SHUTFORD ST. MARTINS CHURCH.

WATCHING BRIEF REPORT.

A Watching Brief was undertaken by the Oxford Archaeological Unit at St. Martins Church, Shutford near Banbury in advance of a new drainage system being installed around the sides of the church. The work was devised by John Perryman Architects of Beaumont Street, Oxford.

A trench c. 0.80 m wide was excavated by hand around the western and northern facing walls, and extended to link up with an existing soakaway. The trench was dug to a general depth of 0.82 m, at which point the origional church foundation wall was exposed. This wall foundation lay in a visible construction cut, and protruded 0.16 m away from the line of the current standing wall. The upper foundation course was consistently present in all the excavated areas.

The soil removed beneath topsoil was a uniform light brown sandy clay with frequent stone inclusions, which overlay a layer of sand and rubble, interpreted as construction debris. Both deposits abutted the church wall. Similar layers were encountered in the trench leading to the soakaway.

The only finds recovered by the digging team were clearly modern and included glazed drainpipe sherds, Willow Pattern fragments and some large iron nails. These were not retained. No human remains were encountered.

Jonathan Hiller OAU
June 1993.



