Church of St Mary the Virgin
Wilby, Northamptonshire

Archaeological Watching Brief
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Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 660075
CA Report: 12380

prepared by Simon Carlyle, Project Manager
date 24 November 2012
checked by Simon Carlyle, Project Manager
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signed 18 December 2012
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Cirencester
Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Kemble, Cirencester
Gloucestershire, GL7 6BQ
t. 01285 771022

Milton Keynes
Unit 4
Cromwell Business Centre
Howard Way, Newport Pagnell
MK16 9QS
t. 01908 218320
e. enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

Andover
Office 49
Basepoint Business Centre
Caxton Close, Andover
Hampshire, SP10 3FG
t. 01264 326549
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SUMMARY

Project Name: St Mary the Virgin, Wilby
Location: Wilby, Northamptonshire
NGR: SP 8667 6617
Type: Watching brief
Date: December 2012
Site Code: CMY 12

Between July and October 2012, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a small extension and drainage works at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Wilby, Northamptonshire. The work was commissioned by Sursham Tompkins & Partners Ltd, acting on behalf of Wilby Parochial Church Council.

The new extension is located on the site of the former medieval north aisle, which was demolished in 1839. Excavation revealed a demolition layer, redeposited soil and a robber trench associated with its removal and exposed the foundations of the current north wall of the church, which replaced the north arcade. Stone from the columns of the north arcade, including capitals and bases, had been reused to form the foundations of the new north wall of the church, so it is likely that much of the stone from the north aisle was re-used in its construction. However, the stone robbed from the foundations was probably used on later building works, possibly on the vestry that was originally built in 1873. The segments from the column shafts had a hexagonal cross-section and the architectural detail on the capitals dates the columns to the late 13th/early 14th century, broadly comparable, if not slightly earlier in date than the columns in the still extant south arcade. One of the shaft segments had a cross on its upper surface, inscribed by the mason to mark the centre-point of the stone block. Fragments of decorated medieval floor tile were recovered from the demolition layer and robber trench.

Observation of groundworks during the construction of the pipe trench and septic tank revealed a thick, homogeneous churchyard soil overlying the clay substrate. Small fragments of human bone were retrieved from this deposit and a disarticulated human skull was found in the pit for the septic tank; the remains were reburied in the churchyard. The area to the north of the tower had been disturbed by the insertion of lightning conductor strips and electrical cables for floodlights.
1. **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Between July and October 2012, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with building and drainage works being undertaken at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Wilby, Northamptonshire (site centred on NGR: SP 8667 6617; Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Sursham Tompkins & Partners Ltd, acting on behalf of Wilby Parochial Church Council.

1.2 The groundworks comprised the excavation of footings for a small extension on the north side of the church, within the area formerly occupied by the medieval north aisle, and the cutting of a trench for a drain along the line of the modern path, connected to a septic tank near the south gate. Given the potential for the discovery of archaeological remains associated with the church and land-use prior to its construction, particularly Roman and Saxon activity, and the historic and architectural importance of the church building, a watching brief was requested by Quinton Carroll, the Diocesan Advisory Committee’s Archaeological Advisor (DACAA).

1.3 The project was undertaken in accordance with the *Archaeological Requirements* set out by DACAA and the *Method Statement* (WSI) prepared by CA (2012), which accorded with the Institute for Archaeologists’ *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA 2008), and the English Heritage procedural documents *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH 1991) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPhE): Project Manager’s Guide* (EH 2006).

**The site**

1.4 The Church of St Mary the Virgin is located off Church Lane, in the historic centre of the village of Wilby, approximately 3km to the south-west of Wellingborough town centre. The churchyard is bounded by Church Lane and houses fronting on to Church Lane to the south, houses and gardens fronting on to Mears Ashby Road to the north and east, and a farm track and pasture field to the west. The church is situated on a south-east facing slope at c. 84m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.5 The bedrock in the area of the churchyard comprises Middle Jurassic rocks of the Rutland Formation, comprising mudstone with subordinate limestone and
sandstone. Within this formation a bed of shelly limestone of the Wellingborough Limestone Member outcrops in the northern part of the site and close to Church Lane, at the southern edge of the churchyard, the bedrock changes to sandstone and sandy mudstone of the Stamford Member (BGS 2007).

**Historical and archaeological background**

1.6 With the exception of the Church of St Mary the Virgin (see below), which is a designated Grade II* Listed building, there are no known archaeological sites within the development area held in the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (HER), although the site does lie within the estimated limits of the medieval settlement of Wilby.

1.7 Earlier proposals for a meeting room and facilities on the north side of the Church of St Mary’s led to an archaeological evaluation being undertaken on the site of the north aisle in 2008 (Ivens 2008). This revealed the robber trench encountered by the current watching brief and established that the north aisle had been thoroughly demolished, with the north wall entirely robbed-out. No evidence was found for the west wall and the only finds pre-dating the 19th century, other than fragments of human bone, were three residual fragments of medieval tile.

1.8 In the wider area, there are records for archaeological sites and finds dating back to the prehistoric period. In 1966, Iron Age remains were identified during the excavation of a pipe trench between Wilby and Mears Ashby, and the remains of Roman settlement have been encountered on the higher ground to the north and north-west of the village.

1.9 On the slope overlooking the brook to the south of the village is a complex of earthworks associated with the medieval and post-medieval village of Wilby. To the south-east of the manor house are the remains of medieval closes, visible as low earth banks and scarps extending down the valley side, and to the east building platforms, probably of medieval date, can be seen. South-east of Wilby House are two large, rectangular house platforms that mark the sites of buildings shown on a map of the village in 1801 and near the centre of the modern village, medieval and post-medieval pottery has been found to the rear of the ‘The George’ public house.

1.10 The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Wilby (Fig. 5), largely dates to the 13th/14th century, although it was extensively renovated in the mid to late 19th century,
during which time the north aisle was demolished, the chancel was rebuilt and a vestry was added (Pevsner 1961, 462).

**Archaeological objectives**

1.11 The objective of the archaeological watching brief, as stated in the *Method Statement* (CA 2012), was to identify, record and investigate, so far as was reasonably practicable, any archaeological features, deposits or finds revealed during construction works for the new development.

**Methodology**

1.12 The fieldwork comprised the observation and recording of deposits encountered during the excavation of the foundations of the church extension and the excavation of a trench for a drain leading to a pit for a septic tank (Fig. 2).

1.13 Deposits were removed using a 360° mechanical mini-excavator fitted with a 0.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon, the natural substrate or the required formation level. Deposits and features were recorded in accordance with *Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual* (CA 2007).

1.14 No deposits encountered during the watching brief were suitable for palaeoenvironmental assessment. All recovered artefacts were processed in accordance with *Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (CA 2010).

1.15 The archive from the watching brief, currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes, will eventually be deposited with Northamptonshire Museum, when a county store becomes available. A summary of information from this project will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.
2. FIELDWORK RESULTS

Church extension (Figs 3 & 4)

2.1 Excavation of the footings for the new extension, which measured 4.2m square (Fig. 2), revealed activity associated with the demolition of the north aisle and the robbing of its foundations in the mid 19th century, and more recent drains and paths leading from the vestry and boiler house. No in situ remains of the former medieval north aisle were encountered within the excavated area.

2.2 The geological substrate, comprising light blue or yellow clay, 1, was encountered at a depth of approximately 0.9m below the surface of the vestry path. Cut into the clay and running parallel to the north wall of the church, at a distance of c. 0.4m, was a shallow, elongated pit or trench that terminated at its western end, 2. It measured over 2.1m long by 1.3m wide by c. 0.2m deep and was filled with light to mid reddish-brown sandy silt containing occasional brick fragments, 3. The feature was extensively truncated by subsequent groundworks associated with the demolition of the north aisle and construction of the new north wall.

2.3 Partly filling a hollow within the area formerly occupied by the aisle interior and abutting the north wall of the church was a mixed layer, up to 0.39m thick, of clay, soil, mortar, brick fragments and limestone rubble, 4. A fragment of worn medieval floor tile, decorated with white/cream slip (Ed McSloy pers. comm.), was recovered from this deposit. Layer 4 was sealed by a more homogeneous deposit of mid reddish-brown clayey silt that was up to 0.66m thick and contained occasional brick fragments and charcoal flecks, 5.

2.4 Layer 5 and the subsoil in the churchyard, 12, were cut by a robber trench, 6, that followed the estimated line of the former north wall of the north aisle. It had near vertical sides and measured 1.4m wide by more than 1.02m deep. It was filled with a sequence of backfill deposits, 7 to 10, that contained limestone and ironstone rubble that had been discarded from the robbing of the wall. A fragment of tile, similar to that retrieved from layer 4, was recovered from deposit 9.

2.5 The greyish-blue clay forming the north side of the robber trench, 11, was darker than that seen in the base of the excavation area and it also had a ‘grubby’ appearance. This suggests that it may be redeposited and could have been packed.
into the foundation trench on the exterior of the medieval wall following its construction.

2.6 Adjacent to the north wall of the church, the upper part of layer 5 was cut by a shallow, flat-bottomed trench, 13, that measured 2.15m wide by 0.25m deep. This was filled with mid to dark grey clayey silt with pebbles, charcoal flecks and small fragments of brick, 14. The northern edge of this feature was cut by a narrow trench containing a salt-glazed drain pipe, 16, that extended westwards from the direction of the vestry. The shallow trench and drain were covered with redeposited topsoil, 18.

2.7 The most recent features were a degraded tarmac path, 20, leading from the vestry and boiler house to the west, and a 1.85m wide strip of concrete hardstanding, 15, that ran along the edge of the north wall of the church.

**Drain trench and septic tank pit**

2.8 The geological substrate, which was exposed in the deeper sections of the pipe trench near the church tower and in the pit for the septic tank, generally occurred as light blue or yellow clay, 1, changing to mid greyish-blue clay, 26, further down the slope, near the south wall of the churchyard. The clay was encountered at a depth of 0.8m below current ground level (bcgl) near the church tower and at 1.6m bcgl near the south wall. Overlying the clay was a layer of churchyard soil, which was between 0.8m and 1.4m thick, comprising soft, dark brown clayey silt with moderate limestone pebbles and occasional cobbles, 27. This was sealed in succession by the subsoil and topsoil, which had a combined thickness of c. 0.4m.

2.9 In the area to the north of the church tower the ground had been heavily disturbed by the installation of successive lightning conductor cables/copper strips, presumably connected to plates buried in the ground to the north of the vestry path. An electricity cable connected to the floodlights was noted in the same area, c. 0.3m below the surface of the path. The backfill of the earlier evaluation trench was also noted immediately to the west of the footings for the new extension.

2.10 No archaeological remains were encountered in the pipe trench although, not surprisingly, small fragments of human bone, mostly fragments of long bones, were retrieved from the churchyard soil and a disarticulated human skull was uncovered in the pit excavated for the septic tank; these remains were reburied in the
churchyard. Other than the human bone, the only find from the pipe trench was a sherd of stoneware, possibly Frechen, which dates to the late 16th/17th century.

**Architectural fragments** by Peter Davenport

2.11 “The church of ST. MARY THE VIRGIN consists of chancel… with north vestry and organ chamber; clerestoried nave…; south aisle…; south porch and west tower with spire… . There was formerly a north aisle, but it was removed in 1839 and has not been rebuilt.

The early-14th-century nave arcade is of four bays with arches of two hollow-chamfered orders on octagonal piers with moulded capitals and bases and half-round responds carrying the inner order: they have hood-moulds on each side and each hollow has a rounded stop above the capital. The piers stand on square plinths of rough masonry, probably portions of the original outer wall through which the arches were cut.”

2.12 The above extract from the Victoria County History for Northamptonshire (VCH 1937) makes it clear that the architectural fragments (Fig. 4) are from the early 14th-century north aisle arcade, demolished in 1839. The latter is presumably the date of the present north wall and the occasion for the re-use of these fragments in the new foundations.

2.13 The fragments consist of three octagonal shaft fragments, 0.481m in diameter (across flats), and one base and three capitals that fit this dimension (Fig. 4). In broad terms the fragments are similar to the still-standing south nave arcade (Fig. 7), but in detail not only are the capitals dissimilar to the *in situ* ones, they are not identical to each other.

2.14 The mouldings are typical for the late Early English/Geometric Decorated phase of Gothic, c.1290 - c.1320. The varied and slightly more complex moulding detail on the capitals suggests an earlier date for the north arcade compared to the more regular, bolder and unified mouldings on the still-standing arcade, but this is not likely to be a very great difference. The simplified claws on the angles of the bases of the standing arcade are missing from the re-used examples.

2.15 As the aisles were added to a pre-existing nave, the two aisles need not have been all that close in date, but as they were presumably required to house a growing
congregation they should both pre-date the Black Death in any case, and the accepted early 14th-century date still stands.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 The watching brief on the excavation of the footings for the new extension revealed a robber trench and a sequence of demolition layers associated with the demolition of the medieval north aisle in 1839. No in situ remains of the north aisle were encountered within the excavated area.

3.2 Previously observed by Ivens (2008), the walls of the north aisle, including the foundation courses, had been entirely robbed-out and the only indication for the location of the north wall of the aisle was a substantial robber trench, measuring approximately 1.4m wide by over 1.0m deep. The robber trench cut through a layer of demolition material and a layer of redeposited soil, indicating that the foundation courses were robbed after the floor surfaces of the aisle had been removed and the new north wall built. This suggests that stone robbed from the foundations may have been used in later building works, possibly in the construction of the vestry that was originally built in 1873. Two fragments of decorated medieval floor tile recovered from the demolition layer and robber trench may have come from the floor in the north aisle, but could equally have come from any part of the church following renovation works.

3.3 Stone from the columns of the north arcade, including capitals and bases, had been reused to form the foundations of the new north wall that replaced the north arcade. The segments from the column shafts had a hexagonal cross-section and the architectural detail on the capitals dates the columns to the late 13th/early 14th century. Although broadly contemporary, slight variation in the detail of the carving suggests that the north aisle may have predated the still extant south aisle, perhaps by as little as twenty to thirty years. One of the shaft segments had a cross on its upper surface, inscribed by the mason to mark the centre-point of the stone block.

3.4 Observation of groundworks associated with the new drain and septic tank revealed a thick, homogeneous churchyard soil overlying the clay substrate. In the area to the north of the church tower this deposit had been disturbed by the insertion and replacement of lightning conductor plates and electrical cables for the floodlights.
Other than small fragments of human bone and a disarticulated human skull, the latter found in the pit for the septic tank, the only find from the churchyard soil was a sherd of 16th/17th-century stoneware. The backfill of Ivens’ trial trench was noted in the pipe trench to the west of the new extension.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

4.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Carlyle and Alistair Bush. The report was written by Simon Carlyle, with a contribution by Peter Davenport, and the illustrations were prepared by Jonathan Bennett. The archive will be compiled and prepared for deposition by Derek Evans. The project was managed for CA by Simon Carlyle.

5. REFERENCES

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 St Mary the Virgin, Wilby, Northamptonshire: Method Statement for an Archaeological Watching Brief

Ivens, R J, 2008 Archaeological evaluation at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Wilby, Northamptonshire


Maps
BGS (British Geological Survey) 2007 Wellingborough, Bedrock and Superficial Deposits, England and Wales Sheet 186, 1:50,000

OS (Ordnance Survey) 2011 Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough, Explorer Map 224, 1: 25,000
### APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Length (m)</th>
<th>Width (m)</th>
<th>Depth (m)</th>
<th>Spot-date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Geology</td>
<td>Firm, light blue and yellow clay.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pit/trench</td>
<td>Shallow, elongated cut, aligned E-W, with poorly defined edges and shallow concave profile, ran parallel with north wall of church</td>
<td>2.1+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.14+</td>
<td>C19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fill of 2</td>
<td>Soft, light to mid reddish-brown sandy silt with occ. brick fragments.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.14+</td>
<td>C19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td>Mixed deposit of clay, soil, mortar, brick fragments and limestone rubble.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>C19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td>Soft mid reddish-brown clayey silt with occ. to mod. pebbles, occ. brick fragments and charcoal flecks.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.66</td>
<td>C19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Robber trench</td>
<td>Linear cut, aligned E-W, N side almost vertical, S side c. 80°, base not attained.</td>
<td>4.0+</td>
<td>1.42</td>
<td>1.02+</td>
<td>C19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Fill of 6</td>
<td>Soft mid brownish-yellow gritty silty clay with occ. to mod. limestone cobbles.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.62</td>
<td>C19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Fill of 6</td>
<td>Mixed deposit of greyish-brown and reddish-brown clayey silt with lumps of yellow clay and occ. limestone cobbles.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>c. 0.6</td>
<td>C19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Fill of 6</td>
<td>Limestone and ironstone rubble (up to 250mm) in a mid brown clayey silt matrix, more stony at base of deposit.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.91+</td>
<td>C19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Fill of 6</td>
<td>Mixed deposit of yellowish-brown clay, mortar and dark greyish-brown clayey silt, with freq. charcoal flecks and small fragments of brick.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>C19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Layer?</td>
<td>Firm mid greyish-blue clay, slightly grubby appearance suggests that it is redeposited.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Subsoil</td>
<td>Soft mid brown clayey silt with occ. limestone cobbles.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>Modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Trench</td>
<td>Shallow linear cut, aligned E-W, steep, short concave slope to N, shallow slope to S, flat base. Only visible in W facing section.</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.15</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>Modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Fill of 13</td>
<td>Soft mid to dark grey clayey silt with occ. pebbles, charcoal flecks and small fragments of brick.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>Modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Concrete hard-standing</td>
<td>Layer of concrete on a base of brick rubble, runs along and abuts N wall of church.</td>
<td>c. 8m</td>
<td>1.85</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>Modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Drain</td>
<td>Linear cut, aligned E-W, with narrow, U-shaped profile and near vertical sides.</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>Modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Fill of 16</td>
<td>Salt-glazed pipe, dia. 0.11m, with backfill of mid greyish-brown clayey silt. Occ. limestone cobbles had been wedged under the pipe to provide support and get correct gradient.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>Modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Topsoil</td>
<td>Soft mid brownish-grey clayey silt with occ. pebbles, surface turf.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>Modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Base of path</td>
<td>Compacted mid grey sandy gravel.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>Modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Tarmac path</td>
<td>Tarmac, degraded.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>Modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>N wall of church</td>
<td>Ashlar block wall, finely dressed rectangular blocks of limestone and ironstone, size of blocks variable between coarses, sandy mortar bond. Foundation coarses formed from column fragments of N arcade, mostly the capitals and bases, with some hexagonal shaft segments. These fragments are at least 2 coarses deep.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Geology</td>
<td>Firm, light blue clay, seen in pipe trench around tower.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td>Mixed deposit of mid brown clayey silt, sandy in places, with variable content of limestone pebbles.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.63</td>
<td>Modern</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
brick fragments and lumps of blue and yellow clay. Remains of several lightning conductor cables noted in trench sides, ground very disturbed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Subsoil</th>
<th>Soft mid brown clayey silt with occ. limestone pebbles.</th>
<th>-</th>
<th>-</th>
<th>0.19</th>
<th>Modern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Topsoil</td>
<td>Soft mid brownish-grey clayey silt with occ. pebbles, surface turf.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>Modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Geology</td>
<td>Firm mid greyish-blue clay, observed in trench for septic tank and path at south end of churchyard at a depth of c. 1.6m</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td>Soft dark brown clayey silt with mod. limestone pebbles and occ. cobbles, freq. roots, small bone fragments and a disarticulated skull.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>C19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Topsoil</td>
<td>Soft mid brownish-grey clayey silt with occ. pebbles, surface turf.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>Modern</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

### PROJECT DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project name</th>
<th>Church of St Mary the Virgin, Wilby</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short description</td>
<td>The new church extension is located on the site of the former medieval north aisle, which was demolished in 1839. Excavation revealed a demolition layer, redeposited soil and a robber trench associated with its removal and exposed the foundations of the current north wall of the church, which replaced the north arcade. Stone from the columns of the north arcade, including capitals and bases, had been reused to form the foundations of the new north wall of the church, so it is likely that much of the stone from the north aisle was re-used in its construction. However, the stone robbed from the foundations was probably used on later building works, possibly on the vestry that was originally built in 1873. The segments from the column shafts had a hexagonal cross-section and the architectural detail on the capitals dates the columns to the 14th century. One of the shaft segments had a cross on its upper surface, inscribed by the mason to mark the centre-point of the stone block. Fragments of decorated medieval floor tile were recovered from the demolition layer and robber trench. Observation of groundworks during the construction of the pipe trench and septic tank revealed a thick, homogeneous churchyard soil overlying the clay substrate. The area to the north of the tower had been disturbed by the insertion of lightning conductor plates and electrical cables for the floodlights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project dates</td>
<td>July and August 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project type</td>
<td>Watching brief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous work</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future work</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monument type</td>
<td>Medieval and later church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significant finds</td>
<td>None</td>
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</table>

### PROJECT LOCATION

| Site location          | Wilby, Northamptonshire                                      |
| Study area (m²/ha)     | c. 100m²                                                     |
| Site co-ordinates      | SP 8667 6617                                                 |

### PROJECT CREATORS

| Name of organisation   | Cotswold Archaeology (CA)                                   |
| Project Brief originator | Quinton Carroll, Diocesan Archaeological Advisor           |
| Project Design (WSI) originator | CA                                                     |
| Project Manager        | Simon Carlyle                                               |
| Project Supervisor     | Simon Carlyle                                               |

### PROJECT ARCHIVES (Accession no. n/a)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical</th>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>CA stores</td>
<td>Site archive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital</td>
<td>Northamptonshire HER</td>
<td>Report, digital photographs</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 *Church of St Mary the Virgin, Wilby, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Watching Brief* CA typescript report **12380**
Site location plan

Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, Wilby, Northamptonshire

Reproduced from the 2005 Ordnance Survey Explorer map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. Crown copyright Cotswold Archaeology Ltd. 100002109.
Site plan, showing location of observed groundworks
Groundworks adjacent to the north wall of St Mary’s Church (scale 1m)
Foundations of the north wall of St Mary’s Church (scale 1m)
5 Church of St Mary the Virgin, Wilby, looking south-west

Photograph

Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, Wilby
Northamptonshire

PROJECT NO. 660075   DATE 17-12-2012
DRAWN BY JB   REVISION 00
APPROVED BY PJM   SCALE 1:44 N/A
6 Mason's laying out mark

Photograph

Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, Wilby
Northamptonshire

PROJECT NO. 660075  DATE 17-12-2012
DRAWN BY JB  APPROVED BY PJM
SCALE A4 N/A
7 Capital in south aisle of the church

Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, Wilby
Northamptonshire

Photograph