



Northamptonshire Archaeology

The excavation of test pits within the Church of
St Peter, Barrowden, Rutland
October 2013



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton NN4 8BN
t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822
e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk
w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk



Northamptonshire
County Council

Yvonne Wolframm-Murray

Report 13/205

October 2013

OAKRM: 2013.31



STAFF

Project Manager Anthony Maull, Cert Arch
Text Yvonne Wolframm-Murray BSc PhD
Fieldwork Tim Sharman
Finds Tora Hylton
Illustrations Amir Bassir BSc

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		
Verified by	Anthony Maull		
Approved by	Andy Chapman		

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		Oasis No. 161704
Project name	The excavation of test pits with the Church of St Peter, Barrowden, Rutland	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in October 2013, on behalf of CgMs Consulting, to locate and record any archaeological remains within St Peter's Church. Two test pits were hand dug in the south-western end of the church. Disturbed ground was encountered in the top layers during the reconstruction of the church in the late 19th century. Stained glass and pins were recovered from Test Pit 1. In Test Pit 2 three graves were recorded and a pin was recovered.	
Project type	Watching brief	
Site status	Listed building	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Church	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period	Church	
Significant finds	Stained glass, pins	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Rutland	
Site address	The Church of St Peter, Barrowden, Rutland	
Study area (sq metres)	1.7sqm	
OS Easting & Northing	SP 9449 9990	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Diocesan Archaeological consultant	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Tim Sharman	
Project Manager	Anthony Maull	
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	10 October 2013	
End date	19 October 2013	
ARCHIVES	Location Accession No:	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		Window glass, pins and lace chape
Paper	OAKRM.2013	Watching brief forms (5) Digital photographs (31) B&W photographs (25) Registers (2)
Digital		Report text and figures
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	The excavation of test pits with the Church of St Peter, Barrowden, Rutland	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology report 13/205	
Author	Yvonne Wolfram-Murray	
Date	October 2013	

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION
2	BACKGROUND
2.1	Location and topography
2.2	Historical background
3	OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY
4	THE RECORDED EVIDENCE
4.1	Test Pit 1
4.2	Test Pit 2
5	THE FINDS by Tora Hylton
6	THE SITE ARCHIVE
7	DISCUSSION
	BIBLIOGRAPHY

Figures

Cover: The Church of St Peter, looking north-east

Fig 1: Site location

Fig 2: The location of the test pits

Fig 3: Test Pit 1 in the central aisle, looking south-west

Fig 4: Test Pit 1, looking south-east

Fig 5: The stratigraphy of Test Pit 1, looking south-west

Fig 6: Location of Test Pit 2, looking north-west

Fig 7: The excavated Test Pit 2 showing all three graves, looking north-east

Fig 8: Section showing the floor construction in Test Pit 2, looking south-west

**THE EXCAVATION OF TEST PITS WITHIN
THE CHURCH OF ST PETER, BARROWDEN, RUTLAND
OCTOBER 2013**

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in October 2013, on behalf of CgMs Consulting, to locate and record any archaeological remains within St Peter's Church. Two test pits were hand dug in the south-western end of the church. Disturbed ground was encountered in the top layers during the reconstruction of the church in the late 19th century. Stained glass and pins were recovered from Test Pit 1. In Test Pit 2 three graves were recorded and a pin was recovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out the excavation of two test pits at St Peters Church, Barrowden, Rutland (NGR SP 9449 9990, Fig 1).

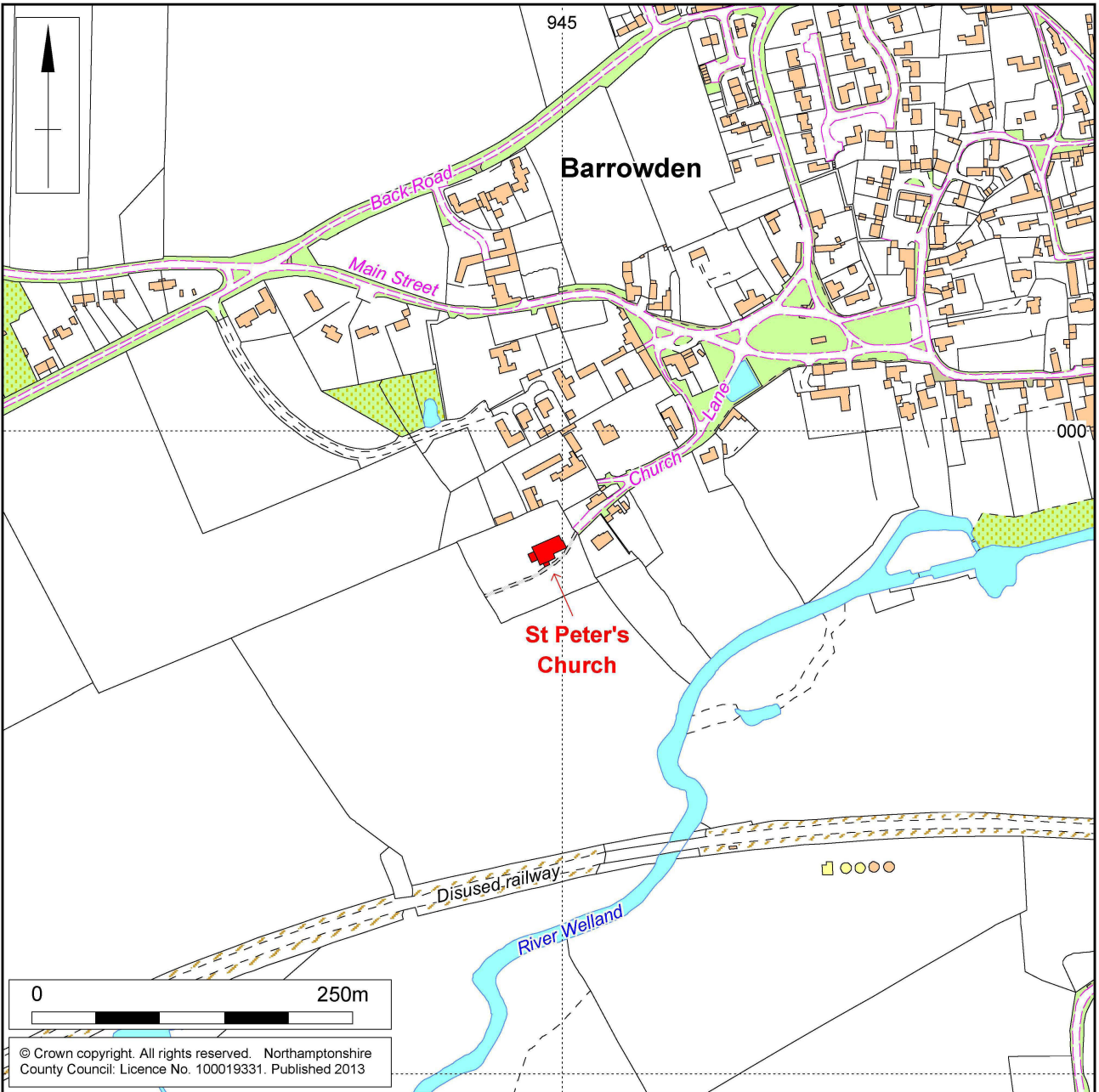
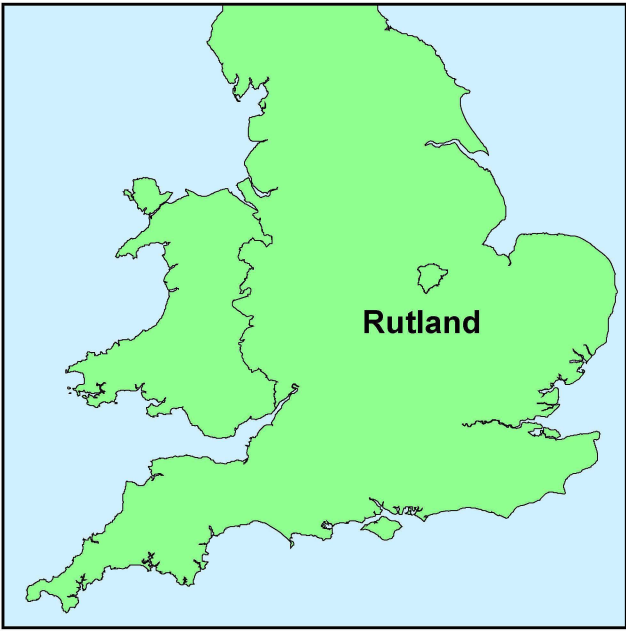
An archaeological evaluation was required by the Diocesan Archaeological Consultant for pre-determinative investigative work in advance of groundworks in a brief for archaeological work. The aim of the proposed scheme of works was to ensure that any archaeological remains within the area of proposed ground works were located and recorded.

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

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

The Church of St Peter lies at the western end of the village of Barrowden and within the historic core of the settlement. Barrowden lies approximately 13km south-east of Oakham and 13km south-west of Stamford. The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain as comprising Boulder Clay (BGS Geotiles <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geotiles>).



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1

2.2 Historical background

The village of Barrowden is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086AD where it is recorded as *Berchedone*. Close by, to the east of the church, lie the earthwork remains of the shrunken medieval village (National Monument Record No: 964573).

The Church of St Peter is a Grade II Listed Building (NMR No: 347649), the earliest parts of which date from the 13th and 14th centuries, having superseded an earlier 12th century building. There are further additions in the 15th century; the church was subsequently restored in the late 19th century.

No previous archaeological investigations are recorded as having being undertaken within the church.

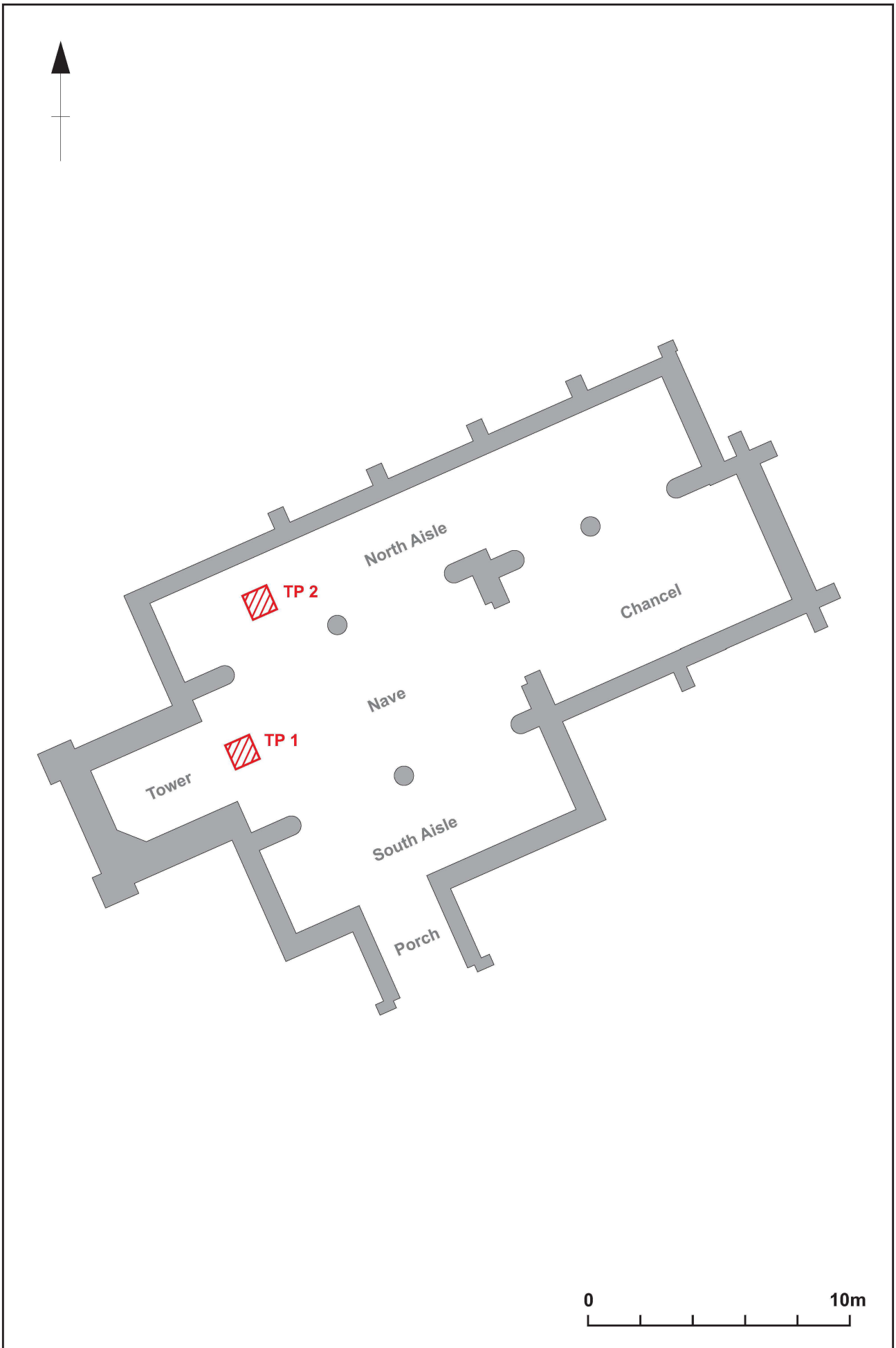
3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

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

- Hand excavate two 1.0m test-pits within the church down to the top of the natural substratum or maximum depth of the re-laid floor, 500mm. As agreed the test-pit under the pews will be re-positioned in the nave;
- Identify, investigate and record all archaeological deposits exposed during the excavation of the test-pits;
- Determine and record the date, extent, character, state of preservation and depth of burial of any archaeological deposits;
- Recover any artefacts that may assist in the development of pottery type series within the region;
- Establish the relationship of any archaeological deposits within the wider contemporary landscape;
- Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

The character, composition and general depositional sequence of stratification was recorded on Northamptonshire Archaeology performa sheets. All recording followed the guidelines detailed in the Northamptonshire *Archaeology Archaeological Fieldwork Manual* (2011). A photographic record in black and white negative was kept, with supplementary photographs in digital format. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the standards and guidelines for an archaeological watching brief (IfA 2008).

The fieldwork comprised two visits to the church during and following the lifting of stone floor slabs and the removal of a pew and wooden flooring at the location of two test pits (Fig 2). The underlying material was excavated by hand to 500mm below the surface. The work involving the removal and replacement of the flooring and the backfilling of the test pits was carried out by the appointed building contractors.



Scale 1:200 (Approximate)

The location of the test pits Fig 2

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

In accordance of the work, two test pits were hand dug following the removal of the stone slabs and wooden flooring (Fig 2)

4.1 Test Pit 1

Test Pit 1 was located in the central aisle of the Nave, at the south-western end by the tower, due to the constraints of the slabs the test pit measured 0.90m by 1.0m and was 500mm deep (Fig 3). At a depth of 370mm below the current stone slabs a firm, mixed sandy loam with moderate amount of limestone inclusions was recorded. This possible grave fill was truncated during the construction of the flooring and contained human bone fragments and nails, which were left *in situ*, pins and stained glass. This was overlain by 100mm of make-up layer of loose mid-brown sandy loam and limestone rubble, also containing small fragments of human bone (Figs 4 and 5). The stone slabs sat on three parallel rows of bricks aligned roughly east to west. The two outer rows were two courses of stretcher bricks sitting on one course of header bricks resting on the ground; the central row was two courses high resting on a lime mortar/limestone rubble mixture. The void varied in depth of between 100mm and 200mm.



Test Pit 1 in the central aisle, looking south-west Fig 3



Test Pit 1, looking south-east Fig 4



The stratigraphy of Test Pit 1, looking south-west Fig 5

4.2 Test pit 2

Test Pit 2 was located in the south-western corner of northern aisle (Fig 6). Due to the constraints of the wooden flooring the test pit measured 0.80m by 1.0m and was 500mm deep. The natural stratum lay 450mm below the current floor level and comprised ironstone rubble, which had been probably truncated during the construction of the new flooring. At the north-western edge two shallow graves containing human bone, orientated north-south, were partially visible as cutting the natural. The edge of the third,

deeper grave was visible parallel with the south-eastern boundary of the test pit (Fig 7). A copper alloy lace chape fragment was recovered. The graves and natural stratum were overlain by a 20mm trample layer.



Location of Test Pit 2, looking north-west Fig 6



The excavated Test Pit 2 showing all three graves, looking north-east Fig 7

The wooden flooring was supported on the same set-up as the stone slabs in Test Pit 1 with parallel rows of bricks, the stretcher courses of bricks were staggered to allow ventilation, upon which wooden beams supported wooden joists at right angles. The void between the soil and wooden floor planks were c 300mm (Fig 8).



Section showing the floor construction in Test Pit 2, looking south-west Fig 8

5 THE FINDS by Tora Hylton

Six fragments of window glass were recovered from the lower fill of Test Pit 1 together with two copper alloy pins.

The fragments of window glass presumably derive from earlier phases in the church's history. They measure up to 24 x 28mm and range from 1mm to 3mm thick. All the pieces have blackened surfaces (manganese dioxide), and none of the fragments are decorated. Two fragments preserve vestiges of the original grozed edge, indicating that they are from leaded window lights (quarry). One piece has a marked shadow from the decaying window lead, indicating that the lead came had been *in situ* for some time.

The pins are both examples of drawn copper alloy wire pins, they have circular-sectioned shanks which taper to a fine point and they measure 24mm and 26mm long. These pins date from the 18th century onwards, they may have been used to secure items of clothing or sewing.

A copper alloy lace chape was recovered from the grave fill of the later grave in Test Pit 2. It is made from sheeting that has been rolled to form a tapered tube measuring 21mm in length and 2-3mm in diameter. Lace chapes or tags were used to grip the terminals of leather or textile laces and typologically this example resembles Oakley's Type 2 (1979, fig 113. 288), which would have secured a lace without the need for a rivet. The long edges of the chape have been folded twice from each edge towards the centre and this ensures that the lace is securely gripped by both sides along the whole length of the chape. Type 2 chapes were recovered from mid 16th-17th century deposits.

6 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive that will be prepared for deposition with Rutland County Museum under the Accession No: OAKRM.2013.31

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	5
Black & White photographs	25
Registers	2
Digital photographs	31
Window glass fragments	6
Drawn copper alloy wire pins	2
Copper alloy lace chape	1

6 DISCUSSION

The two test pits show the presence of graves and grave soils within the nave of the church. The graves and grave soils show disturbances and were possibly truncated during the construction of the flooring in the 19th century.

Test Pit 2 revealed the presence of two graves possibly predating the construction of the northern aisle, which dates to the 13th century. A third later grave was also recorded, the interment probably having taken place when the aisle was in place. A copper alloy lace chape was recovered from the later grave suggesting it may date to the mid 16th-17th centuries. In Test Pit 1 the presence of grave soil was recorded from which drawn copper alloy wire pins were recovered, and these in use from the 18th century onwards. The stained window fragments came from an earlier phase of the church indicating leaded window lights.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

DCLG 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework, Department of Communication and Local Government*

EH 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment, MORPHE* English Heritage

IfA 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation, Institute for Archaeologists*

Leigh, D J, 2013 *Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication of works at the Church of St Peter, Barrowden, Rutland, Northamptonshire Archaeology*

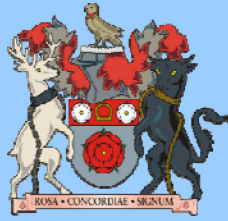
NA 2011 *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual, Northamptonshire Archaeology*

Oakley, G E, 1979 The Copper Alloy Objects, in J H Williams 1979, 248-264

Williams, J H, 1979 *St Peter's Street, Northampton: Excavations 1973-1976,*

Web sites

BGS 2009 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html> British Geological Survey website



Northamptonshire County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton NN4 8BE

t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822

e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk

w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk



Northamptonshire
County Council