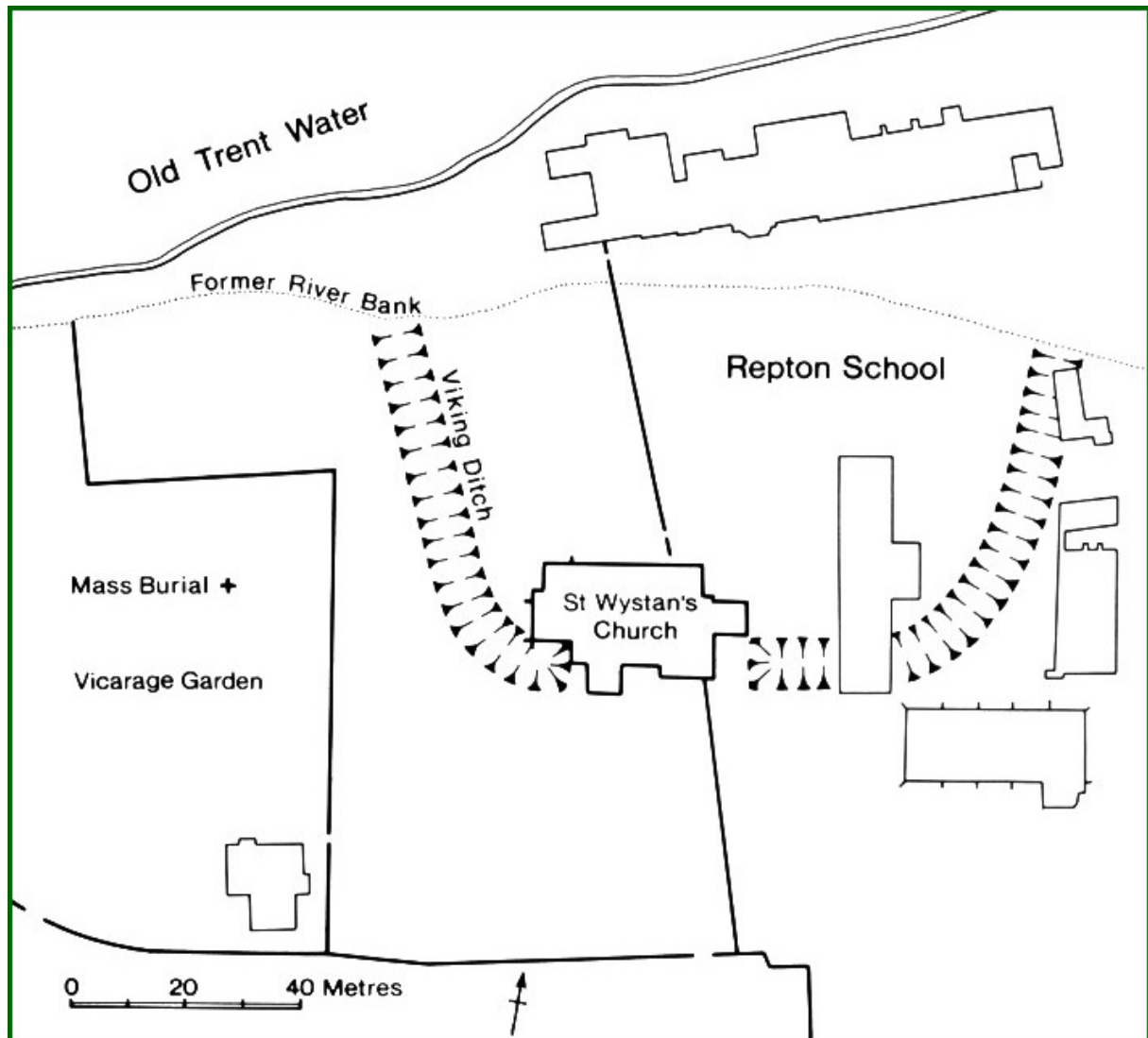


The Viking Overwintering at Repton

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle for Anno 874 (actually 873) has the entry:

Her for se here from Lindesse to Hreopedune, 7 þær wintersetl nam, 7 þone cyning Burgred ofer se adræfdon ymb .xxii. wintra þæs þe he rice hæfde, 7 þæt lond all geeodon.

(This year went the army from Lindsey to Repton, and there took up their winter-quarters, drove the king, Burhred, over sea, when he had reigned about two and twenty winters, and subdued all that land.)



Having taken over the church of St. Wistan in Repton, which had achieved the status of a royal shrine because its crypt had been used for Mercian royal burials, the Vikings constructed a huge D-shaped enclosure.

One side of this enclosure was defended by the river Trent, the other sides were defended by earthworks. The tower of the Anglo-Saxon church was used as a gatehouse.

During the Anglo-Saxon period power could be acquired through association with relics, and several accompanied burials were placed adjacent to the shrine of the martyred St. Wigstan.

(Wigstan (died 849), he was the son of Wigmund of Mercia and Ælflæd, daughter of King Ceolwulf I of Mercia.)

Anglo-Saxon name for Repton - *Hreopedune Super Trentam*.