

**A WATCHING BRIEF AT
THE BARN, TWITCHEN ROAD,
CLUNBURY, SHROPSHIRE, 2012**

by
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A report for
Mr D Mansfield

Archaeology Service Report Number 323
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July 2012

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SUMMARY

In July 2012 the Archaeology Service carried out a watching brief on the excavations for at The Barn, Twitchen Road, Clunbury, Shropshire. No significant archaeological deposits or features were observed.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 1.1 Clunbury is a small village in southwest Shropshire about 3.7 miles southwest of Craven Arms. In July 2012, work began on alterations to The Barn, Twitchen Road, Clunbury (NGR SO 371 806), which included the erection of a number of extensions and a detached garage and workshop.

1.2 The development site (Fig. 1, the study area) lay within the extent of the early medieval settlement of Clunbury (Shropshire Historic Environment Record [HER] No. 00535), and within the area of postulated Saxon fortifications. Additionally a number of findspots of material relating to the pre-historic period and the proximity of an early trade route, the Clun-Clee ridgeway (HER 00152), has suggested that Clunbury may have been the focus for settlement in this period.

1.3 The development site also lay within 60m of the Grade I listed church of St Swithuns (National Ref: 1367001). The development site was therefore deemed to have a moderate level of archaeological potential.

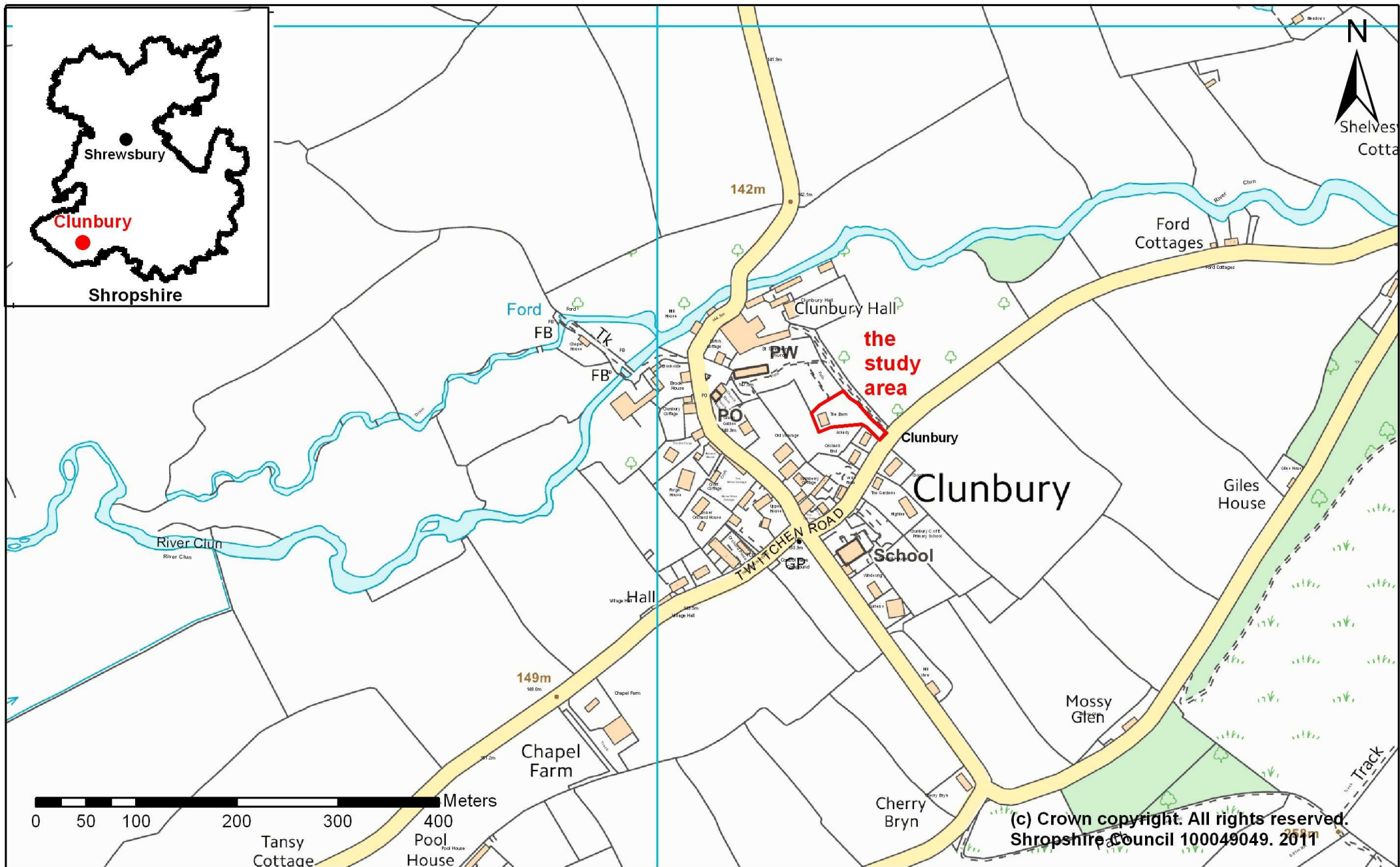
1.4 Because of the potential significance of the archaeological resource it was made a condition of the planning consent for the works that they be accompanied by a programme of archaeological work which should include a watching brief during any ground disturbance. The Archaeology Service, Shropshire Council, was commissioned to undertake the archaeological work.

1.5 The aim of the watching brief was to allow for the preservation by record of any archaeological remains that were encountered during the groundworks.

2 THE WATCHING BRIEF.

2.1 An area c. 9m by 6m for an extension on the north side of The Barn was stripped of topsoil in preparation for the excavation of foundation trenches. The topsoil and a thin gravel path lay over a deposit 0.2m thick of dark grey brown sandy loam with angular stone fragments, gravel, and brick fragments. This in turn lay over the natural gravel subsoil. No significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered here.

2.2 In the northeast corner of the site, the topsoil was removed over an area c. 11m x 7.5m for the new garage and workshop. In the southeastern corner of this area was a spread dump up to 0.3m thick of old Welsh roof slate fragments in very dark greyish brown sandy silty loam. This lay over topsoil of between 0.1m and 0.3m thickness, which in turn lay directly over the natural gravel subsoil. No significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered in this area either.



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THE BARN, TWITCHEN ROAD, CLUNBURY 2012
Figure 1: The location of the study area

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1:5,000



Photo 1: The Barn, Clunbury, looking W



Photo 2: The area of the extension stripped of topsoil, looking W



Photo 3: The site of the garage, stripped of topsoil, looking SE (scale bar 1m)