



**Archaeological observation, investigation  
and recording of groundworks at the  
Church of St. John the Baptist, Harringworth  
Northamptonshire  
October 2015**

Report No. 15/185

Author: Paul Clements

Illustrator: James Ladocha



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**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		<b>OASIS molanort1-227469</b>	
Project title	Archaeological observation, investigation and recording of groundworks at the Church of St. John the Baptist, Harringworth, Northamptonshire, October 2015		
Short description	In October 2015 an archaeological observation, investigation, and recording was undertaken by MOLA Northampton during groundworks relating to the installation of a trench arch for foul water drainage on the north side of the church. The works revealed the top half of an in situ burial and the foundations for the north aisle of the church.		
Project type	Archaeological observation, investigation, and recording		
Previous work	-		
Current land use	Graveyard		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type and period	Medieval		
Significant finds	Undated burial, Church foundations		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	Church of St John the Baptist, Harringworth		
Easting Northing	SP 91655 97464		
Area (sq m/ha)	c 8 sq m		
Height aOD	c 48m aOD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	Diocesan Archaeological Advisor		
Project Design originator	MOLA Northampton		
Director/Supervisor	Paul Clements (MOLA Northampton)		
Project Managers	Amir Bassir (MOLA Northampton)		
Sponsor or funding body	Bruce Deacon Architects		
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>			
Start date	12/10/2015		
End date	13/10/2015		
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Contents</b>	
Physical		Pottery	
Paper		Site records (1 archive box)	
Digital		Client report PDF. Survey Data, Photographs	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>			
Title	Archaeological observation, investigation and recording of groundworks at the Church of St. John the Baptist, Harringworth, Northamptonshire, October 2015		
Serial title & volume	MOLA Northampton Report 15/185		
Author(s)	Paul Clements		
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Fig 1: Site location 1:15,000

Fig 2: Area of archaeological observation and plans

Fig 3: General sections of the graveyard stratigraphy

Fig 4: The burial in plan

Fig 5: North aisle foundations, looking south

# **Archaeological observation, investigation and recording of groundworks at the Church of St. John the Baptist, Harringworth Northamptonshire October 2015**

## **Abstract**

*In October 2015 an archaeological observation, investigation, and recording was undertaken by MOLA Northampton during groundworks relating to the installation of a trench arch for foul water drainage on the north side of the Church of St John the Baptist. The works revealed the top quarter of an in-situ burial and the foundations for the north aisle of the church.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

MOLA Northampton was commissioned by Bruce Deacon Architects to undertake a programme of archaeological observation during groundworks relating to the installation of a trench arch for foul water drainage on the north side of the church of St John the Baptist (NGR: SP 91655 97464, Fig 1) relating to building control 15/00274/INX.

The scope of works was outlined in a method statement (MOLA 2015) following a brief issued by Quinton Carroll, Diocesan Archaeological Advisor. All works were undertaken in accordance with the procedural document MoRPHE issued by Historic England (HE 2015) and the appropriate national standards and guidelines, as recommended by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a and 2014b).

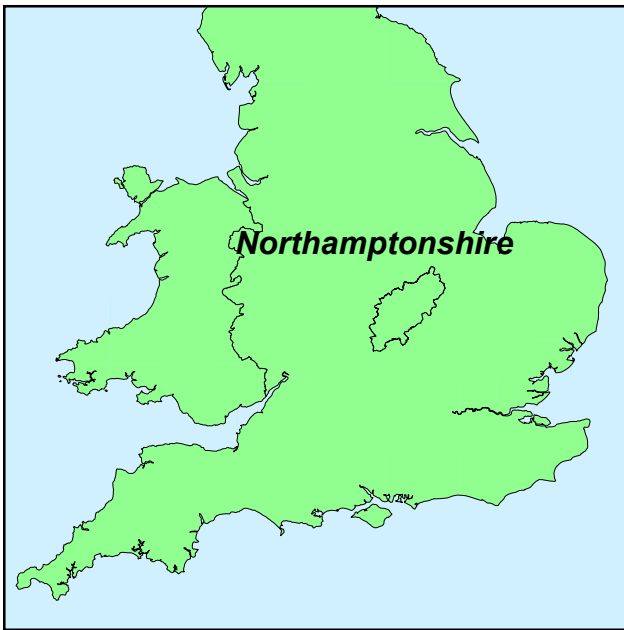
## **2 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Location and topography**

The village of Harringworth is situated to the north of Northamptonshire, close to the border with Rutland.

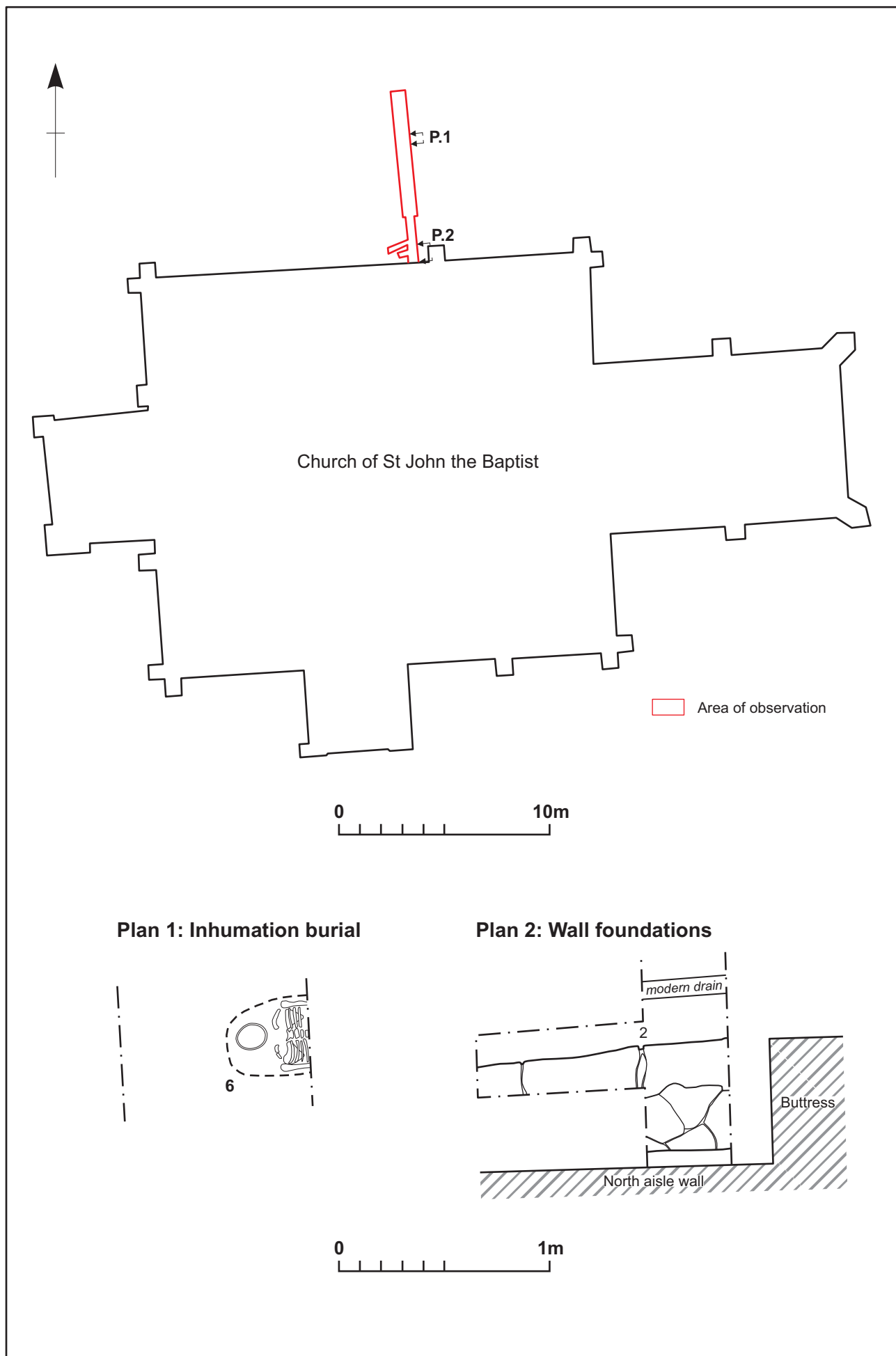
The site is located on the northern side of the Church of St John the Baptist within the graveyard on flat ground at a height of c48m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

The underlying geology of the site is recorded as Whitby Mudstone Formation (BGS 2015), but the excavations indicate it is located on an outcrop of limestone. The soils are classified as slightly acid, loamy, and clayey soils (Landis 2015).



Scale 1:15,000

Site location Fig 1



## 2.2 Historical background

The village of Haringworth has its origins in the Saxon period. The Church of St John the Baptist was built in the late 12th century. There were further additions in the 13th century. The north and south aisle were constructed in the 14th century. The church underwent restorations in 1891.

The modern village comprises numerous Grade 1 and 2 listed buildings of 17th and 18th century date.

## 3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Objectives

The aims of the watching brief were to:

- Identify, investigate, and record any archaeological deposits or features exposed during the 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 fieldwork and analysis.

### 3.2 Methodology

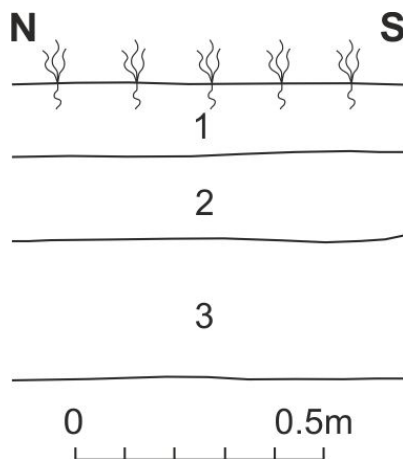
All groundworks were undertaken by hand excavation, using mattock and shovels to remove topsoil, subsoil and other overburden within the area of the new trench arch drain and associated pipe routes (Fig 2). The area was cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of archaeological features.

Deposits were described on *pro-forma* sheets which include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships and interpretation. Recording followed standard MOLA Northampton procedures as described in the Fieldwork Manual (MOLA 2014). All works were conducted in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA 2014b). Photography was with 35mm black and white film, and digital images.

## 4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

### 4.1 General site stratigraphy

The underlying geology was encountered at 0.60m below the modern ground surface. It comprised pale yellow to off white limestone with patches of light grey clay-loam. It was overlain by mid grey-brown loamy subsoil (3), 0.30m thick, containing fragments of limestone, and occasional fragments of disarticulated bone. This was overlain by dark grey-brown loam (2), 0.25m thick. It contained disarticulated bone fragments, modern tile and limestone roofing tile potentially relating to the late 19th-century restoration of the church. The topsoil/turf was dark grey-brown loam, 0.15m thick (Fig 3). All layers were disturbed by the high density of root intrusions.



General sections of the graveyard stratigraphy Fig 3

### 4.2 The archaeological evidence

#### *The burial*

An *in-situ* inhumation burial was identified 2.10m from the northern end of the trench arch drain, 0.60m below the modern ground surface. The upper left and right humerus, ribs, clavicle, vertebrae, and skull were exposed. The lower remains extending east beyond the bounds of the groundworks (Figs 2 and 4). No cut was evident within the section due the highly root disturbed layers above. No finds were recovered.



The burial in plan (scale 400mm) Fig 4

### **North Aisle Foundations**

Foundations for the north aisle of the church were identified in the pipe trench connecting the trench arch drain to the church. Large blocks of limestone, 0.60m long and at least 0.30m wide and 0.08m thick, were overlain by smaller limestone pieces 0.30m long, 0.30m wide and 0.05m thick (Figs 2 and 7). These were directly overlain by the main north aisle wall. The line of the stone was at a slight angle to the wall, likely widening to provide footings for the buttress (Figs 2 and 5).



North aisle foundations, looking south Fig 5

## **5 CONCLUSION**

The works exposed a small section of the north aisle foundation stones. In this area they appear to widen, likely to incorporate a buttress to the immediate east.

An undated articulated inhumation burial lay partially within the area of the main trench arch drain. The burial was left *in situ* as it was below the base level required. Fragments of bone from disarticulated burials were also recovered from the overlying soils and were reburied within the trench.

A layer containing tile, brick and other modern debris may relate to the late 19th-century restoration of the church.

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