

St Andrews Church
Clewer
Windsor
Berkshire



**Archaeological
Watching Brief Report**



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**Installation of New Lighting,
St Andrews Church,
Windsor, Berkshire**

NGR (SU 955 772)

Planning Ref: 06/00697

CONTENTS

Summary..... 1

1 Introduction 1

 1.1 Scope of work..... 1

 1.2 Location, geology and topography 1

 1.3 Archaeological and historical background..... 1

2 Project Aims and Methodology..... 1

 2.1 Aims 1

 2.2 Methodology 2

3 Results 2

 3.1 Description of deposits..... 2

 3.2 Finds 2

 3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains 2

4 Discussion and Conclusions..... 3

Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory 4

Appendix 2 Bibliography and References..... 4

Appendix 3 Summary of site Details..... 4

LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1 Site location
- Fig. 2 Site plan and location of ducting trench and pits for lamp posts

SUMMARY

In October and November 2006, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at St Andrew's Church, Clewer, Windsor, Berkshire (NGR: SU 955 772). The watching brief monitored groundworks for the installation of 12 lampposts along the main path through the churchyard, and revealed evidence for the 19th-century renovation of the church.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 In October and November 2006 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at St Andrew's Church, Clewer, Berkshire (NGR: SU 955 772).

1.2 Location, geology and topography

1.2.1 The site is located in the parish of Clewer just off Mill Lane. The churchyard lies at approximately 21 m above OD. The underlying geology is London Clay (BGS sheet 269).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The church of St Andrew is the parish church of Clewer. The church is built of flint. Norman work, predominantly on the ground floor, would appear to provide the church's earliest date (Pevsner, 1966).

1.3.2 Most of the building appears to be of medieval origin. However, parts of the exterior and much of the interior are much later, being constructed by Woodyer in the mid 19th-century.

1.3.3 The Norman date for the church would suppose that there may be burials surviving from this date - particularly near the church. However the density of graves within the churchyard may indicate that such early inhumations will have been heavily truncated by later insertions.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 To record the extent, date, character, quality, significance and state of preservation of the archaeological remains within the areas of the site affected by the proposed works.

2.1.2 To signal, before the destruction of the material in question, the discovery of a significant archaeological find, for which the resources allocated are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

2.1.3 To make available the results of the investigation.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The watching brief monitored all areas of ground disturbance associated with 8 of the 12 pits for the proposed lampposts (PH1-8, Fig. 2), and intermittently monitored the excavation of the associated trench for the installation of ducting. The trench was excavated using a 0.75 tonne mechanical excavator and was approximately 0.4 - 0.5 m wide and 0.5 m deep. The pits were excavated with a mechanical auger and measured 0.35 m in diameter and 0.8 m deep.

2.2.2 All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers, and context recording was in accordance with the OA *Field Manual* (OAU 1992). Colour transparency and black-and-white negative photographs were taken of a sample of the lamppost pits.

2.2.3 A plan of the lamppost locations was drawn at a scale of approximately 1:500. Sample sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. Full trench sections were not drawn.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

3.1.1 The general stratigraphic sequence appeared to comprise a mid orangey brown silty clay (104) which was only observed within PH1 where it was overlain by a mid brownish gray clay silt with spreads of brick rubble throughout (100). Within the remainder of the pits, deposit 100 overlay either a mixed deposit of mid brownish grey clay silt and re-deposited clay (105), or a mixed deposit comprising the re-deposition of 105 and 100 (106). The ducting trench did not impact below deposit 100.

3.2 Finds

3.2.1 Fragments of brick, tile and clay pipe were observed within deposit 100. These appeared to be of 19th-century origin and were noted, but not retained.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

3.3.1 No deposits suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling were encountered during the course of the watching brief.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The impact of the groundworks for the installation of the new lighting was minimal, and consequently the interpretation of the deposits encountered was necessarily tentative.
- 4.1.2 The brick rubble and mortar observed within deposit 100 probably reflects the mid-19th-century renovations at St Andrew's. This deposit appeared to cover the whole of the site and was consistently 0.3 - 0.4 m thick. The brick rubble within deposit 106 may indicate the presence of graves which cut through deposit 100 and therefore post-date the renovations. Deposit 105 probably represents the backfill of graves which pre-date the renovation as little or no brick rubble was observed.
- 4.1.3 It is possible that deposit 104 represents an in-situ subsoil, which was only apparent in PH1 and may reflect a lesser concentration of graves away from the church.

Appendices

5 APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
100	Layer	-	0.3 m □ 0.4 m	Made ground, Churchyard soil	Brick, tile	C19th
101	Layer	-	0.1 m	Made ground, spread of building rubble	Brick	C19th
102	Layer	-	0.06 m	Tarmac path surface	-	C20th
103	Layer	-	0.13 m	Gravel base for tarmac path	-	C20th
104	Layer	-	> 0.15 m	Probable undisturbed ground, Natural ?	-	-
105	Layer	-	> 0.1 m	Possible gravefill, sealed by Layer 100	-	-
106	Layer	-	> 0.3 m	Probable gravefill	Brick	19th/ C20th

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

IFA 2001 *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

OA 1992 *Field Manual* (1st edition, ed. D Wilkinson)

Pevsner, N. 1966 *The Buildings of England, Berkshire*. Penguin.

Astill, G. 1978 *Historic towns in Berkshire; An archaeological appraisal*

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: St Andrew³, Clewer, Windsor, Berkshire

Site code: CLESTA06

Grid reference: SU 955 772

Type of watching brief: Installation of exterior lighting

Date and duration of project: 3 weeks

Area of site: c3000 m²

Summary of results: The groundworks had a minimal impact on archaeological deposits, some evidence for 19th-century made ground associated with the mid 19th-century renovations was revealed..

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Reading museum under the following accession number: REDMG:2006.826.






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Figure 1: Site location



Key

-  Trench
-  Pit for lamppost

0  20 m

1:500

Figure 2: Site plan showing location of ducting trench and pits for lampposts



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