

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Chinner House, 10 Silver Street, Chacombe,
Northamptonshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Taylor

Site Code: CHI14/207

(SP 49221 43935)

**Chinnor House, 10 Silver Street,
Chacombe, Northamptonshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr H Palmer

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CHI 14/207

January 2015

Summary

Site name: Chinner House, 10 Silver Street, Chacombe, Northamptonshire

Grid reference: SP 49221 43935

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 30th October-5th November 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: James McNicoll-Norbury and Andy Taylor

Site code: CHI 14/207

Area of site: c.50 sq m

Summary of results: The watching brief comprised observation of a small area of ground reduction. No deposits or finds of archaeological interest were observed during the course of the fieldwork.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with a Northamptonshire archive store in due course.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 23.01.15 Steve Preston ✓ 23.01.15

Chinner House, 10 Silver Street, Chacombe, Northamptonshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Taylor

Report 14/207

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Chinner House, 10 Silver Street, Chacombe, near Banbury, Northamptonshire (SP 49221 43935) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr James Whitworth of JW Design and Build, Manor Cottage, South Newington, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX15 4JE on behalf of Mr H Palmer of Chinner House, 10 Silver Street, Chacombe, Northamptonshire.

Planning permission (S/2014/0236LBC) has been gained from South Northamptonshire District Council to construct a new covered way and garden room linking and extending the existing house and associated barn. This consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology requiring a watching brief to be carried out. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the District's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Liz Mordue of Northamptonshire County Archaeology Service, advisers to the district council on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by James McNicoll-Norbury and Andy Taylor between the 30th October and 5th November 2014 and the site code is CHI 14/207.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with a Northamptonshire archive store in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the south side of Chacombe and the southern side of Silver Street, which it itself lies *c.* 4km north east of Banbury. The site is a small flat plot of land previously consisting of garden area to the rear of the property (Fig. 2). The site underlying geology consists of Head Deposits, comprising clay and ironstone (BGS 1982) which was observed in the reduced area. The site lies at a height of *c.* 112m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological background of the site has been highlighted in a brief for the project provided by Ms Liz Mordue. In summary the site lies in the historic (late Saxon/medieval) core of Chacombe, which is recorded in Domesday Book (Williams and Martin 2002). Earthworks on the western side of Silver Street include the

probable site of the manor house as well as roads and house platforms. Chinner House itself is Grade II listed and dates to the early 16th Century and was enlarged in the 17th Century. Above the front door is a date stone of 1657. Other alterations are 20th Century in date.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This would involve examination of areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular the stripping of overburden and the digging of foundation trenches and service runs.

Specific aims were;

To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on the site.

To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

To determine whether archaeological deposits relating to late Saxon, medieval or early post-medieval settlement are present.

Results

The watching brief comprised ground reduction of the whole area where the new construction was to take place, an area of 3.6 sq m (Fig. 3). This took place under archaeological supervision and a toothless ditching bucket was used. The ground reduction was carried out in two parts to allow for spoil management and storage. The eastern side was reduced by c.0.50m in the east and 0.65m to the west to reveal a stratigraphy consisting of 0.3m of topsoil above 0.5m of brown clayey subsoil directly overlying the natural geology of clay ironstone (Fig. 4). The western side was reduced by up to 0.80 on the western side but the stratigraphy revealed was the same and consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying 0.50m of subsoil overlying the natural clay.

Finds

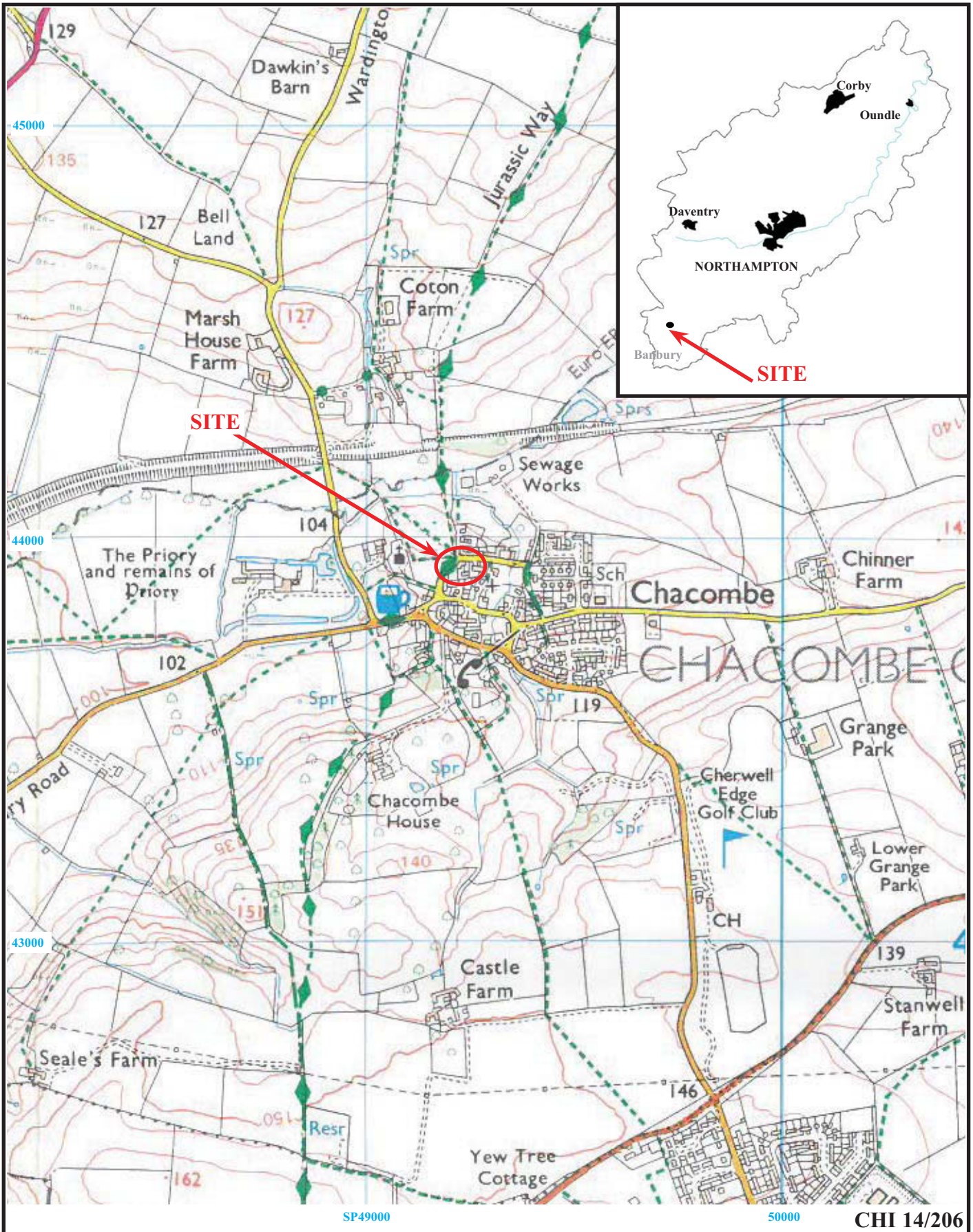
No finds of an archaeological nature were recovered during the watching brief.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeology to be present on the site no deposits or finds of archaeological interest were observed during the watching brief.

References

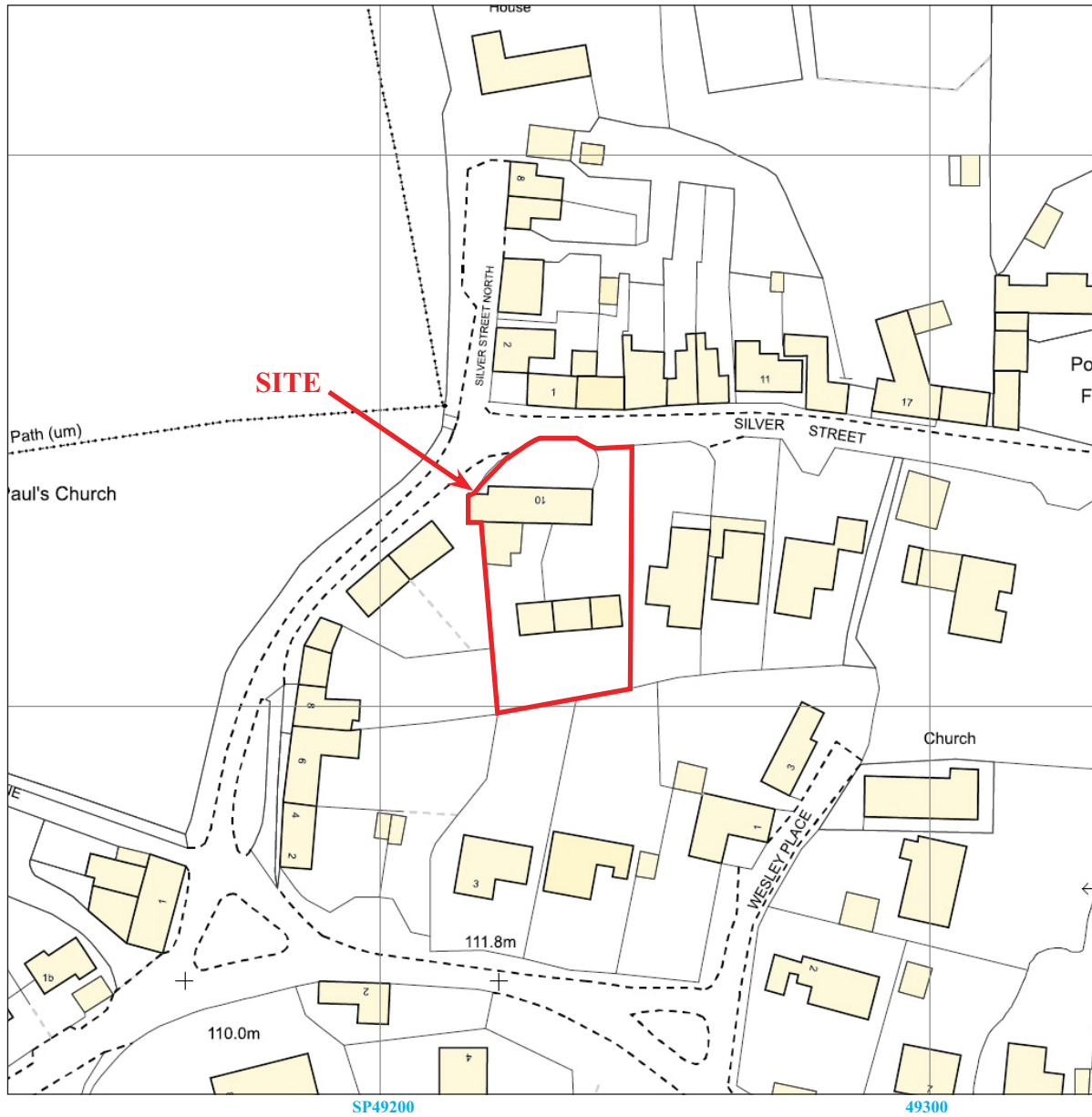
BGS, 1982, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 201, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation*, London



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Figure 1. Location of site within Chacombe and Northamptonshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Silver Street.

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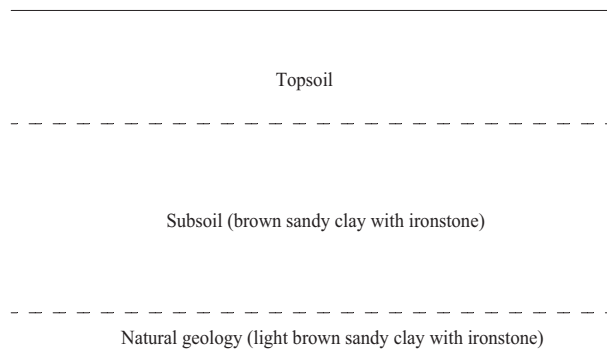


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Figure 3. Location of observed area.



East side



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Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Reduced area under excavation, looking north, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 2. Representative section, looking west, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

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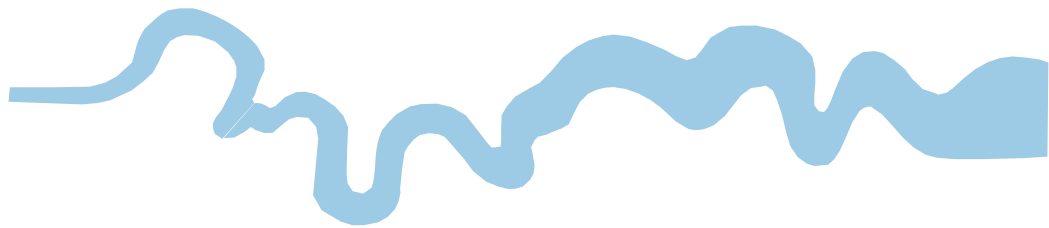
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Plates 1 - 2.**

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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late -----	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle -----	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early -----	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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