

## AVON DASSETT CHURCH ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

### Summary

A watching brief of new drainage works was carried out by the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) in December 1992 at St John the Baptist Church, Avon Dassett, Warwickshire on behalf of Rodney Melville and Partners who were acting for The Redundant Churches Fund. There were no archaeological deposits.

### Background

The existing Church dates from 1868 but is on approximately the same site as its medieval predecessor. The church is on the flank of the hill overlooking the N end of the village. The church is built on a flat area cut into the side of the hill.

### Strategy

The strategy was to inspect the trenches once they had been dug but before the drains were inserted. The sections were cleaned and were to be drawn if any archaeological deposits were observed. After inspecting the sides of the trenches, which were quite clean and showed the natural clay subsoils four points were cleaned and investigated further because deposits other than the natural subsoil were present.

### Results

Three areas to the S and one area to the N of the church were inspected. To the W of the porch, at the S side of the church, where the trench was 0.64 m deep, was a thin layer of mortar at a depth of 0.26 m. This may have been a debris deposit from the construction of the porch. Two metres to the E of the porch, where the trench was 0.50 m deep, was a flat layer of stone slabs 3.50 m long at a depth of 0.40 m. A cut was not clearly visible but the stones were overlaid by a light brown clay loam with frequent inclusions of mortar. The sequence of layers were similar to the stone drain seen to the N of the church. The flat stones were a capping for the drain to the N of the church and the exposed stones to the S are probably a drain capping. A similar vertical drain was seen at the far E of the open trench which was 0.58 m deep. A ceramic drain was also seen at the E end of the trench.

To the N of the church the drain trench exposed both the ceramic drain and the stone drain along almost all of its length. To the NE of the demolished building in the corner between the N aisle and the chancel were modern steps. There were no finds.

It should be noted that the drain to the S of the church was 1 m from the building instead of 2 m as indicated on the architects plan. This change in alignment was presumably to avoid disturbing graves marked by headstones on the proposed line of the drain.

M R Roberts  
OAU 1992

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