



ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH
Paradise Road
London TW9

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Watching Brief

January 2019



**CHURCH OF ST MARY MAGDALENE
Paradise Road
Richmond upon Thames
London TW9**

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Report on an archaeological watching brief

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Summary

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by MOLA at St Mary Magdalene Church, Paradise Road, Richmond upon Thames. Peter R Bowyer, the Parish Architect, on behalf of the Richmond Team Ministry, commissioned this report from MOLA.

The Grade II listed church of St Mary Magdalene, mainly dates from the 18th – 20th centuries, but the lower parts of the tower date to the end of the 15th/beginning of the 16th centuries.*

The archaeological potential of the site, and the likely impact on this of the proposed refurbishment programme on the church was presented in an Historic Environment Assessment produced by MOLA in February 2015. This concluded that archaeological remains that might be affected by the proposed refurbishment were post-medieval burials and foundations of earlier phases of the church and possible later medieval burials and foundations of the chapel of Sheen.

Four geotechnical test pits were excavated in April 2015 (MOLA 2015b.)

In accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA 2017), a watching brief was carried out on the site between October 2017 and August 2018. During this period extensive shallow excavations by contractors in various parts of the church and churchyard were monitored by MOLA. The excavations were generally relatively shallow (rarely deeper than 0.50m) and so natural deposits were rarely exposed. A narrow strip of natural sand survived to maximum height of 10.07m OD in the north aisle, but had been truncated by grave digging and structures associated with the church.

Several structures were recorded in the north aisle that was built c 1699, including a stepped red brick footing for a colonnade, which may have been the foundation for the original north wall of the church. Adjoining fragmentary brick footings and a truncated foundation possibly represented the remains of a north porch. Exposed masonry of the present north wall mainly comprised random courses of red brick, but also included large blocks of Reigate stone, and was probably built c 1699. Later structures include a row of brick pier bases for the north gallery built in 1864-66 and removed in 1904, a burial vault capped with stone slabs, part of a possible brick-lined grave, three fragmentary unidentified structures and part of the Edwardian underfloor heating system. Two lead coffins were also found.

In the south aisle there were several brick burial vaults and another lead coffin. One of the vaults was assumed to be the resting place of the actor Edmund Kean d 1833, though there is some confusion over where he was actually interred. There was also a row of brick bases, that probably supported the south gallery built in 1864-66 and removed 1904, as well as more of the Edwardian underfloor heating system installed in 1904.

In the nave, there was a brick burial vault and another brick structure of unknown function, several brick plinths are probably for the west gallery. Two coffins had nameplates for Miss Hester Hubbald (d 1779) and Dame Mary Pechell (d 1800). There was also rubble foundations used for the Tudor tower built c 1487. A flue was part of a 19th century heating system that probably leads to an opening seen in an earlier test pit in the west wall of the church for a chimney.

Work outside the stair tower in June 2018 found the original face of the Tudor tower built c 1487 and the later knapped flint exterior. A possible earlier doorway infilled with 17th century

brick was cut through by the current external doorway. The original access to the stair turret was from inside the tower and is now blocked.

Disarticulated human bones were found throughout the groundworks and were reburied in their respective areas. Several fragments of moulded stone were retained by the church.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

- 1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out by MOLA at St Mary Magdalene Church, Paradise Road, Richmond upon Thames (hereafter called 'the site') between 04 October 2017 and 29 August 2018 (see Fig 1). The areas investigated included the north aisle (October 2017), the south aisle (February 2018), outside the tower (June 2018) and the nave (August 2018). This document is the report on that work.
- 1.1.2 The site is located on the north side of Paradise Road, and is bounded to the north, east and west by properties fronting onto George Street, Church Walk and Victoria Place. The Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid Ref. for the centre of site is 517932 174827. The OS 10m Contour crosses the northern third of the site from east to west, and a benchmark with a value of 10.56m OD is located on the south-west face of the canted north porch, situated in the north-west corner of the church.
- 1.1.3 The site lies within the Central Richmond Conservation Area (Conservation Area 17) as designated by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, and is also within an Archaeological Priority Area. The church is a Grade II* listed building mainly dating from the 18th - 20th centuries, but with the lower parts of the tower dating to the end of the 15th or early-16th centuries. The building is surrounded by a churchyard, which was closed to new burials in 1854. The war memorial in the north-east corner of the churchyard is judged by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames to be 'of townscape merit', and was listed Grade 2 in 2018.
- 1.1.4 An *Historic Environment Assessment* (HEA) was previously prepared by MOLA, which covers the whole area of the site (MOLA 2015a). This document should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site, and the initial interpretation of its archaeological potential. It concluded that archaeological remains that might be affected by the proposed refurbishment were post-medieval burials and foundations of earlier phases of the church and possible later medieval burials and foundations of the chapel of Sheen.
- 1.1.5 A three-part draft report assessing the architecture and history of the church, the parish rooms and the churchyard has also been prepared by Paul Velluet – Chartered Architect (Velluet 2015), which provides an invaluable assessment of the buildings.
- 1.1.6 The excavation of four test pits in advance of work for the refurbishment of the church was monitored by MOLA on the 16th and 18th of April 2015. The results of this exercise were presented in a previous report (MOLA 2015b).
- 1.1.7 All archaeological work for the present phase was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) (MOLA 2017).

1.2 Planning background

- 1.2.1 The legislative and planning framework in which the watching brief took place was fully set out in the *Historic Environment Assessment*, which formed the project design for the evaluation (MOLA 2015a, section 9).
- 1.2.2 The watching brief was carried out under a faculty (No 3128) of the diocese of Southwark.

1.3 Scope of the watching brief

- 1.3.1 An archaeological watching brief is normally a limited fieldwork exercise. It is not the same as full excavation, though individual features may be fully excavated.
- 1.3.2 Areas investigated for the watching brief are indicated on a plan (See Fig 2).
- 1.3.3 The watching brief was carried out within the terms of the relevant Standard for watching brief specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA 2014).
- 1.3.4 All work has been undertaken within the research priorities established in the Museum of London's *A research framework for London Archaeology*, 2002.
- 1.3.5 All work was undertaken within research aims and objectives established in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* for the watching brief (MOLA 2017, section 2.2).

2 Topographical and historical background

The topographical and historical background of the site and its environs is covered by the Historic Environment Assessment (MOLA 2015a), but is briefly summarised here for the convenience of the reader.

2.1 Topography

- 2.1.1 The topography and underlying drift geology is described in the *Historic Environment Assessment* (MOLA 2015a, section 3, fig 3). The main points are briefly summarised here. Ground level on the site lies between 9.5m Ordnance Datum (OD) and 12.5m OD. The site lies on river terrace deposits of the Taplow Gravel Formation, which are predicted to lie at 8.9–11.9m OD (c 0.6m below ground level/bgl). The terrace gravel might be overlaid by brickearth. If present, the brickearth is predicted to lie at 9.2–12.2m OD (0.3m bgl).

2.2 Archaeology

Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 The location of the site on terrace gravel and close to the River Thames would have made an ideal choice for early settlement and other activity. Evidence for prehistoric activity in the locality comprises a number of residual Neolithic and Bronze Age artefacts recovered from nearby sites – the closest was a worked flint found c 85m west of the site.

Roman

- 2.2.2 Little evidence for Roman activity has been found in Richmond. Nevertheless, there is evidence from several sites along the Thames corridor in west London that the riverside was widely settled and farmed during the Roman period. For example, evidence for rural settlements and field systems has been found at Brentford, Isleworth, Twickenham Bridge and Kingston.

Medieval

- 2.2.3 Richmond was originally called Shene. Henry VII decreed in 1501 that it should henceforth be named the Palace and Manor of Richmond after his title of Earl of Richmond (in North Yorkshire). It seems that the village quickly followed suite.
- 2.2.4 A chapel is likely to have been built on the site in the early 13th century. It is possible that remains of this chapel and any associated burial ground may exist on the site.

Post-medieval

- 2.2.5 It is probable that the church was, at least in part, rebuilt at the end of the 15th century and the beginning of the 16th century, perhaps in association with the rebuilding of the nearby royal Palace of Richmond (previously known as Shene Palace) by Henry VII.
- 2.2.6 Two wills indicate that the tower was built in around 1487. The first, dated 17 July 1487, was that of Sir William Hyne of Shene (Surrey Record Society No XVII, 1922, p 55). An item in the will read “*For the building of the steeple of the same*”

church 20s” which would imply that the construction of the tower was either in progress or planned. Hyne’s will is augmented by that of John Prein dated 13 July 1488 (Surrey Record Society No XVII, 1922, p 82). This states “*Also I bequeath to the steeple iis.iiiiid*” indicating that construction of the tower was still in progress. Both men requested to be buried at St Mary Magdalene, Sir William before the high altar. This was presumably within the medieval church to which the tower was being added.

2.2.7 Piper (1946, 10) records two gifts of £10 from Henry to “*the Parish Clerke of Richmond towards ye building of his new church*” in 1504 and 1505. Piper further quotes from White Kennett’s “*Complete History of England*” of 1706 where he implies that the church was stone-built and suggests that its architect may have been either John Alcock, Bishop of Ely or Richard Fox, Bishop of Winchester, with the likelihood that it was Fox as Alcock died in 1500. It is not known how this relates to the building of the tower in the 1480s.

2.2.8 The existing church mainly dates from the mid-18th century, though the tower dates from the end of the 15th century/beginning of the 16th century. The parish register records burials on the site since 1584 and it is likely that it was used also for burials earlier than this. The detailed structural history of the church is covered in a *Statement of Significance* (Velluet 2015). In summary:

- 1615-7: New south aisle built.
- 1671: A vestry house built in the south-west corner of the church.
- 1699: William III made a grant of £200 towards building a new north aisle.
- 1750: The nave and south aisle were rebuilt in Georgian classical style.
- C 1825: A large burial vault is mentioned in the parish register as having recently being built under the “robing room” (the vestry of 1671?).
- 1854: The Burial Ground was closed for burials.
- 1864-6: re-ordering of the interior of the church to designs by AW Blomfield, including relocation of existing ledger stones, the insertion of new pews, the erection of galleries at the west end of the north and south aisles. Structural works included the construction of a north porch, extension to the south and north of the chancel. The vestry house of 1671 was removed.
- 1903-4: the east end of the church was rebuilt by George F Bodley. The galleries were removed.

3 The watching brief

3.1 Field methodology

- 3.1.1 Areas of ground reduction for a new under floor heating system were excavated with hand tools by the client's contractors. Features were recorded by offset measurements taken from adjacent walls and plotted onto scale plans traced from ground floor plans of the church provided by Peter R Bowyer, the Parish Architect, on behalf of the client. Following the watching brief, this information was digitally plotted by best fit onto the Ordnance Survey grid by the MOLA surveyors. Scale plans and sections were drawn and numbered contexts were allocated as appropriate. Structural features and strata were cleaned and photographed.
- 3.1.2 The heights of observed structures and other features were recorded relative to Ordnance Datum. The heights of features exposed inside the church were related to OD spot-heights on the floor of the church as shown on a digital plan provided by Peter Bowyer (dwg 11/09/2017).

3.2 Recording methodology

- 3.2.1 All archaeological investigation and recording during the monitoring was carried out in accordance with the *Written Schemes of Investigation* (MOLA 2017).

3.3 Site archive

Item	No.
Stratigraphic matrix (on 2 plan sheets)	1
Digital photograph register	5
Trench record sheets	0
Context sheets	76
Sections	6
Digital photographs	207

4 Results of the watching brief

4.1 Methodology

- 4.1.1 There were several phases of archaeological investigation on the site, which began in April 2015 when the excavation of four geotechnical test pits was monitored (MOLA 2015a).
- 4.1.2 This fieldwork was followed by an episodic archaeological watching brief during successive phases of contractors' groundworks in the church, which began in October 2017 and ended in August 2018. The areas affected by this work comprised the north and south aisles, the nave, and an area external to the tower. The deposits and features recorded are described by area of investigation, (see Fig 2).
- 4.1.3 The watching brief was carried out under Diocese of Southwark faculty no 3128.
- 4.1.4 Burials were not disturbed and disarticulated human bones were retained by the church for reburial in the area they were found. All moulded stones were kept by the church.

4.2 North aisle: area of general ground reduction

Location	North aisle
Dimensions	18.90m east–west, up to 5.60m north–south and 0.40–0.54m deep
Modern ground level	10.30–10.34m OD
Base of modern fill/floor	10.06–10.24m OD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	>0.45m (probably more than 2m)
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed (base not seen)	9.88m OD
Top of surviving natural	10.07m OD
Level of base of trench	9.88–10.25m OD

Historic summary

- 4.2.1 The current north aisle was built in 1699 with a refurbishment in 1864–66 that included a new gallery with access from a new north porch. An underfloor heating system and reflooring occurred in 1904 when the gallery was removed.

Natural

- 4.2.2 A narrow strip of brown natural silty sand, [13], survived at the east end of the north aisle to a maximum height of 10.07m OD. The deposit was truncated to the north and south by the north wall of the church and the Edwardian underfloor heating duct [30] respectively, and to the east by the digging of successive graves.

Former north wall and possible porch

- 4.2.3 Stepped wall foundation [14] was probably one of the earliest structural features exposed (Photo 1). It currently supports the northern colonnade, but probably represents the truncated remains of the original north wall of the early-16th century church. It was made of orange-red to dark red bricks without frogs bonded with light greyish/buff mortar, but included at least one piece of roughly

squared Reigate stone.



Photo 1 Wall [14] with walls [16] and [18] looking west

- 4.2.4 The truncated remains of two adjoining walls, [16] and [18], extended north from wall [14] (Photo 1 and Photo 2). They were made of similar red brick bonded and mortar. Wall [18] also included a fragment of Reigate stone. Wall [16] was aligned with a brick structure located to the north on an east–west alignment, [21]. They were constructed of similar materials. It is conjectured that these three structures might be remnants of a northern porch (Peter Bowyer pers comm), although their position is possibly a little too far to the west for this. The conjectured porch would have been about 3.75m square.



Photo 2 North aisle looking east showing walls [16], [18] and [21] in the middle distance

Current north wall

- 4.2.5 The ground reduction exposed masonry of the north wall of the church, [29], to a depth of 0.50m below floor level (the north elevation of this wall was recorded as context [1] in TPE1) (Photo 3). It was made mainly of red brick (B = 108mm, T= 58mm, L=220mm), but also included squared blocks of Reigate stone up to 0.56m across, built to courses and bonded with friable grey mortar flecked with lime. Its coursing was much less regular than that seen on the north face (context [1]) especially towards the east end of the north aisle. The nature of the masonry would accord with the proposed construction date of 1699.



Photo 3 Detail of wall [29] looking north

Former western gallery

- 4.2.6 A stepped base for a pier or column, [28], lay about 3.1m east of the west end of the aisle. Only two courses of very dark greyish purple brick survived (top at 10.24m OD). The brickwork was bonded with grey mortar. The structure was probably associated with a former western gallery.

Former northern gallery

- 4.2.7 A row of four square bases, [22]–[25] (Photo 4), and one slightly larger roughly square robber/clearance pit on the same alignment, [36], lay approximately 2.0m south of the north wall of the church. The features mark the positions of five piers/columns that would have supported the northern gallery – built in 1864 and removed in 1904. The bases were made very dark red/purplish bricks with shallow frogs bonded with hard greyish brown mortar. Base [22] was capped by a roughly square stone, 75mm thick, and survived to a height of 10.10m OD. The others survived to heights of between 9.88 and 9.98m OD. The pit, [36], was filled with a mixture of loose brick rubble and silt [35].



Photo 4 North aisle, brick plinth [25] with plinth [24] in background, looking west

Other structures

- 4.2.8 There were three unidentified masonry structures. Two were built against wall foundation [14]. Two of them comprised a mixture of red brick founded on fragments of stone masonry. One, [15], consisted of two courses of brickwork on at least one course of rough hewn and roughly squared stone, at least some of which was Reigate stone. The other, [17], comprised a single course of brick on a course of Reigate stone, which was generally squared, but included a moulded piece.
- 4.2.9 The third structure, [19], was apparently truncated by the Edwardian heating duct. All that survived was a single row of seven dark purple/grey brick laid side by side on bed and bonded with friable buff mortar.

Burials

- 4.2.10 There was an area of dark brown earth, [33], that extended across most of the area of ground reduction in the north aisle. This deposit probably represented the fills of multiple graves probably dug over a considerable period dating back to before the construction of the north aisle, when the area formed part of the churchyard. The graves would almost certainly have cut deeply into the natural deposits completely removing evidence of earlier activity. The thin strip of natural sand [13] at the east end of the north aisle marked the eastern extent of disturbance by burials. During general ground reduction the contractors recovered a small assemblage of disarticulated human bone and one or two iron coffin grips from this deposit.
- 4.2.11 Superficially, the deposit looked homogeneous (especially under the prevailing lighting conditions), although rapid trowelling of the deposit in the north-east part of the north aisle revealed a number of vaguely grave-shaped features, [37] and [38], defined by looser/softer ground and/or a greater frequency of fragments of building material. In addition an area of softer ground was noted in the areas between pier base [24] and pit [36], corresponding to the original line of an aisle between the pews (see MOLA 2015a, fig 10).
- 4.2.12 A burial vault, [20], was located near the north-west corner of the north aisle

(Photo 6). Its walls were of dark red brick laid in alternating courses of headers and stretchers (at least at its east end). It was capped with three massive stone slabs between 60 and 100mm thick.

- 4.2.13 Further east, a partially exposed structure, [26], was provisionally identified as a brick-lined grave (a term used by Litten 1991, 207) to describe structures narrower than burial vaults and capable of accommodating at least two coffins side by side). Its walls were made of frogged bricks; a mixture of both red and yellow London stock.
- 4.2.14 Three lead coffins or shells, probably of 18th-century date, were partially exposed. Originally these would probably have had both an inner and an outer wooden coffin. One coffin, [27], near the west end of the north aisle, lay at 10.06m OD (Photo 5). It was 2.07m long and presumably contained the remains of an adult. A coffin plate was found on it bearing the inscription "M... / Sarah Huxley / Died 8th June / 1725 / In her 64[th] Year. The other two lead coffins, [34] and un-numbered, were much smaller and would have held an infant or small child. No plates were found on either coffin. They lay further east at about 9.83m OD.

Edwardian underfloor heating system

- 4.2.15 The trench built Edwardian underfloor heating duct, [30], was partially exposed in the eastern half of the aisle (Photo 7). Its walls were made of pink and yellow bricks bonded with hard greyish mortar. Its roof was made of ledger stones and stone slabs. Two rectangular iron grilles, 1.2m x 0.75m, were set in the roof. The floor of the duct lay at c. 9.50m OD. Assuming that the structure has a base about 0.30m thick the duct would have truncated deposits within its footprint down to approximately 9.20m OD.



Photo 5 North aisle, lead shell [27], looking south



Photo 6 North aisle, burial vault [20], looking west



Photo 7 North aisle, Edwardian heating duct [30] with metal grille, looking south

4.3 South aisle: area of general ground reduction

Location	South aisle
Dimensions	18.5m E/W x 8.0m N/S x 0.40-0.50m deep
Modern ground level/top of slab	10.31-33 m OD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	10.0-10.20m OD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	unknown
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	9.70m OD
Top of surviving natural	Not seen
Level of base of trench	c 9.70-9.77m OD

Historic summary

- 4.3.1 The original south aisle was built in 1615–17 with a gallery in 1683. The current south aisle was rebuilt c 1750 with a refurbishment in 1864–66 that included a new gallery with access from a new south-west porch. In 1904, the gallery was removed and an underfloor heating system was added, and reflooring took place.

Natural

- 4.3.2 Natural was not seen.

Wall

- 4.3.3 An east-west wall, [42], that was constructed mainly of flint nodules with occasional brick, supported a colonnade along the south side of the nave (Photo 10). There were four small brick bases [53] cut into the top of this wall each supporting a stone drum measuring 0.50m. Above each was a brick plinth supporting four plastered timber Tuscan columns dating to c 1750 (Velluete 2015 9). Further investigation of the bases showed that the timber columns continued through the thickness of the brick bases and rested on the stone wall. This wall may be an earlier south wall of the church and date to the early post-medieval period, perhaps even to the Tudor period. It is not clear when or why the bases of the columns were encased in brick, but it is possible that it was associated with the insertion of the pews in 1864-6 as the column rendering stopped at the level of the inserted pew platform (P Bowyer *pers comm*).

Brick structures

- 4.3.4 Cutting into wall [42] at its east end was a brick structure, [41], currently its function is unknown.
- 4.3.5 An L-shaped fragment of brick wall, [43], was possibly part of a burial vault. The south side had been truncated by the Edwardian heating system, [53,] that was built in 1904.
- 4.3.6 A more substantial section of brick wall, [44], is part of a burial vault. Later truncation had removed its south and west sides; the south-west corner survives.
- 4.3.7 A fragment of red brick wall, [45], that was heavily truncated to the north by the heating system, [53], was part of a burial vault.
- 4.3.8 There was a brick burial vault, [46], that measured 2.90m E/W by 1.50m N/S (Photo 8 and Photo 9). It was built of pinky yellow bricks, and where visible some of the bricks had deep frogs suggesting that at least part of this vault had been rebuilt in the 20th century. The faces of the bricks lining the inner chamber were painted white.

- 4.3.9 Another brick burial vault, [47], measured 2.45m E/W by 1.25m N/S (Photo 8 and Photo 9). It was built of red/orange bricks and the north and south walls showed it was originally vaulted. Its highest survival was at 10.0m OD.
- 4.3.10 Brick burial vault, [48], measured 2.50m E/W by was at least 2.05m N/S. This was built of red/orange bricks and the south side showed it was originally vaulted. The north and east sides were not seen at this level. Highest survival was at 10.13m OD.
- 4.3.11 Brick burial vault, [54], measured 2.58m E/W by 1.50m N/S. This was built of red bricks and was still vaulted, although some collapsing had occurred where a ledger stone was inserted in the aisle floor in 1975. Probably occurring at the same time an area to the west had been repaired with concrete. Highest survival was at 10.23m OD. There is much uncertainty about the building sequence in this area. It was likely to have been the site of the vestry built in 1671, and so vault [54] may be the common crypt mentioned in the parish registers. The ledger stone laid is inscribed;
- 'Beneath this stone lies Edmund Kean, Actor, Died 1833 The sun's bright child'*
- 4.3.12 However, an earlier wall mounted memorial located outside the church and removed in 1904 says he was buried in the nearby church or common crypt, which is probably in the churchyard. The 1975 Kean slab was later moved to the adjacent wall. There is some evidence that Kean was buried in a vault to the west of the south aisle, and so it is possible that its memorial was moved when the new porch was erected in this location in about 1864 (P Bowyer pers comm). It may even be possible that Kean himself was re-interred at this time.
- 4.3.13 Brick burial vault, [55], measured 2.70m E/W by at least 1.15m N/S, as the south wall was not seen, possibly being removed by burial vault [54]. Highest survival was at 10.13m OD. An area to the north-east appears to be a small square base of bricks that may have supported something such as a brick column or pillar. This may be evidence of an entrance on the east side of this vault. A small area of brick wall is built over the arched roof of [54] showing it was definitely built after [54], being slotted into the small space between burial vault [54] and [48] just to the north.
- 4.3.14 The south wall of the aisle, [56], runs east-west and is built of red bricks measuring 0.10m broad, 60mm thick and 0.22m long (Photo 11). The coursing is alternating courses of stretchers and headers and was built over foundation offsets with depth. This could be the 1617 build as the south aisle was rebuilt in 1750.
- 4.3.15 The west wall of the aisle, [57], runs north-south and was built of similar sized red bricks to wall [56]. It was built over the offsets of the south wall of the aisle, [56], to the south so it appears to be have been built later. Certainly, the foundation appears a little rougher than that of [56] and the actual upstanding wall is noticeably askew being built at an angle across the below ground foundation. To the south there is a 0.10m difference but 7.10m to the north this has become a 0.40m difference, suggesting that the wall had been totally rebuilt, probably when the south aisle was rebuilt in 1750. The 1750 work was again altered when the porch was added to the west in 1864-6. This involved the blocking of the original door to the south aisle and construction of a new entrance at ground level and another at high level one to the new gallery that was accessed via stairs in the porch. There was evidence that the south end of the footings of the west wall had been partially rebuilt. Although the upper courses more or less tied in with those of the footing s of the south wall, there was a mis-matching of the courses broadly below the off-set of the south wall. Some of the bricks in this area also had a thin spread of plaster over their surface, perhaps indicating that they had once been rendered. It is possible that this represents a blocking of a passage to the "common crypt" that was perhaps backfilled when the porch was built.

- 4.3.16 Three large fragments of moulded stone laid flat at 9.88-9.92m OD are possibly a base or plinth, [49]. Later, probably in the 1864–66 works, a brick plinth [50] was placed over this feature.
- 4.3.17 Seven roughly constructed brick piers, [51], of orange/red bricks and some tile fragments, formed a line running east-west, though the furthest west one was slightly off this axis (Photo 8 and Photo 9). These were all at 9.93m OD and possibly supported the original gallery of 1683 or the floor to this aisle when it was rebuilt in 1750.
- 4.3.18 There were also three neatly built brick piers, [50], of yellow bricks, formed a line running east-west (Photo 8). The highest was at 10.26m OD and the others were at 10.12m OD, so had probably lost a course of bricks. These were for the cast iron columns used to support the gallery built in 1864–66 and removed in 1904.

Burials

- 4.3.19 A lead coffin or shell [40], probably of 18th century date, was fully exposed at c 9.85m OD (Photo 10). This was laid east-west and was 2.06m long so presumably was for an adult. The lid was collapsing partially exposing an inner wooden coffin. No nameplate survived.
- 4.3.20 After the initial ground reduction in the south aisle, another lead coffin with a nameplate was found and is now commemorated with Guise Hall 1690–1761, carved in the new floor of the south aisle above its location (P Bowyer pers comm).

Edwardian underfloor heating system

- 4.3.21 The brick built Edwardian heating ducts, [52,] were exposed. These were constructed in 1904 of yellowy pink bricks (see above) and had two iron grills on the top exposed at the current floor level of 10.31m OD.



Photo 8 South aisle, vaults [46] and [47] with brick plinths [50] and [51], looking east



Photo 9 Vault [46] with row of brick plinths [51], looking west



Photo 10 Mortared foundation [42] with lead shell [40], looking north-west



Photo 11 Detail of wall [56] looking south

4.4 The nave

Location	Nave
Dimensions	20.80m E/W x 7.50m N/S x 0.40-0.50m deep
Modern ground level/top of slab	10.35m OD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	10.10m OD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	unknown
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	c 9.85m OD
Top of surviving natural	Not seen
Level of base of trench	c 9.85m OD

Historic summary

- 4.4.1 Nothing of the original Tudor nave remains above ground. A two-tiered western gallery was added in 1750. The largely Georgian interior was removed in 1865–66 when the ledger stones were also moved. A new heating system and reflooring occurred in 1904.

Natural

- 4.4.2 Natural was not seen.

Brick structures

- 4.4.3 A brick vault, [61], measuring 2.75m (E/W) x 1.55m (N/S) with an arched roof and

- accessed from the west end (Photo 13). Probably early 19th century in date
- 4.4.4 A red brick structure, [62], that measured 2.40m (E/W) x 2.10m (N/S) does not appear to be a crypt as it was open topped and there was no evidence for an arched roof. It was probably early 18th century in date, a later brick plinth, [64], for the 1750 western gallery was built over one of its walls.
- 4.4.5 A fragment of red brick wall, [73] located under the east end of the tower, possibly 19th century in date, may be part of a tomb (Photo 14).

Burials

- 4.4.6 A collapsing wooden coffin, [58], measured 2.10m (E/W) and 0.60m wide (Photo 13). The lid was decorated with copper studs and had a nameplate. It was later possible to decipher a name Miss Hester Hubbald aged 19 years and the date of death as 1779. This coffin was a shell for an inner lead coffin.
- 4.4.7 A wooden coffin, [63], measuring 1.70m (E/W) and 0.60m wide, strangely all the copper stud decoration on the lid had been removed though a name plate (0.40m x 0.30m) identified Dame Mary Pechell who died in 1800 (Photo 16). The 1864 plan of the ledger stones has a Pechell dated 1765.

Former western gallery

- 4.4.8 Two brick plinths, [64] and [65], were to support metal columns to hold up the western gallery built in 1750 (Photo 17). Plinth [64] was built into structure [62].
- 4.4.9 Two 19th century stepped brick plinths, [69] and [70], may also be supporting the western gallery, which was two tiered. Another stepped plinth, ([28]), found in the north aisle is also thought to be a support for this gallery.

Walls

- 4.4.10 The south face of wall, [14], separating the nave and the northern aisle was exposed. This was brick built though a test pit near its east end showed that its southern face, at least, was founded on course stone rubble with occasional brick inclusions (Photo 12). It may be the original north wall of the early-16th century church.
- 4.4.11 The north face of wall, [42], separating the nave from the south aisle was exposed. The wall was heavily mortared.
- 4.4.12 A fragment of wall, [74], with red brick and greensand fragments may be part of the west wall of the original church that was built before the Tudor tower was added c 1487 (Photo 14).
- 4.4.13 A brick plinth, [75], which the Tudor arch uses as a base, was built over an earlier brick and flint mortared surface, [76], which may be part of the entrance to the original, medieval, church (Photo 15).
- 4.4.14 Later work in the area of the tower exposed more of the rubble foundations, [76], that the brick plinth and Tudor arch was built on.



Photo 12. Test pit exposing the southern phase of the footings to wall [14].

Walls/unknown structures

- 4.4.15 A fragment of red brick wall, [59] was located near the south-east corner of the nave. It was possibly of 18th century date, but of unknown function.
- 4.4.16 There were three separate fragments of red brick wall, [66], [67] and [68] running north-south parallel with the west wall of the nave (Photo 17). They appeared to have been cut through, and if they were originally part of the same wall, its function is unclear. A similar fragment, ([15]), was found in the north aisle.
- 4.4.17 Two fragments of brick wall or plinths, [71] and [72], appear to be 19th century in date, though their function is unclear they may be part of a vault. Although [71] appears to be over the tile flue of [60] this may be due to later slumping.

19th century under floor heating system

- 4.4.18 A circular flue pipe made of ridge tiles and a rectangular brick structure, [60], is part of a 19th century heating system (Photo 13). The flue included a small brick box with a metal hatch that allowed access to the flue. The larger brick structure at the east end the flue had a hole measuring 0.45m x 0.38m, presumably where fumes were sucked out from a stove positioned above it. The heating system probably connected with the flue found inserted in the west wall of the north aisle seen in TP3, and connected to the external chimney noted in a picture dated 1851 (Fig 9 MOLA 2015).



Photo 13 The nave with the flue of 19th century heating system [60], burial vault [61] and burial [58], looking west



Photo 14 Walls [73 and [74] looking south



Photo 15 Stone Tudor arch on brick plinth [75] and mortared foundation [76], looking north



Photo 16 The Pechell name plate on coffin [63] looking north



Photo 17 Brick structures at the west end of the nave, looking north

4.5 External tower area

- 4.5.1 The area between the south porch and the stair turret on the south side of the tower was investigated to improve drainage and exposed the base of the stair turret.
- 4.5.2 A visit on 07/06/18 observed the footings of the Tudor tower (built c 1487) and a section (S6) was drawn of two faces (a third was inaccessible due to a nearby tomb).
- 4.5.3 Below ground the original face of the Tudor was exposed, while above ground was the later knapped flint exterior of the church (Photo 18). The original face comprised mainly of faced ragstone blocks along with faced blocks of a fine grained yellow sandstone, possibly Reigate stone, used for the plinth and quoins.
- 4.5.4 A 17th century brick infill to a possible earlier doorway was noted in the south face of the turret. It was cut through by an external doorway that currently gives access to the stair turret. The original access was from inside the tower and is now blocked.



Photo 18 Face of original Tudor tower exposed with later knapped flint face, looking east

4.6 The finds

- 4.6.1 Although occasional fragments of pottery and coffin fittings were seen, no finds were retained. Several fragments of moulded stone were found; these were photographed and retained by the church.
- 4.6.2 Disarticulated human bone and coffin fittings/furniture were gathered up and later reburied in the respective areas they were found.



Photo 19 An example of moulded stone, possibly from window tracery of uncertain date

5 Archaeological potential

5.1 Answering original research aims

What is the nature and level of natural deposits?

- 5.1.1 A deposit of 'sandy clay and gravel', [12], recorded by Peter Bowyer at 9.65m OD in TPE2 under the footings of the south wall of the church, may have been truncated natural terrace gravel.
- 5.1.2 A narrow strip of brown natural silty sand, [13], survived at the east end of the north aisle to a maximum height of 10.07m OD.

What are the earliest deposits identified?

- 5.1.3 The results suggest that the survival of masonry structures in the church of Tudor and possibly earlier date is more extensive than hitherto suspected.

What are the latest deposits identified?

- 5.1.4 Probably the latest structural feature recorded was the Edwardian heating system built in 1904.

What is the extent of modern disturbance

- 5.1.5 Substantial disturbance appears to have occurred during remodelling of the church in 1904 by G F Bodley. This saw the demolition of the Tudor chancel, the early 19th-century vestry, the easternmost two bays of the north aisle and its gallery, the eastern end of the south aisle and its gallery and installation of the new heating system (Velluet 2015, 19–20).

Are any burials present?

- 5.1.6 A series of brick burial vaults were recorded during groundworks, and those in the south aisle could be tentatively identified by reference to a plan of the ledger stones made in 1864/65 before they were moved to their current locations (see Fig 10, MOLA 2015a).
- 5.1.7 There were also six burials in lead coffins; one was revealed outside in TPE2, two others in the north aisle, one in the south aisle and two in the nave. The two burials in the nave had nameplates on their outer timber coffin lids that could be read. These were Dame Mary Pechell 1800 and Miss Hester Hubbold 1779. In addition, another lead coffin found in the south aisle (though not seen by MOLA) was identified as Guise Hall.

If so, can they be linked to known individuals?

- 5.1.8 Although some of the ledger stones were illegible in 1864/65 most could be read supplying names and dates of internment. Although none were accessible during the 2017–18 works, a full record already exists researched by local historian Valerie Boyes (Velluet 2015 10).
- 5.1.9 Burial vaults tentatively identified in the south aisle are:

Context	Identity
[27]	Sarah Huxley 1725
[45]	Smallwood 1613 (or 1615)
[46]	Paynter 1844
[47]	Charley (or G Harley)

[48]

Drybutter 1806

- 5.1.10 Vault [54] had a modern ledger slab suggesting actor Edmund Keen (d 1833) was interred within but this is probably wrong.

Are there any remains present related to earlier church structures?

- 5.1.11 A heavily mortared foundation supporting the south colonnade of the nave may belong to the original medieval church. However, the opposite wall supporting the north colonnade was brick-built, though with stone rubble foundations to the south, so may be part of the Tudor reconstruction of the church. A similar mortared foundation was seen to the west may also be part of the medieval church. The Tudor arch and tower were built c 1487 over these.

Is there any evidence for human occupation or activity that pre-dates the church?

- 5.1.12 No evidence was found for earlier human activity or occupation, although any such evidence is likely to have been completely removed by various phases of construction relating to the church and associated burial vaults and by grave digging.

5.2 Significance of the data

- 5.2.1 The parish church is one of the most important surviving historic buildings in the borough of Richmond (with a few notable exceptions – such as structures relating to Richmond Palace). The results of the watching brief provide new information relating to the structural history of the building and to burials in the church. The archaeological remains are therefore undoubtedly of considerable local significance and interest. There is, however, nothing to suggest that the remains are of regional or national importance.

6 Publication and archiving

- 6.1.1 The results of the watching brief will be made publicly available by means of a database in digital form, to permit inclusion of the site data in any future academic researches into the development of Richmond.
- 6.1.2 The site archive containing the original records will be stored in accordance with the terms of the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA 2017) with the Museum of London Archaeological Archive within 12 months of the end of the watching brief.
- 6.1.3 A short note on the results of the watching brief will appear in the annual round-up of the *London Archaeologist* and *Post-Medieval Archaeology*.

7 Acknowledgements

- 7.1.1 MOLA is grateful to the Richmond Team Ministry for funding the monitoring of the geotechnical test pits and the watching brief phases at St Mary Magdalene Church, and to Peter Bowyer (Parish Architect), who commissioned the work on their behalf.
- 7.1.2 The authors would like to thank Peter Bowyer and Paul Velluet (Architectural Advisor) for information about the structural history of the church and for assistance with the interpretation of some structural features. Thanks to William and his men for their assistance and cooperation during the project. Bob Cowie's special thanks go to volunteers Les Andrews, Laurie Elvin and Scott McCracken for help recording remains in the north aisle.
- 7.1.3 The authors are also grateful to colleagues at MOLA for their assistance, notably Leonie Pett and Michael Smith who successively managed the project, Neville Constantine, Vicki Ewens and Mark Burch for digitising site plans.

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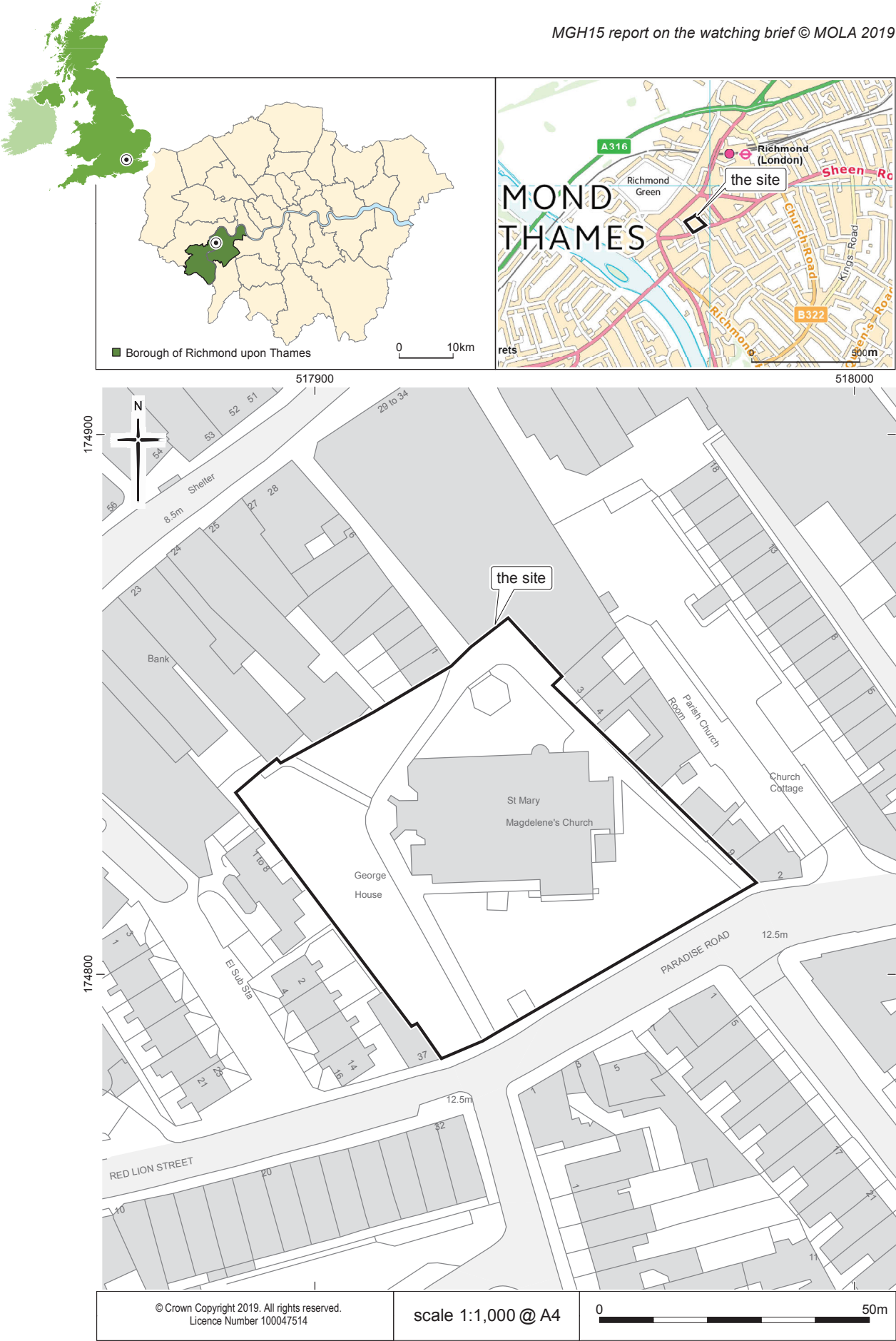


Fig 1 Site location



Fig 2 Watching brief areas (including 2015 test pits)

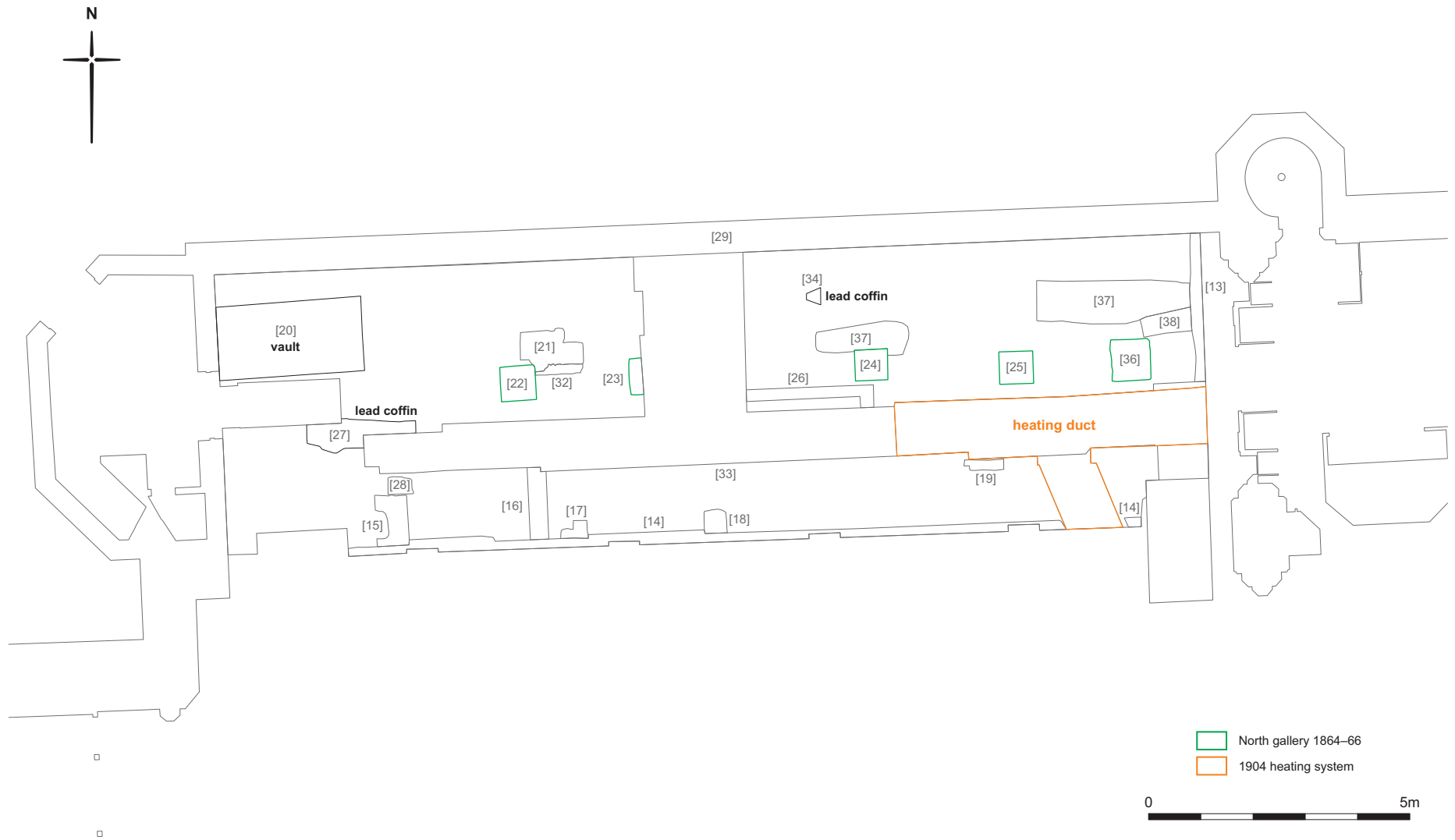


Fig 3 Plan of archaeological features in the north aisle

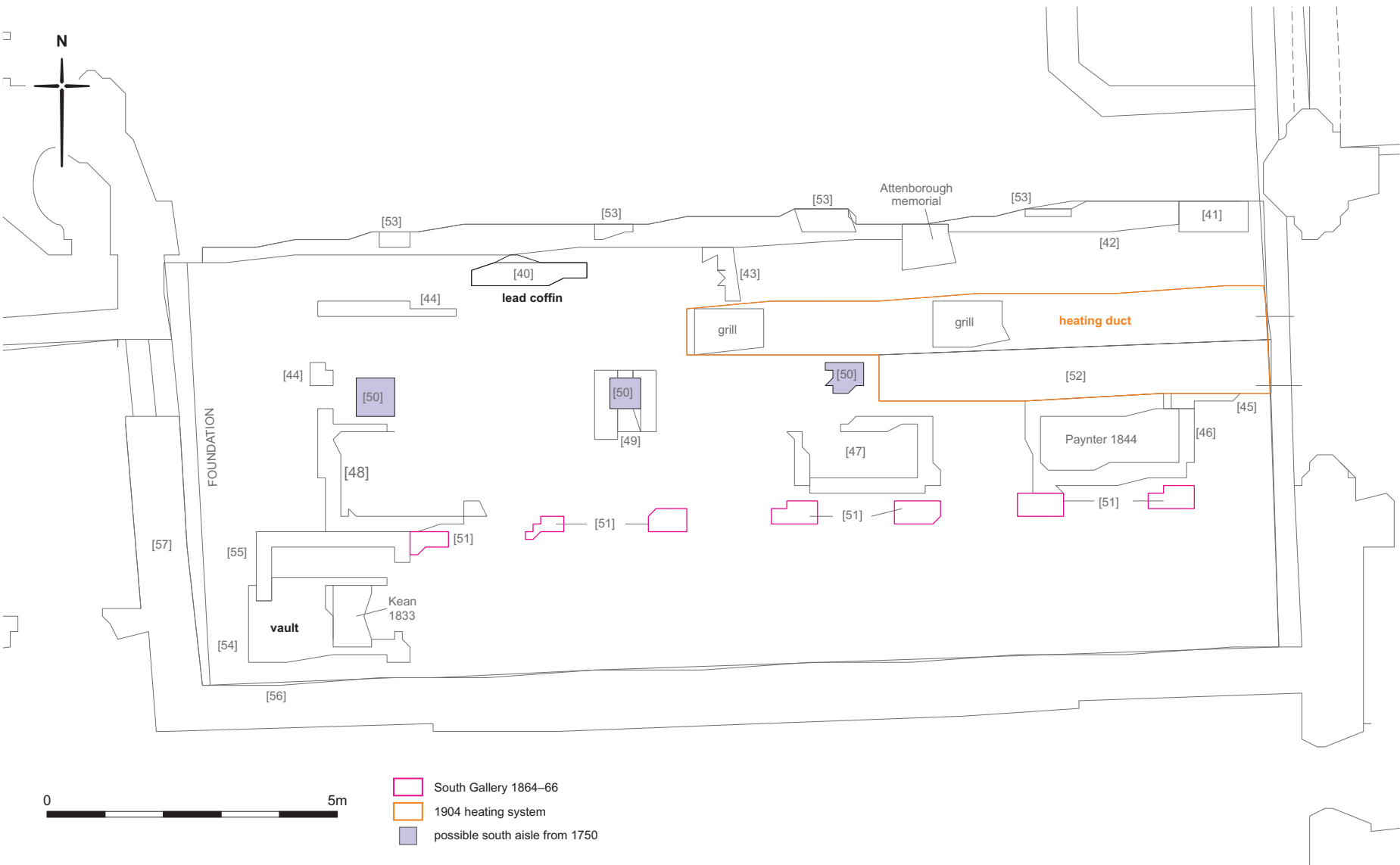
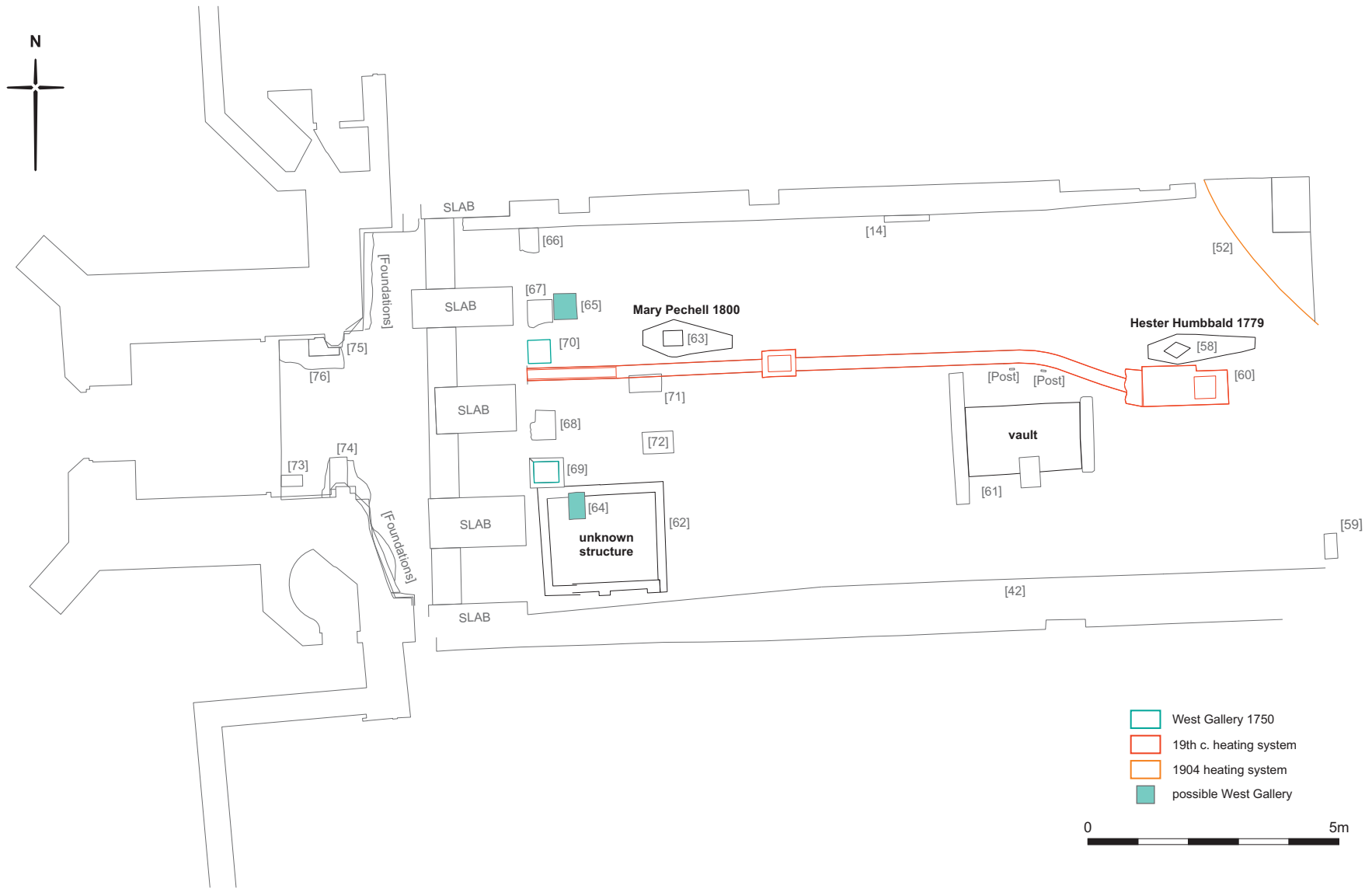


Fig 4 Plan of archaeological features in the south aisle



RI01156WB19#05

MGH15 report on the watching brief © MOLLA 2019

Fig 5 Plan of archaeological features in the nave

9 OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: molas1-334978

Project details

Project name	St Mary Magdalene, Paradise Road, Richmond
Short description of the project	A watching brief found several structures in the north aisle that was built c 1699, including a stepped red brick footing for a colonnade, which may have been the foundation for the original north wall of the church. Adjoining fragmentary brick footings and a truncated foundation possibly represented the remains of a north porch. Exposed masonry of the present north wall mainly comprised random courses of red brick, but also included large blocks of Reigate stone, and was probably built c 1699. Later structures include a row of brick pier bases for the north gallery built in 1864 and removed in 1904, a burial vault capped with stone slabs, part of a possible brick-lined grave, three fragmentary unidentified structures and part of the Edwardian underfloor heating system. Two lead coffins were also found. In the south aisle there were several brick burial vaults, and another lead coffin. There was also a row of brick bases, that probably supported the south gallery built in 1864-66 and removed 1904, as well as more of the Edwardian underfloor heating system installed in 1904. In the nave, there was a brick burial vault and another brick structure of unknown function, several brick plinths are probably for the west gallery. Two coffins had nameplates for Miss Hester Hubbold (d 1779) and Dame Mary Pechell (d 1800). There was also rubble foundations used for the Tudor tower built c 1487. A flue was part of a 19th century heating system that probably leads to an opening seen in an earlier test pit in the west wall of the church for a chimney. Work outside the stair tower in June 2018 found the original face of the Tudor tower built c 1487 and the later knapped flint exterior. A possible earlier doorway infilled with 17th century brick was cut through by the current external doorway. The original access to the stair turret was from inside the tower and is now blocked.
Project dates	Start: 04-10-2017 End: 29-08-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	MGH15 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	molas1-211250 - OASIS form ID
Any associated project reference codes	molas1-304320 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Site status	Conservation Area
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building

Monument type	CHURCH Medieval
Monument type	CHURCH Post Medieval
Monument type	BURIAL VAULTS Post Medieval
Monument type	BRICKWORK Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Faculty jurisdiction

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON RICHMOND UPON THAMES RICHMOND UPON THAMES St Mary Magdalene, Paradise Road, Richmond
Postcode	TW9
Study area	0.4 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 17932 74827 51.459619890156 -0.302284169833 51 27 34 N 000 18 08 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MOLA
Project brief originator	Diocesan Archaeologist
Project design originator	MOLA
Project director/manager	Michael Smith
Project supervisor	Tony Mackinder
Type of sponsor/funding body	Diocese
Name of sponsor/funding body	Richmond Team Ministry

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	London Archaeological Archive
Physical Archive ID	MGH15
Digital Archive recipient	London Archaeological Archive

Digital Archive ID	MGH15
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	London Archaeological Archive
Paper Archive ID	MGH15
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Matrices","Photograph","Plan","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	St Mary Magdalene, Paradise Road, Richmond TW9: report on an archaeological watching brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Mackinder, T
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	MOLA
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 client report with figs and photos
Entered by	Tony Mackinder (tmackinder@mola.org.uk)
Entered on	26 November 2018

OASIS:

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