

Note of conversation with Sean Uttley, Monumental Mason – 01.11.24

The original plan had been to explore under the Nursery Building with Sean Uttley on 28th October; however, Sean was unable to attend at the time that the caretaker was available to allow access. Accordingly, CS, the vicar, attended on her own and sent the report entitled, “Crawl space under Nursery” to Sean for his views.

CS and Sean Uttley then had a conversation about the report following a burial on 1st November 2024, as follows:

The original photos of the space under the Nursery, taken by CS on 28th October, were considered and explained in more detail, with dimensions considered.

SU was of the view that it would be very difficult, well-nigh impossible, to move the headstones because of their height and width and the limited space between girders and concrete base (around 60cm).

SU also thought that the stones were probably sunk to some extent into the concrete as they would usually be a greater depth than 10cm. That would almost certainly preclude their removal without breaking the stone and/or concrete.

If the headstones can be lifted it might be possible to place them on something like a flat-bed trolley to move them out from under the Nursery, However, it would be difficult to find a trolley low enough to get under the girders and the rough floor and other obstacles would also make the use of a flat-bed trolley to remove the headstones, very challenging.

SU is willing to try to find another time to get under the Nursery but he is sceptical that the stones can be removed.