

SUMMARY

On 30th November 2006 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Osney Lock in Oxford (NGR: SP 5036 0586). The work was commissioned by the Environment Agency (EA) in advance of renewal of the lock gates and maintenance on the lock. The watching brief revealed that the lock had been completely refurbished in concrete during the 1970s, and that no evidence for any earlier lock structure was visible. Any silts (and associated finds) had accumulated since that date.

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 On 30th November 2006 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Osney lock in Oxford (NGR: SP 5036 0586). The work was commissioned by the Environment Agency (EA) in advance of removal of the lock gates and maintenance of the lock.
- 1.1.2 The lock is located on the River Thames within the western outskirts of Oxford and lies between Botley road, East Road and Osney Mead, approximately 500m south-west of the railway station at a level of approximately 57 m above OD.

1.2 Methodology

- 1.2.1 The lock area had been previously isolated from the river by the construction of temporary dams and the lock gates removed. The lock had itself been drained and shoring and steps constructed, after which a visual inspection of the lock construction was made. Examination was made of the accumulated silts within the lock, particularly the trench dug through the deposits to enable the lock to drain.

1.3 Description of deposits

- 1.3.1 A tenacious grey-brown clay silt was exposed throughout the base of the lock. This deposit measured between 0.25 m and 0.6 m in depth, increasing in depth towards the southern (downstream) end of the lock.

2 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 2.1.1 The deposits observed have solely accrued since the refurbishing of the lock in the early 1970s and are not archaeologically significant. No evidence of the earlier lock structure was visible and may no longer be *in situ*.