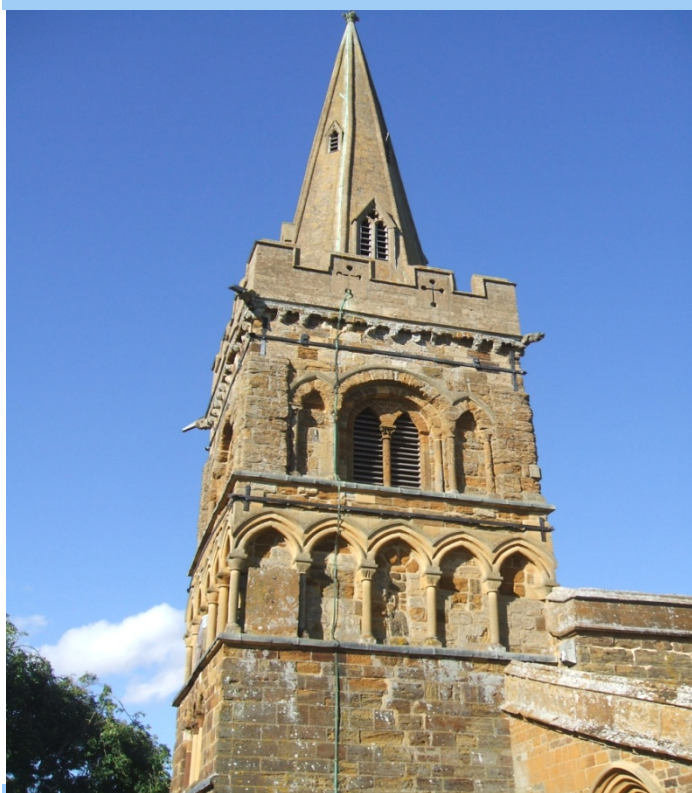




Northamptonshire Archaeology

A programme of archaeological observation,
investigation and recording at
St Andrews Church, Spratton,
Northamptonshire



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David J Leigh

Report 13/52

March 2013



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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording St Andrews Church, Spratton, Northamptonshire.	
Short description	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken during the installation of new kitchen facilities and associated drainage works at St Andrews Church, Spratton, Northamptonshire. The work comprised the removal of existing pews and timber flooring along with the excavation of drainage trenches. Disturbed material was recorded throughout the investigation area. A single sherd of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery and a 15th/16th century jetton were collected from unstratified deposits. No pre-modern archaeological deposits were present.	
Project type	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording.	
Site status	Parish Church, Grade I Listed Building	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Ecclesiastical	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds		
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	The Church of St Andrew, Spratton, Northamptonshire	
Study area (sq metres)	130m	
OS Easting & Northing	SP 717 701	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	David J Leigh	
Project Manager	Stephen Parry and David J Leigh	
Sponsor or funding body	St Andrews PCC	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	September 2012	
End date	October 2012	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	1 Jetton and 1 sherd pottery	
Paper	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Watching brief forms (3) Colour slides (10) black and white contact prints (10) Digital photographs (31)
Digital		Report text and figures
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Journal/monograph, published, forthcoming, unpublished		
Title	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording at St Andrews Church, Spratton, Northamptonshire	
Author	David J Leigh	
Serial title and volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology Report No: 13/52	
Date	March 2013	

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**A PROGRAMME OF
ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING
AT ST ANDREWS CHURCH, SPRATTON,
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2012**

Abstract

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken during the installation of new kitchen facilities and associated drainage works at St Andrews Church, Spratton, Northamptonshire. The work comprised the removal of existing pews and timber flooring excavation and the excavation of drainage trenches. Disturbed material was recorded throughout the investigation area. A single sherd of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery and a 15th/16th century jetton were collected from unstratified deposits. No pre-modern archaeological deposits were disturbed.

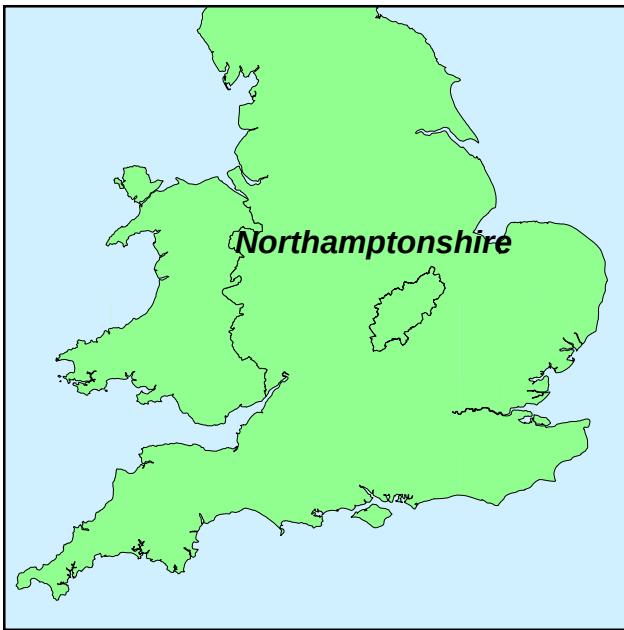
1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken between September and October 2012 during the installation of new kitchen facilities and associated drainage works at St Andrews Church, Spratton, Northamptonshire (NGR: SP 717 701; Figs 1 and 2). The work was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of St Andrews PCC in response to a request for archaeological observation. The work followed 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

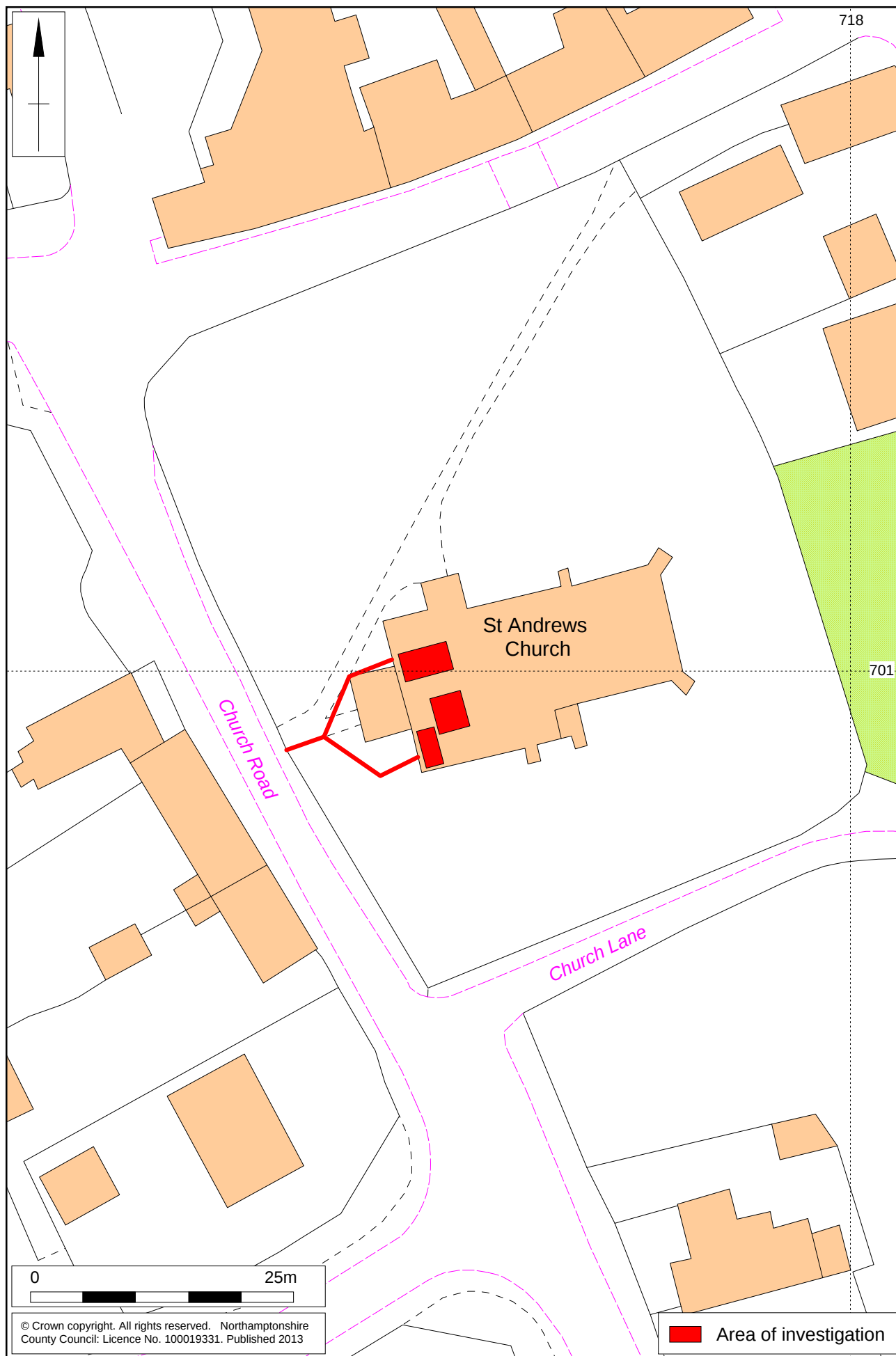
2.1 Location and topography

The Church of St Andrew is situated within the village of Spratton approximately 12km north of Northampton. The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain as comprising Limestone, Sandstone, Siltstone and Mudstone (BGS Geoindex <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>).



Scale 1:5,000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:500

Area of archaeological observation Fig 2



General view of the groundworks, looking north Fig 3

2.2 Historical background

The Church of St Andrews is situated on high ground within the village of Spratton and within an area of archaeological interest. The village is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086AD, where it is referred to as *Spretone* or *Sprotone*.

St Andrews Church is a Grade I Listed Building (National Monument Record No: 343795), the earliest parts of which date from the early 12th century, and incorporate a Norman doorway. The church subsequently underwent restoration in 1846/7. A cross of medieval/post medieval date also lies within the churchyard.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were to:

- ◆ Observe the groundworks connected with the installation of the new kitchen and associated groundworks and to record all archaeological deposits uncovered;
- ◆ Determine the date, character, state of preservation and depth of any archaeological deposits observed and to retrieve all datable artefacts;
- ◆ Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

The fieldwork comprised visits to the church during the lifting of pews and timber flooring and the grading of underlying material to allow the laying of new floor surfaces, along with the excavation of associated drainage trenches at the front of the church. The works were carried out using a combination of hand and hand-held power tools.

A photographic record in both black and white negative and colour slide was kept, with supplementary photographs in digital format. The written record used Northamptonshire Archaeology pro-forma sheets. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the standards and guidelines for an archaeological watching brief (IfA 2008).



General view of the church interior during the lifting of timber flooring Fig 4

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

4.1 The interior works

New flooring was to be laid in three parts of the church (Fig 2) and in these areas the existing pews were removed and the underlying timber flooring was taken up, to allow the laying of new drainage pipes and floor surfaces.

Lying directly beneath the timber flooring was pale grey-brown sandy loam, containing numerous small fragments of modern ceramic building material and stone chippings. Channels, up to 0.25m were excavated into this to allow for the laying of the new drainage pipes, the remainder of the area being reduced by approximately 0.10m (Fig 5 and 6), all the groundworks remaining within this material. During the course of reduction works a jetton dating from the 16th/17th centuries was recovered (Fig 7). No earlier archaeological deposits were recovered.



Following removal of the pews and timber flooring Fig 5



Laying the new drainage pipes Fig 6



The 16th/17th century jetton Fig 7



General view of the drainage trenches, looking north Fig 8

4.2 The drainage trenches

The drainage trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of approximately 1.20m below present ground level (Figs 2, 8 and 9). A consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded throughout the trenches. This comprised mid grey-brown sandy loam, containing numerous small irregular stones and very occasional fragments of modern ceramic building material. From this deposit a single sherd of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery was recovered. No archaeological deposits were present.



The stratigraphic sequence in the drainage trenches Fig 9



The sherd of Romano-British pottery Fig 10

5 THE FINDS by Tora Hylton

5.1 The pottery sherd

A single rim sherd weighing 46g was recovered from unstratified deposits in the drainage trenches (Fig 10). The fabric and the shape of the rim suggest that it dates to the early/mid 1st century AD. The fabric is grog-tempered, with grains of crushed pottery added to the clay, it has dark brown/buff coloured surfaces and the core is grey. Faint burnishing (a common decorative technique on pottery of this date) is evident on the neck. The rim is plain and everted, and may be likened to that seen on Type B1 jars and Type D1 bowls illustrated in Thompsons typology of 'Belgic' Late Iron Age forms (1982). This particular sherd is unstratified, but late Iron Age/early Roman features and finds have been recorded from elsewhere in Spratton (RCHME 1981, 172-175).

5.2 The jetton

A Nuremburg stock jetton was recovered from unstratified deposits beneath the timber flooring (Fig 7). On the obverse are three open crowns and three lys arranged alternately round a rose, within an inner circle of rope pattern. The legend reads:

WOLF.LAVFER.IN NVRMBERG.RECH

On the reverse the Reichsapfel within a double tressure of three curves and three angles set alternately.

Legend: GOTTES.SEGEN.MACHT.REICH (God's blessing brings riches).

Dia: 22mm

Date: 16th-17th century

6 THE SITE ARCHIVE

Currently there is no appointed depository for the curation of archives in Northamptonshire. Until a suitable site has been identified the project archive will be held at Northamptonshire Archaeology.

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	3
Colour slides	10
Pottery sherd	1
Jetton (small find)	1
Black and white contacts and negatives	10
Digital photographs	31

7 CONCLUSIONS

Disturbed soils were recorded throughout the investigation area. A jetton of 16th/17th century date was recovered from beneath the timber floors. A single sherd of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery, was recovered from unstratified deposits in the drainage trenches, which is considered to be residual.

Relatively few fragments of human bone were recorded during the excavation of the drainage trenches, which may be attributed to the location of the trenches within the area of the entranceway to the church, where it is unlikely that burials would have been interred.

No pre-modern archaeological deposits were disturbed. The archaeological work was carried out in favourable circumstances and the results are considered to be reliable.

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