



**A Programme of Archaeological  
Monitoring, Investigation and Recording  
at the church of St Mary the Virgin  
Maidwell, Northamptonshire  
February 2013**

Report No. 14/270

Author: David J Leigh

Illustrator: Carol Simmonds





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Quality control and sign off:

Issue No.	Date approved:	Checked by:	Verified by:	Approved by:	Reason for Issue:
1	22/12/14	Pat Chapman	Anthony Maull	Andy Chapman	Draft review

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Illustrations	Carol Simmonds BA CPIfA

**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		<b>OASIS: molanort1- 198648</b>	
Project name	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording at St Mary the Virgin Parish Church, Maidwell, Northamptonshire		
Short description	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology (now MOLA Northampton), on behalf of St Mary the Virgin PPC in February 2013 during groundworks for the installation of toilet and washing facilities at St Mary the Virgin Parish Church, Maidwell, Northamptonshire. A disturbed stratigraphy was recorded throughout the investigation area. No archaeological features or artefacts were present.		
Project type	A Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording		
Site status	Grade II Listed Building		
Previous work	None		
Current Land use	Ecclesiastical		
Future work	Not known		
Monument type/ period	Parish church		
Significant finds			
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	St Mary the Virgin, Maidwell		
Study area (sq metres)	40m <sup>2</sup>		
OS Easting & Northing	SP 7491 7693		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton (formerly Northamptonshire Archaeology)		
Project brief originator	The Diocesan Archaeological Consultant		
Project Design originator	MOLA Northampton		
Director/Supervisor	David J Leigh		
Project Manager	Anthony Maull		
Sponsor or funding body	St Mary the Virgin PPC		
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>			
Start date	February 2013		
End date	February 2013		
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)</b>	
Physical			
Paper	MOLA (Northants)	Watching brief forms (2) Photographic record sheets (3) Colour slides (10) Black and white photographs (4) Digital photographs (20)	
Digital		Report text and figures	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>			
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)			
Title	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording at the church of St Mary the Virgin, Maidwell, Northamptonshire		
Serial title & volume	MOLA Northampton report 14/270		
Author	David J Leigh		
Date	December 2014		

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*Abstract*

*A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology (now MOLA Northampton), on behalf of St Mary the Virgin PPC, during groundworks for the installation of toilet and washing facilities at St Mary the Virgin parish church, Maidwell, Northamptonshire. A disturbed stratigraphy was recorded throughout the investigation area. No archaeological features or artefacts were present.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

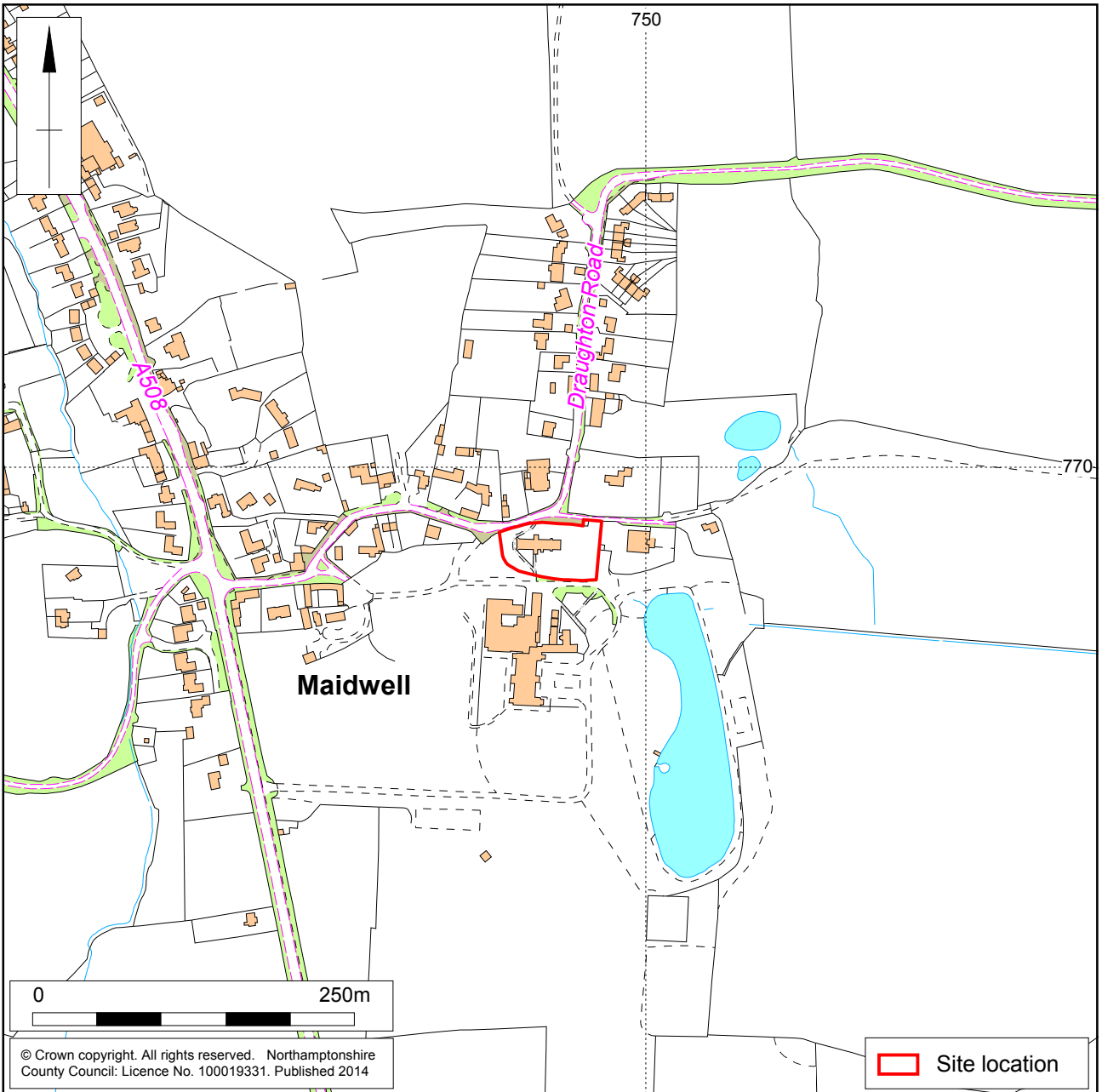
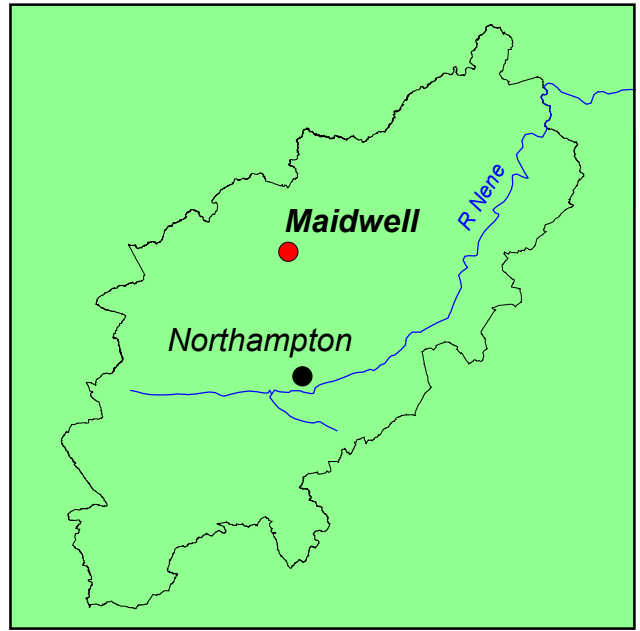
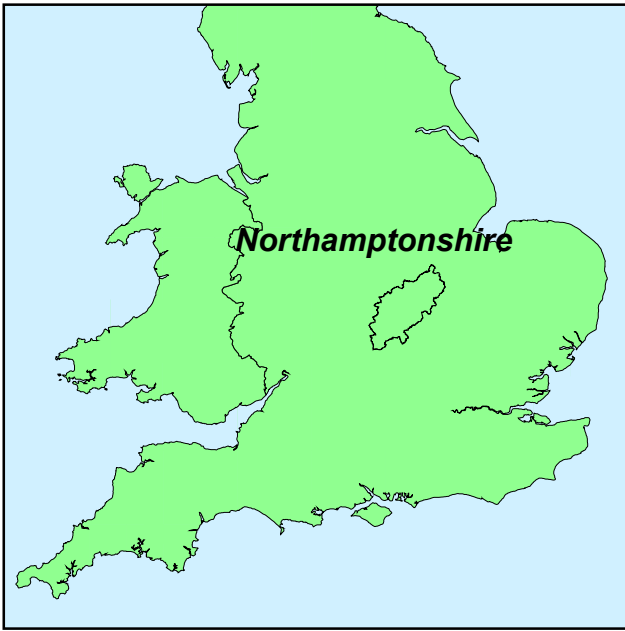
A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology (now MOLA Northampton) in February 2013 during groundworks for the installation of toilet and washing facilities at the church of St Mary the Virgin, Maidwell, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 7491 7693; Figs 1, 2, and 3). The work was undertaken on behalf of St Mary the Virgin PPC. The village of Maidwell lies just to the east of the A508 Harborough Road, approximately 17km north of Northampton.

The work adhered to the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012) and followed a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Leigh 2013) and the procedural document MoRPHE issued by English Heritage (EH 2006) along with the appropriate national standards and guidelines, as recommended by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

**2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

To the north of the village lies the site of a possible Iron Age settlement, comprising two rectangular enclosures identified by cropmark evidence. Scatters of Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon pottery were also identified.

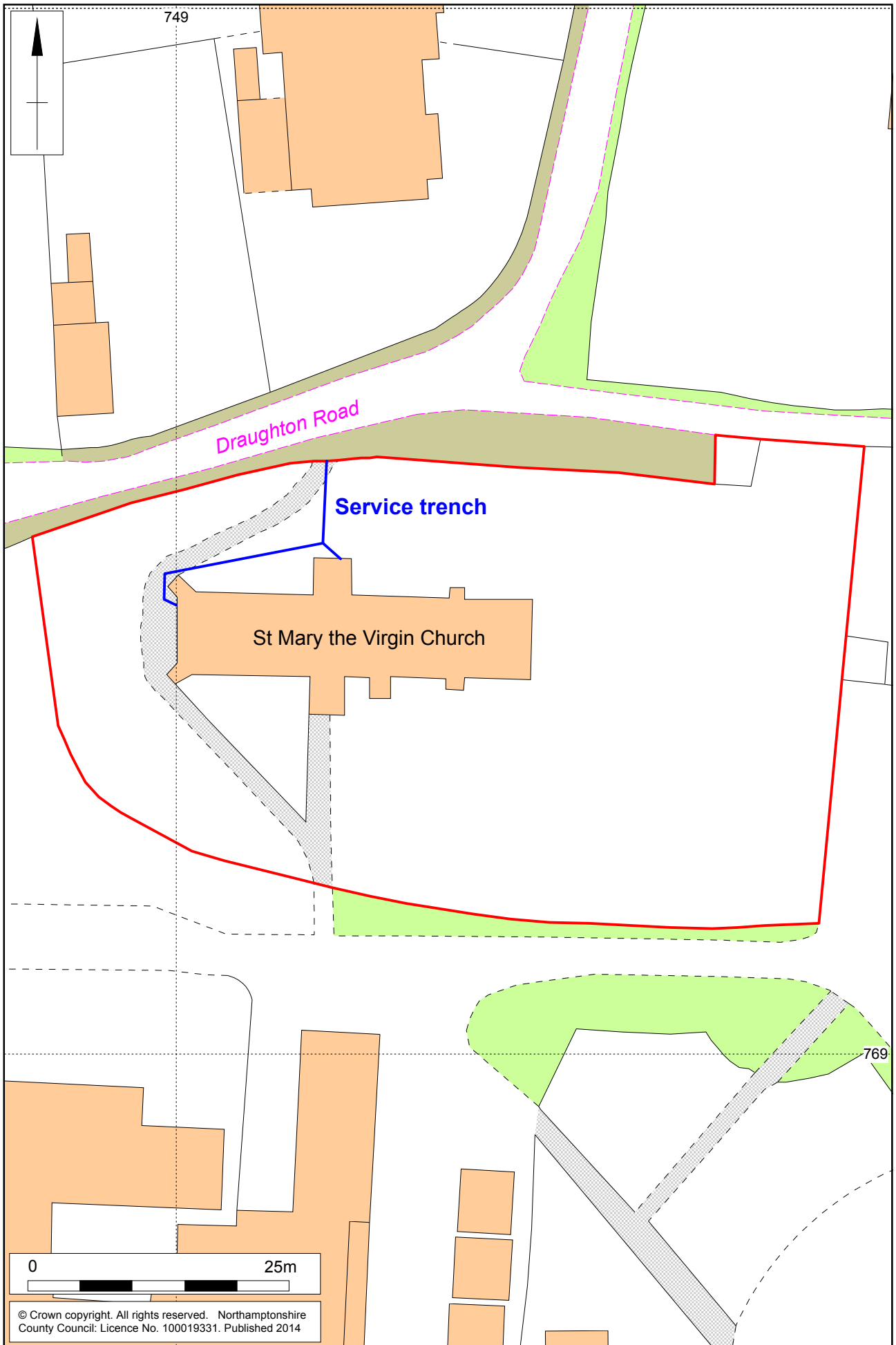
The church of St Mary the Virgin is a Grade II Listed Building, the earliest parts of which date from the 13th century with later additions and subsequent restoration in the 1890s.



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1





Scale 1: 500

Area of observation Fig 2

### 3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the archaeological investigation were to:

- ◆ Observe the groundworks for the new toilet and washing facilities and to record all archaeological deposits uncovered;
- ◆ Determine the date, character, state of preservation and depth of any archaeological deposits observed and to retrieve all datable artefacts;
- ◆ Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

A photographic record in both black and white negative and colour slide was kept with supplementary photographs in digital format. The written record used Northamptonshire Archaeology pro-forma sheets (NA 2013). The programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008).

The fieldwork was undertaken in February 2013 during groundworks for the installation of toilet and washing facilities. The groundworks were carried out using a mini 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a combination of toothed and toothless buckets (Fig 4) and supplemented by hand excavation. The work comprised the excavation of a service trench extending from the public road into the churchyard and to the church tower with a short stretch of trench branching to the chancel (Fig 2). A small pit was excavated within the church to connect the new service (Figs 2 and 6).



The church of St Mary the Virgin, looking south Fig 3



The groundworks in progress Fig 4

#### 4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

The new service trench was excavated to a depth of 0.50m in the area closest to the church, increasing to 2m where the trench joined the existing service on the public road (Fig 4).

The stratigraphic sequence within the trench comprised grey-brown sandy loam, containing occasional fragments of modern ceramic building material. This extended for the full depth of the trench within the churchyard. Towards the public road this contained more redeposited clay extending for the full depth of the trench and sealed by modern sub-base material and metalled road surface.

Within the church a small pit was excavated (Figs 2 and 6). This measured approximately 0.30m in diameter by 0.20m deep. The stratigraphic sequence comprised grey-brown sandy loam containing numerous small unworked stone fragments. This was sealed by a modern concrete floor surface.

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present within the new service trench or the connection pit.



The stratigraphic sequence in the new service trench Fig 5



The connection pit inside the church Fig 6

## 5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	2
Photographic record sheets	3
Colour slide	10
Black and white photographs	4
Digital Photographs	20

The project archive, which will be consolidated and prepared for deposition, will be held by MOLA Northampton.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

A disturbed stratigraphy was recorded throughout the investigation area. No archaeological features or artefacts were present.

The archaeological investigation was carried out in favourable circumstances and the results are considered to be reliable.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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