

**ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH
LANGFORD
OXFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

For

ANDREW TOWNSEND ARCHITECTS

on behalf of

LANGFORD PCC


CA PROJECT: 2683
CA REPORT: 09126

SEPTEMBER 2009

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OXFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CA PROJECT: 2683
CA REPORT: 09126

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date	28 August 2009
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date	3 September 2009
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signed	
date	4 September 2009
issue	01

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Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:200)

SUMMARY

Project Name: St Matthew's Church
Location: Langford, Oxfordshire
NGR: SP 2492 0253
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 6-15 July 2009
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum
Site Code: MAT 09

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the installation of new drainage around the porch of St Matthew's Church.

The footings of the south wall and porch of the church were observed; the latter cut through the soil of the graveyard. No dating evidence was recovered, and no *in situ* burials were recorded.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Andrew Townsend Architects (ATA) on behalf of Langford Parochial Church Council (PCC) at St Matthew's Church, Langford, Oxfordshire (centred on NGR: SP 2492 0253; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken to monitor any disturbance of deposits associated with the graveyard during intrusive groundworks associated with the installation of new drainage around the porch of the church. The objective of the archaeological watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.3 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the *Brief for Archaeological Consultant* (ATA 2009) and *the Church of St Matthew, Langford, Oxfordshire* (English Heritage 2007) and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2008). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), *the Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire* (Wiltshire County Council 1995), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England* (English Heritage 2005).

The site

- 1.4 The site, covering an area of approximately 10m², comprised the churchyard around the north, south and east of the porch of the medieval St Matthew's Parish Church which is situated east of the centre of Langford village (Fig. 2).
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as second terrace river gravels of the Quaternary era (BGS 1982). The natural substrate was encountered during excavations.

Archaeological background

- 1.6 The area of intrusive groundworks comprises part of the churchyard associated with St Matthew's Church which is situated to the south of the centre of the village of

Langford, Oxfordshire. The parish of Langford was included among the royal estates at Domesday and well-preserved shrunken village earthworks are recorded in fields to the north-west (EH 2007, 1).

- 1.7 St Matthew's Church is Grade I Listed and is constructed in limestone rubblework with traces of historic lime render and with stone slate and copper/lead sheet roof coverings. Cast-iron goods drain to below-ground drainage via gullies. The main body of the church (nave and tower) dates from the 11th century but is on the site of an earlier building (EH 2007, 1). It was added to throughout the medieval period. Restoration of the church was carried out in the 1820s and 1860s.

Methodology

- 1.8 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2008). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of shallow trenches to install new drainage around the front of the porch (Fig. 2).
- 1.9 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.10 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the archive will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; a detailed summary of the recorded contexts is to be found in Appendix A.
- 2.2 The earliest deposit encountered during the groundworks was natural substrate 106 in Trench 1 comprising orange brash. Cut into this was 101, the foundation trench for the church wall footings 102. It was backfilled with deposit 103. Drain 104 also cut the substrate. All were sealed by topsoil layer 100. In Trenches 2 and 3 the earliest deposits encountered were the graveyard soil layers 208 and 301 containing

disarticulated human bone, no *in situ* burials were observed. In Trench 2 208 was cut by the wall footings of the porch within construction cut 201. Drains 205, 207 and 302 cut through the graveyard soil, and these were sealed by topsoil and turf layers 200/304. Paving stones 300 lay over the topsoil.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 No archaeological features or deposit were identified during the observed groundworks and no *in situ* burials were encountered. In the absence of dating evidence the work has not elucidated any further information about the development of the church.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Philippa Mitcheson who also wrote the report and compiled the archive, which was prepared for deposition by Victoria Taylor. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

Andrew Townsend Architects 2009 *Alterations to St Matthew's, Langford, Oxfordshire for Langford PCC: Brief for Archaeological Consultant*

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1982 *Geological Survey of Great Britain, Witney, Solid and Drift Edition. Sheet 236, 1:50,000*

EH (English Heritage) 2007 *Repair Grants for Places of Worship 2002 to 2007, the English Heritage Report (South East Region)*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**Trench 1**

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
100	Deposit	Turf and topsoil: dark brown silty clay with common pea grit inclusions			>0.25
101	Cut	Construction cut for church wall		>0.46	>0.25
102	Structure	Church wall footings			>0.25
103	Fill	Backfill of 101: rubble in a brown clay silt matrix		>0.46	>0.25
104	Cut	Construction cut for drainage pipe			>0.25
105	Fill	Ceramic pipe and backfill: gritty brown clay silt			>0.25
106	Deposit	Natural substrate: orange brash			>0.01
107	Surface	Paving stones of church path	0.84	0.73	0.1
108	Cut	Cut for insertion of 107			0.1

Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
200	Deposit	Turf and topsoil: dark brown silty clay with common pea grit inclusions			0.2
201	Cut	Construction cut for church wall		0.33	>0.35
202	Structure	Church wall footings		0.33	>0.35
203	Fill	Backfill of 201: rubble in a brown clay matrix		0.33	>0.35
204	Cut	Construction cut for drain	0.4	0.34	>0.34
205	Fill	Concrete surround for drain	0.4	0.34	>0.34
206	Cut	Construction cut for modern drain (removed)	0.4	0.34	>0.34
207	Fill	Concrete surround of modern drain (removed)	0.4	0.34	>0.34
208	Deposit	Graveyard soil: mid brown clay silt with pea grit inclusions			>0.18

Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
300	Deposit	Paving stones of church entrance			0.1
301	Deposit	Graveyard soil: mid brown clay silt with pea grit inclusions			0.1
302	Fill	Ceramic pipe and backfill: gritty brown clay silt			>0.19
303	Cut	Construction cut for drainage pipe			>0.19
304	Deposit	Turf and topsoil: dark brown silty clay with common pea grit inclusions			0.25
305	Cut	Cut for insertion of 300			0.1

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	St Matthew's Church, Langford, Oxfordshire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the installation of new drainage around the porch of St Matthew's Church. The footings of the south wall and porch of the church were observed; the latter cut through the soil of the graveyard. No dating evidence was recovered, and no <i>in situ</i> burials were recorded.	
Project dates	6-15 July 2009	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	No	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	St Matthew's Church, Langford, Oxfordshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	10m ²	
Site co-ordinates	SP 2492 0253	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Andrew Townsend Architects	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Philippa Mitcheson	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Oxfordshire County Museum	Pro forma registers, permatrace plans and black and white negatives
Digital	Oxfordshire County Museum	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 St Matthew's Church, Langford, Oxfordshire: <i>Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA Report No. 090126		

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 **COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE
 St Mathew's Church, Langford
 Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
LG	1:25,000@A4	2683	1



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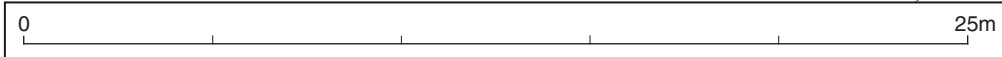
St Matthew's Church



025

SP

CHURCH LANE



- site
- area of observed groundworks
- archaeological feature
- drain



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

**St Mathew's Church, Langford
Oxfordshire**

FIGURE TITLE

Location of observed groundworks

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
LG	1:200@A4	2683	2