

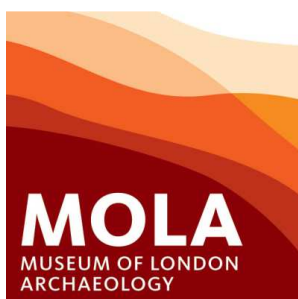


**Archaeological monitoring and recording at
St John the Baptist Church
Werrington, Peterborough
October 2013**

Report No. 14/99

Author: Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

Illustrator: Amir Bassir



© MOLA Northampton
Project Manager: Anthony Maull
Site Code:
NGR: TF 1698 0314

MOLA
Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton
NN4 8BN 01604 700 493
www.mola.org.uk
sparry@mola.org.uk

**Archaeological monitoring and recording at
St John the Baptist Church
Werrington, Peterborough
October 2013**

Report No. 14/99

Quality control and sign off:

Issue No.	Date approved:	Checked by:	Verified by:	Approved by:	Reason for Issue:
1		Pat Chapman	Anthony Maull	Andy Chapman	Draft for client review

Author: Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

Illustrator: Amir Bassir

© MOLA Northampton 2014

MOLA
Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton
NN4 8BN
01604 700 493
www.mola.org.uk
sparry@mola.org.uk

STAFF

Project Manager: Anthony Maull Cert Arch supported by
David J Leigh BA

Fieldwork: David J Leigh
Tim Sharman BA

Text: Yvonne Wolfram-Murray BSc PhD

Pottery: Paul Blinkhorn BTech

Illustrations: Amir Bassir BSc

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		Oasis No. molanort1-178421	
Project title	Archaeological monitoring and recording at St John the Baptist Church, Werrington, Peterborough		
Short description	Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by MOLA (formerly Northamptonshire Archaeology) in October 2013 for St John the Baptist PCC during the installation of new surface water drains with associated soak-aways at St John the Baptist Church, Werrington, Peterborough. Late Saxon pottery was identified from a layer within the graveyard.		
Project type	Watching Brief		
Site Status	-		
Previous work	-		
Current land use	Church yard		
Future work	unknown		
Monument type and period	-		
Significant finds	-		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Peterborough		
Site address	St John the Baptist Church, Werrington, Peterborough		
Post code	-		
OS co-ordinates	TF 1698 0314		
Area (sq m/ha)	35m long		
Height aOD			
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA (formerly Northamptonshire Archaeology)		
Project brief originator	Peterborough City Council Archaeologist		
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology		
Director/Supervisor	David J Leigh		
Project Managers	Anthony Maull		
Sponsor or funding body	St John the Baptist PCC		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	21 October 2013		
End date	24 October 2013		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents	
Physical	Peterborough	Pottery	
Paper	Museum	Site records (1 small archive box)	
Digital		Client report PDF	
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	Archaeological monitoring and recording at St John the Baptist Church, Werrington, Peterborough		
Serial title & volume	14/99		
Author(s)	Yvonne Wolfram-Murray		
Page numbers	15		
Date	13/05/2014		

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION
2	BACKGROUND
2.1	Location and topography
2.2	Historical and archaeological background
3	OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY
4	THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE
5	THE POTTERY by Paul Blinkhorn
6	THE SITE ARCHIVE
7	DISCUSSION
	BIBLIOGRAPHY

Tables

Table 1: Summary of the site archive

Figures

Front cover: General view of the church, looking north-east

Fig 1: Site location

Fig 2: Historic Environment Record (HER) data

Fig 3: The excavated trenches

Fig 4: The eastern soak-away, looking south

Fig 5: General view of drainage works, looking west

Fig 6: General view of soak-away and drainage works, looking north

Fig 7: General view of drainage trench, looking south-west

Fig 8: The western soak-away, looking south-east

Archaeological monitoring and recording at St John the Baptist Church Werrington, Peterborough October 2013

Abstract

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by MOLA (formerly Northamptonshire Archaeology) in October 2013 for St John the Baptist PCC during the installation of new surface water drains with associated soak-aways at St John the Baptist Church, Werrington, Peterborough. Late Saxon pottery was identified from a layer within the graveyard.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology (now MOLA) was commissioned by St John the Baptist PCC to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording in October 2013 at St John the Baptist Church, Werrington, Peterborough (TF 1698 0314, Fig 1) during the installation of new surface water drains with associated soak-aways.

The works were required as part of a planning consent in line with *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012). The aim was to ensure that any archaeological remains within the area of proposed ground works were appropriately investigated and recorded. A Written Scheme of Investigation was produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology for the work (Leigh 2013) in response to the brief issued for archaeological work by the Peterborough City Council Archaeologist (PCCA) work on the 25th March 2013 (Cassa-Hatton 2013). The works were monitored by the Peterborough City Council Archaeologist.

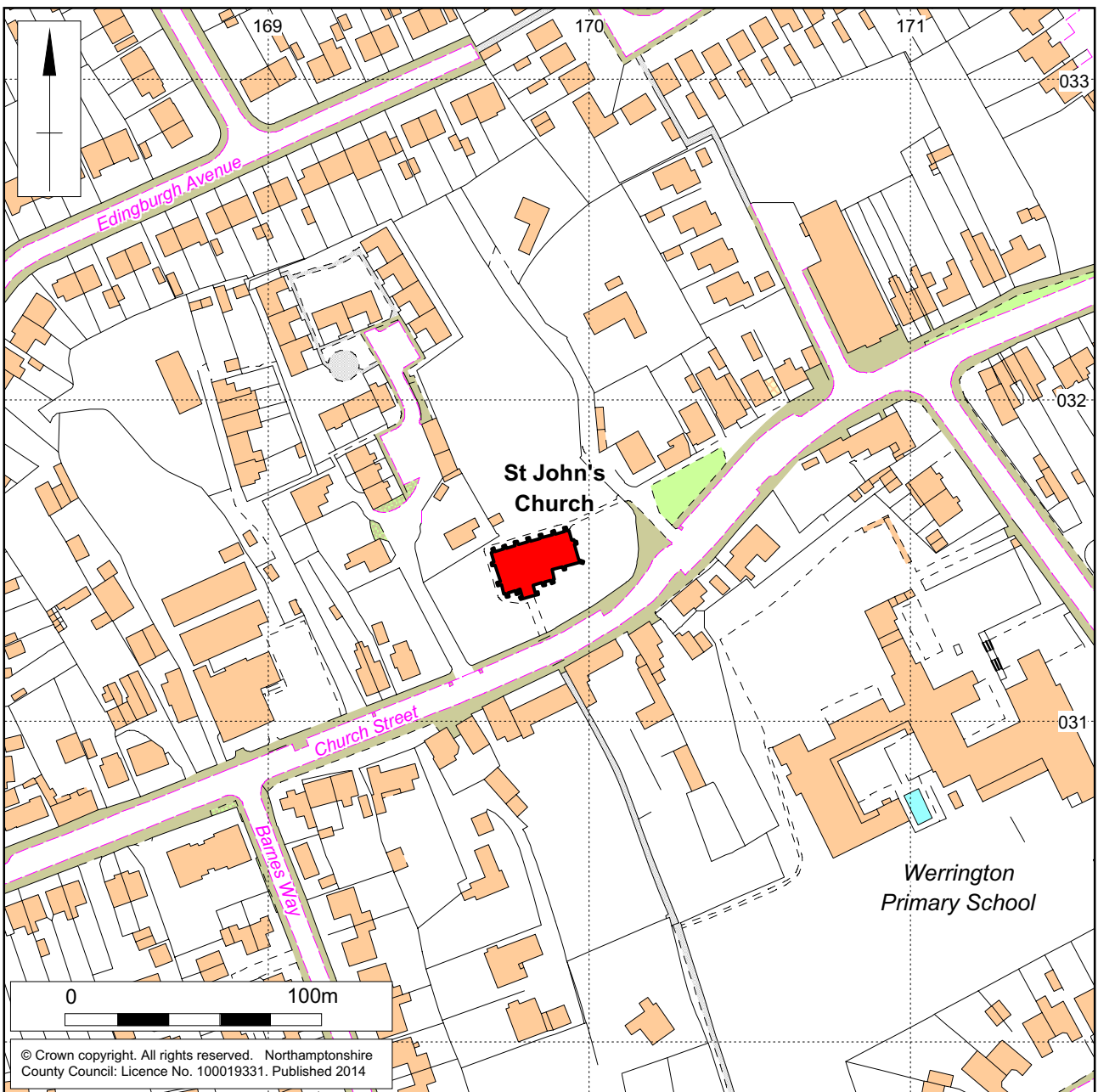
MOLA (formerly Northamptonshire Archaeology) is an Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) registered organisation. The work was carried out in accordance with the current best archaeological practice as defined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008) and the procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (EH 2009).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

The Church of St John the Baptist is situated within the village of Werrington approximately 6km north-east of Peterborough City Centre.

The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain as comprising Blisworth Limestone Formation (BGS Geoindex <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>).



Scale 1:2000

Site location Fig 1

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The Church of St John the Baptist lies within the village of Werrington and within the core of the historic settlement. The village is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086AD where it is recorded as *Widerintone*.

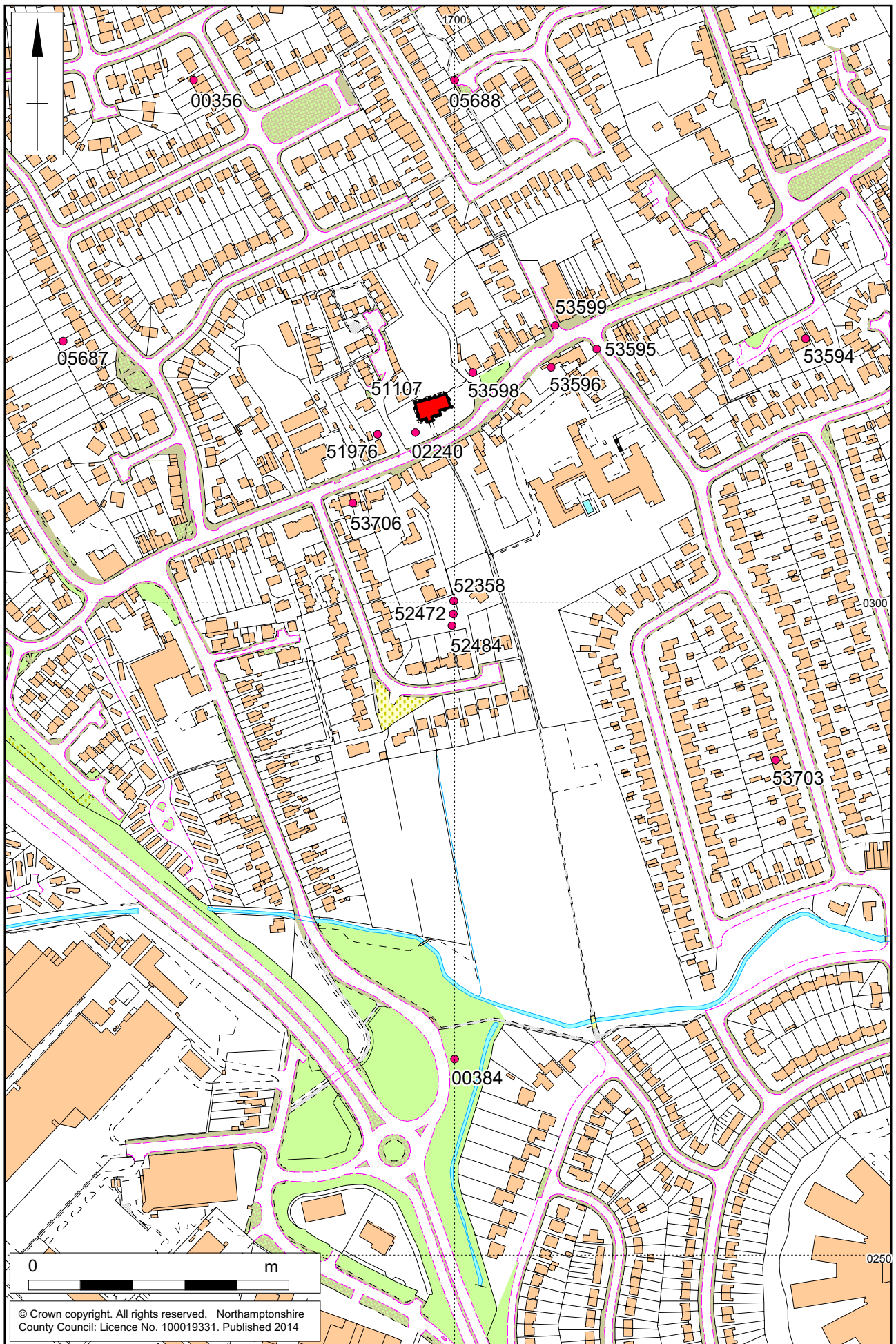
As a requirement of the brief for archaeological work (Cassa-Hatton 2013) the Historic Environment Record (HER) office was consulted in order to determine the archaeological resource within a 500m radius of the church. This identified a number of areas of archaeological interest ranging from the medieval period through to post-medieval and mid 20th-century sites. A list of those sites included in the HER record are provided below (Table 1). These include the site of a medieval moat (Historic Environment Record No:00356) lying to the north-east of the church, and several sites where ridge and furrow remains have been identified (NMR No's: 05688, 05687 and 51976).

The church of St John the Baptist is a Grade II Listed Building (HER No: 51107) the earliest parts of which date from the 12th century with substantial additions made to the fabric during the 14th century. The church underwent subsequent restorations between the 17th and 20th centuries. The HER records indicate that the churchyard was extended during the late 19th century, with a further extension in 1932. Documentary records show that the earliest memorial dates from 1851 and that prior to this date burials were conducted at nearby Paston.

Previous work recorded as having been carried out at the church comprises a watching brief carried out in 2000 that recorded a possible stone wall beneath the subsoil. This contrasted with the north wall of the church which cut the subsoil and relates to the later restoration phase of the church. Other deposits thought to be related to restoration phases included a number of dumping layers and a stone-lined well. A number of artefacts were also recovered including pottery ranging in date from post-medieval to 18th and 19th centuries. The earliest artefact recovered comprised a single sherd of Saxon pottery.

Table 1: List of sites recorded in Peterborough HER

HER No:	NGR:	Description:	Period:
02240	516970 -303130	Cemetery at St John the Baptist Church, Werrington	Medieval
00356	516800 - 303400	Moated site	Medieval
00384	517000 - 302650	Moated site	Medieval
05687	516700 - 303200	Ridge and furrow	Medieval
05688	517000 - 303400	Ridge and furrow	Medieval
51107	516983 - 303149	St John the Baptist Church, Werrington	Early Medieval
51976	516941 - 303127	Ridge and furrow at 69 church Road	Medieval
52358	516999 - 303001	Aircraft crash site	Modern era
52472	516999 - 302991	Aircraft crash site	Modern era
52484	516998 - 302982	Aircraft crash site	Modern era
53594	517269 - 303202	Site of primitive – Methodist church	Post-Medieval
53595	517109 - 303194	Site of former blacksmith	Uncertain
53596	517074 - 303180	Site of former blacksmith	Uncertain
53598	517014 - 303176	Site of former blacksmith	Uncertain
53599	517077- 303212	Site of former blacksmith	Uncertain
53703	517246- 302879	Site of former orchard	Post-medieval
53706	516922- 303076	Former school	Post-Medieval



Scale 1: 4000

Historic Environment Record (HER) data Fig 2

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

In order to examine the archaeological resource within the proposed development area the objectives of the investigation were to:

- Identify, investigate and record all archaeological deposits, exposed during the groundworks for the new dwelling and any associated groundworks;
- Determine and record the date, extent, character, state of preservation and depth of burial of any archaeological deposits;
- Recover any artefacts that may assist in the development of pottery type series within the region;
- Establish the relationship of any archaeological deposits within the wider contemporary landscape;
- Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

The character, composition and general depositional sequence of stratification was recorded on Northamptonshire Archaeology watching brief sheets. All recording followed the guidelines detailed in the Northamptonshire Archaeology *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual* (2011). A photographic record was maintained, consisting of digital images and black and white photographs. All records were compiled during fieldwork into a comprehensive site archive in accordance with the guidelines of Appendix 3 in the English Heritage procedural document, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (2009).

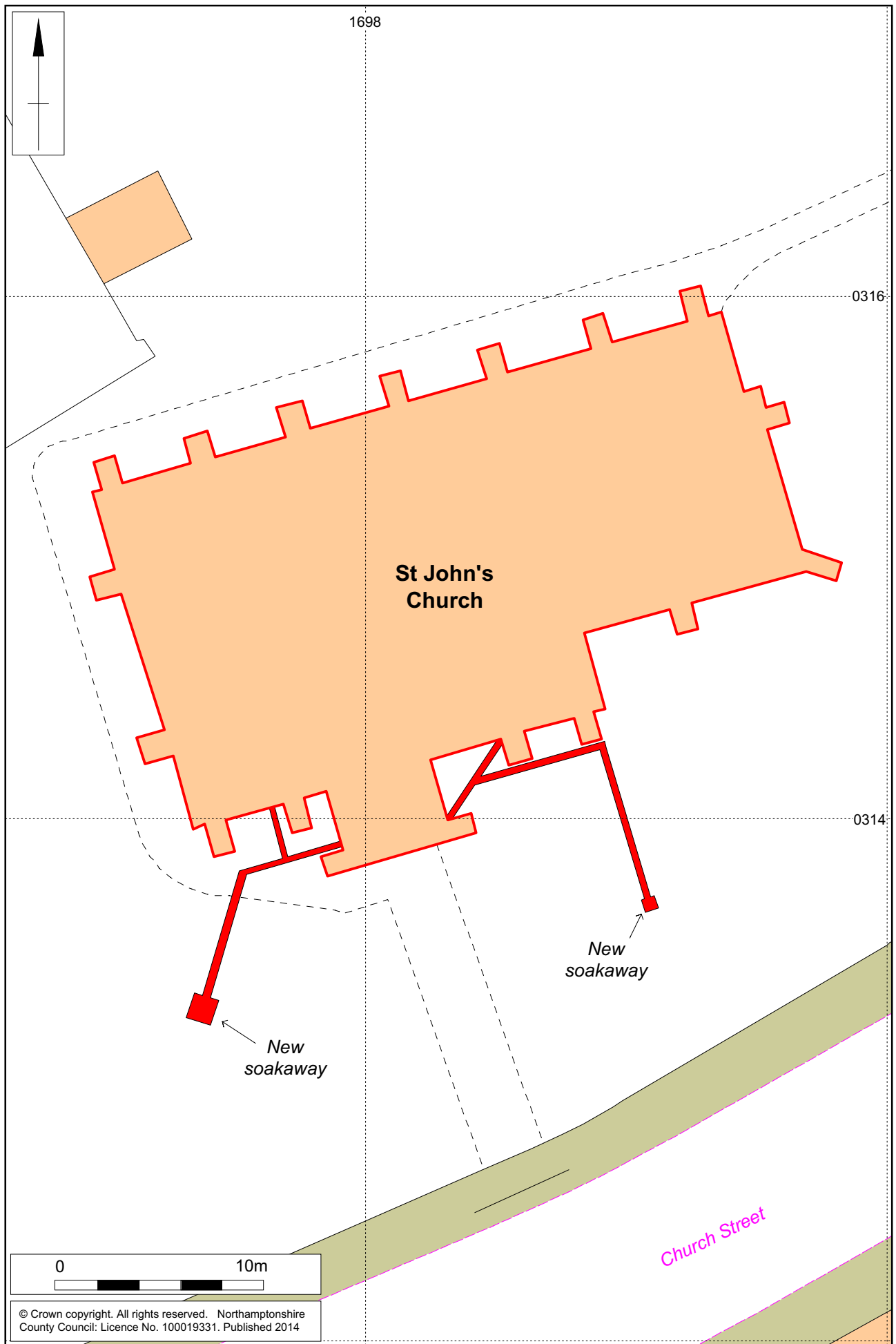
The fieldwork was carried out in October 2013 during the groundworks associated with the installation of new surface water drains and associated soak-aways. This comprised hand excavation of trenches down to levels of 0.30m for the drainage trenches and between 0.50m and 0.70m for the soak-aways (Fig 3).

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

The excavated depths of the drainage trenches and soak-aways generally did not reach the natural stratum, except the base of the eastern soak-away rested on the top of the stony natural at a depth of 0.52m. This was overlain by c 0.25m mid grey-brown sandy loam (2) and 0.27m dark grey-brown sandy loam topsoil (1). The eastern soak-away was 0.50m² (Fig 4). Parts of the eastern drainage trenches were located under a footpath, which were 0.50m wide and c 0.30m deep. The excavated depths did not fall below the sand ballast situated beneath the paving slabs (Fig 5). The excavated depth of the drainage trench leading to the soak-away through the graveyard were 0.25m wide and 0.23m deep and stayed within the topsoil (1) and the top of the subsoil (2) (Fig 6).

The western soak-away, 1.0m², was excavated to a depth of 0.64m. The stratigraphy comprised c 0.35m yellow-brown sandy loam (3) with stone inclusions, charcoal flecks and 10th century pottery. This was overlain by 0.14m mid grey-brown sandy loam subsoil (2) and 0.20m dark grey-brown loam topsoil (1). The drainage trenches close to the church, 0.20m to 0.30m wide and 0.30m deep, were excavated through concrete. The drainage trench leading to the western soak-away was 0.30m wide and excavated through the graveyard to a depth of 0.30m, staying in the upper subsoil (2) and topsoil (1) (Figs 7 and 8).

No human remains were encountered during the excavations of the drainage trenches and soak-aways.



Scale 1:200

The excavated trenches Fig 3



The eastern soak-away, looking south Fig 4



General view of drainage works, looking west Fig 5



General view of soak-away and drainage works, looking north Fig 6



General view of drainage trench, looking south-west Fig 7



The western soak-away, looking south-east Fig 8

5 THE POTTERY by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised seven sherds with a total weight of 17g. It was all Stamford Ware (Kilmurry 1980), and dateable to the 10th – 11th centuries. Two sherds (9g) came from the spoil heap associated with the soakaway pit, the rest (five sherds, 8g) occurred in the western soak-away pit, context (3). Only one sherd was glazed and so the entire assemblage is more likely to date to the 10th rather than the 11th century.

6 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive that will be prepared and consolidated for deposition at Peterborough Museum.

Table 1: Summary of the site archive

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	7
Digital photographs	41
B&W photos	14
Sketch plans	2
Context Sheets	4
Small finds box	1

7 DISCUSSION

Archaeological monitoring and recording during the groundworks associated with the installation of new surface water drains with associated soak-aways. Part of the drainage was laid under existing areas of concrete and stone slabs. Two drainage trenches and both soak-aways were dug in the graveyard, due to the shallow depths of the trenches only the topsoil and the top part of the subsoil were disturbed. The deeper soak-aways only barely touched the natural. However, in the western soak-away Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered from a layer or feature fill beneath the subsoil. Due to the extension work carried out in the church yard the pottery may be residual. A previous watching brief also recovered a single piece of Saxon pot.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cassa-Hatton, R, 2013 *Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*, Peterborough City Council

EH 2009 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*, English Heritage Procedural Document

IfA 2008 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, Institute for Archaeologists

Kilmurry, K, 1980 *The Pottery Industry of Stamford, Lincs. c. AD850-1250* British Archaeol Rep British Ser **84**

Leigh, D J, 2013 *Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication of works at St John the Baptist Church, Werrington, Peterborough*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

NA 2011 *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

NPPF 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*, Communities and Local Government procedural document

Websites

BGS 2013 www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex British Geological Survey

13 MOLA

May 2014



MOLA
Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton
NN4 8BN
01604 700 493
www.mola.org.uk
sparry@mola.org.uk