



# St Mary's Church Langley Marish Slough

## Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief



**Oxford Archaeology**

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**ST MARY'S CHURCH, LANGLEY MARISH  
SLOUGH (FORMERLY BUCKS.)  
NGR TQ 00450 7955**

***ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AND WATCHING BRIEF***

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## ST MARY'S CHURCH, LANGLEY MARISH

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AND WATCHING BRIEF

#### SUMMARY

*Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook an open area excavation and extended watching brief at St Mary's Church, Langley Marish on behalf of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) during construction work for a new outbuilding in October and November 2000. The excavations involved the removal of burials on the north side of the church within the footprint of the new building. The earliest burials appeared to be of late 18th- and early 19th-century date; the remainder dated to the Victorian period. Two brick vaults were discovered dating to the early part of the 19th century; a substantial crypt dated to c. 1821 belonging to the Ivy family had been blocked-up in the middle of the 19th century. Specialist contractors were responsible for the removal of three 20th-century burials located within the development area. No structural evidence for a precursor to this 12th-century church was forthcoming, and no evidence for medieval or earlier burials was recovered. Evidence for scaffold holes and repairs to the church during the post-medieval period was observed during the construction of a new doorway in the north wall of the church in January 2001.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and Scope of Work

- 1.1.1 In October and November 2000 Oxford Archaeology (OA, formerly Oxford Archaeological Unit) undertook an open-area excavation and extended watching brief at St Mary's Church, Langley Marish, on behalf of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) according to a WSI produced by OA and agreed with Slough District Council and the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor.
- 1.1.2 St Mary's Church is located on St Mary's Road, Langley, a village at the north-east side of Slough, formerly Buckinghamshire (NGR TQ 0045 7955) (Figure 1). In October 2000 work commenced on an extension to the north side of the church, comprising a porch, storeroom and toilet facilities with wheelchair access (Figure 2). The PCC of St Mary's instigated the project, which required the excavation and clearance of an area of the churchyard of approximately 30 m<sup>2</sup> to a depth of c.1.8 m. Plans for the project were devised by Patricia Brock Associates, Architects and Conservation Consultants of London. The PCC obtained appropriate Faculty permissions for the work, which included an archaeological recording action under the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure (1991) and Faculty Jurisdiction Measure (1964). Groundwork was carried out by Albany Construction Co. Ltd. of Enfield; archaeological excavation was undertaken by OA staff..



## 1.2 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.2.1 The parish church of St Mary dates from the 12th century, though the nave may have been constructed before AD 1150; the north aisle and arcade were added in c.1180. In c.1330 the chancel was rebuilt and the north chapel added; at the same time windows were inserted into the north aisle. In the 15th century the chancel arch was rebuilt, windows were inserted in the south and west walls of the nave and the south porch was built. The south porch was enlarged in AD 1638 to house the Kidderminster Library, presented to the church by Sir John Kidderminster. In the mid-17th century the north-west tower was added and the north aisle and possibly the north chapel widened. The south transept was built at this time. The west porch also has recently been shown to be a 17<sup>th</sup>-century feature. The church, in common with many, was restored in the later 19th century. (RCHM *Buckinghamshire E*; Pevsner, *BoE Buckinghamshire*)
- 1.2.2 In 1990 OAU carried out a watching brief during contractor's excavations of drainage trenches outside the building and during the lifting of parts of the floor in the north aisle and north chapel. Disarticulated human bone was recovered from the external trenches and offset buttress foundations were also recorded. Several brick vaults were exposed inside the building including one containing a skeleton within a lead-lined coffin. Grave slabs were also seen beneath the floor (OAU 1990). In 1992 OAU monitored repairs to the wooden vestry floor that revealed an earlier surface of apparently re-laid 'Penn' floor tiles of c. 14th-century date. Patterns on the tiles included merman, vine, oak, diamond, circular and quadrant designs (OAU 1992).

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS

- 2.1.1 The principal aim of the archaeological excavation was to record and interpret the archaeological remains within the area affected by the new extension. A watching brief was maintained while the contractors removed the topsoil and overburden; human remains and structures were recorded and the former were excavated by OAU as they were exposed. The aims of the excavation were detailed in OAU's specification for the project (OAU 2000). In summary these were:
- to preserve by record any archaeological deposits impacted by the extension and associated works.
  - to analyse the demography of the affected graveyard population.
  - to record burial vaults and their contents in detail.
  - to characterise and date the burials, if possible.

## 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.1.1 All undifferentiated topsoil/overburden was removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in level spits. Spoil was monitored in order to recover artefacts and any disarticulated human bone. The excavation of overburden was carried out to the depth of the new floor level for the extension, and the foundation trenches were hand-excavated. All recording was undertaken in accordance with



standard practices (OAU fieldwork manual, 1992). Plans were made at a scale of 1:50 or 1:20 as appropriate, and graves were drawn at a scale of 1:10. A full black and white and colour photographic record was made of the excavations. OA's osteoarchaeologist, Angela Boyle advised on the recording of human remains. The burials are described by grave (cut, fill, coffin and skeleton as present) with stratigraphic and/or associated relationships noted where informative. All of the skeletons were osteologically recorded on site and the bones re-interred during the construction project.

- 3.1.2 The site of the new extension measured 5.6 m by 5.8 m. The foundation trenches were cut from the level of the new floor, measuring 0.75 m wide and dug to a depth of c. 1.8 m. A watching brief was also maintained on the excavation of service trenches associated with the new works, specifically a new trench cut from the west side of the new building to the churchyard wall. Finally, a watching brief was maintained during the removal of part of the north wall of the church for a new door.

### 3.2 Artefacts

- 3.2.1 Artefacts were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and generally bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.

## 4 RESULTS: DESCRIPTION OF EXCAVATIONS

### 4.1 Area of proposed extension

- 4.1.1 The earliest deposit at the base of the footprint of the new building was the natural gravel that was observed in a few localised places where excavation was deepest. A layer of dark reddish-brown clay (147) interpreted as the natural subsoil overlay the gravel. Where not cut by graves, layer 147 was generally sealed by a general layer of brown silty clay (113) that included frequent brick fragments, flints, stones, building tile and disarticulated human bone. This horizon represented material generated by repeated grave digging and structural work at the north side of the church, which had mixed the underlying gravel and clay natural.

### 4.2 Burials observed within the foundation trench and cut to natural

- 4.2.1 The deepest burials set into the natural clay and gravel (though not necessarily the earliest in date) were observed in the foundation trench excavated around the outer part of the footprint for the new building. In general these burials were partially exposed within the limits of the trench, and as a result were only partly investigated. However, all bones likely to be disturbed or destroyed by construction were recorded and removed, and later re-interred in the churchyard with the consent of the vicar. In general the pattern of burials suggested a uniform depth of burial for the primary interments, with a secondary 'layer' of burials superimposed over the top. There was no specific dating evidence associated with these burials, though it seems likely they were associated with those that were dated by gravestones, most if not all probably date to the later 18th or early part of the 19th century.

- 4.2.2 At the north side of the trench grave 212 was cut into the natural clay and gravel. The grave was 1.7 m in length and 0.55 m wide. The grave contained the remains of a wooden coffin (214) with two iron nails found *in situ*, containing a well preserved supine extended skeleton (215). The clay backfill of the grave (213) was cut by a secondary grave (206) measuring 1.6 m in length and 0.5 m in width. The grave contained the remains of a wooden coffin (208) with iron nails to the west and the east sides of the grave and a single *in situ* coffin handle. Within the coffin was a well preserved supine extended skeleton (209).
- 4.2.3 The fill of grave 212 was cut to the north by grave 115 (filled by clay material 116). This grave extended beneath the north baulk of the foundation trench and was not bottomed; no remains or dating evidence were recovered from this feature.
- 4.2.4 Along the east part of the foundation trench three graves were partially excavated. The west end of grave 169 was situated in the north-east corner of the trench. The grave measured 0.5 m in length and was 0.5 m wide; no visible traces of a wooden coffin were observed. It contained a supine skeleton (119), though only the torso was present. The clay backfill (170) of the grave also contained the disarticulated remains of another skeleton (121) that had presumably been disturbed during the original digging of grave 169. Immediately south was grave 164, of which only the west end was visible. The grave measured 0.52 in length and was 0.5 m wide. It contained the remains of a wooden coffin (167) and the upper part of a skeleton (166) laid supine with the head to the west, which was overlain by the clay infill of the grave (165).
- 4.2.5 Along the south part of the foundation trench were two stratigraphically early burials that were both truncated by later structures. The earliest burial comprised a grave (186) measuring 1 m in length and 0.48 m in width, which contained skeleton (188). Only the upper arm and vertebrae survived later truncation; the grave was infilled with clay (187). This grave was cut on its west side by grave 182, that measured 0.51 m in length and was 0.4 m wide. The grave contained the remains of a skeleton (184, skull and vertebrae only) and grave fill clay 183. This grave was cut away to the east by the steps (145) for an early 19th-century brick vault structure (see below).
- 4.2.6 At the south end of the building footprint within the limit of the foundation trench, and found beneath a later structure was a grave (190) containing a skeleton (192), of which only the lower legs had survived later truncation. The grave fill (191) and part of the skeleton had been removed for the construction of a brick casing for a gas meter, probably a later 19th- or 20th-century activity.

#### 4.3 Undated intercutting graves within footprint for extension

- 4.3.1 To the south part of the building footprint were three undated intercutting graves. Grave 149 cut general soil layer 113 and was 1.9 m long and 0.45 m wide. The grave was filled by the remains of a wooden coffin (151) together with several iron nails, and a skeleton (152), that was complete and lay in a supine position. The clay fill of the grave (150) was cut by further graves to the north and south. To the north was grave 172 that was filled with coffin remnants (174) and discernible traces of a lead



lining towards the centre of the grave. Skeleton 175 was supine and complete with the head to the west, and was in turn sealed with the clay grave fill (173). To the south grave 130 cut fill 150, and contained coffin remains (144) and a skeleton (129) that was supine and in good state of preservation; the skeleton was sealed by clay grave fill 128, that was cut by a later construction cut (127) for a brick-built structure adjacent to the church.

- 4.3.2 Grave 177 lay north of these graves. It was cut by a later brick vault structure dated 1808, and by two graves dated c. 1793-95 (Mackintosh burials, see below). Grave 177 measured 1.1 m in length and 0.5 m in width, and was filled with the remains of a wooden coffin (179) that contained skeleton 180. The grave fill (178) and the upper part of the skeleton had been truncated by the construction cut for a brick vault (123 see below).
- 4.3.3 Further to the north, grave 157 cut the natural clay layer 113 and was filled with the remains of a wooden coffin (156) with iron nails, a coffin handle and traces of lead lining surviving *in situ*. The skeleton (155) was poorly preserved and laid supine with the head to the west. The grave was infilled with clay material 154 that was cut by a later grave (140), whose date indicated that this burial was pre-1793. Fill 154 was also cut by grave 233 on its north side, though this grave was not fully excavated as it extended below the impact level of the floor of the building.

#### 4.4 Late 18th-century burials - The Mackintosh burials: dated 1793, 1795

- 4.4.1 Grave 140 was adjacent to grave 157 and stratigraphically later. This grave was filled with the remains of a wooden coffin (139) together with iron nails and contained the skeleton of an infant (138). The skeleton was poorly preserved with only a few skull pieces and leg bones surviving; body position was unclear but probably supine. The fill of the grave (137) was cut by a secondary grave (135) in which lay the remains of coffin fittings (134) but no trace of any wooden coffin. The skeleton (133) of a child lay within the grave although preservation was poor with only a few skull and rib bones remaining intact. A grave slab inscribed with the following overlay the fill (132) of this grave:

*Here lieth the Body of  
HENRIETTA MACKINTOSH  
Daughter of  
Mr L---Y MACKINTOSH  
Of Burrows Buildings  
Black F[rriars]Road  
Who died the 11 of Sept.r 1793  
Aged 11 months  
Also WILLIAM MACKINTOSH  
Son of the said Lucn[k?]y Mackintosh  
Who died on the 3rd of July 1795  
Aged 1 year and 11 months*

- 4.4.2 The marker, which was lain flat, was sealed beneath the general soil of the graveyard.

#### 4.5 Early 19th-century brick vaults and crypt

- 4.5.1 Two brick-built vaults were discovered in the course of the excavation. These were recorded prior to being opened and their contents removed by the contractors. Where possible remains were left *in situ* and were not further disturbed; a large crypt with blocked entrance was not opened.
- 4.5.2 *Ivy Family Crypt c. 1821:* At the south-east corner of the trench cutting the fill of grave 150 was the construction cut (143) for the brick-built steps (145) descending down to a brick-blocking structure (221) that was formerly the entrance to a crypt. The full extent of the crypt lay to the east of the footprint of the new building and was not therefore opened. The steps were 1.05 m wide and were flanked by shallow walls of header build bonded with grey-white mortar. The brick door blocking (probably mid-19th century) was carried out with care, and comprised courses of stretchers with occasional header bricks. The stairwell (145) had been infilled with clay and brick rubble (148). A tomb stone on top of the crypt indicated that the date of the last interment in the Ivy vault was in *c.* 1847.
- 4.5.3 *Brick barrel vault c. 1808 (Group context 122):* The fill of grave 177 due west of the steps to the Ivy crypt was cut by a construction cut (111) for another vaulted structure. Structure 123 comprised brick walls with a half-barrel brick vaulted roof. The structure was 2.2 m long and 0.8 m wide. The vault contained a single lead coffin (219), which was removed and re-interred by the contractors after the outer features of the coffin had been recorded. The clay fills over the vault (109, 110) were overlain by a single course of brickwork (108) acting as foundation for a grave marker and a broken headstone (107). The marker was inscribed: '*I.P. d. 1808 Aged 79*', indicating that this vault apparently pre-dated the Ivy vault construction by some 13 years, though the name of the deceased is unknown. The coffin was virtually intact with only two small perforations and was clearly that of an adult. It was originally of triple-shell wood/lead/wood construction although the outer wooden lining had almost completely decayed. A partial name plate or possible lid motif was all that survived of the fittings and the type could not be identified. The coffin was lifted intact and reburied by specialist contractors.
- 4.5.4 *Brick vault 205:* Brick vault (205) lay due north of vault 123. This vault was set in a construction cut (203) that cut clay layer 113, but appeared to have no other stratigraphic relationships. Vault 205 consisted of brick walls with a half-barrel vaulted roof, and was 1.04 m wide; the full length was not exposed in the excavation. The vault contained a supine skeleton (220) within a wooden coffin (222) that had originally rested upon rows of bricks. Fragmentary remains of a brass handle and coffin plate were recorded. The fill over the top of the vault was overlain by the general graveyard soil (112).

#### 4.6 19th-century burials post-dating vaulted structures



- 4.6.1 Within shallow grave cut (211), the remains of a wooden coffin (200) containing a skeleton (201) overlay the backfill over vault 123. Only the legs of the skeleton were visible in the limits of the excavation. This interment clearly post-dates vault 123, and therefore dates to the early-middle part of the 19th century.
- 4.6.2 The north-west part of vault 123 was overlain by a grave (194) that contained skeleton 197. Only the lower legs of the skeleton were exposed. This interment post-dated the construction of vault 123, and therefore also dates to the early-middle part of the 19th century.
- 4.6.3 The fill of the construction cut for the Ivy vault was cut by grave 159 which contained the remains of a wooden coffin (161) together with iron nails and coffin fittings. The coffin was filled with a well preserved supine skeleton (162). The fill of the grave (160) was overlain by an *in situ* foot-stone and a headstone (114) inscribed with the fragmentary lettering:
- Husband of the above  
Who died 30th Dec.r 1826  
Aged 84 years*
- 4.6.4 The top of the headstone was missing so there was no name, though the foot-stone was inscribed 'T. F. 1826', presumably the initials of the deceased. The stone was also inscribed towards the base with 'Merryman O[f] Windsor' who may have been a local stone mason.

#### 4.7 Undated and unexcavated graves

- 4.7.1 Six graves and their fills were not fully excavated and their skeletal remains were left *in situ*. Graves 233, 234, and 236 were cut to a depth below the impact level of the floor of the new building, while three other graves (239, 240 and 241) extended below the base depth of the foundation trench, and were likewise not excavated.

#### 4.8 Late deposits, structures and headstones

- 4.8.1 The entire sequence of burials, including the infill of the Ivy vault stairwell and the general graveyard soil layer (113) were sealed beneath a homogenous layer (112) of light-brown silty clay containing bricks and some loose human bones. The layer was 0.25 m thick and covered the whole of the area of the trench. The formation of this layer is likely to date to the late 19th century.
- 4.8.2 Adjacent to the north wall (224) of the church, the construction cut (127) was observed for the insertion of a vaulted boiler structure (126), presumably constructed in the late 19th or 20th century, but now partly infilled with rubble (118). The structure was abutted to the north by a layer of soil and building debris (146); this deposit and the backfill (125) of the construction cut were sealed by the present topsoil of the graveyard (106).
- 4.8.3 Above layer (106) was a layer of redeposited and disturbed topsoil (124) that contained ash and charcoal and some disarticulated human bone. Resting upon this

layer were a number of grave markers (100-105), presumably moved from their original position within the graveyard. The following inscriptions could be made out on the stones:

- 100: 1840, Thomas Wood, 88 years
- 101: --70 [H?]-arriet Hic-, and Sus--[an] Margari- Hickman
- 102: N M 1810
- 103: William Jones of Hanover Square, London, June 10th 1785, aged 69
- 104: I : P 1762
- 105: Unmarked

- 4.8.4 Full details of the inscriptions on these headstones can be found in the project archive. It remains unclear whether these stones relate to some of the burials that were excavated here within the area of the new building, or came from elsewhere within the churchyard.

#### 4.9 20th-century remains

- 4.9.1 A skull (218) found within the foundation trench adjacent to a modern (20<sup>th</sup>-century) burial (235) was not investigated further. Burial 235 was exhumed by specialist contractors. Two further modern complete inhumations (237 overlying 238) were dated 1977 and 1962 by an adjacent gravestone outside the excavation area. These were also exhumed by specialist contractors and were not formally investigated by OA. A further skeleton identified beneath these burials (217) was not investigated, although it may have dated to the 19th century.

#### 4.10 Service Trench

- 4.10.1 The service trench was excavated from the west wall of the churchyard to the west side of the building extension. The trench was generally 1.5 m deep and 1.3 m wide. Individual finds from the trench spoil included parts of two gravestones, one dated to 1742 and the other inscribed 1873. Some disarticulated human bone from the spoil was re-interred within the trench. At the base of the service trench was a layer of silty clay soil, probably the same general deposit as layer 147 seen to the east within the area of the new building. Layer 147 was cut by a north-south aligned feature (229), probably a ditch, that extended across the width of the trench parallel to the line of the present west wall of the churchyard. The feature was filled by a brown-grey silty clay (230) that contained chalk and flint fragments, but was otherwise undated. Above the ditch fill was a layer of mixed silty clay and soil (228) that was overlain by part of a ?footing (227) comprising mortared stone. The function of this structure was not fully understood, though it lay directly beneath a 0.08 m thick layer of mortar and crushed stone (226) that supported a wall (225) constructed of brick. Four courses of the structure survived in situ beneath the present topsoil, forming an east-west alignment. The structure may represent part of the former vicarage building thought to have stood in the west part of the graveyard until the 1950s. Structure 227 may represent part of a north-south return of the end of this building.

#### 4.11 North Wall Door



- 4.11.1 Prior to the opening of the new door the internal wall was investigated for traces of wall paintings, and parts of a large medieval figure of St Christopher were uncovered and conserved. This has been separately reported.
- 4.11.2 A watching brief was maintained when a new door was created in the north wall of the church. The wall was c.0.9 m -1 m in thickness and was constructed of flint and stone bonded with mortar. Three small voids noted in the external stonework had been infilled with bricks. These voids may have served as putlog (scaffold) holes, inserted during either the construction of the tower in the 17th century or during the refurbishment works in the 19th century. Further patches of brickwork are noticeable on the flint galleted walls and the buttresses, suggesting that there has been maintenance of the building fabric in recent times. The buttresses have also been reinforced with bricks at some point. There was no evidence for any medieval restoration work on the north side of the church.

## 5 FINDS

### 5.1 Artefacts

- 5.1.1 The excavation was notable for the dearth of ceramic dating evidence from any of the excavated deposits. Bricks and tile fragments were not retained. Two pieces of marble were recovered from the rubble fill of one of the Victorian structures removed in the course of the demolition works. The pieces came from the arm of a 19th-century statue or monument that had presumably been broken. The pieces were identified and returned to the church. Coffin fittings and other materials were recovered from a number of graves, though in only two cases could their types be identified. Skeletons 209 and 217 had both been buried in coffins with type 2a iron grips. At Christ Church, Spitalfields these had a date range of 1763-1837 (Reeve and Adams 1993).

### 5.2 Human remains

- 5.2.1 The skeletal assemblage comprised 18 individuals, one of which was not osteologically examined. Low-resolution osteological analysis was carried out on the skeletal assemblage during work on site. This comprised age and sex estimates, stature, basic metric measurements, dental inventory and pathology where seen. Level of preservation and completeness was also characterised. All the material was unwashed. Stature was calculated using the formulae of Trotter and Gleser (in Brothwell 1981, 101). Assessment of sex was based on standard morphological indicators and diagnostic metric measurements. Estimation of age was based on auricular surface ageing, pubic symphyseal ageing, sternal rib metamorphosis and degree of dental attrition (Buikstra and Uberlaker 1981, 72). Age estimation of the subadults was based on dental development (Van Beek 1981) and diaphyseal length (Hoppa 1992). In keeping with standard practice no attempt was made to sex subadult material. The catalogue of human remains appears as Appendix 2.

- 5.2.2 The sample had a wide chronological range and was too small to provide meaningful data on the general health of the population to which it belonged. A single skeleton showed the characteristic signs of rickets in the form of bowed femora and tibiae. Rickets is caused by vitamin D deficiency. Degenerative joint disease affected the vertebrae and the femoral head of the ageing adult male skeleton 218. Both skeleton 218 and skeleton 217, an ageing adult female had lost all their teeth ante-mortem. The child skeleton 209 had two carious cavities, one of which was associated with an abscess. Skeleton 215, aged 13-14 y, also had two carious cavities.
- 5.2.3 Only human remains which were located precisely within the building footprint were excavated. Therefore many of the skeletons were incomplete and parts of individuals were left in the ground. A total of 10 skeletons extended beyond the limits of the excavation area. This has clear implications for the level of data that was recoverable and raises the question of whether or not it is ethically acceptable to partially excavate individual burials. On a practical level it would be extremely difficult to completely excavate all the skeletons which would be disturbed by the proposed extension from within a crowded churchyard.
- 5.2.4 All of the skeletal remains were recorded on site and none of the material had been washed. This too has implications for the level of data recovery.

## 6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

### 6.1 Overall interpretation

- 6.1.1 The earliest deposits recorded in the new extension area and at the base of the service trench were broadly comparable; the natural gravel was exposed in a few places. The absence of medieval or earlier finds from the excavated spoil and the backfill of the earliest excavated graves within the sequence appears to indicate that the area immediately north of the church was not used for burials until the middle of the 18th century at the earliest. The site of the earliest burials at this church therefore remains unknown.
- 6.1.2 The primary burials appear to have been buried in plain wooden coffins, although little of these survived. Burial activity was fairly intense, as evidenced by the number of partially intercutting graves and the presence of previously disturbed bones in the fills of the later graves. The later burials, particularly the near complete individuals, also appear to have been interred in slightly more elaborate wooden coffins, although few of the surviving fittings could be identified.
- 6.1.3 The early 19th century appears to have been a time of greater prosperity and religious inclination for at least some families in the locality. The construction of the Ivy vault in c 1821 suggests that the graveyard space was actively sought, with the Ivy family in particular acquiring a substantial plot for interment. Presumably this was due in part to the general disinclination of the churches to continue to inter within the church itself. Two other vaults were recorded north of the church, one containing a lead coffin and a second containing a wooden coffin. Vault 123 was



overlain by a further burial implying that burials continued north of the church despite the presence of below ground structures here. It is possible though, that this burial was a relation and was buried near to the burial in this vault, without disturbing the existing structure.

- 6.1.4 The small size and wide chronological range means that little can be said about the local population.
- 6.1.5 Excavation of the service trench at the west side of the graveyard revealed a ditch feature aligned north-south. The full extent of the ditch is unknown and it is also undated, but it seems likely that the ditch acted as a boundary around the church, defining its limits. The later structure at the west side of the graveyard seems, from local knowledge, to have been the site of the vicarage building up until the 1950s when it was dismantled.

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## APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Type	Depth	Width	Length	Comments/Dating
100	Headstone	-	0.68 m	1.06 m	Dated 1840
101	Headstone	0.6 m	0.68 m	0.7 m	No date visible
102	Headstone	0.6 m	0.45 m	0.84 m	Dated 1810
103		0.55 m	0.63 m	0.79 m	Dated 1785
104	Headstone	0.6 m	0.46 m	0.68 m	Dated 1762
105	Headstone	0.7 m	0.34 m	0.39 m	No date
106	Topsoil	0.3 m	-	-	Topsoil
107	Headstone	-	-	-	Grave marker for vault 123; dated 1808
108	Structure	0.11 m	-	-	Brick foundation for grave marker 107
109	Fill	0.5 m	-	-	Upper backfill of 111
110	Fill	1.28 m	-	-	Lower fill of 111
111	Construction Cut	2.8 m	1.4 m	1.85 m	Cut for barrel vault 123
112	Layer	0.25 m	-	-	Graveyard soil over layer 113
113	Layer	0.7 m+	-	-	Graveyard soil
114	Headstone	0.07 m	0.65 m	0.67 m	Headstone/foot-stone; dated 1826
115	Grave Cut	0.6 m	1.2 m	2 m	Grave filled by 116
116	Fill	0.6 m	-	-	Fill of 115
117	Grave marker	0.1 m	0.66 m	1.37 m	Grave marker dates 1793 and 1795
118	Fill	-	-	-	Rubble fill of boiler room 126
119	Skeleton	-	-	-	Child burial in 169
120	Group No.	-	-	-	Contexts 114; 159-162
121	Skeleton	-	-	-	Reburied skeleton in 169
122	Group No.	-	-	-	Contexts 107-111, 123
123	Structure	-	-	-	Brick vault and shaft containing lead coffin 219
124	Layer	0.1 m	-	-	'Make-up layer' over 125
125	Fill	-	-	-	Fill of construction cut for boiler 126
126	Structure	-	-	-	Brick-built boiler room; C19
127	Construction Cut	-	-	-	Construction cut for boiler structure 126
128	Fill	0.6 m	-	-	Fill of grave 130
129	Skeleton	-	-	-	Child burial in 130
130	Grave Cut	0.6 m	-	2.6 m	Grave containing 129
131	Group No.	-	-	-	Contexts 128-130; 144



132	Fill	0.3 m	0.8 m	-	Fill of grave 135
133	Skeleton	-	-	-	Child burial in grave 135
134	Coffin	-	-	-	Wood remains and nails in 135
135	Grave Cut	0.3 m	0.8 m	-	Grave containing 133
136	Group No.	-	-	-	Contexts 117; 132-135
137	Fill	0.25 m+	0.8 m	-	Fill of grave 140
138	Skeleton	-	-	-	Child burial in 140
139	Coffin	-	-	-	Coffin remains in 140
140	Grave Cut	0.25 m+	0.8 m	-	Grave for 138
141	Group No.	-	-	-	117; 137-140
142	Fill	-	-	-	Fill of 143
143	Construction Cut	-	-	-	Construction cut for step structure to Ivy vault
144	Coffin	-	-	-	Coffin, part of group 131
145	Structure	-	-	-	Brick steps leading down to Ivy family crypt, first half of 19th century
146	Layer	0.1 m	-	-	Interface between topsoil and redeposited graveyard soil 112
147	Layer	-	-	-	Natural clay over the gravel
148	Layer	-	-	-	Silty clay fill over steps 145
149	Grave Cut	0.45 m	2 m	-	Grave cut filled by 151
150	Fill	-	-	-	Fill of grave 149
151	Coffin	-	-	-	Coffin remains in grave 149
152	Skeleton	-	-	-	Skeleton within grave 149
153	Group No.	-	-	-	Contexts 149-153
154	Fill	0.2 m+	1 m	-	Grave fill in 157
155	Skeleton	-	-	-	Skeleton in 157
156	Coffin	-	-	-	Coffin remains in 157
157	Grave Cut	0.2 m+	1 m	-	Grave containing 155
158	Group No.	-	-	-	Contexts 154-157
159	Grave Cut	0.75 m	1.25 m+	2.25 m	Grave filled by 161
160	Fill	-	-	-	Grave fill in 159
161	Coffin	-	--	-	Remains of coffin in 159
162	Skeleton	-	-	-	Skeleton in 159
163	Group No.	-	-	-	Contexts 114; 159-162
164	Grave Cut	-	0.5 m	0.52 m	Grave filled by 167
165	Fill	-	-	-	Fill of grave 164
166	Skeleton	-	-	-	Skeleton in grave 164

167	Coffin	-	-	-	Remains of coffin in grave 164
168	Group No.	-	-	-	Contexts 164-167
169	Grave Cut	-	0.5 m	0.5 m	Grave filled by 119, 171
170	Fill	0.2 m	0.5m	-	Grave fill in 169
171	Group No.	-	-	-	Contexts 119,169,170
172	Grave Cut	0.2 m	0.48 m	1.75 m	Grave filled by 174
173	Fill	0.2 m	-	-	Grave fill in 172
174	Coffin	-	-	-	Lead lining and wood remains in 172
175	Skeleton	-	-	-	Juvenile skeleton in 172
176	Group No.	-	-	-	Contexts 172-175
177	Grave Cut	0.25 m	0.5 m	1.1 m	Grave filled by 179
178	Fill	0.25 m	-	-	Grave fill in 177
179	Coffin	-	-	-	Remains of coffin in 177
180	Skeleton	-	-	-	Part skeleton in 177
181	Group No.	-	-	-	Contexts 177-180
182	Grave Cut	-	-	-	Part of grave cut filed by 184
183	Fill	-	--	-	Grave fill in 182
184	Skeleton	-	-	-	Partial skeleton in 182
185	Group No.	-	-	-	Contexts 182-184
186	Grave Cut	0.25 m	0.48 m	1 m	Grave filled by 188
187	Fill	0.25 m	-	-	Fill of grave 186
188	Skeleton	-	-	-	Skeleton in grave 186
189	Group No.	-	-	-	Contexts 186-188
190	Grave Cut	0.2 m	0.32 m	0.6 m	Partial grave containing 192
191	Fill	0.2 m	-	-	Grave fill in 190
192	Skeleton	-	-	-	Part skeleton in 190
193	Group No.	-	-	-	Contexts 190-192
194	Grave Cut	-	-	-	Part of grave containing 197
195	Fill	-	-	-	Grave fill in 194
196	Coffin	-	-	-	Coffin remains in 194
197	Skeleton	-	-	-	Part of skeleton in 194
198	Group No.	-	-	-	Contexts 194-197
199	Fill	-	-	-	Grave fill over skeleton 201
200	Coffin	-	-	-	Coffin remains filled by 201
201	Skeleton	-	-	-	Partial skeleton in 200
202	Group No.	-	-	--	Contexts 199, 200, 201
203	Construction	-	-	-	Construction cut for barrel vault 205



	Cut				
204	Fill	-	-	-	Clay and rubble fill of cut 203
205	Structure	-	-	-	Brick-built coffin with barrel vault
206	Grave Cut	0.3 m	0.5 m	1.6 m	Grave filled by 208/209
207	Fill	0.3 m	-	-	Backfill of grave 206
208	Coffin	-	-	-	Wooden coffin remains in 206
209	Skeleton	-	-	-	Juvenile skeleton in 206
210	Group	-	-	-	Contexts 206-209
211	Grave Cut	-	-	-	Grave filled by 201
212	Grave Cut	-	0.55 m	1.7 m	Grave filled by 214
213	Fill	-	-	-	Backfill of grave 212
214	Coffin	-	-	-	Coffin remains in grave 212
215	Skeleton	-	-	-	Skeleton in grave 212
216	Group No.	-	-	-	Contexts 212-215
217	Skeleton	-	-	-	Possibly 20th-century burial beneath one dated 1977 - removed by specialist contractors
218	Skeleton	-	-	-	Skull only
219	Lead coffin	-	-	-	Lead coffin in grave shaft 123, removed and reburied by specialist contractors
220	Skeleton	-	-	-	Skeleton in coffin 222
221	Structure	-	-	-	Brick blocking of door to 19th-century vault
222	Wood coffin	-	-	-	Remains of wood coffin with brass fittings
223	Structure	-	-	-	Brick structure built next to Ivy vault
224	Structure/ Wall	-	-	-	North wall of the church
225	Structure	-	1.6 m	-	Wall, part of vicarage demolished in the 1950s
226	Layer	-	-	-	Foundation for wall 225
227	Layer	-	-	-	Buttress to wall 225/226
228	Layer	-	-	-	Layer = 113
229	Ditch	0.8 m	--	-	North-south boundary ditch
230	Fill	0.8 m	-	-	Clay fill of ditch 229
231	Headstone	-	-	-	Service trench find, dated 1742
232	Headstone	-	-	-	Service trench find, dated 1873
233	Grave				Not excavated; extended below impact level
234	Grave				Not excavated; extended below impact level
235	Grave				20th-century burial removed by contractors
236	Grave				Not excavated; extended below impact level
237	Burial				20th-century burial dated 1977 by headstone, removed by specialist contractors

238	Burial				20th-century burial dated 1962 by headstone removed by specialist contractors
239	Grave				Grave extended below depth of foundation trench
240	Grave				Grave extended below depth of foundation trench
241	Grave				Cut by Ivy vault steps, not bottomed, extended below depth of foundation trench



## APPENDIX 2: LANGLEY MARISH: CATALOGUE OF HUMAN REMAINS

Dental notation is as follows:

PM post mortem loss  
AM ante mortem loss  
C caries  
A abscess  
NP not present  
U unerupted  
E erupting  
- jaw not present

**Skeleton 119**

Preservation and completeness: fair, skull, femora, tibiae  
Age: 1 y  
Sex: -  
Stature: -  
Skeletal pathology: -  
Dental pathology: -  
Discontinuous traits: -  
Dental anomalies: -

**Skeleton 129**

Preservation and completeness: fair, largely complete  
Age: 6-7 y  
Sex: -  
Stature: -  
Skeletal pathology: -  
Dental pathology: caries  
Discontinuous traits: -  
Dental anomalies: -

E C	C E
6 e d c b a	a b c d e 6
6 e d c b a	a b c d e 6
E C	C E

Age estimation is based on dental development (Van Beek 1983) and diaphyseal length of the femur ((Hoppa 1992).

**Skeleton 133**

Preservation and completeness: long bones only, poor  
Age: infant  
Sex: -  
Stature: -  
Skeletal pathology: rickets  
Dental pathology: -  
Discontinuous traits: -  
Dental anomalies: -

William Macintosh, left and right femora and tibiae exhibit characteristic bowing caused by rickets. In addition tibia are much thickened with signs of osteitis.

**Skeleton 138**

Preservation and completeness: long bones only  
Age: 5 m  
Sex: -  
Stature: -

Skeletal pathology:  
Dental pathology:  
Discontinuous traits:  
Dental anomalies:

Henrietta MacIntosh, Age estimation is based on diaphyseal length of the femur (Hoppa 1992, 280; Molleson *et al* 1993, 150).

**Skeleton 155**

Preservation and completeness: poor, skull and upper body fragments  
Age: less than 2 y  
Sex:  
Stature:  
Skeletal pathology:  
Dental pathology:  
Discontinuous traits:  
Dental anomalies:

**Skeleton 152**

Preservation and completeness: poor, largely complete  
Age: adult  
Sex: male  
Stature: 1.57 m  
Skeletal pathology:  
Dental pathology:  
Discontinuous traits:  
Dental anomalies:

**Skeleton 162**

Preservation and completeness: poor, lower legs only  
Age: adult  
Sex: ?  
Stature: 1.57 m or 1.62 m  
Skeletal pathology:  
Dental pathology:  
Discontinuous traits:  
Dental anomalies:

**Skeleton 166**

Preservation and completeness: poor, skull and upper arms  
Age: adult  
Sex: male  
Stature:  
Skeletal pathology:  
Dental pathology:  
Discontinuous traits:  
Dental anomalies:

-----	-----
-----	--- 4 5 X X X

**Skeleton 175**

Preservation and completeness: poor  
Age: adult  
Sex: female  
Stature: 1.58 m  
Skeletal pathology:  
Dental pathology:  
Discontinuous traits:  
Dental anomalies:



**Skeleton 180**

Preservation and completeness:	poor, all bones fragmented
Age:	adult
Sex:	female
Stature:	?
Skeletal pathology:	-
Dental pathology:	-
Discontinuous traits:	-
Dental anomalies:	-

**Skeleton 184**

Preservation and completeness:	poor, skull and upper body
Age:	adult
Sex:	?
Stature:	?
Skeletal pathology:	-
Dental pathology:	-
Discontinuous traits:	-
Dental anomalies:	-

**Skeleton 197**

Preservation and completeness:	good, legs only
Age:	adult
Sex:	male
Stature:	1.70 m
Skeletal pathology:	-
Dental pathology:	-
Discontinuous traits:	-
Dental anomalies:	-

**Skeleton 201**

Preservation and completeness:	poor, legs only
Age:	adult
Sex:	?
Stature:	1.68 m or 1.71 m
Skeletal pathology:	-
Dental pathology:	-
Discontinuous traits:	-
Dental anomalies:	-

**Skeleton 209**

Preservation and completeness:	excellent, virtually complete
Age:	9-10 y
Sex:	-
Stature:	-
Skeletal pathology:	-
Dental pathology:	caries, abscess
Discontinuous traits:	-
Dental anomalies:	-

7						7
6	e	d	c	b	a	a b c d e 6
6	e	d	3	b	a	a b 3 d e 6
7	C	C	E			E 7
a						

Age estimation is based on dental development (Van Beek 1983) and diaphyseal length of the femur ((Hoppa 1992). Type 2a iron grips were associated with this burial. At Christ Church, Spitalfields these had a date range of 1763-1837.

**Skeleton 215**

Preservation and completeness:	fair, virtually complete
Age:	13-14 y
Sex:	-
Stature:	-
Skeletal pathology:	-
Dental pathology:	caries
Discontinuous traits:	-
Dental anomalies:	-

-- 6 ----	-----
C	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
E C	C E

Age estimation is based on dental development (Van Beek 1983) and diaphyseal length of the femur ((Hoppa 1992). Type 2a iron grips were associated with this burial. At Christ Church, Spitalfields these had a date range of 1763-1837.

**Skeleton 217**

Preservation and completeness:	fair, missing torso
Age:	ageing adult
Sex:	female
Stature:	?
Skeletal pathology:	-
Dental pathology:	-
Discontinuous traits:	-
Dental anomalies:	-

XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX--
XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX

**Skeleton 218**

Preservation and completeness:	good, virtually complete
Age:	ageing adult
Sex:	male
Stature:	1.62 m
Skeletal pathology:	degenerative joint disease of vertebrae, lipping of right femoral head
Dental pathology:	-
Discontinuous traits:	-
Dental anomalies:	-

XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX



### APPENDIX 3 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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#### APPENDIX 6 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** St Mary's Church, Langley Marish

**Site code:** LSM00

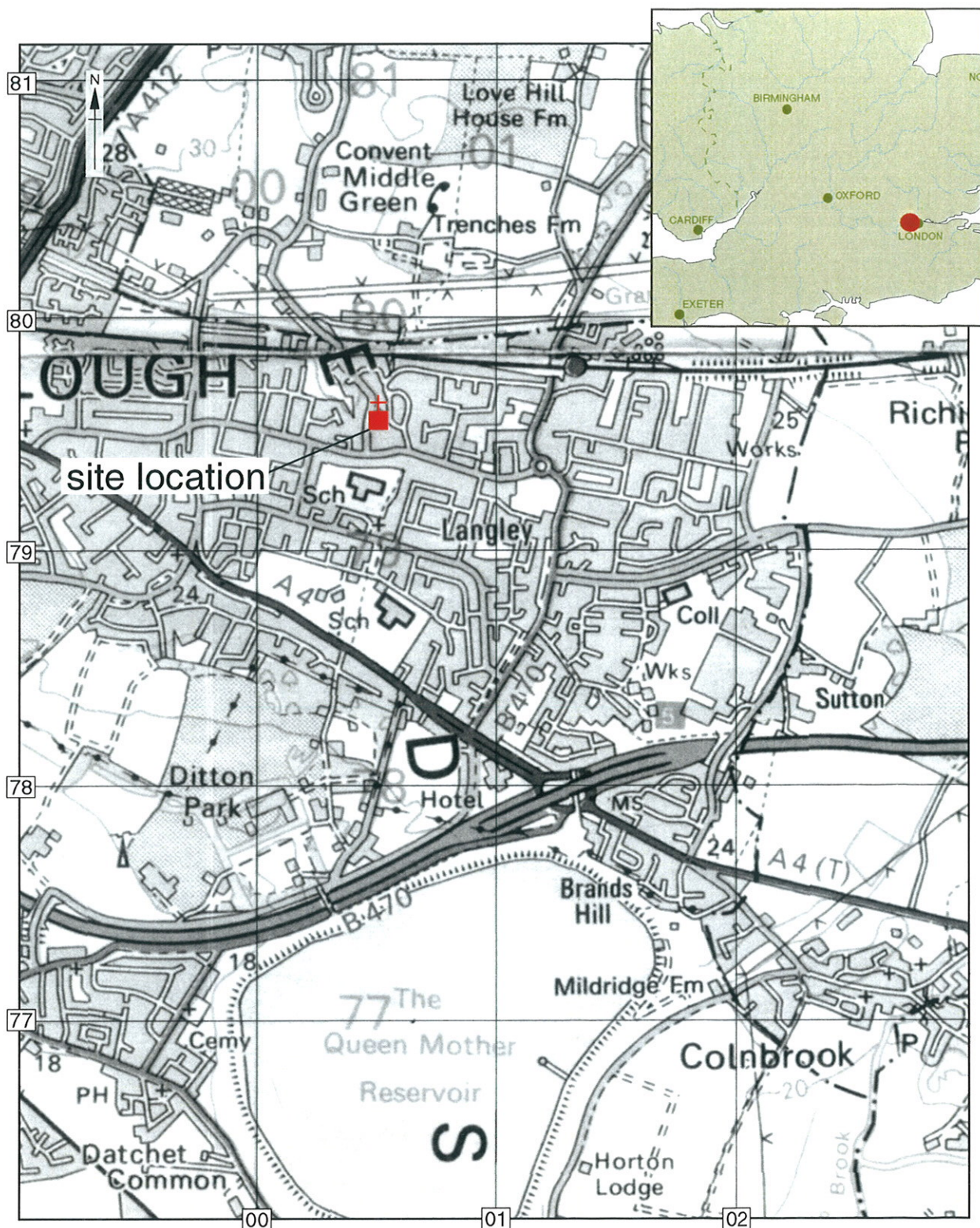
**Grid reference:** TQ 0450 7955

**Date and duration of project:** October-November 2000, additional watching brief in January 2001

**Area of site:** c. 30 m<sup>2</sup>

**Summary of results:** A small group of post-medieval burials, a number of which were in wood or lead coffins, occasionally contained within brick-shaft graves or family vaults.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: *NO IT WONT ITS BUCKS!*



Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location



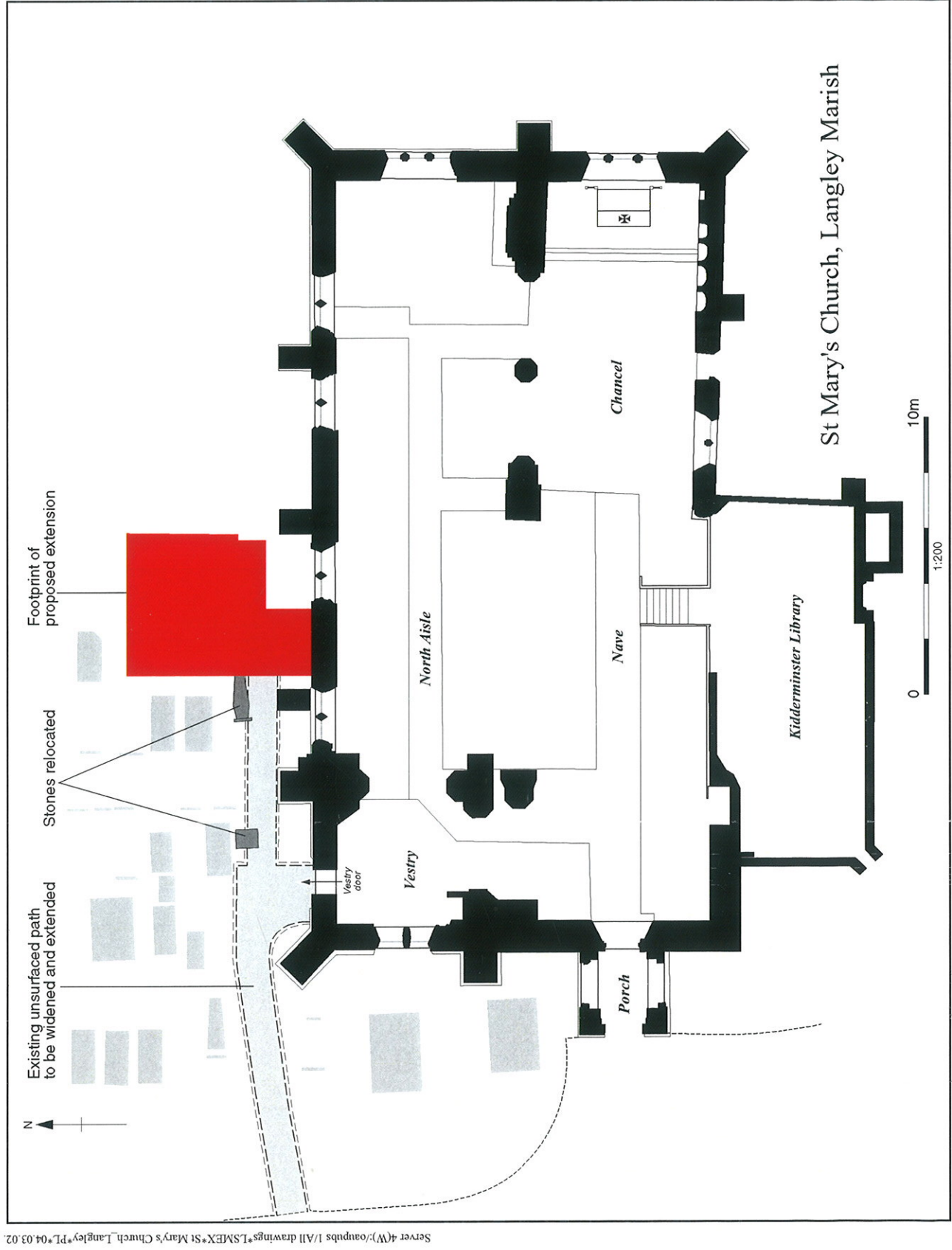


Figure 2: Location of proposed extension

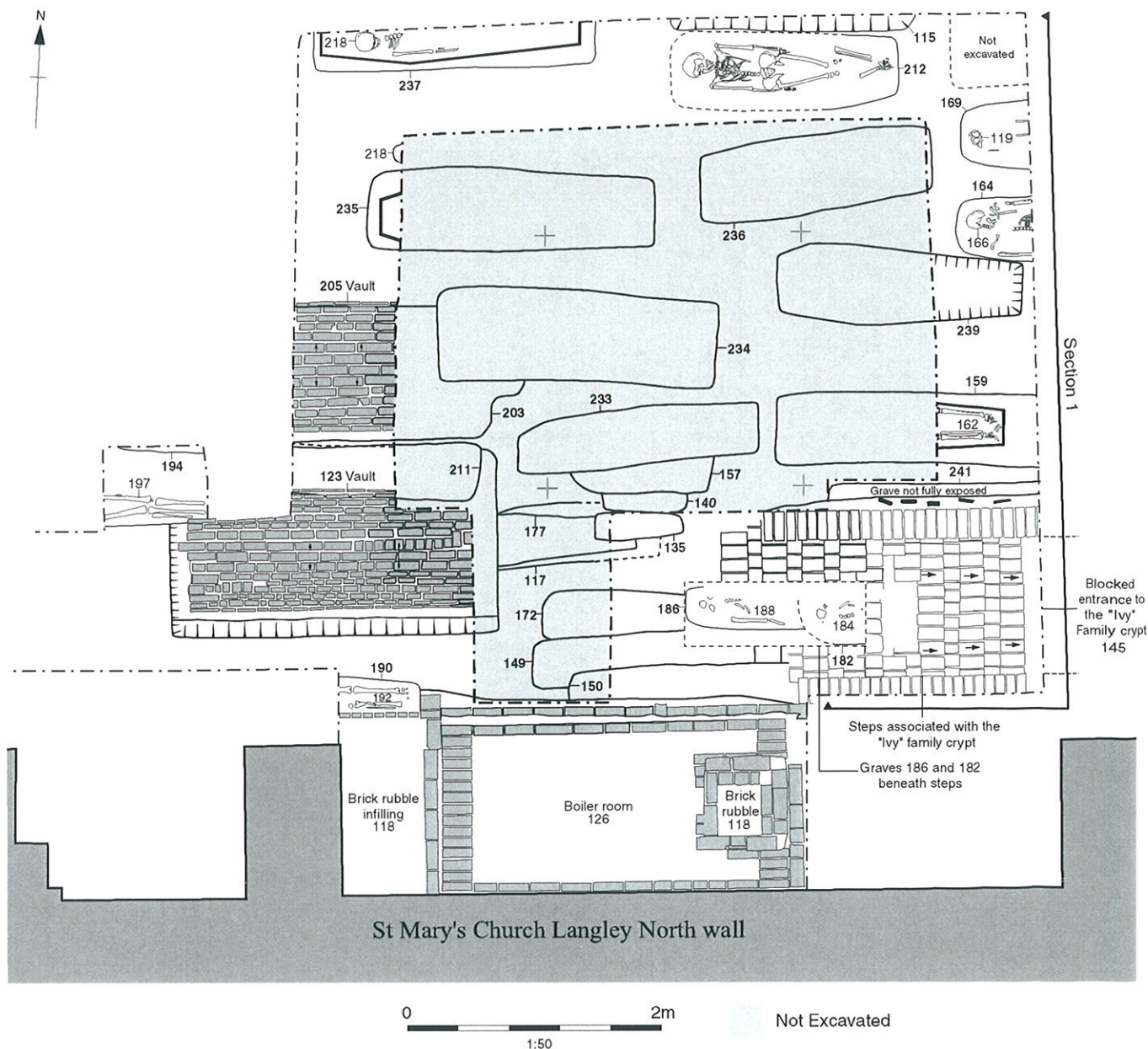


Figure 3: Detailed plan of excavation area



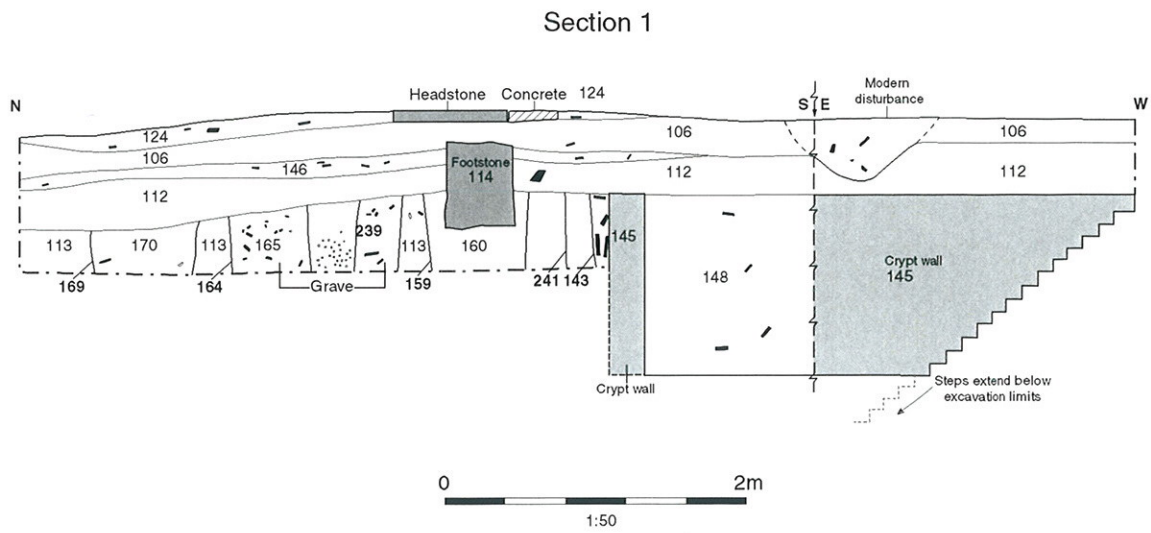


Figure 4: Composite section 1



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