

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**11 Ilges Lane, Cholsey,
Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Taylor and Andy Mundin

Site Code: ILC15/90

(SU 5887 8662)

**11 Ilges Lane,
Cholsey, Oxfordshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr and Mrs Robertson

by Andy Taylor and Andrew Muddin
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code ILC 15/90

December 2015

Summary

Site name: 11 Ilges Lane, Cholsey, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SU 5887 8662

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 7th-10th December 2015

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andrew Munda and David Sanchez

Site code: ILC 15/90

Area of site: c. 180 sq m

Summary of results: The watching brief monitored the digging of foundation trenches for the new building. However, apart from modern disturbance, no deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 17.12.15 Steve Preston ✓ 15.12.15

11 Ilges Lane, Cholsey, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

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Report 15/90

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 11 Ilges Lane, Cholsey, Oxfordshire (SU 5887 8662) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Opindar Liddar of LAPD Architects Ltd, Studio 24, Building C2, Culham Science Centre, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14, 3DB on behalf of James and Alison Robertson, 9 Ilges Lane, Cholsey, Oxfordshire, OX10 9NU.

Planning permission (P15/S0211/FUL) has been gained from South Oxfordshire District Council for the demolition of the existing bungalow and construction of a new dwelling. Due to the potential disturbance of below ground archaeological features, the consent was subject to two conditions (3 and 4) requiring an archaeological watching to be carried out during groundworks.

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 Mr Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist with Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service, advisers to the District on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Mundin and David Sanchez between the 7th and 10th December 2015 and the site code is ILC 15/90. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the northern side of Cholsey, which itself lies to the south of Wallingford and is a flat area of land consisting of the gardens of the demolished property. The underlying geology is mapped as 1st Flood Plain Terrace Gravels (1b) (BGS 1980) however Lower Chalk was actually observed (Lower Chalk is also mapped very close by). The site lies at a height of 48m above Ordnance datum.

Archaeological background

The site lies within the historic core of Cholsey, which has origins in the late Saxon period, and has been considered an important local centre, with the church of St Mary's thought to be associated with King Æthelred

from the time of the foundation of the Benedictine Abbey in AD986 (Blair 1994, 114; Briggs *et al.* 1986). Cholsey is also mentioned in Domesday Book of AD1086 (Williams and Martin 2002). In the immediate vicinity are a number of listed medieval buildings. Previous archaeological investigations within Cholsey have been on a small scale and have usually produced only relatively recent finds or undated features: for instance an archaeological watching brief at the Chequers Public House to the north revealed post-medieval features relating to the original building. Not far to the south of the site, on Station Road, however, linear features representing field or paddock boundaries were tentatively dated to the Roman period (Taylor 2010) and a prehistoric struck flint was recovered. Subsequent finds of medieval pottery from similar features on an adjacent site may cast some doubt on that tentative dating (Bray 2011). Further medieval features are also recorded within the core of the settlement (Coles 2005; Crabb 2012). To the east of the site lies the likely course of the Roman road between Dorchester and Silchester.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works. This would involve the monitoring of intrusive groundworks and include observation of surface stripping, the excavation of foundations and service trenches, landscaping works and all other invasive work as necessary.

Results

Foundation Trenches (Fig. 3)

The trenches observed measured between 1.30m and 1.50m wide and were dug to a depth of *c.*1m. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.45m of topsoil, or disturbed ground from removed foundations, directly overlying chalk natural geology (Fig. 4). Footings of the demolished building were observed but no deposits of archaeological interest were present (Pls 1 and 2).

Finds

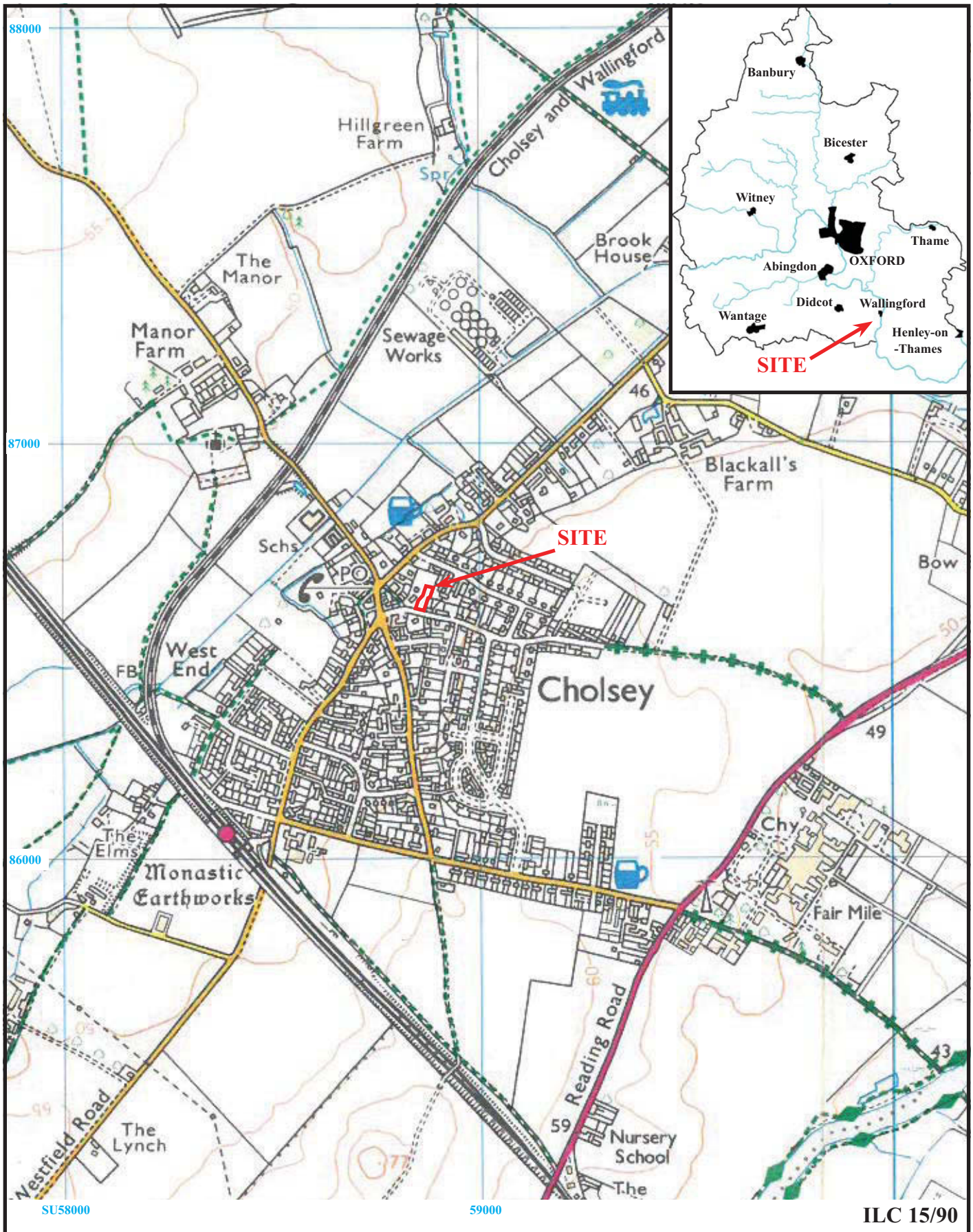
No finds of archaeological interest were retrieved.

Conclusion

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

References

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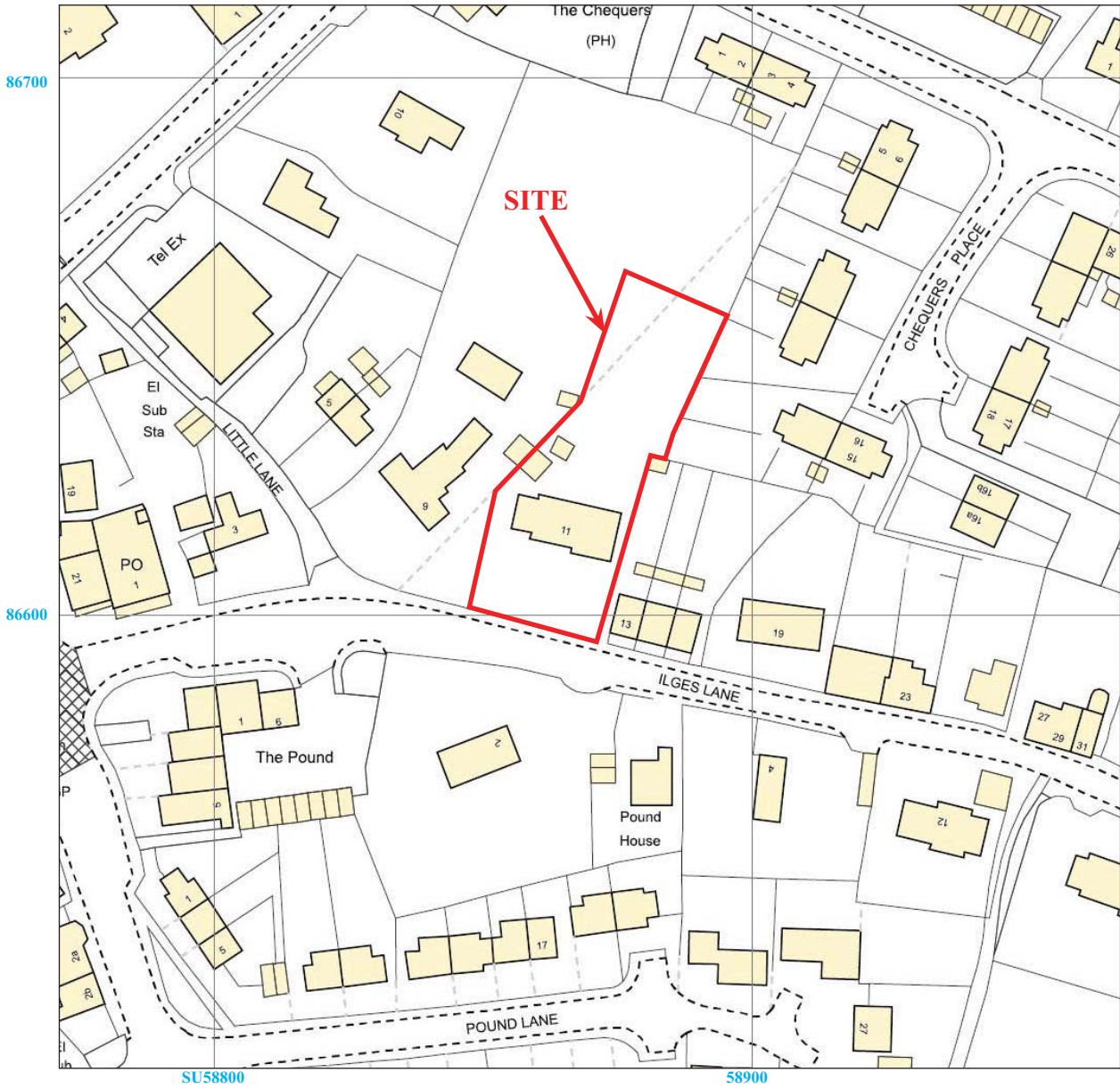
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Figure 1. Location of site within Cholsey and Oxfordshire

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Ilges Lane.

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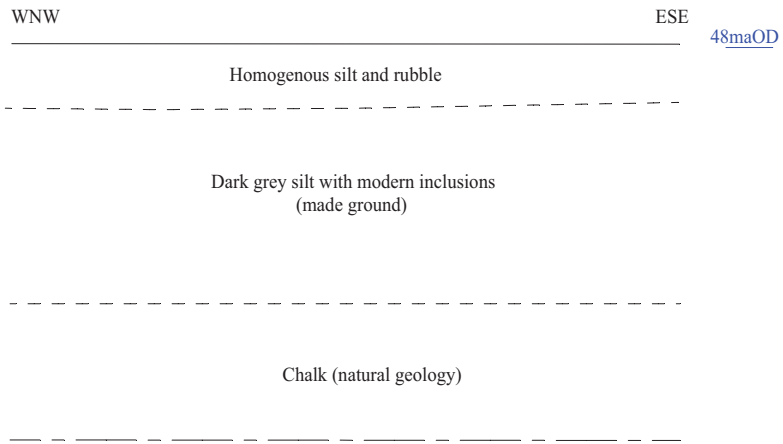


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Figure 3. Location of observed areas.





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Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Modern truncation disturbing top of natural chalk, looking north, Scales: horizontal 2m, vertical 1m.



Plate 2. Footings exposing piles and section, looking north, Scale: 1m.

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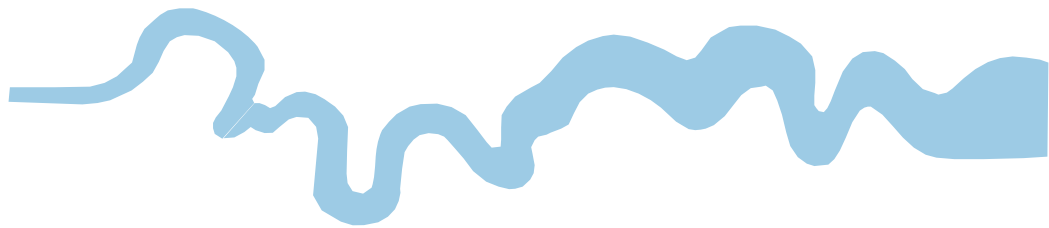
Plates 1 - 2.

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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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