

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF

**42 Chapel Street
Woodbridge
WBG 054**

PLANNING APPLICATION REF: C/01/1919

N.G. REF: TM 2702 4927

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Location of Trenches

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Introduction

A planning application for a new building on this site was approved on condition that ground interventions were monitored by an archaeologist. The site was visited on the morning of 20th January 2004.

Rather than monitor pile caps and ground beams, the developer suggested that trenches be cut within the new building footprint and these could be observed by the archaeologist. A contractor with a 180° digger (JCB) was made available and two c.4m by 1m trenches were cut into the bank sloping steeply down from Chapel Street to the garden of number 42 (Trenches 1 and 2). Underlying deposits were investigated using a manual auger (Auger Holes a to d).

The line of Chapel Street runs along the top of a curving bank that drops away to the north. This bank is possibly part of an ancient earthwork or defensive system around the core of Woodbridge and the opportunity to trench through the bank might give some indication of its date and method of construction.

Monitoring of ground works at 22-24 Chapel Street showed some utilisation of the area in the early medieval period but with more intense activity in the late medieval and post-medieval periods (Newman and Anderson 1999).

The present building that occupies the northern end of the site is a single storey structure thought to be of early nineteenth century date (Napoleonic era).

Results

Trench 1

Orientated north to south, this trench was 4.5m long. The trench base was level with the garden at its north end but 1.9m deep at the other, where it was cut into the bank. The bank deposits consisted of a thick layer of topsoil up to 900mm thick, over a layer of clean yellow sand with moderate gravel.

Auger Hole a

0 – 400mm	clean yellow sand (continued)
400mm – 1m	dark grey to black organic silts and peat
1m – 1.2m+	mottled grey, water-washed sand

Auger Hole b

0 – 100mm	clean yellow sand (continued)
100mm – 1.25m	black silt and peat
1.25 – 1.45m+	mottled grey sand

Trench 2

Also orientated north to south, this trench was located to the east of Trench 1 and was 4m in length. The trench base was 400mm below ground level at its northern end and cut into the bank 1.8m depth at its southern end.

Here the bank deposits consisted of mixed humic sandy and clay loam, divided by a large slump of clean yellow sand of up to 600mm thickness apparent in section. Level with the garden and running underneath the bank material was a layer of occasional broken concrete slabs. This was over a dark brown loam (buried topsoil) containing modern finds (asbestos cement and white china).

Auger Hole c

0 – 1.1m	mottled brown silty sand with occasional brick / mortar crumbs
1.1 – 1.4m	black silt and peat
1.4 – 1.5m+	mottled grey sand

Auger Hole d

0 – 600mm	mottled brown silty sand
600mm – 1.5m+	black silts becoming more peaty (not bottomed)

Conclusions

The material recovered from the bank is of probable modern origin and is likely to be derived from 20th century tipping down the slope. It is likely that the original core of the bank was not revealed within the trenches.

The dark organic silts and peat deposits encountered in the auger holes appear to be getting deeper to the north. These deposits might be following the natural contours of the slope and filling a slight east – west running valley. Alternatively they might indicate a water-filled ditch at the base of the bank.