

SAINT MARY'S CHURCH, NORTH MARSTON
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

REPORT FOR AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Prepared by
NETWORK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
on behalf of
Boden & Ward Stonemasons Ltd
and
The Victor Farrar Partnership
for the
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<p style="text-align: center;">Network Archaeology Northern Office 28 West Parade Lincoln. LN1 1JT Tel: 01522 532621 Email: enquiries@netarch.co.uk</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Network Archaeology Southern Office 22 High Street Buckingham. MK18 1NU Tel: 01280 816174 Email: enquiries@netarch.co.uk</p>
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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

In March and December 2005, *Network Archaeology Ltd* undertook an archaeological watching brief on the ground excavations for a French drain and related soakaway at Saint Mary's Church, North Marston, Buckinghamshire.

The footings of the church tower were found to have been constructed from Oving limestone, and disarticulated human remains along with a small quantity of pottery, spanning the medieval to modern periods, were uncovered during excavation of the soakaway, to the north west of the church. Other finds from the soakaway included ceramic building material, animal bone, glass, clay pipe, coffin nails and a stone marble.

1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken in March and December 2005 during preliminary ground works for a new French drain and associated soak-away on land at Saint Mary's Church, North Marston, Buckinghamshire (NGR 477700 222700, Figures 1 & 2). This report supersedes the Interim Report number 342 issued in January 2006.

1.1 Commissioning bodies

The archaeological works and this report were prepared by *Network Archaeology Ltd* in response to a brief issued by the Oxford Diocesan Archaeological Advisor and on the behalf of Boden & Ward Stonemasons Ltd, the developer and The Victor Farrar Partnership, the architect.

1.2 The development

The French drain was constructed around church tower and connected to an existing soakaway to the south-west of the porch (Figure 2). These works consisted of the hand excavation of a trench, 460mm deep around the exterior of the tower. A small, rubber-tracked mechanical digger with a c.20cm wide, toothless bucket dug another trench across part of the churchyard to an existing soakaway. A third trench ran six metres north-west of the tower across part of the churchyard into a new soakaway c.1.5m deep, also excavated by the mechanical digger. This new soakaway was moved from its planned location due to the presence of a tree.

1.3 Planning background and requirement for an archaeological investigation

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken as part of a condition of planning permission for the development, according to the brief prepared by J.T Munby, the Oxford Diocesan Archaeological Adviser (October 2004). Network Archaeology produced a Project Design (Network Archaeology 2005) setting out the methodology for the proposed archaeological investigation.

The archaeological work was considered necessary due to the proximity of development to the foundations of the church and the high probability of uncovering human remains.

1.4 Aims of the watching brief

In general, the aims of the watching brief were to record the presence or absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains, and to assess any ecofactual, environmental and organic remains of potential archaeological importance.

In accordance with the brief issued by the Oxford Diocesan Archaeological Adviser, the particular aims of the watching brief were to:

- Determine the extent to which human remains survive in the affected areas
- Generally observe the presence of burial vaults and graves
- Take the opportunity to study the foundations of the building
- Signal, before work proceeds, the discovery of an archaeological find for which further action is required
- To provide a report and ordered archive on the investigation

1.5 Terms of reference

This report is intended for Boden and Ward Stonemasons Ltd, The Victor Farrar Partnership and the Oxford Diocesan Archaeological Adviser.

1.6 Resourcing

The project was overseen by the project manager Martin Lightfoot. The programme of archaeological monitoring took place over one day in March 2005 and 2.5 days in December 2005, and was undertaken by project supervisors. The post excavation work was conducted between December 2005 and March 2006.

1.7 Limitations

The scope of the works restricted visibility of the archaeology and therefore impeded interpretation. Being consecrated ground, human remains were not permitted to be removed from site without specific permission and just cause, which negated the opportunity for specialist analysis of the human bone assemblage. Like most churchyards, St Mary's had gone through many years of reuse, which meant that stratigraphic phasing was largely unobtainable. The two phases of the watching brief were conducted by different individuals, which resulted in a variation of descriptive and interpretative recording.

1.8 Report structure

The report has been structured in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (1991) and the guidelines of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2000, 2001).

1.9 Procedures

1.9.1 Archaeological monitoring

Continuous monitoring took place on all groundwork likely to impact on archaeological remains. Opportunistic photographic, drawn and written records of the foundations of the church and the stratigraphic make-up of the churchyard were made during excavations.

1.9.2 Archaeological visibility

Visibility was mostly good and the fairly dry weather reduced the risk of soil contamination through movement of machines or people.

1.9.3 Project code

Network Archaeology's project code for St Mary's Church, North Marston is SMC 16.

1.9.4 Allocation of numbers

Context numbers were issued sequentially as and when required. These numbers ran from 001 to 017.

1.9.5 Written records

A system of pro-forma record sheets was used for on-site recording. Multi-context recording was used for all archaeological deposits and any significant natural deposits located during monitoring of the site.

1.9.6 Drawn records

Areas revealing archaeological and natural deposits were planned and / or drawn in profile at a 1:20 scale. Excavated areas and significant archaeological deposits were plotted on a 1:200 site plan supplied by The Victor Farrar Partnership (figure 2).

1.9.7 Photographic record

Monochrome and colour photographs in 35mm format as well as digital photographs were taken of all archaeological deposits, general site views and work in progress. A full written record was made of all photographs taken. The feature context number, appropriate scales, and a north arrow (if appropriate) appeared in all photographs whenever possible.

1.9.8 Post excavation

Finds were cleaned, marked, conserved and packaged as appropriate to IFA guidelines (1999) and were sent to specialists for examination and assessment, in accordance with the brief.

1.9.9 Standards

All work has been undertaken in accordance with the brief issued by the Oxford Diocesan Archaeological Adviser, Network Archaeology's Project Design (March 2005), IFA guidance documents (2000, 2001) and current health and safety legislation. The management of the project was in accordance with English Heritage guidance (1991).

1.10 Location and topography

The proposed scheme is in the grounds of Saint Mary's Church, in the parish of North Marston, Buckinghamshire, in the Diocese of Oxford (NGR 477700 222700). The topography is gently undulating at approximately 125m AOD. North Marston lies in the Aylesbury Vale, roughly 4.8km (3 miles) south of Winslow, and 6.4km (4 miles) north of Waddesdon.

1.11 Soils and Geology

The solid geology of the area is Oxford Clay, Kellaways Beds and Kimmeridge Clay and Amphill Clay (BGS 2005), while the drift geology of the area is Boulder Clay and Moranic Drift. Soils of the area are described as 'slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey soils' of the Denchworth association (SSEW 1983, 711b).

1.12 Historical and Archaeological Background

The north aisle and arcade of St. Mary's Church was built during the 13th century, possibly funded by offerings to the shrine of St. (Sir) John Schorne, who was rector of North Marston in about 1290 (Lysons and Lysons, 1806). The south aisle and porch date to the 14th century while the remainder of the church was built during the 15th century. In 1854 the chancel and vestry were restored with funding from Queen Victoria, who had been left the property by local landowner, John Campbell Nield. Under the Church of Windsor, Nield was the 'patron of the curacy and lessee of the great tithes of Windsor' (Lysons and Lysons, 1806). The east window and a reredos form part of a memorial to him. The church underwent further restoration in the 1920s.

1.13 Previous archaeological work

There are no records of previous archaeological investigation within the development site itself.

2 RESULTS

2.1 Summary of contexts

A summary description of all contexts is provided in table 2.1.

Table 2.1: Context summary

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
001	layer	loose mid to dark brown sandy silt	0.65m D	topsoil
002	masonry	Oving limestone rubble	n/a	wall footing of limestone rubble
003	masonry	Oving limestone blocks with hard light brown lime mortar	n/a	buttress footing, fire damaged
004	masonry	Oving limestone squared blocks with grey lime mortar with medium hardness	n/a	wall footing and buttress for south half of tower
005	masonry	Oving limestone blocks with hard pinkish brown sandy lime mortar	n/a	wall footing and buttress for tower
006	masonry	Oving limestone blocks with earth between blocks	n/a	footing of buttress of north aisle
007	layer	light to mid greyish brown silty clay. Small to medium limestone fragments	0.3m D	subsoil
008	layer	light greyish brown slightly silty clay		subsoil
009	layer	mid grey clayey silt, rare small sub rounded stones	1.5m W / 0.22m D	topsoil, similar to 001
010	layer	mid greyish brown slightly silty clay, occasional small stones	1.5m W 0.3m D	subsoil, same as 008
011	layer	mid greyish-brown slightly silty, compact clay, possible stone sorting evident	1.2m W / 0.2m D	redeposited natural/subsoil mix
012	layer	mid orange-brown compact clay, sandy silt patches	1.1m W / 0.5m D	redeposited and /or disturbed natural
013	fill	mid dark grey silty clay with water logged wood	0.18m W / 0.22m D	wooden coffin & human burial
014	fill	mid grey silty clay and wood fragments	0.2m W / 0.16m D	wooden coffin & human burial. No cut visible
015	layer	orange-brown slightly sandy clay, compact and sticky	0.68m W / 0.12m D	natural clays, on water table
016	cut	steeply sloping, undercut rectangle. Very diffused, almost non-perceptible cut	0.2m W / 0.66m D	probable grave cut
017	fill	mid to dark orange-grey slightly silty clay	0.2m W / 0.66m D	fill of grave cut

2.2 Description of archaeological remains

A brief description of each layer encountered is presented below.

2.2.1 French Drain

Removal of the topsoil, 001, prior to the excavation of the French drain yielded fragments of animal bone, CBM, and sherds of pottery from the 11th to 20th centuries, including a medieval jar rim and a fragment of human left-mandible.

A concentration of limestone rubble, 002, with an orange-brown gritty clay mortar was revealed at the south-east corner of the tower (Figure 3). The rubble continued under buttresses 003 and 005, varying from 0.15m to 0.23m wide. The topsoil, 001, revealed a small quantity of early medieval and post medieval pottery and ceramic building material (CBM), as well as window glass, animal bone and a fragment of a human jaw.

The buttress, 003, on both the south and west sides of the tower, was exposed to a depth of 0.11m. The top edge of this buttress was chamfered and built of local Oving limestone blocks. No chamfered footing was observed at the east end of the buttress and there was a red discolouration of the limestone in the south-west corner of the buttress. The mortar was a hard, pale brown lime mortar.

The footings of both the north and south half of the tower had been constructed using squared Oving limestone blocks with a flat upper surface and fairly flat face (004 & 005). These ashlar footings (building stone precisely cut to a smooth finish) varied in width from 0.04m to 0.15m. The mortar on the southern side was of grey-coloured lime of medium hardness and was at least 0.45m wide in places while that on the northern side was a hard, pink-brown, sandy lime. Directly below the north-west end of the tower and south-west buttress were remains of rubble and mortar.

Buttress 006 adjoined the north aisle and tower and was made of Oving limestone, ashlar footings roughly 0.18m deep, of which 0.10m was below the current ground level. There was earth between the cracks of these blocks rather than mortar.

2.2.2 Pipe trenches & soakaway

A narrow pipe trench was excavated from the south-west corner of the south aisle to connect with an existing soakaway. As this trench sloped to a depth of no more than 60cm, a direct route across the churchyard was taken. Excavation revealed disturbed subsoil layers, 007 & 008, which yielded one example of medieval CBM, post-medieval pottery and a clay pipe stem respectively.

Several layers of disturbed soil were revealed during the excavation of the new soakaway, which was located c.6m north-west of the tower. The subsoil 010 revealed disarticulated human bones; long bones and skull fragments (charnel) were most numerous, but small amounts of rib bones and metatarsal or metacarpal bones were also observed. This layer contained a modest amount of early medieval to early modern pottery, glass and a stone marble.

Layer 011 was compact clay containing a large amount of small to medium sized limestone fragments. Disarticulated human bone fragments were recovered from this context, again displaying a higher percentage of charnel bones than other bone types. Other human bones included three vertebrae, a small number of teeth and metatarsal or metacarpal and a small humerus bone. Medieval to post-medieval pottery and CBM, clay pipe and two probable coffin nails were also recovered. More disturbed human remains were encountered in context 012, along with early to late medieval pottery and CBM, post medieval CBM, clay pipe, animal bone and more glass.

At the base of the soakaway were the waterlogged remains of two wooden coffins (NGR 477687 222713). Both coffins were oriented east to west, and the remains in coffin 014 were oriented with the skull to the east and appear to have been disturbed. A nail was recovered from the fill of this coffin. The second coffin, 013, was located approximately 0.65m to the east of coffin 014 and had collapsed but revealed what appeared to be the condyle end of a femur protruding from the section. The remains of this inhumation appear to have been oriented with the head to the east. A possible grave cut 016, although very faint was observed for this burial.

The top of the first and second coffins lay 1.3m and 1.26m respectively below the present ground surface.

3 DISCUSSION

3.1.1 French drain

The buttress 006, which connects the north aisle and the tower, is known from early sources to have been one of the first phases of the church (Lysons and Lysons, 1806). It is the only area investigated that did not have any mortar between the blocks. This presents a number of scenarios; a) that the mortar had leached out and that earth had replaced it; b) that the blocks were bound using earth or; c) that the blocks were dry set (no bonding agent at all) and over time the gaps have filled with earth.

The limestone rubble observed in context 002 predated the buttress footings (003) and both the north-west and south-east tower buttresses and walls (004 and 005). The rubble clearly ran underneath these structures, while under the western wall of the south aisle, the rubble appears to have been cut away. As no datable finds were recovered from these contexts to distinguish them from the building of the tower, it is assumed that the rubble deposits formed part of the stabilising or levelling for the south aisle and tower construction sometime between the 14th and 15th centuries.

The reddening noted in the south west corner of buttress 003 indicated fire damage to the block, probably from the quarry site, as no evidence for burning was noted in the surrounding soil deposits.

The finds from the topsoil around the tower show that activity spanned the medieval to post-medieval period. The clay pipes and stone marble in particular possibly related to a time when graveyards were a place of relaxation (Appendix B). Continued disturbance of the ground surrounding the tower from the later medieval period onwards is also evident.

3.1.2 Soakaway

Observation of the excavation for the new soakaway to the north-west of the tower indicated that the area had been disturbed many times previously, to a maximum depth of almost 1.5m. In layers 010 to 012 the majority of the human bones encountered were long bones (tibia, fibula, femur and humerus) and skull fragments. The bones were clearly not articulated and some of the long bones and nearly all of the skull fragments displayed signs of damage, suggesting that the burials to which they originally belonged had been disturbed, or that they represented the re-burial of charnel. This postulated disturbance and re-burial may have occurred several times over a long period of time, possibly since the medieval period.

Some vertebrae, a small number of teeth and metatarsal or metacarpal discovered in layer 011 may have been the disturbed remains of a single individual. From the number of long bones discovered throughout the layers 011 and 012, it is estimated that four to six individuals were represented. The discovery of a small humerus indicated that one may have been a child.

The two coffins revealed at the base of the soakaway retained well-preserved wood possibly as a result of the waterlogged conditions. The discovery of these two coffins was not unexpected but there was no indication of their presence on the ground surface, such as a grave marker or ground settling. The inhumation 013 appears to have been buried with its head pointing towards the east, as the condyle end of the probable femur would indicate. If the burial had been oriented west to east in the usual manner, and the coffin had been disturbed and destroyed (which is evident from the wooden fragments of coffin found in layer 012), one would have expected to have seen the head of the femur.

It is not unusual to find east to west aligned burials; it has been suggested that this occurrence may have been accidental or due to carelessness as many coffins were plain and straight sided, and therefore could have been buried the wrong way round (Derek Cater, pers comm.). It is also

possible, if indeed it is a reversed burial, that this grave belonged to a priest. During the post-medieval period, a priest was often buried east to west, so that on the day of resurrection he would sit up to face his flock (Daniell 1997). It was, however, not possible to investigate these hypotheses as only a small amount of the coffins were exposed, and much must be left to informed speculation.

Although not removed for sampling, the coffins appeared to have been made from the same type and thickness of wood. The coffin nails proved to be in bad condition and are undiagnostic. Due to the survival of the wood, albeit in a semi-waterlogged state, a late post-medieval to early/modern date is suggested.

The amount of human bone encountered in the excavation of the soakaway was neither unusual nor unexpected; although the dominance of disarticulated charnel bones shows that the majority of those found were not *in-situ*.

The finds recovered from the excavation of the soakaway could not be stratigraphically phased. Early medieval to post-medieval pottery and CBM, clay pipe and glass were found throughout the layers, to a depth of 1.36m, just above the coffins, showing that this area has been disturbed many times with the soil being turned over and redeposited, possibly disturbing at least two graves in the process.

4 CONCLUSION

The watching brief recorded evidence of interment from the medieval period onwards, with particular emphasis upon the north, and oldest, side of the church.

The footings of the tower and south aisle appeared to have been built on a rubble foundation, although as no datable evidence was recovered from these contexts one must rely on the documentary sources, which provide a 14th to 15th century date (Lysons and Lysons, 1806). The discovery that the north aisle had no surviving mortar suggests that this area is of a different construction phase to the rest of the church. This conclusion is supported by the documentary sources which cite that the north aisle was built in the 13th century (*ibid*).

As was expected, human remains in varying conditions were found to the north of the tower and show a long period of use and reuse for burial in this part of the churchyard. The occurrence of finds dating from the 11th to 20th centuries further illustrates the longevity of burial activity on the northern side of the churchyard. Unfortunately the pottery was highly abraded which prevented the identification of forms, with the exception of one jar rim from context 001. The small stone marble or gaming piece and clay pipes illustrates how churchyards were seen as a place of relaxation (Appendix B).

Overall, it can be concluded that the watching brief succeeded in identifying and recording the foundations and footings of the tower and in ensuring that no articulated human bones were disturbed. There is a high degree of confidence in the majority of these results. The suggestion of a reversed burial at the base of the new soakaway is based on available, but limited evidence and therefore must be presented with a medium to high degree of confidence. All human remains removed during the excavation of the soakaway were re-interred prior to the backfilling of the soakaway.

5 PROJECT ARCHIVE

The St Mary's Church archive is being prepared in accordance with current guidelines including Ferguson and Murray 1997, the UK Institute of Conservation (Walker 1990), the Museums & Galleries Commission (MGC 1992) and Buckinghamshire County Museum guidelines (BCM 2003). The documentary archive will be deposited at the Buckinghamshire County Museum. All archaeological finds will be retained by St Mary's Church unless otherwise agreed and consent given by the relevant church authority. The one fragment of human bone accidentally removed from site will be re-interred on site with permission and guidance from the Diocese Advisor and St Mary's Church.

The site accession number is AYBCM 2005.37

The archive will comprise:

- A copy of this report and all other documents held by Network Archaeology relating to the project
- All 35mm colour slide, black and white print and copies of digital photographs
- All original site drawings and plans of the site
- All original written site records
- Original notes relating to the finds or post excavation
- Original relevant and non-confidential correspondence relating to the site
- A microfiche copy of the above

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Organisation	Name	Position
Boden & Ward Stonemasons Ltd		Developer
The Victor Farrar Partnership		Architect
Diocese of Oxford	Julian Munby Jill Hind	Oxford Diocesan Archaeological Advisers
Network Archaeology Ltd	Charlotte Bentley	Illustrations Officer
	David Bonner	Director
	Wendy Booth	Finds Officer
	Rosie Burton	Project Officer
	Anni Byard	Project Supervisor
	Catherine Holgate	Reports Officer
	Adam Holman	IT/GIS Officer
	Martin Lightfoot	Project Manager

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8 STATEMENT OF INDEMNITY

Every effort has been taken in the preparation and submission of this report in order to provide as complete an assessment as possible within the terms of the brief, and all statements and opinions are offered in good faith. Network Archaeology Ltd. cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for any loss or other consequences arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this report and any supplementary papers, howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived, or as a result of unknown and undiscovered sites of artefacts.

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APPENDIX A:
Finds Summary Table

Table A1: Finds Summary Table

Context	Data	Early Medieval	Late Medieval	Post-Medieval	Early / Modern	Medieval CBM	Post-medieval CBM	Clay pipe	Iron	Human Bone	Animal Bone	Glass	Fired Clay	Worked Stone	Total
001	count	1		7	4		4			1	3	5			25
	weight	17		55	42		146			14	58	4			336
007	count			1		1		1							3
	weight			3		45		2							50
010	count	1		1	1		5					2		1	11
	weight	7		10	32		230					50		5	334
011	count	1		2			2	1	2						8
	weight	3		7			43	3	12						68
012	count	4	1			1	2	1			1	2			12
	weight	26	2			12	42	6			24	45			157
014	count								1				1		2
	weight								6				2		8
Total	count	7	1	11	5	2	13	3	3	1	4	9	1	1	61
	weight	53	2	75	74	57	461	11	18	14	82	99	2	5	953

APPENDIX B:
Specialist Reports

Assessment of Ceramics from St Mary's Church, North Marston, Bucks.

By Anna M.Slowikowski

Introduction

The ceramics from St Mary's Church was recorded and quantified by sherd count and weight, according to the guidelines of the Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG 2001).

Results

There were a total of 20 pottery sherds, weighing 162g and there were 17 fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 521g (Tables B1 and B2). The ceramics were recorded on an Access database. In the absence of a county-wide ceramic type series, the ceramics were coded, wherever possible, according to the Milton Keynes type series and the published descriptions for the pottery from Great Linford, Milton Keynes (Mynard and Zeepvat 1992, 248) or, in the case of the ceramic building material, the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series. In addition to the ceramics, a single tiny fragment of modern vessel glass was recovered from context 011.

Table B 1: Pottery Catalogue

Context	Fabric code	Common name/description	Sherds	Weight (g)	Spot-date
001	MSC1	Medieval sand and calcareous	1	17	L11th-mid 13th C
001	PM8	Glazed red earthenware	3	16	17th C
001	PM24	Pearlware	4	39	L18th C
007	PM8	Glazed red earthenware	1	3	17th-18th C
010	MSC1	Medieval sand and calcareous	1	7	L11th-mid 13th C
010	PM8	Glazed red earthenware	1	10	17th-18th C
010	PM25	White earthenware	1	32	18th-19th C
011	MSC1	Medieval sand and calcareous	1	3	L11th-mid 13th C
011	PM8	Glazed red earthenware	2	7	17th-18th C
012	MSC1	Medieval sand and calcareous	1	7	L11th-mid 13th C
012	MSC1	Medieval sand and calcareous (with black grog)	3	19	L11th-mid 13th C
012	MS3	Medieval sandy	1	2	13th-15th C

The date range of the pottery is from the late 11th to the 20th centuries. The earliest sherds are in a coarse sandy fabric with calcareous inclusions (MSC1). The majority of sherds cannot be allocated to a particular form although there is a fragment from a jar rim of characteristic early medieval form, from context 001. A single sherd of possible 13th-15th century date was found in context 012 but otherwise there is nothing between that and the early post-medieval period. There are a number of sherds from Glazed red earthenware (PM8) vessels and the presence of glaze on the interior but not the exterior suggests these were open forms such as bowls.

Most of the medieval pottery was residual in later contexts.

Table B 2: Ceramic Building Material Catalogue

Context	Fabric code	Common name/description	Sherds	Weight (g)
001	1A	Orange sandy	3	59
001	1C	Orange sandy vitrified peg tile	1	87
007	8	Medieval buff surfaces/grey core	1	45
010	12	White inclusions	3	67

Context	Fabric code	Common name/description	Sherds	Weight (g)
010	1C	Orange sandy vitrified	2	163
011	9	Vesicular pan-tile	2	43
012	11	Potterspury (?) ridge tile	1	12
012	12	White inclusions	1	14
012	1A	Orange sandy ridge tile	1	28
012	FC	Miscellaneous fired clay	1	2

The ceramic building material comprises mainly roof tile fragments. Most are likely to be post-medieval but one fragment of a possible medieval flat roof tile (type 8) was found in context 007, and a fragment of ridge tile, possibly in Potterspury-type fabric (type 11) from context 012. The type 8 roof tile cannot be closely dated but the date of the Potterspury fragment is likely to be 14th or 15th century. Its source is the production site at Potterspury, Northamptonshire. A second ridge tile, in an orange sandy fabric, was also found in the same context as the Potterspury tile. The only other recognisable forms are a pan-tile, from context 011 and a peg tile, with a round peg hole, from context 001. A single tiny fragment of fired clay, possibly a piece of daub, was found in context 012.

Bibliography

MPRG, 2001, Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

Mynard, D.C. and Zeepvat, R.J., 1992, Great Linford, Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society Monograph Series 3

Animal Bone Report

By Richard Moore

Results

Three bones or bone fragments and one tooth, together weighing 80g, were retrieved from two contexts. The bone is a pale buff colour and has a light and porous texture with little organic material remaining. The surfaces are partly eroded, but preservation is otherwise fairly good.

The three bones came from the topsoil, context 001. A sheep or goat metacarpal was unfused, implying that it came from a young animal, less than two years old (Schmid, 1975, p75). It came from a large animal, probably from an improved breed, suggesting that it was of the late eighteenth century or later. If earlier, it would probably have been from a goat rather than a sheep.

A large fragment of a pig ulna is unremarkable. A rib fragment may also have been from a pig, judging by its dimensions.

A cattle upper molar tooth from context 012 was heavily worn, and came from an animal of relatively advanced age.

This small assemblage probably has no potential for further study, although its preservation indicates that there may be more promising material from better stratified contexts if further excavation is carried out on the site in the future.

Table B 3: Animal Bone Catalogue

Context	Bone	Animal	Side	Comments
001	Ulna	Pig	L	Articular region and part of shaft.
001	Metacarpal	Sheep	L	Unfused distal epiphysis missing, otherwise complete.
001	Rib			Blade fragment.
Total weight 001: 57g				
012	Tooth	Cattle		Upper molar, heavy wear.
Total weight 012: 23g				

Bibliography:

Schmid E. 1975 Atlas of Animal Bones, Elsevier, Amsterdam.

Human Remains Report

By Wendy Booth

A single fragment of human bone, weighing 11 grams, was recovered during the watching brief.

This fragment was weighed and examined by eye and the results are detailed in the table below. The fragment is from the left frontal portion of the mandible, and includes the sockets for the left incisors, canine and first premolar, although none of the teeth are present. The size and appearance of the fragment and the dentition suggests it was from an adult, but the parabolic arch would appear to be quite small and narrow, so the adult was probably slightly built and therefore possibly female. It is not possible to gauge an age at death from this fragment and there was no evidence of injury or disease. The sample was of insufficient size to allow any further inferences.

Table B 4: Human Bone Catalogue

Context No.	Material Type	Provisional Period	Count	Weight (gms)	Comments
001	Human bone	Undetermined	1	11	Fragment of left mandible.

Iron Objects Report

By Wendy Booth

Three iron objects, weighing 18 grams, were recovered during the watching brief.

These fragments were counted, weighed and examined by eye and the results are detailed in the table below. All three objects were complete square-headed nails, the longest of which, from context 011, is 52.7mm long and the shortest, also from context 11, is 36.8mm long. This makes them a suitable size to have been used in the manufacture of coffins and the long nail from 011 appears to have fragments of mineralised wood still adhering to it, which support this conclusion. Due to the undiagnostic nature of the assemblage, and its insufficient size, it was not possible to make any further inferences.

Table B 5: Iron Objects Catalogue

Context No.	Material Type	Provisional Period	Count	Weight (gms)	Comments
011	Iron object	Undetermined	2	12	Coffin nails?
014	Iron object	Undetermined	1	6	Coffin nail?

Clay Tobacco Pipe Report

By Wendy Booth

Three fragments of clay tobacco pipe, weighing 11 grams, were recovered during the watching brief.

These fragments were counted, weighed and examined by eye and the results are detailed in the table below. All of the pieces were undecorated stem fragments and are possibly indicative of use of the graveyard as a place of relaxation (Alan Vince, pers. comm.). Due

to the undiagnostic nature of the assemblage, and its insufficient size, it was not possible to make any further inferences.

Table B 6: Clay Pipe Catalogue

Context No.	Material Type	Provisional Period	Count	Weight (gms)	Comments
007	Clay pipe	Post-medieval	1	2	Undecorated stem fragment.
011	Clay pipe	Post-medieval	1	3	Undecorated stem fragment.
012	Clay pipe	Post-medieval	1	6	Undecorated stem fragment.

Glass Report

By Wendy Booth

Nine fragments of glass, weighing 99 grams, were recovered during the watching brief.

These fragments were counted, weighed and examined by eye and the results are detailed in the table below. Four fragments of bottle from contexts 010 and 012 were moulded, indicating a late post-medieval or modern date and suggesting a 19th or early 20th century date for the deposits. Sheet glass fragments from context 1 are extremely thin, approximately 0.5 mm. All the fragments are flat, one with a finished rolled edge, indicating that they are unlikely to be from a vessel, and are probably from a very thin pane of glass. The sample was of insufficient size to allow any further inferences.

Table B 7: Glass Catalogue

Context No.	Material Type	Provisional Period	Count	Weight (gms)	Comments
001	Glass	Post-Medieval	5	4	Window glass?
010	Glass	Post-Medieval	2	50	Glass bottle fragments with moulded decoration/lettering.
012	Glass	Post-Medieval	2	45	Small moulded glass bottle, neck missing.

Worked Stone

By Wendy Booth

A single piece of worked stone, weighing 5 grams, was recovered during the watching brief.

This fragment was weighed and examined by eye and the results are detailed in the table below. The object is a small ball, 15.7mm in diameter and appears to be made from fine-grained limestone. The slightly imperfect nature of the shape of the object indicates that the piece was made by hand, not machine, and was almost certainly a marble or gaming piece. The presence of such an object in a graveyard is highly likely to be indicative of the use of the graveyard as a place of relaxation (Alan Vince, pers. comm.). Due to the undiagnostic nature of the assemblage, and its insufficient size, it was not possible to make any further inferences

Context No.	Material Type	Provisional Period	Count	Weight (gms)	Comments
010	Worked stone	Post-medieval	1	5	Stone marble/gaming piece.

APPENDIX C:

Figures



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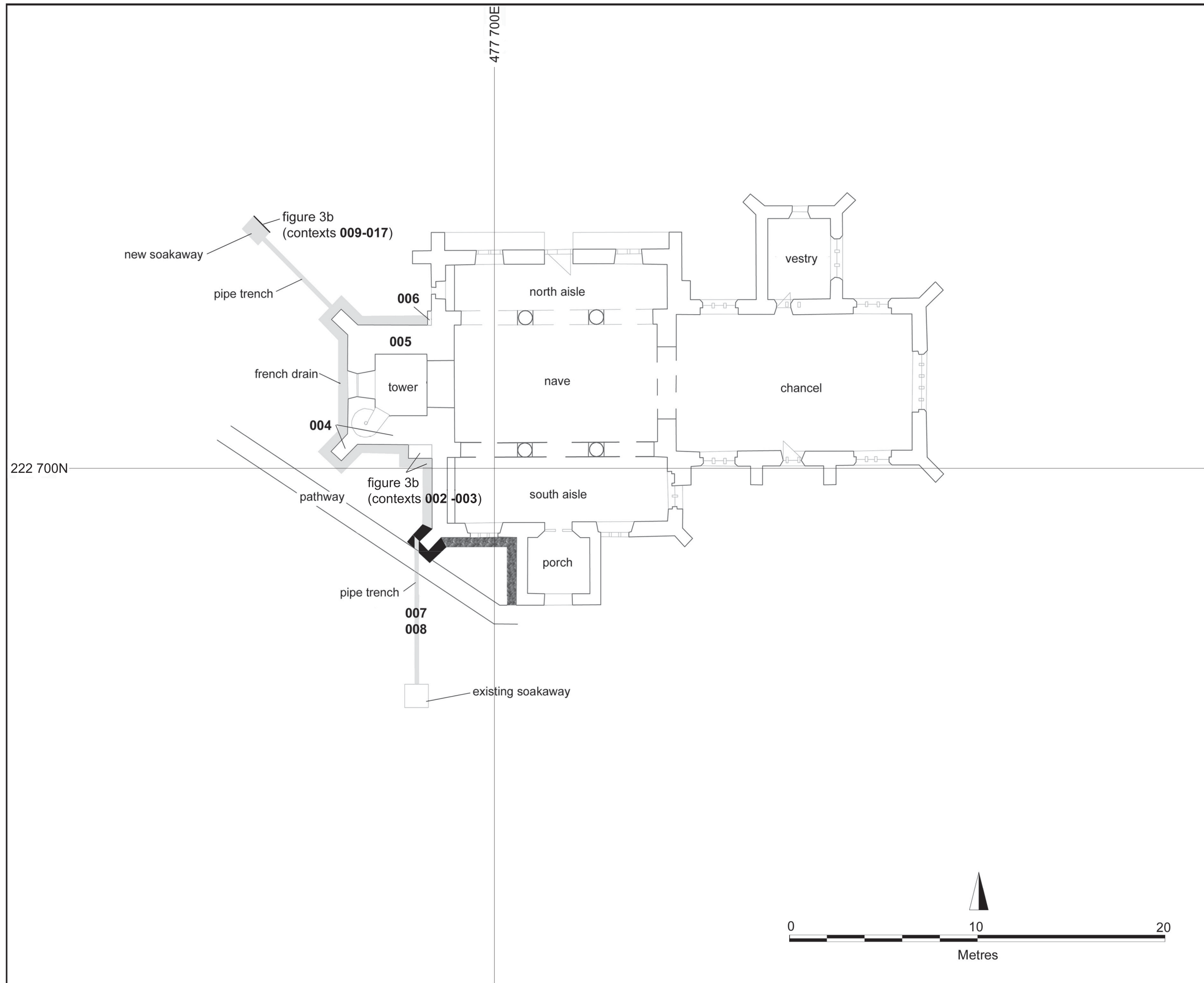
Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
1.00	22.03.06	Final report	AH	DB	DB



St. Mary's Church, North Marston

Figure 1
Location of works

Scale: 1:50 000



Key

003	context number
■	excavated areas
■	concrete
■	earlier construction

1	24.01.06	Plan	AB	DB	DB
Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App



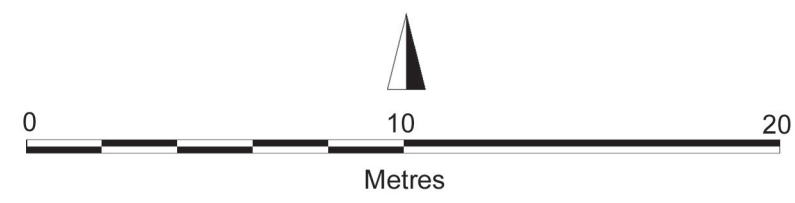
St Mary's Church, North Marston
Buckinghamshire

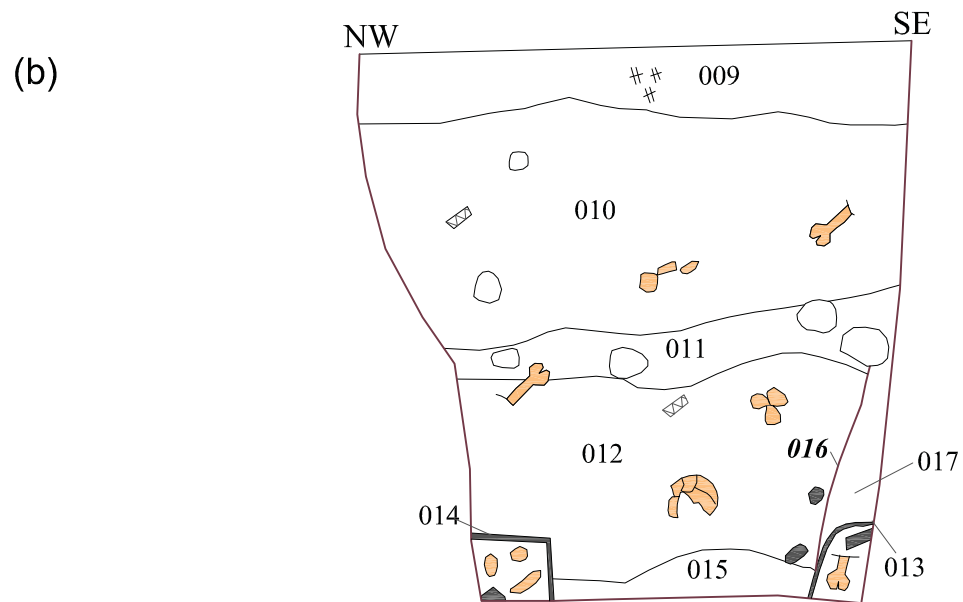
NGR 477700 222700

Figure 2

Scale 1:200

Original plan provided by The Victor Farrar Partnership, 2005





Key

- 002 context number
- 016** cut number
- # # charcoal
- wood
- ☞ human bone
- stone
- ▧ ceramic building material

1	22.03.06	Final report	AB	DB	DB
Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App



Saint Mary's Church, North Marston, Buckinghamshire

Figure 3
 (a) Plan of rubble 002
 (b) Section of soakaway

Scale: 1: 20