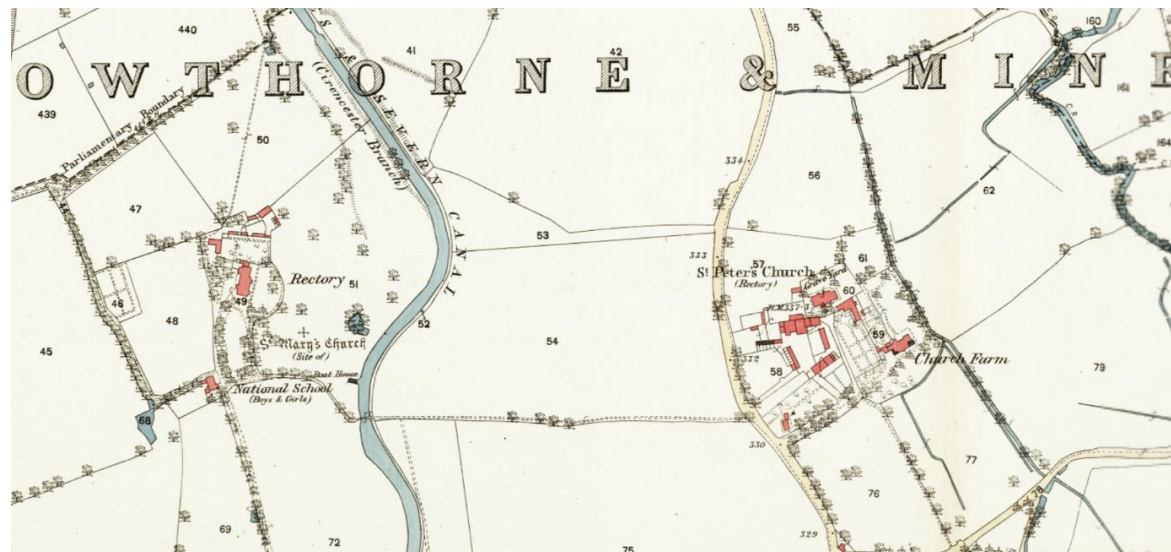


St. Peter's Church.
Church Avenue, Siddington, Cirencester. GL7 6EZ

St. Mary's Church.
The Coach Road, Siddington, Cirencester. GL7 6HL

There were once two churches in Siddington, St Peter's Siddington and St Mary's Upper Siddington. The joint parish of St Mary & St Peter covered a respectable 2,000 acres of which St Mary formed around a third of the western portion. Collectively the joint parish would have supported around 450 parishioners. The two parishes were amalgamated in 1663 under the rector of St Mary's, Dr George Bull. When St Mary's was finally demolished in 1778, a year after the final marriage took place, some of the bricks were used to construct the rectory and the school which opened in 1860. Both now standing near the site of the old church. With such an early removal little is known about St Mary's architecture other than it was mediaeval in age. The cutting of the Thames & Severn canal would have passed very close to its churchyard of which all trace is now removed. St Peter's church was originally Norman, and was extended around 1470. It underwent restoration by Henry Woodyer in 1864, at this point the church tower was added.



The church of St Peter's was remodelled internally in 1864 and at the same time that the porch and tower and spire were built. With the exception of a very few, the majority of memorials in the graveyard date from after 1864, suggesting either that older memorials were removed as part of the renovations or that there were very few memorials in the churchyard prior to that date. There are various iron memorials, some of which appear to be based on the same 'template', sometimes with names and dates added. Superficially these appear to be military memorials but they are not. Locally it is assumed that these were produced by the local blacksmith (the smithy being sited on Ashton Road), providing a cheaper alternative to a stone memorial. The iron memorials that have dates are from 1865 to 1876, with the earliest two commemorating George and Annie Telling, two infants of Samuel Telling, the village blacksmith. There doesn't appear to be any family connection between Samuel Telling and the other people commemorated with iron memorials. Samuel Telling died in 1893, aged 53 and doesn't have a memorial in the churchyard.

Alison Wagstaff during the restrictions incurred on us all when Covid was at its height, meticulously and comprehensively recorded and identified all the graves within the graveyard. Additional to this, in the vestry is an A3-sized piece of cardboard with some burial records from around the 1980s. This has provided some names and locations for unmarked plots. The database has prefixed the grave numbers with SN to distinguish it from other graveyards.

As far as I am aware that is complete a list of those buried in the graveyard as I can find. I am sure there are still gaps but I have endeavoured to reconcile all the entries and also resolve any duplicate and mis-represented entries as far as I can.

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To access the complete database of graveyards in and around Cirencester the QR code will enable you to view all the records as best as can be reconciled as of early 2024. <https://www.sitechsurveying.co.uk/graveyards/index.html>

