



**FINAL ASSESSMENT ON THE DISMATTLEMING OF A
TABLE TOMB WITHIN THE CHURCHYARD OF
ST MARY & ALL SAINTS CHURCH,
HAMPTON LOVETT, WORCESTERSHIRE**

October 2019

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Status of report: Draft

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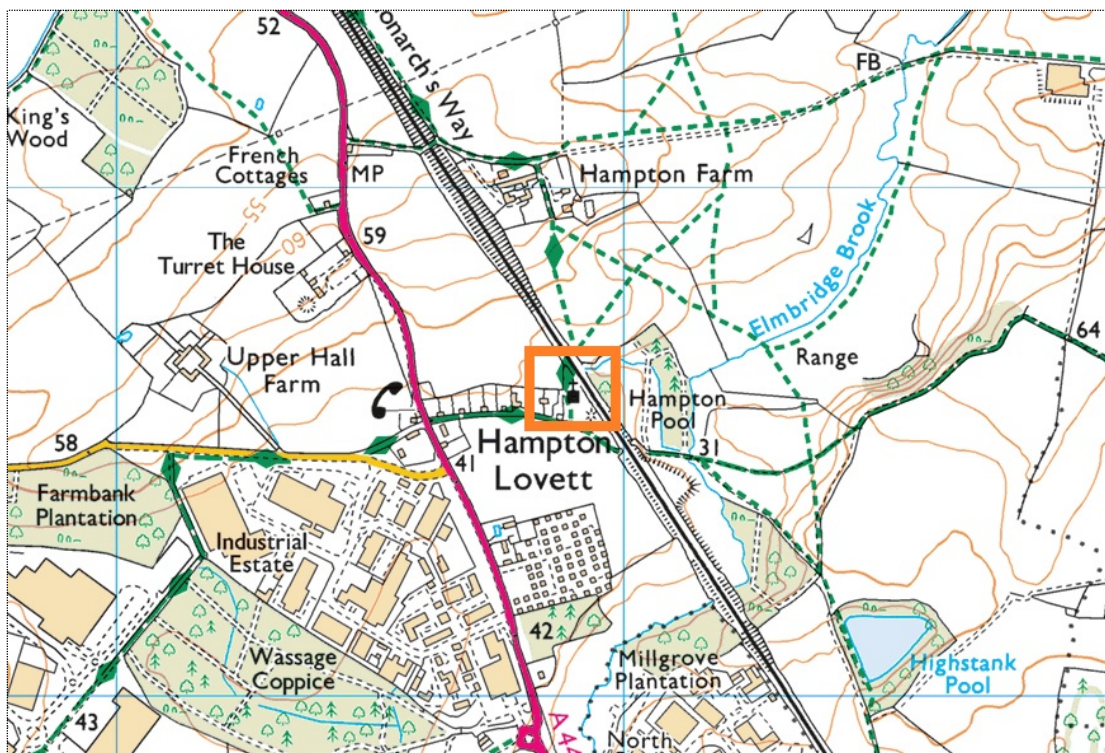
1.0 INTRODUCTION

Dr George Nash was commissioned by Arnold Bartosch Ltd. to undertake an assessment for conservation work on an early 19th-century table tomb which stands within the western section of the churchyard of St Marys All Saints, Hampton Lovett, Worcestershire [NGR: SO 88890 65573 **Figure 1**]. This assessment is included within a full programme of conservation which was undertaken by Sally Strachey Historic Conservation Ltd. The initial assessment in July 2019 showed that the table tomb was in a poor state of preservation. Arnold-Bartosch Ltd issued a Schedule of Works (in July 2019), along with a Condition and Recommendation Report issued by Sally Strachey Historic Conservation (2019). This report focuses on the dismantling of the tomb which was undertaken on the 17th September 2019. Accompanying the dismantling event was Jan Wilkinson (ecologist) who was monitoring areas of the lower section of the tomb for Great Crested Newts.

St Marys All Saints Parish Church dates from the 12th century and has been designated a Grade I Listed Building, along with two other structures that stand within the churchyard which are Grade II designations (Appendix 2). The two other designated buildings/structures that stand within the curtilage of the churchyard are The Parkington Memorial (LB 1288149) and the Lych Gate (LB 1288109). The church stands within a sub-triangular churchyard which appears to be the result of a severing from a mid-19th century railway line (see **Figure 1**).

The Diocesan Advisory Council (DAC) and their Archaeological advisor (Worcestershire Archaeological Service) were aware of the potential issues that are associated with the conservation of the table tomb.

Figure 1:
Location of St Mary All Saints Parish Church (Source: OS Open Data)



This preliminary assessment was initiated in July 2019 following the granting of a (conditional) Faculty for the dismantling and rebuilding of the table tomb. Harvey Falkner-Aston (Project Manager) of Arnold-Bartosch contacted Victoria Bryant of the Worcester Archive and Archaeology Service concerning the archaeological requirements. A photographic record of the dismantling of the monument along with annotated notes accompanies this report.

The archaeological programme of work is within the guidelines provided by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standards and Guidance: Archaeological Watching Briefs (December 2014)* and guidelines to undertake commercial archaeological work, set by Worcestershire County Council's *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Worcestershire (2016 [2010])*.

2.0 CONDITION OF THE TABLE TOMB

A condition survey, commissioned Arnold Bartosch, Chartered Surveyors and Historic Building Consultants, was undertaken by Sally Strachey Historic Conservation in late 2018 (and published in 2019). This report outlined the condition and context of the monument. This report was supported by an archaeological assessment of the site submitted by the author in July 2019.

This early 19th century tomb was reported to be in a poor state of repair and as such from last year the monument has been cordoned off for health and safety reasons. A site inspection was undertaken by Sally Strachey Historic Conservation and Arnold Bartosch in 2018. The monument stands within the western section of the churchyard, among a number of slab and ledger stones of a similar date (**Plate 4, Figure 2**). This monument is the only one of its type within the churchyard and would have been one of many prior to a clearance programme that occurred sometime in the relatively recent past.

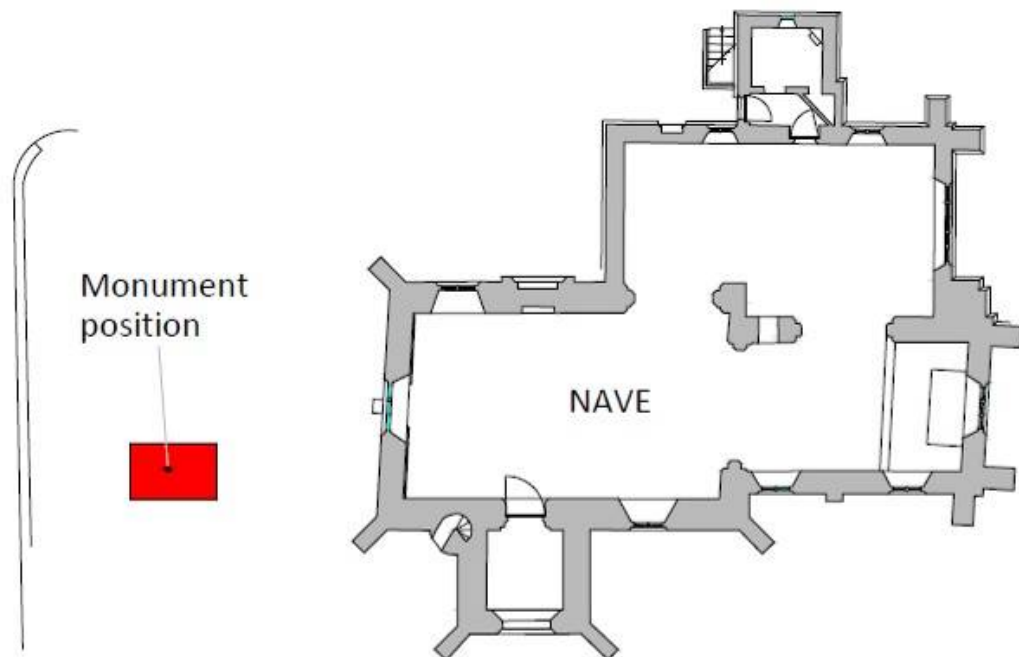
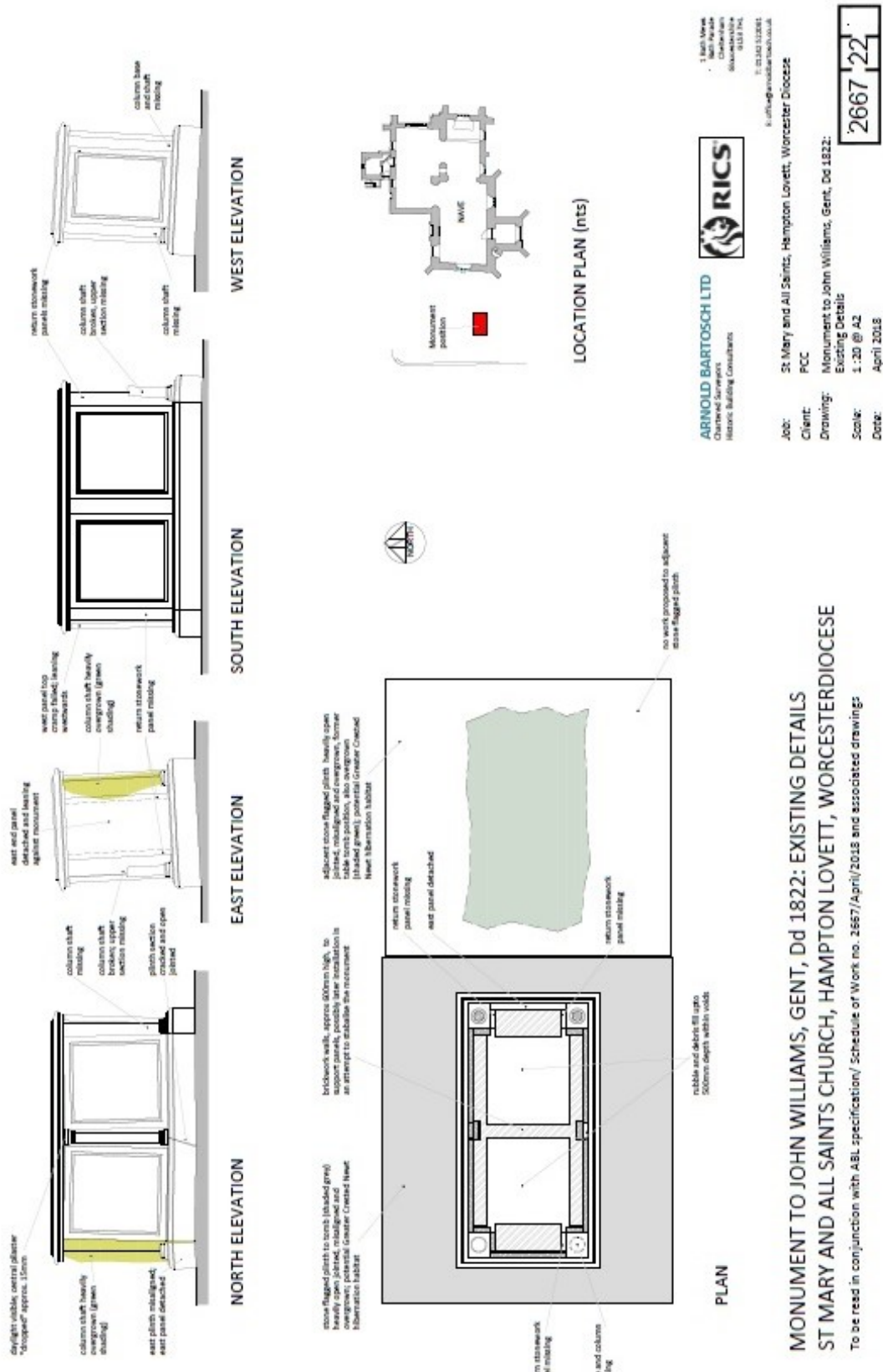


Figure 2. Plan of the church and western section of the churchyard (courtesy of Arnold Bartosch Ltd.)



MONUMENT TO JOHN WILLIAMS, GENT, Dd 1822: EXISTING DETAILS
ST MARY AND ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HAMPTON LOVETT, WORCESTERDIOCESE

To be read in conjunction with ABL specification/ Schedule of Work no. 2667/April/2018 and associated drawings

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Job: St Mary and All Saints, Hampton Lovett, Worcester Diocese
 Client: PCC
 Drawing: Monument to John Williams, Gent, Dd 1822:
 Existing Details
 Scale: 1:20 @ A2
 Date: April 2018

2667_22

The monument is dedicated to John Williams who died in 1822 and is constructed from local fine-grained sandstone. Prior to dismantling, the monument was constructed from six slab-cut panels forming a four-walled structure that was capped by an enormous rectangular moulded capstone (**Plate 1**).¹ All sections were decorated, either with moulded trimmings or engraved with lettering and curvilinear and squared patterns. Over the past 20 years or so, the monument has suffered significant structural damage due mainly to surface weathering and the weakening of internal iron fittings which hold the structure together (**Figure 3**). In addition, there has been an infestation of wooded ivy on one of the sides of the tomb which may have forced apart the fittings and several slab panels. The aggressive nature of the ivy plant and the weathering has contributed to the weakening of the structure. The dismantling programme revealed that the monument had in its history been reconstructed, precisely when though is unknown.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY EMPLOYED

Using ClfA and guidelines set within *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Worcestershire* (2016), the watching brief was implemented whilst the table tomb was being systemically dismantled.²

Specific Methods (fieldwork)

The archaeological watching brief comprised:

- A preliminary inspection of the monument in order to record evidence of the original construction methods and any subsequent rebuilding; and
- Archaeological observations on the dismantling of the monument, conducting a record of the content of the inner space, and to record any surviving fixtures and fittings.

Current and previous inspections revealed no human remains.

Prior to dismantling, it is advised that care should be given when removing loose brick and stonework as Great Crested Newts were reported hibernating in a near-by wall in 2018. As a result of applying this cautious method, five smooth newts were found within the lower courses of the brickwork. These were carefully removed by the ecologist.

4.0 RESULTS OF THE DISMANTLING PROGRAMME

The John Williams monument was dismantled in one day and under strict archaeological monitoring. Prior to dismantling the tomb was photographed and its location-context (e.g. **Plate 1**). **Plate 1** shows that the monument stands over a large broken stone slab which probably covers a [brick-lined] crypt. According to an assessment by Sally Strachey Historic Conservation (January 2019) and Arnold Bartosch Ltd., the monument was in a poor state of preservation (**Plates 2 to 6**). The textual dedication to John Williams and his wife are engraved on two squared panels on the southern side of the monument (**Plates 7 & 8**). Despite the rigours of time and (200 years) sustained weathering the engraved text is in a reasonable state of preservation; however, these and other upright panels were loose and liable for collapse (e.g. see **Plate 2**).

¹ Much of the inscriptions on the six panels have been severely weathered and are largely illegible.

² The conservation procedures were listed in detail within the Schedule of Works (2019).

Before the upright panels were removed, the enormous capstone was lifted using a gantry hoist (**Plates 9-10**). The capstone remained suspended whilst the Sally Strachey Historic Conservation team assessed the structurability of the panels and the potential ease of their careful removal (**Plate 11**).

Revealed, following the removal of all of the side panels was a coarsely-laid brick and stone superstructure; much of which was un-mortared (**Plate 12**).

5.0 DISCUSSION

Although the table tomb is not listed, its presence does much to characterise the historic setting of the western section of the churchyard. It is more probable that other table tombs of this size and date existed but due to historic churchyard clearances (much of the removed gravestones and tombs have been cleared and dispersed around the churchyard and inside the church).

Inspection of the table tomb reveals that the monument was in a poor state of repair (see **Figure 3**). The dismantling programme was organised in four stages:

- Lifting the capstone;
- Removal of the side panels (six slabs);
- Removal of the internal (loose) brick and stonework (and modern debris); and
- Removal of the base course to reveal a large stone slab that probably covers a crypt.

The watching of the four stages revealed no additional archaeological material. The removal of the side panels revealed a series of iron clasps and griping bars which held the panels in place. Dismantling revealed evidence of the monument's construction methodology, including a secondary (later) rebuild of the internal space. Clearly, much of the structural fabric is made of brick including the foundations that directly sit over the top of a large rectangular slab. This slab covers an early 19th century crypt. The secondary phase of construction, probably occurring during the 20th century includes the reuse of dressed stone, with railed kerbstone sections being used to partly [re]construct two chambers within the chest tomb.

6.0 CONSULTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Arnold-Bartosch Ltd. 2018. Specification / Schedule of Works for the dismantling and rebuilding of the John Williams, Gent Dd 1822, Monument at St Mary and All Saints Churchyard, Hampton Lovett, Worcestershire. April 2018.

Bridges, T., 2005. *Churches of Worcestershire*

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Victoria County History, 1913. *A History of the County of Worcester*. Volume 3. London.

Worcestershire County Council. 2010 (revised 2016). *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Worcestershire*.

7.0 CLOSURE

This document has been prepared by Dr George Nash with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the manpower and resources devoted to it by agreement with the client. Information reported herein is based on the interpretation of data collected and has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

This report will be of use of the PCC, DAC and agents and associates of Arnold-Bartosch Ltd. Dr George Nash disclaims any responsibility to the client and others in respect of any matters outside the agreed scope of the work.

APPENDIX 1: Plates



Plate 1. General view of the eastern side of the tomb before dismantling
Plate 2. View of the eastern side of the tomb before dismantling



Plate 3. View of the northern side of the tomb before dismantling



Plate 4. View of the south and western sides of the tomb before dismantling



Plate 5. View of the southern side of the tomb before dismantling



Plate 6. View of the central column on the northern side of the tomb

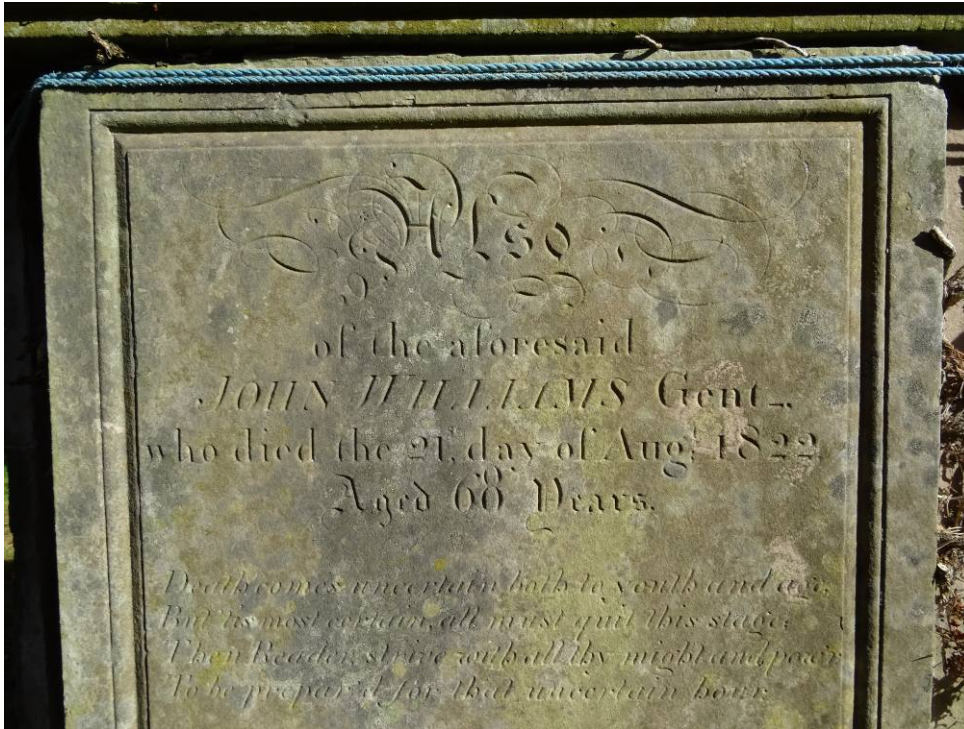


Plate 7. Oblique light exposing the text on one of two side panels



Plate 8. Oblique light exposing the text on one of two side panels



Plate 9. The lifting of the capstone and the steadying of the side panels



Plate 10. Dismantling of the tomb with the capstone suspended



Plate 11. Steadying the capstone following the removal of the side panels



Plate 12. The inner core revealed, following the removal of the stone panels



Plate 13. Stone column with the trace of an iron fitting and a later cement regime



Plate 14. Dismantling of the tomb with several stone panels in place



Plate 15. Dismantling of the tomb (stone panels removed)



Plate 16. Dismantling of the tomb (stone panels removed)



Plate 17. One of two rebuilt chambers within the core of the tomb



Plate 18. Reused railing kerb used to support the panels of the tomb



Plate 19. The complete removal of the various tomb sections, revealing the brick base



Plate 20. The base of the monument showing a re-set floor using building debris, enclosed by a moulded plinth



Plate 21. The western section of the base



Plate 22. Eastern section of the base



Plate 23. A broken section of a kerb (plinth) with railing footings



Plate 24. A broken section of a kerb (plinth) with railing footings



Plate 25. A selection of the rubble infill from the core of the monument

APPENDIX 2: LISTING DESCRIPTIONS

Name: CHURCH OF ST MARY & ALL SAINTS

List Entry Number: 1215375

Parish: Hampton Lovett

Designation: Grade: I

Date first listed: 14-Mar-1969

List Entry Description

HAMPTON LOVETT CP HAMPTON LOVETT SO 86 NE 5/58 Church of St Mary

Parish church. Early C12 with C14 to C16 alterations and additions; restoration of 1858-9. Sandstone ashlar, tile roof. C12 nave, C16 south porch with tower over, C14 chancel, north (St Anne's) chapel built c1474, rebuilt 1561 for the Pakingtons. Tower and porch: four stages, crenellated parapet, diagonal buttresses; belfry (top) stage: 2-light windows with quatrefoil over, first and second have square headed windows; ground floor: porch has outer doorway with double chamfered 2-centred head, inner doorway of two moulded continuous orders. Nave: two bays; south wall: west bay occupied by porch and tower, east bay has late C14 window of two lights under 2-centred head; west wall rebuilt 1858-9, jambs of window reset, tracery restored in C14 style, three lights; north wall: 2-light late C14 window to west, roughly central, a blocked C12 north door with semi-circular head and shafts with cushion capitals; set in jambs continued up to eaves as pilaster buttresses; east bay occupied by north chapel: almost entirely of 1561, with north vestry of 1858-9 flanked by two reset windows of c1414, of 2 and 3 cinquefoil headed lights under square heads; east window of 1561 with five Tudor arched lights under a square head. Chancel: angle buttresses, south wall partially C12, of two bays, two early C15 two-light windows under square heads, blocked priests door between them; east window: late C14 with three trefoil headed lights. Interior: chancel arch of early C14, 2-centred with two orders continuous down jambs; 2-centred arch from nave to north chapel of 1858-9; early C15 arch between chancel and north chapel, 4-centred head of two orders; piscina in south wall of chancel with trefoil head. Roofs: nave: C16 restored 1858-9, four bays with moulded cambered tie-beams, two queen struts (no collar) and moulded purlins; an earlier, crenellated, beam is embedded in the wall above the chancel arch; chancel: four bay wooden barrel vault of 1858-9; north chapel: five bay arch braced collar roof of 1858-9. Fittings: chancel: chest tomb of Sir John Pakington, died 1551, set in north wall, with much restored canopy above; nave: wall memorial to Henry Hammond, died 1660, framed by Corinthian columns, armorial bearing above, signed by Joshua Marshall of London; north chapel: memorial to Sir John Pakington, reclining effigy on chest tomb with wall tablet behind, signed by J Rose of London. Glass: some fragments of armorial glass of 1561 in north window of nave; chancel east window by John Hardman. Font: C19 octagonal bowl on C14 moulded octagonal base. (VCH 3, pp 156-7; BoE, p 183).

Name: LYCH GATE ABOUT 70 METRES SOUTH OF CHURCH OF ST MARY

List Entry Number: 1288109

County: Worcestershire
District: Wychavon
District Type: District Authority
Parish: Hampton Lovett

Grade: II
Date first listed: 14-Mar-1969

Legacy System Information
Legacy System: LBS
UID: 400569

HAMPTON LOVETT CP HAMPTON LOVETT SO 86 NE 5/60 Lych gate about 70 metres south of Church of St Mary

Lych gate. Mid-C19. Timber-frame on sandstone ashlar plinth, tiled roof. East and west gables in herringbone strutting from king post, north and south gablets with crossed struts giving quatrefoil panels. Ornamental cross-braced gates with cast iron fleurs-de-lys rails and ornamental strap hinges.

Listing NGR: SO8889865544

Name: PAKINGTON MEMORIAL ABOUT 15 METRES SOUTH OF SOUTH PORCH OF CHURCH OF ST MARY

List Entry Number: 1288149

Location:
County: Worcestershire
District: Wychavon
District Type: District Authority
Parish: Hampton Lovett

Grade II: Date first listed: 14-Mar-1969

HAMPTON LOVETT SO 86 NE 5/59 Pakington memorial about 15 metres south of south porch of Church of 14.3.69 St Mary (previously listed as Churchyard Cross)

GV II

Cross. C. 1841. Possibly by Philip Hardwick. Octagonal base in three stages supporting octagonal shaft capped by finial with four small statues, surmounted by a Latin cross. Inscription, mostly illegible, to Augusta Anne Lady Pakington, died 1841. (BoE p 183).

Listing NGR: SO8889965567