

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

**Rose Cottage, Cedarwell Close,  
Piddinghoe, East Sussex**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Felicity Howell**

**Site Code: RCP12/103**

**(TQ 4355 0288)**

**Rose Cottage, Cedarwell Close,  
Piddinghoe, East Sussex**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Mr John Gribbin**

by FelicityHowell

ThamesValleyArchaeologicalServices

Ltd

SiteCodeRCP12/103

**July 2012**

## Summary

**Site name:** Rose Cottage, Cedarwell Close, Piddinghoe, East Sussex

**Grid reference:** TQ 4355 0288

**Planning reference:** SDNP/12/00137/LIS

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 23rd July 2012

**Project manager:** Sean Wallis

**Site supervisor:** Felicity Howell

**Site code:** RCP 12/103

**Summary of results:** No archaeological features were recorded during the monitoring of footings, excavated to the rear of the existing house. Some late post-medieval pottery was noted during the watching brief but not retained.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 25.07.11 Steve Preston✓ 25.07.11
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# Rose Cottage, The Street, Piddinghoe, East Sussex An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Felicity Howell

Report 12/103

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Rose Cottage, Cedarwell Close, Piddinghoe, East Sussex (TQ 4355 0288) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by the property owner, Mr John Gribbin.

Planning permission (SDNP/12/00137/LIS) had been gained from South Downs National Park to construct a new conservatory to the rear of the existing cottage. This planning application contained minor alterations to an earlier application (LW/10/1516), which had been approved by Lewes District Council. The permission was subject to a standard condition relating to archaeology, which required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work prior to the commencement of groundworks. Mr Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist with East Sussex County Council, who acts as archaeological adviser to the District Council, advised that this should take the form of a watching brief, to be carried out during groundworks.

This is in accordance with *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5, 2010), and the District Council's policy on archaeology. It is acknowledged that PPS5 has now been superseded by the recent *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012). The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by the East Sussex County Archaeological Officer. The fieldwork was undertaken by Felicity Howell on 23rd July 2012, and the site code is RCP 12/103. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Lewes Museum, in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The area of interest is situated in the village of Piddinghoe which lies in the River Ouse valley, between Lewes and Newhaven, in East Sussex (Fig. 1). The site itself is located on the north side of Cedarwell Close within the historic core of Piddinghoe (Fig. 2). The site is currently occupied by a residential Grade II listed building and associated garden areas. According to the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology consists of River Terrace Deposits including sand and gravel (flint, chalk and sandstone clasts) with silt and clay (BGS 2006), and this was confirmed as bright orange-brown clay with gravel inclusions in the footing trenches. The site is relatively flat, and lies at a height of approximately 6.3m above Ordnance Datum.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site primarily stems from its location within the historic core of Piddinghoe. The village is not mentioned in Domesday Book (AD 1086); the place name *Pidingeho* is first recorded in the 12th century, and parts of the parish church of St John date certainly from this period. There is also some early prehistoric potential, due to the fact that Palaeolithic flintwork has been found in the village. Further afield, earthworks have been recorded to the west and north-west of the village, which are thought to represent medieval field systems. It is possible that the earthworks to the north-west may contain elements of a medieval settlement. Rose Cottage was formally known as Huntwick, and is a Grade II Listed building, dating from 17th century.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The aims of the watching brief were to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was to include the monitoring of footing trenches for the new extension, along with any areas of ground reduction and any associated service runs. Sufficient time was to be allowed within the developer's and groundworker's schedules to record any archaeological features revealed.

## **Results**

The ground level for the footprint of the proposed extension was reduced to a depth of 0.25m, and the footing trenches were then hand dug to a depth of up to 0.65m, the level of the natural geology (Pls 1 and 2; Fig. 3). In general the footing trenches were 0.60m wide and the stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m topsoil (50), above 0.25m of mid orange-brown, sandy clay, subsoil (51) which lay directly above natural clay (Fig. 4). Modern truncation was observed in the south-east corner of the footprint and this included an area of hard standing and a service pipe. It was established that this service line was to be reused and therefore no further monitoring was required.

## **Finds**

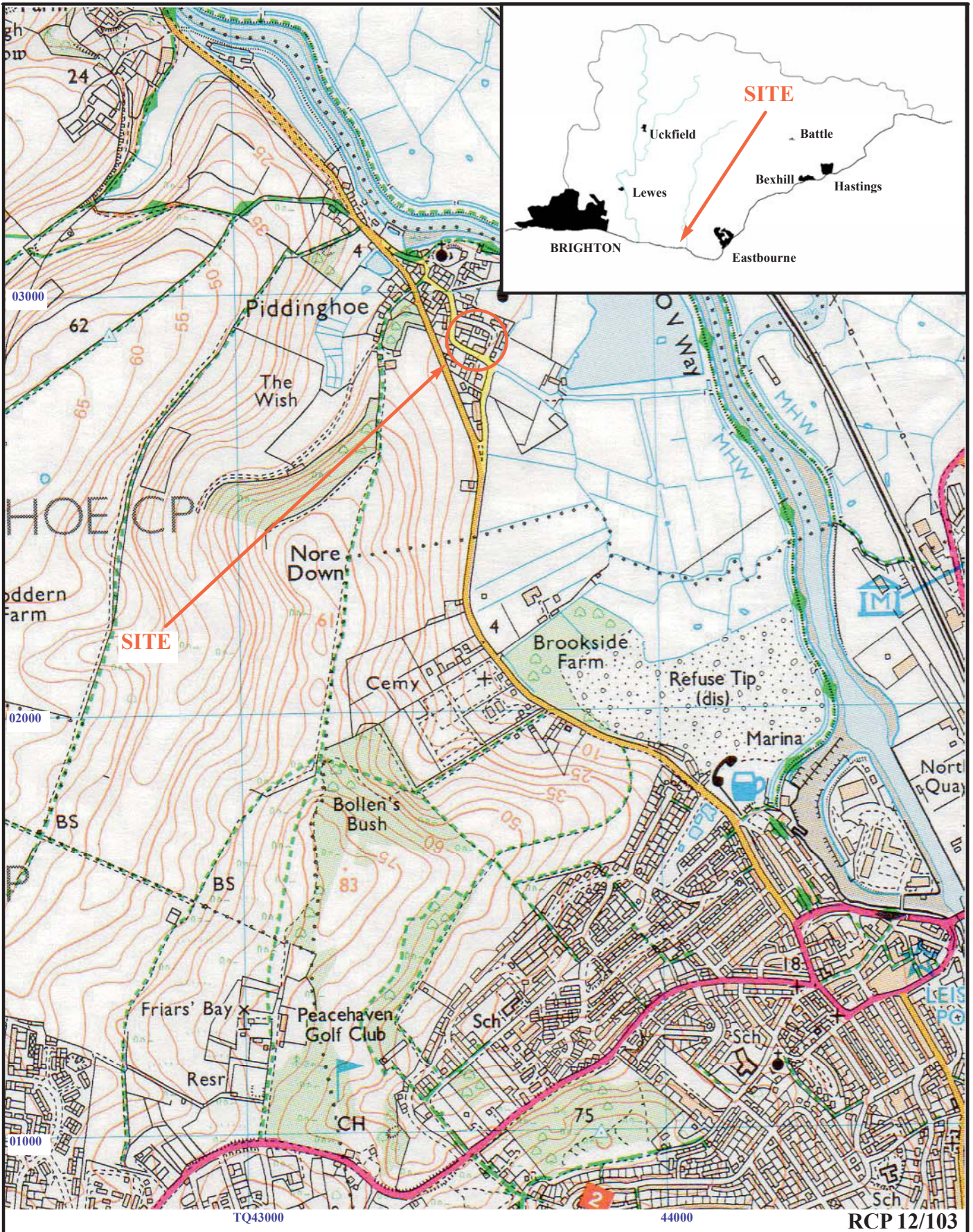
Both 19th and 20th century pottery was noted in the topsoil (50) during the watching brief but was not retained.

## **Conclusion**

The watching brief at this site successfully examined those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the new extension. Despite previous disturbance in the 20th century, the natural geology had not been significantly truncated. However, no archaeological features were recorded during the project.

## **References**

- BGS, 2006, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 318/333, Bedrock and Superficial Deposits Edition, Keyworth.
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department of Communities and Local Government, London (TSO)
- PPS5, 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, Department of Communities and Local Government Planning Policy Statement 5, London (TSO)



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

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Site

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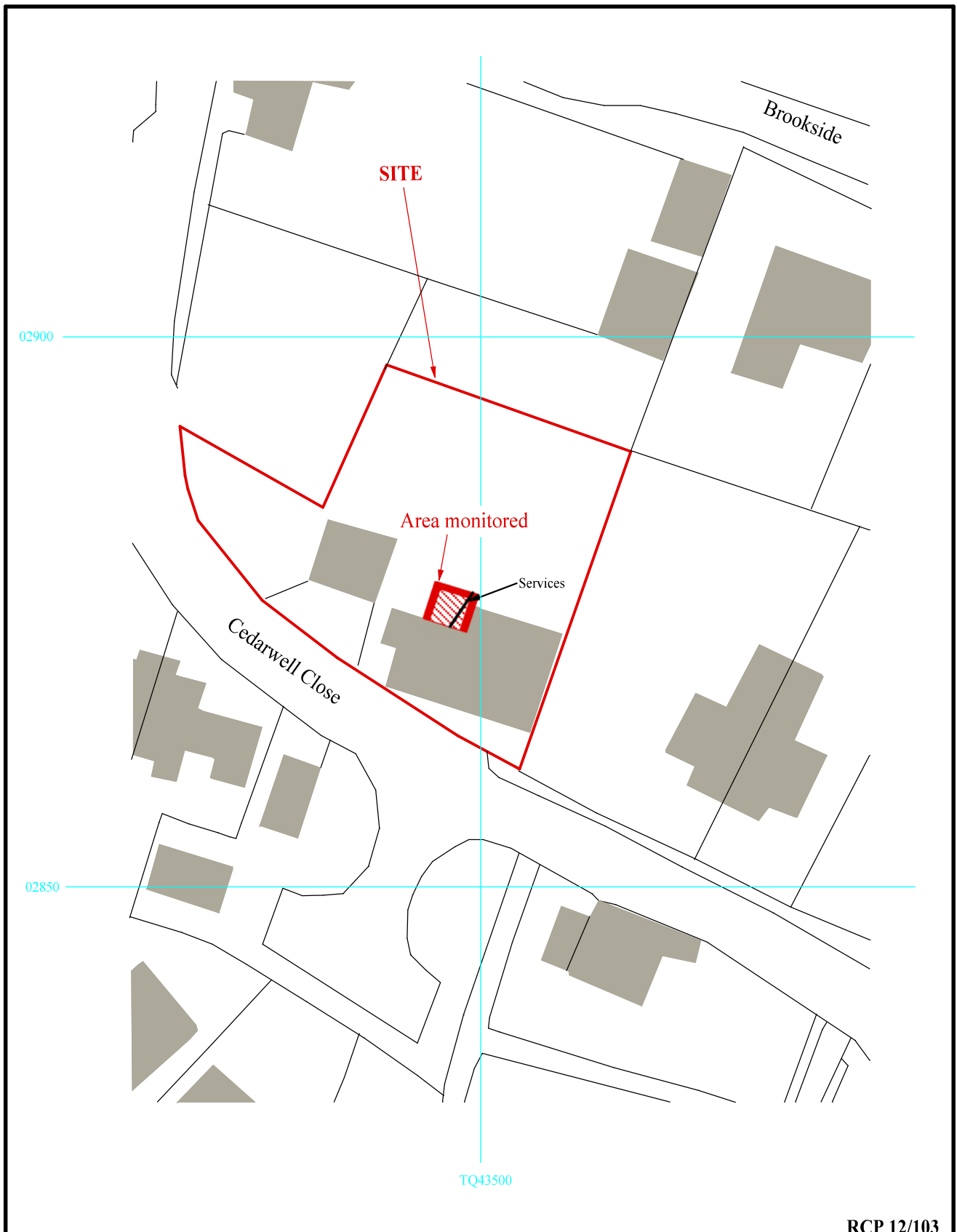
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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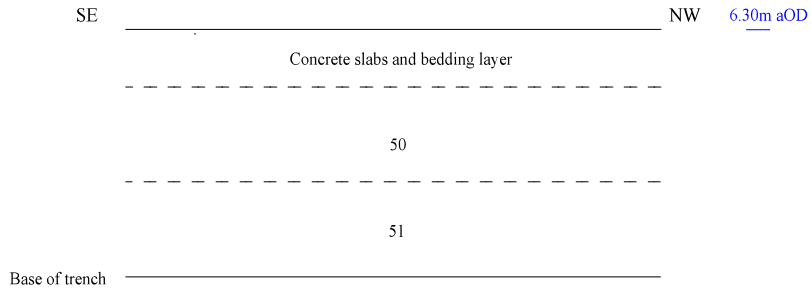


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Figure 3. Location of observed areas.



**Footing trench**



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Figure 4. Representative section.





Plate 1. General view of site, looking south, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Detail of footing trench, looking south west, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

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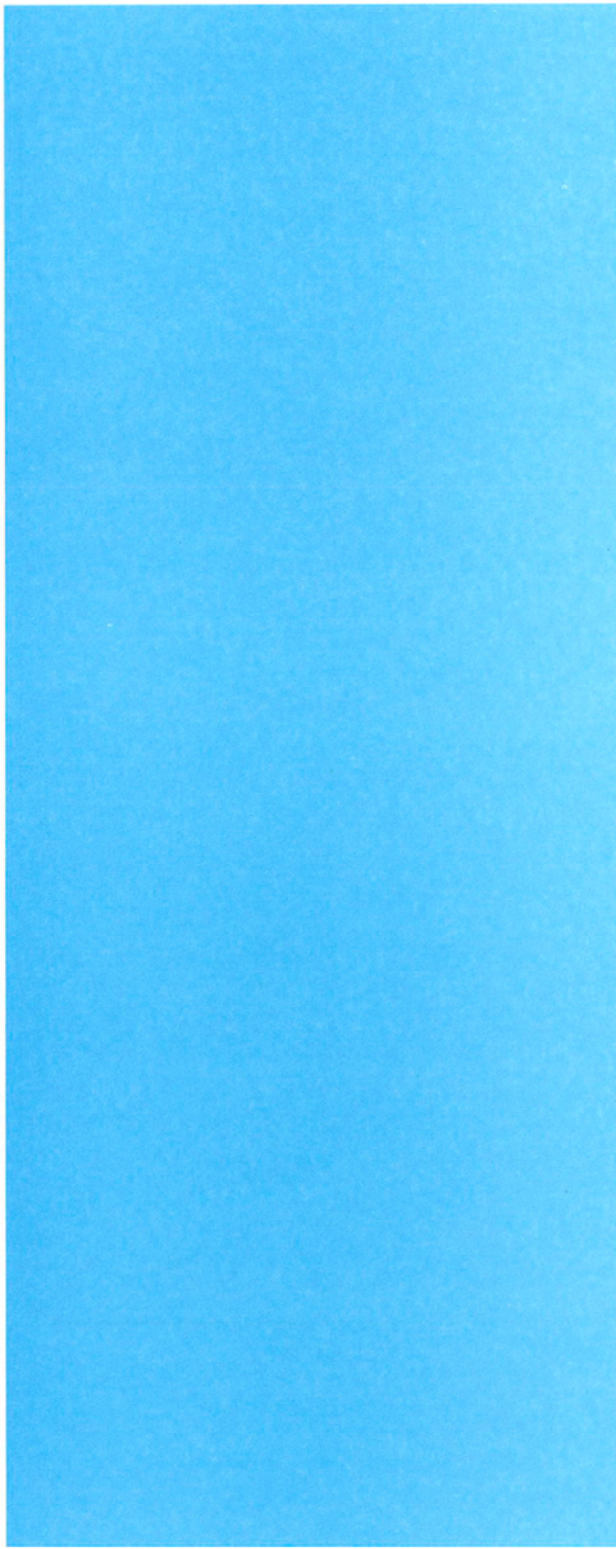
Plates 1 and 2.

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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





**TVAS (South)**  
**77a Hollingdean Terrace, Brighton**  
**Sussex, BN1 7HB**

**Tel: 01273 554198**  
**Fax: 01273 564043**  
**Email: [south@tvas.co.uk](mailto:south@tvas.co.uk)**  
**Web: [www.tvas.co.uk](http://www.tvas.co.uk)**