has been a valuable exercise in both making a record of the church and in developing a greater understanding of the historical development of the building. The restoration involved exposing a great deal of previously obscured historic fabric (walls and roof structures) and OA has taken the opportunity to monitor, record and investigate the structure.
- 4.1.2 The clearest way in which evidence revealed by the current investigation has advanced understanding of the church is that the chancel was extended eastward by

about 3 m. The window in the east wall of the extension is of late 13th-century date and as the window is primary to the wall the extension is also likely to be of that date. The work has also confirmed that the nave and the original chancel are of the same date (although the nave is much altered) and that the walls of the nave were originally the same height as those of the chancel with a more steeply pitched roof. Mortar in the lower parts of the tower walls also appears to match that in the chancel and nave and it appears that this was also part of the original 12th-century church although the brick west wall is later. The work has confirmed that the nave roof is probably of 17th-century date (or possibly 16th century) but that the roof above the chancel is probably significantly older. From its overall form it could well survive from the extension of the chancel at the end of the 13th century although it could alternatively be a slightly later addition dating to the 14th century.

Jonathan Gill
Oxford Archaeology
December 2005

APPENDIX I BIBLIOGRAPHY

Published Sources

- Paige W (ed) *The Victoria History of the County of Berkshire* Vol IV (1924)
Pevsner N *The Buildings of England: Berkshire* (1966)

Web sites

www.churchplansonline.org
www.imagesofEngland.org

APPENDIX II SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: St Michael and All Angels Church, Letcombe Bassett

Site code: LBSM05

Grid reference: SU 374 849

Date and duration of project: The site work undertaken in March, April and May 2005.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES. It will be deposited with an appropriate agreed body.

Contents of Archive:

9 colour slide films (35 mm)
9 black and white film contact sheets (35 mm)
9 black and white photographic negatives (35 mm)
A copy of this report

APPENDIX III LISTED BUILDING DESCRIPTION

IoE number: 437215
 Location: CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL
 LETCOMBE BASSETT, VALE OF WHITE HORSE,
 OXFORDSHIRE

Date listed: 24 November 1966
 Date of last amendment: 11 December 1985
 Grade II*

LETCOMBE BASSETT

SU38SE
 10/110
 24/11/66

Church of St. Michael
 (Formerly listed as St. Michael
 &

GV

All Angels)

LETCOMBE BASSETT SU38SE 10/110 Church of St. Michael 24/11/66 (Formerly listed as St. Michael & GV All Angels) II* Church. C12, remodelled c.1861 by W. Butterfield. Chalk and sarsen coursed rubble rendered; limestone quoins and dressings; tile roof. C12 chancel; nave remodelled and south aisle and vestry built c.1861; late C13 west tower. Two- light east window much restored; north wall of chancel has C12 round-headed lancet and fine C12 doorway has roll moulded arch, scalloped capitals with 4 carved signs of the Evangelists; south wall of chancel has similar C12 lancet and 2-light late C13 windows; mid C19 vestry with pointed arches to doors in end walls. South wall of nave has two 3-light C15 windows and 3-light ogee headed window of c.1861: gabled porch of c.1861 has limestone ashlar front, flint side wall, pierced gable end bargeboard; north wall of nave has 3-light late C13 window and late C13 door with fillet and roll- moulded architrave. South aisle, c.1861, has one-, 2- and 3-light windows. Gabled roofs to nave and chancel. West tower has diagonal buttresses; late C13 two- light window set in late C17/early C18 English bond brick wall. Interior: polychrome reredos with coloured inlaid stone, tiled bands round chancel walls, piscina, altar rail, benches, floor tiles and 2-bay canted roof all of c.1861. C12 chancel arch has carved leaf trails to abaci of responds. Trefoil- headed niche for images to east wall of nave, with blocked access to rood over. Nave has trefoiled pulpit, lectern, prayer desk, benches and screen to tower room, all of c.1861; Limestone font has circular bowl narrowed to octagonal base, and cover probably of c.1861: pointed stoup next to south door: late C19 stained glass windows; 4-bay C17 common rafter roof. Arch-braced collars to roof of porch. Buildings of England, Berkshire, p.166.

APPENDIX IV CONTEXT TABLE

This table details the contexts identified in each elevation after the removal of the cement render. The location of each context is shown on the elevations.

No	Description
1	Primary (12th-century) fabric in north wall of chancel. Uncoursed wall, very roughly coursed in parts to uncoursed elsewhere. Generally flint nodules of various sizes (average c. 15 cm x 10 cm but very varied). Flint is not squared or faced. Mortar is dark ochre colour and soft with flint specks. Some chalk blocks mixed in. No straw but some hair mixed into mortar. Window and door contemporary with this wall. Would have been plastered/rendered.
2	Large area of roughly coursed chalk clunch: squared blocks of various sizes, eg 25 x 15 - 7 x 10 cm. Mortar again soft with lots of chalky flecks mixed in. Light grey/white colour.
3	Patch of rebuild. Bricks very roughly built in - reused bricks, some just half bricks. Depth of bricks varies from 4.5 - 6.5 cm. Mortar soft. Immediately around this patch the face of the chalk blocks has come away - possibly associated with this rebuild.
4	Rubblely flint construction, similar to 1 but mortar is lighter colour (similar consistency). Probably contemporary with 1 and all original but different mortar used at base.
5	Chalk probably contemporary with 2 but more regular, larger blocks (25 x 15 - 15 x 10). Clear crack with 4 but presumably it's just that 5 is the side of the thick gable.
6	Chalk but face has crumbled away. Same date as other chalk above.
7	Uppermost 40 cm of wall immediately beneath eaves. Similar construction to 1 but with different mortar mix. Retains patches of a historic base lime render and smaller fragments of a white lime surface render.
8	Sloped edge, set on 3 stone 'corbels' (very thin corbels which only step out slightly from wall). Later than 1. Partly built over jamb of door. Light grey soft mortar, mix of chalk, flint, a few bricks. At top it overlies tiny bit of surviving historic render - base coat and further layer on top (chalky lime).
9	Apparently same as 1 - primary wall construction in north wall of nave. Mortar identical, flint, uncoursed.
10	Brick infill. Bricks 7 x 22 cm. 18th - 19th century.
11	Generally infill - chalk and flint. White/light grey mortar (soft) relates partly to infill of windows and immediately under window sills.
12	Apparently same as 4.
13	Red brickwork. All infill/patching. All rough bricks various sizes, courses not very regular, lots of bricks small (eg 4.5 cm thick) but many 6.5 cm thick Presumably 18th - 19th. Interesting that there's a putlog hole aligned with these in adjacent section.
14	Large area of chalk construction but different to 2. Blocks generally larger, some quite large (40 cm x 30 cm) though size varies considerably. Sandstone quoins. Faces of the larger blocks apparently worked with adze.
15	Similar to 16 but distinct mortar and chalk construction. Probably infill/rebuild.
16	Apparently infill patch. Mainly chalk, various sizes, chalk rubble really with soft creamy mortar. Clear distinction with larger chalk blocks to west and end of gable to east. Similar to 11
17	Top of wall apparently rebuilt, pretty regular chalk, similar to 14 but mortar more ochre coloured.
18	Similar to 11 but not quite - both relate to infill of windows but windows not same date.
19	Flint - small nodules. Generally uncoursed and compacted but little patches where it is

	coursed and it has same ochre coloured mortar as main original mortar but much covered by later mortar.
20	Upper half of the tower. Regular coursed, squared chalk blocks and may be a later extension or rebuild of the tower.
21	North face of porch, rebuilt in 1860s works. uncoursed flint construction.
22	Chalk. Generally coursed blocks, squared, various sizes eg 20 x 15 (but v. varied). Same date (almost certainly) as 2 - mortar identical (light grey) but blocks generally larger on this side.
23	Regular chalk blocks similar to 22 and quite probably contemporary.
24	Basically same as 25. Original wall flint with ochre mortar (apparently same as ochre mortar in nave and chancel) but with lots of patching and later whitey mortar over much of original ochre. Window inserted. Later stone around jambs. At corner where the wall returns out to nave the construction is largely secondary but that is probably largely due to the quoin being rebuilt and there are definite patches where the ochre mortar continues around the corner showing that it is all of one build. As on the north side the top 20 cm or so (just below wall plate) has soft whitey render/coating with hair mixed in and flat chalk stones. Presumably this dates to when the roof was reconstructed. Large section above window has lots of chalk (looks rebuilt).
25	Section of south wall. Very patched up but it appears the main primary wall is generally of flint. Not squared or faced but laid generally in courses with soft ochre colour mortar. Some flints broken in half but not faced as such. The primary arrangement is largely obscured by later patching. Many bricks mixed in and stones and reused flint and by a later mortar (light grey/white) bonding much of the later patching and covering much of the primary ochre mortar. This wall has substantial quoins which extend up to top (so must be at least partly secondary). Upper part of 25 has large patch of flints v.roughly compacted as if the upper part of the wall collapsed and was rebuilt reusing the same flints but without the coursing. Window inserted. So patched up it's hard to be clear but the window has later mortar around it and it has various infill chalk blocks inserted around it.
26	Upper part of wall rebuilt. Chalk blocks, lime mortar, medium hard, v. light beige. Roughly coursed similar to elsewhere.
27	Chalk, very roughly squared but not dressed. Roughly coursed, hardish lime mortar. Sizes from v. small up to 35 x 20 cm.
28	Brick patching, possibly where lower face of wall has cracked away. Possibly related to addition of render to give flat face. Also various other small isolated patches of similar brickwork.
29	Red brick pier with cement mortar.
30	Brick infill but bricks fairly consistent sizes (5.5 x 20 cm) and same as those in west wall of tower. Probably done at same time.
31	Brick infill, bricks appear later than 30, Probably 18th - 19th century.
32	Infill. Much of face of chalk lost
33	Infill
34	Upper section of south elevation of tower. Roughly coursed limestone.
35	East elevation of chancel. Other than a very few isolated bricks with cement mortar (put logs?) the wall appears very substantially single phase and same date as eastern extension to chancel in north and south walls. Chalk blocks, various sizes, not genuinely coursed. Patches of coursing but sizes vary too much. As elsewhere many of the blocks have lost their facing (through frost?). Main distinction in terms of sizes of stones is that the ends of the north and south walls is of larger suggesting they built those first and then filled in the gable and the lower part (beneath the window) is also of larger blocks generally so the 'panels' either side of the window are formed of smaller, flatter, cotswold-type stone blocks. Window seems primary - mortar around the jamb seems the same as elsewhere. Limemortar, soft, whiteish.

**APPENDIX V EXTRACT FROM VICTORIA HISTORY OF THE COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE
VOL IV**

A HISTORY OF BERKSHIRE

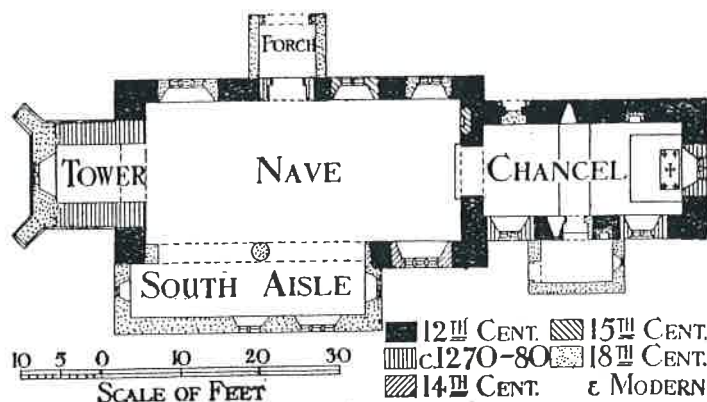
only one mill in the parish; it stands on Letcombe Brook, rather more than a quarter of a mile north of the village.

The church of *ST. MICHAEL*^{74a} CHURCH consists of chancel 25 ft. by 11 ft. 6 in., with south vestry, nave 39 ft. 6 in. by 17 ft. 6 in., south aisle 29 ft. 6 in. by 7 ft., north porch, and west tower 8 ft. by 7 ft., all these measurements being internal.

The chancel is of 12th-century date and probably also the walls of the nave, but all the nave windows are of a later period, and the masonry being stuccoed makes it difficult to determine whether the original walls were rebuilt or whether the windows are insertions. The chancel may have been lengthened c. 1280-90, to which period its east and south windows belong, but its plan and the absence of all buttresses rather suggest that the whole is 12th-century work with later windows inserted. Towards the end of the 13th century the building underwent great changes, the north doorway and the tower being both of that period. The westernmost window on the south side of the chancel may be rather earlier, and that on the south side of the nave east of the

and there is a similar window opposite on the south side now opening to the vestry. Further west on the north side is an original round-headed doorway, now built up, with tympanum and arch of a single order with roll moulding on the edge, springing from quirked and chamfered imposts and angle shafts with cushion capitals and moulded bases. On the flat surface of the capitals are carved the emblems of the four Evangelists, the angel and the eagle on the east and the lion and the ox on the west of the opening, the width of which is only 23 in. The square inner jambs support a lintel with chamfered edge below the tympanum, the surface of which is scored across with horizontal, perpendicular and diagonal lines and may originally have had a thin coat of plaster. The neckings of the shafts below the capitals have on the east side an interlaced and on the west a cable moulding, and the figures above are boldly carved. The doorway was described in 1849 as 'blocked up for a fireplace,'⁷⁵ but the wall inside now shows no signs of this or of the original opening. In the south wall of the chancel are two windows, one near each end, that to the west being the older and consisting of two plain coupled lancets without containing arch

or hood mould, and the other of two trefoiled lights with circle above, below a pointed arch and label. The modern doorway to the vestry cuts into the sloping sill of the 12th-century window, and the roof consists of coupled spars with a single tie-beam. There are no remains of ancient ritual arrangements. The semicircular chancel arch is of a single square order springing from chamfered and carved imposts. The arch and jambs are quite plain, but it is possible that the opening may have been altered at some time in the 18th century, when probably the indented plaster ornament round the arch was added and the whole of the wall surface plastered.^{75a} The imposts, however, are remarkable for the rich nature of the



PLAN OF LETCOMBE BASSETT CHURCH

aisle is of the late 14th century. The remaining old window, on the north side of the nave, is a 15th-century insertion, the other two being modern. That near the pulpit dates from 1909. The south aisle was added in 1862, when the church underwent a restoration, and the porch and vestry are also modern. The west side of the tower has been rebuilt in brick, perhaps in the first half of the 18th century, and the whole of the tower was repaired in 1884.

With the exception of the brickwork in the tower and the south and east sides of its upper stages, which are of coursed rubble masonry with large quoins, the whole of the walling of the church is stuccoed externally and plastered inside. The roof of the nave is covered with lead overhanging at the eaves, and those of the chancel and aisle are tiled.

The chancel has a pointed east window of two plain lights with a quatrefoil within a circle in the head. On the north side is a small 12th-century round-headed window high up in the wall with square external rebate and head in one stone without label,

ornament with which they are covered and are returned some little distance along the west wall, north and south, though not taken through the full thickness of the wall. On the south side is a beautiful scroll pattern with a band of cable moulding below, while on the north is a scroll facing west and on the inner face an antique or leaf pattern, both with cable below. On either side of the arch at the east end of the nave is a niche, probably of 15th-century date, that on the north side having a trefoiled head, above which is the upper doorway to the rood-loft, all other trace of which is gone. A thickening in the wall outside at the junction of the chancel and nave indicates the position of the rood-stairs, but the lower doorway has disappeared.

The 15th-century window in the nave is square-headed and of two cinquefoiled lights; that to the west of the porch is modern. The pointed north doorway has continuous moulded head and jambs, but no label. Near to the eastern jamb inside is a pointed stoup. The south side of the nave is open for the greater part of its length by a modern arcade

^{74a} The invocation of the church is given in 1297 as All Saints (Adj. MS. 28024, fol. 137).

⁷⁵ Parker, *Ecl. Topog. Berks.* 41.

^{75a} About thirty years ago there was a large wooden cross over the chancel arch

on the west side (inform. from Rev. W. S. Tupholme).

of two pointed arches to the aisle, but is lighted at its east end by a square-headed window of three trefoiled ogee lights with inverted trefoils in the head, probably dating from c. 1380-90. The roof of the nave is apparently of 15th-century date, when it replaced an older one of higher pitch. It consists of four bays with moulded tie-beams and chamfered intermediate rafters and purlins. The principals are carried down the walls and rest on stone corbels carved with a saltire within a square frame. The ridge of the roof is below that of the chancel.

The tower is of three stages with diagonal buttresses on the west side and terminates in a straight parapet. The two lower stages are unmarked externally, the walls being unbroken up to the string below the belfry. The west side is faced its entire height with 2½-in. bricks and the buttresses and dressings are of red sandstone contemporary with the brickwork. The west window is of two trefoiled lights without containing arch or hood mould and may be a late 13th-century window reset or a late copy of an old opening. The belfry windows are plain square-headed openings, one on each side, and the parapet is moulded. The tower arch is of three chamfered orders without hood mould, towards the nave, and two facing west, dying into the wall at the springing. There is no vice.

The font consists of a plain circular stone bowl and stem on an octagonal to square base, and may be of 13th-century date. The pulpit and fittings are all modern. There are no ancient monuments, but in the chancel floor are inscribed stones to two former rectors, the Rev. W. Durham (d. 1686) and the Rev. H. Hill (d. 1707).

There is a ring of three bells, two dated 1576 and inscribed, 'Hail Mari sul of Gras. W.R.' and '+ Glori to God on hi in earth pes,' and the third cast by Oliver Cor of Aldbourne in 1726.

The plate is all modern and consists of a chalice, paten and flagon of 1862 by Keith; there is also a plated paten.

The registers before 1812 are as follows: the first volume is in two parts, the first containing entries from 1564 to 1642 and some at the end on inserted leaves for the years 1639, 1656, 1662, 1663, 1664, 1674, 1679 and 1681⁷⁶; the second part contains baptisms and burials from 1683 to 1776 and marriages from 1685 to 1738⁷⁷; (ii) baptisms and burials from 1776 to 1812, marriages from 1755 to 1767⁷⁸; (iii) marriages from 1720 to 1812.

The churchyard is surrounded by lime trees and

lies chiefly on the north side, where are four good tombs of late 17th and 18th-century date, two of which (one dated 1690) have rounded tops. Of the others, one is dated 1732, and the other is 18th-century work with 'Gothic' panelling on the sides.

Part of the advowson of Letcombe *ADVOWSON* Bassett was given by William Mau-duit to his daughter Isabel on her marriage.^{79a} In 1258 Alice de Scothot, who had acquired two parts of the manor in 1252,⁷⁹ sued Giles Bishop of Salisbury for not admitting a parson presented by her to the church here.⁸⁰ In 1258 Richard Longespée and William le Brun agreed with William and Isabel Beauchamp and Alice de Scothot that William, Isabel and Alice should present for one turn, then Richard and William for one turn, and afterwards William, Isabel and Alice, and the heirs of Isabel should present twice in succession and the other co-heirs once, and so on for ever.⁸¹ In 1297 William Asselin and Henry de Anwick gave their shares of the advowson to William Beauchamp Earl of Warwick,^{81a} who thus became possessed of the whole. In 1313 John de Anwick unsuccessfully claimed the advowson against Walter de Langton,⁸² and it followed the descent of the Beauchamps' lands here until 1356, when William de la Pole and Margaret his wife sold it to Thomas Palet and others.^{82a} From them it seems to have passed to Sir Thomas de Childrey, who died seised of it in 1407. It then passed with the advowson of Childrey to Corpus Christi College,⁸³ with the exception of one-third sold in 1561 by George Cope to James Yate and John Smith.^{83a} This portion then followed the descent of the manor of Mautravers in Childrey until 1634,⁸⁴ when it was the property of John Ashcombe. It afterwards passed to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, the owners of the larger portion, who presented in 1636,⁸⁵ and are the present patrons.

In 1291 the church was valued at £6 13s. 4d.⁸⁶ and in 1340 the ninth was valued at 10 marks.⁸⁷

The fuel allotment, acquired under *CHARITIES* the inclosure award of 1774, consists of 8 acres let at £3 a year.

In 1884 Percy Smith, by his will proved at Oxford 8 January, bequeathed £500, the income to be distributed among the poor. The legacy is represented by £500 15s. 1d. consols, producing £12 10s. 4d. yearly.

In 1885 Harriet Firth, by her will proved at Oxford 23 June, bequeathed £250 for the same purpose, represented by £248 10s. consols, producing £6 4s. 4d. yearly.

⁷⁶ On the first page is inscribed, 'The inclosed part of an ancient register of the Parish of Letcombe Bassett consisting of fifteen leaves and the mutilated parts of two others was found in the parsonage house of Letcombe Bassett & for its better preservation for the future affix'd to this register book in the year of our Lord 1791.'

⁷⁷ There is one entry in 1774-5.

⁷⁸ Thirteen entries were copied from an old register. 'The Register Book of marriages for this Parish beginning at the year 1755 having been greatly damaged by being kept in the chest in the church it was judged expedient that the same should be copied: the same was therefore accordingly copied into this book by John Batchelor, curate.'

^{79a} Add. MS. 28024, fol. 136.

⁷⁹ Feet of F. Berks. 36 Hen. III, no. 4.

⁸⁰ Cur. Reg. R. 160, m. 4.

⁸¹ Feet of F. Berks. 42 Hen. III, no. 25; Assize R. 43, m. 9.

^{81a} Add. MS. 28024, fol. 137.

⁸² De Banco R. 198, m. 155; 199, m. 73 d.

^{82a} Cal. Pat. 1301-7, pp. 500, 501; Feet of F. Div. Co. case 287, file 44, no. 495; Berks. 30 Edw. III, no. 12.

⁸³ Chan. Inq. p.m. 9 Hen. IV, no. 28; 13 Hen. IV, no. 34; Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin. 6 Hen. VI; Chan. Inq. p.m. 3 Edw. IV, no. 20; 4 Edw. IV, no. 13; Feet of F. Berks. Mich. 34 Hen. VIII; Hil. 34 Hen. VIII; East. and Trin. 4 & 5 Phil. and Mary; Mich. 9 & 10

Eliz.; Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), clxxiii, 1; Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.).

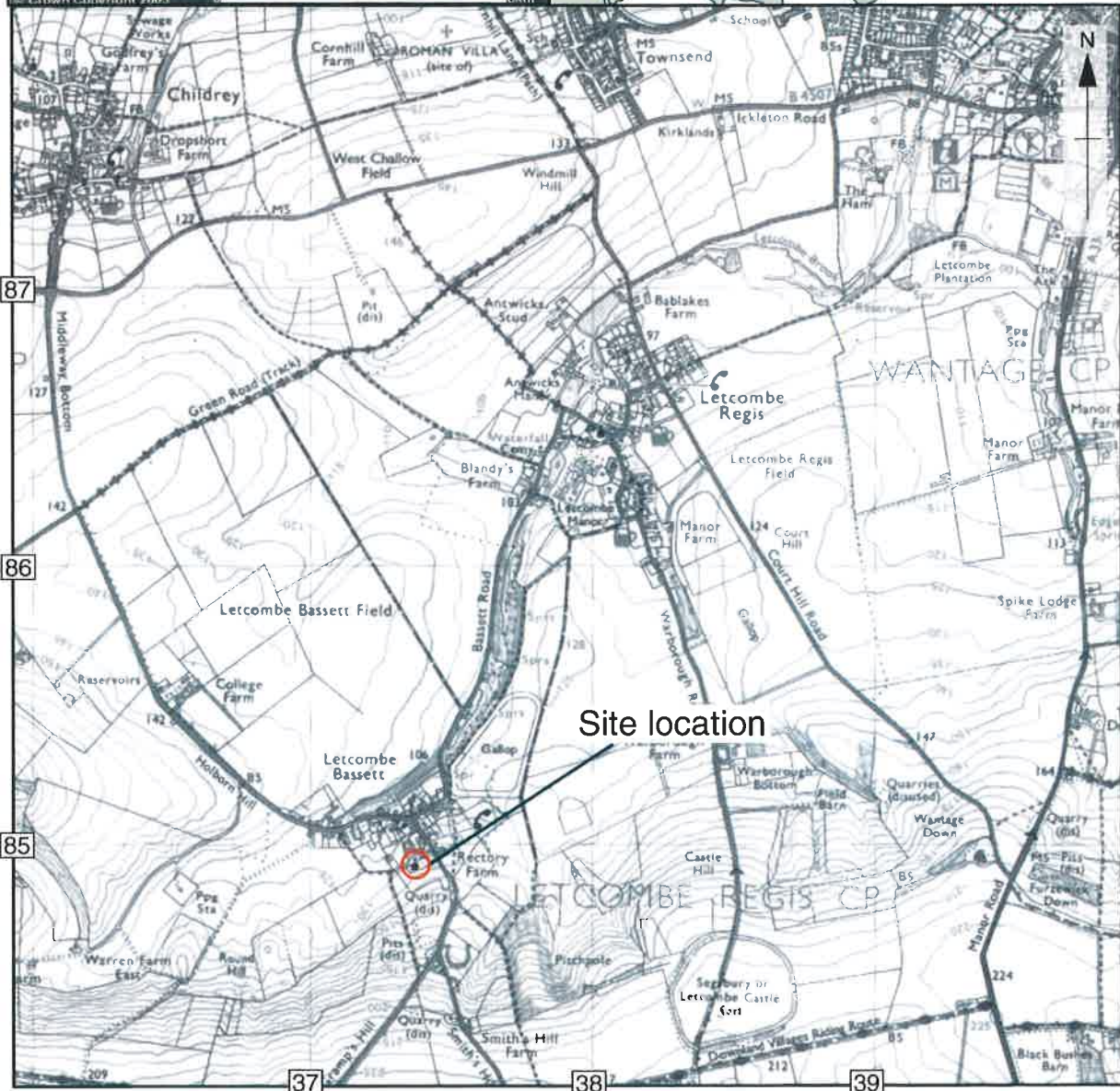
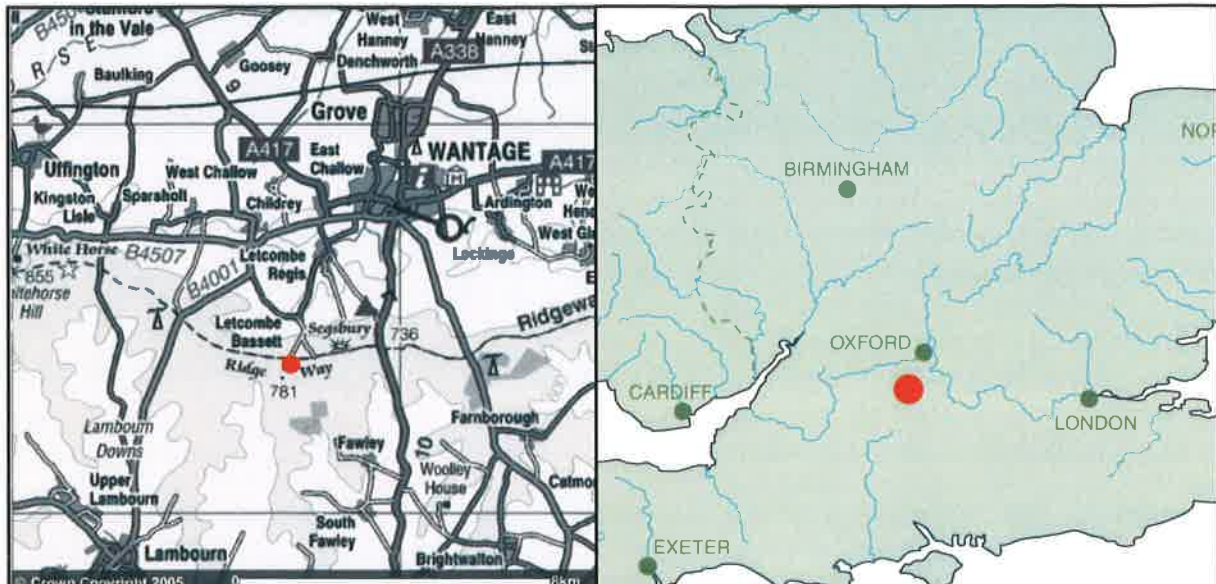
^{83a} Feet of F. Berks. Trin. 3 Eliz.

⁸⁴ Ibid. East. 19 Eliz.; Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccxxxiii, 65; cccxxxi, 112; Feet of F. Berks. Trin. 10 Chas. I. In 1662 the Crown presented, probably by lapse (Inst. Bks. [P.R.O.]).

⁸⁵ Inst. Bks. (P.R.O.). In 1761 they presented Timothy Neve, who was Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity at Oxford, 1783-98 (ibid.; *Dict. Nat. Biog.*).

⁸⁶ *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 186. The Abbots of Eynsham and Osney both had portions in the church at this time. The latter portion was granted in 1542 to the Dean and Chapter of Oxford (*L. and P. Hen. VIII*, xvii, g. 881 [26]).

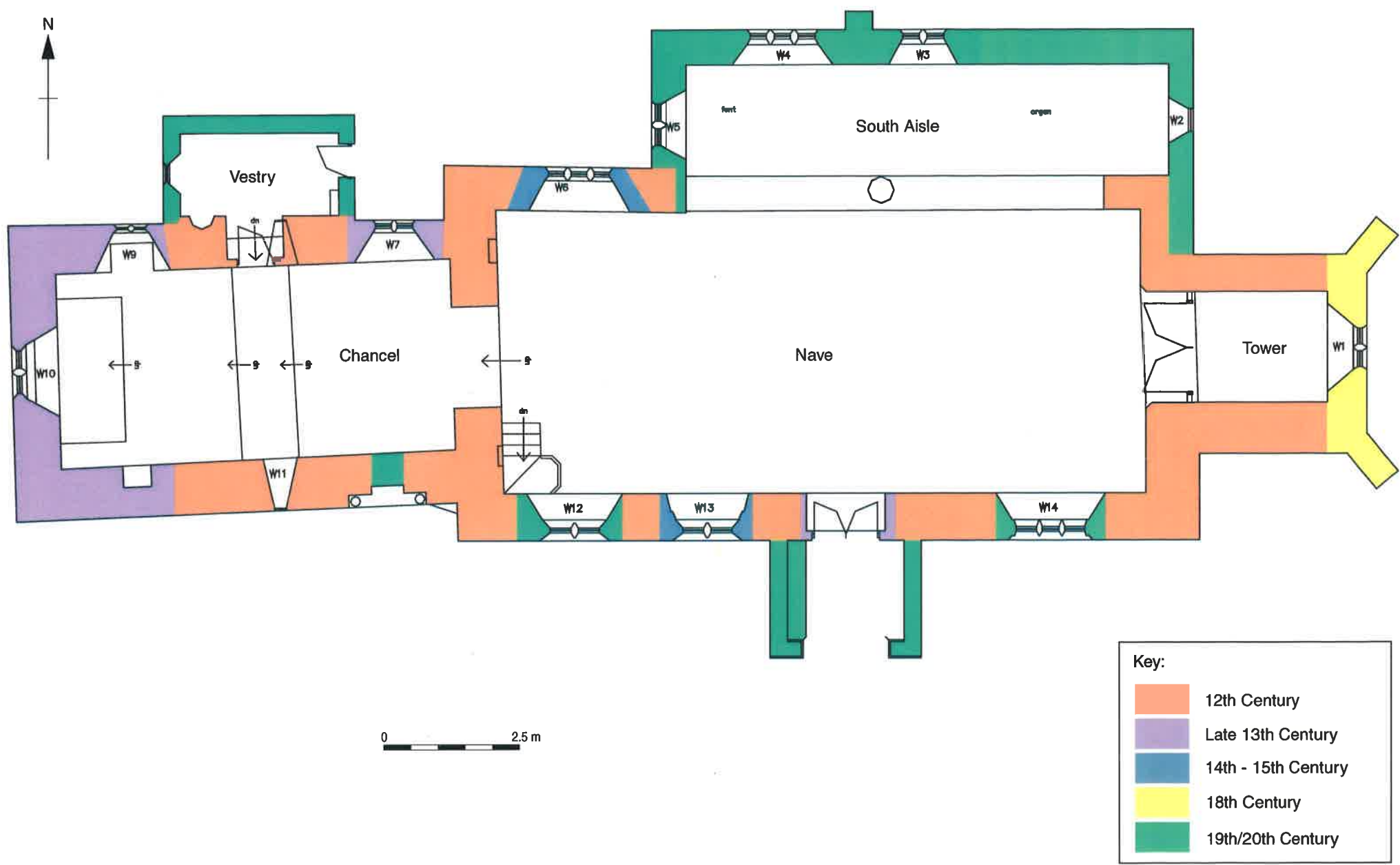
⁸⁷ *Inq. Nonarum* (Rec. Com.), 4.



Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location



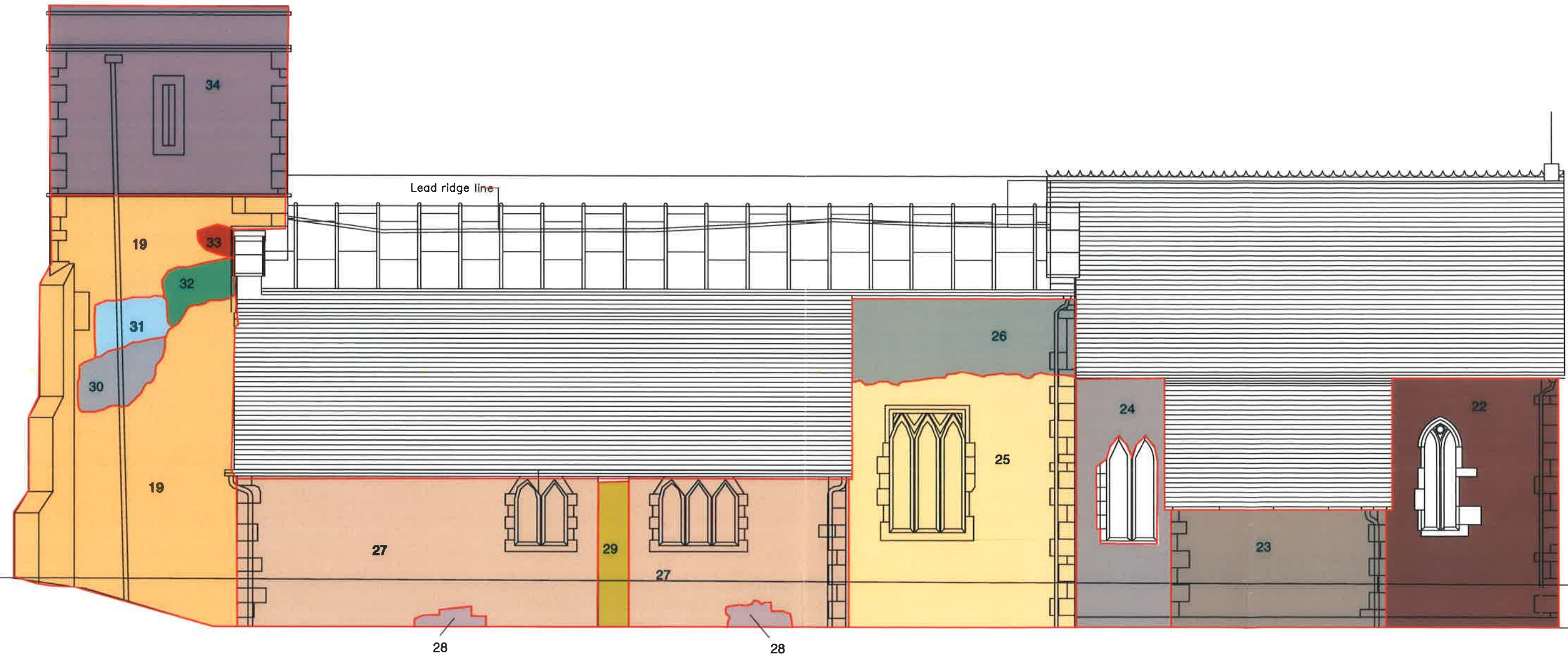
Key:

Orange	12th Century
Purple	Late 13th Century
Blue	14th - 15th Century
Yellow	18th Century
Green	19th/20th Century

Figure 2: Plan of Church



Figure 3: North elevation showing wall contexts



South Elevation

Figure 4: South elevation showing wall contexts

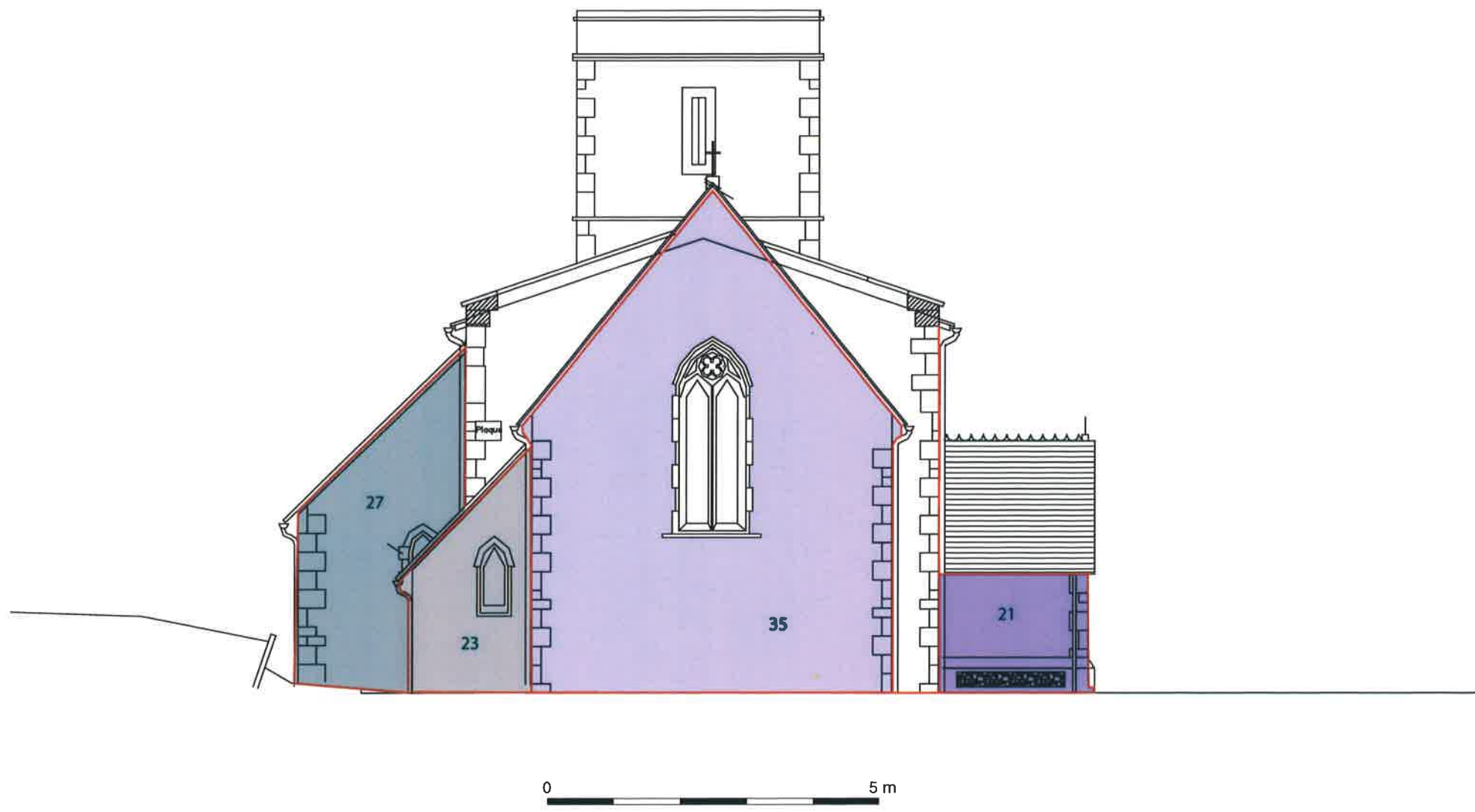


Figure5: East elevation showing wall contexts

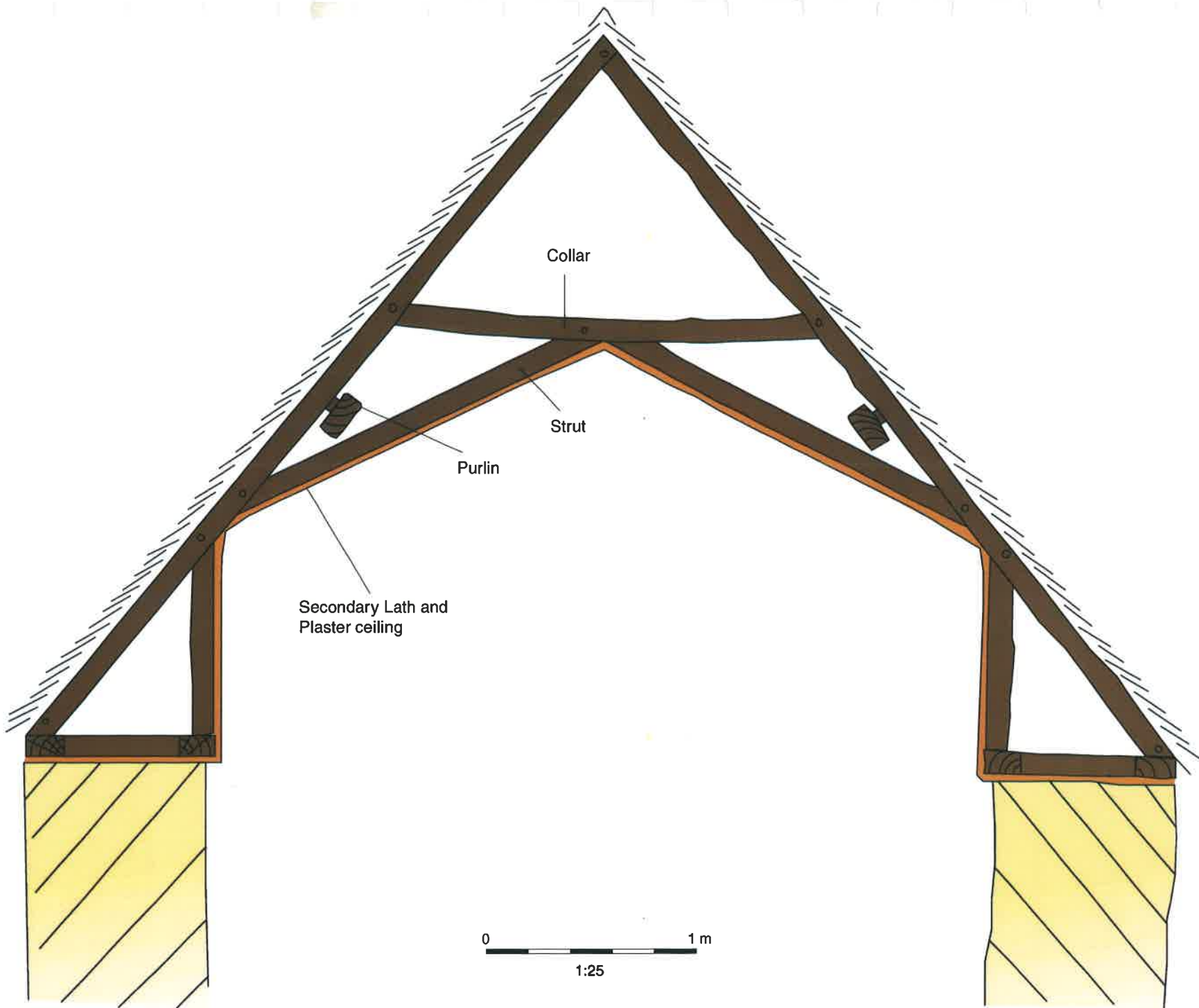


Figure 6: Section through channel roof, Letcombe Bassett Church

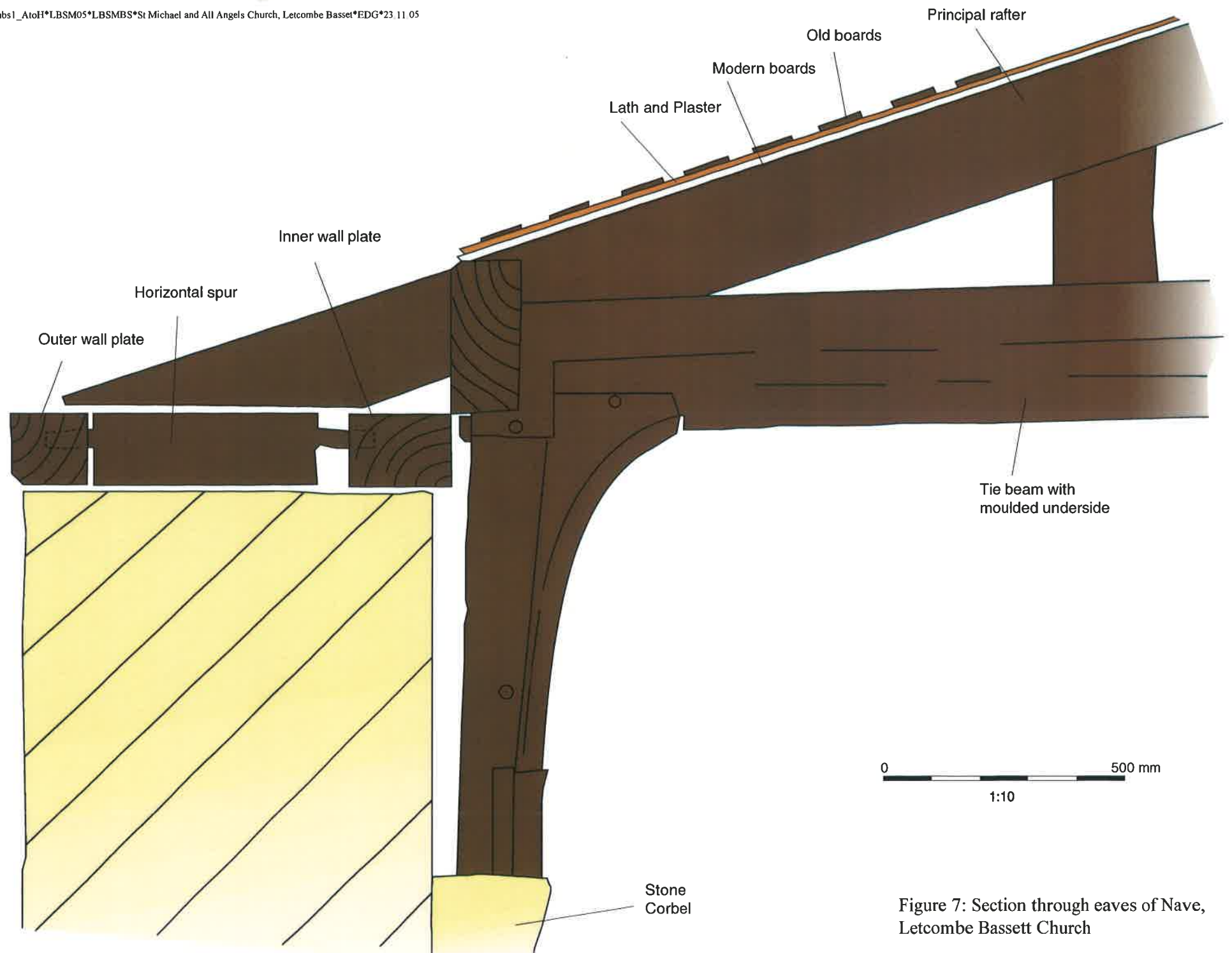


Figure 7: Section through eaves of Nave, Letcombe Bassett Church



Plate 1: The church from the south-east before the start of works



Plate 2: View from the east before the start of works



Plate 3: View from north-east showing chancel (left) and nave (right)



Plate 4: Tower at west end before the start of works



Plate 5: Primary 12th-century door in north wall of chancel



Plate 6: Arch over door after removal of cement render



Plate 7: Primary window in north wall of chancel after render removal



Plate 8: Patching at west end of chancel adjacent to nave



Plate 9: North wall of chancel showing primary wall to right and extension to left



Plate 10: Partially rebuilt south wall of nave



Plate 11: North wall of tower showing put-log holes



Plate 12: Rebuilt wall at north-west corner of nave



Plate 13: Inserted window in south wall of chancel



Plate 14: South wall of 19th-century south aisle



Plate 15: Internal ceiling of chancel



Plate 16: Roof truss above nave (possibly 17th century)



Plate 17: South side of roof above chancel



Plate 18: Feet of rafters in roof above chancel



Plate 19: North slope of roof above chancel



Plate 20: North slope of roof above chancel



Plate 21: Roof above nave from west



Plate 22: Roof above nave from east



Plate 23: East end of nave roof at junction with chancel



Plate 24: Scarf joint in wall plate on north side of nave



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