

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

**Ladylane, Lodge Hill Lane,
Ditchling, East Sussex**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Site Code: LHD12/114

(TQ 3237 1596)

**Ladylane, Lodge Hill Lane,
Ditchling, East Sussex**

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Mr Brian Tyrer

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services

Ltd

Site Code LHD12/114

July 2012

Summary

Site name: Ladylane, Lodge Hill Lane, Ditchling, East Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 3237 1596

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 16th – 20th July 2012

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Sean Wallis

Site code: LHD 12/114

Area of site: c. 0.53 ha

Summary of results: The evaluation investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the development, that had not obviously been significantly disturbed in the past. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 26.07.12

Ladylane, Lodge Hill Lane, Ditchling, East Sussex An Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Report 12/114

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Ladylane, Lodge Hill Lane, Ditchling, East Sussex (Fig. 1) (TQ 3237 1596). The work was commissioned by Mr Carl Vener of Desbruslais Chartered Surveyors, 62 Brunswick Place, Hove, BN3 1NB, on behalf of the property's owner, Mr Brian Tyrer.

Planning permission (SDNP/12/00314/HOUS) had been gained from the South Downs National Park Authority to extend an existing garage, construct a new gardener's store and pool house, and widen the front driveway, along with various other minor alterations. The permission was subject to a condition (1) relating to archaeology, which required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work prior to the commencement of groundworks.

As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits which could be damaged or destroyed by the planned building work an archaeological field evaluation was undertaken to determine the archaeological potential of the site, and to help formulate a mitigation strategy as necessary. This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the National Park's policies on archaeology.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist for East Sussex County Council, who act as advisors to the National Park Authority on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by Felicity Howell and Sean Wallis between the 16th and 20th July 2012, and the site code is LHD 12/114. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Barbican Museum, Lewes in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site lies on the east side of Lodge Hill Lane, approximately 300m north of the historic core of Ditchling, East Sussex (Fig. 2), and is currently occupied by a residential dwelling, a detached garage, and garden areas which contain a swimming pool and several small outbuildings. The site generally slopes down towards the east, and the height above Ordnance Datum varies from about 79m close to Lodge Hill Lane, to about 73m at the far eastern end of the garden. Parts of the garden have obviously been terraced, but the trenches were specifically positioned in areas which appeared to follow the natural slope of the land. According to the British Geological

Survey, the underlying geology consists of Lower Greensand (BGS 2006), and this was confirmed in both evaluation trenches as a mid orange brown sandy clay.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location close to the South Downs, which are considered to be rich in archaeological deposits of all periods (Rudling 2003). The East Sussex HER contains numerous entries relating to archaeological finds and features, and historic buildings, within the surrounding area. Concentrations of Mesolithic flintwork have been found in the vicinity, which has led to the suggestion that it was the focus for major activity during that period. Two possible Bronze Age barrows are also noted, including one approximately 75m south-west of the present site. However, it is possible that this may be a windmill mound. The Greensand Way Roman road (Margary route 140) runs between Ditchling and Keymer, along a present footpath to the south of the site. Traces of this road were found during a recent archaeological watching brief during the excavation of a pipeline. Numerous stray finds from the late Bronze Age onwards are also recorded, with a reasonably large amount of Roman material being found in a field on the other side of Ditchling.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of development. The work was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which might warrant preservation in-situ, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to a full excavation.

The specific research aims of this project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels had survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present;
- to determine if archaeological deposits dating from the Bronze Age were present;
- to determine if archaeological deposits dating from the Roman period were present;

It was proposed to hand dig two trenches in those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the planned building work, that had not obviously been disturbed in the past. One trench, measuring 2m by 1m, was to be dug to the north of the existing garage, and the other trench, measuring 3m by 1m, was to be positioned on a grass verge just outside the entrance to the property. Excavation was to be taken down to the top of the natural geology or the top of the relevant archaeological level. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

Results

Both trenches were excavated as planned, and their lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4 Pl.1)

This trench was orientated approximately E-W, and was dug to the north of the existing garage, in an area which will be affected by the footings of the new garage extension. The trench was 2.25m long and 0.9m wide. Concrete slabs and their sandy bedding layer were removed to reveal a buried soil horizon (50), up to 0.1m thick. This lay above a thin subsoil deposit (c. 0.06m) of mid orange brown sandy clay (51), which in turn lay directly above the natural geology. No archaeological features were recorded in the trench, and 19th and 20th century material was recovered from the topsoil horizon, but was not retained.

Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4 Pl.2)

Trench 2 was 3.05m long and 1m wide, and was orientated approximately N-S. It was positioned on the grass verge just outside the entrance to the site, and deliberately targeted an existing shallow ditch. Turf and topsoil (50), up to 0.2m thick, was removed to reveal a layer of mid greyish brown sandy clay subsoil (51). This deposit was about 0.14m thick, and lay directly above the natural geology. The drainage ditch was clearly seen to cut into the natural sandy clay, but no finds were recovered to suggest any great date to it. A few pieces of 19th or 20th century pottery were found within the topsoil, but were not retained.

Conclusion

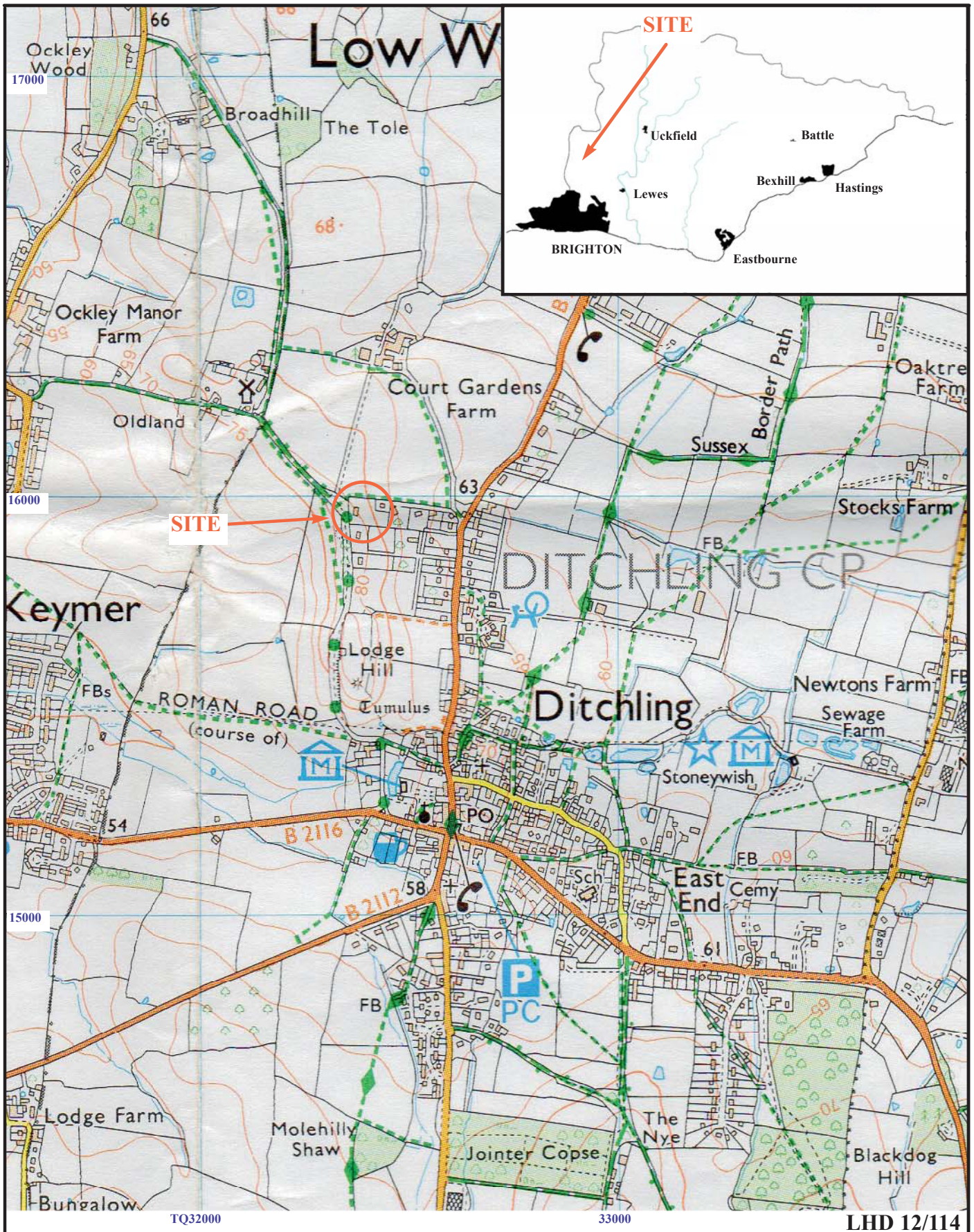
The evaluation successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the planned building work at the site. The trenches deliberately targeted areas which did not appear to have been significantly truncated by previous activity, and the undisturbed nature of the deposits revealed confirmed this. It is therefore believed that the site has low archaeological potential, and that no further archaeological work is necessary.

References

- BGS, 1993, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 318/333, Bedrock and Superficial Deposits Edition, Keyworth
- ESCC, 2008, 'Standards for archaeological fieldwork, recording, and post-excavation work in East Sussex', East Sussex County Council, Lewes
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department of Communities and Local Government, London (TSO)
- Rudling, D, (ed) 2003, *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, Brighton

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

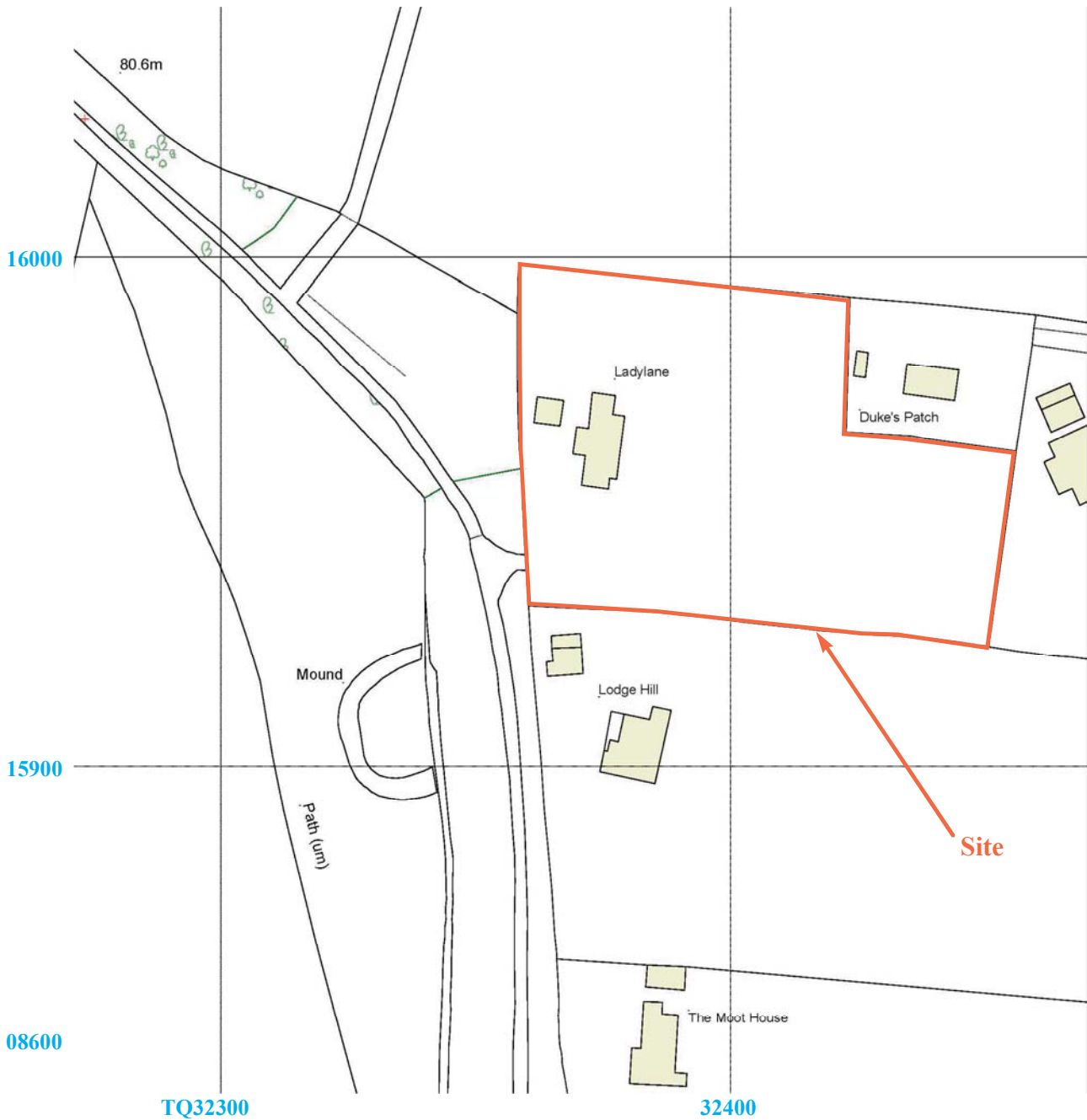
Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	2.25	0.90	0.26	0-0.04m concrete slabs; 0.04-0.10m sand bedding layer; 0.10-0.20m buried topsoil (50); 0.20-0.26m mid orange brown sandy clay subsoil (51); 0.26m+ mid brown orange sandy clay (natural geology). No archaeology. [PI. 1]
2	3.05	1.00	0.34	0-0.20m turf and topsoil (50); 0.20-0.34m subsoil (51); 0.34m mid orange brown sandy clay (natural geology). No archaeology. [PI. 2]



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Figure 1. Location of site within Ditchling and East Sussex.

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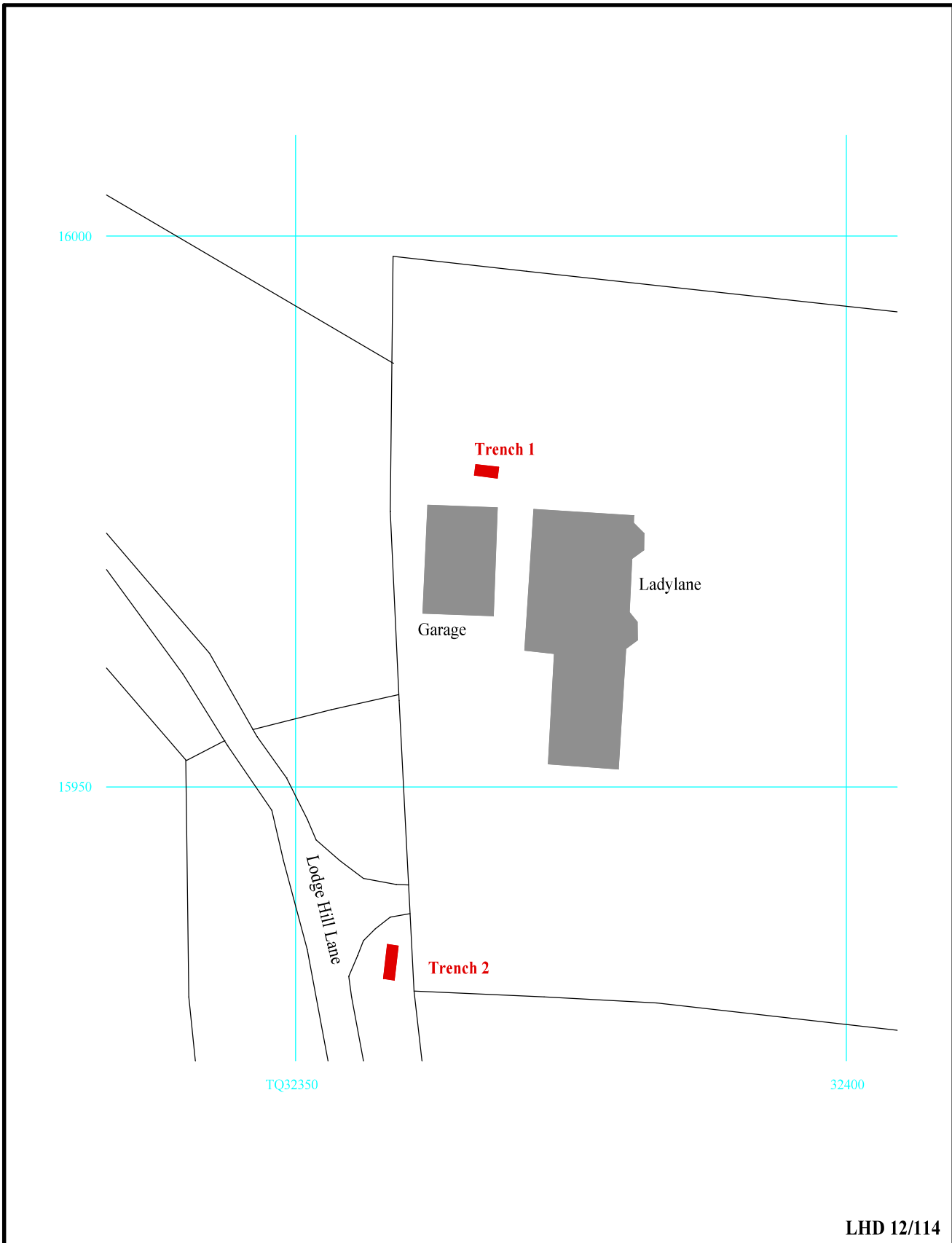


LHD 12/114

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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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LHD 12/114



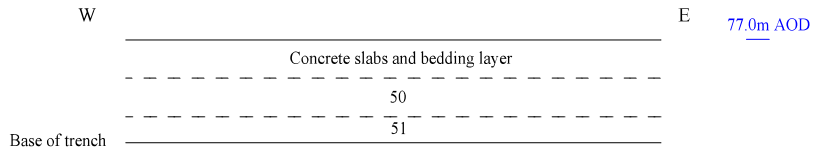
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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Location of trenches.

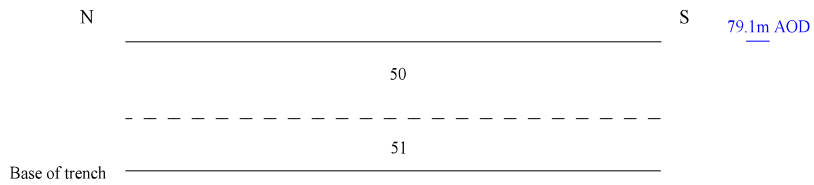


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Trench 1



Trench 2



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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Representative sections.





Plate 1. Trench 1, looking west, Scales: 1m, 0.5m and 0.1m.



Plate 2. Trench 2 looking north, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

LDH12/114

Ladylane, Lodge Hill Lane, Ditchling, East Sussex, 2012
Archaeological Evaluation

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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