

An aerial photograph of a churchyard. The scene is dominated by a large, dense, cylindrical evergreen tree in the upper left quadrant. A wide, light-colored gravel path runs diagonally from the top right towards the bottom center. The ground is covered in green grass, and numerous gravestones of various shapes and sizes are scattered throughout. Some are upright, while others are flat on the ground. The overall atmosphere is quiet and historical.

GOD'S ACRE:

RECORDING
CHURCHYARDS

How churchyards evolved

Look at the landscape around the church

Where in the village / town / city is the church positioned?

Is the churchyard constrained by any natural features?

Is the church / yard next to a manor house / castle?

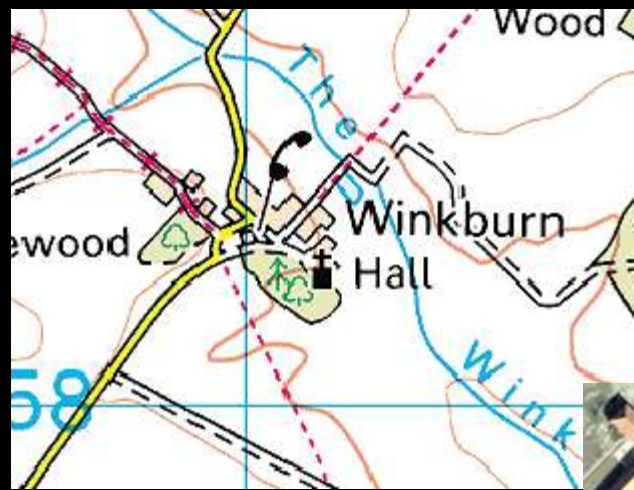
What is the shape of the churchyard?

What are the physical boundaries?

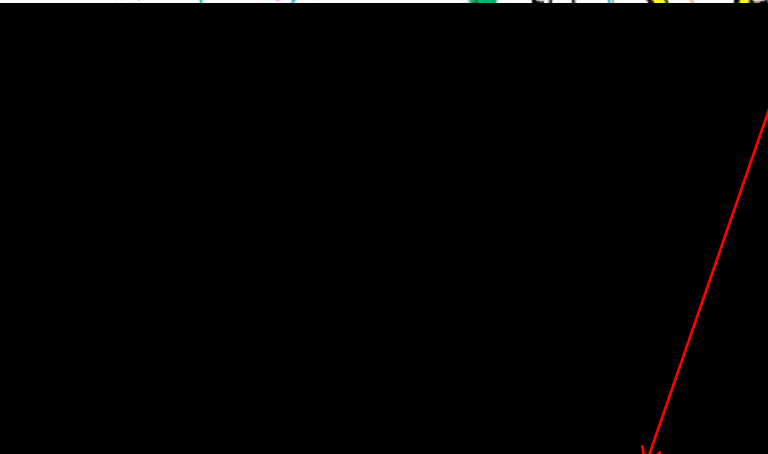


East Drayton:
central village
position





Winkburn:
Isolated
church next to
manor house



Cotham: isolated due to village contraction



Sibthorpe: village perimeter next to medieval manor site and contracted village

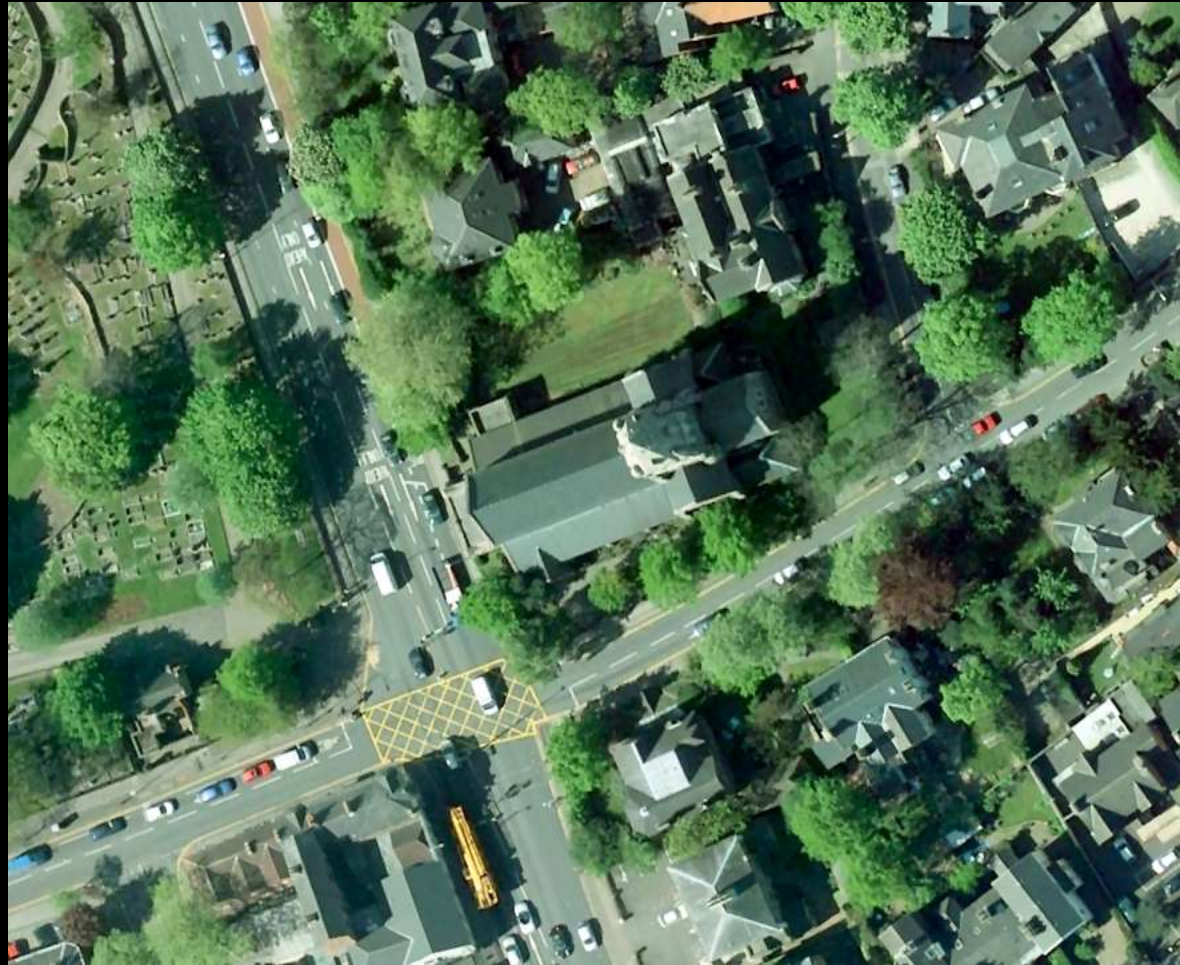


Trees form 'recent' landscaping



Nottingham, St
Andrew:

constrained city-
centre location





Burrow Mump, Somerset: built on a natural mound, away from the village, possibly for defence



Ellemford, Scottish Borders: fortified location above the river Whiteadder



Egmanton: church lies next to, perhaps in the outer bailey of, the Norman motte and bailey castle – thus helping to define the shape of the churchyard



Knowlton, Dorset: church set within Bronze Age henge monument showing re-use of pre-Christian site



Jersey: La Hougue Bie – medieval chapel set on a Neolithic burial mound



Moorhouse chapel: set within complex earthworks



Moorhouse chapel: earthworks but no churchyard

An aerial photograph of a churchyard. The scene is dominated by a large, green lawn with several gravestones of various shapes and sizes scattered across it. Some are simple rectangular blocks, while others are more ornate. In the background, a large, multi-story brick building with a red-tiled roof is visible, partially obscured by trees. The trees are mostly bare, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. The overall atmosphere is quiet and historical.

SHAPE OF THE CHURCHYARD



Staunton, regular churchyard with addition
where former chapel stood



Kingston-on-Soar: approximately circular churchyard



Hawton: elongated / boat-shaped churchyard



Misterton: elongated churchyard



Linby: regular, rectangular churchyard



Bilsthorpe: churchyard extension



Hoveringham: adjacent extension to churchyard



Hoveringham:
old churchyard

Hoveringham:
Late-C19th extension

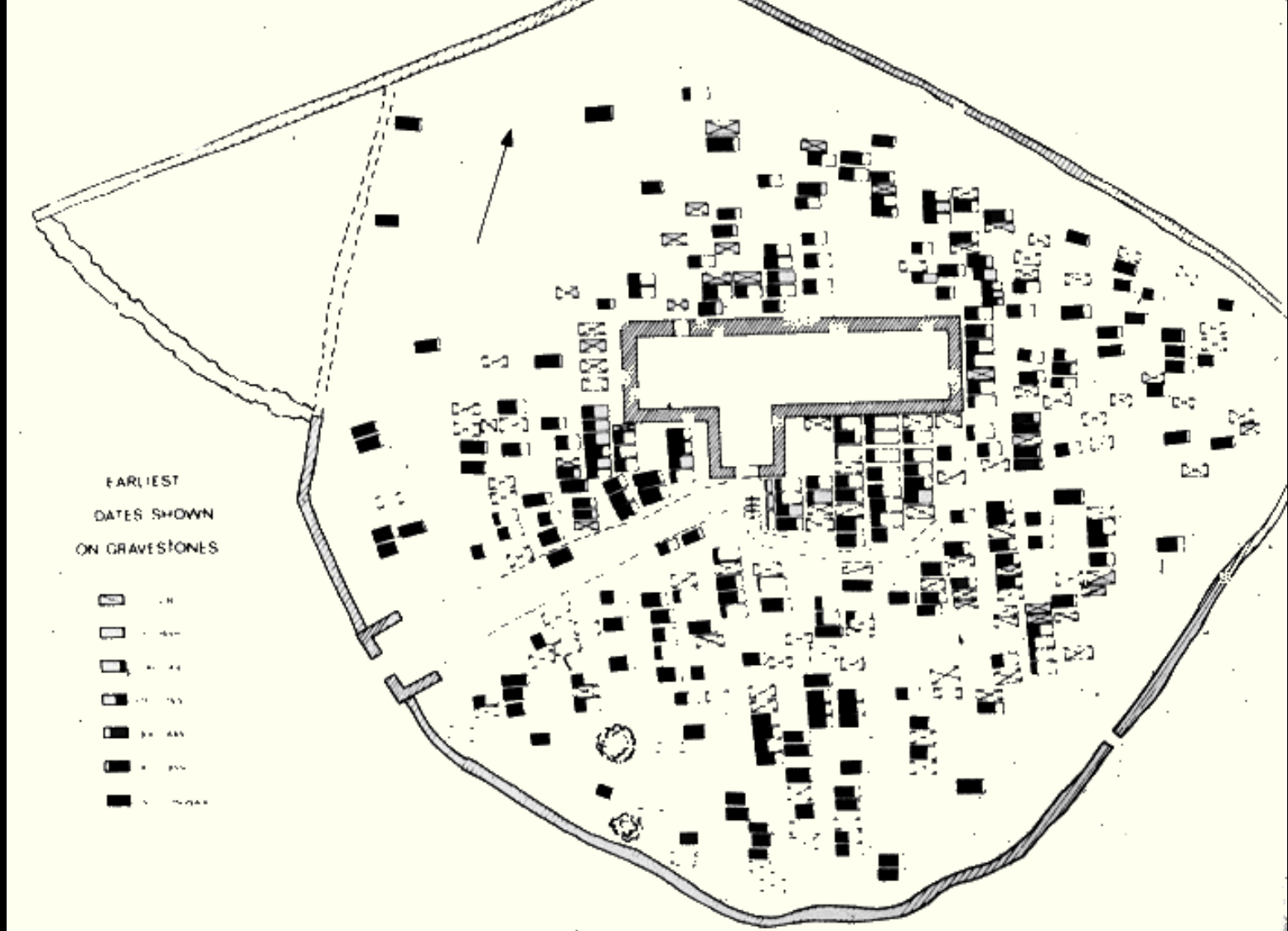


A photograph of an old cemetery with various stone grave markers and a tall cypress tree. The scene is set in a grassy field with a dense line of trees in the background. The text "Examining the evidence" is overlaid in a yellow, sans-serif font, split into two lines: "Examining the" on the top line and "evidence" on the bottom line.

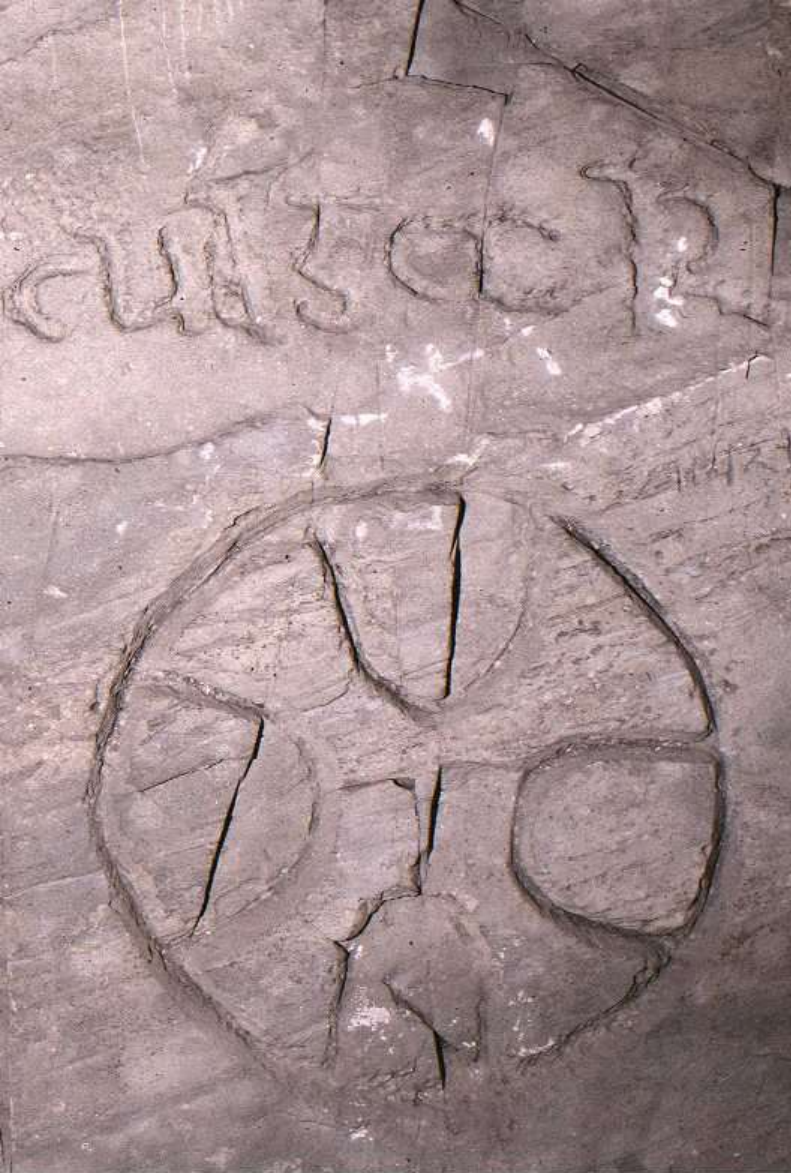
Examining the evidence

Walk around the churchyard and work out where the earliest grave-markers are.

Try to find the earliest date and note where it is



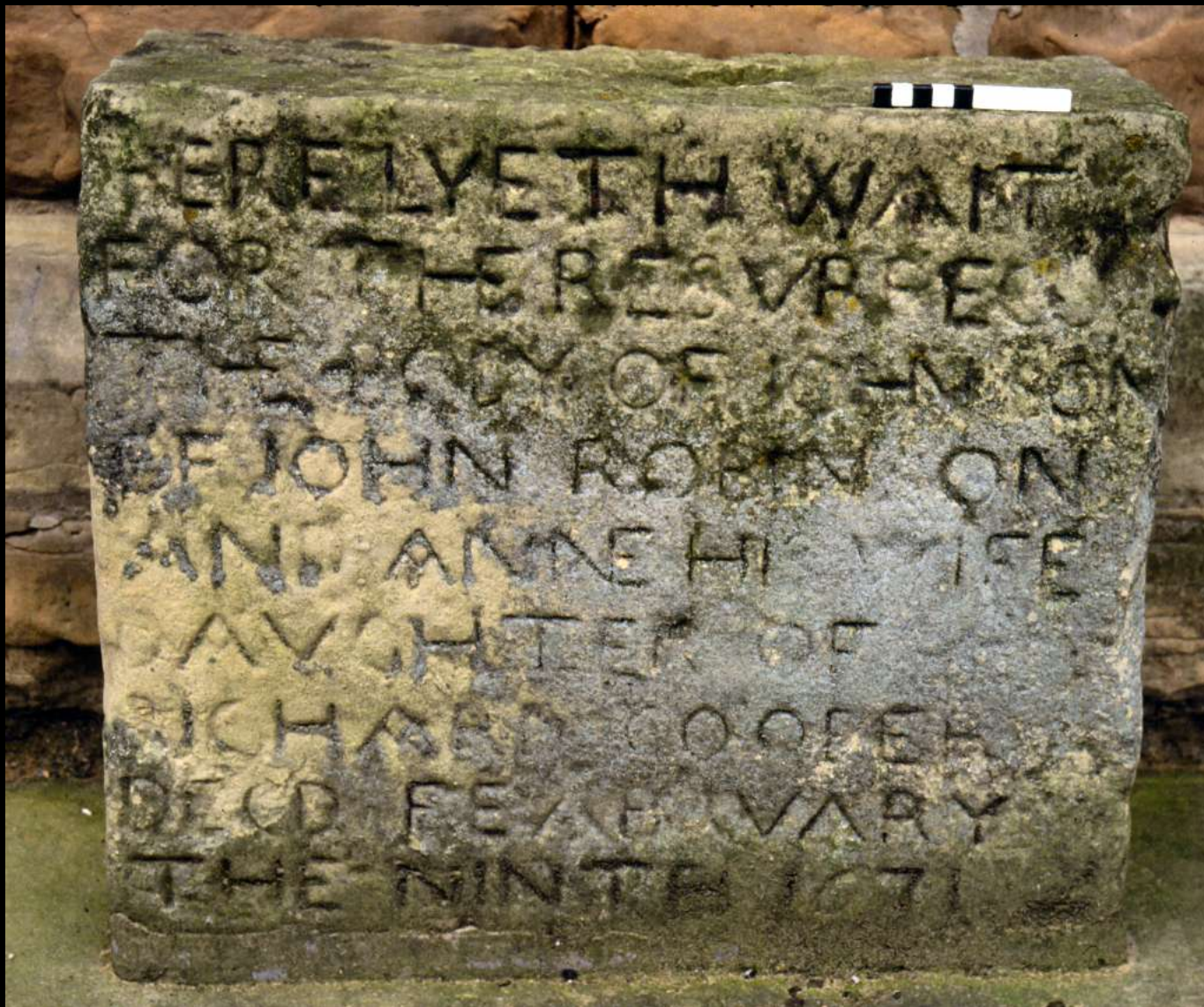
Llangar, Clwyd. Evolution of the churchyard through dates on grave-markers



C6th 'Cudgar' stone from
Ardwall Island, Galloway.



C5th 'Latinus' stone from
Whithorn, Galloway.



Farnsfield: 1671 grave-marker. Typically, of this date, crudely executed and on a plain stone face without ornament



The style of grave-markers helps give an approximate period
Here an 1885 memorial at Upton



Winkburn: early C18th
Grave-marker

Hambleton, Rutland:
Simple C19th numbered
iron marker





Note materials used and unusual depictions – here a Swithland slate stone at Screveton depicting the church



It's important to describe any unusual or elaborate monuments or grave-markers.

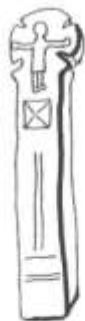
CHURCHYARD MEMORIAL TYPES



PREHISTORIC BURIAL MOUND



MENHIR OR STANDING STONE



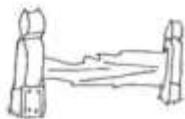
CHURCHYARD CROSS



HOGBACK



CROSS SLAB



GRAVEBOARD



GRAVE MARKERS



RAISED LEDGERS



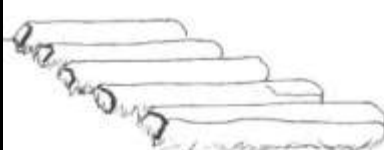
17TH/18TH CENTURY HEADSTONE



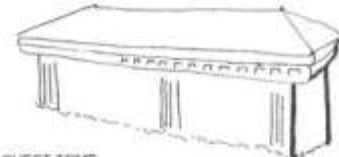
18TH/19TH CENTURY HEADSTONE



KERBED HEADSTONE



BODY STONES



CHEST TOMB



TABLE TOMB



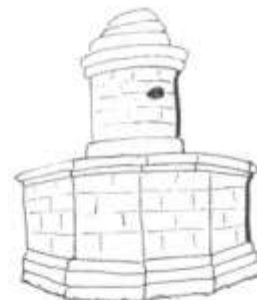
BALE TOMB



COTSWOLD TOMB



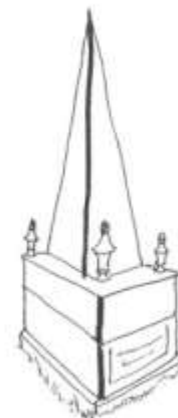
PEDESTAL TOMB



MAUSOLEUM



GREEK REVIVAL TOMB



MONUMENT



MODERN MARITIME MONUMENT

Features other than grave-markers
may be present



Hoveringham: sundial in churchyard



Describe the entrance(s) to the churchyard and in particular if there is a lych-gate



Note the layout of pathways and tree planting



Record the boundaries of the churchyard noting materials and style

Bingham

