



**Archaeological observation, investigation, recording,
analysis and publication at St Margaret's Church,
Alderton, Northamptonshire
April 2022**

Report No.: 22/031

Author: Paul Thompson

Illustrator: Sofia Turk and Carla Ardis



**Archaeological observation, investigation, recording,
analysis and publication at St Margaret's Church,
Alderton, Northamptonshire
April 2022**

Project Manager: Paul Thompson

Accession ID: ENN110452

Report No 22/031

Quality control and sign off:

Issue No.	Date approved:	Checked by:	Verified by:	Approved by:	Reason for Issue:
1	27/04/2022	Tracy Preece		Paul Thompson	Draft for client review

Author: Paul Thompson

Illustrator: Sofia Turk
and Carla Ardis

© MOLA Northampton 2022

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

STAFF

Project Manager: Paul Thompson HND BA(Hons) ACIfA
AMA

Text: Paul Thompson

Fieldwork: Kat Winzer
Katarina Karanikas

Illustrations: Sofia Turk and Carla Ardis

OASIS REPORT FORM

Project:3-7 Church End, Pottersbury		OASIS No: molanort1-506213	
ACTIVITY TYPE			
Project/ Activity type	Archaeological Watching Brief		
Reason for investigation	Planning requirement		
Development type	Installation of below ground services		
Planning reference ID	Not Applicable		
PROJECT LOCATION			
National grid ref	SP 74047 46905		
Site name	St Margaret's Church, Alderton, Northamptonshire		
REVIEWERS/ ADMIN			
HER for project	Northamptonshire		
National organisation	Historic England (MoRPHE)		
WORK UNDERTAKEN			
Methodological summary	MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) carried out a programme of archaeological investigation during the excavation and installation of external and internal water supply and drainage within the churchyard of St Margaret's Church, Alderton, Northamptonshire.		
Previous works?	No	Future works?	No
Dates - Start date:	10/01/2022	End date:	28/01/2022
Scientific dating done?	No	Type:	N/A
Enviro sampling done?	No		
TITLE AND PUBLICATION			
Title	Archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication at St Margaret's Church, Alderton, Northamptonshire, April 2022		
Author(s)	Paul Thompson		
Date of publication	26/04/2022		
Publisher	MOLA Northampton		
Place of publication	Northampton		
Report number	22/031		
Report release delay?	No		
PEOPLE			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project manager	Paul Thompson		
Project officer/ supervisor	Kat Winzer		
Funding body	St Margaret's Church		
KEYWORDS			
Monuments found/ date	None		
Finds types found/ date	None		
RESULTS			
Description of outcomes/ summary of research framework contribution	St Margaret's Church, Alderton, is a Grade II* Listed Building, dating to the 14th century. Twenty-five articulated burials orientated east-west were observed, cleaned and recorded before removal. All were within a homogamous soil deposit. Two intact brick lined tombs was identified during the work and were not disturbed. No disarticulated remains were encountered, evidencing good record keeping or grave markers / stone memorials had been used and removed at some time in the past. All human remains were re-interred within the trench backfill in their original burial location. The burials represent common burial practices during the post-medieval period. The burials form one of the final phases of interment in the churchyard and are likely to date from the Victorian period. No grave cuts were visible in section and no charnel was encountered.		
ARCHIVES			
Accession ID	ENN110452		
Finds Archive repository	N/A	Expected date of submission:	N/A

Paper Archive repository	NARC, Northamptonshire	Expected date of submission:	TBC
Digital Archive repository	Archaeological Data Service (ADS)	Expected date of submission:	TBC

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION
2	BACKGROUND
2.1	Location, geology and topography
2.2	Historical and archaeological background
3	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
3.1	Project aims
3.2	Research framework
4	EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY
5	THE EXCAVATION RESULTS
5.1	Excavated Evidence
5.2	Human remains
6	FINDS
6.1	The ceramic finds by Jennifer R. McNulty
6.2	Glass by Claire Finn
6.3	Human bone from environmental soil samples by Chris Chinnock
6.4	Small finds by Tora Hylton
7	DISCUSSION
	BIBLIOGRAPHY
	APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INVENTORY
	APPENDIX 2: FINDS CATALOGUE

Figures

- Front Cover: Burial 21, looking south-east
- Fig 1: Site Location. Scale 1:500
- Fig 2: Plan of Internments. Scale 1:175
- Fig 3: Burial Vault [1010], looking north-east
- Fig 4: Burial Vault [1038], looking north-east
- Fig 5: The southern church wall [1005/1025] with plastic pipe, looking west
- Fig 6: The north-western section drawing of the new foul water trench, looking north-west
- Fig 7: Burial 1, looking south, with the dark organic deposit and line of studs to the left of the scale and north arrow
- Fig 8: Burial 4, looking south-east, with the dark organic deposit and line of studs above the scale
- Fig 9: Burial 5, looking south-east
- Fig 10: Burial 6, looking south-east
- Fig 11: Burial 7, looking south-east
- Fig 12: Burial 8, looking south-east
- Fig 13: Burial 9, 10 and 11 looking south-east
- Fig 14: Burial 12 looking north-west
- Fig 15: Burial 13 looking north-west, with Burial 12 on the right
- Fig 16: Burial 14 looking south-west
- Fig 17: Burial 15 (right) and 16 (centre and left), looking south-east
- Fig 18: Burial 17 (right) and 18 (left), looking south-east
- Fig 19: Burial 19, looking north-east
- Fig 20: Burial 20, looking north-east
- Fig 21: Burial 21, looking south-east
- Fig 22: Burial 22 (right), Burial 23 (centre) and Burial 24 (left), looking north-west
- Fig 23: Burial 25, looking south-west
- Back Cover: Backfilled trench in churchyard

Figures

- Table 1: Quantification of pottery
- Table 2: Small finds recovered from graves

Archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication at St Margaret's Church, Alderton, Northamptonshire April 2022

Abstract

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) carried out a programme of archaeological investigation during the excavation and installation of external and internal water supply and drainage within the churchyard of St Margaret's Church, Alderton, Northamptonshire.

St Margaret's Church, Alderton, is a Grade II Listed Building, dating to the 14th century. Twenty-five articulated burials orientated east-west were observed, cleaned and recorded before removal. All were within a homogenous soil deposit. One intact brick lined tomb was identified during the work and was not disturbed. No disarticulated remains were encountered, evidencing good record keeping or grave markers / stone memorials had been used and removed at some time in the past. All human remains were re-interred within the trench backfill in their original burial location.*

The burials represent common burial practices during the post-medieval period. The burials form one of the final phases of interment in the churchyard and are likely to date from the Victorian period. No grave cuts were visible in section and no charnel was encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) Northampton was commissioned by The Parochial Church Council of St Margaret's Church, Alderton to carry out a programme of observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication. This was for and during groundworks for the excavation and installation of new clean water pipe and drainage at St Margaret's Church, Alderton, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 74047 46905, Fig 1).

A faculty has been granted by The Diocese Advisory Committee (DAC), for the works to proceed comprising a new clean water and foul water drainage, installation of a toilet and servery inside the church building.

A programme of archaeological works was undertaken to mitigate the effects of the development on the archaeological resource. Works were undertaken in accordance with advice from The Diocese Advisory Committee (DAC), in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF; MHCLG 2019).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, geology and topography

The church building sits within its churchyard south of Church Lane and west of Pury Road in approximately the centre of the village (Fig 1). The church is surrounded by an open churchyard with gravestones, surrounded by trees and hedges. To the north lies Church Lane, on the north side of which is domestic housing. More housing lies to the west of the church. To the south lies a large pasture field and to the west is Pury Road and a further domestic residence and outbuildings.

The topography of the Site is generally flat and level, lying between c106m to c109m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The church building itself sits on slightly raised ground.

The British Geological Survey (BGS) indicates that the local bedrock geology comprises Blisworth Limestone Formation - Limestone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 166 to 168 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. Local environment was previously dominated by shallow carbonate seas. (BGS 2022). Superficial geological deposits are not recorded for this location.

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

St. Margaret's Church, Alderton, Northamptonshire is a Grade II* Listed Building (HE 2021a, List Entry Number 1190752. First Listed 17th May 1960; entry below):

Church. Late Perpendicular, body of Church rebuilt 1848. Coursed squared limestone, slate roofs. Chancel, nave, south porch, west tower. 2-bay chancel has 3-light east window with C19 curvilinear tracery and hood mould with label stops and pair of 1-light windows to south with straight heads cinquefoil-headed lights cut spandrels and hood moulds; diagonal offset buttresses. Nave has 2-light windows with Decorated style tracery and hood moulds with label stops. South door has hollow chamfer and wave moulding. South porch has chamfered doorway with hood mould. 2-stage tower has 2-light west window with segmental-arched head and hood mould. 2-light bell-chamber openings with straight heads and hood moulds, and battlemented parapet. Nave and chancel have hollow-chamfered stone eaves. Diagonal off-set buttresses to nave. Interior: chancel has ogee-arched blank arcading to east end. Double-chamfered chancel arch, continuous outermost, resting on corbels innermost. Double-chamfered tower arch with polygonal responds. C19 arch-braced collar truss roof. Font octagonal, bowl and stem in one, panelled with cusped blank arcading and foliage frieze with heads to angles. Pulpit dated 1631, hexagonal. Panels have short broad blank arches and strapwork above. Back panel inscribed I THE LORD/WILL MEET/THEE IN THIS/PLACE AND TEL/THEE WHAT THOU/SHALT SAYE TO/THE PEOPLE EX.25. Tester has two winged cherubim heads within. The inscription is adapted from Exodus 25 verse 22 and the decoration of the tester is inspired by the description of the mercy seat in the same chapter. Pair of brass candle-holders. West gallery curves forward and is supported by simple fluted columns with painted inscription to front: THIS GALLERY WAS ERECTED FOR THE SINGERS ONLY ANNO DOMINI 1831/BY VOLONTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE PARISHIONERS. C19 stain-glass windows to chancel south windows. Monuments: oaken effigy of cross-legged knight, Early C14. Believed to be Sir William de Combemartyne d.1318. Brass plate in moulded stone surround to Sir John Heselrige 3rd son of Sir Thomas Heselrige Baronet d.1655, with Latin inscription, arms to left hand upper corner, crest to right. (Buildings of England: Northamptonshire: 1973, p76)

The following historical information and archaeological background has been summarised from a Northamptonshire HER Data Search on 04/11/2021 of a 500m search radius centred upon the church building (see Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication at St Margaret's Church, Alderton, Northamptonshire, November 2021 (Thompson 2021) and Appendix 2 for the full list).

Prehistoric and Roman

Evidence of Iron Age activity at Alderton comprises at least one pottery sherd that was found at The Mount site, the castle ringwork opposite the church. There may be a potential settlement here or close by (MNN7611).

Watling Street, A5, lies only 0.5 miles (0.8km) south-west of the village. Domestic Roman artefacts have been found and large villas and farming communities were established nearby and the major town of Towcester lies to the north-west. The closest Roman villa is Piddington, about 6 miles (10km). Roman finds have also been found at The Mount.

Saxon

The village name of Alderton means a farm or settlement connected with 'Ealdhere'.

Saxon finds have been found at The Mount. Alderton became a larger Saxon settlement and a Saxon Burgh is thought to have stood on the high ground which encompasses The Mount and the church site. Alderton lies on a frontier between kingdoms of the south and the Danelaw in the north.

Medieval

The Norman Conquest in 1066 saw the development of the ringwork castle (The Mount) to the format visible now (MNN10641). This was owned by Robert, Count of Mortain, the half-brother of William the Conqueror. The Mount was an imposing earthwork hastily constructed to form part of the defence of King William's new kingdom. Twenty years later, the Domesday Book entry for Alderton shows the name as 'Aldrintone' and the Earl of Ferrers as the local lord, listing eight ploughs.

Recent archaeological research points to the castle being abandoned in the latter half of the 14th century. This was at the time of the Black Death when there appears to have been a sharp reduction in the local population as noted elsewhere in Britain. Alderton came under the control of the Manor of Stoke Bruerne.

Alderton (MNN1808) was a very small community throughout the 14th and 15th centuries. By 1541 King Henry VIII had included the village within the Honour of Grafton. The village population grew in the latter half of the 16th century with the arrival of William Gorges, a nobleman from a distinguished aristocratic line. Gorges built a very large mansion house with landscaped gardens. Through the marriage of Gorges daughter, Frances, to Thomas Heselrige, the Manor House passed to the Heselrige family.

The Mount and Ringwork at Alderton (SP 74083 46985) is a Scheduled Monument List Number 1010255, listed first on 5th December 1928 (HE 2021b). Ringworks are medieval fortifications built and occupied from the late Saxon period to the later 12th century. They comprised a small, defended area containing buildings which was surrounded or partly surrounded by a substantial ditch and a bank, surmounted by a timber palisade or, rarely, a stone wall. Occasionally a more lightly defended embanked enclosure, the bailey, adjoined the ringwork. Ringworks acted as strongholds for military operations and, in some cases, as defended aristocratic or manorial settlements. They are rare nationally with only 200 recorded examples and less than 60 with baileys. As such, and as one of a limited number and very restricted range of Saxon and Norman fortifications, ringworks are of particular significance to our understanding of the period.

The Mount at Alderton is one of seven ringworks which survive in Northamptonshire and has an unusual sub-rectangular shape. The monument is largely undisturbed and

is located on high ground on the north-eastern side of Alderton village, just to the north of St Margaret's church. The monument has a sub-rectangular bank approximately 1m high enclosing a central area which is about 50m across. A large ditch, up to 10m wide and 5m deep, is apparent around the ringwork on all but the south-west side. The uneven interior of the ringwork is slightly raised above the surrounding ground surface and is considered to preserve below ground remains of buildings. The early history of The Mount is not clear, but it is mentioned in 13th century records and is considered to be of late 11th century or early 12th century date. On a map of 1726 the ditch around the ringwork is shown filled with water and the area is called Castle Mound.

The Mount was a ringwork castle, now overgrown with trees but still in a good state of preservation, comprising c2 acres (8100 sqm). The ditch is approximately 5m deep in parts. The internal area of the Castle has some slightly raised areas interpreted as building platforms. The castle and Manor of Alderton were sold by Thomas le Sauvage to Pagan de Chaworth during the reign of King Edward I.

Post-medieval

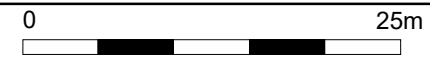
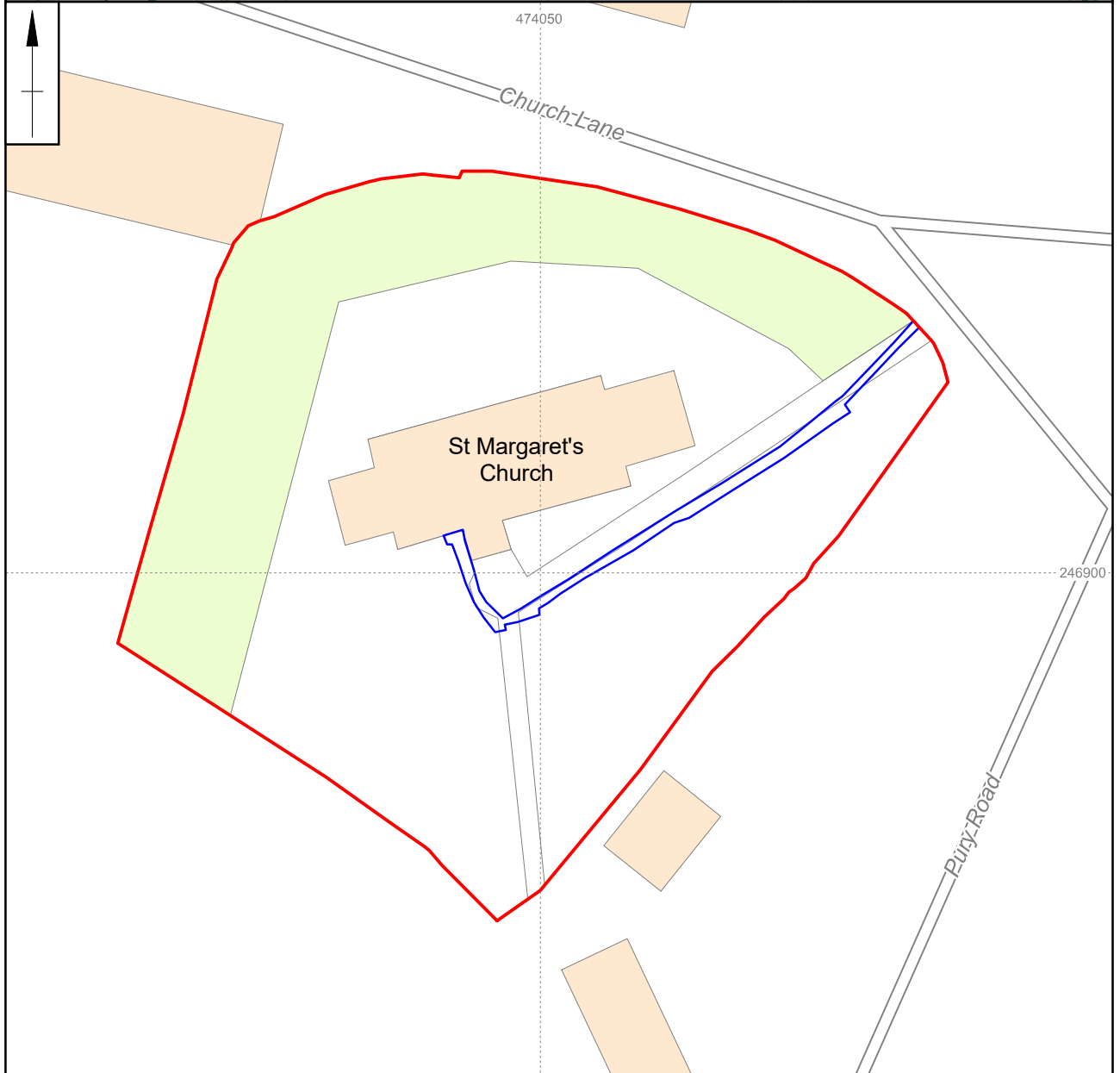
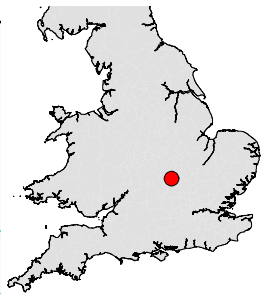
The present St. Margaret's Church (DNN1598 and MNN110462) is a Grade II* Listed Building and dates from 1522 to 1528 with later additions of 1848. There is a monument to Sir William de Combermartin (died around 1318 AD).

In 1605, Queen Anne of Denmark stayed at Alderton Manor, and returned in August 1608. At this time King James I knighted Thomas Heselrige at Grafton, he later became a Baronet. Heselrige's son, Sir Arthur Heselrige, 2nd Baronet was a close ally of John Pym and Oliver Cromwell and one of the Five Members, was Lord of the Manor in 1655.

During the first English Civil War there were a number of engagements in the area, notably the destruction of Grafton Manor House in 1644. Parliamentarian forces involved in this action passed through Alderton but no use was made of the castle at this time. Although musket balls have been found at the site these may date from the 18th century when the site was a 'gentleman's rifle range'. During the Victorian period, the castle became a popular picnic spot resulting in broken porcelain and glass fragments being deposited at the castle site.

By the early 18th century, Alderton was a thriving agricultural community. The Manor House (MNN24695) was demolished, and its site was occupied by a substantial farm, Manor Farm (DNN1608). The village population remained small and largely agriculturally based. In modern times the village has become a settlement of professional individuals rather than agricultural workers. The village is now a Conservation Area.

There are eight Grade II Listed Buildings within the 0.5km search radius of the church which is the only Grade II* building. Most of the eight listed are cottages dating to the mid to late 17th century or early 18th century with later additions. The listed buildings comprise: The Round House (DNN1621 and MNN110461); Orchard Cottage (DNN1606) and the row of late 17th or early 18th century cottages; 1 to 4 Spring Lane (DNN1626); 4 Church Lane (DNN1600); Longcroft, a mid-18th century cottage (DNN4450); and Bekenpenn, Spring Lane, an early or mid-18th century cottage (DNN4447). Manor Farmhouse (DNN1608) and its associated 19th century outbuildings (DNN1614) are an existing farm complex.



- Site location
- Excavated trench

OS OpenData contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2022

Scale 1:500

Site location and excavated trench Fig 1

Previous archaeological investigations

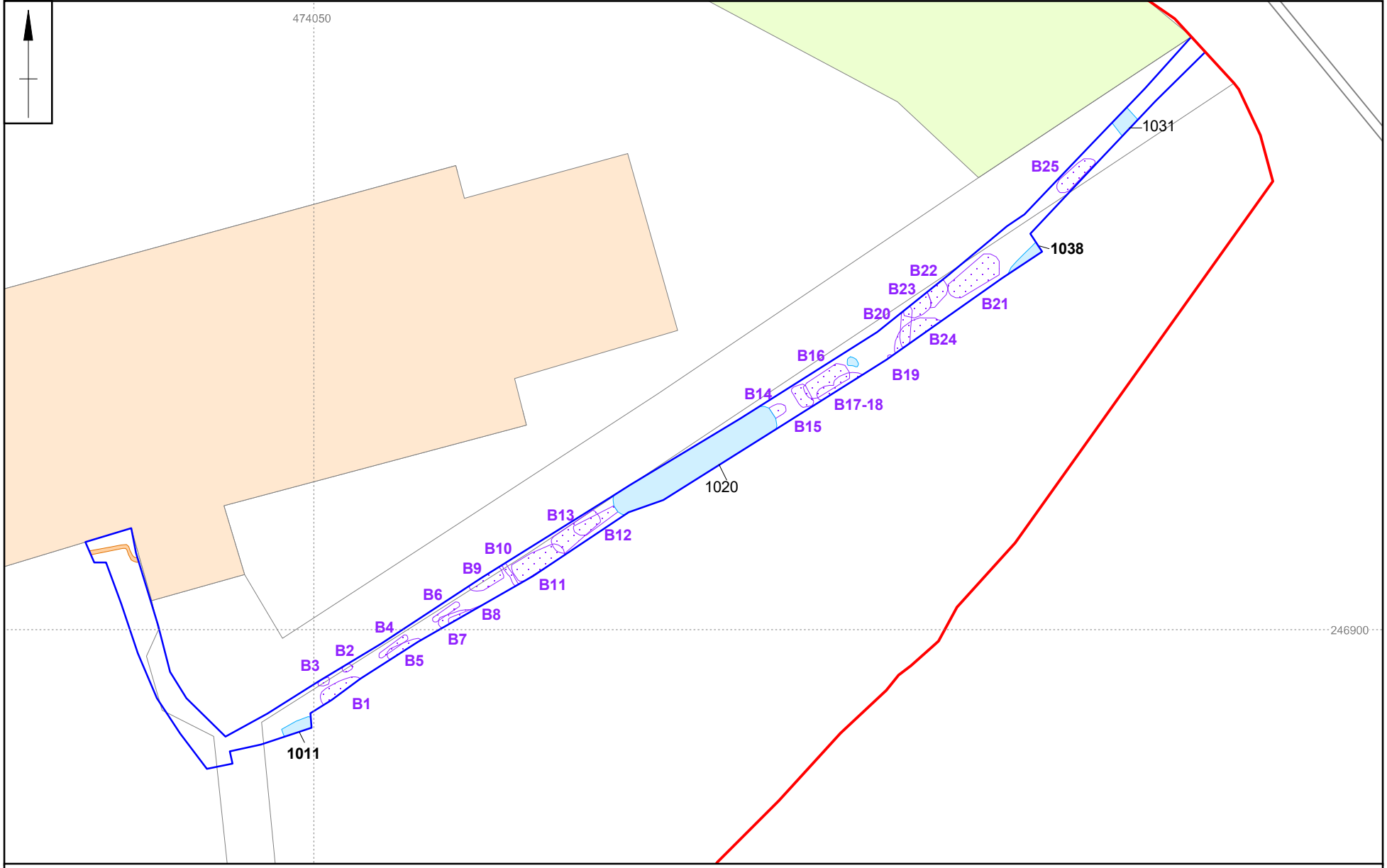
No intrusive archaeological investigation has taken place at the Church site previously. A graveyard survey at St. Margaret's Church was undertaken in 1978 (ENN100925). The graveyard is listed on the NHER as MNN28200. The widening of the driveway leading to the cottage adjacent to the churchyard was conducted in 1988 and it revealed human skeletal remains within the bank set against the outside of the churchyard wall. Remains were c1.49m below the top of the wall and c0.69m below the top of the bank. The remains may have been articulated before removal by police. The burial appeared to run back under churchyard wall, it lay on top of the natural geology and was overlain by dark soil containing 19th and early 20th century pottery. The presence of this individual may result from burial outside the churchyard but it more likely represents shrinkage of the churchyard when cottages were built.

In 1998 Derek Batten, a resident of the neighbouring village of Paulerspury and former County Councillor, purchased the castle site. During 2000 (screened 14th January 2001), Time Team, a Channel 4 television programme, filmed at The Mount undertook the excavation of seven trenches and related work (ENN104555). Permission was granted by English Heritage for work to take place on the Scheduled Monument due to little being known about it and its type generally. One trench was positioned across the moat, one over the rampart and a third within the interior. A fourth trench was opened in the west across a gap in the rampart where the entrance was thought to be. Three further trenches were opened in the garden of Magnolia Cottage. The moat was revealed to be 10.15m wide and 2.5m deep; it was noted that it may have been deeper but excavation was stopped for safety reasons. Deposits within the cut were sampled for environmental evidence and waterlogged wood from the base of the ditch was radiocarbon dated. The C14 sample gave a date of AD 1020-1270. The work confirmed Iron Age activity (pottery), Saxon activity followed by Norman and medieval features; finds included pottery and a horse harness enamelled heater-shield-shaped fitting. The Mount is now owned by Mr Charles Reece who purchased it from Derek Batton.

In August 2009, archaeologists from Northamptonshire Archaeology (now MOLA) uncovered remains of the only medieval stone castle in South Northamptonshire, eight years after Time Team television program had worked on the same site (ENN104596). A three-week programme of excavation on a raised platform within the eastern side of The Mount demonstrated that the platform was constructed in the first half of the 12th century and that a stone building, which stood in the southern part of the platform, went out of use in the 14th century. At the south-western side of the excavation a deep robber trench was identified suggesting the presence of a former defensive wall of a building.

Within the church, the rare wooden effigy of Sir William de Combemartin in the chancel has been conserved by Elizabeth Ceadle from Hugh Harrison Conservation. Sir William is buried somewhere within the church or churchyard; the most likely location was posited as the south aisle which was demolished in the mid 1840's. Sir William purchased The Mount from Patrick de Charworth whose brother Payn (or Pagan) de Charworth had bought The Mount but died before he could occupy the castle. Payn de Charworth was responsible for rebuilding the stone interior of Kidwelly Castle in Camarthanshire.

Scale 1:175 (A4)



Burials plan Fig 2



- Drain
- Features
- Burials
- Excavated trench
- Site location

OS OpenData contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2022

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Project aims

With due regard to the ClfA *Standards and guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (ClfA 2020a), the principle aim of the archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication of works was to record the archaeological resource during development within the specified area of the churchyard, and to determine and understand the nature, function and character of the archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting, using appropriate methods and practices, and in compliance with the *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2020b) and other relevant by-laws of ClfA.

In order to examine the archaeological resource within the proposed development area, the objectives 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 to:

- mitigate the impact of the development through preservation by record;
- establish and record the date, nature and extent of activity and depth of burial of all archaeological deposits at the development site;
- establish the relationship of any archaeological deposits or remains found within the wider surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- recover any artefacts that may 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;
- Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

3.2 Research framework

Specific research objectives were considered from the national and regional research frameworks documents (Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012, updating Cooper 2006), as well as the current *East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework Interactive Digital Resource* (ADS 2018), in order to appropriately understand the results of the programme of archaeological works.

The archaeological evidence uncovered was limited to post-medieval, probably Victorian, human burials within the churchyard, either directly interned in the ground or within brick lined tomb (left undisturbed).

However, no specific research objectives could be addressed as insufficient archaeological remains were found. The recovered human remains were not able to be more closely dated within the scope of the project.

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 2020a) and *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2020b). Methodology follows the brief for the works (Carroll, und.).

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

The archaeological fieldwork comprised, in agreement with DAC and St. Margaret's Church Warden, observations of excavation work through the south, south-east and east parts of the churchyard. Most of the route of the new drain lies alongside the course of the existing footpath. Excavation comprised machine excavation using a mini-digger with toothless ditching bucket followed by hand digging by archaeologists down to formation level. Any burials encountered were cleaned, photographed, recorded and then excavated by hand. All human bone material was re-interred in the pipe trench backfill at the close approximate location from original burial as possible.

The observations took place during January 2022 within the churchyard in cool and mild but cloudy 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 images.

The watching brief was undertaken along a drainage trench through the grounds of the churchyard and alongside to the east of the existing footpath (Fig 1). The trench was aligned approximately north-east to south-west leading northwards from the southern porch of the church. The trench continued along a north-easterly direction through the churchyard.

The site records were compiled into a fully cross-referenced archive meeting the requirements of national (Brown 2011; MGC 1992; Walker 1990) and regional guidelines (Donnelly-Symes 2020). The site archive will be accessioned under **ENN110452** and will be stored in stable conditions pending the identification of a suitable repository.

The resulting Digital Archive, comprising born-digital data, digital photographs and database will be deposited with a CoreTrustSeal Repository, currently the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) as per MOLA's Digital Archiving Policy. Making the archive publicly accessible (see Appendix 1 for Data Management Plan). Each report, once approved, is subsequently made available for inclusion and publication by digital means through the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) via OASIS.

5 THE EXCAVATION RESULTS

The service trench was a reversed and elongated 'L' shaped excavation extending from the south end of the south porch, heading south, then turning north-east alongside the existing pedestrian path to the churchyard gate in the north-east corner of the churchyard boundary wall (Fig 2). The churchyard is devoid of gravestones. The trench was 1.0m wide although with minor variation and consistently 0.75m deep; it was machine excavated initially by the principal contractor monitored by an archaeologist until inhumations were encountered, from which, hand excavated was undertaken by archaeologists.

5.1 Excavated Evidence

The natural substrate [1024] was only encountered during the works within the churchyard in a few locations below burials. This was a light yellow sandy clay with some white patches of sand and occasional limestone or chalk stone fragments.

A layer of subsoil [1010] lay above the natural geology [1024] and below the topsoil [1000]. This subsoil comprised friable mid yellow grey sandy loam with frequent small limestone fragments and pebbles as well as root disturbance. Below the topsoil [1000] and cut into the subsoil [1010] was a brick burial vault [1011]. This burial vault is built from red bricks constructed in alternate header and stretcher, bonded with grey mortar. The top north-west corner has been exposed within the service trench however, no remains were visible through the very small hole at this corner which was covered over with a brick and sealed with soil immediately. No further disturbance of the vault took place.



Burial Vault [1010], looking north-east Fig 3



Burial Vault [1038], looking north-east Fig 4

Layer [1002] of firm to friable mid-yellow to brown sandy clay with limestone fragments was found below topsoil [1000] and interpreted as fill of a pit possibly connected to the church building [1005] construction or remodelling. The edge or cut of this pit [1023] was encountered further along the service trench cutting into layer [1010]. This pit was too large and not excavated as it went below the depth of the service trench.

Within [1002] a thin layer of small pebbles [1009] with friable dark brown to grey loam was identified. This layer may be part of the construction of the church and the fill is part of [1002].

Below the topsoil [1000] was a layer [1008] above layer [1002]. Layer [1008] was friable sandy loam of mid to light brown grey with frequent small pebbles and occasional small limestone fragments.

Below the concrete path [1001] was a friable layer of mid-brown to grey sandy loam [1007] with frequent small pebbles and occasional limestone rubble fragments. This and layer [1008] are likely to be a make-up layer to level prior to the path exterior surface being laid.

The church wall [1005] is built of a compact light yellow to brown limestone roughly hewn blocks. This was bonded with mortar [1006] of compact mid yellow to brown colour. The south-west corner of the church porch revealed a foundation [1012/1026] of 0.50m in depth exposed during excavation of the service trench in the east side and continuing beyond the limit of excavation. This wall foundation consists of an approximately east to west aligned wall of firm mid yellow brown limestone blocks and sandy clay bonding. The foundation [1012] lays above [1023]. The wall above this foundation has been removed. This may be a foundation wall for a church wall now demolished. Personal Communication with the Church Warden indicated that the church building extended further to the south.

The ground surface comprised a modern grey concrete footpath [1001] laid into and alongside a layer of turf and topsoil [1000]. The service trench was aligned alongside

the footpath [1001] and cutting through the topsoil [1000] which comprised soft mid-brown to grey silty loam with occasional small pebbles and root disturbance.



The southern church wall [1005/1025] with plastic pipe, looking west Fig 5

The south-west part of the trench begun at the church wall [1005/1025] and was devoid of archaeology. Only a plastic service pipe [1003] (Fig 4) was found aligned with the church wall, below [1000], turf and topsoil. The backfill of the modern service [1003] comprised friable brown small, rounded pebbles. The cut for this service [1004] was aligned east-west with a 'U' shaped profile and fairly steep sides.

After the service trench turned to the north-east, following alongside and parallel to the modern pathway, no archaeology was encountered, only different layers of backfilled material were encountered from a large pit [1023].

Once subsoil [1010] was encountered, burials and two brick vaults were discovered [1011] and [1038]. Vault [1038] lay east of Burial 21 and west of Burial 25 and in line with vault [1011]. Both vaults were constructed from red brick and grey mortar. Within [1038] a body was visible with at least two coffin handles. The hole made by machine accidentally removing a brick, was easily made good by replacing the brick and covered up with spoil immediately and left without further disturbance. Burials were observed beneath the modern path tarmac but were left undisturbed in situ.

In the middle of the service trench was a very large pit [1020] measuring 5.90m wide. The trench was too narrow to understand the shape of this pit although the backfill within [1020] appeared to be demolition backfill material comprising limestone blocks and fragments similar to the church construction. This pit [1020] and the pit by the south porch [1023] may be the result of the same event.

The fill [1019] of this pit [1020] was friable light to mid yellow brown sandy loam with frequent limestone blocks and root disturbance.

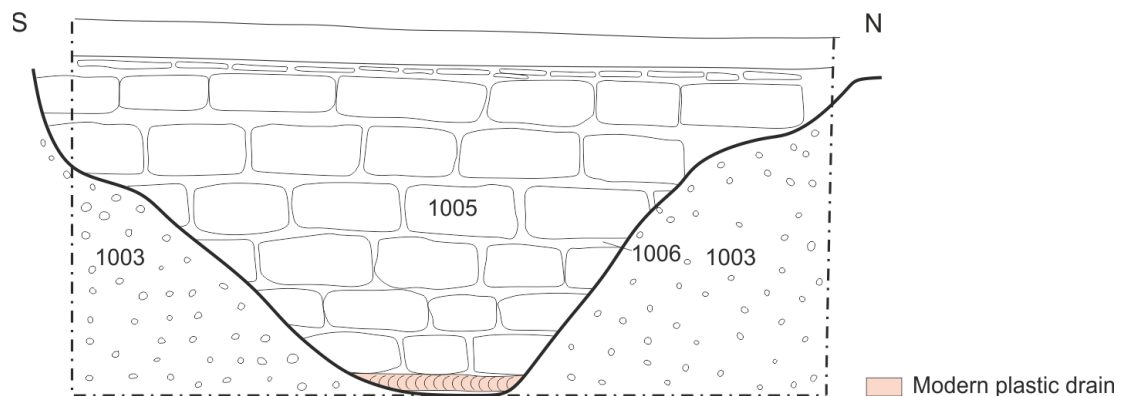
Towards the churchyard entrance at its north-east boundary was found a shallow ditch [1031], cut into (1010) subsoil layer and below the footpath (1001). This ditch had a 'U' shaped profile with moderately sloping sides and was 0.42m deep and as wide as the

service trench- 0.70m. This may be associated with the churchyard wall albeit c.2.0m on the interior side due to the ditch having a parallel alignment to the standing wall.

The single ditch fill (1030) comprised soft, light grey silty loam with occasional limestone fragments with clear boundaries. No finds were found during excavation of the ditch fill.

Beyond the churchyard, the trench continued into the road to connect into the existing services. Here, no burials were found, only natural geology below modern disturbance for the services underneath the modern road foundation and tarmac.

Section 1



The north-western section drawing of the new foul water trench, looking north-west
Fig 6

Appendix 1 contains the full context list encountered during the ground works.

5.2 Human remains

The locations of two vaults were identified during the archaeological work, both appearing to be on the same approximate alignment (south-west to north-east) and the found buried internments. All burials were laid close together and appear to be aligned with the church building. The burials themselves were probably interred inside wooden coffins suggested by the presence of iron nails, one coffin screw and studs as well as coffin furniture.

Twenty-five burials were encountered in the service trench (Fig 2) during the work and no disarticulated human remains were uncovered. All of these burials lay within subsoil [1010], which can be interpreted as the churchyard burial horizon. This layer was comprised of friable mid yellow grey sandy loam with frequent small limestone fragments and pebbles as well as root disturbance and lay directly above natural geology [1024]. No attempt to determine sex of any burials was made due to the limitations of the material remaining on site for reburial as soon as was practicable within the service trench backfill.

All of the internments are interpreted as most likely dating to the Victorian era with some egress into the early Edwardian perhaps. Unfortunately, no secure dating evidence was forthcoming from the burials however the similarity to 19th century graves from many other churchyard excavations supports this assumption. This is commensurate with the type of coffin fittings, nails and a screw found within the burial contexts.

Burial 1

Burial 1 (Fig 7) was an articulated skeleton lying supine of which the majority of the left side including the cranium and neck vertebrae were excavated from within the trench, the rest being beyond the limit of excavation. A line of studs and dark organic material lay to the immediate left of the skeleton indicating perhaps a coffin possibly covered in cloth secured by the studs. The cranium displayed slight damage from compaction, otherwise bone was in good condition.

Burial 1 was filled with [1013], (stratigraphically immediately below [1010]) a soft mid-grey silty clay with rare small pebbles and limestone fragments with diffuse rather than clear boundaries. This fill and those of all the burials are very similar since they are all in close proximity to each other. When overlapping, edges and clear cuts or boundaries between could not be ascertained. A sample was taken from this burial due to a concentration of metal studs which are discussed in Section 6 below.



Burial 1, looking south, with the dark organic deposit and line of studs to the left of the scale and north arrow. Fig 7

Burial 2

Only fragments of Burial 2 (not illustrated) remained comprising the right half of a skeleton whilst the left side remained beyond the limit of excavation or disturbed by pit [1023]. Remains identified were parts of the cranium and mandible, pelvis, radius and tibia only. The individual had probably been originally interred supine and articulated however it could no longer be described as such. The fill of Burial 2 was similar if not identical to Burial 1 [1013] described above.

Burial 3

Burial 3 (not illustrated) was, like Burial 2, fragmentary and in poor condition. Only the cranium from orbits to back, the left clavicle and one left rib were evident. This burial also is likely to have been disturbed by pit [1023]. The individual had probably been interred originally supine and articulated however was no longer could be described as such. The fill of Burial 3 was similar if not identical to Burial 1 [1013] described above.

Burial 4

Burial 4 (Fig 8) was located at the base of the trench, 0.75m below the ground surface. This individual, like Burial 1, was buried inside a wooden coffin potentially covered in cloth and secured with decorative nails or studs. The burial was articulated and supine although the bones appeared dis-articulated and broken, upon excavation. Curiously, many bones appeared to be absent from this burial.

Burial 4 lay stratigraphically above Burial 5. The location of one above the other may indicate the individuals were relatives.

Burial 4 was filled with [1014], (stratigraphically immediately below [1010] and possibly below [1002]) a soft mid-grey silty clay with rare small pebbles and limestone fragments with diffuse rather than clear boundaries, no clear grave cut could be seen. This fill and those of all the burials are very similar since they are all in close proximity to each other. When overlapping, edges and clear cuts or boundaries between could not be ascertained. A sample was taken from this burial due to a concentration of metal studs which are discussed in Section 6 below.

An iron buckle and coffin handles or fittings (SF14) were found on the left side of the inhumation. An iron nail (SF15) was located between the individuals' feet.



Burial 4, looking south-east, with the dark organic deposit and line of studs above the scale. Fig 8

Burial 5

Burial 5 was an articulated skeleton of which the left half minus the cranium, maxilla and mandible (remained in situ beyond the limit of excavation) (Fig 9) was excavated. This individual was, like all of the excavated internments at St Margaret's churchyard laid south-west to north-east, supine but no evidence was found for a coffin. All bones were intact and in very good condition, possibly due to being protected by Burial 4 immediately above.



Burial 5, looking south-east. Fig 9

Burial 6

Burial 6 was an articulated skeleton of which, only the vertebrae from above pelvis to feet of the left hand side survived in good condition. The right side was evidently beyond the limit of excavation of the service trench (Fig 10). The head, torso and arms were missing. The individual was originally laid supine south-west to north-east however no indication of a coffin was found. Burial 6, 7 and 8 lay sequentially in the same location therefore it may be reasonable to assume these three burials were related to each other.



Burial 6, looking south-east. Fig 10

The fill of Burial 6 comprised of a soft mid grey silty clay [1021]. This had occasional small pebbles and limestone fragments with diffuse boundaries due to the close proximity of Burials 7 and 8. Potentially Burials 6, 7 and 8 all belong to the same family due to their stratigraphic sequence but absence of truncation.

Burial 7

Burial 7 was an articulated skeleton laid supine south-west to north-east (Fig 11). Again, the left side was within the service trench excavation, on this occasion, including the cranium, maxilla and mandible. The pelvis was noticeably crushed and the individual was notable for an absence of teeth and no teeth sockets indicating an older individual. Burial 6, 7 and 8 lay sequentially in the same location therefore it may be reasonable to assume these three burials were related to each other.



Burial 7, looking south-east. Fig 11

Burial 8

Approximately half of Burial 8 (Fig 12) lay beyond the limit of excavation. However, this articulated skeleton's left side survived intact and in good condition apart from the pelvis being crushed in situ, including the cranium, maxilla and mandible. No grave cut was visible, however the individual was laid supine orientated south-west to north-east. This was the primary inhumation interred in this plot with Burial 7 above and, Burial 6 above Burial 7. Burial 6, 7 and 8 lay sequentially in the same location therefore it may be reasonable to assume these three burials were related to each other.



Burial 8, looking south-east. Fig 12

Burial 9

Burial 9 (Fig 13) was an incomplete articulated skeleton lying north-east to south-west. No grave cut was visible, and the pelvis had been crushed and lay broken. The left side lay within the trench while the right side was beyond the limit of excavation. Burial 9 legs had been truncated by Burial 10 and the bones were absent.

Context [1015] is the fill of Burial 9 and comprised of soft mid grey silty clay with occasional pebbles and limestone fragments with diffuse boundaries due to being disturbed by Burial 10 and 11. A copper alloy shroud pin (SF1) was recovered from this fill on the north side of the maxilla. All of the burial backfill was remarkably similar.



Burial 9, 10 and 11 looking south-east. Fig 13

Burial 10

Burial 10 (Fig 13) was represented by non-articulated bones comprising cranium and maxilla fragments and both humerus bones which were complete. These fragments were heavily disturbed, possibly Burial 10 and 9 were moved to the end of the grave when Burial 11 was interred.

Burial 11

Burial 11 (Fig 13), lay supine south-west to north-east and was an almost complete articulated skeleton although the right arm from shoulder lay beyond the limit of excavation. The grave cut [1032] was oval in plan shape, shallow with gently sloping concave sides. The grave cut into the natural geology (1024) comprising firm light yellow with white sandy clay and Limestone and chalk pieces. This was the only grave cut that was clearly visible, albeit at the base of the burial only around the feet, however the left big toe and the right foot below ankle were cut away or missing and had cut away the skull of Burial 13. Burial 11 has cut away the cranium of Burial 13.

The fill of Burial 11 was context [1016]. This was a soft mid grey silty clay with occasional small pebbles and limestone fragments with diffuse boundaries which were only clear at the north-east end in the area of the internment's feet. This is the same fill in general appearance as all of the burials encountered during this archaeological work. This fill produced on excavation three small finds all comprising iron nails (SF2, SF3 and SF4). These are interpreted as part of a wooden coffin construction.

Burial 12

Burial 12 (Fig 14) was a nearly complete articulated skeleton laying supine, with cranium facing north, south-west to north-east. The only absent elements were the feet below the tarsal bones. The burials feet were probably truncated by pit [1020]. As the right arm is at the limit of the excavation no small finds of nails were located other than at the feet.



Burial 12 looking north-west. Fig 14

Context [1017] was the fill of Burial 12, comprising a soft mid grey silty clay with occasional small pebbles and limestone fragments with diffuse boundaries. This is similar to all of the burial fills encountered on this site. Burial 12 overlies Burial 13 with a similar fill and is cut by pit [1020] in the north-east. Five small finds (SF5, SF6, SF7, SF8 and SF9) comprising iron nails were found on the internments left side; at cranium, scapula, distal end of femur and tarsal bones of the ankle on both sides. The positions of the iron nails suggest the presence originally of a wooden coffin.

Burial 13

Burial 13 (Fig 15) was an almost complete articulated skeleton with the exception of the cranium, maxilla and mandible elements. Burial 13 lay underneath Burial 12 stratigraphically and was also laid supine in a south-west to north-east direction. The cranium of Burial 12 lay on top of Burial 13 pelvis and Burial 13 cranium is absent, presumed truncated by Burial 11 which was buried at a greater depth. All remaining bones were in good condition and were still articulated in situ. Along the left arm, a dark organic line was visible, probably the last vestige of a wooden coffin, however so degraded that only a soil colour change survives.

The fill of Burial 13 was context [1018] comprising a soft mid grey silty clay with occasional small pebbles and limestone fragments with diffuse boundaries and noticeable root disturbance. This fill does appear to have been mixed with subsoil. Four small finds were encountered all comprising iron nails (SF10, SF11, SF12 and SF13).



Burial 13 looking north-west, with Burial 12 on the right. Fig 15

Burial 14

Burial 14 (Fig 16) consisted of articulated elements of only the Tibia, Fibula and below including all foot bones, aligned south-west to north-east and supine. The upper legs and above were presumably truncated by the pit [1020]. Surviving bones were in good condition, no finds interred with this burial were encountered.



Burial 14 looking south-west. Fig 16

Burial 15

Burial 15 (Fig 17) survived only as a supine, south-west to north-east, articulated cranium, maxilla, mandible, clavicle, scapula and neck vertebrae. Burial 15 had been truncated by the later Burial 16. Burial 15 probably overlay another burial which was not recorded as little was visible within the trench and the un-exposed burial lay beyond the depth of the trench.



Burial 15 (right) and 16 (centre and left), looking south-east. Fig 17

Burial 16

Burial 16 (Fig 17) was an articulated skeleton with bones in good condition, laying supine orientated south-west to north-east and cut into Burial 15. The left arm from scapula lay beyond the limit of excavation, as did the left lower leg. The right leg has been truncated below the knee and a deposit of disarticulated human bones were laid in their place which included cranium fragments.

The fill of Burial 16 [1022] was a soft mid grey silty clay with occasional small pebbles, limestone fragments and root disturbance. This was, like the other grave fills, very similar to each other with no visible cut for the grave. Three iron nails (SF16, SF17 and SF18) were encountered close to the internment, one each side of the cranium and another by the right elbow, indicating a high probability of a coffin being present.

Burial 17

Burial 17 (Fig 18) was an articulated but disturbed supine internment of which, only the lower legs below the knee and left pelvis and sacrum survived in-situ. Most of this burial lay beyond the limit of excavation. It is not clear whether Burial 17 cuts Burial 18 or vice-versa but both are overlain by Burial 16.

A 'U' shaped shallow grave cut [1034] was only visible on the north-west side as a sub-rectangular or oval shape in plan given that half of the cut is beyond the limit of excavation. The grave cut [1034] could only be seen in plan after the remains were fully exposed. No finds were present, and the grave fill is the same as encountered elsewhere on the site.

The fill (1033) of Burial 17 comprised soft mid grey silty clay with occasional small pebbles with limestone fragments and root disturbance with clear boundaries into the yellow natural geology (1024) after excavation becoming diffuse where it merged with fill (1035) of Burial 18. This fill was very similar to fill (1035) of Burial 18.



Burial 17 (right) and 18 (left), looking south-east. Fig 18

Burial 18

Burial 18 (Fig 18) was a non-articulated skeleton laying supine, south-west to north-east with bones in good condition, just not quite in the right place. The bones were disturbed although appeared to be in roughly the anatomically correct locations. Present were the mandible, some neck and lower vertebrae as well as left side ribs and some left arm bones and fingers. It is unclear if Burial 18 cuts or is cut by Burial 17 but both were overlain by Burial 16. The grave cut was only visible after bones had been fully exposed.

The fill (1035) of Burial 18 comprised soft mid grey silty clay with occasional small pebbles with limestone fragments and root disturbance with clear edge with the natural geology (1024) but diffuse edges with fill (1033) of Burial 17. This is the same fill as in all other burials. The cut [1036] for Burial 18 can only be seen in plan after fully exposing the remains. This cut was rectangular to oval on a north-east to south-west orientation, shallow, concave and with a 'U' shaped profile. The relationship with Burial 17 [1034] is not clear.

Burial 19

All that remained of Burial 19 (Fig 19) was an articulated left foot excavated from the side of the limit of excavation. It is probable that the remaining skeleton lies on the same alignment as all of the burials, south-west to north-east, immediately beyond the service trench, although the adjacent burial was disturbed with disarticulated bones from another burial.

The fill of Burial 19 [1027] comprised a soft mid grey silty clay with occasional small pebbles and limestone fragments with diffuse edges. The fill surrounds an excavated portion of this burial of which only the left foot bones remain within the excavated trench. In close proximity to the side of the excavated foot bones is an iron nail (SF19). No grave cut was visible.



Burial 19, looking north-east. Fig 19

Burial 20

Burial 20 (Fig 20) was not articulated, aligned north to south and comprised a heavily disturbed group of human bones overlying Burial 23 and Burial 24. Not all bones were present from this deposit. Due to the disturbance the original alignment cannot be ascertained but is assumed to have been originally the same as all the other burials. No other finds were recovered. Potentially this represents an earlier internment disturbed by and re-interred following Burial 23 and 24.



Burial 20, looking north-east. Fig 20

Burial 21

Burial 21 (Fig 21) was a supine articulated skeleton orientated south-west to north-east with some damage by machine excavation to the skull and legs at the knee. The left foot was missing and is assumed to have been pre-mortum. All other bones were otherwise present and in good condition.

The fill of Burial 21 [1028] comprised a soft mid grey silty clay with occasional small pebbles and limestone fragments with root disturbance and diffuse boundaries. This fill is similar to other burial fills on site. No visible grave cut present. Three iron nails (SF21, SF22 and SF23) were found by the legs of the internment, suggesting the presence of a coffin, and two copper alloy shroud pin fragments (SF20) was found next to the cranium on the right side. A fragment of metal wire was also found (SF24) in this burial.



Burial 21, looking south-east. Fig 21

Burial 22

Burial 22 (Fig 22) was a supine articulated skeleton orientated south-west to north-east. This burial had been truncated by another, later internment, Burial 23 to the south-east. The upper body from stomach area upwards has been truncated and is absent from the grave. Legs, forearms, hands, pelvis and some lower ribs are present. Bones are in good condition however the pelvis has been crushed.



Burial 22 (right), Burial 23 (centre) and Burial 24 (left), looking north-west. Fig 22

Burial 23

Burial 23 (Fig 22) was an articulated supine internment orientated south-west to north-east with approximately half being within the service trench. Beyond the limit of excavation lay the skull, left arm and hand, majority of the vertebrae and rib cage and the left femur. The lower legs, right femur, right pelvis, right arm and some right-side ribs were excavated. Bones were in good condition. No grave cut was visible in plan or in section.

Burial 24

Burial 24 (Fig 22) was dis-articulated and had been heavily disturbed by both root disturbance and historic interference as parts of the body had been moved around and found in a miss-matched pile. This burial comprised both femurs, right pelvis, right arm, some right-side ribs and vertebrae from the centre of the spine only as well as the right collar bone and cranium with maxilla but missing mandible. Burial 24 was overlain by Burials 20 and 23. No grave cut was visible in plan or in section.

The fill of Burial 24 [1029] comprised soft mid grey silty clay with occasional small pebbles and limestone fragments with root disturbance and diffuse boundaries. This fill was very similar to all of the other burial fills.

A clear, 'U' shaped concave cut [1037] was visible for Burial 24 which was oval on an orientation North-East to South-West. Burial 24 was clearly overlain by Burial 20 and Burial 23 with the same backfill. The cut only became visible once Burials 20 and 23 were removed.

Two coffin handles were found, one on the left side of the skull (SF27) and the other by the right shoulder of the body (SF28). An iron buckle (SF25) was located under the pelvis and two iron nails (SF26 and SF29) were found on the right side of the cranium. Nail (SF29) had a washer and nut so is interpreted as a bolt potentially for securing handle to coffin.

Burial 25

Burial 25 (Fig 23) comprised an incomplete yet articulated supine skeleton orientated north-east to south-west. The feet were left unexcavated as they were beyond the

limit of excavation as was the right femur below the ball joint. The skull and shoulder blades were missing although these bones may have been disturbed by root damage, due to close proximity to a large tree, however, this would not explain their complete absence. The pelvis, crushed, and the upper left femur were in situ and articulated to the pelvis. No grave cut was visible in plan or in section.



Burial 25, looking south-west. Fig 23

6 FINDS

6.1 The ceramic finds by Jennifer R. McNulty

Three sherds of pottery, one clay tobacco pipe stem and one fragment of ceramic building material were recovered during the watching brief. All dated from the late medieval to the modern period.

Three sherds of pottery were recovered from fill (1002) (Table 1). The material was catalogued according to current guidelines (MPRG 1998, MPRG 2016). The sherds were identified using the Northamptonshire County ceramic type series (NTS), with the exception of one sherd of English stoneware. "English stoneware", not present in the NTS, is a generic category when the exact industry cannot be identified but stoneware is being produced in England from the late 17th century to the 20th century. All fabrics and forms are commonly found in Northamptonshire. The high level of fragmentation present, reflected in the low average sherd weight of just over 5g, is indicative of disturbance.

Table 1: Quantification of pottery

Fabric Code	Fabric Name	Count	Weight (g)	Vessel Part	Vessel Form	Decoration	Date
407	Red earthenware	1	6	Body	Bowl(?)	Interior red glaze	1450 - 1550
430	China	1	10	Rim	Plate	Moulded rim with underglaze black printed decoration	1860 - 1950
-	English Stoneware	1	1	Rim (?)	N/A	Exterior green glaze	1680+
TOTAL	-	3	17	-	-	-	-

The fragment of clay tobacco pipe from fill (1002) was a stem measuring 42mm in length with no bowl or mouthpiece present. No decoration or moulding was recorded. The borehole measured 7/64", although dating based on the borehole size alone is not recommended.

One fragment of ceramic building material from fill (1013) sample 101, weighing 9g was likely a tile but was too fragmented to determine function. The fragment had a sanded underside and side. The fabric was oxidised with moderate calcareous and argillaceous inclusions and is likely post-medieval in date. No further work is required on any of these assemblages. There is low research or intrinsic value.

6.2 Glass by Claire Finn

Two pieces of glass were recovered from environmental sample 101, context (1013), weighing 7g and 22g. Both were small pieces of thin flat glass, 1mm thick, probably from glazing. These have opaque surface corrosion consistent with potash composition, which when compared with the thickness of the glass indicates an early post-medieval date. Research utility is low.

6.3 Human bone recovered from environmental soil samples at St Margaret's Church, Alderton Northamptonshire by Chris Chinnock

During archaeological observation of the installation of new drainage services to the Church of St Margaret, Alderton Northamptonshire, a number of human burials were encountered. All of the burials disturbed during excavation were moved directly for reburial though a small amount of human bone was recovered during processing of environmental soil sampling.

Small, fragmentary remains from at least one individual were recovered from sample 101 taken from context (1013). The identifiable fragments included a small fragment of cranial vault, the left transverse process from a thoracic vertebrae, part of the right transverse process of a cervical vertebrae, a fragment of rib shaft, a left trapezium (wrist bone), a right lateral cuneiform (foot), and four unsided proximal phalanges of the feet. A number of other small fragmentary pieces of bone were present but could not be attributed to a particular bone. The human bone was subsequently returned to the church for reburial alongside the remainder of the burials encountered during the archaeological observation.

6.4 Small finds by Tora Hylton

A group of metal artefacts comprising, iron coffin furniture, nails and copper alloy dress fittings were found. Thirty-five individual and group recorded small finds were recovered, which in total amount to over 250 complete and fragmentary items made from iron, pressed metal-plate and copper alloy. All the small finds were recovered from grave deposits and of the 25 burials excavated, 11 burials produced one or more finds (Table 2).

Three of the burials (B1, B4, B24) produced a range of decorative accoutrements, the range and style of which suggests a late 18th to early 19th century date. Seven burials (B6, B11, B12, B13, B16, B19, B21) produced one or more nails, each with mineralised wood adhering to their shanks, presumably suggesting that they too originate from coffins. Two burials produced copper alloy dress fittings, a copper alloy lace tag was recovered from B9 and two copper alloy pins and a wire fragment were retrieved from B21.

In general, the finds made from iron are in a poor condition, they are fragmented, corroded and mineralised wood from the coffins survives on the surfaces of the coffin fittings and nails. The copper alloy finds are in a good condition and in some cases mineralised wood survives on the underside of the stud heads.

Table 2: Small finds recovered from the graves

Grave No	Context Number	SF Number	Coffin Fittings	Other grave finds
B1	1013	SF30	120 Cu studs	-
		SF31	1 Fe handle with vestige of back-plate (?tin), 2 Cu studs and 11 Fe nails	-
		SF32	22 fragments of pressed sheet metal, 1 Fe nail with Cu stud attached, 1 split-pin	-
B4	1014	SF14	3 handles with associated back-plate	-
		SF33	45 Cu studs	-
		SF34	1 Nail	-
		SF35	3 fragments of pressed metal sheet (?tin)	-
B6	1021	SF15	4 Fe nails	-
B9	1015	SF1	-	Cu lace tag
B11	1016	SF2 - SF4	3 Fe nails	-
B12	1017	SF5 -SF9	5 Fe nails	-
B13	1018	SF10-SF13	5 Fe nails	-
B16	1022	SF16-SF18	3 Fe nails	-
B19	1027	SF19	1 Fe nail	-
B21	1028	SF20	-	2 Cu pin frags
		SF21-SF23	3 Fe nails	-
		SF24	-	?Cu wire fragment
B24	1029	SF25	1 fragment of pressed metal sheet (?gilded)	-
		SF26	2 fragments of pressed metal sheet, 1 Fe nail	-
		SF27	1 Fe handle with vestige of back-plate and split-pin	-
		SF28	1 Fe handle with vestige of back-plate and split-pin, 9	-

SF29

pressed metal sheet
fragments, 1 split-pin
1 Fe coffin screw**Coffin furniture** by Tora Hylton

The coffin furniture is made from iron and copper alloy. The assemblage may be divided into two groups, external fittings for decorative purposes (iron grips, grip-plates, escutcheons and copper alloy studs) and structural fittings (iron nails).

Grips

The grips (or handles) are made from cast iron and they would have been placed along the sides of the coffin (three each side); they were used for aesthetic reasons rather than for functional purposes. Three burials produced one or more grips, one from Burial 1 (SF31), three from Burial 4 (SF14) and two from Burial 24 (SF27 and SF28). Two different types of grip are represented, Burials 1 and 4 have plain crescent-shaped grips and stylistically they may be compared to Type B grips from Spitalfields, London (Reeves and Adams 1993) which date to the mid-late 18th and early 19th century. Burial 24 has a 'square' grip, the presence of corrosion deposits makes it impossible to identify any decorative features and this style of grip was not represented at Spitalfields.

Grip-plates

All the grips retain complete or vestiges of a pressed-metal grip-plate (back-plate), a decorative plate that was placed between the handle and the side of the coffin. The grip-plates are made from tin-dipped iron, patches of a non-ferrous white metal coating is visible in places. Burials 1 and 24 retain only the fragmentary remains of the grip-plates, therefore it is difficult to determine their original shape or the presence of decorative features, especially without x-rays. The grip-plates from Burial 4 are complete or partially complete (SF 14), they are 'lozenge-shaped' with large terminal lobes (Width: 195mm, Height: 62mm). The grips and grip-plates were attached to the side of the coffin by means of split-pins and a small number of these are still attached. The distance between the grip-plate and the clenched terminals of the split-pin, provides an indication of the thickness of the wood used to construct the side of the coffin. The measurements obtained indicate that the wood ranged in thickness from 12mm-22mm (Burial 1 -18mm, Burial 4 – 12mm, Burial 24 - 22mm).

Escutcheons

Escutcheons are decorative pressed-metal motifs that would have been placed on the exterior of the coffin. Although there are no complete examples, it is possible that some of the pressed-metal sheet fragments are escutcheons. Burial 24 produced a number of pressed-metal fragments, some of which may represent fragmentary escutcheons, one fragment reveals the presence of surface gilding (SF25), another has a curved edge (SF26), and although the motifs on pressed metal fragments are barely visible beneath the corroded surface, it is possible to determine the presence of gilding and tin on some fragments, while on others decorative pellets and foliate motifs in high relief are apparent (SF28).

Studs

In total 168 copper alloy studs (upholstery pins) with domed heads and integral square-sectioned shanks were recovered from Burials B1 and B4. Burial 1 produced 123 studs; two sizes are represented, with heads measuring c11mm and 13mm in diameter. Burial 4 produced 45 studs and again two sizes are represented, with heads measuring 13mm and 6mm in diameter. The variation in the sizes of stud heads, alluding to different decorative schemes. It is interesting to note that Burial 1 produced

two studs attached to the same piece of wood, the distance between the two studs suggests that they were placed at intervals of c10-11mm. In addition, Burial 1 also produced two iron nails, each with a single copper alloy stud attached to the head of the nail by corrosion deposits. These details may suggest, not only that the copper alloy studs had been placed in rows at intervals of c10-11mm, but also that they had been placed close to the outer edge of the coffin adjacent to the panel-pins which held the constituent parts of the coffin together (Ibid 1993, fig 99). From the 17th century onwards, it was often the case that, studs of this type were used to decorated fabric covered coffins, therefore it is possible that B1 and B4 were covered in fabric, although there does not appear to be any evidence for this.

Structural fittings

Structural fittings are represented by 39 iron nails and a coffin screw. Although the presence of corrosion deposits and mineralized wood on the nails makes identification of the head difficult, it was possible to determine that there are nails with small T-shaped heads and sub-circular heads, both forms represent types that would have been hammered in, so that the top of head was flush with the surface. Burial 1 (SF31) produced two examples of pairs of nails connected at 'right-angles' to each other by corrosion deposits, perhaps reflecting their position in relation to each in the coffin.

A complete coffin screw (SF29) was recovered from Burial 24. It comprises a straight-sided, circular-sectioned shank with a screw thread, and it is surmounted by a large domed head furnished with a slot for tightening. The primary function of a coffin screws was to secure key elements of the coffin together, namely the lid to the base; they have decorative heads because they are designed to be exhibited, rather than hidden.

Copper alloy dress-fittings

A single lace chape (SF1) was recovered from Burial 9 [1015] and two pins (SF20) were retrieved from Burial 21 [1028]. The lace chape (SF1) is complete and it is made from a rectangular sheet that has been rolled to form a parallel-sided tube; the long edges are folded twice towards the centre, this ensuring that the lace is securely gripped by both sides of the tag along its length. Typologically it equates to Oakley's Type 2 (1979, fig 113, 288), for which a post-medieval date is attributed.

Burial 21 produced three circular-sectioned shank fragments from pins (SF 20); two of the fragments terminate in small solid globular heads and on the shank of one there may be mineral preserve organics present in the corrosion deposits. The pins of this type would presumably have been used to secure shrouds or grave clothing. In addition, a short length (49mm) of pliable, circular-sectioned (Dia: 0.9mm) fine gauge copper alloy wire (SF24) was recovered from Burial 21.

7 DISCUSSION

The Church of St Margaret's, Alderton, lies in the centre of the village on a slight rise of ground which overlooks the surrounding countryside. The present building has stood on this site from the early 16th century.

Twenty-five human burials were found during the programme of archaeological observation and recording, nineteen of which were articulated and all were lying on a north-east to south-west alignment with the head placed at the south-western end.

Several burials were found to be stratigraphically above others; in these cases, a potential family relationship may be inferred due to the use of family plots within the churchyard. A good example of this would be Burial 7 which stratigraphically lay below Burial 6 and above Burial 8.

There are no grave markers within this area of the churchyard which suggests that the grounds have been landscaped, potentially at or about the same time that the current path was installed. The date of the burials is most likely due to the finds of coffin handles, escutcheons, and nails/screws to be of 19th century date or possibly late 18th century. Due to their relatively shallow depth, they represent one of the final phases of interment of the area immediately surrounding the church. The grounds lie at a higher elevation (particularly noticeable on entering the churchyard from the north-east gate) than the surrounding Church Lane or Pury Road, suggesting the churchyard may have been raised with additional soil to accommodate further burials within the space permitted. No grave cuts were observed within the subsoil, so the landscaping may have removed the evidence in addition to intercutting burial fills that are very similar meaning individual burial cuts are impossible or very difficult to see until excavation of the interment takes place. There is a notable lack of any scattered chanel suggesting burials encountered during new burials being dug were treated with care and respect.

The position of the burials reflects common burial practices in churchyards throughout the Victorian and early Edwardian periods. It is interesting to note orientation is generally consistent at South-West to North-East. The burials are all aligned towards the pedestrian access and parallel with the side of the Church building and not strictly in an expected East-West orientation.

Two of the burials, Burial 1 and 4, were both interred inside a wooden coffin with potentially fabric or cloth covering held in place with decorative stud work or iron nails. These may represent more wealthy members of the village population or alternatively social pressure to keep up funeral fashion standards for the benefit of those partaking in the event. Urban funeral fashion might take time to filter out to rural communities to be reflected in the archaeological resource. It is likely that the other internments may not have been interred inside a coffin, but within a winding sheet or shroud.

Specific research objectives, as detailed in the national and regional research frameworks documents (Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012, updating Cooper 2006), were looked to in order to address as relevant the results of the programme of archaeological works. However, no specific research objectives could be addressed as insufficient archaeological remains other than the late 18th or 19th century burials were found.

The ditch [1031] uncovered at the north-east end of the service trench may be for drainage or demarcation prior to the present churchyard wall being constructed. The ditch is believed to be of post-medieval to modern in date due to it cutting only into the subsoil (1010), which lies on top of the burial soil, yet below the present modern footpath (1001).

Bibliography

- BGS 2022, British Geological Survey, Geindex, available online at <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>, last accessed 01/02/2022
- Brown, D H, 2011 *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum
- ClfA 2020a *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Watching Brief*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- ClfA 2020b *Code of Conduct*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- ClfA 2014c *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- Cooper, N, J, (ed) 2006 *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: an archaeological resource assessment and research agenda*, University of Leicester/ English Heritage
- Donnelly-Symes, B, 2020, *Archaeological Archives Standard* Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre
- EMHERF 2021 *East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework*, available at <https://researchframeworks.org/emherf/>, last accessed 1st February 2022.
- HE 2015 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*, Historic England
- HE 2021a *St. Margaret's Church*, available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1190752>, last accessed 1st February 2022
- HE 2021b *The Mount*, available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1010255>, last accessed 1st February 2022
- Knight, D, Vyner, B, and Allen, C, 2012 *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*, Nottingham Archaeology Monographs, 6
- Medieval Pottery Research Group, 1998. *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms*. Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 1, London.
- Medieval Pottery Research Group *et al*, 2016. *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology*. Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper, London.
- MGC 1992 *Standards in the Museum care of Archaeological Collections*, Museums and Galleries Commission
- MHCLG 2019 *National Planning Policy Framework*, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (Section 16)
- MOLA 2014 *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual*, MOLA Northampton
- MOLA Forthcoming *Digital Preservation Policy*, DM01, MOLA Northampton
- MOLA Forthcoming *Data Management Procedures for Projects*, DM02, MOLA Northampton
- MOLA Forthcoming *Digital Data Selection, Appraisal and Discard Policy*, DM08, MOLA Northampton
- Oakley, G E, 1979 *The Copper Alloy Objects in Williams 1979*, 248-264
- Reeve, J, and Adams, M, 1993 *The Spitalfields Project: Across the styx. Vol: The Archaeology*, CBA Res. Rep. 85

Thompson, P, 2021 Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication at St Margaret's Church, Alderton, Northamptonshire, November 2021 MOLA

Watkinson, D, and Neal, V, 2001 *First Aid for Finds* (3rd edition reprinted), United Kingdom Institute for Conservation

Walker, K, 1990 *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage*, United Kingdom Institute for Conservation

Williams, J H, (Ed) 1979 St Peter's Street, Northampton: Excavations 1973-1976, Northampton Development Corporation, Monograph No 2,

MOLA
April 2022

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1000	Topsoil	Soft mid brown grey silty loam with occasional small pebbles and root disturbance.	0.20m to 0.25m in thickness across the entire service trench.	-
1001	Concrete Footpath	Grey concrete bounded by topsoil (1000) on either side.	1.0m in width and depth 0.10m.	-
1002	Layer	Firm to friable mid yellow brown sandy clay with frequent limestone fragments.	Up to 0.90m depth	Pottery and Human Bone fragments
1003	Backfill of Modern Drain [1004] aligned alongside Church	Friable brown pebbles, rounded.	4.20m wide by 0.50m deep	-
1004	Cut for Modern Drain Pipe	Linear cut aligned east to west. U shaped profile with fairly steep sides and flat base.	4.20m wide and 0.90m depth	-
1005	Church Stone Wall	Compact light-yellow brown limestone forming part of Church wall. Bonded with mortar (1006).	1.80m wide by 0.90m depth	-
1006	Mortar between stones [1005]	Compact mid-yellow brown sandy mortar, clear between limestones [1005].	0.02m in depth	-
1007	Layer	Friable mid brownish grey sandy loam with frequent small pebbles and occasional limestone pebbles. Possible construction layer associated with footpath [1001].	1.10m wide and 0.20m depth.	-
1008	Layer	Friable mid to light brownish grey sandy loam with frequent small pebbles; occasional small limestone pebbles. Possible construction layer associated with footpath [1001].	38m long and 0.20m depth	-
1009	Layer	Friable dark brownish grey sandy loam with small pebbles throughout. Layer within (1002); possible construction layer associated with Church.	0.90m long and 0.10m depth	-
1010	Layer / subsoil	Friable mid yellowish grey sandy loam with frequent small limestone pebbles and root disturbance.	38m long and 0.60 to 0.90m depth	Burials cut from this layer
1011	Brick Vault	Compact red brick and grey mortar construction. Headers and Stretchers alternate.	0.30m by 0.15m as only north-west corner exposed in the side of trench	-
1012	Wall Foundations of old Church Wall for Church Wall [1026]	Linear limestone stonework aligned roughly east to west. Bonding not visible. Uneven changing courses of rectangular irregular stone.	0.80m wide by 0.50m depth	-

Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1013	Fill of Burial 1	Soft mid grey silty clay with rare small pebbles and limestone fragments. Diffuse boundaries as all burials are close together and overlapping. No clear cut can be seen. Band of small metal studs; Sample taken <101>.	1.65m long by 0.25m inside trench	Metal Studs SF30, SF31, SF32. Sample <101>
1014	Fill of Burial 4	Soft mid grey silty clay with rare small pebbles and limestone fragments. Diffuse boundaries as all burials are close together and overlapping. No clear cut can be seen.	1.05m long by 0.75m wide.	SF14, SF15 SF33, SF34, SF35. Sample <102>
1015	Fill of Burial 9	Soft mid grey silty clay with occasional pebbles and limestone fragments. Diffuse boundaries as all burials are close together (Burial 10 and 11) and overlapping. No clear cut can be seen.	0.95m long by 0.35m wide inside the trench.	SF1 Shroud pin recovered from fill.
1016	Fill of Burial 11	Soft mid grey silty clay with occasional small pebbles and limestone fragments. Diffuse boundaries as all burials are close together. Clear only in north-east at the feet. This burial cut away the cranium of B13.	1.60m long by 0.45m wide inside trench.	SF2, SF3, SF4 all Iron and potentially nails connected to the coffin.
1017	Fill of Burial 12	Soft mid grey silty clay with occasional small pebbles and limestone fragments. This is cut by pit [1020] in the north-east.	1.50m long by 0.60m wide.	SF5, SF6, SF7, SF8 and SF9
1018	Fill of Burial 13	Soft mid grey silty clay with occasional small pebbles and limestone fragments with some root disturbance. Diffuse boundaries as all burials are close together. No cut to be seen. Fill appears to be mixed with subsoil.	1.58m long by 0.40m wide.	SF10, SF11, SF12 and SF13
1019	Fill of Pit [1020]	Friable light to mid yellowish brown sandy loam with frequent block of limestone and root disturbance. Clear boundaries / edges of feature. Possibly from church building alteration / construction. Cuts Burials 12 and 14.	5.90m wide by 1.40m deep.	-
1020	Cut of Pit	Large pit backfilled with probably demolition / construction rubble waste limestone blocks associated with church building. Stratigraphically later than the burials as cut away feet of B12 and torso of B14. Also cuts into [1010] and [1024]. Sealed by [1001].	5.90m wide by 1.40m deep.	-
1021	Fill of Burial 6	Soft mid grey silty clay with occasional small pebbles and limestone fragments. Diffuse boundaries as all burials are close together.	1.00m long by 0.40m wide inside trench.	-

Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1022	Burial 16 Articulated Skeleton	Right side of skeleton present, missing only left arm and left lower leg under the limit of excavation. Animal tooth found at right pelvis. Aligned NE – SW. B16 cuts B15. All bones present and in good condition. Iron nails either side of cranium and at right elbow.	Unknown	SF16, SF17 and SF18. Iron Nails
1023	Cut of Construction pit	Not excavated but having sloping sides. A large pit with mixed backfill. Possibly associated with structure [1012]. Cut into [1010]. It is remarkable that there are no burials at all found in this pit. Only in the fill it is cut into. It is likely that there were burials in this area, which were removed when this 'construction' pit was dug.	Up to 0.90m in trench.	-
1024	Natural Geology	Firm light yellow with white sandy clay and Limestone and chalk pieces.	-	-
1025	Church Wall	Limestone wall and mortar. Rectangular limestone blocks 20-30cm wide by 12cm high with smooth surface. 1.80m exposed length in trench section.	1.80m long by 0.60m wide.	-
1026	Church Wall: foundations are [1012]	Firm mid yellow brown limestone blocks and sandy clay. Limestone blocks forming the foundations of a removed wall. No clear bonding material visible. Probably part of a former Church Wall that was demolished to make the church building smaller.	0.80m wide by 0.50m depth	-
1027	Fill of Burial 19	Soft mid grey silty clay with occasional small pebbles and Limestone fragments with diffuse boundaries.	Unknown	SF19
1028	Fill of Burial 21	Soft mid grey silty clay with occasional small pebbles and Limestone fragments with root disturbance. Diffuse edges to feature. Three Iron nails found by the legs and a copper alloy shroud pin fragment by the head.	1.30m long by 0.50m wide.	SF20, SF21, SF22, SF23 and SF24
1029	Fill of Burial 24	Soft mid grey silty clay with occasional small pebbles and Limestone fragments with root disturbance. Diffuse boundaries to the burial. Overlain by Burial 20 and Burial 23. Two coffin handles were found either side of the Burial and an Iron Buckle under the pelvis and two iron nails close to the cranium.	1.35m long by 0.30m wide.	SF25, SF26, SF27, SF28 and SF29
1030	Fill of Ditch [1031]	Soft, light grey silty loam with occasional Limestone fragments and clear boundaries. Single fill of shallow ditch by the entrance of the churchyard. Fill is similar to subsoil [1010] just slightly darker.	0.70m wide and 0.42m depth.	-

Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1031	Cut of ditch	Linear cut aligned north-west to south-east, shallow with a 'U' shaped profile with moderately steep sides and concave base. Ditch by the churchyard entrance with a single fill. Appears to follow the wall alignment and the road outside.	0.70m wide and 0.42m depth.	-
1032	Cut of Burial 11	Oval cut aligned south-west to north-east direction. Shallow cut with gently sloping sides and concave base. One of the few burials cut into the yellow natural geology.	1.60m long by 0.45m wide.	Three Iron Nails
1033	Fill of Burial 17	Soft mid grey silty clay with occasional small pebbles and Limestone fragments and root disturbance. Clearly shows up against yellow natural geology.	0.70m long by 0.18m wide.	-
1034	Cut of Burial 17	Rectangular / oval cut aligned south-west to north-east with a shallow 'U' shaped profile and concave base. Not clear if [1034] cuts or is cut by Burial 18 as half of the individual is underneath the limit of excavation.	0.70m long by 0.18m wide.	-
1035	Fill of Burial 18	Soft mid grey silty clay with occasional small pebbles and limestone fragments and root disturbance. Clear boundaries with natural geology but diffuse boundary with [1033].	0.60m long by 0.25m wide	-
1036	Burial cut for Burial 18	Rectangular to oval shape aligned north-east to south-west with a shallow 'U' shaped profile and concave base. Cut can only be seen in plan after full exposure of bones. Relationship with Burial 17 [1034] not clear.	0.60m long by 0.25m wide.	-
1037	Burial cut for Burial 24	A clear, 'U' shaped concave cut [1037] was visible for Burial 24 which was oval on an orientation North-East to South-west.	0.60m long by 0.25m wide.	-
1038	Brick Vault	Vault / Burial chamber comprising compact red brick and grey mortar. Machine scraped the top north-west corner. Body could be seen inside with at least two coffin handles. Hole was covered back up immediately, and chamber left in situ without any further disturbance. Vault in line with [1011] to the south-west. Same build as [1011].	0.50m width exposed and 0.25m depth exposed	-
Burial 1 [1013]	Articulated skeleton	Left (North) side of Skeleton lying on back encountered in trench. Good condition overall but cranium crushed. Some finger and foot bones missing. Along arm and leg some organic material with lots of copper alloy studs. Aligned NE-SW	Unknown	Metal Studs SF30, SF31, SF32. Sample <101>

Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
Burial 2 [1013]	Disarticulated skeleton	Right side skeleton fragments. Left side under section. Fragments of Cranium, maxilla, mandible, pelvis, and shaft parts of tibia and radius. Aligned NE-SW	Unknown	-
Burial 3	Disarticulated skeleton	Cranium, clavicle and rib. Aligned NE- SW. Possibly disturbed by [1023].	Unknown	-
Burial 4 [1014]	Disarticulated skeleton	Left side of skeleton. Cranium, maxilla, mandible, clavicle, lower vertebrae, lower ribs, pelvis upper left and lower right, left femur, radius and ulna, left foot present. Probably contained in a wooden coffin. Aligned NE – SW. B4 was stratigraphically on top of B5.	Unknown	Buckle and handle SF14, studs and an Fe Nail SF15. Sample <102>
Burial 5	Articulated skeleton	Left side of skeleton in trench. Right side under the section. All bones intact and in good condition. Aligned NE – SW. B5 stratigraphically below B4. No clear burial cut.	1.60m long	-
Burial 6 [1021]	Articulated skeleton	Left lower side of skeleton survives intact. Right lower side beyond the limit of excavation. Lower Vertebrae, pelvis, femur Tibia, fibula and all foot bones present. Aligned NE – SW. On top of B7 which in turn is on top of B8.	Unknown	-
Burial 7	Articulated skeleton	Left half of skeleton, including entire cranium, maxilla and mandible, found within trench but both feet under baulk and right side beyond the limit of excavation. Aligned NE – SW. Between B6 and B8 stratigraphically.	Unknown	-
Burial 8	Articulated skeleton	Left side of skeleton, including cranium, maxilla and mandible, found within trench, remaining bones beyond the limit of excavation. Aligned NE – SW. Missing left side below the knee but this likely survives beyond the limit of excavation. Pelvis crushed.	Unknown	-
Burial 9	Articulated skeleton	Pelvis crushed and legs missing due to Burial 10 cutting through Burial 9. Only left half of burial visible in trench, right side underneath limit of excavation. Aligned NE – SW.	Unknown	Fragment of shroud pin, SF1, found next to the cranium on right side by ear.
Burial 10	Disarticulated skeleton	Only a few bone fragments survive from this heavily disturbed burial. B9 and B10 were disturbed by B11. B10 has only two upper arms and part of the cranium remaining. Aligned NE – SW.	Unknown	-

Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
Burial 11 [1016]	Articulated skeleton	Almost complete – right arm from shoulder down and foot are under limit of excavation. Grave cut clearly visible at base and only around the feet. Burial 11 feet cut through Burial 13 removing the cranium. Aligned NE – SW.	Unknown	SF2, SF3, SF4 all Iron and potentially nails (one by each foot and third external to the left femur) connected to the coffin.
Burial 12 [1017]	Articulated skeleton	Almost entire body recovered except for feet; cut away by pit [1020]. All around the body were found five Iron nails, possibly connected to a coffin. Aligned NE – SW. Head tilted to North.	Unknown	SF5, SF6, SF7, SF8 and SF9
Burial 13 [1018]	Articulated skeleton	B13 stratigraphically below B12. B12 cranium on top of B13 Pelvis. B13 Cranium missing, cut away by B11. Bones in good condition and still articulated. Burial 11 cut through Burial 13 removing the cranium. Four iron nails. Discolouring of soil comprising dark line along external side of left arm may be all that is left of wooden coffin. Aligned NE – SW.	Unknown	SF10, SF11, SF12 and SF13- Iron Nails
Burial 14	Articulated skeleton	All except legs and feet missing - cut away from pit [1020]. Remaining bones in very good condition and still articulated. Aligned NE – SW.	Unknown	-
Burial 15	Articulated skeleton	Only cranium, clavicle and scapula survived, the rest of this skeleton was cut through by Burial 16. Aligned NE – SW. Burial 15 probably overlies a further burial that was not excavated as below the level of the service trench.	Unknown	-
Burial 16 [1022]	Articulated skeleton	Right side of skeleton present, missing only left arm and left lower leg under the limit of excavation. Animal tooth found at right pelvis. Aligned NE – SW. B16 cuts B15. All bones present and in good condition. Iron nails either side of cranium and at right elbow.	Unknown	SF16, SF17 and SF18. Iron Nails
Burial 17	Articulated skeleton (1033) [1034]	Burial 17 lies mostly underneath the limit of excavation. It is not clear whether B17 cuts B18 or the other way round. Both burials appear to be slightly disturbed. They were overlain by B16. A grave cut was only visible on the north-west side after full exposure of bones. B17 has both feet and lower legs remaining, the pelvis appears to have been moved closer to the legs. The torso and skull are probably still underneath the limit of excavation. Aligned NE – SW.	Unknown	-

Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
Burial 18	Disarticulated skeleton	Burial 18 bones have been disturbed. Present are the mandible, vertebrae at neck and middle, some ribs and left hand to shoulder. It is unclear if B18 cuts or is cut by B17. Both burials were overlain by Burial 16. The grave cut was only visible after the bones had been exposed. Aligned NE – SW. Remaining bones in good condition, just not in the anatomically correct place.	Unknown	-
Burial 19	Articulated skeleton	Only Left foot visible inside trench. Feet bones excavated from wall of Limit of Excavation. Likely more bones from this individual lie beyond the limit of excavation. Aligned NE – SW.	Unknown	SF19 Iron Nail
Burial 20	Disarticulated skeleton	Heavily disturbed bones overlaying Burial 23 and Burial 24. Due to disturbance the alignment of the burial has changed from original deposition NE – SW to North-South. Not all bones are present anymore and those that are; are not in their correct anatomical place.	Unknown	-
Burial 21	Articulated skeleton	Skull broken and legs scraped by machine, left foot missing. All other bones present and in good condition, three iron nails were found at the legs, probably connected to a wooden coffin. Shroud pin copper alloy fragment found close to the head, similar to Burial 9. Aligned NE – SW.	Unknown	SF20 shroud pin, SF21 Iron Nail, SF22 Iron Nail, SF23 Iron Nail and SF24 metal thread
Burial 22	Articulated skeleton	Burial 22 was cut by Burial 23 with the result that the upper body was missing from about the middle of humerus up. Legs and feet in good condition but pelvis crushed. Aligned NE – SW.	Unknown	-
Burial 23	Articulated skeleton	Right arm, ribs, right pelvis, right femur and both lower legs found. Rest of individual was beyond the limit of excavation. Feet positioned close together. Aligned NE – SW.	Unknown	-
Burial 24	Disarticulated skeleton	Disturbed burial and bones not articulated. Aligned NE – SW. Presumed historic interference, parts of body have been moved around and found in a miss matched pile.	Unknown	SF25 Iron Buckle, SF26 Iron Nail, SF27 Iron Coffin Handle, SF28 Iron Coffin Handle and SF29 Iron nut, washer and bolt

Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
Burial 25	Articulated skeleton	Vertebra, ribs and Pelvis with top of femurs present. Right femur continues into section, beyond limit of excavation. Crushed pelvis and part of upper left leg. Arms both beneath limit of excavation outside the trench. Skull and shoulder blades missing. Possibly disturbed by tree roots. Aligned NE – SW.	Unknown	-

APPENDIX 2: FINDS CATALOGUE

SF No	Context	Burial No	Material	Object	Number	Description
1	1015	B9	Cu	Lace tag	1	Complete. Made from a rectangular piece of sheet metal rolled to form a parallel-sided tube. The long edges are folded twice towards the centre, the lace would then be securely gripped by both sides of the tag along its length. L: c32mm Dia: 2.5mm. This is an example of Oakley's Type 2 tags (1979, fig 113, 288).
2	1016	B11	Fe	Nail	1	Heavily encrusted in corrosion and wood, therefore difficult to identify form and determine if complete. L: c40mm
3	1016	B11	Fe	Nail	1	Heavily encrusted in corrosion, therefore difficult to identify form and determine if complete. L: c55mm
4	1016	B11	Fe	Nail	1	Heavily encrusted in corrosion and wood, therefore difficult to identify form and determine if complete. L: c60mm
5	1017	B12	Fe	Nail	2	Both nails are covered in corrosion and wood. One appears to have a small T-shaped head (L: c51mm) and the other one is heavily encrusted in corrosion and therefore it is difficult to determine type (L: c 55mm).
6	1017	B12	Fe	Nail	1	Covered in corrosion and wood, possibly has a small T-shaped head (L: c46mm).
7	1017	B12	Fe	Nail	1	Nail in two pieces, covered in corrosion and wood, therefore difficult to identify. L: c55mm
8	1017	B12	Fe	Nail	1	Nail shank, no head. L: c 32mm
9	1017	B12	Fe	Nail	1	Covered in corrosion and wood, possibly has a small T-shaped head (L: c46mm).
10	1018	B13	Fe	Nail	1	Nail in two pieces, covered in corrosion and wood, therefore difficult to identify. L: c52mm
11	1018	B13	Fe	Nail	1	Covered in corrosion and wood, possibly has a small T-shaped head, terminal of shank missing (L: c43mm).
12	1018	B13	Fe	Nail	2	Both nails are covered in corrosion, soil etc. 1) Small nail with flat sub-circular head and tapered shank. L: c26m. 2) larger nail with flat sub-circular head. L: c 31mm
13	1018	B13	Fe	Nail	1	Complete. T-shaped head with ?circular-sectioned shank. L: 45mm
14	1014	B4	Fe	Handle/back-plate	3	Three handles and associated back-plates. The handles are crescent shaped (W: c100mm) and they are attached to back-plates. The back-plate of one is complete and the other two are incomplete. The complete example is 'lozenge-shaped' with large terminal lobes. W: 195mm, H: 62mm. Two of the back-plates have split-pins protruding from the underside and the distance between the back-plate and clenched terminal of the split-pin suggests that the wood would have been c12mm thick.
15	1021	B6	Fe	Nail	4	Covered in corrosion and wood. 1) Complete nail with T-shaped head and square-sectioned shank. L:c60mm. 2) Incomplete, head missing. Square-sectioned shank tapered to a point. L: 52mm. 3)

SF No	Context	Burial No	Material	Object	Number	Description
						Complete but head not visible beneath wood; Square-sectioned shank tapered to a point. L: c 38mm. 4) Square-sectioned shank fragment. L: 26mm
16	1022	B16	Fe	Nail	1	Incomplete, terminal of shank missing. Flat sub-circular head with square-sectioned shank. L: 31mm
17	1022	B16	Fe	Nail	1	Incomplete, terminal of shank missing and covered in corrosion and wood. Head obscured by wood. L: c33mm
18	1022	B16	Fe	Nail	1	Complete. Small nail with flat sub-circular head and square-sectioned shank. L:c34mm
19	1027	B19	Fe	Nail	1	Incomplete, terminal of shank missing. T-shaped head with square-sectioned shank. L: c45mm
20	1028	B21	Cu	Pin	2	Incomplete, 3 fragments, covered in corrosion and possible ?MPO's. Two fragments terminate with small globular heads, but it is difficult to be sure how the head was made as it is obscured by corrosion; circular sectioned shank. Plus one shank frag. Possible MPO's in corrosion deposits.
21	1028	B21	Fe	Nail	1	Incomplete, terminal of shank missing and covered in corrosion and wood. T-shaped head with square-sectioned shank. L: c46mm
22	1028	B21	Fe	Nail	1	Complete but form not discernible as covered in wood. L:c52mm
23	1028	B21	Fe	Nail	1	Incomplete, terminal of shank missing and covered in wood. L:c42mm
24	1028	B21	Cu	Wire frag	1	Short length of circular-sectioned wire (hard but pliable). L:c49mm Dia: 0.9mm
25	1029	B24	Fe	Pressed sheet metal	1	One fragment of pressed metal sheet. Surfaces covered in corrosion but patches of gilding evident in places. Corrosion ensures that it is not possible to determine any part of the motif. (Escutcheon frag)
26	1029	B24	Fe	Pressed sheet metal/nails	3	Two fragments of pressed sheet metal, one with curved edge. One nail with wood attached, measures c55mm in length. Plus five frags of thin wood, one side on each piece looks vitrified/vesicular (is it tar).
27	1029	B24	Fe	Handle/back-plate	1	Cast rectangular grip/handle with vestige of back-plate attached to the underside. A large staple-like split-pin is attached to the terminal of the handle and the distance between the back-plate and the clenched terminal of the split-pin suggests that the wood through which it passed measured c22mm thick. The handle is covered in corrosion, therefore obscuring any decorative features. W: 170mm H: 78mm
28	1029	B24	Fe	Handle/back-plate/escutcheon	11	Cast rectangular grip/handle with vestige back-plate and staple-like split-pin attached to the terminal of the handle and the distance between the back-plate and the clenched terminal of the split-pin suggests that the wood through which it passed measured c22mm thick. The handle is covered in corrosion, therefore obscuring any decorative features. W: 170mm H: 78mm

SF No	Context	Burial No	Material	Object	Number	Description
						Nine fragments of pressed metal sheet, the motifs are barely visible beneath the corroded surface. There are vestiges of pellets and a ?foliate motif in high relief (needs to be x-rayed). One of the pieces appears to be ?gilded and another tinned. One split-pin from handle.
29	1029	B24	Fe	Nail/bolt	1	Incomplete, terminal of shank missing. Large nail with large circular (discoïd) head and circular-sectioned shank. Head - Dia: c24mm, H:c4mm. Shank - L: c58mm, Dia: c8mm. Possibly threaded but difficult to be sure.
30	1013	B1	Cu	Studs	120	120 complete studs, of that number - 30 with wood adhering to shank, 8 with white material comprising tiny stones (?plaster) and 82 clean studs. Studs have domed heads and integral square-sectioned shanks. Two sizes represented, with heads measuring c11mm and 13mm. H: 11mm. Two studs attached to the same piece of wood, this suggests that they were placed c10-11mm apart.
31	1013	B1	Fe	Handle/Back plate/nails	12	i) One grip (handle) with vestige of grip back-plate attached to the underside. Cast iron crescent-shaped handle (W: c110mm); terminal of handle retains vestige of attachment loop (split-pin). Back-plate made from pressed metal, patches of a white-metal coating visible. ii) Two iron nails, each with single Cu stud attached to the head of the nail (adhered to ferrous corrosion). One iron nail complete and measuring c44mm in length. iii) Two nails with vestiges of separate nail shanks attached to shank at an angle of 90 degrees. Presumable reflecting their position to each other in the coffin. iv) Five nails, all with wood attached to the shank.
32	1013	B1	Fe	Pressed-metal plate/nails/split pin	25	i) 22 pressed-metal fragments, plus some miniscule fragments. Wgt: 38g. ii) One nail with Cu stud attached. iii) One split-pin/staple with vestige of pressed plate attached, used for attaching the grip/handle to the back-plate and through the side of the coffin. Distance between the clenched terminals and the pressed-plate fragment indicates that the wood through which it passed measured c 18mm thick.
33	1014	B4	Cu	Studs	45	45 complete studs, of that number - 27 with wood adhering to shank, 6 with white material comprising tiny stones (?plaster), 11 clean studs. Studs have domed heads and integral square-sectioned shanks. Two sizes represented - 1 - heads measuring c13mm in dia and c 11mm high. 2- Five very small studs with heads measuring c 6mm in dia and c6-9mm in height.
34	1014	B4	Fe	Nail	2	Incomplete, heads missing. Tapered shank with wood adhering to surface. L: 37mm and 30mm
35	1014	B4	Fe	Pressed-metal plate	3	Small fragments of undiagnostic pressed metal sheet, tinned.



MOLA
Kent House
30 Billing Road
Northampton
NN1 5DQ
01604 809800
www.mola.org.uk
business@mola.org.uk