

INSPECTION OF FOOTINGS - 73 OXFORD STREET, WOODSTOCK

INTRODUCTION

On 17th August 1992 a site inspection was carried out by the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) on behalf of Mr Simmonds in respect of the construction of a house at 73 Oxford Street, Woodstock. It was felt that the trenches dug for the footings might reveal archaeological deposits as the site is close to the historic centre of Woodstock and adjacent to the 'Town Wall'.

A condition of the planning consent was for an archaeological watching brief.

METHOD

The trenches for the footings were inspected and parts of the sections cleaned. No sections or plans were drawn. A note was made of the soil descriptions.

RESULTS

Finds

No artefacts were recovered from the trenches or the spoil heaps.

Archaeology

Across the site the only layer encountered was a brown sandy silt loam which was 0.12 m thick and overlaid the cornbrash. This layer was very clean and possibly represented garden soil. A one course thick brick floor overlaid the garden soil. There were drains and soakaways aligned at right-angles to the street frontage. These contained pieces of modern brick.

Overall Interpretation

The deposits were quite shallow. The garden soil had not apparently been ploughed. The brick surface and the soakaways are probably remnants of the early 20th-century cattle market which was held on the site. There was no evidence for outbuildings associated with the Angel Inn which had previously occupied the town centre end of the plot.