

Introduction

The parish church of St John the Baptist, Letton is located in the village of Letton, Herefordshire, approximately 16km north-west of Hereford. At the time of the Domesday survey, Letton was held by Roger de Lucy, and the presence of a priest was recorded here (Thorn and Thorn, 1983). The present church is constructed of local sandstone with some tufa, and the roofs are covered with stone slates. The earliest structural fabric of the church, the north wall of the nave, is dated to the late 11th or early 12th century (RCHME, 1934).

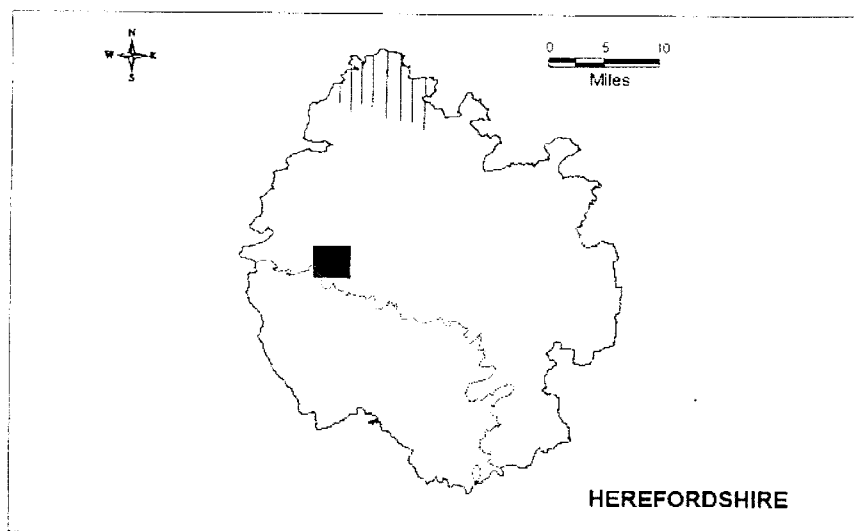
The parish church stands in the northern part of the churchyard. A topographic survey of the churchyard was undertaken on 20th May 2004 by *Herefordshire Archaeology* staff in collaboration with the Caring for God's Acre project of the Diocese of Hereford.

Aims and Objectives

The aims of the churchyard survey were:

- To produce an accurate plan of the churchyard at a scale of 1:200;
- To investigate topographic features of the churchyard and their relationship to the archaeology and geology of the surrounding area.

Location and Geology



The parish church of St John the Baptist, Letton is located in the Wye valley at NGR: SO 33351 24645. The church is sited approximately 0.7km north of the present course of the River Wye at an elevation of 60m OD (Ordnance Survey, 1999).

Figure 1: Site location plan

The underlying bedrock of the Letton area is the Raglan Mudstone Formation of the Lower Old Red Sandstone. The bedrock consists mainly of easily weathered red-brown