

WINKFIELD (BR.)

Saint Mary's Church, Winkfield, Berkshire

SU 9044 7242

Archaeological Watching Brief

**Oxford Archaeological Unit
July 1992**

St Mary's Church, Winkfield

On 1 June 1992 The Oxford Archaeological Unit carried out a watching brief at Winkfield Parish Church, Berkshire (SU 9044 7242).

The oldest parts of the church date from 13th-14th Century, constructed from stone conglomerate.

The work examined was a shallow foundation for a toilet block, a drain and cesspool trench. The drain ran for 35 m from the 17th Century brick tower South to the cesspool trench next to the churchyard boundary wall. The drain trench was 0.25 m in width and varied from 0.45 m-0.55 m in depth. No archaeological deposits were observed in the drain trench.

The cesspool trench was 2.30 m square and dug to a depth of 2.42 m. All layers contained brick or red tile fragments. Undisturbed geological sand was 0.79 m below the modern ground surface. The sand extended across 66% of the trench.

Two notable features were encountered. A grave (116) was the latest; an E-W coffin inhumation probably contemporary with nearby graves of c. late 1800's. The skeleton was carefully removed and reinterred by the vicar close to its original position.

A North East - South West linear feature 106 was cut by the grave 116. 106 ran parallel to the boundary wall and extended deeper than the depth of the cesspool trench. It cut all but the latest layer and is probably a robber trench.

