

**Chieveley Manor Lodge, Church Lane,
Chieveley, Berkshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr Christopher Spence

by Pamela Jenkins

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CML 03/94

December 2003

Summary

Site name: Chieveley Manor Lodge, Church Lane, Chieveley, Berkshire, RG20 8UT

Grid reference: SU4745 7410

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 1st – 4th December 2003

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Jennifer Lowe

Site code: CML 03/94

Area of site: c. 30 sq m

Summary of results: No archaeology was observed apart from a 19th/20th century well, and no finds were recovered

Monuments identified: None

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at West Berkshire Museum in due course, with accession code NEBYM:2003.22.

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	Steve Preston ✓ 15.12.03

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Report 03/94

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Chieveley Manor Lodge, Church Lane, Berkshire RG20 8UT (SU 4745 7410) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Christopher Spence of Chieveley Manor, Chieveley, Berkshire, RG20 8UT.

A planning consent (01/02019/house) has been granted by West Berkshire Council for the construction of an extension to the existing lodge. The consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology which requires a watching brief to be carried out during the groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and West Berkshire Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Veronica Fiorato, then Principal Archaeological Officer for West Berkshire County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Pamela Jenkins, Jennifer Lowe and Sean Wallis between 1st and 4th December 2003 and the site code is CML 03/94.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at West Berkshire Museum in due course, with accession code NEBYM:2003 22.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the east of Winterbourne Stream in the village of Chieveley. Manor Lodge is situated on the north side of Church Lane close to St Mary's Church (Fig 2). The underlying geology is clay-with-flints and Tertiary debris (overlying chalk) (BGS 1971). This was observed during the groundworks. The site lies at a height of c. 125m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site, as highlighted by West Berkshire Heritage Service, relates to its position within the historic (medieval) core of the village, being located next to both the 13th-century parish church and the manor. Chieveley was also documented in Saxon times and the parish was defined by a charter. It was a large

parish with two subsidiary settlements which continued into medieval times but were deserted thereafter (Richards 1978, figs. 28 and 29).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the new construction work. This was to involve the examination of areas of topsoil stripping, landscaping, ground reduction and the digging of trenches for foundations and services (Fig. 3).

Stripping of topsoil and subsoil to depths of 0.35m and 0.20m respectively was observed to the north of the existing building. The excavation of a soakaway 1.8m x 1.8m and 2m deep was also observed. The footings for the extension on the north side of the lodge were dug to a depth of 1.30m and were 0.70m wide. Spoil was monitored for finds.

Results

The stratigraphy observed was 0.30m of dark brown clayey sand topsoil (50) above 0.40m of dark greenish brown sandy clay subsoil (51) with chalk flecks and occasional fragments of post-medieval brick and tile. This was seen to overly natural chalk and clay with large flint nodules.

Several solution hollows were observed and recorded. In the south and possibly the south-east facing sections of the soakaway, features were observed cut into the chalk and filled with an orangey brown clay, and they were initially considered to be part of the same entity and might represent the possible line of a ditch. This was not investigated further due to the depth of the foundation trench already excavated. However, examination of the profile recorded in the trench sections indicates that this feature is also most likely to be geological in origin. No finds were retrieved from this feature.

Within the footings close to the existing building a post-medieval brick-built well was uncovered below the topsoil (Fig. 3). It measured 1.10m in diameter. It had been backfilled with modern material and excavated to a depth of 2.80m. All other features observed within the footings were natural solution hollows.

Finds

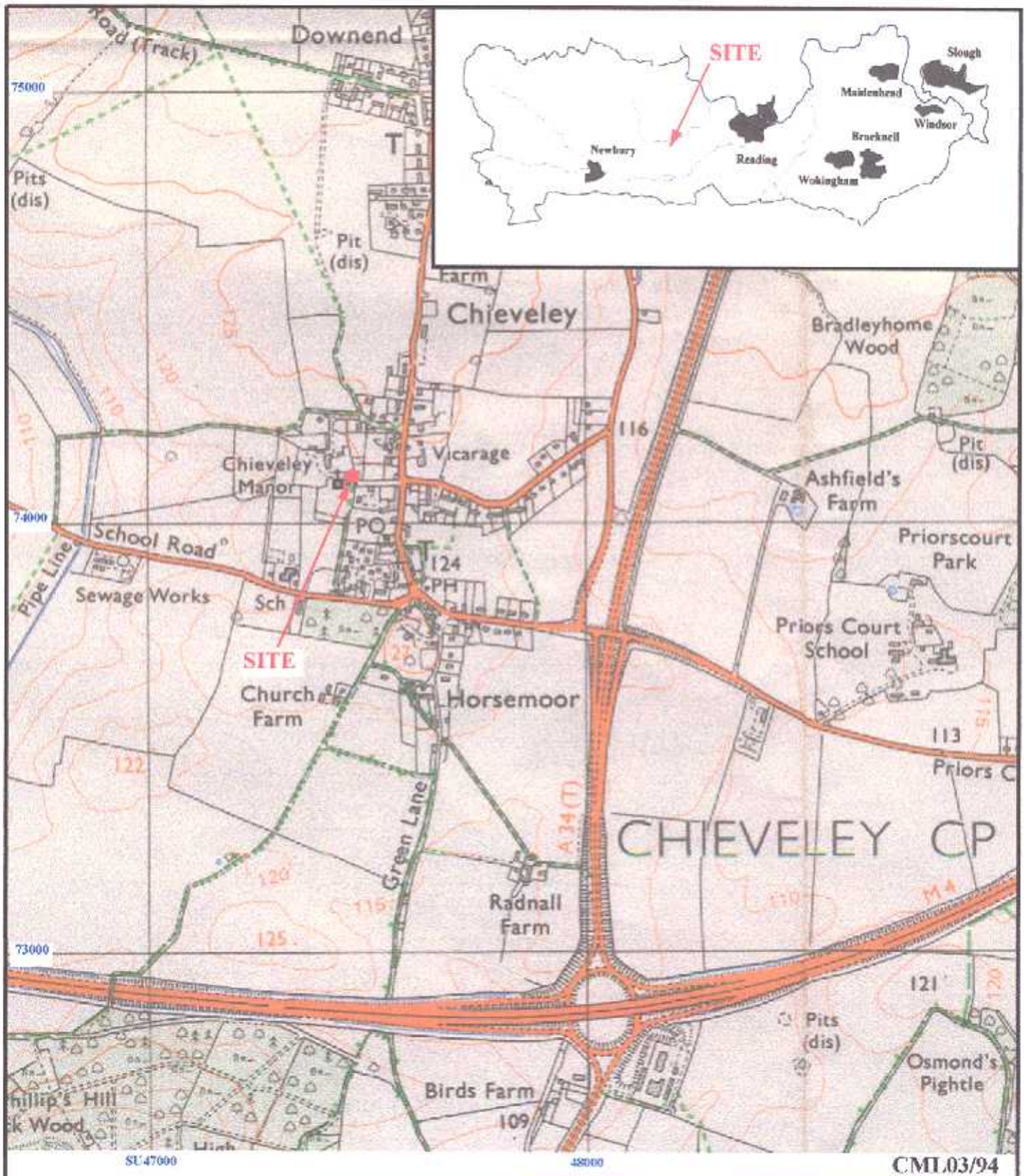
No finds were recovered.

Conclusion

Despite the observation of a number of features cutting the chalk bedrock, these were all considered as representing solution hollows of geological origin. Apart from a well of late 19th century or later date, no archaeological deposits were observed and no finds were recovered.

References

- BGS, 1971, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 267, 4th Edition, Keyworth
PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
Richards, J C., 1978, *The Archaeology of the Berkshire Downs*, Berkshire Archaeol Comm no 3, Reading



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Figure 1. Location of site within Chieveley and
Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Location of Manor Lodge

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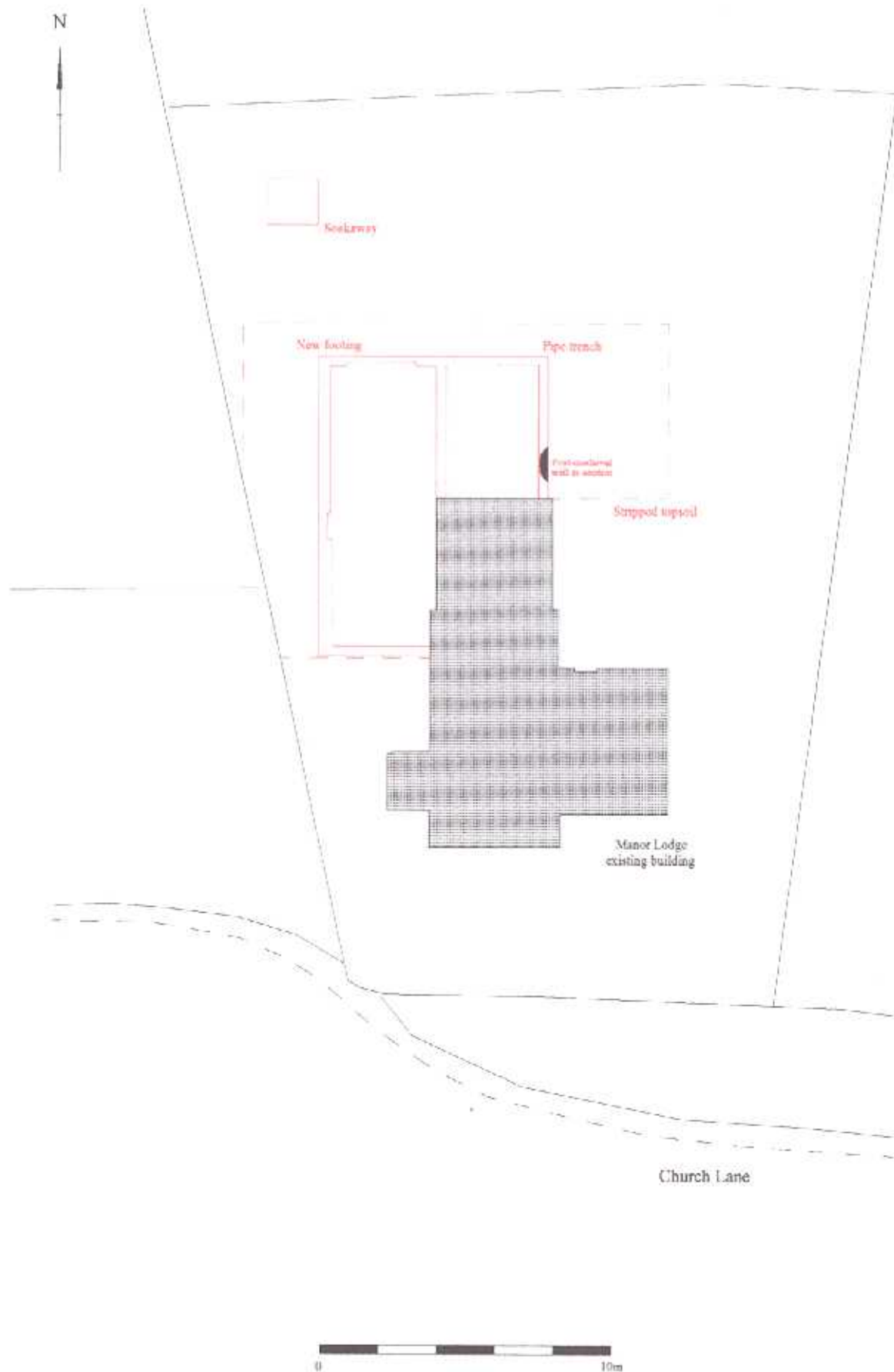


Figure 3. Location of observed areas during watching brief.