

St Mary's Church
Kintbury
Berkshire



**Archaeological
Watching Brief Report**



Oxford Archaeology

April 2004

**Client: The Whiteley & Beach
Partnership**

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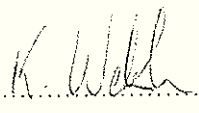
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St Mary's Church, Kintbury, Berkshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

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SUMMARY

In March 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at St Mary's Church, Kintbury, Berkshire (NGR SU 3842 8703). The work was commissioned by The Whiteley & Beach Partnership on behalf of the Parochial Church Council in advance of the remodelling of the existing footpath and installation of light bollards. The watching brief revealed no archaeological features due to limited depth of ground works.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In March 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at St Mary's Church, Kintbury, Berkshire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by The Whiteley & Beach Partnership on behalf of the Parochial Church Council in respect of the remodelling of the existing footpath and installation of light bollards.
- 1.1.2 A archaeological record specification was set by Julian Munby, Archaeological Advisor to the Diocese of Oxford (DAC 2003).
- 1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief (OA 2003).

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies on Upper Chalk with flint nodules at 100 m OD.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared for the WSI for the project (OA 2003) and is reproduced below.
- 1.3.2 St Mary's Church was almost completely rebuilt in 1859. However some features from the 13th century church have survived. The Norman south doorway with zigzag arch, the tower and north transept dates to that period.
- 1.3.3 The south transept was built in 1713, but altered in the Victorian restoration.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the areas affected by the development.
- 2.1.2 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The works consisted of the lifting of the old footpath and relaying a new path with bollard lighting. The path ran around the south side of the church from the parish room to the south porch of the church, and from there to the south gateway of the graveyard. The work was carried out under archaeological supervision.
- 2.2.2 A general photographic record of the work was made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits (Fig. 2)

- 3.1.1 The work consisted of removing the old footpath to a depth of 0.23 m. It cut into the old graveyard soil of light brown silty clay loam (2) with chalk flecks. This was overlain by a very dark grey brown silty clay loam (1) topsoil, 0.16 m thick, which had been cut by the old pathways. The footpaths were 1.5 m to 2.2 m wide, 0.21 m deep, with a 1.4 m wide York stone slab path along the centre.
- 3.1.2 The spurs for the lighting bollards measured 0.4 m x 0.5 m x 0.2 m and cut through the topsoil (1) into the old graveyard soil (2).

3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 No finds were recovered from the watching brief.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

- 3.3.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the watching brief.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The watching brief did not reveal any archaeological features or deposits, due to the limited depth of the ground works and the fact that they were along established footpaths in the graveyard.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Height</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Finds</i>
1	Layer	0.2 m			Topsoil	
2	Layer				Graveyard soil	
3	Layer	0.21 m			Gravel path make up	
4	Layer	0.07 m			Gravel path surface	

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

OA 2003 Church of St Mary, Kintbury, Berkshire, Written Scheme of Investigation

DAC 2003 St. Mary's Church, Kintbury: Archaeological Recording Specification

OA 1992 Fieldwork Manual, (Ed. D. Wilkinson, first edition, August 1992)

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: St Mary's Church, Kintbury, Berkshire

Site code: KISMC 03

Grid reference: NGR SU 3842 8703

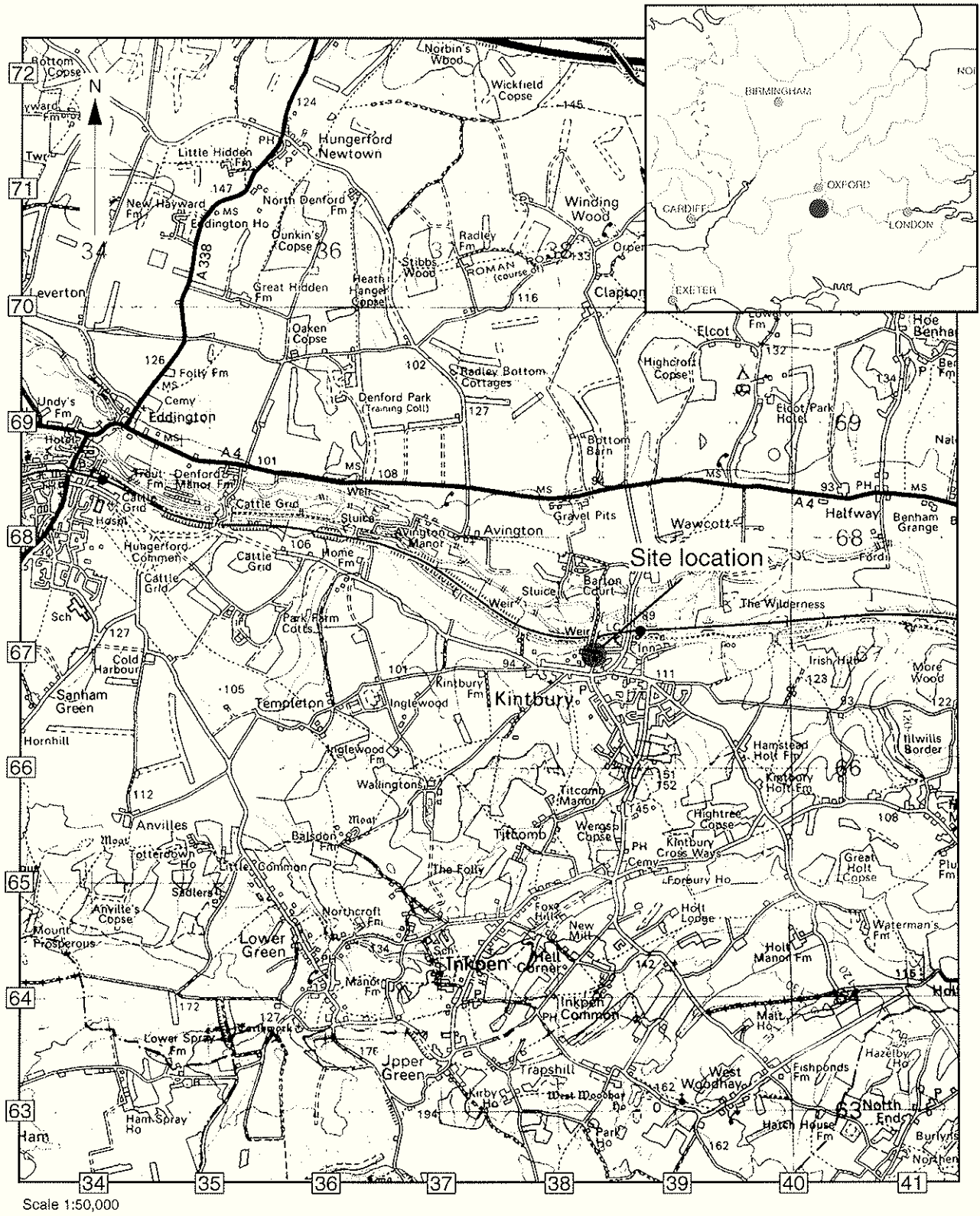
Type of watching brief: Ground works during remodeling of footpaths and installation of new light bollards.

Date and duration of project: Two site visits on the 2nd and 4th of March 2004.

Area of site: 64 m x 1.2 m

Summary of results: The watching brief revealed no archaeological features due to limited depth of ground works.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with West Berkshire Heritage Service, The Wharf, Newbury, Berks. RG14 5AS in due course, under the following accession number: NEBYM:2003.12



Scale 1:50,000

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Figure 1: Site location



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