



**Archaeological observation, investigation and
recording at the Church of St Mary the Virgin
Badby, Northamptonshire
January-March 2018**

Report No 18/106

Author: Stephen Morris

Illustrator: Olly Dindol



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Author: Stephen Morris

Illustrator: Olly Dindol

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MOLA
Kent House
30 Billing House
Northampton
NN1 5DQ
01604 809 800
www.mola.org.uk
sparry@mola.org.uk

STAFF

Project Manager: Mo Muldowney BA ACIfA

Text: Stephen Morris

Fieldwork: Sara Farey MA

Kamil Orzechowski BA MA

Anna Rojek BA

Tim Sharman BA

Carol Simmonds BA PCIfA

Illustrations: Olly Dindol BSc

The pottery: Paul Blinkhorn BTech

Metalwork: Nina Crummy BA MA

Ceramic building material Rob Atkins BSocSc, Dip Arch MCIfA,

Osteological evidence Chris Chinnock BA MSc PCIfA

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: molanort1-328082	
Project title	Archaeological observation, investigation, and recording at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Badby, Northamptonshire January-March 2018		
Short description	Archaeological investigation was carried out during work to the nave and along churchyard path and in the south porch. The Church lies towards the southern end of the village within an area thought to have Saxon origins. The surviving architecture in the church dates from the 14th century with various alterations in the 15th, 18th and 19th centuries. The church has retained its graveyard, although it closed to burials in 1886. There were three soil horizons below the 16th century porch, with 12 articulated burials. Beneath the churchyard path were the remains of 27 individuals dated between medieval and Victorian periods. The most interesting finds were a pewter paten and chalice fragment found with one of the burials which suggest it was the grave of a priest. The work within the nave revealed two of the medieval pier bases still displayed some of the original mortared stone foundation, which may represent part of an earlier church structure. Much late 19th century restoration work was also observed.		
Project type	Watching Brief and excavation		
Previous work	None		
Current land use	Church and churchyard		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type and period	Medieval and post-medieval		
Significant finds	Pewter chalice and paten, Cu alloy buckle		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	Church of St Mary the Virgin, Church Hill, Badby		
Easting Northing	SP 5597 5874		
Area (sq m/ha)	c0.132 ha		
Height aOD	c 140m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA		
Project brief originator	Diocesan Archaeological Advisor		
Project Design originator	MOLA		
Director/Supervisor	Tim Sharman (MOLA)		
Project Manager	Mo Muldowney (MOLA)		
Sponsor or funding body	Diocese of Peterborough		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	22/01/2018		
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Physical	ENN 108966	Pewter chalice and paten, Cu alloy buckle and studs, Fe nails, pottery, tile	
Paper		Watching brief forms, permatrace plan and section drawings, report	
Digital		Client report PDF	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Unpublished client report			
Title	Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Church Badby		
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Archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Badby, Northamptonshire January-March 2018

Abstract

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) carried out a programme of archaeological investigation during alterations to the nave and excavation work along churchyard path and in the south porch of the Grade II Listed Church of St Mary The Virgin, Badby, Northamptonshire. The Church lies towards the southern end of the village within an area thought to have Saxon origins. The surviving architecture in the church dates from the 14th century with various alterations in the 15th, 18th and 19th centuries. The church has retained its graveyard, although it has been closed to burials since 1886.*

There were three soil horizons below the 16th century porch, the earliest buried soil appeared to be contemporary with the south nave wall foundations, and this horizon contained a truncated burial and other disturbed human remains. A total of 12 articulated burials were recorded over three soil horizons. Seven of the burials were aged as neonatal to the teens, which suggest that young people had a propensity to be buried closer to the church wall. Two of the other burials were identified as young adults, one possibly being male.

Beneath the churchyard path were the remains of at least 27 individuals dated between the medieval and Victorian periods. The most interesting finds were the pewter paten and chalice fragment found with one of the burials which suggest it was the grave of a priest. The work within the nave revealed two of the medieval pier bases still displayed some of the original mortared stone foundation, which may represent part of an earlier church structure. Much late 19th century restoration work was also observed with raised wooden floors on low brick walls, brick underpinning of the nave pier arch foundations and brick lined vents and heating conduits.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) Northampton was commissioned by The Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Church Badby to carry out a programme of observation, investigation and recording during alterations to the internal fabric, and groundworks for external drainage at The Church of St Mary The Virgin, Badby, Northamptonshire (DNN3264). The Church is centred on (NGR SP 5597 5874, Fig 1).

A programme of archaeological works was undertaken to mitigate the effects of the development on the archaeological resource. Works were undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA 2017), advice from the Peterborough Diocesan Archaeological Advisor (DAA) in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; DCLG 2012)

Permission had been received for alterations to the internal fabric, and improvements to the external drainage of the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Badby, Northamptonshire (DNN3264).

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

In order to examine the archaeological resource within the proposed development area, the main objective of the investigation was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any archaeological remains in its wider cultural and environmental setting.

The main objectives of the archaeological work were:

- mitigate the impact of the development through preservation by record;
- establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation in the development site;
- establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions as an intrinsic part of the investigation.

Specific research objectives were to be drawn from national and regional research frameworks documents (EH 1991 and 1997; Cooper et al 2006; update) as relevant, depending upon the results of this work.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location, topography and geology

Badby is a small village about 2 miles (3 km) south of Daventry on the A361 Daventry to Banbury road, which still follows the route of the Lutterworth-Daventry-Banbury turnpike as approved in 1765. The parish is bisected west to east, at about 120m (aOD) by the upper reaches of the River Nene. The village is mainly south of the river, where the land rises to Badby Down at 190m (aOD).

The church lies atop the 140m Ordnance Datum (aOD) contour in a landscape of closely-spaced, steeply-sloping hills.

The bedrock geology comprises mudstone and siltstone of the Dyrham Formation; superficial deposits are not recorded (BGS 2017). Soils are recorded as slightly acid loamy and clayey (Soilscapes 2017).

3.2 Historical and archaeological background

Most of the historical and archaeological background can be attributed to the online sites at <https://badbyvillage.com/in-and-around-badby/history/st-mary-the-virgin-history/> and <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Badby>

Saxon Badby

The Church of St Mary the Virgin lies towards the southern end of the village of Badby, within the area thought to have Saxon origins (MNN338) and within Badby Conservation Area (DNN12239). There are said to be records of an enclosure in the 9th century of the knoll bounded now by Church Hill, Vicarage Hill and Church Green.

Charters record that the land was given by a Saxon sheriff (or shire reeve) to the Abbey of Croyland (Crowland) around the year 726. To fund defence against the invading Danes around 871, Beorred seized it back and gave it to his army officers to

secure their services. The land around Badby and Newnham changed hands frequently as the fortunes of Mercia and the invading Danes ebbed and flowed across middle England.

In the 9th century, the parish was in the Diocese of Dorchester (Oxon). In a charter dated 944, King Edmund I of England gave an estate comprising Dodford, Everdon and all of Badby with Newnham to Bishop Aelfric of Hereford. After Edmund's murder in 946, the estate was returned in 948 to Croyland by his brother, King Edred on the advice of Turketul, his chancellor. Abbot Godric II of Croyland, to buy protection against the threatening Danes, leased Badby in 1006 for 100 years to Norman the son of Leofwine, Earl of Leicester, a great military officer under King Edred.

The Danes attacked and prevailed in 1013 under their King Sweyn, who died in 1014. He was eventually succeeded by his son Canute. In 1016 Norman was killed and in 1017 Edred was executed by King Canute. Canute thus acquired Badby and later transferred it to Norman's brother, the Earl Leofric of Mercia, who had supported Canute and was married to the famous Godiva. In turn, Earl Leofric gave the lordship of the manor of Badby and Newnham to the Benedictine Abbey of Evesham, for the remainder of the 100-year lease supposedly granted by Abbot Godric II of Croyland. This was ratified by King Canute in 1018.

Medieval Badby

The diocesan seat was moved to Lincoln in 1073 by Remigius. In the Domesday Book of 1086, Badby is listed under the lands owned by Croyland Abbey, ignoring the lease to Evesham.

Around 1124, as the lease had ended, elderly Abbot Joffrid of Croyland set about resolving with Evesham the ownership of Badby. The fire that burned down Croyland Abbey in 1091 destroyed any Badby deeds, if they existed. Abbot Reginald of Evesham convinced Joffrid that Croyland had no claim. The retention of Badby by Evesham was confirmed in 1246 in a charter by King Henry III and again in 1330 by King Edward III after a court hearing.

Evesham Abbey built in 1189 a moated grange or farm headquarters 460m north-east of the church. In 1246 King Henry III granted free warren within Badby Wood and authorised the formation of a deer park for hunting and food. The enclosing embankments and ditches of the deer park still exist to the east of the village. Archeological excavations of the grange site in 1965-69 identified work from the 13th to 16th centuries (Gray, M, with Chapman, P, and Chapman, A, (eds) forthcoming). Three bakehouses were added in the 1350s; its hall and chapel were renovated in the 1380s. It continued in a variety of uses after the dissolution of the abbey during the Protestant Reformation.

The grange building finally collapsed in 1722. In 1316, there was no Abbot in post, so King Edward II appointed Thomas de Evesham, one of his Chancery clerks, as rector of the benefice. The license, which moved more control of, and finance from, Badby and Newnham to the Abbot of Evesham, was effected through Pope John XXII with Henry Berghersh, Bishop of Lincoln. It was in 1343 that the endowment for a vicar was laid down in a Lincoln diocesan document *Ordinacio Vicarie in Ecclesia de Baddeby; 1343*, and Reginald Musard became the first recorded vicar.

Post medieval Badby

Lincoln Diocese was itself split on 4 September 1541 and Badby church, in Daventry deanery, came within the new but poorly endowed Diocese of Peterborough, in which it remains.

King Henry VIII granted the manors of Badby and Newnham in 1542 to Sir Edmund Knightley and his wife Ursula and their heirs. The dower house in Fawsley Park, last inhabited in 1704, is now in ruins. It was built for Lady Ursula after Sir Edmund died. There was considerable unrest in the parish in the last 20 years of the 16th century, when Valentine Knightley attempted to transfer much area of arable to pasture and to restrict tenants' rights to woodland. Several tenant families, despite being Puritans like Knightley, used aggressive action as well as national legal arbitration to protect their rights. The manor lands and courts were dissolved in the early 20th century.

In 1546 the rectorship and patronage of Badby and Newnham were passed to Christ Church, Oxford. It remained with Christ Church, Oxford, except for disruption by the Commonwealth, until 1919, when the Bishop of Peterborough became the patron.

Badby and Newnham manors were treated as one until the Knightleys sold Newnham manor to the Thorntons of Brockhall in 1634. The church benefice has always been Badby with Newnham (or Badby-cum-Newnham), Newnham being a chapel of the parent church at Badby in the initial times, but for a few years was recorded as the main church. The shared rector or vicar arrangement goes back 750 years.

In 1880, a religious relic was found in the garden of Ashworth Cottage some 30m west by north of the north-west buttress of the tower. Sir Henry Dryden reported that it comprised human ribs on which was a lead seal of Pope Alexander III (1159 -1181) and a barbed iron arrow head, buried above two horse bones. The relic was most likely buried to prevent its destruction by the protestant edicts of Edward VI's authorities during 1547-1553.

The church of Saint Mary the Virgin

The church stands on the top of a knoll and is dedicated to St Mary the Virgin, but was most likely was dedicated to Our Lady before the Reformation. The church is a Grade II* Listed Building (1075276), with early 14th century origins and various alterations in the 15th, 18th and 19th centuries. The most recent alteration was the addition of a substantial kitchen and toilet range (20th century). The church has retained its graveyard, although it has been closed to burials since 1886.

The main structure of the church dates from the early 14th century possibly incorporating a few earlier parts. The clerestory was added in the 15th century. At the Reformation, the north aisle chapel and the rood screen were removed. There was major building and roof work in the late 17th century and the tower was rebuilt in the early 18th century. In the late 18th century, the pews were changed and a west gallery installed. A north vestry was built in the 19th century and a major renovation of the building was undertaken later that century. A kitchen and toilet range were added, as well as a north porch, in the late 20th century.

Church interior

The church is devoid of any large memorials due to the parish and the manor has been in the hands only of Evesham Abbey and the Knightley family. The latter used Fawsley church for most of their family memorials as it was their main seat.

Chancel

The chancel arch springs low from the side walls and is practically as wide as the 14th century chancel. There are repairs to the stonework of the arch on both sides

which may indicate these had been the fixing points for the former rood screen. There is one step down into the chancel from the nave.

There are the priest's door, sedilia and piscina in the south wall. The altar rails are made of oak and have recently been dated as from the 1680s, or possibly from 1620s. The text boards on the east wall are surprisingly made of sheet metal. The window at the west end on the south side acts as the village war memorial.

The roof is a shallow pitched structure with origins in the early 19th century. The outside south chancel wall shows clearly that it was raised, making the pitch of the roof more shallow and suitable for lead cladding.

The red Flanders poppy at the top glass was donated by the Royal British Legion in 1981 when the original older glass bearing the initials TN (Abbot Thomas Newbold of Evesham 1491-1514) was reformed into the glazing of the north aisle eastern window together with the other ancient pieces of glass including the royal arms and those of Evesham Abbey. All the other glass in the church dates from the 19th and 20th centuries. The choir stalls were replaced and the passage between them made wider in 1980.

The vestry and organ space were built in 1880. There is a large stone slab built into the wall at the north east corner which may be the mediaeval stone altar slab.

After the building of the new organ chamber, a small organ by S. Atterton of Leighton Buzzard was obtained in 1893. In 1993, the poor state of the organ caused its replacement with an electronic instrument, made by Cathedral Organs of Maidenhead, with its console in the north aisle.

Nave and aisles

Above the chancel arch is the outline of what appears to be an earlier roof line, predating the clerestory windows. The pitch angle is about right for a thatched roof.

The presence of an inset nodding ogee-headed piscina, aumbry, niche and groove at the east end of the north aisle indicate that it was formerly a chapel, probably dedicated to St Catherine. It could be that the aumbry was instead a store for holy relics. In 1880, such a relic was found buried north-west of the tower comprising human ribs on which was a lead seal of the Pope and a barbed iron arrow head, buried above two horse bones. The chapel and relics were most likely removed in the Protestant purge of symbols of Popery during 1547-1553.

Each of the two arcades supporting the nave roof comprises four pillars and two responds supporting five arches.

The soaring archway into the tower was inserted in 1880-1 and glazed in 1933. The present west window was installed as a memorial in 1888. It has two planes of tracery and the wording carved into a circle at its inner peak reads: 'What I Do Thou Knowest Not Now But Thou Shalt Know Hereafter'.

The clerestory was erected in the late 15th century. There is no wall between the piers, so they provide an extraordinary glazed screen for the whole length of the nave on each side.

The nave roof is a shallow-pitch oak structure supported by six tie beams with central blocks up to the purlins and the ridge timber. The oldest tie beam is the western one, which has weakened ends and was bolted through to the tower in 2003. It probably dates from 1713.

The south aisle roof has its origins in the 17th century: All that remains of the original structure are three of the old tie beams, whilst much of the remainder was renewed in 1958.

Furnishings

The font has a 15th century octagonal "sample book" design pedestal. When the font was moved to its present site from near the north door in 1880, a new stone bowl to match the base was fitted. The octagonal pulpit is dated around 1620. The oak lectern was made in 1926. The pews all date from the 1880-1 restoration.

Porches

The south porch may be a late 16th century design. There are some fossiliferous slabs amongst the floor paving. Inscribed grave footstones look to have been reused during repairs in 1964 as they were on the north side of the tower. The north doorway was reopened in 1997 to provide access to a new kitchen and toilet facility which was built as if it were a north porch. The western wall stands on the 19th century foundation of an earlier vestry.

Tower

The tower was reported to be cracked and crazy in 1631 and fell down in 1705. It was rebuilt by 1709 to a square style as wide as the nave to a height of 22m to the top of the four pinnacles, with vertical sides concealing an internal spiral staircase. There are no records of this work which is thought to be by William & Francis Smith of Warwick. It is interesting to note that three of the present bells were installed in 1623, eight years before the tower was condemned and survived the collapse to remain in use today. The tower is unusual in that its solid ground floor is over 1.8m above that of the nave.

The finial cross on the nave gable was new in 2001 and replaced a previous larger cross which broke off in the 19th century.

Churchyard

The churchyard was closed for burials in 1886, when a small cemetery was provided on the hillside facing the east end of the church. The churchyard wall features in records as far back as 1631 as needing repair and 19th and 20th century minutes often feature the matter. The height of the ground above surrounding pavements illustrates the re-use of the same area several times to cope with more than two thousand burials recorded in the registers over five centuries. Registers record that Simon Marriot, tailor, and his son Robert, Thomas Borros, weaver, and Richard Wills, shoemaker, were all buried the day after that they were "kild all together with thunder and lightening Julie the 27th in the year 1691".

Four of the chest tombs are listed grade 2 as being of special architectural and historic interest in their own right (English Heritage 'Building' No: 360661 and 360662). Two of these are the chest tomb 2.4m east of the chancel is topped by a huge well weathered slab of red sandstone, a memorial to John Rushall who was buried on May 12th, 1696. And the tilted chest tomb next south has a nice carving at its east end recording the burial of William Goodman, son of Richard and Catherine, on April 4th, 1717.

The Watkins' family and the related Uniackes, who lived at Badby House and funded much of the 1880-1 reconstruction, had the largest of the chest style monuments located outside the south east corner of the south aisle.

In the far south east corner of the churchyard are two slate headstones with fine engraving: one for Mary Pearson, who died 21st February 1770 and the other for William Pearson, died 6th October 1772.

4 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

All works were conducted in accordance with the procedural documents Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (HE 2015), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Watching Brief* (ClfA 2014b) and *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2014a). Methodology follows the Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA 2017).

The archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken within the nave and the excavation within the porch of the church and along a part of the churchyard path (Fig 1).

The work recorded the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.

The archaeological fieldwork also comprised, in agreement with Quinton Carroll (Peterborough Diocesan, Archaeological Advisor), observations of excavation work beneath the floor of the church and also within the graveyard. Within the church excavation comprised hand digging. Within the graveyard, a small 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket was used for the removal of topsoil and subsoil down to formation level.

The observations in 2018 took place on the 22nd, 24th-25th of January and 27th-28th of February inside the church nave, on the 27th of February and 7th, 13-14th and 16th of March inside the porch and 16th, 19th-23rd and 28th of March within the churchyard in variable weather conditions. The groundwork areas were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of archaeological features, where present. Recording followed standard MOLA Northampton procedures as described in the *Fieldwork Manual* (MOLA 2014). Deposits were described on *pro-forma* sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds. The photographic record comprises digital and black and white print images.

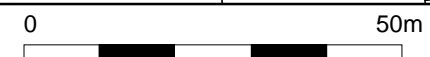
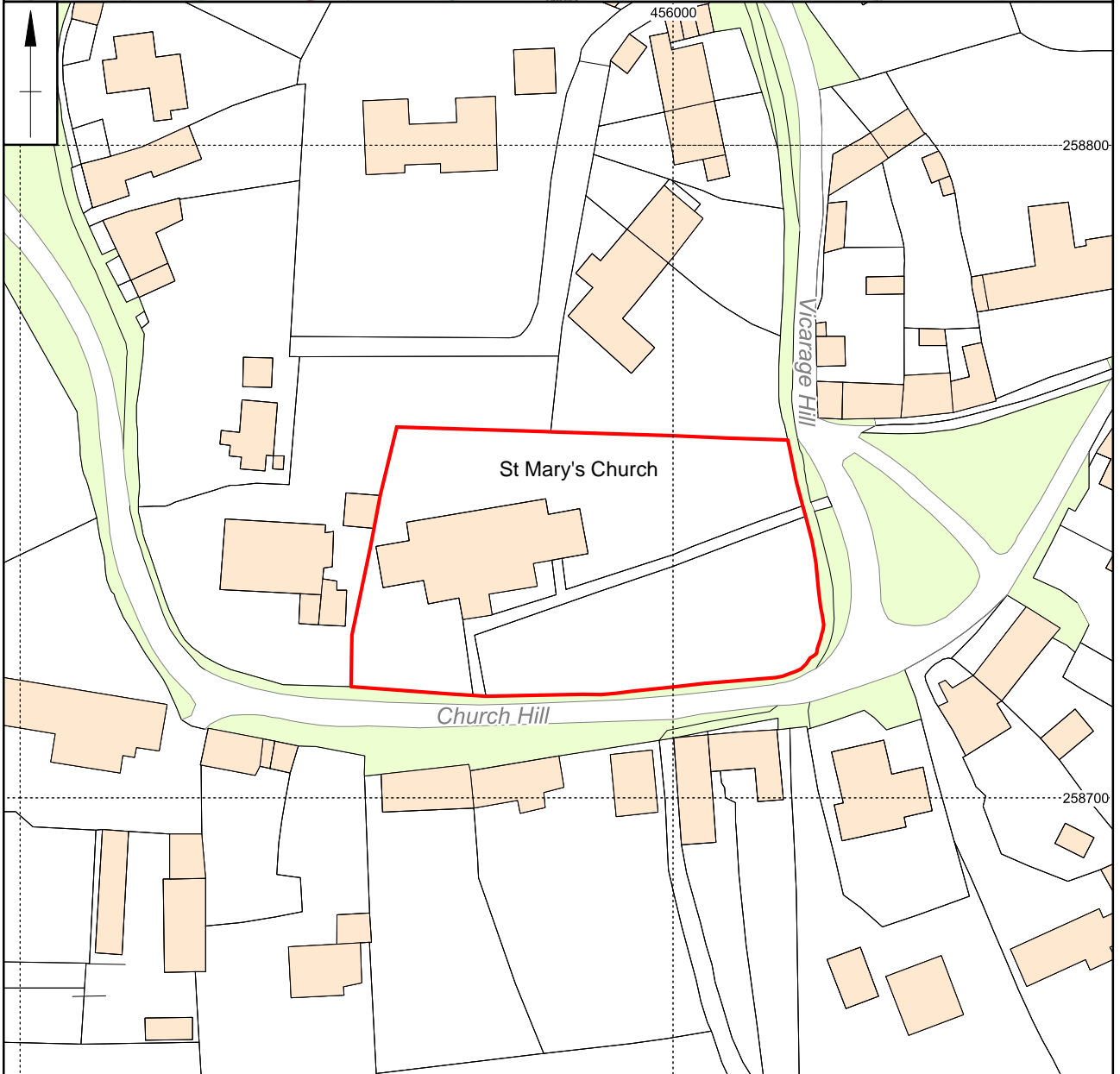
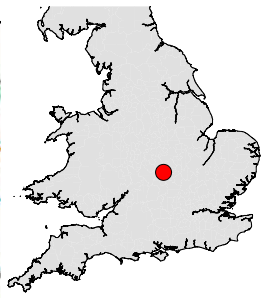
5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

As noted above three areas of archaeological observation, investigation and recording were undertaken, which included the church nave, the churchyard access and the south porch (Fig 2).

The work within the nave included the removal of some of the existing late 19th century pews their platforms and the relocation of the font. The new proposals are to provide new improved access, seating areas and heating system.

The churchyard access and south porch was subjected to extensive development in order to improve the storm drainage around the south porch and access into the church.

Appendix 2 contains the full context list encountered during the ground works.



 Site location

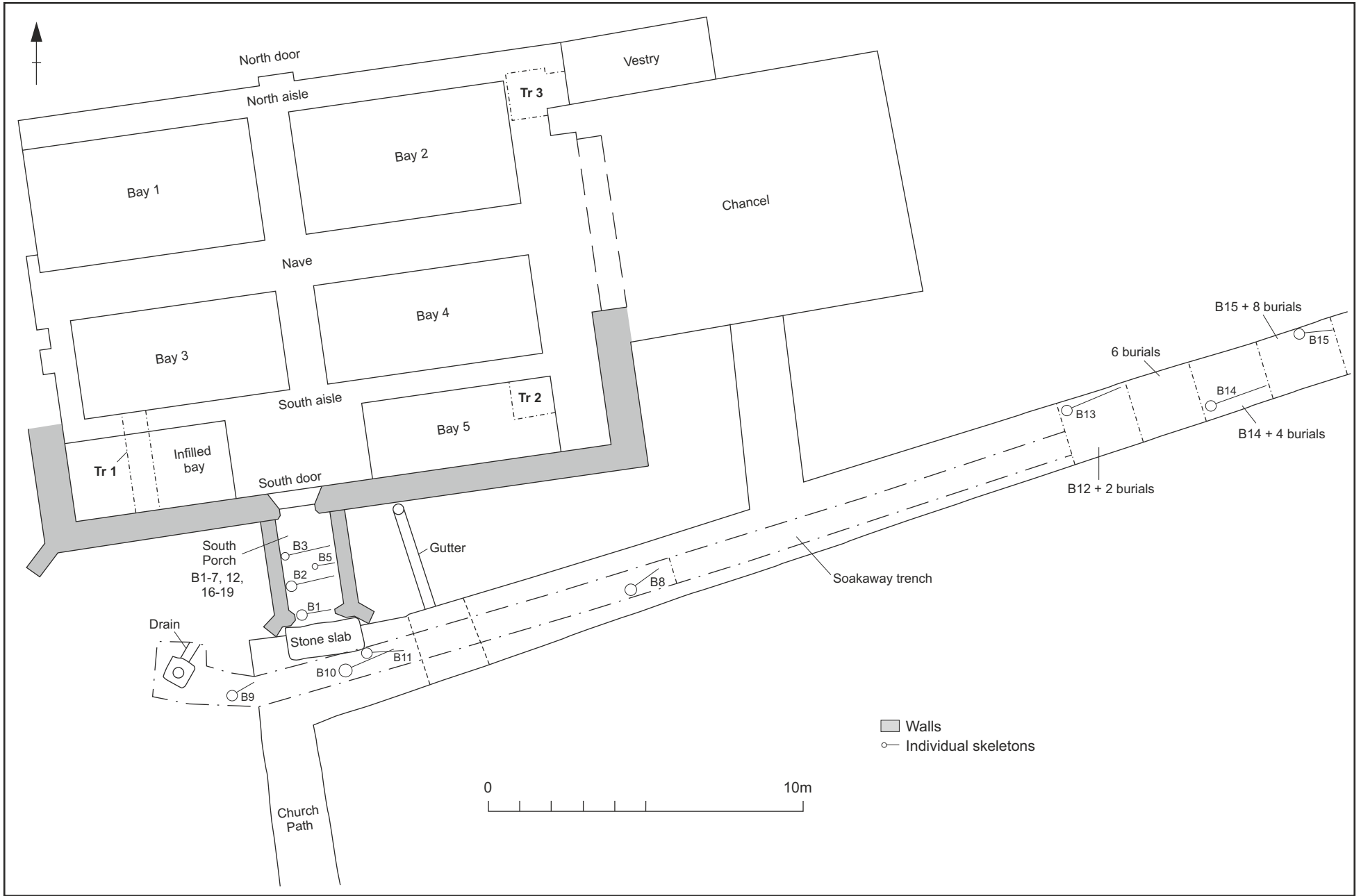
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Scale 1:1000

Site location Fig 1

Scale 1:150

Areas of archaeological observation Fig 2



5.1 General stratigraphy

South porch

The area below the floor of the south porch was underwent the most detailed investigation, recording a series of three soil horizons, each containing a sequence of burials, dating from the construction of the church in the 14th century to the addition of the probable 16th century porch (Figs 2 and 3). The earliest buried soil Level 1 horizon (65) contained human remains, which may represent the remains of an early cemetery. The stone foundations of the church were cut through this layer, with no evidence of an earlier church structure.



South porch entrance (pre-excavation), facing north

Fig 3

The 12 articulated burials, some displaying inter-cutting and truncation, as well as the remains of five disarticulated burials were recorded in the subsequent soil horizons. Seven of the burials were identified as being aged from neonatal to the teens; two of these burials were removed to MOLA's offices in Northampton and underwent full human bone analysis. The other burials were identified during the archaeological work as either adults or were unidentifiable, but were not removed from the Badby church premises. One grave contained 6 iron nails suggesting the burial had been placed in a coffin. The upper burials were sealed directly below the make-up and the slab floor of the porch.

Churchyard

A watching brief was undertaken along a service trench cut through the path access from the porch towards the eastern gate of the churchyard (Figs 2 and 4). The remains of a further 27 individuals were identified and only seven were briefly recorded on within the church grounds. At the request of the diocese none of the burials underwent detailed analysis and the remains were stored on the church

premises, although the on site assessment determined at least 17 were of adult age and 5 were juveniles.

These burials were at different levels of internment, with the deepest at 1m below the existing churchyard surface and the 27 skeletons were probably medieval to Victorian in date. Finds recovered with the burials included iron coffin nails (SF's 3 and 4) and copper alloy studs (Fig 26, SF 2) which were probable decorative coffin fittings. The most interesting finds were the late medieval lead alloy paten (SF 6, Fig 24) and chalice fragments (SF 5) found with one of the burials, which suggests it was the grave of a priest.



Churchyard path, leading to the south porch (pre-excavation), facing west Fig 4

Church nave

The main area of investigation carried out inside the church where the raised floor in the nave was removed overlying a series of bays (Figs 2 and 5). This revealed two of the medieval pier bases still displaying some of the original mortared stone foundation, which may represent part of an earlier church structure.

Late 19th century restoration work was also observed, with the construction of extensive brick structures on which to support raised wooden floors. Former brick lined heating and ventilation conduits were also uncovered. Most of this was introduced during the major renovation of the building in the latter part of the 19th century (1880-1).

The 19th century brickwork appeared to cut soil surface (3) exposed in all the bays. A series of probable scaffold postholes were cut into the soil layer forming a line along the north bays of the nave, with a single posthole to the south side. These were

excavated, with one posthole producing china pottery and a tin can, indicating they were most likely part of the 19th century restoration work.



Church nave and aisles (pre-alterations), facing west Fig 5

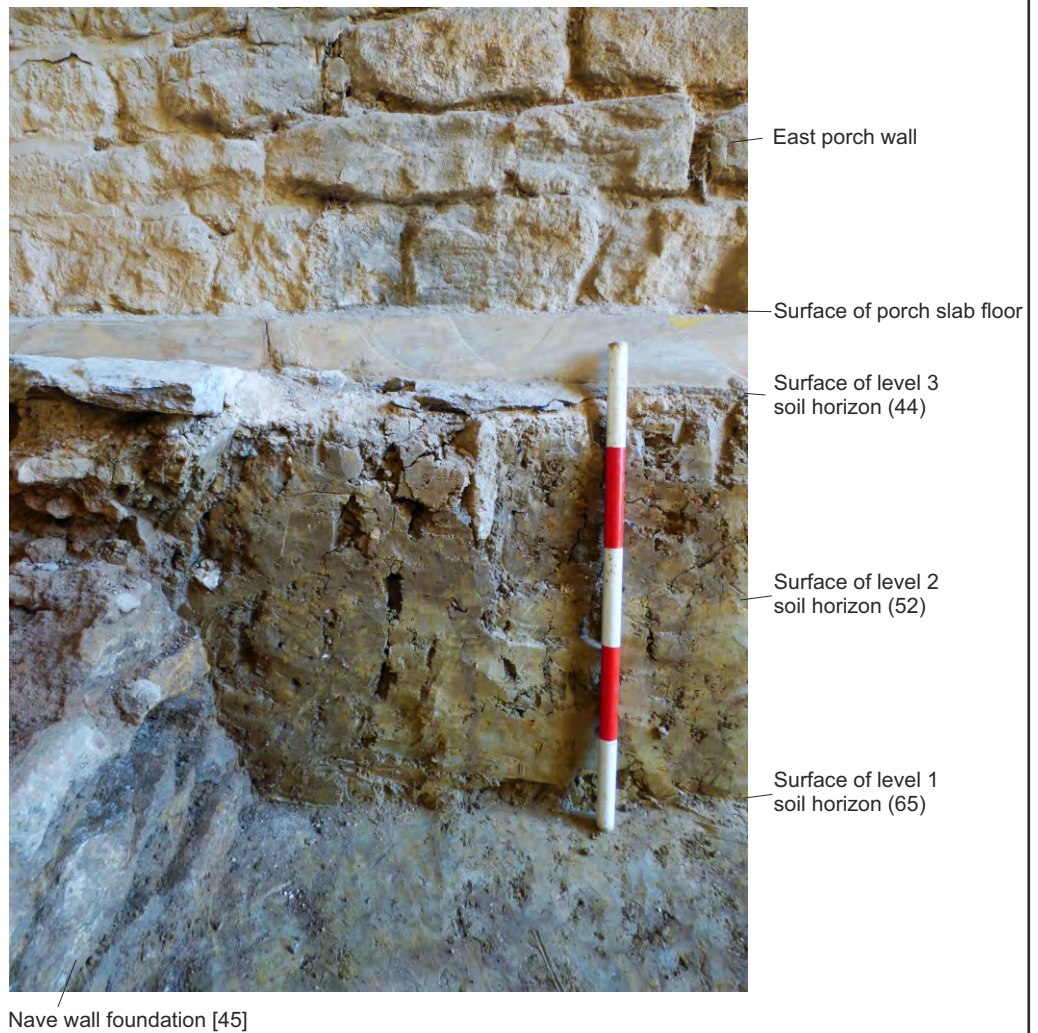
5.2 South porch excavation

The porch lay just off centre to the west on the south side of the nave. The area of investigation extended from the wall of the nave for c3m to the entrance of the porch and c1.6m across the width of the slabbed floor, which lay at c142.17m (aOD). The nave wall foundations [45] and three buried soil horizons were exposed all of which contained burials and they were phased as Level 1, 2 and 3, from the earliest to latest phase of activity (Fig 6). Appendix 2 contains the full list of contexts encountered in the porch area.

The general factors to all the graves were that they were generally sub-rectangular with rounded corners, with U-shaped profiles and flat bases. Their alignments were all laid in a common east-west orientation, parallel to the church (nave) wall and all the burials were laid in supine positions with their heads to the west end of the graves.

Nave wall foundations [45]

As result of the work undertaken in the porch a section of a wall was revealed lying directly south of the church doorway, below the porch slabbed floor. The stone wall [45] was aligned east-west and it is likely to be the foundations of the south nave wall. The foundations were offset to the south by c0.5m from the face of the nave wall.



Nave wall, porch structure and burial soil horizons, facing east (0.5m scale bar) Fig 6

The foundation comprised 7 to 8 visible courses of roughly faced and unbonded limestone/ironstone blocks and slabs, the largest with spans of 0.4m long and 0.1m in thick. The top of the wall foundation stood at c142m (aOD), although several courses, possibly up to four had been removed from the foundation, across the width of the doorway, forming a slot c1.2m wide and 0.2m-0.3m deep, but its original height was visible either side. It appears to suggest the foundation wall had been cut through for the establishment of a new level for the present doorway, possibly at the time of the porch construction (Fig 7).

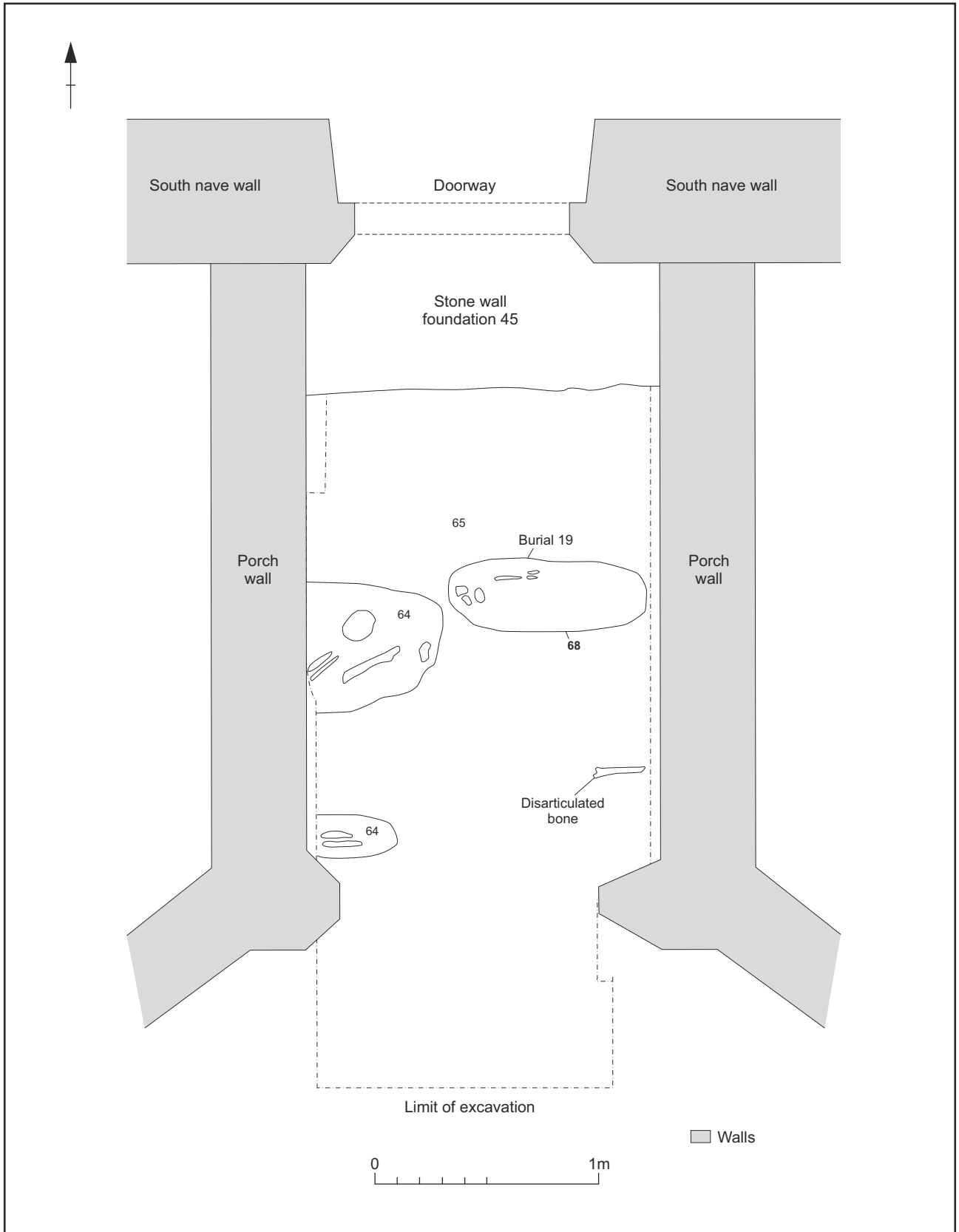
It was not ascertained whether the wall was abutted by the Level 1 soil horizon (65); that would make the foundation wall the earliest feature in the sequence or if the wall was cut through this layer.



Nave wall foundations [45] cut through for the present south nave doorway. Level 1, soil horizon (65) in foreground, facing north Fig 7

Level 1, soil horizon (65)

The lowest level of the excavation lay on an uneven layer (65) of compact yellow-orange-grey mottled clay, which may be disturbed or redeposited natural. This level of activity may relate to the period of the church build. It lay at 141.68m (aOD), adjacent to the church wall, forming a shallow hollow, with the ground rising gently by 0.13m at the south end of the trench. Burial 19 and two potentially disturbed graves lay in this soil horizon (Fig 8).



Scale 1:25

Level 1 burial plan Fig 8

Level 1 burials

The remnants of single Burial 19 lay c0.8m from the church wall in a shallow east-west aligned grave cut (0.9m by 0.32m) in the surface of this soil horizon. It had been truncated by a later Burial 18, leaving the crushed skull and left arm of the original skeleton that was probably the remains of juvenile (Fig 8).

Two other shallow east-west aligned hollows, with the same context [64] were cut 0.05m deep in the surface, possibly suggestive of being former grave cuts and these lay close to Burial 19 (Fig 8). Both of these probable graves contained heavily disturbed human bone, but they may have been formerly graves. The smaller hollow contained three femurs laid together aligned east-west, the other broader hollow contained skull fragments adjacent to some disturbed long bone fragments. The recovery of three femurs indicates at least one other disturbed or removed grave had been laid nearby.

The shallowness of these features may be the result of levelling for the construction of the 14th century church, which may imply the suggested burials belonged to cemetery of an earlier church, although no previous structure was evident in the area of the porch excavation. The features were all filled with similar dark red brown clay, but no finds were present.

Level 2, soil horizon (52)

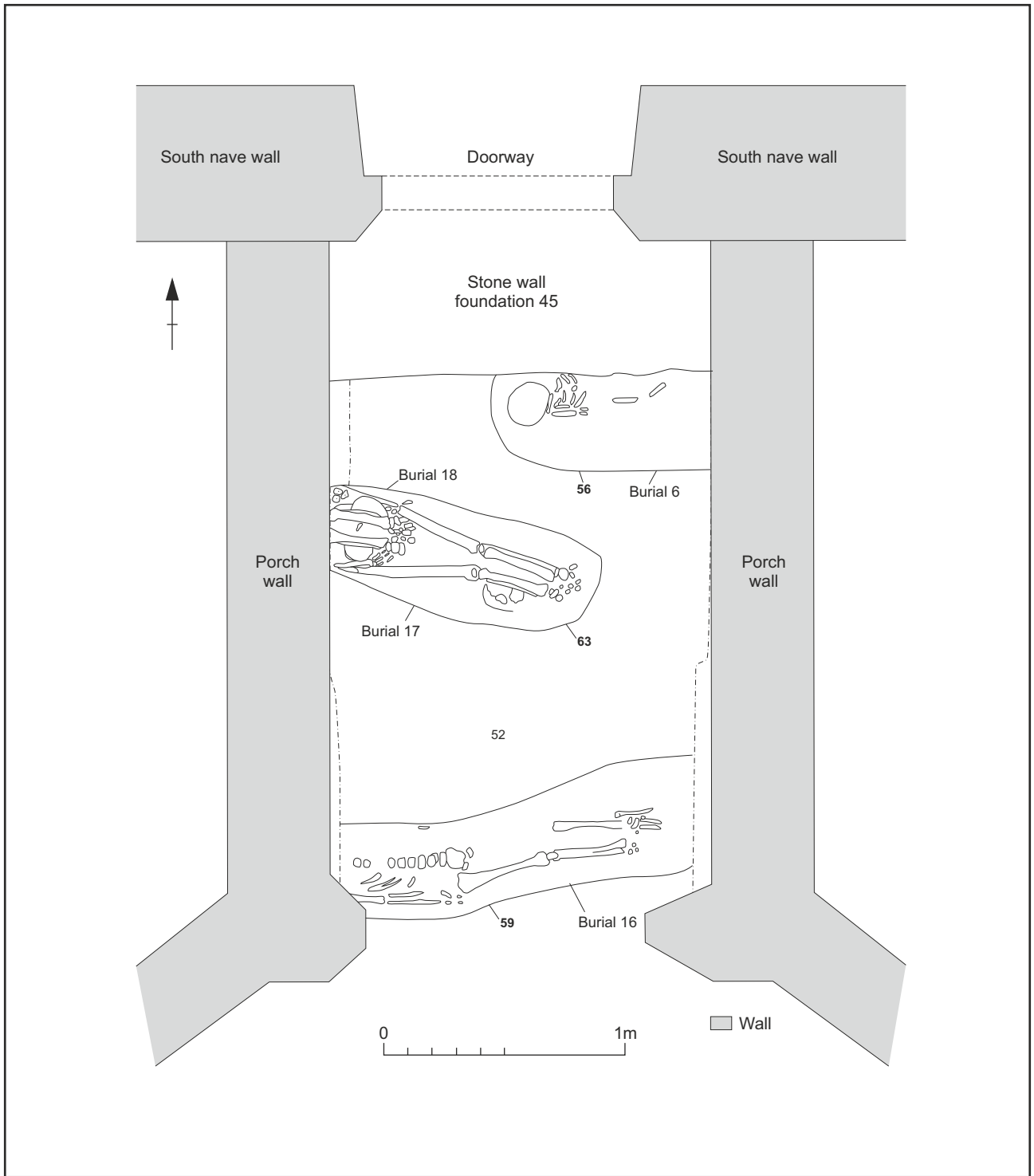
Layer (52) was subsequently introduced to create a new churchyard level at c141.88m (aOD) and was preserved to a depth of 0.08m-0.2m. It comprised mottled dark yellow-orange brown silty clay, with only very occasional charcoal and chalk fleck inclusions and no other finds. Burials 6, 16, 17 and 18 were cut into the surface of this soil layer (Fig 9).

Level 2, burials

A skeleton of an infant aged around one year old (Burial 6) was found in a grave cut against the fabric of the church wall foundations. The grave was at least 0.9m long and 0.4m wide, lay largely within the porch excavation area, containing the remains of the child that were in a fairly good conditions, although the left side limbs and the pelvis, which lay against the wall had decomposed. The skull displayed some lesions on the internal surface of the cranium which may be indicative of infectious disease, such as tuberculosis or meningitis, which may have contributed to the child's death. This skeleton was recovered for full analysis and is reported on below (Section 6.4).

The fill of Burial 6 was mid-yellowish brown clay, with occasional flecks and small ironstone chips, including a single sherd of redeposited 11th to 12th century St Neots Ware pottery, which predates the existing church.

Burial 16 lay c1.8m from the church wall, with the head and shoulders lying beyond the edge of the excavation. The remainder of the skeleton was in a fair condition, but the left side upper leg, the left arm and ribs had been truncated by later Burial 2. It could be determined from the remains that this was probably an adult male.



Scale 1:25

Level 2 burial plan Fig 9



Level 2 burials; adult Burial 18 overlaid by child Burial 17, facing west Fig 10

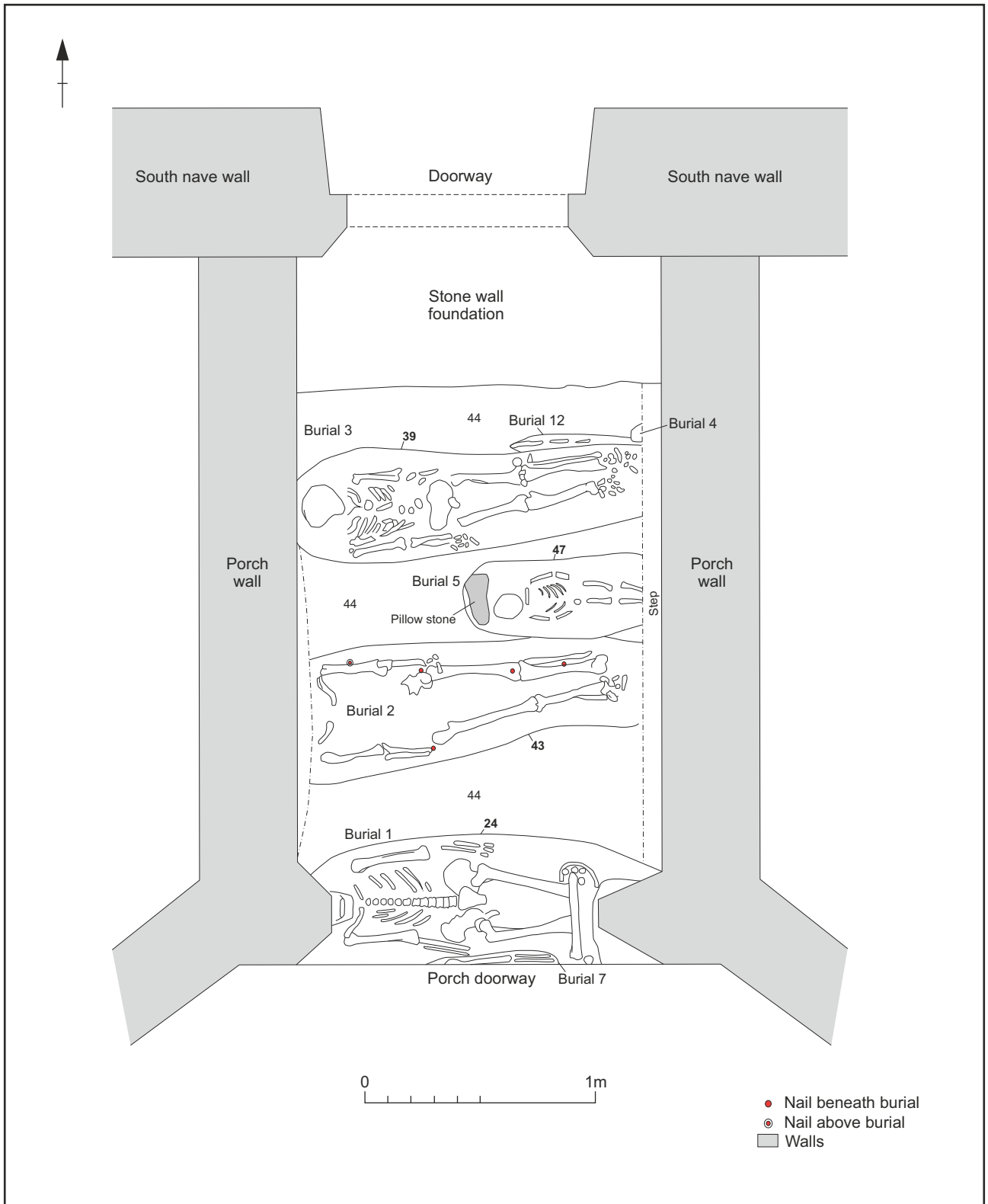
Burial 18 was at least 1.15m long and 0.45m wide and lay at a slightly oblique angle to the nave wall that was c0.50m away at the nearest point. Burial 17 directly overlay the upper part of Burial 18 (Fig 10). Only the eastern half of the grave of Burial 18 was an adult and lay within the porch excavation. The skeleton remains comprised the legs and the lower arms and hands lying across the pelvic area.

Even less of child Burial 17 lay in the area of investigation, with only the lower legs and feet visible overlying the groin area of Burial 18 (Fig 10). The position of the infant on the adult may suggest there was family connection, possibly of a mother and child buried together.

The grave fills of Burials 16, 17, 18 and 19 comprised similar mottled orange-grey brown clay, with ironstone chips, occasional chalk and charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered from the grave deposits.

Level 3, soil horizon (44)

The uppermost introduced churchyard soil horizon (44) was compact mottled yellow-orange and mid-grey brown silty clay, which included occasional small ironstone and chalk chips and charcoal flecks. It formed a level layer c0.15m thick at 141.93m (aOD), through which Burials 1-5, 7 and 12 were cut (Fig 11).



Scale 1:25

Level 3 burial plan Fig 11

Level 3, burials

Burials 7 and 12 are the first phase of two phase's burials at this level, but as a result of being first they have been heavily truncated by the later grave cuts and only a single leg from each skeleton remained in situ. Little could be diagnosed from either, except they were probably juveniles.

The upper phases of burials (1-5) were the better preserved interments, in this part of the cemetery as the porch construction protected them from interference of further burials. Apart from the neonatal burial (4) all these burials observed to be lying in an extended, supine posture. Burial 1-3 grave cuts were over 1.6m long (width of porch), with a widths of between 0.5m and 0.7m and were up to 0.18m deep.

The remains of Burial 1, a juvenile was in a fairly good state of preservation and lay directly below the porch threshold, with the skull and the lower part of the legs concealed below the porch entrance walls.

Positioned between 0.3m and 0.5m to the east side of Burial 1 was the skeleton of Burial 2, a more mature figure of a probably young adult, although the head lay below the west wall of the porch. The torso and pelvic area had totally decomposed, but the arms and legs remained displayed. There was compelling evidence that this burial was buried in a coffin, as at least six iron nails (SF's 7-12) were recorded lying around the outline of the burial and traces of a dark thin line probably representing the decayed wooden sides of the coffin were observed.

Adjacent to the north side of Burial 2 was a child Burial 5 that was an almost complete skeleton and in good preservation. The whole of the skeleton was exposed inside the porch, except for the feet, which lay below the east wall of the porch. It lay in a grave cut at least 0.8m long and 0.35m wide (Fig 12). The interesting feature of this burial was the large pillow stone on which the head rested, a feature not observed with any other gave.



Level 3 burial; Child Burial 5, with a pillowstone, facing south

Fig 12

The stone comprised a large 0.25m sub-square roughly cut ironstone block, up to 0.1m thick, pitched at the west end of the grave cut. The final resting position of the skull was angled facing down the grave towards the feet. A smaller stone block lay to the left side of the lower left leg. It was possible the two stone were used to support a wooden lid laid over the child burial that has totally decayed away.

Burial 3 was aged to the early teens and lay to the north side of Burial 5 and c0.4m from the nave wall foundations (Fig 13). This was the most complete burial as it lay between the walls of the porch, although some loss of the upper part of the skull probably occurred during the construction. This burial was also recovered for full analysis and is reported on below.



Level 3 burials; Teenage Burial 3, background, facing south Fig 13

A neonate Burial (4) cut Burial 3 and may represent the last of the interments in the area of the porch excavation. Although in a fairly good condition it lay in a shallow grave and the bone had been partially disturbed, probably at the time of the porch construction.

The fill of the graves was generally compact dark grey-brown silty clay with some yellow-brown and grey mottled patches, including occasional ironstone chips, chalk and charcoal flecks.

Porch construction

The porch is probably a late 16th century construct and was placed over the existing graves causing some limited damage to them. They were sealed largely by a make-up and levelling layer (25) that was c0.1m thick and comprised grey-yellow mottled clay, containing fragments of disarticulated human bone, slate and stone chips, including a shard of undated glass. A series of stone slabs lay over make-up layer (25), creating the floor of the porch. One large rectangular slab was possibly a reused grave cover. The chamfering on it makes it look like the top from a table tomb or chest tomb; that

one edge is squared off and not chamfered suggests it was originally inside, flush against a wall (*pers com* Quinton Carrol).

As noted above the upper courses of the nave wall foundations were cut through to create a level with the porch floor, with a small door step into the church nave. The arched doorway laid slightly off-centre to the west of the porch, with walls of the porch walls abutting the doorway structure. This may suggest the door was in place prior to the porch construction. The main structure of the arched doorway comprised coarse blocks of Northampton sand-ironstone, although the lower structure was composed of moulded ashlar blocks, implying the doorway had undergone restructuring possibly at the time of the porch build.

The location of graves lying across the church's southern doorway threshold also raises the question of the date of the doorway. It may have been part of the nave wall construction or was it introduced at the time of the building of the porch in the 16th century.

5.3 Churchyard soakaway watching brief

The service trench for a soakaway was excavated through the churchyard footpath from the porch to the north-east of the churchyard for c32.5m. A mini-excavator with an 0.8m wide bucket was used to dig a trench, centred on the middle of the path from the porch for the first 24m, from which point it was widened to the full width of the 1.8m wide path. At the west end of the path, opposite to the porch entrance, there was a 3m long extension of the trench up to the drain that led from the church. The depth of the narrow service trench was between 0.5m and 0.7m from the surface of the path and increased to 1m to 1.2m where the trench broadened (Fig 14).



Service trench excavation along the churchyard path for the new soakaway. The transition point between the narrow and broad trenches, facing east Fig 14

The diocese remit for encountering burials or disarticulated human bone, was to hand excavate and bag them individually, after a cursory examination. The remains of 27 individuals were recovered, probably dating between the medieval and the Victorian periods, when the churchyard was closed for burials in 1886. Much inter-cutting and disarticulated bone was present, with only seven skeletons being identified and recorded as coming from individual graves. None of the burials underwent further analysis and the remains were stored on the church premises.

Stratigraphy across the site comprised an upper churchyard soil (35), a burial soil level (37) and natural (36). Appendix 2 contains the full context list encountered during the ground works.

Natural light yellow sandy silt (36) was present in the deepest part of the service trench and into this layer the deepest burials (13, 14 and 15) were encountered, although they were excavated through the overlying soil layer (37).

Layer (37) was mid-yellowish grey silty clay up to 0.75m thick and formed the soil horizon, through which the graves were cuts displaying vertical sides and flat bases. The three supine burials (13, 14 and 15) all aligned east-west were found at the junction of layer (37) and the natural (36).

The Burial 13 skeleton was in a poor condition, but 13 coffin nails (SF's 3 and 4) and a line of copper alloy upholstery studs (Fig 26, SF 2) that were probable decorative coffins fittings, formed the outline of the coffin with some wood fragments of the casket attached to them. This was probably an adult female burial and the fittings date it probably to between the 17th and 18th centuries.

Burial 14 was in a better condition compared with burial 13 (Fig 15) and was found with two notable artefacts, a lead-alloy paten (SF 6, Fig 23), which lay flat across the abdominal area and lead-alloy chalice fragments (SF 5) lay over the left arm, which lay slightly flexed over the left pelvis. The chalice may have initially lain on the paten or next to it in the abdominal area. These finds suggest this was the remains of a priest. These vessels date the burial to the later medieval period or earlier.



Burial 14, a possible priest burial, buried with a pewter chalice and paten Fig 15

Five other articulated burials were identified, Burial 15 lay close to 13 and 14 in the deep part of the trench and Burials 8, 9, 10 and 11 in the shallower western part of the trench. At least 20 other individuals were recovered throughout the service trench. Although none of the 27 burials underwent further analysis, the on site assessment determined at least 17 were adults (3 male, 1 female) and 5 were juveniles. The excavated grave fills were similar mid-yellow grey silty clay.

The burial horizon (37) was sealed by a layer (35) mid-grey brown silty sand that was up to 0.45m thick, which formed an introduced churchyard soil, covering a broad area. Although undated it was probably established in the late 19th century after the cemetery was closed. The recent tarmac and concrete pathway, c0.2m deep, overlay layer (35).

Continuing from where the main service trench terminated a smaller trench was excavated along the north side of the path kerb to the churchyard gate and the street for a new service cable. It was 0.3m-0.4m wide and deep, impacting only the later churchyard soil (35) and nothing else of significance was identified.

5.4 Church nave investigation

An observation and recording action was carried out inside the church where five of the bays of the nave had their pews and raised wooden floors removed for repair or replacement (Fig 16), with a new platform construction at the west end of the nave. Two smaller areas of the floor area (T1 and T3) were also opened to update the ventilation ducts (Fig 16). Other work included moving the font from the west end of the south aisle to the eastern end to be placed in trench T2 (Fig 16).

The nave measured c15.5m by c11.5m, with the east and west sides leading respectively to the chancel and the tower (Fig 16). The north and south sides of the nave had respective doorways, although they were slightly offset to one another. The central nave aisle (east-west) was c1.5m wide and comprised a stone slabbed floor (1) except for the eastern half, where a line of centrally placed iron grates, lay over the under floor heating system. The north and south aisles and the adjoining cross aisles had similar stone slab floors. The slabbed aisles were largely unaffected by the groundworks, except where Trenches T1 and T3 were placed in the respective north-east and south-west corners of the nave. This revealed the slabbed aisles to be lying on bedded stone and rubble, except where the ventilation ducts were present.

Open bays

The five exposed nave bay areas (1-5) lay between the aisles, which included both the bays (1-2) adjacent to the north aisle and the central area of the nave (3-4), with only the eastern Bay 5 of the south aisle opened up (Figs 16 and 22). All the bays revealed extensive 19th century brick restoration work and an earthen floor. The north aisle Bays (1-2) were between 6m to 6.5m long and 3.5m wide. The two central Bays (3-4) were c6m by 2.7m and an area 5.5m long and 2.2m wide was opened up in Bay 5, but it possibly extend further west, as the bay wall was not revealed on this side.

The sides of the bays were lined with low brick walls (4) three to four courses high, with rough mortar bonding, creating a level to support the raised floor joists (Fig 17). The widths of the walls were either a single brick in width (stretcher) or two lines of adjacent bricks laid header end on, in some of the walls the type of courses varied.

Scale 1:100

Areas of archaeological observation in the nave

Fig 16



The wooden joists were laid east-west across the bays, sitting between single stretcher laid bricks in the upper course of the (east-west) walls (Fig 17).

The bays were sub-divided by two north-south brick piers, lying between 1.4m-1.9m apart (Fig 18). They displayed a single brick less in height than the surrounding bay lining wall, so as to support the wooden joists directly on the top course. The south aisle Bay 5 contained three dividing piers (Fig 22). The dividing piers varied from the bay lining walls in that the lower course(s) that were constructed with alternating brick piers and gaps of an equal header width, to allow venting across the bay. Vents were observed in the lining walls of the bays, possibly indicating all the bays were connected to ventilation or heating system (Fig 22).



Bay 3, displaying floorboards (lifted) and wooden floor joists supported on the bay wall, facing south towards trench T1 (background) Fig 17

Arch pier base underpinning

The eight stone nave arch pier bases (1-8), each c0.8m square, lay within the opened brick lined bays, with pier bases 1 to 4 located in the north aisle Bays (1-2) and pier bases 5 to 8 lay along the southern side central nave Bays (3-4) (Figs 16 and 18). They had undergone replacement brick underpinning (20) during the 19th century church renovation work. Most of the pier bases displayed three to four courses of underpinning brickwork, with lower course offset from the one above, producing a stepped effect around the exposed sides of the pier bases, c1-1.2m square.



Bay 1, displaying the brick piers and the brick underpinning of the bases of the arch pier supports 1 and 2. Three scaffold post holes are also visible east-west cross the earthen floor (3), facing east Fig 18



Bay 2 nave arch pier 4, with early stone and mortar foundations, facing east Fig 19

Persevered early church structure

The two pier bases 3 and 4 in Bay 2 in the north aisle still displayed the original lime mortared stone footings (8) and (9) up to c0.8m wide, which comprised large limestone blocks. The foundations (8) of pier base 3 extended 0.4m to the west of the pier base on an east-west alignment and displayed roughly faced stone on the north and south sides, indicative of a wall or foundation remnants (Figs 16 and 19).

These pieces of stonework (8) and (9) (and the nave arch piers) are coincidentally aligned exactly with the north walls of the chancel and the tower to the respective east and west ends of the church. This could be an indication the stonework had been part of the fabric of earlier church building. It is interesting to note that the east end of the north aisle was a former chapel, dedicated to St Catherine, where an inset nodding ogee-headed piscina and aumbry are preserved.

Earthen floor

The 19th century brick structures appeared to have been set onto a level soil surface (3) exposed in all bays (Figs 16, 18 and 22), although original arch pier stonework was set into it, but it was not investigated to determine whether it cut or was abutted by the layer. It is unclear if the soil level had been possibly reduced at the time of the Victorian restoration work to reveal the pier bases or it occurred at earlier times, although it quite possibly constituted the original construction level of the church, which bears a similar level to Level 1 at the base of the porch trench.

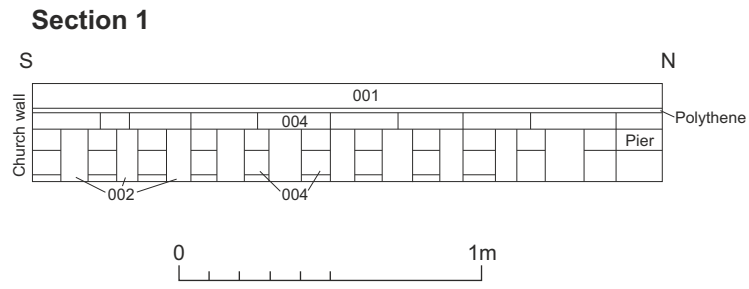
The soil comprised a firm light grey silty to sandy clay, displaying the appearance of a beaten earth floor, but this may be the result of trample from the periods of restoration and repair or as suggested from the time of the building activity. Splashes of mortar from the Victorian brickwork were visible on the soil surface.

A series of four postholes were cut into the soil layer (3), forming a line c9m long across the two open bays (1-2) of the north aisle of the nave (Figs 16 and 18), with a single posthole in Bay 3. They were all probable scaffold postholes, relating to the 19th century restoration work. They were generally very circular and c0.1m diameter, with two displaying very vertical sides, whilst the others were disturbed possibly when the scaffold poles were removed. They were only partially filled with loose debris and the contents of china pottery and a tin can from one of the holes appeared to confirm this late date.

Trench T1

This trench was located in the south-west corner of the nave that had previously undergone groundwork, where the floors, had been replaced with a concrete surface (1). A 3m long and 0.7m wide slot was cut from the north wall of the nave and through the south aisle to the Bay 3 at the west end of the nave, for the insertion of a new ventilation duct (Figs 16 and 20).

The slot revealed a section through a backfilled bay at the west end of the south aisle, exposing the outer bay brick lining wall and one of the north-south aligned brick piers (Fig 20, section 1), which formerly supported the joists for a raised wooden floor, but were no longer present. The infilling of the bay comprised a stone rubble debris (2), acting as a make-up layer and sub-base for the 20th century concrete floor. The stone slabbed floor of the south aisle also had a stone and rubble bedding as noted previously.



Trench 1, section 1 - looking west



Trench 1, section 2 - looking north

Scale 1:25

Trench 1, Sections 1 Fig 20

Similarly the earthen floor (3) was also present at the base of the slot 0.34m below the concrete surface. The level for the new vent duct required a shallow slot to be cut through the floor, 0.2m wide and to a depth of 0.42m below the concrete floor (Fig 20). A blocked vent passing through the nave wall was cleared, to allow the insertion of the new duct into the slot.

Trench T2

As part of the renovation work the font with a 15th century pedestal (Figs 16 and 21) was moved from the west side of the south entrance to the east end of the south aisle Bay 5 in Trench T2 (Fig 22). A shallow Trench T2 measuring 1m by 0.8m was excavated into the earth floor (3) in the north-east corner of the bay between the bay lining walls and the supporting pier. A complete late 19th century floor brick lay loose on the surface of the soil layer.

The trench went only 80mm deep into earthen floor (Fig 22). A few fragments of disarticulated human bone were retrieved (finger and rib bones) from this layer as well as a copper alloy buckle. The buckle (Fig 25, SF1) is oval in shape with a recess for retaining the pin. Buckles of this type are not uncommon and are dated to the late 14th century.



The church font, south porch entrance (left), facing east Fig 21



Bay 5, south aisle and brick bay wall (right), floor joist slots visible in brickwork (foreground), nave wall with vent cut (left), dividing brick piers (mid-ground to background) Trench 2 (right, foreground), looking west Fig 22

Trench T3

A third Trench T3 (1.7m by 1.3m) was excavated below the stone slab floor in the north-east corner of the nave opposite the door in to the vestry. It revealed a pair of low parallel north-south aligned brick walls [22] cut by a former 19th century brick lined heating flue duct [7], and both were infilled with loose soil and rubble (Figs 16 and 23).

The brick walls [22] were single lines of mortared bricks (header on) lying c0.6m apart, with space between them filled by stone and brick rubble. This was probably part of the structure to support the slabbed aisle floors. The heating duct [7] was 0.2m wide and two bricks in height, capped by the slab floor. The removal of the debris infill revealed the duct to be soot lined as result of being a heating flue. The flue appeared to be aligned with the under floor heating in the nave below the iron grated floor.

To the east side of the trench below the vestry doorway were some large stone footings [5] probably for the nave/chancel wall (Fig 19). The doorway and the vestry were both 19th century constructs. The space between these features was also infilled with soil and rubble.



Trench 3, north-east corner of the nave, comprising slab floor support walls [22] (right) that were cut by brick lined flue [7] (centre) and the stone chancel wall footings [5] (left) lay below the vestry doorway, looking south Fig 23

6 THE FINDS

6.1 Medieval pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 3 sherds with a total weight of 14g. They are all T1(2) type St. Neots Ware, fabric F200 of the Northamptonshire Country type-series, and dateable to AD1000-1200. A single sherd weighing 12g occurred in context 54, and two very small sherds weighing 2g were retrieved from the environmental samples in context 55. They are all plain bodysherds. The ware is a common find in the region. The sherds are relatively small, and appear likely to be the product of secondary deposition.

6.2 Metalwork by Nina Crummy

In this small assemblage the objects range in date from later medieval to later post-medieval.

Burial 14 contained a fairly well-preserved lead-alloy paten (Fig 24) and fragments of the stem of a lead-alloy chalice (not illustrated). In 1229 William of Blois, Bishop of Worcester, instructed that priests should be buried with base-metal copies of silver communion vessels, a practice that may have been in occasional use much earlier (Gilchrist 2012, 206). This dates Burial 14 to the later medieval period, if not before, and in the context of Badby Church identifies the deceased as a parish priest (Rodwell 2012, 319). The paten lay upon the chest of this individual with the chalice fragments over the left arm; the latter perhaps originally balanced on the paten. In other burials the paten generally lay on top of the chalice, with consecrated wine in the cup and consecrated bread on the plate (Oman 1957, 40, note 1; Biddle and Kjølbye-Biddle 1990, 791-3). In a 13th-century priest's burial in Lichfield Cathedral a chalice containing wine was covered by a paten holding a consecrated wafer, the whole ensemble being covered by a cloth and set on the surviving coffin lid (Rodwell 2012, 319). At St Andrew's Priory in York another 13th-century priest's grave had both a paten and chalice in the area of the stomach, with the chalice still upright as if held within the arms of the deceased, and the paten fallen to one side (Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2943). Burial 14 is therefore comparatively unusual in seeming to have the chalice on top of the paten, but there is some possibility that the plate slid gently off the decaying cup, coming to rest upon the remains of the body, leaving the cup to finally collapse to one side.

Numerous chalice burials have been found, for example at Westminster, York, Winchester in Hampshire, Flawford in Nottinghamshire, Lincoln and Barton-on-Humber in Lincolnshire, Ockley in Surrey and Colchester in Essex (Bruce-Mitford 1976, 138; Mann 1986, 41; Biddle and Kjølbye-Biddle 1990, 791-3; Alexander 1990; Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2942-4; Crossan 2004, 110). Some of these cups were accompanied by patens, but the thin metal of the plates might in many burial conditions disintegrate completely, so that the absence of any material remains is no guarantee that a paten was never included (Crummy 2010, 228). Four priests' graves at Partney, Lincolnshire, held badly decayed chalice fragments but no obvious pieces from a paten, and in all four the chalice had originally been placed on the chest and then fallen, as had one in a grave inside St Mark's Church, Lincoln (*ibid.*; Mann 1986, 41). The York vessels mentioned above are quite well-preserved, with the paten very like that from Badby Church, having been spun on lathe and the central hole from the lathe then plugged. The chalice had been made in two parts, the bowl and the base, which had then been soldered together (Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2943). The Badby chalice would have been of the same general style, but even allowing for the

expansion of the corroding metal at least part of the stem seems to have been very much thicker than that from York, which is no doubt what allowed it to survive, if only in a very poor state.



SF 6, Pewter paten, missing parts of the flanged rim and the body, recovered from fill (29) of grave cut [31], Burial 14 Fig 24

Also of later medieval date is a small copper-alloy buckle found on the nave floor (Fig 25). It is particularly narrow and probably came from a leather girdle rather than a more substantial belt.



SF 1, Small copper-alloy buckle and folded strap-plate, with iron staining from the missing buckle tongue, recovered from the earthen nave floor (3) Fig 25

Iron coffin nails were found in Burials 2 and 13. Many retain at least some mineral-replaced wood on the shank, while a few are coated with a thick clay deposit. The heads are round, the shanks are square in section and gently tapering. Broken shanks are often hollow inside, a feature typical of corroding iron. Burial 2 nails were all incomplete, but from the varying lengths of the complete shanks in Burial 13 it seems that they were taken from an existing stockpile rather than made specifically for each burial. Nails from Roman coffins tend to be more uniform in each grave while varying between graves, suggesting that they were made as required (Clarke 1979, 332; Crummy *et al.* 1993, 34).

As well as coffin nails, Burial 13 contained 24 copper-alloy (probably brass) upholstery studs with low domed heads, most still fixed in decayed wood (Fig 26). The studs are 11 mm long and the ends of the shanks are not clenched; with the heads only about 1 mm high, this gives a wood thickness in excess of 10 mm, and by comparison with the panels of outer wooden coffins at Christ Church, Spitalfields, London, the Burial 13 coffin was likely to be about 25 mm thick (Cox 1996, 99). From their positions within the grave, it seems that the studs had been used to tack down a cloth coffin cover, and it may be that traces of decayed textile still remain beneath some of the stud heads, sandwiched between the metal and wood.



SF 2, Three of the twenty-four copper-alloy convex-headed studs, recovered from fill (26) of grave cut [28], Burial 13 Fig 26

The studs date the coffin to the later post-medieval (early modern) period, with cloth, often black, used to cover wooden coffins from the late 17th century; from the early 18th century the fabric might be glued or nailed down and then numerous studs were set in decorative patterns on the lid and side panels, even sometimes used to record the name and age of the deceased (e.g. Cox 1996, 102; Schofield 2016, 177; Boston 2009, 173-4; Schofield 2016, 177; Bashford and Sibun 2007, 112-13). Most of the wooden coffins in the vaults at Spitalfields had been covered in textile and beneath it the wood, usually elm but sometimes coniferous softwood, was left untreated and

uncovered, although the internal joints of both single- and double-shelled coffins might be sealed with pitch (Cox 1996, 99). Elm, resistant to splitting and to decay when damp, was also the preferred wood in the cemetery at St Peter-le-Bailey, Oxford (Boston 2009, 174), while both elm and walnut were used in the Quaker Burial Ground at Kingston-upon-Thames, with walnut seemingly related to higher-status burials (Bashford and Sibun 2007, 112). Compared to the hundreds of studs used in some coffins (Cox 1996, figs 99-100), the low number of studs in Burial 13 point to a simple tacking down of the cloth cover and a date for the burial sometime between c. 1670 and 1720, supported by the absence of other metal fittings, such as escutcheons, grips and coffin plates, although expense and local practice may extend this date further into the 18th century.

Finds catalogue

Fig 25, SF 1. (3). Nave floor? Small copper-alloy buckle and folded strap-plate, with iron staining from the missing buckle tongue. The buckle is more or less D-shaped, with a straight hinge bar and notched point at the front to accommodate the tongue. The strap-plate is plain, with a rivet hole set at the centre of the inward-curving outer edge. Length 29 mm, maximum width of buckle 14.5 mm, width of strap-plate 10 mm.

SF 7-12. (41), Burial 2. Iron coffin nails, most with some mineral-replaced wood attached. SF 7) found above left humerus, incomplete nail, length 29 mm. SF 8) found below left tibia/fibula, three thin iron nail fragments, two lying at right angles and covered with mineral-replaced wood, lengths 32, 21 and 20 mm. SF 9) by left knee, incomplete nail, length 42mm. SF 10) beneath left hand/top of femur, incomplete nail, length 38 mm. SF 11) beneath femur, incomplete nail, length 25 mm. SF 12) no locations, five incomplete nails, lengths 39, 33, 28, 27 and 18 mm, one nail head, and six nail shank fragments, lengths 44, 37, 30, 29, 20 and 18 mm.

Fig 26, SF 2. (26). fill of grave cut [28], Burial 13. Twenty-four copper-alloy convex-headed studs, most fixed in soft dark brown to black decayed wood. Where visible, the ends of a few of the shanks are not turned clenched, but some are set at an angle. An iron shank fragment is attached to one stud by corrosion. Diameter 12 mm, length 11 mm.

SF's 3 and 4. (26), fill of grave cut [28], Burial 13. a) Thirteen coffin nails of varying lengths, one nail head and two nail shank fragments. Most have mineral-replaced wood on the shank. Two of the nails are corroded together at right angles and would have been set at a corner. Longest complete nail 57 mm, shortest 31 mm. b) Three fragments from a thin iron coffin plate. The surfaces are encrusted with thick layers of clay, in places mixed with flakes of black organic material. 55 x 55 mm, 64 x 45 mm, 42 x 22 mm.

SF 5. (29), fill of grave cut [31], Burial 14. Pewter chalice fragments. Badly decayed fragments from the stem of a chalice. The metal has expanded as it corroded, so measurements are not a wholly accurate reflection of size before burial. Fragment A, in pieces) Maximum diameter 35 mm, height 59 mm. Fragment B) Diameter 29 mm, height 38 mm. Fragment B probably fitted onto the lower end of A.

Fig 24, SF 6. (29), fill of grave cut [31], Burial 14. Pewter paten, missing parts of the flanged rim and the body. Due to its delicate condition the paten has not been cleaned and no tool marks are visible, but a central plug raised above the surface of the underside shows that it was spun on a lathe. Spinning leaves a hole in the centre of the metal, which is then filled and smoothed over so as to be almost invisible on the upper surface, but often as here, left standing proud of the surrounding surface on the underside. Diameter 120 mm, height 5 mm.

6.3 Ceramic building material by Rob Atkins**Floor brick/tile**

Three floor bricks/tiles were found in the Badby excavations within two different parts of the church:

Tr2 u/s

A virtual complete floor brick/tile (2370g). Machine made. Orange sandy fabric with external surfaces sanded. Square: c170mm x 168mm (c6½") x 42mm thick (1¾"). Lime mortar attached to sides and base of tile. Some ware to its top surface. Mid 19th to very early 20th century. The floor brick/tile had probably been part of a High Victorian plain floor, which may have been used across most of the church.

Tr3 u/s

Two part floor brick/tiles were recovered and these were identical except their colour:

Part floor brick/tile (884g). Machine made. Extremely hard orange to red sandy fabric. Probably square – one side survived complete and was 150mm (6") long and the other side was 110mm+ long; 20mm thick (<1"). It had presumably been reused as the tile has lime mortar attached to both its top and base. Late 19th to 20th century.

Part floor brick/tile (438g). Machine made. Extremely hard dark grey sandy fabric. It was 150mm (6") long by 70mm+; 20mm thick (<1"). Cement attached to sides and base only. Top surface slightly smooth through ware. Late 19th to 20th century.

These two tiles were possible evidence for a late 19th or 20th century two coloured (dark orange to red and dark grey) floor, which may have been located in part of the church. It is likely these tiles had been arranged as a chequered design pattern of alternative squares. The tiles are extremely well made and had probably been used in specific areas of the church e.g. around the altar.

6.4 Osteological evidence by Chris Chinnock**MoJ Licence to excavate human remains: 18-0060****Introduction**

The remains of at least 39 burials were encountered during groundworks at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Badby, Northamptonshire. Twelve of the inhumations were from the area of the southern porch, with the remaining 27 being encountered during the excavations of a service trench aligned east to west from the southern porch through the churchyard to the east. Further disarticulated material was recovered during excavations in the porch area and the under floor work in the nave.

This report contains the results of the complete osteological analysis and discussion of two skeletons recovered from the excavations. The remainder of the skeletal assemblage remained within the Churchyard boundary and was not available for analysis. Where possible, observations on the skeletons have been made from the excavation records.

Nature of Sample

Both inhumations, (B3: 40) and (B6: 55), were aligned approximately east to west, with the head at the western end of the grave and the arms laid by the side. This arrangement was repeated for the vast majority of the burials encountered with the

porch and service trench areas. Only Burial 18 differed as it was aligned north-west to south-east with the head at the north-west end and the arms laid slightly over the waist. Several of the graves were intercutting and in some cases the skeletons had been disturbed as a result. The individuals were all lain in a supine position. A small number of the graves showed evidence for coffins with either iron nails or copper-alloy studs (B13/B14) around the perimeter of the graves or staining of the soil beneath the grave (B2) where the wood had rotted *in-situ*.

Preservation and completeness

The skeletal remains were assessed for overall bone preservation and scored on a three point scale from good to poor (Connell and Rauxloh 2007). Both skeletons recovered for analysis were described as moderately well preserved. Skeleton (40) was 65-69.9% complete and Skeleton (55) was 45-49.9% complete. For the remainder of the burials observed on site, all were described as moderate to well preserved though fragmentation and truncation of burials was encountered throughout the excavated areas.

Methods

Inhumations and disarticulated material

All skeletal remains were recorded onto an Oracle 9i (v9.2.0) relational database following Museum of London methodology (Connell and Rauxloh 2007; Powers 2008). This provided a full catalogue of the bones and teeth present, estimates of age and sex, measurements of cranial and post-cranial elements and observations of non-metric traits. Estimations of age and sex followed the categories outlined in Tables 2 and 3. All work was carried out in accordance with guidelines issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Brickley and McKinley 2004).

Table 2: Age categories

Category	Age group	Description
Subadult	perinatal	inter-uterine/neonate
	1–6 months	early post-neonatal infant
	7–11 months	later post-neonatal infant
	1–5 years	early childhood
	6–11 years	later childhood
	12–17 years	adolescence
Adult	18–25 years	young adult
	26–35 years	early middle adult
	36–45 years	later middle adult
	≥46 years	mature adult
Unclassified	adult	≥18 years
	subadult	<18 years

Table 3: Biological sex categories

Sex
Male
Probable male
Intermediate
Probable female
Female

Adult age at death estimates employed a combination of pubic symphysis, auricular surface and sternal rib end morphology, in addition to dental attrition (Brothwell 1981; Iscan *et al* 1984; 1985; Lovejoy *et al* 1985; Brooks and Suchey 1990).

Individuals aged ≤ 18 years were classed as 'sub-adults'. Sub-adult age was estimated using a combination of long bone diaphyseal growth measurements, observations of the stage of epiphyseal fusion and tooth development and eruption (Moorees, Fanning and Hunt 1963(a); 1963(b); Maresh 1970; Gustafson and Koch 1974; Scheuer and Black 2000).

Estimations of biological sex was only attempted on adult individuals (≥ 18 years) and was based on a series of morphological characteristics from the os coxae and skull (Powers 2008).

Metric and non-metric data was recorded where possible (*ibid*). The calculation of adult stature employed metric data from the right femur, applying the formulae devised by Trotter (1970).

The diagnosis of pathological conditions followed the procedures set out by Roberts and Connell (2004, 34).

Results

Demographic Data

Demographic analysis identified two sub-adult individuals from two inhumation burials, (40) and (55). Skeleton (40) comprised the remains of a child assigned to an osteological age category of 12-17 years old. However, the dental eruption and length of the long bone diaphyses suggest the individual was much closer bottom of that age range. Skeleton (55) was that of a second child aged between one and five years. The dental development and tooth eruption recorded for the second skeleton suggest an age closer to the one-year mark.

A summary of the age ranges of the remaining skeletons excavated from the porch area is given in Table 4. Further notes on these burials is given in Appendix 1.

Whilst some observations were made on the burials encountered during the excavation of the service trench through the churchyard, it was not possible to draw meaningful information on the demography of that group.

Table 4: Demographic information for other burials from the porch area

Burial/Context	Age category (estimate)	Sex
B1	Sub-adult (12-17)	-
B2	Adult (18-25)	-
B4	Neonate	-
B5	Sub-adult (1-5)	-
B7	-	-
B12	-	-
B16	Adult	Male (?)
B17	Sub-adult (≤ 10)	-
B18	Adult	-
B19	Sub-adult	-

Palaeopathology

Skeleton (55), an infant aged around one year at the time of death, displayed some lesions on the internal surface of the cranium which may be indicative of infectious disease. These lesions comprised areas of new bone formation flanking the internal occipital crest, characterised by lamellar bone with capillary-like impressions; some limited porosity was also present. Similar lesions are present along the endocranial surface of both parietal bones along the sagittal suture as well as further into the main body of the bone. More porous woven bone is present across the endocranial surface of the left temporal bone. It is unclear whether these lesions are indicative of an active infection at the time of death though the young age of the child suggests that it may have been a contributing factor.

Discussion

Excavations at the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin identified a number of burials, a large proportion of which were those of sub-adult individuals. More adult remains were recovered along the length of the service trench through the churchyard and it appears likely that the area around the southern porch was set aside specifically for the burial of sub-adult individuals. This is the opposite patterning of that observed at All Saints Church, Little Billing, Northamptonshire, where infant burials were found close to the surface on the north side of the church (Chinnock 2014). The burials from the porch area at the church, which included the two infants recovered for analysis, in several cases could be seen to pre-date the construction of the porch that was probably dated to the 16th century.

The range of sub-adult ages ranges from neonatal burials, indicative of death either during or soon after childbirth, to mid to late teenagers. The two recovered skeletons were those of a child aged around 12 years and an infant aged approximately one year at the time of death. Due to the lack of sexually dimorphic features in the skeletons of sub-adults, neither could be assigned to a biological sex category (male/female).

The presence of pathological lesions on the internal surface of the cranium of the infant may reflect a period of infection or trauma. Given that the infant was aged around one year at the time of death, a prolonged period of infection may well have been a contributing factor to the death of the individual. Similar lesions to those observed here have been linked to specific infections such as tuberculosis, meningitis and also as a result of child abuse (Lewis 2004). It should be noted that areas of diffuse fibrous bone are part of the normal development of the skull and it is possible that some of the lesions observed in the infant are examples of this. However, the lesions present on the occipital bone with the capillary impressions suggest that they are likely to be pathological in origin (*ibid.*)

The on-site observations and off-site analysis have given an insight into the distribution of sub-adult burials within the churchyard and the survival of human remains beneath the southern porch. The presence of sub-adult skeletons of all ages and possible evidence for infectious disease hint at a time within the parish infant mortality, as a result of disease and/or other ailments, was a tragic but all too frequent occurrence.

7 DISCUSSION

The Church of St Mary the Virgin at Badby lies on a prominent knoll, an obvious location for church overlooking the village and the neighbouring countryside. This present building has stood on this site probably from the early 14th century, although it has undergone a series of additions and changes over the centuries, since its origin.

There has been a settlement at Badby at least from Saxons times, with records of an enclosure of the knoll since the 9th century now occupied by Church Hill, Vicarage Hill and Church Green. Whether there was an earlier building is uncertain. No church was recorded in the Domesday Day Book and the first record for a priest is AD 1316 (See historical background).

The recovery of sherd of residual St. Neots Ware from one of the graves, dateable to AD1000-1200 would have presumably derived from the earlier settlement in the area.

The porch is thought to be late 16th century in design and was placed over the existing graves that predate its construction. The recorded graves lying across the doorway does raise the question of the date of the south door and whether it had been part of the original nave construction or was it established at the time of the of the porch build, with the noted cut through the nave wall foundations. If so did a previous south doorway exist in the building fabric elsewhere?

Three layers of burials were phased in this location showing burial here had been a long term occurrence. None of the burials can be dated except to say they pre-date the porch. The number of sub-adult burials in this location is significant, with seven of the skeletons recorded here were between neonatal and teens in age. The practice of burying young children in close locality to the church has been recorded at other sites, including Raunds, Furnells in the early medieval period (Boddington 1996, 53-5). It was possible they were buried in this location as it was believed that the closeness to the church and rain falling from the roof of the church onto the burials had a greater sanctifying effect on them.

The latest programme of work in the nave of the church revealed much brick renovation had been undertaken in the late Victorian period, although the surviving medieval stonework below two of the pier bases does indicate that this was possibly part of the earlier fabric of the church. As noted above, the stonework suggested the remains of a wall or foundation that aligned east-west with the north sides of the chancel and tower walls and may be evidence of a previous nave wall. It could also have some bearing with a former chapel, dedicated to St Catherine that is thought to have been located at the east end of the north aisle and was most likely demolished during the reformation.

Two of the burials could be determined to be probably buried in caskets as a result of decayed wood and iron nail/copper alloy studs forming the outlines of their coffins. The most interesting of finds were the recovery of the pewter chalice and paten found with Burial 14, in the excavation in the soakaway below the churchyard path. These are known artefacts placed with the interment of priests, a practice that generally occurred countrywide between the 13th and 16th centuries (See Crummy, Section 6.2).

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APPENDIX 1 – Observations on burials not recovered for full analysis

Burial 1 – Single inhumation E-W arms laid by the side. Possibly truncated at the knee by another burial, unclear from photos. Older teenager, epiphyseal line at proximal and distal humerus still visible as well as at prox femur. Moderately well preserved, but fragmentary.

Burial 2 – Single inhumation E-W arms laid by the side. Remnants of the coffin survive, dark earth staining beneath the skeleton. Remains of a young adult, possible male based on observation of the pelvis from photos. Ribs and vertebrae have not survived. Further evidence of coffinated burial.

Burial 3 – Recovered for analysis – single inhumation E-W arms by the side. Moderately well preserved, highly fragmentary.

Burial 4 – Neonatal remains found at the very edge of the excavation area. Higher stratigraphically than B3. Possibly underlay the foundations of the porch.

Burial 5 – remains of a small infant buried E-W with arms by the side. Poorly preserved, highly fragmentary. Vertical stone at the head end of the grave.

Burial 6 – recovered for analysis. Buried E-W with arms by the side.

Burial 7 – Remains of a left arm from an adult individual. Only part of the burial to have survived. Poorly preserved. Buried beneath threshold slab. Perhaps truncated when threshold went in.

Burial 8 – Service trench, Section 3

Burial 9 – Service trench, Section 1

Burial 10 – Service trench, Section 2

Burial 11 – Service trench, Section 2

Burial 12 – Couple of bones remaining from a severely truncated burial within the porch area, truncated by Burials 3 and 6?

Burial 13 – Service trench, Soakaway – Section A

Burial 14 – Service trench, Soakaway – Section C

Burial 15 – Service trench Soakaway – Section D

Burial 16 – Large robust skeleton of adult individual buried supine E-W with arms by the side. Possibly male. Clearly predates the construction of the porch. Appears well preserved but with lots of fragmentation.

Burial 17 – Inhumation of sub-adult individual, only lower legs visible within the excavation area, the rest underlay the foundations of the porch. Lay directly atop but

on a different alignment to B18. Well preserved and in condition. Younger than 15 years due to unfused distal tibial epiphyses. Size of bones suggest significantly younger, probably less than 10 years.

Burial 18 – remains of adult skeleton, unknown sex. Inhumation, aligned NW-SE, arms by side but hands slightly over waist. Moderately well preserved. Only the lower half of the body present within the excavation area, the rest underlay the foundations of the porch.

Burial 19 – remains of probably infant individual. Only parts of skull and degraded remnants of other post-cranial bones survive. Size of the grave cut suggests a young infant.

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1	Nave aisle pathways	Late 19th century stone slabbed aisles lying between the wooden floored bays for the pews	c15.5m east-west by c11.5m north south	-
2	20thC concrete floor and make-up in south-west bay of the nave	Concrete slab floor, overlying loose stone rubble and soil make-up. (dark grey brown sandy loam)	4.5m by 2m	-
3	Medieval? earthen floor/level across the nave	Level layer of firm light-grey silty clay, with a few small stones	Same as the nave	SF1; Late 14th century buckle (c1350-c1400)
4	Late 19thC brickwork	Formed low bay walls and supporting piers for the wooden floors and the nave arches. 19th century bricks forming walls 1-2 bricks wide and 2-4 courses high. Also observed in construction of a brick lined flue and as supporting walls below stone slabbed floors. All displayed mortar bonding.	Bays (1-2) were between 6m to 6.5m long and 3.5m wide. The two central bays (3-4) were c6m by 2.7m and bay 5 was an area 5.5m long and 2.2m wide	-
5	Chancel/nave wall footings	A few roughly squared limestone blocks visible (0.1m-0.3m, length and width) below vestry doorway. Possible mortar bonding evident.	1m by 0.3m	-
6	Fill of brick lined flue (7)	Filled with stone/ brick rubble and loose soil/dust	See (7)	-
7	Brick lined heating flue	0.2m wide and two bricks in height, capped by the slab floor. Internal faces were soot covered	0.2mx0.2m and c1.5m long	-
8	Medieval stone (nave) arch pier foundation (pier base 3)	Lime mortared stone footings up to c0.8m wide, which comprised large limestone blocks (200-400mm long x >200mm wide x 100-150mm thick). The foundations extended 0.4m to the west of the pier base on an east-west alignment and displayed roughly faced stone to the north and south side's. The stone stood c0.3m high, set into soil layer (3)	1.4m long 0.8m wide 0.3m high	-

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Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
9	Medieval stone (nave) arch pier foundation (pier base 3)	Lime mortared stone footings up to c0.7m wide, which comprised large limestone blocks (200-450mm long x >200mm wide x 100-150mm thick). The foundations displayed roughly faced stone to the north and south side's. The stone stood c0.3m high.	0.8m long 0.8m wide 0.3m high	-
10	19th century scaffold hole fill	Unexcavated, partially filled with loose debris.	-	-
11	19th century scaffold hole cut	Probable scaffold posthole cut into the soil layer (3). It was generally very circular and only partially filled with loose debris (10). It displayed vertical sides with a c0.1m diameter, but was disturbed possibly when the scaffold pole was removed. It was probably a scaffold post hole, relating to the 19th century restoration work.	Diameter - 0.1m Depth - 0.1m (not excavated)	-
12	19th century scaffold hole fill of (13)	As (11)	-	-
13	19th century scaffold hole cut	As (12)	Diameter - 0.1m Depth - 0.1m+ (not excavated)	-
14	19th century scaffold hole fill of (15)	As (11)	-	-
15	19th century scaffold hole cut	As (12)	Diameter - 0.1m Depth - 0.1m+ (not excavated)	-
16	19th century scaffold hole fill of (17)	As (11)	-	-
17	19th century scaffold hole cut	As (12)	Diameter - 0.1m Depth - 0.1m+ (not excavated)	china pottery and a tin can
18	19th century scaffold hole fill of (19)	As (11)	-	-
19	19th century scaffold hole cut	As (12)	Diameter - 0.1m Depth - 0.1m+ (not excavated)	-

BADBY, THE CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN

Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
20	Brick replacement footings for nave arch piers	Stone nave arch pier bases (1-8) each c0.8m square lay within the opened brick lined bays (1-8). They had undergone replacement brick underpinning (20) during the 19th century church renovation work. Most of the pier bases displayed three to four courses of underpinning brickwork, with lower course offset from the one above, producing a stepped effect around the exposed sides of the pier bases.	c1 square c0.3m high -1.2m	-
21	Fill between brick floor support walls (22)	Filled with stone/ brick rubble and loose soil/dust	-	-
22	Brick floor support walls	A pair of low parallel north-south aligned brick walls [22] comprised were single lines of mortared bricks (header on) lying c0.6m apart, with space between them filled by stone and brick rubble (21). This was probably part of the structure to support the slabbed floors.	Length - 1.6m+	-
23	Fill of grave cut [24], Burial 1	Compact dark grey brown, slightly silty clay. Overlaid by layer (25)	-	-
24	Grave cut, Burial 1	Aligned east-west, sub-rectangular, with rounded corners, concave sides and flattish base	Length – 1.4m Width - 0.71m Depth – 0.11m	-
25	Layer below porch slabs	Very compact mottled grey and yellow clay. Fragments of wood, slate, glass, small stone and disarticulated human remains. Make-up/levelling layer at time of porch construction	0.1m thick	-
26	Fill of grave cut [28], Burial 13	Compact mid-grey yellow silty clay, with occ. small ironstone chips	-	SF2 - Cu alloy studs, coffin furnishings SF3 & 4 Fe coffin nails
27	Burial 13 (soakaway)	Aligned east-west, articulated supine extended burial in poor condition, lost right arm and leg. Head tilted to the left. Possibly female. 0.91m below surface.	-	See above
28	Grave cut, Burial 13	Aligned east-west, sub-rectangular, with near vertical sides and flattish base	-	-
29	Fill of grave cut [31], Burial 14	Compact mid-grey yellow silty clay, with occ. small ironstone chips and some larger limestone fragments	-	SF5 & 6 Pewter chalice fragment and paten
30	Burial 14 (soakaway)	Aligned east-west, articulated supine extended burial in good condition, lost left arm and skull. Probable priest burial	-	See above
31	Grave cut, Burial 14	Aligned east-west, Oval, with near vertical sides and flattish base	-	-

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Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
32	Fill of grave cut [33], Burial 15	Compact mid-grey yellow silty clay, with occ. small ironstone chips and some larger limestone fragments	-	-
33	Burial 15 (soakaway)	Aligned east-west, articulated supine extended burial in fair condition. Head tilted to the left.	-	-
34	Grave cut, Burial 15	Aligned east-west, oval, with near vertical sides and flattish base	-	-
35	Church yard make-layer (soakaway)	Friable mid-grey brown silty sand. Some rubble and cinder inclusions, occ. ironstone and limestone chip/fragments	0.45m thick	-
36	Natural (soakaway)	Firm, light yellowish sandy silt. Occ. large limestone slabs		
37	Church yard burial soil (soakaway)	Friable mid-yellowish grey silty clay. Occasional small angular ironstone and limestone chip/fragments	0.75m thick	-
38	Fill of grave cut [39], Burial 3	Friable mid-brown silty clay, with occ. small ironstone chips and charcoal and chalk flecks	-	-
39	Grave cut, Burial 3	Aligned east-west, oval, with near vertical sides and flattish base	-	-
40	Burial 3 (porch)	Aligned east-west, articulated supine extended burial in fair condition. Young adult/juvenile (See osteological report above)	-	Sample 4
41	Fill of grave cut [43], Burial 2	Compact to firm mottled yellowish brown and grey slightly sandy clay, with occ. small ironstone chips and chalk flecks. Some disarticulated bone	-	SF's 7 -12 Fe coffin nails
42	Burial 2 (porch)	Aligned east-west, articulated supine extended burial in fair condition. Remains of a young adult, possible male. Ribs and vertebrae have not survived. Head lies below the porch entrance wall. Outline of decayed wood and coffin nails indicate coffin burial.	-	Sample 2
43	Grave cut, Burial 2	Aligned east-west, sub-rectangular, with near vertical sides and flattish base.	Length – 1.55m Width - 0.55m	-
44	Burial soil Level 3	Compact, fairly bright to yellowish –orange with patches of grey-brown silty clay, with occ. small ironstone chips and chalk and charcoal flecks.	Depth - 0.08 – 0.2m	-

Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
45	Nave wall foundations	The stone foundations of the church nave formed a broad c0.5m wide offset from the south face of the wall below the porch construction and slab surface. The foundation appeared to be cut into layer (65) and comprised between 5 to 6 visible courses of roughly faced unbonded limestone /ironstone blocks and slabs, the largest with spans of 0.4m and 0.1m in thickness. The top of the wall foundation stood at c142m (aOD). It is possible the wall was abutted by layer (65) that would make it the earliest feature in the sequence.	Height – 0.35m Width – 0.5m	Disarticulated human bone
46	Fill of grave cut [47], Burial 5	Friable mottled dark yellowish-brown and grey clay, with occ. small ironstone chips and charcoal and chalk flecks	-	-
47	Grave cut, Burial 5	Aligned east-west, sub-rectangular, with gently sloping sides and flattish base	Length – 0.8m Width - 0.39m Depth – 0.06m	-
48	Burial 5 (porch)	Aligned east-west, articulated supine extended burial in fair condition, highly fragmentary. Remains of a small infant, with arms by the side, but the feet lay below the porch wall. Large vertical placed pillow stone lay at the head end of the grave.	-	Sample 1
49	Pillow stone Burial 5	A roughly hewn sub-square of block of ironstone, placed at the west of grave cut [47], on which the head of Burial 5 rested.	Length – 0.35m Width - 0.26m Depth – 0.11m	-
50	Burial 12 (porch)	Aligned east-west, single leg remaining from a severely truncated burial within the porch area, truncated by Burials 3 and 6.	-	-
51	Burial 4 (porch)	Aligned east-west, articulated supine extended burial in fair condition. Neonatal remains found adjacent to the porch foundations.	-	-
52	Burial soil Level 2	Compact, mottled dark yellowish – orange and brown silty clay, with occ. chalk and charcoal flecks.	Depth - 0.15m	-
53	Burial 7 (porch)	Aligned east-west, right leg remaining from a severely truncated burial within the porch area, truncated by Burials 3 and 6.	-	-
54	Fill of grave cut [56], Burial 6	Compact to firm mid-yellowish brown clay, with occasional small ironstone chips and charcoal flecks. Some disarticulated bone	-	10th-12th century pottery (St Neots ware)
55	Burial 6 (porch)	Aligned east-west, articulated supine extended burial of a child in fair condition, but left arm and leg not present. Right arm extended by the side. (See osteological report above)	-	Sample 3

Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
56	Grave cut, Burial 6	Aligned east-west, sub-rectangular, with gently rounded sides and flattish base.	-	-
57	Fill of grave cut [59], Burial 16	Very compact, mottled dark grey-brown and orange-brown clay, with occ. chalk and charcoal flecks.	-	-
58	Burial 16 (porch)	Aligned east-west, articulated supine extended burial in fair condition but with fragmentation. Large robust skeleton of a young adult (male?), with arms by the side. Left arm and leg partly truncated, with head below the porch wall	-	-
59	Grave cut, Burial 16	Aligned east-west, sub-rectangular, with near vertical sides and flat base.	Length – 1.5m Width - 0.5m Depth – 0.12m	-
60	Fill of grave cut [63], Burial 17 & 18	Very compact, mottled mid grey-brown and orange-brown clay, with occ. small ironstone chips and charcoal flecks.	-	-
61	Burial 17 (porch)	Aligned east-west, articulated supine burial, well preserved juvenile (10 years) in good condition. Only lower legs and feet visible within the excavation area, the rest underlay the foundations of the porch wall. Lay directly atop of Burial 18.	-	-
62	Burial 18 (porch)	Aligned NW-SE, articulated supine extended adult burial in good condition. Lower legs and feet visible within the excavation area, with the hands over the pelvic area, the rest underlay the foundations of the porch wall. Overlaid by Burial 17.	-	-
63	Grave cut, Burial 18	Aligned north-west to south-east, Sub-rectangular, with rounded corners.	Length – 1.15m Width - 0.45m	-
64	Burial soil	Two areas of compact, mottled dark grey brown and red-brown clay, containing disarticulated human bone. Possible disturbed graves	Length – 1m Width - 0.5m Depth - 0.05m	-
65	Burial soil Level 1	Compact, bright yellowish –orange and grey mottled clay, which may be disturbed or redeposited natural	Not excavated	-
66	Fill of grave cut [68], Burial 19	Very compact, red-brown clay, with patches of grey clay.	-	-
67	Burial 19 (porch)	Aligned east-west, articulated supine extended young infant burial in poor condition. Only the skull remains, with left arm by the side. Left arm and leg partly truncated, with head below the porch wall	-	-
68	Grave cut, Burial 19	Aligned east-west, sub-rectangular, with concave sides and rounded base.	Length – 0.9m Width - 0.32m	-

Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
69	Burial 19 (porch)	Aligned east-west, articulated supine extended juvenile burial in fair condition found below porch threshold. The skull and lower legs lay below the porch entrance wall.	-	-
70	Burial 8 (soakaway)	Aligned east-west, articulated burial? Feet bones only		
71	Burial 9 (soakaway)	Articulated burial?		
72	Burial 10 (soakaway)	Articulated burial?		
73	Burial 11 (soakaway)	Articulated burial?		

MOLA
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MOLA
Kent House
30 Billing Road
Northampton
NN1 5DQ
01604 809 800
www.mola.org.uk
sparry@mola.org.uk