

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

S O U T H

**The Old Bank, The Plain,
Goudhurst, Kent**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Sean Wallis

Site Code: OBG11/63

(TQ 7219 3774)

The Old Bank, The Plain, Goudhurst, Kent

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Spurdawn Ltd

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

SiteCodeOBG11/63

August 2011

Summary

Site name: The Old Bank, The Plain, Goudhurst, Kent

Grid reference: TQ 7219 3774

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 2nd August 2011

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Sean Wallis

Site code: OBG 11/63

Area of site: c. 15 sq m

Summary of results: No archaeological finds or features were recorded during the watching brief

Monuments identified: None

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

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

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 16.08.11 Steve Preston✓ 11.08.11

The Old Bank, The Plain, Goudhurst, Kent An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Sean Wallis

Report 11/63

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at The Old Bank, The Plain, Goudhurst, Kent (TQ 72196 37747) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Peter Anson of Spurdawn Ltd, The Old Bank, The Plain, Goudhurst, Kent, TN17 1AD.

Planning permission (TW/10/01125) had been granted on appeal (APP/M2270/A/10/214300) by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council to construct a single-storey side extension on the site. The appeal decision was subject to a condition which requires that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's Planning Policy Statement, *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5 2010), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Adam Single, Archaeological Officer with Kent County Council, archaeological adviser to the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Felicity Howell on 2nd August 2011, and the site code is OBG11/63. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Cranbrook Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located within the historic core of the village of Goudhurst, on the west side of the junction of The Plain, the High Street, North Road and Balcombs Hill (Fig. 2). The site is currently occupied by a building, called The Old Bank, with associated car parking to the rear. According to the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology is at the junction of Wadhurst Clay (to the west) and Tunbridge Wells Sand (to the east) (BGS 1981). However, the natural geology noted during the watching brief consisted of light red/brown clay, which could belong to either formation, as the Tunbridge Wells Sand includes clay pockets. The site is relatively flat, and lies at a height of approximately 115m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site had been highlighted in a specification for the project, prepared by the Heritage Conservation Group of Kent County Council (KCC 2010). In summary, the site is located within an Area of Archaeological Potential associated with the historic core of Goudhurst, a medieval settlement which played a part in the production of broadcloth in the Wealden area during the 15th and 16th centuries. Goudhurst is not mentioned in Domesday Book (Williams and Martin 2002). Documentary evidence suggests that the village's commercial and residential centre was located in the area between the parish church of St Mary and the pond at the south-west end of High Street. The present site lies within this area, and also fronts onto the road from Milton Regis.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was to involve examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, particularly the digging of foundation trenches for the new extension, and any related service runs.

Two trenches were observed (Fig. 3). The east-west footing trench, measuring 5.3m, was excavated using a mechanical mini-digger, whilst the north-south footing trench, measuring 2.6m, had to be dug by hand, due to logistical considerations. Both footing trenches were 0.6m wide. No service runs were to be excavated.

Results

The east-west footing trench varied in depth between 1m and 1.2m, being deeper towards its eastern end. A slab surface had recently been removed from the area, although much of its thin concrete bedding layer remained. Two distinct deposits of made ground were recorded beneath this bedding layer. These varied in thickness between 0.36–0.5m, being thicker towards the east, and lay above a possible buried soil horizon. However, it is possible that this layer of soil also represents a made ground deposit, due to the amount of modern glass and building material (not retained) which it contained. Natural geology, consisting of light red/brown clay, was directly beneath this deposit. The only feature observed within this trench was the cut for a modern drain.

The stratigraphy noted in the north-south footing trench was similar to that seen in the E-W trench, but the area had clearly been disturbed previously, as evidenced by the presence of a thick concrete foundation along the eastern side of the new footing trench. It is not clear what this earlier foundation related to, but the decision was

made, following consultation with the building inspector, to leave it in place. No other features were recorded within the footing trench.

Finds

No archaeological finds were recovered during the watching brief. Modern material seen within the various layers of made ground was not retained.

Conclusion

The watching brief at this site successfully examined the areas which were to be disturbed by the new extension to the existing building. The presence of a buried soil deposit suggests that the site had not been significantly truncated in the past, although evidence of past activity was evident in the presence of an earlier concrete foundation. It is possible that the soil deposit may represent imported material. In either case, no archaeological finds or features were recorded during the project.

References

BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 304, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
Kent County Council, 2010, *Specification for an archaeological watching brief at The Old Bank, The Plain, Goudhurst, Kent*, Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group, Maidstone
PPS5, 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, The Stationery Office, Norwich
Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation*, London

Kent County Council HER summary form

Site Name: The Old Bank, The Plain, Goudhurst, Kent

Site address: The Old Bank, The Plain, Goudhurst, Kent

Summary: Only modern finds and deposits were recorded during the watching brief

District/Unitary: Tunbridge Wells

Parish: Goudhurst

Periods: none

NGR: TQ 72196 37747

Type of archaeological work: Watching Brief

Date of Recording: 2nd August 2011

Unit undertaking recording: Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd (South)

Geology: Wadhurst Clay

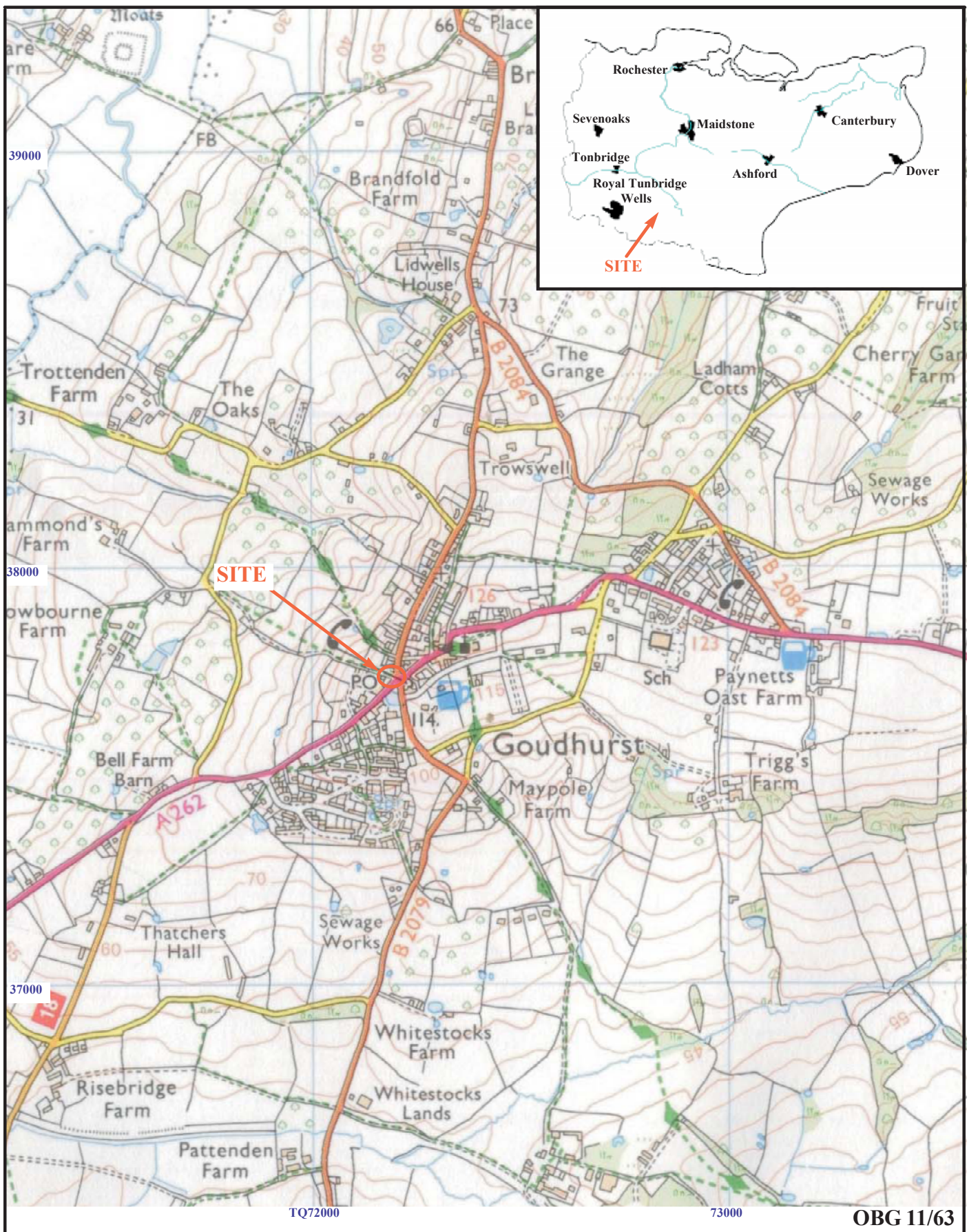
Title and author of report: The Old Bank, The Plain, Goudhurst, Kent; An Archaeological Watching Brief *by* Sean Wallis

Summary of results by period: Natural clay overlain by modern buried soil and modern made ground

Location of archive and finds: The archive will be deposited at Cranbrook in due course.

Contact at Unit: Sean Wallis

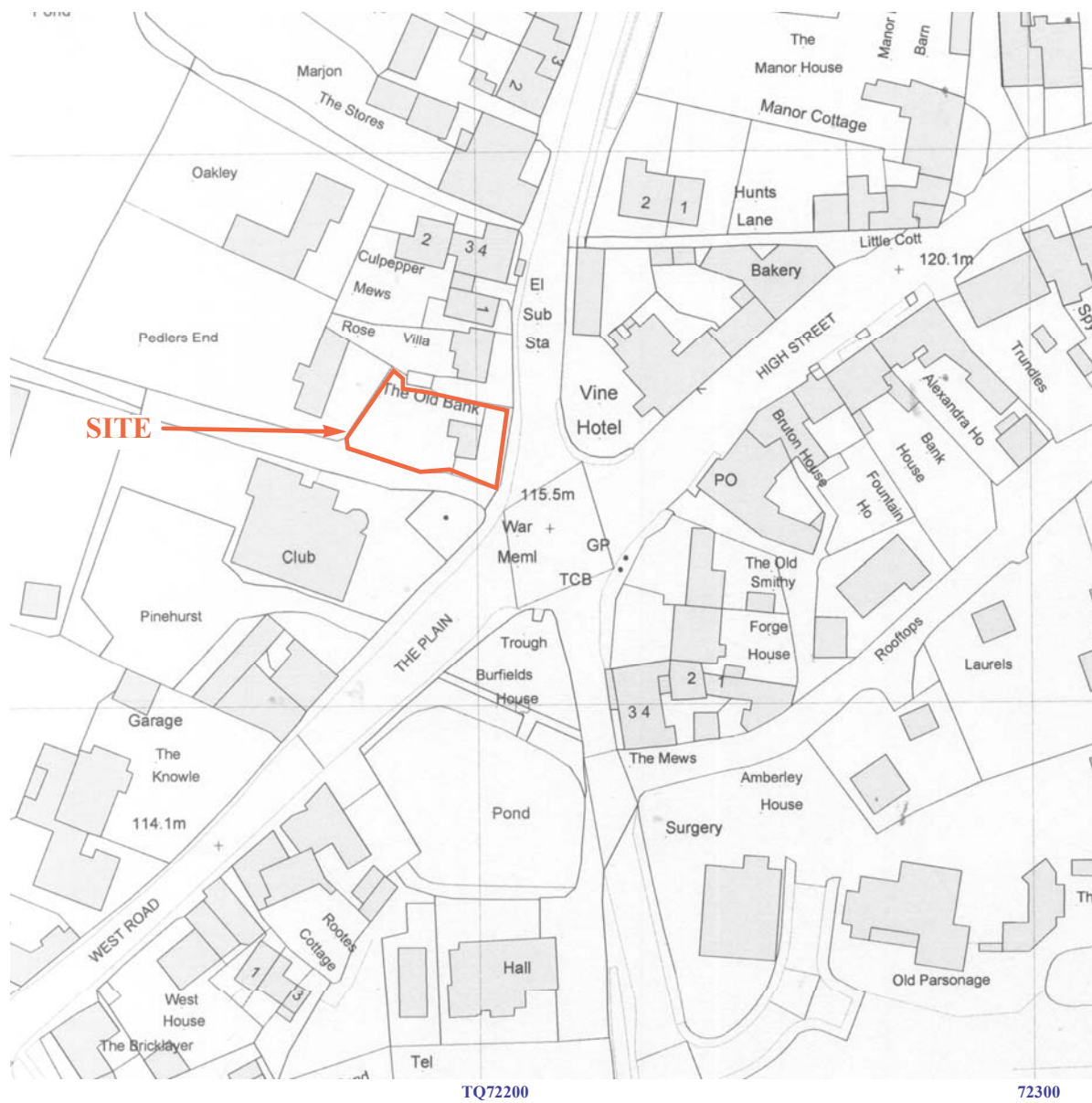
Date: 11/08/2011



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Figure 1. Location of site within Goudhurst and Kent.

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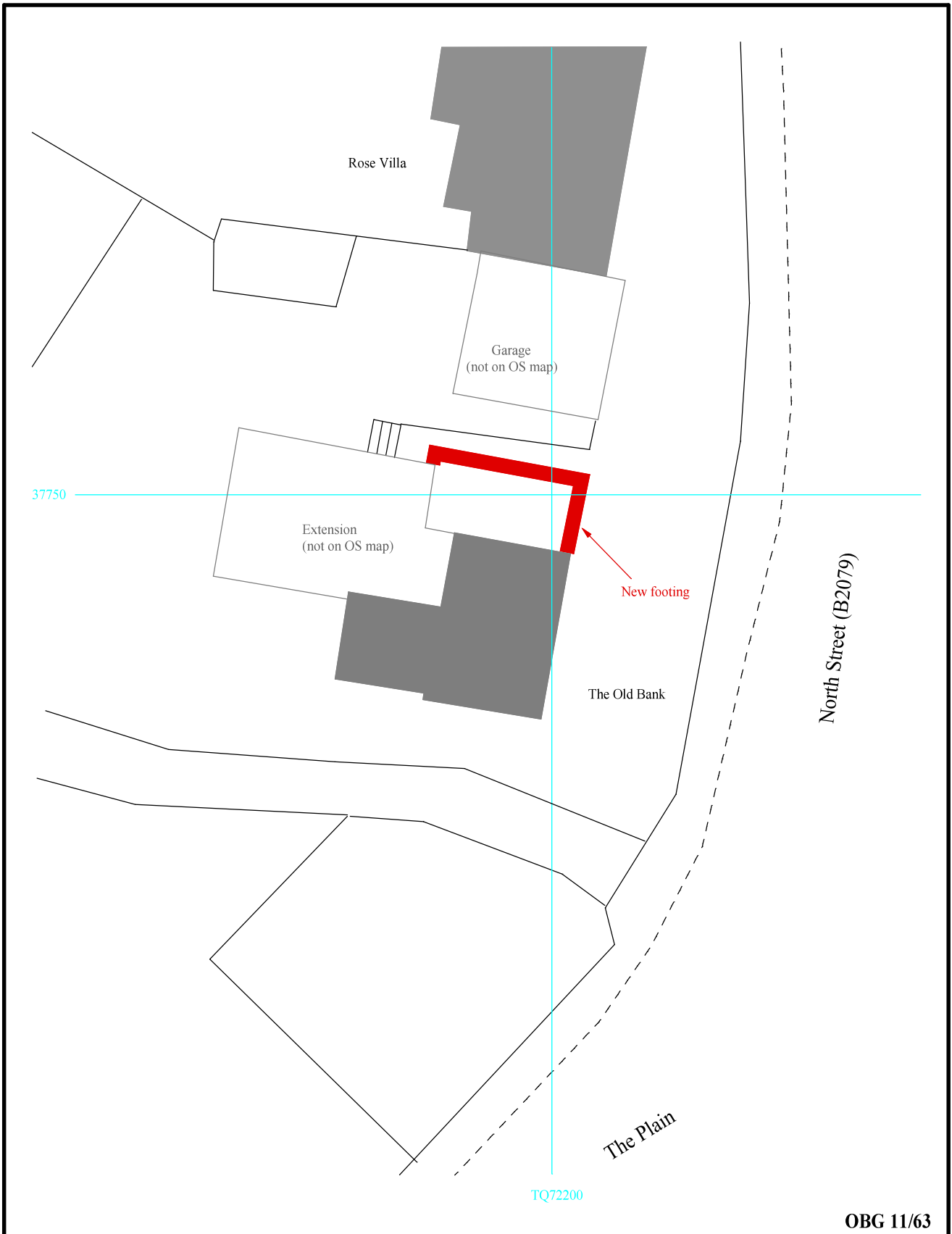


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off The Plain.
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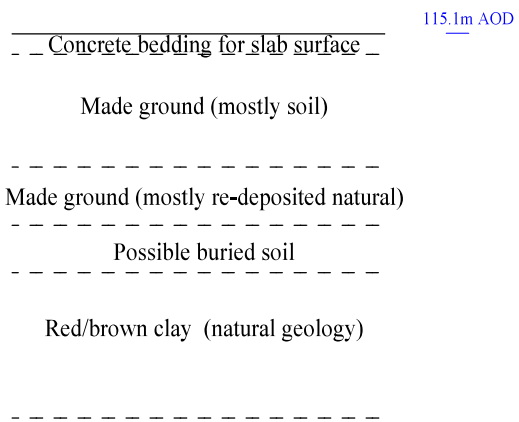


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Figure 3. Location of areas observed during watching brief.



Footing Trench (approximately E-W)



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Figure 4. Representative section





Plate 1. Original construction of The Old Bank, looking north.



Plate 2. New footing trench, looking east. Scales: 1m and 0.3m

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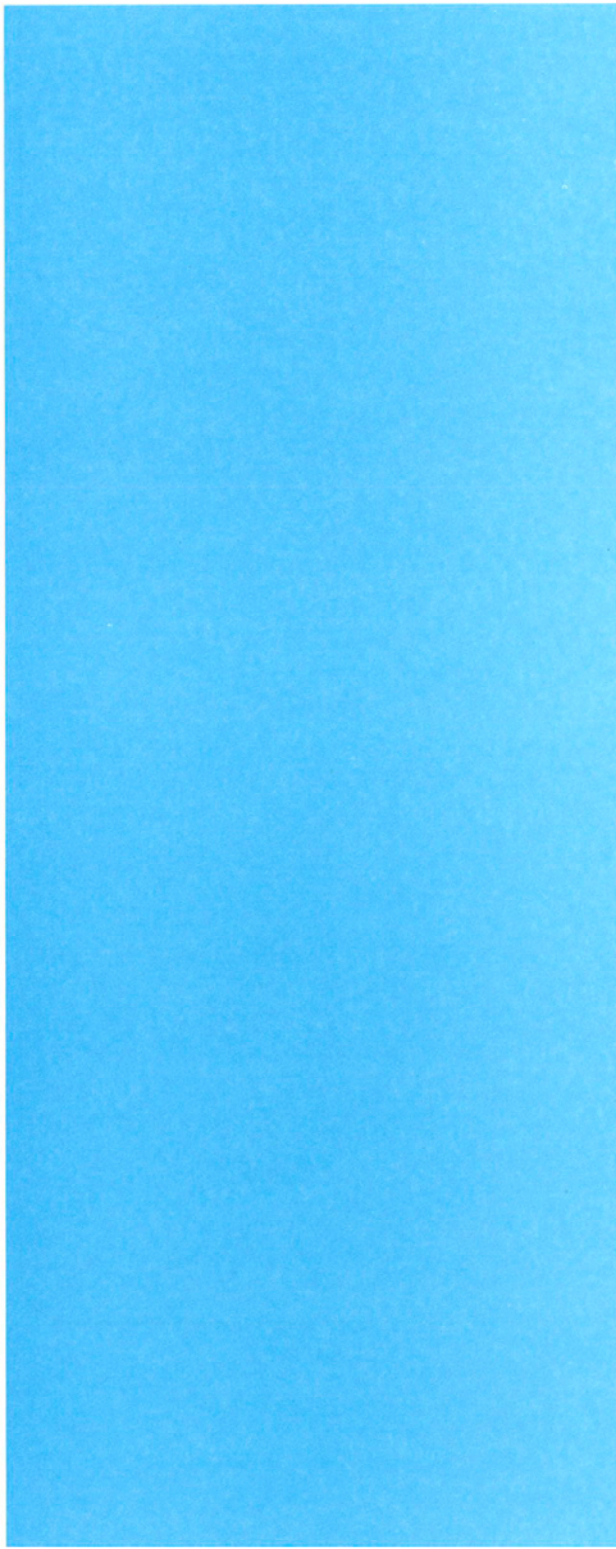
Plates 1 and 2.

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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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