



Northamptonshire County Council

# Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological excavation at  
Holy Trinity Church, Orton Longueville  
Peterborough  
November 2009



Danny McAree

December 2009

Report 09/180

## Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House  
Wootton Hall Park  
Northampton NN4 8BE  
t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822  
e. [sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk)  
w. [www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk)



Northamptonshire  
County Council

## STAFF

Project manager	Iain Soden BA MifA
Fieldwork	Danny McAree MA MBA PGDip PifA Robin Foard
Text	Danny McAree
Medieval & post medieval pottery	Iain Soden
Ceramic & stone building materials	Pat Chapman BA CMS PifA Joe Prentice
Illustrations	Amir Bassir BSc

## QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	P Chapman		
Verified by	I Soden		
Approved by	A Chapman		

**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project title	Archaeological excavation on land at Holy Trinity Church, Orton Longueville, Peterborough	
Short description (250 words maximum)	Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out archaeological excavation on 46sq m of land, the site for a single-storey extension to the north of Holy Trinity Church, Orton Longueville, Peterborough. The remains of a substantial stone wall aligned west to east and parallel to the 12th-century parish church were uncovered, together with lime mortar and painted wall plaster. Other finds include a stone-lined drain and gravel paths associated with 19th-century alterations and additions to the medieval church. Articulated human skeletal remains were encountered between 0.35m – 0.7m below the ground surface.	
Project type	Excavation	
Site status	None	
Previous work	Test pit evaluation, September 2009	
Current land use	Church graveyard	
Future work)	None	
Monument type/period		
Significant finds	Possible early church wall, human skeletal remains	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Cambridgeshire	
Site address	Holy Trinity Church, Orton Longueville, Peterborough	
Study area (sq.m or ha)	46 sq.m	
OS Easting & Northing	TL 16825 96525	
Height OD	15.26m OD	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Peterborough City Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Danny McAree	
Project Manager	Iain Soden	
Sponsor or funding body	Holy Trinity Parochial Church Council	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	8th September 2009	
End date	15th September 2009	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Content</b>
Physical		
Paper		
Digital		
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	Archaeological excavation on land at Holy Trinity Church, Orton Longueville, Peterborough	
Serial title & volume	09/180	
Author(s)	Danny McAree	
Page numbers		
Date		

## Contents

- 1 INTRODUCTION
  - 2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY
  - 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
    - 3.1 Historical background
    - 3.2 Previous archaeological work
    - 3.3 Aerial photographs
    - 3.4 Historic Maps
    - 3.5 Conclusions
  - 4 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY
    - 4.1 Objectives
    - 4.2 Methodology
  - 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
    - 5.1 The burials
    - 5.2 The stone wall
    - 5.3 Post-medieval disturbance
  - 6 FINDS
    - 6.1 The pottery by Iain Soden
    - 6.2 The building materials by Pat Chapman
    - 6.3 The worked stone by Pat Chapman and Joe Prentice
    - 6.4 Other finds by Tora Hylton
  - 7 CONCLUSION
- BIBLIOGRAPHY

## Tables

Table 1: Pottery types by context

Table 2: Brick dimensions

## Figures

- Fig 1: Site location, 1:10,000
- Fig 2: The excavation, showing burials and wall 120
- Fig 3: Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4, showing grave soil and wall 120
- Fig 4: Section 5 to north of wall 120 and Section 6 showing wall elevation
- Fig 5: Holy Trinity Church, looking south-west
- Fig 6: General view of excavation area showing test pit locations, looking east
- Fig 7: General view of excavation area, looking east
- Fig 8: Burial (126), (127), (128) and (129), looking west
- Fig 9: Burial (130), looking west
- Fig 10: Burial (133) and (134), looking west
- Fig 11: Wall (120), looking west
- Fig 12: Wall (120), looking east, note damage from service trench excavation
- Fig 13: Drain (107) and stone-lined drain (110), looking west  
(Note fragment of carved stone immediately above 1m scale)
- Fig 14: Drain (107), salt glaze pipes (117) and field drain (115), looking south
- Fig 15: Part of possible wall monument or chest tomb, cherub head
- Fig 16: Fragment of memorial inscription, part of possible wall monument
- Fig 17: Painted wall plaster
- Fig 18: Examples of 17th to 19th-century bricks recovered from excavations

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION  
ON LAND AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH  
ORTON LONGUEVILLE, PETERBOROUGH  
SEPTEMBER 2009**

**ABSTRACT**

*Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out archaeological excavation on 46 sq m of land, the site for a single-storey extension to the north of Holy Trinity Church, Orton Longueville, Peterborough. The remains of a substantial stone wall aligned west to east and parallel to the 12th-century parish church were uncovered, together with lime mortar and painted wall plaster. Other finds include a stone-lined drain and gravel paths associated with 19th-century alterations and additions to the medieval church. Articulated human skeletal remains were encountered at about 0.45m below the modern ground surface.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out archaeological excavation during September 2009 on land at Holy Trinity Church, Orton Longueville, Peterborough. Holy Trinity Parochial Church Council has applied for planning consent to erect a single storey extension at the north-west corner of the existing church building. A planning condition was applied by the Peterborough City Council Planning Archaeologist requiring archaeological excavation prior to development.

The fieldwork met the requirements of an agreed specification written by Northamptonshire Archaeology (McAree 2009) following the requirements of the "Brief for Archaeological Investigation", issued by the Peterborough City Council Planning Archaeologist in September 2009 (Robinson 2009).

**2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY**

The site is located within the historic settlement of Orton Longueville, Peterborough (NGR: TL 16825 96525; Fig 1). The development will provide disabled toilet facilities and a general purpose room for parish use. The extension will cross part of the church graveyard bounded to the south and east by walls of the existing church with new walls to the west and north. Access will be via the existing north door of the north aisle (Figs 2 and 5).

The development area comprises a roughly rectangular area 8m long and 4.5m wide (Fig 2-7). The site slopes steeply from 15.26m OD along the north wall of the church rising to 15.62 at the north side of the extension. The current entrance threshold and church floor level at the north door is located at 15.47m OD.

The underlying geology is mapped as Mesozoic limestone, cornbrash and oolite of the middle and upper Jurassic beds mixed with sands and gravels and overlaid with Oxford clay.

### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

#### 3.1 Historical background

##### ***Place name***

The parish was recorded as 'Overtune' in the Domesday Survey of 1086. The original place name meaning is derived from Old English (OE) 'ofer', or 'uferra', meaning 'higher' or 'bank/slope', and (OE) tun, meaning 'farm' or 'settlement'. The final element, Longueville derives from the *de Longaville* (and *de Waltreville* in the case of Orton Waterville) families who were recorded as feudal tenants (Institute for Names Studies, Nottingham University).

##### ***Domesday and manor***

The manor of *Overtune Longueville* or Orton Longueville can be identified with the pre-Conquest holding of Elsi. At the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 it was held by Eustace the Sheriff. These lands eventually became part of the manor held by the *de Longueville* family as one knight's fee of the Lovetot Barony in 1135.

The manor estate stayed with the *de Longueville* family until it passed to a daughter who by marriage passed it the Braybook family in the early 14th century.

The manor then passed through marriage and gift from the Braybrook family to the Beauchamp family in 1438 when it was held by Elizabeth, Lady St. Amand. It passed to her son on her death in 1491, When he died without heir in 1508, the estate was then sold to George Kirkham. Kirkham died in 1528 and his son Robert sold Orton Longueville manor in 1548 to Robert Rayner. The Rayner family passed it down through wills and marriage until 1675 when it passed to a nephew, William Pierrepoint, son of Robert Pierrepoint, first Earl of Kingston-upon-Hull.

The estate then passed through the Pierrepoint family by a complicated series of inheritances until in 1781 their last male successor died and his sister inherited the estate. Through her, the estate passed by marriage into the Gordon family, the Earls of Aboyne and Marquess of Huntley, who held it into the 20th century.

##### ***Orton Hall***

Orton Hall, the traditional seat of the manor of Orton Longueville lies immediately west of Holy Trinity Church and the core of the historic village. There is no good evidence for the location or layout of the early manor. The earliest fabric of the existing buildings can only be traced back to the 16th century, although there is evidence of re-used architectural fragments within the early structure.

##### ***Holy Trinity Church***

The church of the Holy Trinity consists of a chancel, north chapel, nave, north aisle, south aisle, west tower, and south porch. The walls are of coursed rubble with stone dressings, and the roofs are covered with lead.

A church is mentioned in the Domesday Survey (1086), but nothing is known for certain of the size and location of this early church. The current church appears to have had an aisleless nave, to which aisles were added c1240.

Additional building and modification took place in the chancel, chancel arch and north chapel in c. 1280; the nave and aisles, c1300; and the west tower, either built or rebuilt, about the same time. The clerestory was added in the early 14th century. In the mid 14th century the north chapel was rebuilt and the arch between it and the chancel was widened towards the east.

The belfry was rebuilt much higher in the 15th century.

In the 1670s, Bishop Sweet of the Peterborough Diocese authorised the demolition of the church at Botolphbridge. The church was in poor repair and the church at Orton Longueville was considered sufficient for the care of both parishes. The south aisle at Holy Trinity church was rebuilt in 1675 at almost twice its former width using materials removed from the demolished church at Botolphbridge.

The south porch was also rebuilt using salvaged materials. It has a date-stone inscribed '1675' in its southern gable recording the event. The porch incorporates a reset 14th-century outer archway. In the east wall there is a reset quatrefoiled circular window of c1300. The roof has moulded beams of 15th century date but reset in 1675. The porch was subsequently repaired again in 1835.

In 1840, another phase of renovation began in the church with the north chapel and crypt being largely rebuilt in 1861.

The north aisle roof was restored about 1888, and the roofs of the chancel, nave and south aisle were largely renewed in 1908–9, at which time repairs were made to the east window and the south clerestory windows (Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, Huntingdonshire).

### 3.2 Previous archaeological work

The Peterborough City Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) was consulted for documented sites and monuments within the proposed development area and a nominal 500m radius surrounding it. There are no nationally designated sites (such as Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Registered Battlefields or Registered Parks and Gardens) either within or adjacent to the development area.

In total there are 21 Listed Buildings within one kilometre of the site. Only the following are in immediate proximity of the excavation site:

Orton Hall	(50245) Grade II	Jacobean mansion with 16th-17th century
Orton Hall	(50246) Grade II	16th-century outbuilding and archway
Orton Hall	(50247) Grade II	Early 18th-century stable block

#### **Holy Trinity Church (50448) Grade I Church fabric dates from 1240**

Holy Trinity Church	(50449) Grade II	Gate and piers at south entrance
---------------------	------------------	----------------------------------

A search was also undertaken of the National Monument Record (NMR) held by English Heritage. No additional records were noted.

No Roman settlement is known of in the immediate area although the remains of Roman occupation were uncovered in extraction pits to the west in the grounds of Orton Hall and to the north of the Oundle Road in Mere Park.

Excavation was carried out in the courtyard of the former hall in 2007 in advance of development. This revealed late Saxon/early post-Conquest features that may relate to nearby settlement. Other features relating to the hall itself included substantial foundations and a cobbled courtyard relating to the 16th-century occupation of the site (Weston *et al* 2007).

Test pit evaluation within the footprint of the new church extension in August 2009 revealed a shallow topsoil over a gravel surface cut by brick and tile drains or soakaways, a service trench and a layer of limestone rubble (Fig 6).

These sealed a sterile sandy clay surface, interpreted as a possible ancient subsoil. Finds included only a few fragments of medieval pottery (Robinson 2009).



### 3.3 Aerial photographs

Aerial photographs of the site were examined from both the National Monuments Record (English Heritage) and the Unit for Landscape Modelling. The church and churchyard is clearly identifiable. However the position of the development site immediately adjacent to the church wall leaves the area in shadow or masked by paths and grave markers.

### 3.4 Historic Maps

#### *First edition Ordnance Survey map 1:2,500, 1884*

The church and churchyard are shown much the same as at present. The area is still largely rural, with the buildings of Orton Hall to the west and the village aligned along the main street, 'The Village', to the east. A 'ha-ha' to the east of the churchyard is clearly marked with an east and a south entrance gate flanked by walls and pillars.

#### *Ordnance Survey 1:2,500, 1954-1957*

There has been some remodelling and additions to Orton Hall to the west. Additional development has taken place along Oundle Road with a school built to the west and extraction pits converted to an urban park to the north. The church and churchyard show little change from the First Edition Ordnance Survey map. However, the wider landscape surrounding the site has undergone large-scale residential development.

### 3.5 Conclusions

There are prehistoric and Roman finds or features known from the surrounding area and although there was Saxon settlement recorded at Orton Hall immediately to the west, there are no records of earlier activity within the site boundaries. Map evidence, along with recent test pits (Robinson 2009) indicates that the site has formed part of the churchyard from at least the 12th century and possibly even earlier.

It is probable that the site has been used for Christian burial from at least the 12th century. However, the lack of any recorded previous development and the results of the test pits in 2009 indicated some survival of below-ground archaeology.

## 4 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 Objectives

The objectives of the archaeological excavation were to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of any archaeological remains on the site addressing the following general objectives:

- To provide detailed information regarding the date, character, extent and degree of preservation of all uncovered archaeological remains, and to define the sequence and character of activity on the site
- To interpret the archaeology of the site within its local, regional (and national) archaeological context
- To identify, characterise, and accurately record medieval and post-medieval features associated with the development of Holy Trinity Church.

The work was carried out in fulfilment of the Written Scheme of Investigation and the brief prepared by the Peterborough City Council Planning Archaeologist.

The work was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 1994, revised 2008) and the *Code of Conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists* (IfA 1997, revised 2008).

## 4.2 Methodology

The investigation comprised the hand excavation of the entire proposed development area to a depth of 0.45m below the current church floor level (15.47m OD). The external and internal foundation trenches for the internal and external ring beam foundation were excavated 0.45m wide and 0.7m deep (14.77m OD).

Excavation proceeded as far as the top of exposed archaeology, or to the limit of the proposed foundation level for the new building, whichever was the deeper.

The trench outline has been related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid, with details being recorded on pro-forma context sheets with a unique context number being allocated to each distinct deposit and feature.

A full photographic record comprising both 35mm monochrome negatives, with associated prints, and colour transparencies was maintained, with additional digital photographs.

All records were compiled during fieldwork into a comprehensive and fully cross-referenced site archive. The site code is OLP 09.

All works were carried out according to the *IFA Code of Conduct and Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Evaluation* (IFA 1995), and all procedures complied with the Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety provisions and Northamptonshire Archaeology Health and Safety at work guidelines.

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

The excavation area was nominally 8.0m long and 4.5m wide. It was located immediately north of the church and bounded to the east by the north chapel and to the south by the north wall of the church (Figs 2 and 7). Two large sections of a stone grave marker were laid on the modern topsoil. These were removed before work could commence. There were no other headstones or grave markers visible within the proposed development area. A limestone threshold slab (125) was removed from outside the north door to give access to that part of the site.

At the request of the contractor, the stone drainage channels along the north wall of the church were left in place to allow rainwater to be channelled away from the excavations until such time as the rainwater down-pipes could be diverted away from the development area.

At the east the ground surface lay at 15.63m OD. To the west of the excavation area, the ground surface lay at 15.77m OD. At about 8m further to the west, there was a sharp break of slope with a steep slope down to the west of the church where the ground surface was 15.26m OD adjacent to the access road at Orton Hall.

### 5.1 The burials

At the east of the trench, orange-brown sandy clay graveyard soil (103) was exposed at about 0.35-0.40m deep below the modern soil surface across the whole of the excavated area, dipping to 0.45m-0.50m deep along the church walls.

Where the foundation ring-beam trench was cut to 0.7m deep, thirteen articulated human skeletons were exposed (Fig 2, 126-138), all cut into the graveyard soil (103).

All were aligned with the head to the west, feet to the east and roughly parallel to the axis of the church.

No grave cuts could be distinguished for any of the burials, either in plan or in section. Where the bones lay fully uncovered within the excavation trenches, the bones were examined, photographed, recorded and re-interred at a lower level. They were each given a single context number purely for reference purposes. In most instances, only the upper surface of the skull was exposed at the lower limit of excavation. In these instances, the skull was re-covered with soil and only its location recorded.

The alignment and location of the skeletal remains indicates all were laid supine, on their back, arms along the side of the body. They were laid parallel to each other at about 0.6m to 0.8m intervals and in parallel rows about 1.8m apart. There were four rows of graves fully within the footprint of the excavated area.

There was no surviving evidence for coffins or grave markers, and there were no grave goods with any of the excavated burials.

Burial (126) lay at the south-west corner of the excavation. The exposed remains comprised both legs, the femurs exposed from the upper thigh, the knees and the tibia and fibula of both legs to above the ankles (Figs 2 and 8). At about 0.7m to the north a human skull (127) was partially exposed (Fig 8). At 0.5m to the north of (127) was the skull, spine and clavicles of an adult (128). The pronounced brow ridges may indicate a male. The wisdom teeth were both erupted so age at death is likely to have greater than the early 20s. Only 0.4m to the north, the upper surface of another skull (129) was only partially exposed (Figs 2 and 8).

At about 1.4m to the east, and almost fully exposed within the foundation trench, burial (130) was about 1.75m long. There was no obvious evidence for skeletal deformity or trauma. The heavy brow ridges and narrow pelvic notch would indicate the skeleton of a male. One of the wisdom teeth was only partially erupted indicating an age at time of death probably in the early-mid 20s (Figs 2 and 9).

In the central foundation trench and about 0.8m north of the church wall, was a partially exposed human skull (131). At about 0.8m to the north, was another partially exposed human skull (132). At about 0.8m further north, the pelvis and legs of burial (133) were exposed across the width of the foundation trench. The wider sciatic notch would indicate a probable female burial, however, the pelvis was badly disturbed by excavation and by the cutting of the grave for burial (134), which lay immediately to the north (Figs 2 and 10), with the skull, chest and upper arms exposed in the excavation. The wisdom teeth were both erupted so this was a mature adult probably well in excess of 20 years old, and the pronounced brow ridges suggest a probable male burial.

At about 2m to the east, two further skulls (135-136) were partially exposed at 0.45m below ground level (Fig 2).

At the east of the excavation, within the foundation trench along the west wall of the north chapel, two partially exposed skulls seen at the lower limit of excavation (137-138) mark a fifth row of burials.

## **5.2 The stone wall**

At the north of the trench, there was vestigial evidence for a probable foundation trench [121] aligned roughly east to west and parallel with the existing north wall of the church (Fig 3, Sections 3 & 4). It was 0.80m wide by 0.65m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a limestone wall (120) built of irregularly split and roughly faced limestone fragments bonded with decayed coarse, sandy, yellow lime mortar (Fig 2 and Fig 3, Sections 3 & 4). Although roughly coursed, the wall had a good straight face to north and south (Figs 11 & 12).

At the east the wall survived up to 0.65m high with at least six courses of stonework. At the west the wall survived as a single course of stonework only 0.15m thick, and bedded on a layer of coarse sandy gravel and lime mortar up to 0.2m deep.

Immediately to the north of the wall, there was a layer of limestone fragments (122), 2.2m long and 0.45m deep, containing abundant lime mortar and plaster and including fragments of painted wall plaster. This extended over the top of wall (120) at the west of the trench and spilled onto the upper surface of gravesoil (103) to the south (Fig 4, Section 5).

To the east it was overlain by a layer of dark brown sandy clay (123) containing abundant fragments of limestone up to 0.4m long, orange/yellow coarse sand and gravel, grey and white lime mortar flecks and fragments. This formed a firm and fairly compact layer sealing wall (120) to the east and spreading over the wall and graveyard soil (103) up to 1m to the south (Fig 2, Fig 4, Section 5).

### 5.3 Post-medieval disturbance

Both layers (122 and 123) and wall (120) were cut through and truncated by modern service trench [112], which was 0.3m wide and up to 0.4m deep. This was filled with the redeposited upcast from its excavation (113) and contained an insulated 2" metal gas pipe and a white plastic coated electricity cable. The cut for this service trench had removed the upper layers of wall (120) at the west of the excavation (Fig 2; Fig 3 & 4, Sections 1 and 5 and Figs 9 and 11-13). Two spur trenches to the south removed part of wall (120) at the centre and at the east of the exposed section of wall (Fig 2).

In the areas closest to the church walls, the grave soil (103) was covered by a layer of dark brown-black sandy clay loam (104) containing fragments of limestone, brick, lime mortar, coarse sands and gravel and flecks of charcoal (Fig 3, Sections 1 & 2). It was up to 0.30m deep adjacent to the church walls and tapering out to 0.01-0.05m deep across the remainder of the site.

Along the north wall of the church, layer (104) was cut by linear construction trench [105] 0.60m wide, 0.45m deep and extending the full length of the north wall of the church from the north chapel to the west end of the building. It was filled with grey lime mortar supporting a course of bricks (108) laid as headers, on face, and forming a sloping surface to allow surface and rain water to run off the church walls and into stone cut drainage channel (107) aligned parallel to the church wall. On the north of this drain, cut stone bevelled kerbstones (106) formed an up-stand separating the grassed churchyard surface from the drainage channel (Fig 3, Section 1; Figs 6 and 7).

At the east, layer (104) was cut through by service trench [116], 0.30m wide and 0.30m deep, filled with the redeposited upcast from its excavation (117) and a 4" salt glaze surface water drain pipe. This was connected to the rainwater down pipe (139) at the junction of the church and the north chapel to the south and to a similar down pipe (119) at the north-west corner of the chapel. The trench and rain water drain then extended north east, removing the east end of wall (120) extending beyond the present limit of excavation (Fig 2, Fig 12 (top of photograph) and Fig14).

Cutting layer (104) about 0.4m to the west was trench [114] aligned roughly north-west to south-east across the excavated area. It was 0.30m wide and 0.35m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. It contained 12" sections of white terracotta land drains laid upside down in the trench forming an open drain aligned on the down pipe at the corner of the church and main chapel (Figs 2 and 14).

In the central part of the excavation area and aligned roughly parallel to the north wall of the church, layers (104) and (103) were cut by linear foundation trench [109], 3.30m long, by 0.60m wide and 0.25m deep. It had vertical sides and a flat base.

It was filled with two parallel rows of limestone fragments (110), set about 0.2m apart (Figs 2 & 13). Each row contained handmade bricks and occasional fragments of worked limestone. The two rows formed a stone-lined channel or drain filled with brown silty clay (111) which completely filled the drainage channel.

At the west of the excavation area, layer (104) was covered by a pathway of orange/yellow-brown sand and gravel (102) forming a hard-packed surface directly in line with the door in the north wall of the church and forming a right-angled return to the east only partially exposed in excavation. It was up to 1m wide and 0.3m deep directly in front of the doorway, tapering out to 0.01m at about 3.2m to the east of the west end of the trench, and extended beyond the limit of excavation to the north and west (Fig 3, Section 1, Fig 7).

Immediately outside of the north wall of the church, a limestone slab (125) 0.5m long, 1m wide and 0.05m thick had been laid over the drain (107) and bedded on gravel (104) forming a secure threshold to the north door (Fig 6).

The whole excavation area was covered with dark brown silty sand loam topsoil (101) up to 0.2m deep and containing occasional fragments of limestone, brick and modern metal, glass and plastic rubbish.

## 6 FINDS

### 6.1 The pottery by Iain Soden

A total of eight non-diagnostic body sherds of pottery were recovered from three contexts, 101, 104 and 111. To this may be added one sherd of residual Roman coarseware jar. Otherwise the material dates from the 11th-13th century to the 20th century.

The material present was as follows:

*Table 1: Pottery by type and context*

	Context 101 (Topsoil)	Context 104 (Disturbed soil)	Context 111 (Drain fill)
Residual Roman	-	1	-
Shelly Coarseware	-	-	2
Medieval Coarseware	-	1	-
Bourne type ware	1	-	-
Midlands Black Ware	-	2	-
White salt-glazed ware	-	1	-
Modern China wares	-	1	-

The material has little value other than to provide a possible *terminus post-quem* (on ceramic grounds alone) of the 11th-13th century for context 111, and 17th century for context 101. Context 104 is probably modern. None of the material is of intrinsic interest.

**6.2 The building materials** by Pat Chapman

**Bricks**

There are four complete handmade bricks and one fragment (Fig 17). The two yellow bricks, one from layer (104) the other from drain lining (110), are made from Gault clays, a local tradition where these clays are available, particularly in the south and east of the country, where clays low in iron content are mixed with chalk to keep them pale. Red was apparently the preferred brick colour until about the mid 18th century, which would suggest that the yellow bricks date between c 1750 at the earliest and the advent of mechanisation in the 19th century ([www.bricksandbrass.co.uk](http://www.bricksandbrass.co.uk)), although handmade bricks were, and continue to be, manufactured on a much smaller scale.

The pale pinkish-brown slightly mottled brick, from stone-lined drain (110), possibly an early Fletton-type, has been tapered slightly to make one header end 13mm (½ inch) narrower, perhaps from a voussoir over a window or door. There are creases along each stretcher and header consistent with being removed from the mould, especially if there as an excess of clay left from the previous brick (Campbell and Saint 2002, 178).

The thinness of the pale pinkish-brown brick covered in mortar from drain (110), only 43mm (1¾ inches) wide, could suggest a 16th or 17th-century date. However, brick sizes can vary at any time depending on the particular requirements.

A fragment of brick in a Fletton-type fabric, from layer (104), has the remnant of a deeply-stamped frog, but only the letters ‘H B’ survive. It is of late 19th to 20th-century date.

The bricks could have come from one building as mixing the colours was quite common. A feature of Peterborough by about 1900 was having the sides of a house in red brick and the front in yellow or vice versa (Muthesius 2002).

*Table 2: Brick dimensions*

Context and type	Dimensions mm & (inches)	Comment
104 – disturbed layer (related to 19th-20th century repairs and alterations )	218 x 105 x 57 (8½ x 4¼ x 2¼)	Yellow
110 - stone-lined drain	227 x 110 x 43 (8⅞ x 4⅜ x 1¾)	pale pinkish brown covered in thin skin of mortar
110 - stone-lined drain	219 x 102 x 57 (8⅝ x 4 x 2¼)	Yellow
110 - stone-lined drain	234 x 108 to 95 x 65 (9¼ x 4¼ to 3¾ x 2½)	pale pinkish brown, tapering slightly

**Plaster**

Two fragments of painted wall plaster come from a dump of mortar and plaster (123) lying to the north of wall (120). The larger of the two is only 30x30x11mm and made in very pale buff-coloured plaster with two painted bands (Fig 18). One very dark maroon band is 8mm wide and is curving into a fragment of black band c 3mm away. The tiny fragment is painted white.

**Mortar**

The remnant, from context (111), the fill of the stone-lined drain [109], is c 85mm square and up to 25mm thick, creamy white with inclusions of flint, among others, and a black surface.

**Field drain**

This complete ceramic field drain, handmade from hard white clay, is horseshoe-shaped, 12½ inches long (320mm), standing 4¾ inches (95mm) high, 2¾ inches (70mm) at its widest internally and c 20mm thick. The standard length of field drains appears to be

about 12 inches (300mm), although 14 inches (390mm) is not uncommon. Ceramic drains appear about 1800 as part of the drive for greater productivity, using roof ridge tile or horseshoe shapes stood on a flat tile so they would not sink into the soil beneath. This drain is from the early 19th century, as cylindrical drains came into general use after the 1840s, when they began to be mass-produced (Harvey 1987, 19-24).

### 6.3 Worked stone by Pat Chapman and Joe Prentice

Two of the four pieces of worked stone come from grave monuments, another is probably architectural in origin and one is too small and plain to comment upon. Three of the stones, including the two from grave monuments, are made from fine grained Oolitic limestone, and one from shelly limestone.

The complete piece, from the wall of stone-lined drain (110) may have come from a wall monument since it appears to be a part of a composite monument. It is crescent-shaped with a flat base, 585mm (23 inches) long, 80mm wide with the carving standing proud a further 10mm, and 90mm high at the centre. The back of the stone has been chamfered around the edge of the curve with a slight projection 65mm above the base, perhaps for fitting onto the wall. The carving in the centre is of the head of a cherub with the lips parted and framed by feathered wings (Fig 15). The crispness of the carving suggests that this piece was not exposed to the elements for any length of time prior to its burial. It is 18th century in date.

The fragment of an inscription tablet comes from levelling layer (104) adjacent to the north wall of the church. It was c 50mm thick, including the relief on the edge and 40mm thick where the inscription was carved. The inscription is contained within a recessed oval cartouche surrounded by a raised margin on which are carved flowers and leaves in relief (Fig 16). There are remnants of the ends of three lines of inscription within the cartouche; the upper line has the bases of three incomplete letters, the last of which is 'e', with the complete word 'died' below it. The lower line contains a single letter which appears to have been an 'O' or perhaps a '0', and which may therefore be part of a date. All of the letters retain within their sharply cut V-shaped profiles remnants of what appears to be limewash, and above and below each line can be seen very fine horizontal setting-out lines scored into the surface of the stone. The style of both lettering and carving suggests an 18th-century date, and again, the crispness of the carving suggests that this was not exposed for long before its burial. It is possible that these two fragments, both of similar Oolitic limestone come from the same monument.

The fragment of shelly limestone, from stone-lined drain (110) is 75mm thick (3 inches) and narrows to a peak curved on one side and straight on the other. The side with the straight top is marked with close-set shallow chisel marks. This was either part of a tomb, or an architectural feature, the top indicates it stood apart free on both sides.

The small fragment of oolitic limestone, also from context (110), is 25mm thick with one original edge.

### 6.4 Other finds by Tora Hylton

There is a small collection of artefacts dating from the 20th century. The finds were recovered from topsoil (101), a layer of disturbed soil (104) and from the fill of a stone-lined drain (111). The earliest datable find is a copper alloy head from a 12-bore pinfire cartridge, head stamped with 'E.B. London 12'.

The cartridge was manufactured by Eley Brothers Ltd, Edmonton, London, a company that manufactured ammunition from the 1820s until just after the war when they became part of Explosive Trades Ltd. The company transferred to Edmonton in 1894 indicating that the cartridge must have been manufactured after that date.

Other finds recovered include, a modern padlock manufactured by Squire, a small fragment of brown plastic pipe, 8 iron nails measuring from 38-111mm in length, 3 fragments of modern vessel glass and 2 fragments of window glass (one piece retains a vestige of lead, probably a remnant of window came).

With the exception of the two fragments of glass, possibly from the 1861 refurbishment of the church, all the other finds are of 20th century date. They have no intrinsic value and have no potential to further inform the history and development of the site. They will not be retained.

***Finds Catalogue***

- Context 101 Squire padlock – modern
- Context 104 Fragment of brown bakelite plastic pipe (modern)
- Context 104 Eight nails measuring from c. 38-111mm, all with square/rectangular-sectioned shanks and wedge shaped terminals (two with painted heads)-modern.
- Context 104 Five fragments of glass – three sherds of clear vessel glass from a small jar - (modern) and two sherds of window glass (one with vestige of lead came attached, indicating that it may originally have been from the church?)
- Context 111 Copper alloy 12-bore pin fire cartridge – would originally have been a paper cased cartridge.

**7 CONCLUSION**

The earliest surviving fabric of the present church is believed to date from about 1247 but restoration work in the mid 19th century records the remains of Norman foundations within the building.

The excavations located extant burials as little as 0.35m below the modern ground surface. They were all aligned west to east, laid supine (on their backs), arms at the sides with no surviving evidence for coffins. The burials were laid parallel to each other with four full rows and part of a fifth row within the excavated area. There were no surviving grave markers.

While it was a common preference for families and individuals to seek burials on the south and east sides of the church, it was noticeable that there were no grave markers on the north side of the churchyard earlier than the late 19th century, whereas to the east and south, grave markers dating from the 17th century onwards are visible.

There are records of repair and refurbishment of the church and the north chapel in particular in the early and mid 19th century, and it is possible that at that time the graveyard was cleared of standing gravestones and tombs and the soil surface reduced to roughly the level of the church floor.

It is quite clear that the churchyard ground surface rises to the north and east away from the church building. This was established at 0.53m above the church floor level at the north boundary of the churchyard, in comparison to 0.21m below the church floor level within the excavation area adjacent to the north door.

Following the refurbishment of the north chapel and church roof in the 1880s, the present rainwater down pipes were installed.

From the surviving archaeology, it is highly likely that they were connected to either the stone-lined drain (110) or the up-turned land drain alignment (114).

Stone-lined drain (110) incorporated handmade bricks (Fig 17) and a sawn and carved



fragment of limestone, probably from a wall memorial or possibly a chest tomb (Fig 15). A second piece of carved limestone from the same feature was from a gravestone with a curved head decorated with foliage and flowers and with part of the inscription reading 'died...' (Fig 16). A third piece of carved limestone has flat faces with a chamfered and rolled edge. This is probably from another grave marker. All three pieces of masonry appear to date from the 18th century.

The use of these stones within a drain associated with a 19th-century phase of church restoration indicates an earlier date for the material and supports the hypothesis that the graveyard was cleared and reduced in level as part of the restoration work.

A set of steps to a crypt below the floor of the north chapel was constructed, or largely rebuilt, using imperial gauge bricks in the course of the Victorian renovations. This truncated the east end of the substantial stone wall uncovered along the line of the proposed north wall of the new church extension.

There is no record of a wall at this location in any church records from the 13th century onwards. It seems likely that this wall predates the recorded building of the church in its present location in 1240. If this is the case, then almost certainly the wall will be the earliest survival of an earlier church recorded at *Overtune* in the 1086 Domesday Survey.

Forming a layer over and to the north of this wall was a dump of limestone fragments and limestone mortar and plaster. This included plaster painted white and a single fragment of plaster with polychrome painted decoration (Fig 18). It is possible this dates from the original building, but it is more likely that this material is demolition and clearance detritus from the alterations in the 19th century.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brown, N, and Glazebrook, J, 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties*, East Anglian Archaeol Occasional Paper, **8**

Cambridgeshire County Records Office, *Records of Holy Trinity Parish, Orton Longueville, Peterborough*, Ref **HP61/1 - HP61/30**

Campbell, J W P, and Saint, D, 2002 The Manufacture and Dating of English Brickwork, 1600-1720, *The Archaeological Journal*, **159**, 170-193

English Heritage 1991 *Exploring Our Past*

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*

English Heritage 1997 *English Heritage Archaeology Division research Agenda*

Glazebrook, J, 1997 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource Assessment*, East Anglian Archaeol Occasional Papers, **3**

Gurney, D, 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeol Occasional Papers, **14**

Harvey, N, *Fields, Hedges and Ditches*, Shire Album, **21**

IfA 1994 (Revised 2008) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*, Institute for Archaeologists

IfA 1999 (Revised 2008) *Code of Conduct*, Institute for Archaeologists

Muthesius, S, 2002 *The History of the terraced Form*, Lecture at the Design for Homes Joined-Up Housing conference (pdf) [www.designforhomes.org](http://www.designforhomes.org)

McAree, D F, 2009 *Holy Trinity church, Orton Longueville, Peterborough: Specification for Archaeological Investigation*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

NCCNH 2003 *Health and Safety provisions and Northamptonshire Archaeology Health and Safety at Work Guidelines*, Northamptonshire County Council, Northamptonshire Heritage

*Peterborough Historic Environment Record*

RCHME 1968 *Royal Commission on Historical Monuments in England: Huntingdonshire*, H M Stationery Office

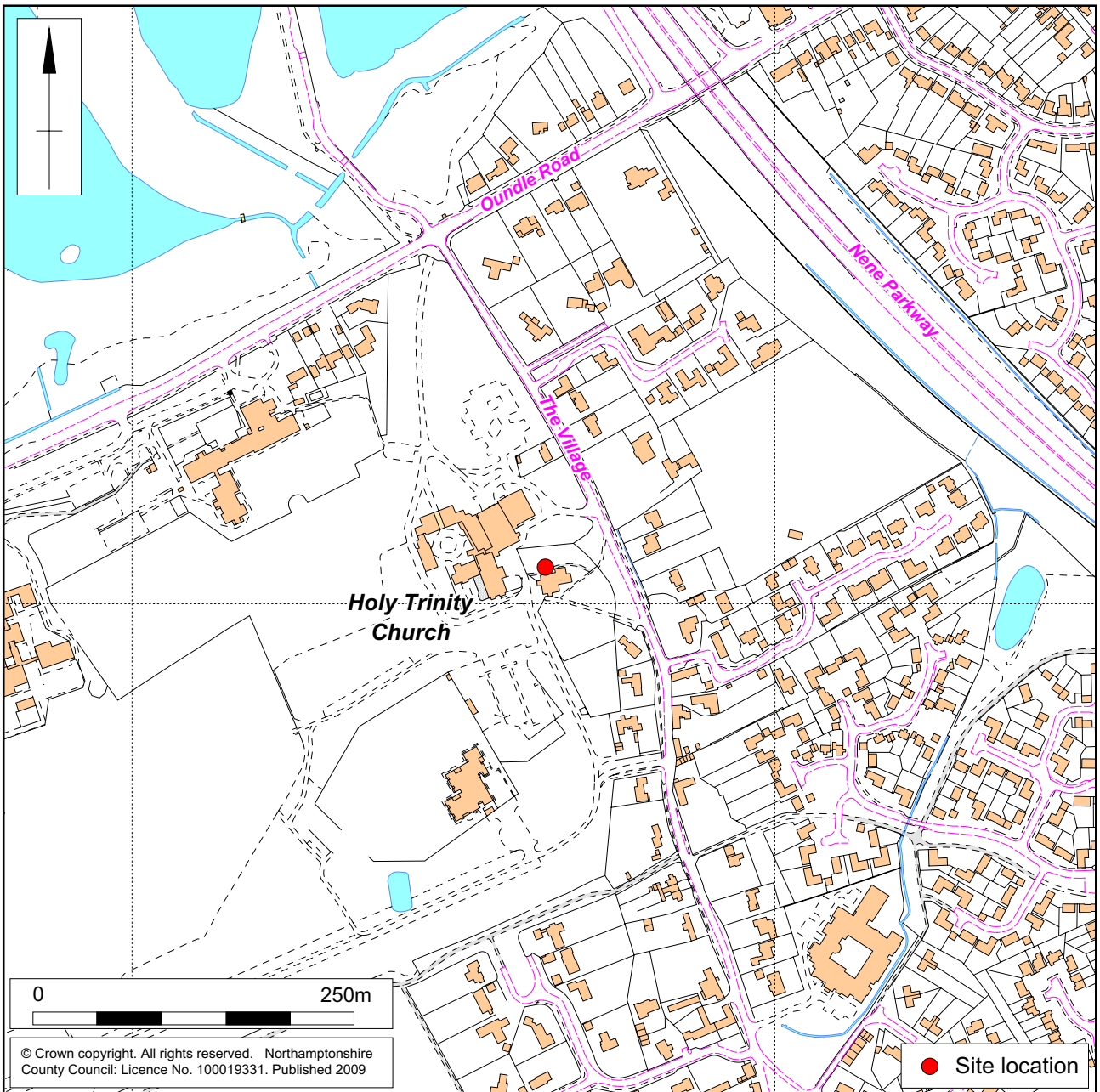
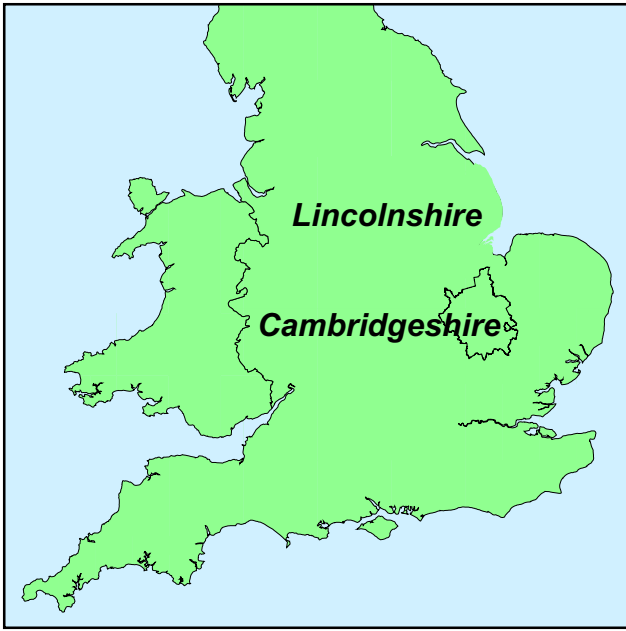
Robinson, B, 2009 *Brief for Archaeological Investigation*, Peterborough City Council Archaeology Service

Sweeting, W D, 1898 *Historical and architectural notes on the parish churches in and around Peterborough*, Whittaker and Co, E T Hamblin

Weston, P, 2007 *Orton Hall, Orton Longueville, Peterborough. An Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation*, Archaeological Solutions Report, **2849**

VCH 1936 *A History of the County of Huntingdon: Volume 3*, Victoria County History

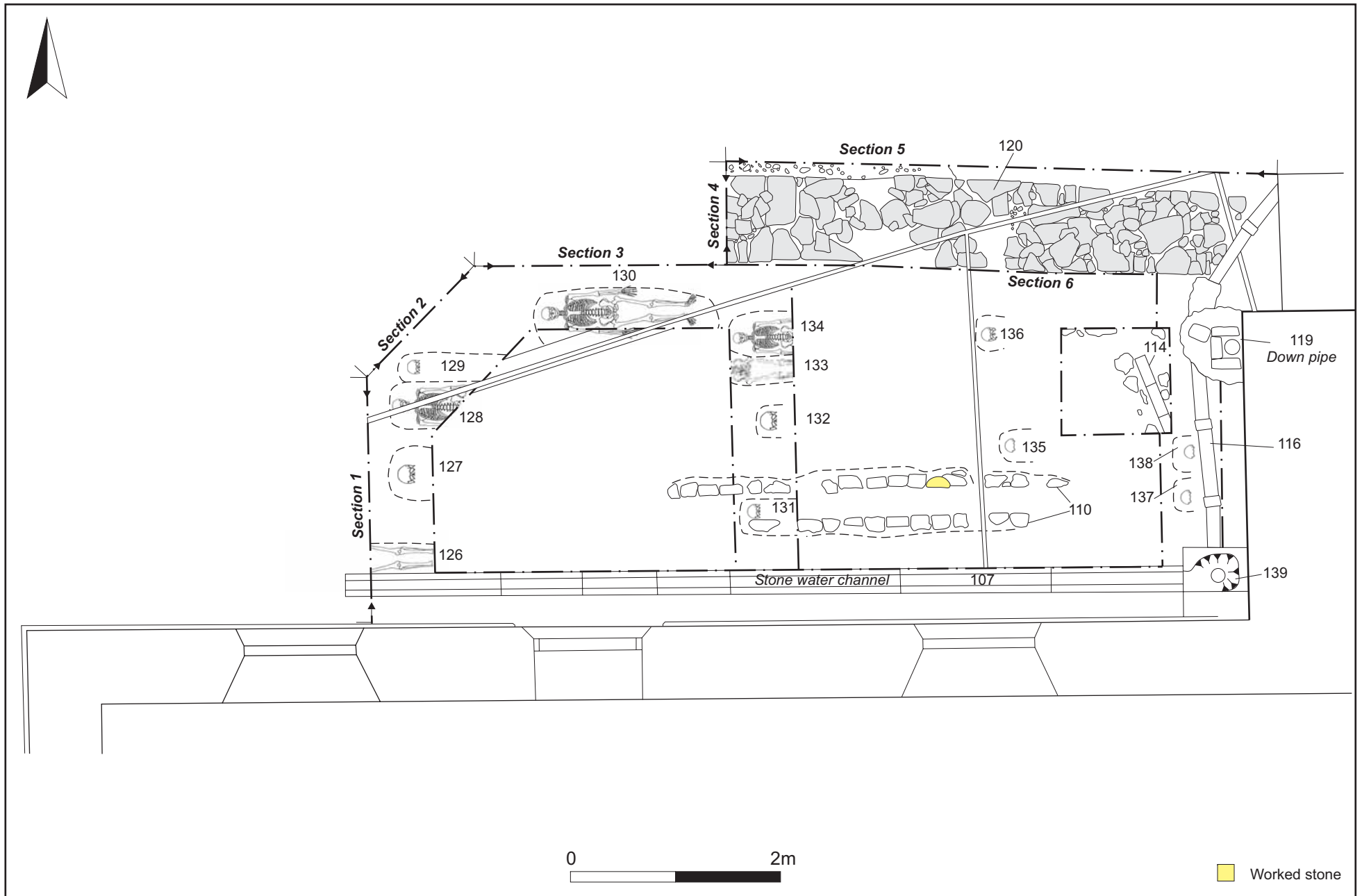
[http://www.bricksandbrass.co.uk/deselem/extwall/bricks\\_and\\_brickwork\\_in\\_period\\_home.htm](http://www.bricksandbrass.co.uk/deselem/extwall/bricks_and_brickwork_in_period_home.htm)



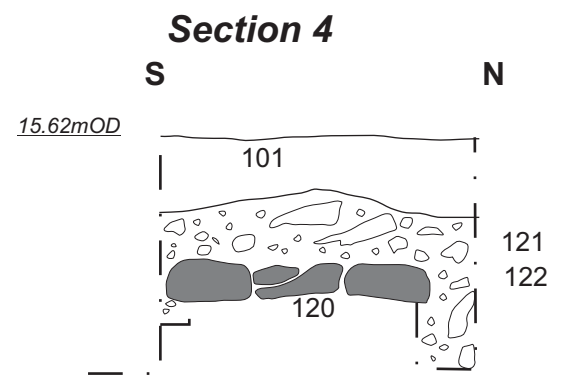
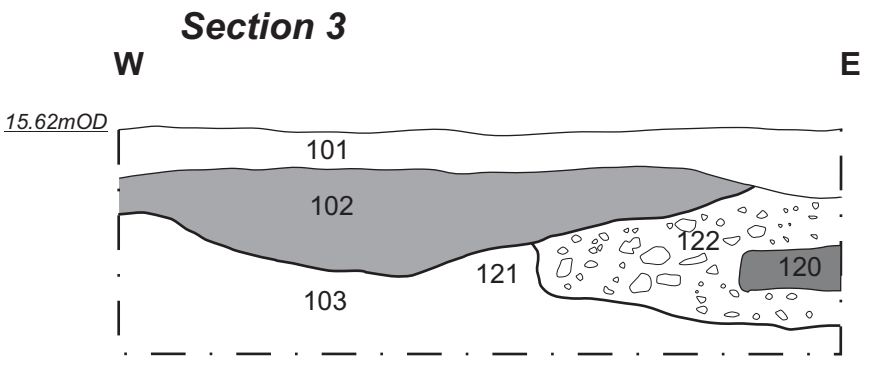
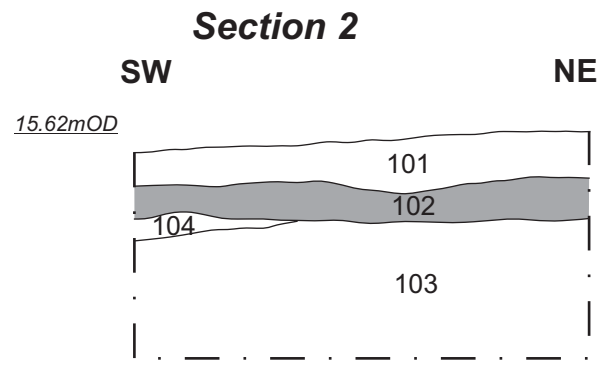
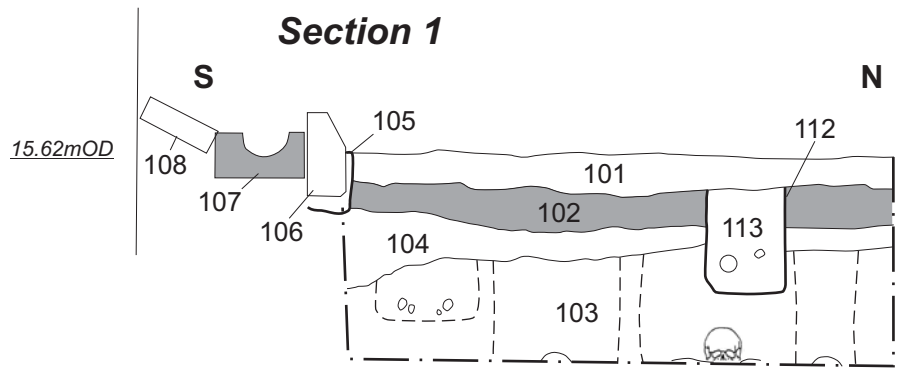
1:5000

Site Location Fig 1

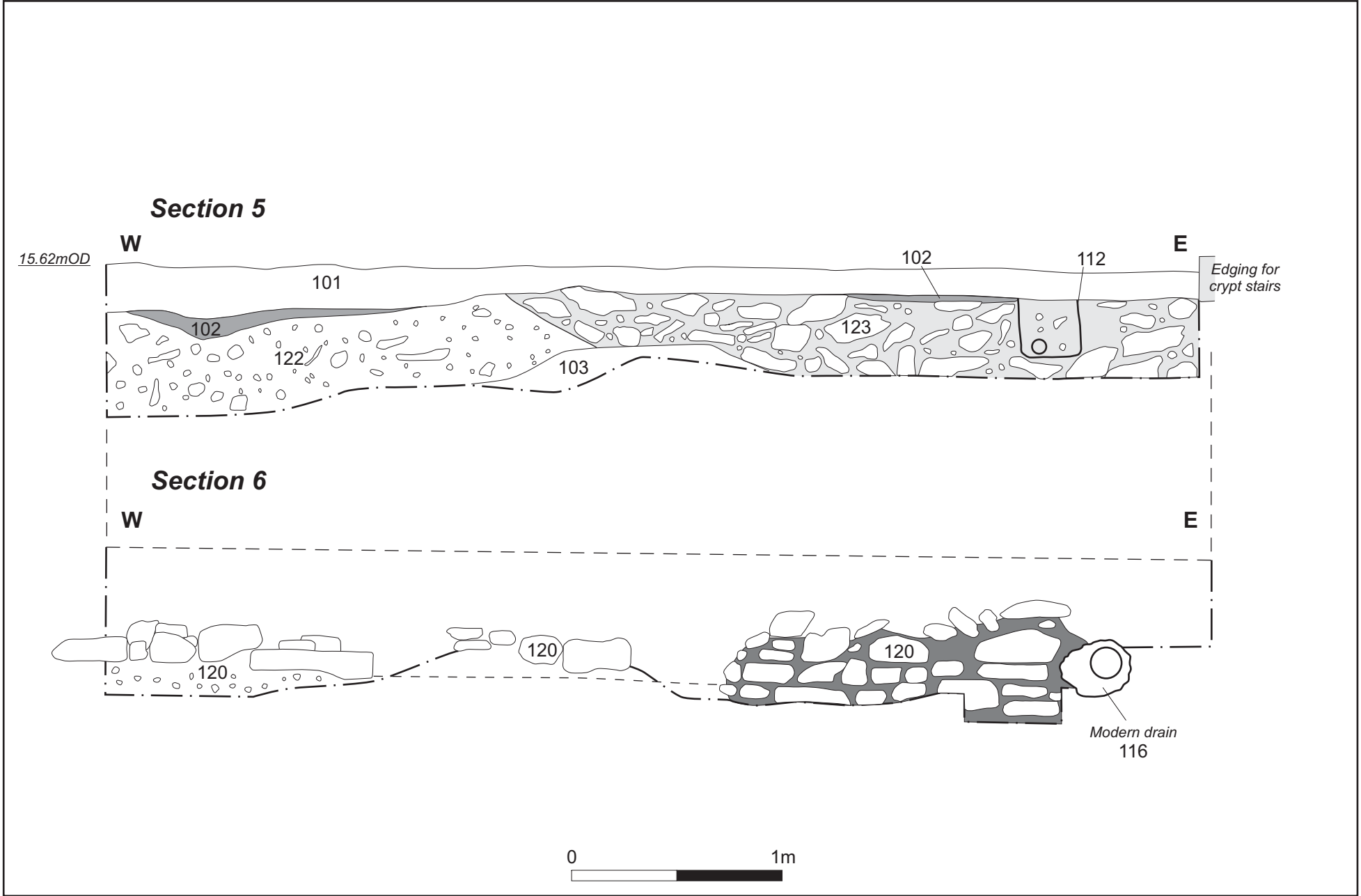
The excavation, showing burials and wall 120 Fig 2



Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4, showing grave soil and wall 120 Fig 3



Section 5 to north of wall 120 and Section 6, showing wall evaluation Fig 4





Holy Trinity Church, looking south-west

Fig 5



General view of excavation area showing test pit locations, looking east Fig 6



General view of excavation area, looking east Fig 7



Burial (126), (127), (128) and (129), looking west Fig 8





Burial (130), looking west Fig 9



Burial (133) and (134), looking west Fig 10



Wall (120), looking west

Fig 11



Wall (120), looking east, note damage from service trench excavation

Fig 12



Drain (107) and stone lined drain (110), looking west Fig 13  
(Note carved stone immediately above 1m scale)



Drain (107), salt glaze pipes (117) and field drain (115), looking south Fig 14



Part of possible wall monument or chest tomb, cherub head (Scale 100mm) Fig 15



Fragment of memorial inscription, part of possible wall monument (Scale 50mm) Fig 16



Painted wall plaster (Scale 10mm) Fig 17



Examples of 17th to 19th-century bricks recovered from excavations (Scale 100mm) Fig 18