

## *Discussion*

The parish church of St John the Baptist, Letton (HSM 1705) is located in the northern part of the churchyard. The land surface is fairly level within the churchyard, rising slightly in the south-<sup>east</sup>west part. The churchyard is approximately oval in form, and the present boundaries are curvilinear on the north, east and south sides, and linear on the west side. The boundaries are marked by stone walls capped with brick on the north, east and north-west sides, by a brick wall on the west side, and by a hedge and earthwork terrace, or lynchet, on the south side.

The main entrance to the churchyard is on the east side, with an iron gate. Additional entrances are located on the west side, with an iron gate; at the south-west corner, with a wooden gate; and at the north-east corner, presently sealed with a wooden fence.

The churchyard is bordered on the north and east sides by access roads. A garden is located on the south side of the churchyard; a house (HSM 20004, Old Rectory) and garden is located on the west side.

### **Topographic Features**

The land surface of the churchyard is generally level, however, several changes of elevation were observed. In the south-east part of the churchyard, a circular area approximately 6m in diameter rises to a height of up to 0.75m above the level of the surrounding area. The change of elevation is associated with the growth of a yew tree at this location, and probably the subsequent dumping of material around it.

On the south side of the parish church, a terrace up to 0.35m high runs parallel with the south walls of the nave and chancel, and the east wall of the south transept. This feature is associated with modern drainage facilities.

The curvilinear boundary on the south side of the churchyard is marked by a south-facing earthwork terrace, or lynchet, up to 0.45m high. The terrace is consistent with the southern boundary of the churchyard shown on the Parish of Letton Tithe Map of 1840.

### **Boundary Changes**

As a result of the survey, no evidence was observed of major changes to the boundaries of the churchyard during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The present boundaries are consistent with those recorded on the Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition map of 1891, and, generally, with those recorded on the parish tithe map of 1840. It was observed, however, that the linear western boundary, marked by a brick wall, and the angular boundary at the south-west corner post-date the parish tithe map of 1840, and are inconsistent with the curvilinear boundaries on the remaining sides and with the rounded corners of the churchyard.