

Holy Trinity Church Sibford Gower



In 2004 the Sibfords Society carried out a survey to record all the headstones in the graveyard at Holy Trinity Church, Sibford.

The purpose was to produce, as accurately as possible a record and index of those buried in the churchyard whose headstones remained.

The following pages list, alphabetically, all the known names, and cross reference them to a grid number that can be identified on one of the churchyard plans. The grid is intended to provide a guide to location only.

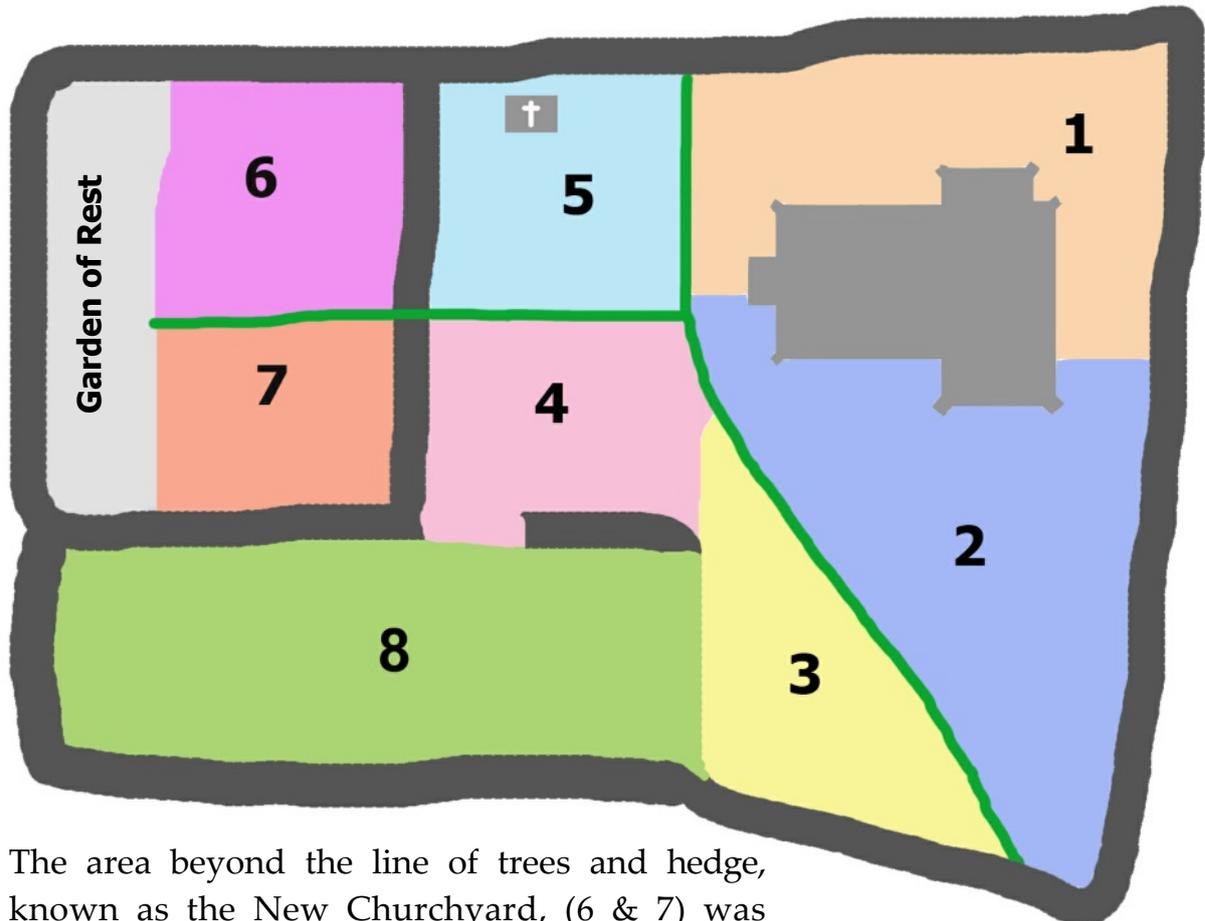
*The Sibfords
History Society*

Updated January 2020

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Plan of Churchyard

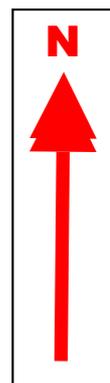
The original churchyard (1) surrounded the Church that was built in 1840 and was bordered by a wall that extended from the road, passed the main door to the hedge at the southern edge of the graveyard. It was further extended (2, 3, 4 & 5) and consecrated on 8 May 1903 by Rev. Francis, Lord Bishop of Oxford.



The area beyond the line of trees and hedge, known as the New Churchyard, (6 & 7) was consecrated in 1939 and is now full. A further extension has been negotiated.

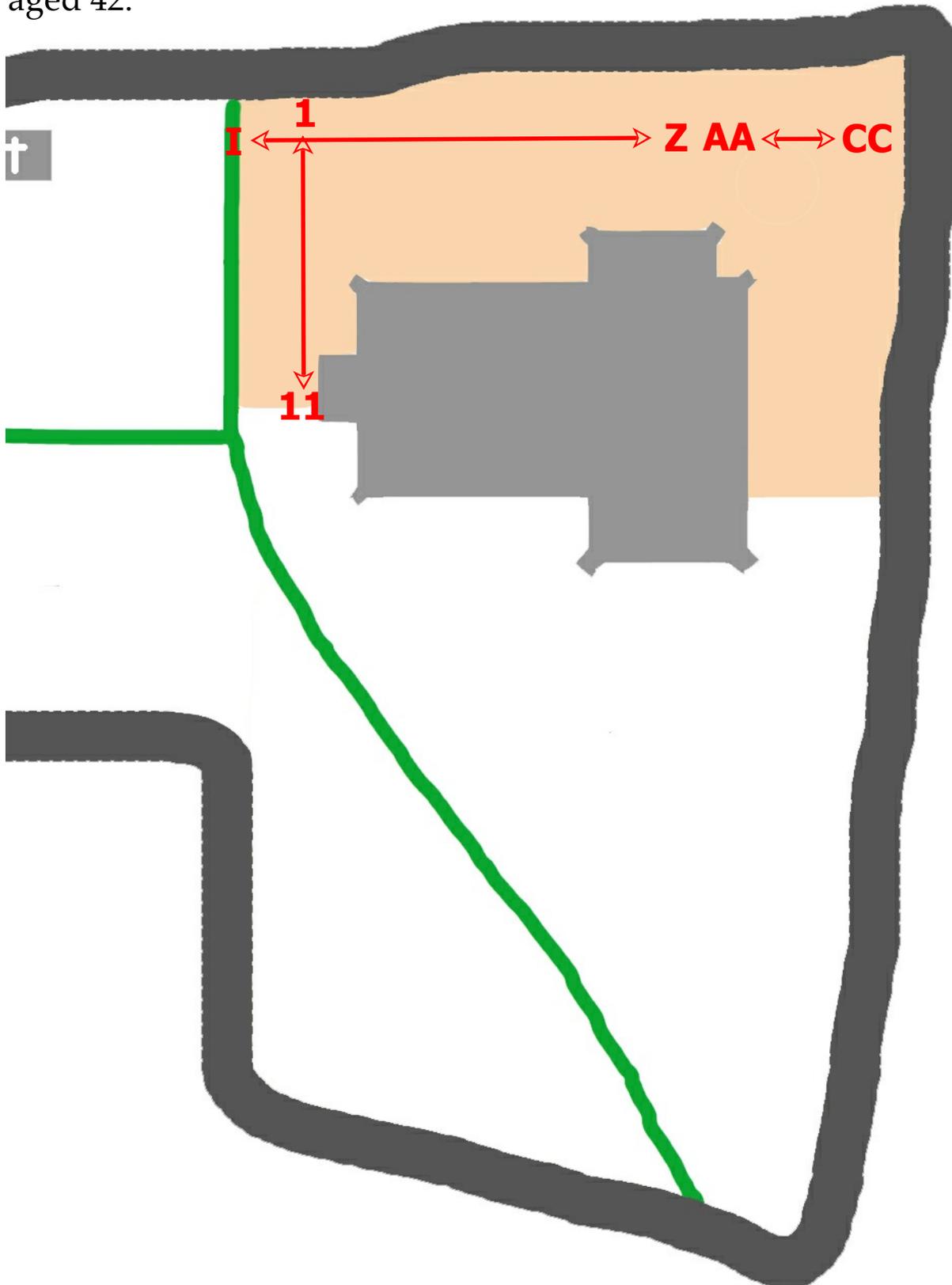
Early studies concentrated on the 1840 and 1903 areas and members of the Society set to work to record each stone disturbing each as little as possible. Due to the softness of the local Hornton stone some of the carving was difficult to read. A fine soft brush and a puff of talcum powder often helped to decipher the text.

The 'New Churchyard' (sections 6 and 7) and Garden of Rest have now been completed and these records will be updated from time to time.



Section 1

This area included the first recorded burial – that of John Lines, son of Ann and Henry Lines who died on 27 January 1841 aged 42.



Section 4

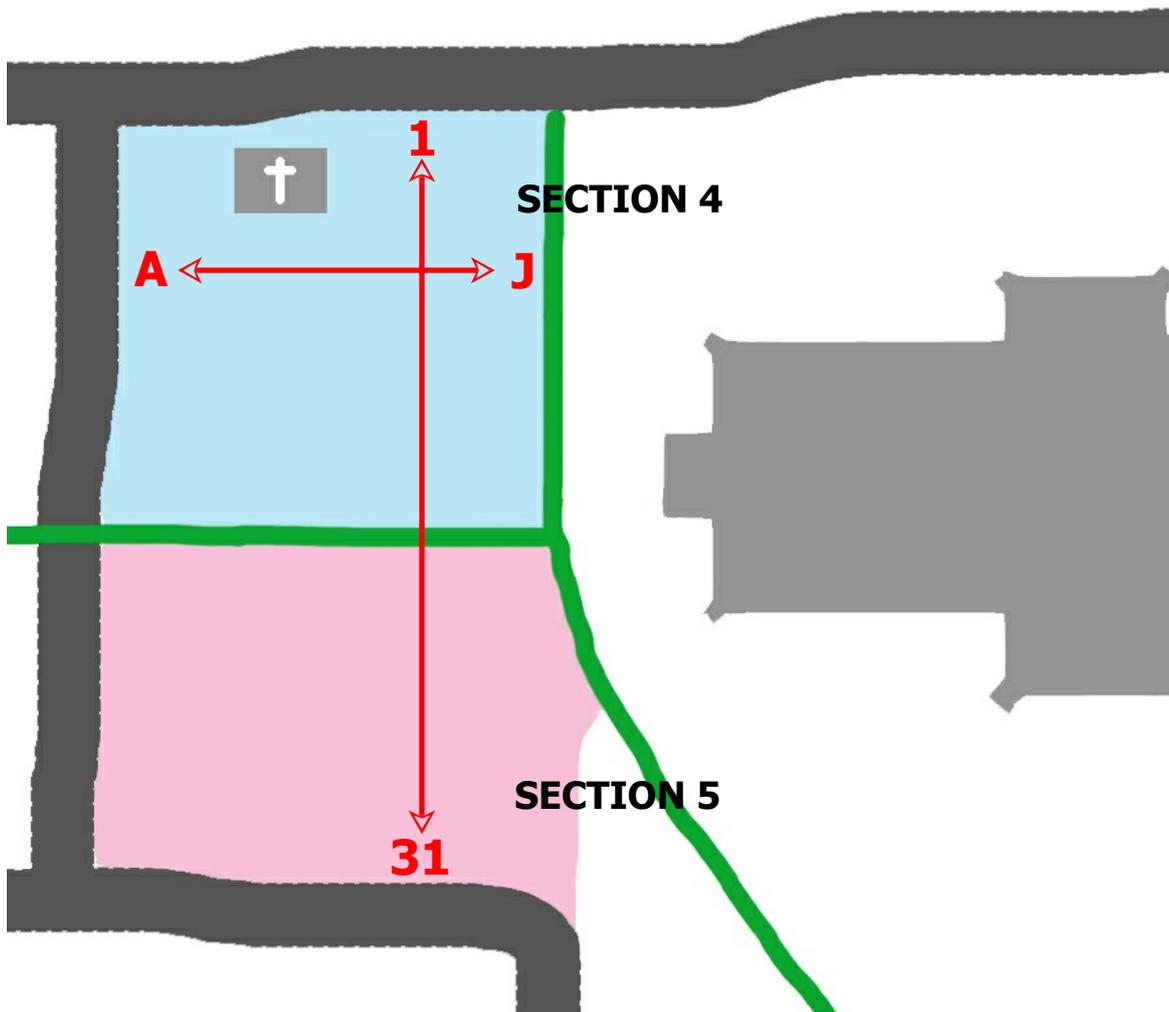
Burials in this section cover the years 1897 to 1949 and include an RAF memorial stone to 62273 2nd Air Mechanic W J Barton, Royal Air Force who died 5th June 1918. He must have been one of the first men to serve in the Royal Air Force which was only formed in April 1918 by the amalgamation of the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service.

There are 5 headstones, each with a Celtic cross, in memory of members of the Holt family – recording 6 children born to Thomas and Elizabeth Holt.

Section 5

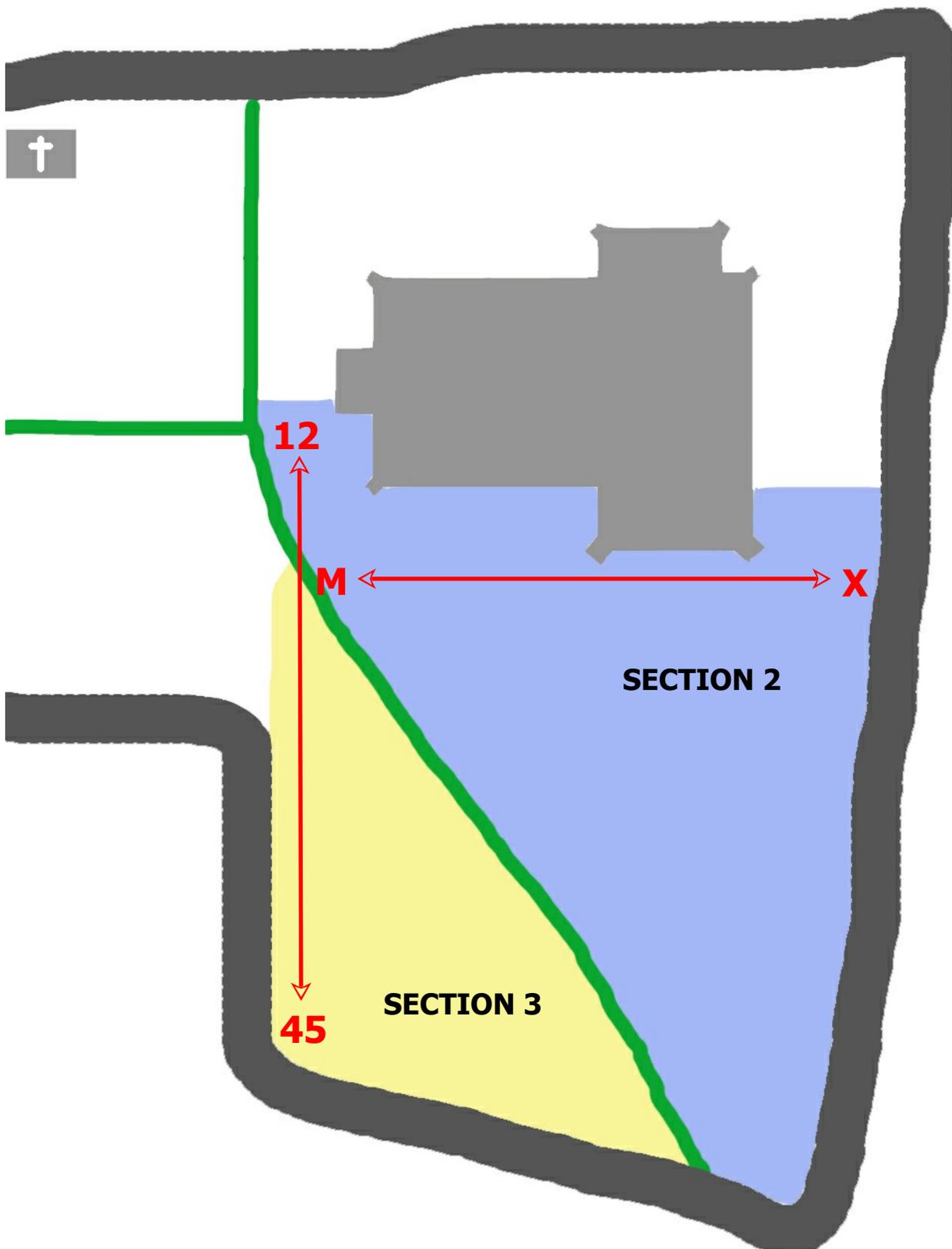
This area contains the War Memorial commemorating the men from the Sibfords who gave their lives in the two World Wars.

Many members of familiar village names are buried here and one small headstone records a young girl – 'Mary Ellen Pettifer was killed, September 12th 1929'. Sadly she was knocked down and killed by a car after getting off the school bus in Broughton.



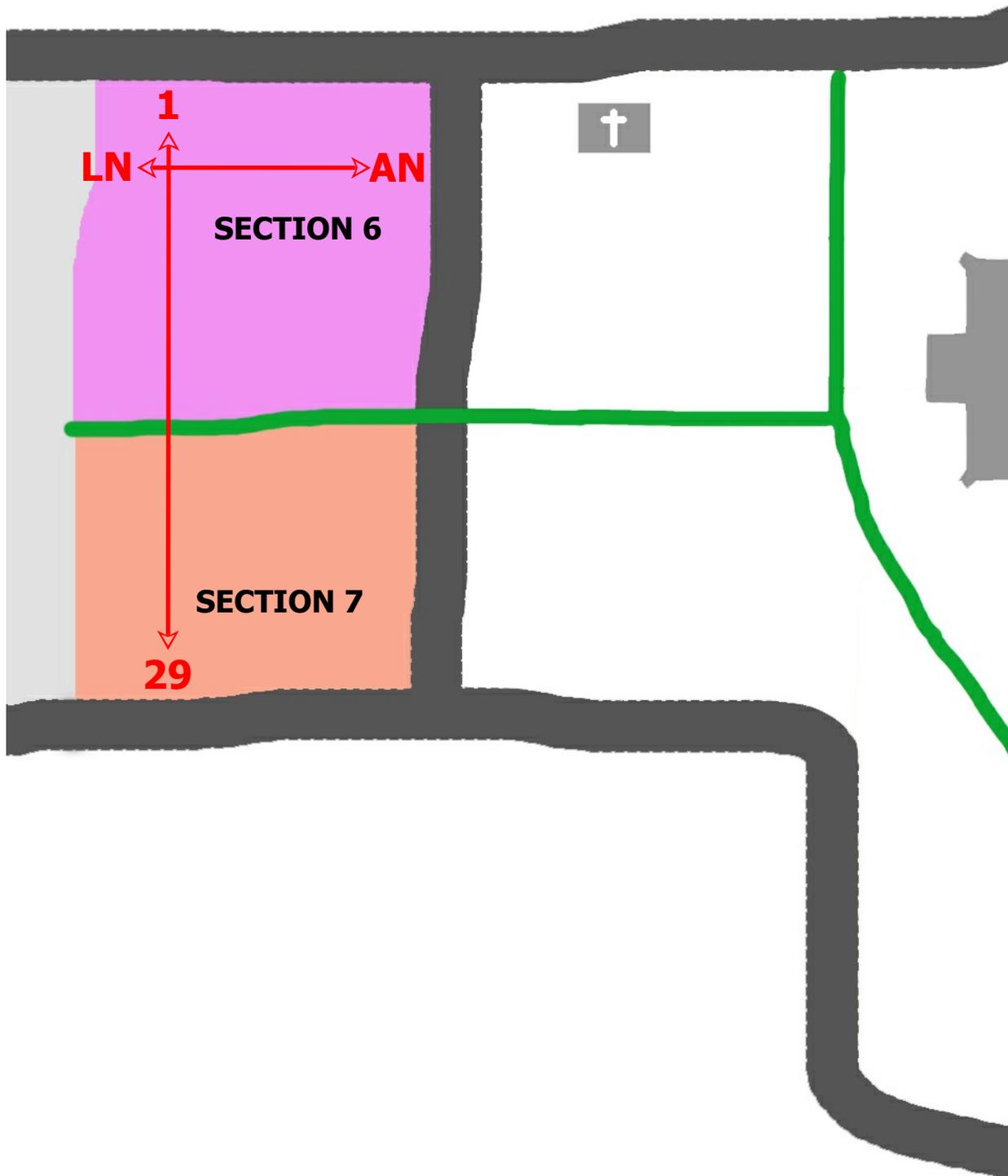
Sections 2 and 3

This area, south of the church, included the majority of the oldest graves and those surveying this area often found themselves on their hands and knees or even fully extended on the ground to decipher parts of headstones which had sunk lower into the ground. In some cases, these headstones provided a sad, social history of village families in the late 1800's and early 1900's.



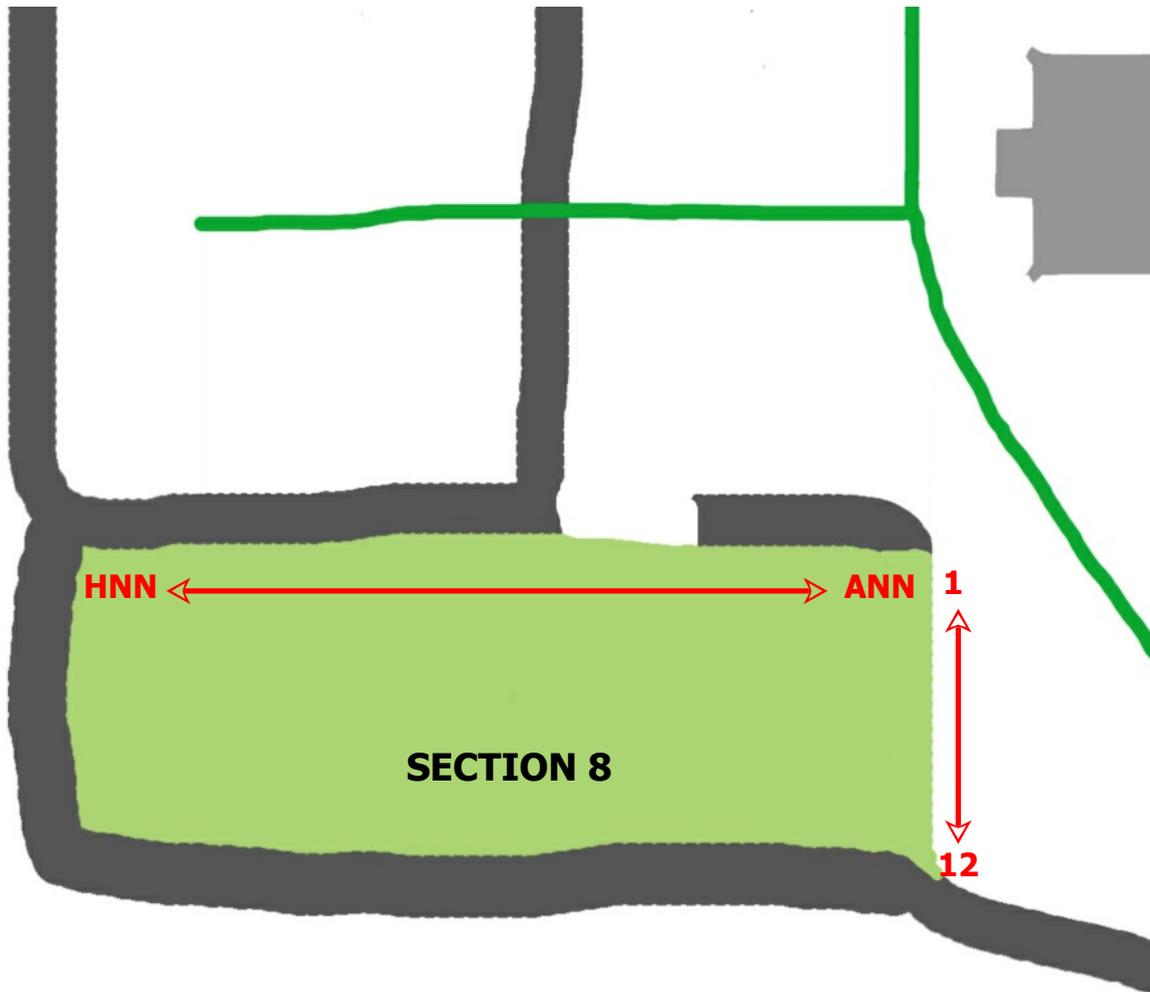
Sections 6 & 7

The area known as the 'New Churchyard', consecrated in 1939, is almost full. The western edge is a Garden of Rest and contains interred ashes. An area to the south has been purchased to provide a further extension for burials in the years to come.



The New burial ground – Section 8 on the churchyard layout plan, was purchased from the Church Commissioners in 2006 to provide additional consecrated ground once the existing burial ground was full and closed to further burials.

The purchase was made jointly by Sibford Gower with Burdrop and Sibford Ferris Parish Councils. The two parish Councils, in equal financial share agreed to maintain and manage the area and the first burial was made in 2011





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Sibfords History Society would like to thank the Parochial Church Council for allowing them to undertake the graveyard survey.

Thanks are given to the members of the Society who recorded the names and inscriptions in all sections of the graveyard:

Kay and Tony Harries
Eileen and Tony Haynes
Maureen Hicks
Ivor Hopkyns
Ina and Arnold Lamb
Mary Mills
Eric Payne
Gaynor Harper-Tarr
Ian Warden

Working notes are held in our Archive and further details are available on request to Maureen Hicks. Telephone 01295 780259.

Thanks are also given to Keith Hicks who produced the database to enable the whole survey to be recorded, indexed updated and printed.



THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SIBFORDS HISTORY SOCIETY:

To increase our appreciation of Sibford's past and present and preserve the evidence remaining to us for future generations.