LITTLE ORCHARD, SILVER STREET, 
SOUTH CERNEY, 
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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SUMMARY

In June 2000 Cotswold Archaeological Trust (CAT) undertook an archaeological watching brief within the grounds of Little Orchard, Silver Street, South Cerney, Gloucestershire. The mechanical excavation of a foundation trench for a garden wall and paving occurred prior to any archaeological monitoring. All archaeological work was undertaken after the trench had been filled with concrete and consequently no archaeological features were identified.
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out in June 2000 within the grounds of Little Orchard, Silver Street, South Cerney, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR SU 0478 9762) (Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Nigel Clark Architects.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The solid geology of the site is the Oxford Clay and Kellaways Beds of the Upper Jurassic (Geological Map of the United Kingdom South, 1979).

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 The site lies within the medieval core of South Cerney and adjacent to a field containing the surviving earthworks of a castle built c. 1139 by Milo Fitzwalter. A charter of AD 999 indicates that the village pre-dates the conquest and a late Anglo-Saxon cross shaft was re-used during the building of the Norman south porch of the present church (Heighway 1987 and Verey 1991).

1.4 Methodology

1.4.1 The mechanical excavation of a foundation trench for a garden wall and paving was carried without archaeological supervision (fig. 2). The trench was c.2.0m wide and reached a maximum depth below existing ground level of c.0.55m along the line of the wall foundations. Archaeological monitoring was undertaken after the foundation trench had been filled with concrete.
1.4.2 The archaeological recording was undertaken in line with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1994) and the *Excavation Recording Manual* (CAT Technical Manual 1996).

2. RESULTS

2.1 During the watching brief the only deposit remaining visible within the trench was the garden soil (101). This was a silty clay layer varying between 0.15m and at least 0.55m thick. No finds were recovered from this context or from elsewhere on the site.

3. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

3.1 Although the site may have been contained within the bailey of the castle, the nature of the work undertaken meant that identifying any subsurface features was impossible. Earthworks associated with the bailey survive in the adjacent field but if they continued into Little Orchard, garden landscaping, probably during its construction during the late twentieth century, would have destroyed any such traces of these on the site.

4. PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was carried out by Jon Hart who also compiled this report. The illustrations are by Pete Moore and the project was managed by Mark Collard. CAT would like to thank Colin Wilkins of Nigel Clark Architects.
and Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer for Gloucestershire County Council, for their assistance during the course of this project.
5. **BIBLIOGRAPHY**


Institute of Geological Sciences 1979 *Geological Map of the United Kingdom: South*.


Figure 1 Location Plan
Figure 2 Location of Groundworks
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