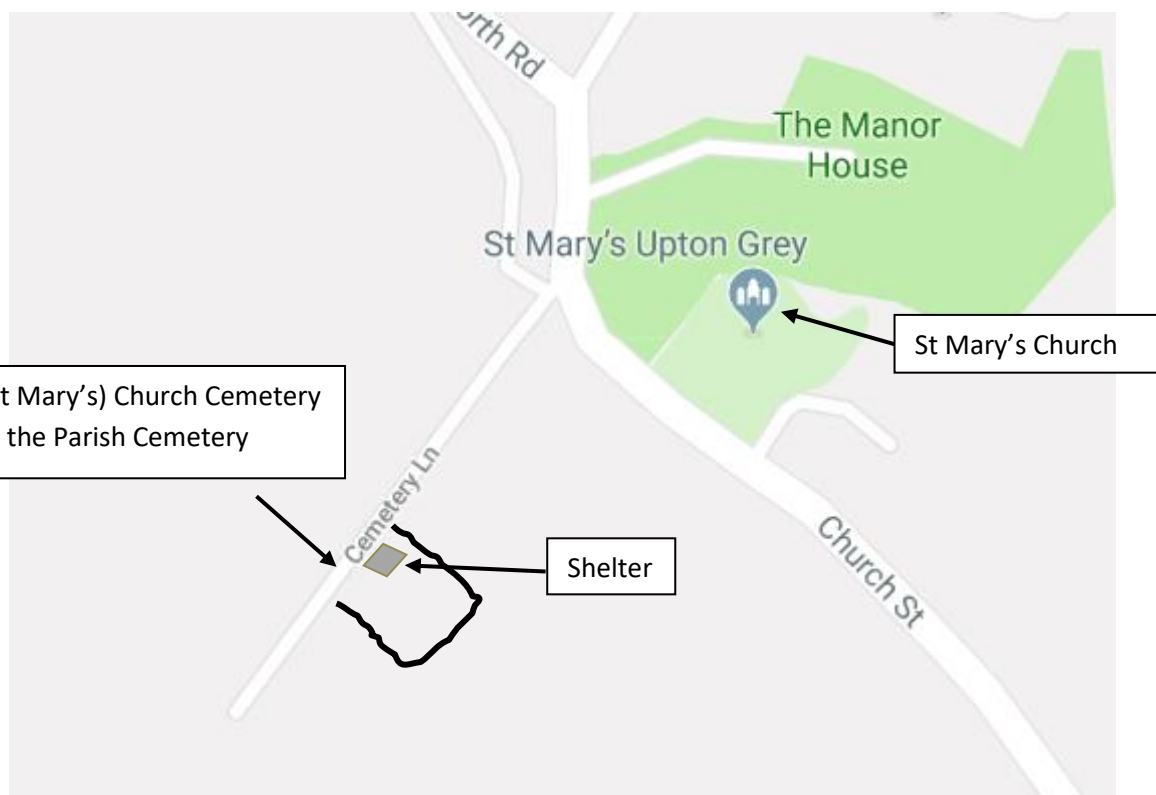


Guide to Commonwealth War Graves Commission War Grave

Reference: 11791 Upton Grey (St. Mary) Church Cemetery

1. **Purpose of this Guide.** The purpose of this Guide is to show the location of the Upton Grey (St Mary's) Church Cemetery. The Guide then explains exactly what is meant by a war grave, gives some information about the war grave in the Upton Grey Cemetery, and shows where the grave is located. Some information is also given about the Military Grave in the Cemetery. A copy of this Guide is available in the shelter at the Cemetery, and it can also be downloaded from the St Mary's Church Website, available under "Local Information". The Guide is dated 1st October 2018.
2. **Official and Local Names for Cemetery.** On their website, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission refers to the cemetery as The Upton Grey (St Mary's) Church Cemetery, which is its official name. However, locally, it is more generally known as the Parish Cemetery, or just The Cemetery.
3. **Location of Cemetery.** It is located towards the end of Cemetery Lane, on the left as you approach it, and as shown on the map below. Visitors should beware of rabbit holes hidden in the long grass, as they can be a trip hazard.



4. **Introduction to The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC).** The CWGC was established by Royal Charter in 1917 as the sole organisation charged with the care and commemoration of those Commonwealth Armed Forces personnel who died during the two World Wars. They currently care for the graves and commemorations of 1.7 million men and women worldwide and have war graves at over 12,000 locations in the UK alone.
5. **CWGC Project to Erect Commission Signs at UK Cemeteries.** To mark the centenary of the end of the First World War, the CWGC is working on a project to erect Commission signs at as many sites as possible that contain war graves. The aim of the initiative is to increase awareness of war graves in the United Kingdom. Accordingly, the CWGC has offered to erect a sign at the entrance to the Parish Cemetery indicating that it contains an official war grave. The Upton Grey Parochial Church Council (PCC) has decided to accept this offer, and, in due course, a sign will be located on the Cemetery gates.
6. **What is a War Grave?**
- a. The conditions laid down by the CWGC for a grave to be declared a War Grave, is that the deceased must have served in a World War.
 - b. Many people will associate war graves with the First World War military cemeteries in Flanders, as illustrated below.



7. **War Grave in Parish Cemetery.** The situation in the Parish Cemetery is confusing. We have a war grave, for Company Sergeant Major Arthur Sydney Counsell, that that doesn't really look like a traditional war grave as illustrated above, but is, and we have a Military Grave that looks like a traditional CWGC war grave, but isn't. Each is described below.

8. **War Grave – Company Sergeant Major Arthur Sydney Counsell.**

- a. The War Grave in the Parish Cemetery is for Company Sergeant Major (C.S.M.) (WO2) T/61327 Arthur Sydney Counsell, who served in the Royal Army Service Corps. He died at the age of 27 on 19th June 1944 as a result of wounds received during the invasion of Normandy. He died in The Canadian Neurological Hospital, Hackwood Park, near Basingstoke, Hampshire, leaving a widow, Mrs J M Counsell. He was not a local man, but came from Bristol, hence he does not appear on our village war memorial.
- b. To find the grave, go into the Cemetery through the gates, shown below.



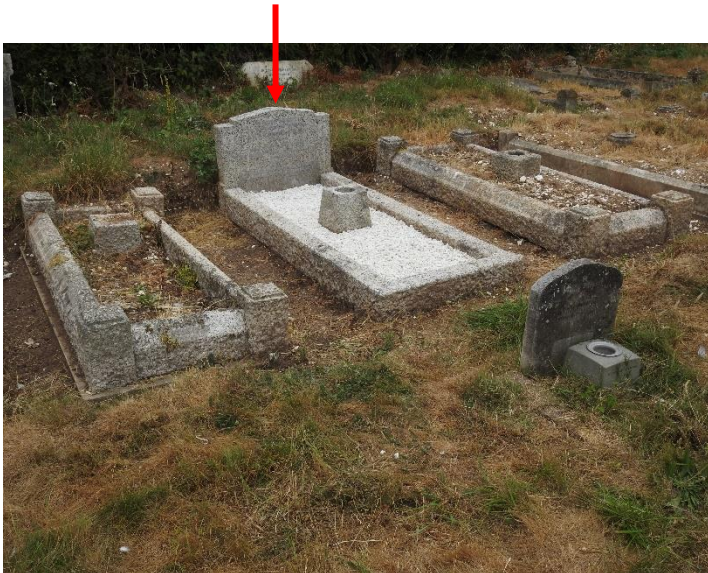
- c. Then look down the Cemetery and across to the right. The War Grave is just under half way down, several rows in and towards the hedge, as shown in the photo to the right. Ignore the military style headstone to the sharp right as you enter the Cemetery, as this is not a war grave



- d. Walk down the path towards the central island, then turn right. The War Grave is behind the prominent cross, as shown below.



- e. The Upton Grey (St Mary's) Church Cemetery CWGC War Grave does not look like a classic military headstone as illustrated above in the Flanders War Cemeteries. On the contrary, it is a box grave and is closely hemmed in on either side with other box graves. At the back of the grave, behind the headstone, there is a considerable mound of earth leading to the hedge.



- f. The inscription is quite hard to decipher, but it reads: “In proud memory of my beloved husband AS Counsell C.S.M., who died 19 June 1944 from wounds received in the battle of Normandy. Aged 27. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we shall remember them.”



- g. A plan showing the location of Company Sergeant Major Counsell’s grave can be found at the end of this Guide.

9. **Military Grave - Lance Corporal S.A. Gilbert.**

- a. The grave marked with a CWGC style headstone belongs to Lance Corporal S.A. Gilbert, who served in the Royal Army Medical Corps. It is not an official war grave, and, for simplicity, it is referred to in this Guide as a Military Grave. Lance Corporal Gilbert died in 1983. He did not die in action, but as a result of an accident, so he does not appear on our village war memorial.
- b. To find the Military Grave, go through the Cemetery Gates and turn immediately to the right. As shown in the photograph, the grave is then about 10 yards away, three rows in, and about 10 yards from the hedge.
- c. As can be seen in the photograph on the right, the grave is marked with a CWGC style headstone, but the CWGC have confirmed that this is not a war grave.
- d. LCpl Gilbert's death was as a result of an accident. He was hit by a car at the junction in Upton Grey village opposite the phone box. He was a local man with relatives in the village.
- e. A plan showing the location of LCpl Gilbert's grave can be found at the end of this Guide.



Plan Showing Location of CWGC War Grave and the Military Grave in the Upton Grey (St Mary's) Church Cemetery

More usually known as the Parish Cemetery

The memorial for CSM AS Counsell is an official CWGC War Grave.

The memorial for LCpl AS Gilbert is a military grave, but not a war grave.

Raised Bed

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X				20
X				21
X				22
X				23
X				24
X				25
				26
				27
			CSM Counsell	28
				29
				30
				31
				32
				33
				34
				35
		LCpl Gilbert		36
				37
				38
				39
				40
				41
				42

Entrance Gates

BURIALS IN THE CEMETERY BY PLOT - 1928 ONWARDS

Side 1 - West					
E	D	C	B	A	
Seth Smith F	Seth Smith KJ	Childs E + LM	Smith PH	Waters W	1
Seth Smith J	Seth Smith ED	Kinge E	Cooper G	Gosney F	2
Speed FKF	Seth Smith DJ	Stacey H + F	Stacey E	Gosney E	3
Pearson PE+SM	Chichester IF+CM		Porter IJ	Fryer J	4
Pearson GG	Kinge LEA+HW	Rogers EW	Campbell H	Westbrook Cath	5
Weisweiler N	Woodruffe AH+A	Ewers A + W	Ballard TG	Westbrook Co	6
Wood PSL ↑	Gould BE	Hillier E	Rogers L	Kinge M	7
Sewell Rev H		Pearman AJ	Firminger F	Gould M	8
Sewell E		Holloway AJ	Croft MLE	Phillips E	9
Westbrook MW+HS	Hunt WA	Hunt, Jessie	Carter A +JEM	Hockley C	10
Ilott WC+EA		Ireland G + I	Painting J	Paice F	11
Holland MMM		Pretty A + CA	Pretty AR	Waters E	12
Tallent HJ+HMJ		Smith J + G	Hutchins EC	Lucas J + Cripps	13
Mills HG + GA		White EP	Elliott E + ES	Lucas K	14
Evans M		Brickwood EL+J	Vallence HW	Tigwell F	15
Felgate JH	Kimpton PH	Broughall E	Gooddall FJ	Thomas E	16
	Coleman RJ+AJ	Cates E	Gary H + R	Waters Ada	17
X		Kinge EE +AM	Nokes E + B	Waters AG	18
X	Papen PW+WS	Waters CD	Everett E + F	Reeves GL	19
X	West MK	Ball EG + A	Arlett ET + EA	Clarke W	20
X		Sims FG	Coxhill MP+WH	Instrell T	21
Raised X		Pearce AH+BM	Fisher WE +EF		22
Bed X				Peerman AM	23
X				Woolhead FJD	24
X	Peacock EB	Bush MR	Kenton WG +AM+E	Phillips HA	25
X		Bush AH +WD	Sparshatt FL+R	Terrell, Agnes	26
		Swan EJ	Rolfe S + EJ	Foxcroft BM	27
				Terrell EG	
Arnold HW +H		Widdowson WH	Counsell AS	Kinge C	28
Barkway JM	De Courcey G Taylor JA	Angell EDM	Humbles CMA	Tipper J	29
Wells RE+EA	Raynsford WG	Hutchens BL	Sparshatt RE+EH	Hatt FE	30
Simpson TM+ER	Everett NV	Childs C+AME	Shearing E + J	Green MH	31
Holland AMH	Tigwell DC	Pickering MJ	Moulder WJ + R	Green J	32
	Gilbert AJ	Gilbert AEI	Goodchild H	Browning JT	33
	Porter WL	Ebbs L	Parsons A	Woollard W	34
	Goodyear F Thomson T	White EM	Blake DA + L	Hayter W	35
Burt		Gilbert SA	Blake GAV	Barrett J	36
Fishlock	Gould J		Blake L	Barrett L	37
Res Smith				Compton ML+AL	38
Goodyear CE		Robinson EF+EF	Thomas RA+MJ		39
	Turner WH	Creasey JW+JBO Baird CR	Beard SE	Thomas L	40
	Turner PJ	Lucas GA + A	Gray GG;	Woods RM	41
		Lucas NM	Robinson PG;	Fisher <i>stillborn</i>	42

CSM Counsell

LCpl Gilbert

Fisher J+P

BURIALS IN THE CEMETERY BY PLOT - 1928 ONWARDS

Side 2 - East

Entrance Gates