

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

**2 Hornblower Cottages, High Street,
Etchingam, East Sussex**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Sean Wallis

Site Code: HCE15/229

(TQ 7099 2603)

2 Hornblower Cottages, High Street, Etchingam, East Sussex

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Ms Danielle Berry

by Teresa Vieira

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HCE15/229

October 2015

Summary

Site name: 2 Hornblower Cottages, High Street, Etchingam, East Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 7099 2603

Planning reference: RR/2015/283/P

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 28th September 2015

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Teresa Vieira

Site code: HCE 15/229

Area of site: c. 30 sq m

Summary of results: The watching brief successfully investigated the part of the site which would be most affected by the creation of a new driveway and access. Despite the archaeological potential of this site and the fact that the area had not 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 Bexhill Museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 01.10.15 Steve Preston ✓ 01.10.15

2 Hornblower Cottages, High Street, Etchingam, East Sussex An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Sean Wallis

Report 15/229

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 2 Hornblower Cottages, High Street, Etchingam, East Sussex (TQ 7099 2603) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Danielle Berry, the property's owner.

Planning permission (RR/2015/283/P) had been gained from Rother District Council for the creation of a new driveway and access. The permission was subject to a standard condition (2) relating to archaeology and the historic environment

As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which might be damaged or destroyed by the planned building work, it was proposed to carry out a watching brief as set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF, 2012) and the District Council's policies on archaeology and the historic environment. This approach had been recommended by Mr Greg Chuter, the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer, who acts as archaeological adviser to the District Council.

The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer. Where appropriate and relevant, the recommendations in *Sussex Archaeological Standards* (ESCC 2015) were to be followed. The fieldwork was undertaken by Teresa Vieira on 28th September 2015, and the site code is HCE 15/229. The archive is presently held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services, but will be deposited with Bexhill Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the north side of High Street, Etchingam, and consists of a residential house with front and rear garden areas (Fig. 2). According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Wadhurst Clay at its junction with the Ashdown Beds (BGS 1981). This was confirmed during the watching brief, when yellow silty clay was encountered in the area monitored. The site slopes northwards up from the road towards the rear of the property, and the southern part of the site lies at a height of approximately 25m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

A search of the East Sussex Historic Environment Record (ESHER 2015, reference 252/15) was carried out in July 2015 to provide archaeological background information on the site. In summary, the site lies within an Archaeological Notification Area associated with the medieval and post-medieval village of Etchingham. The settlement is first mentioned in 1158 as *Hetchingeham* and appears to have developed along the ridge top road, with no central core. The parish church, to the east of the present site, dates from the 14th century. It has been suggested that a small castle or fortified manor house may have once stood close to the railway station which was built in the mid 19th century. However, recent archaeological fieldwork in the vicinity did not reveal any traces of the building or its moat. There have been very few finds of archaeological significance within the village or its immediate surrounding area, although this may be due to the paucity of archaeological fieldwork.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the watching brief were to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the proposed groundworks. This was to involve the monitoring of ground reduction for the new access and driveway in front of the house. Where it was not possible or practicable to preserve archaeological remains *in-situ* the features were to be excavated by hand and fully recorded, to ensure their preservation by record. The watching brief was to be carried out in accordance with the relevant sections of Sussex Archaeological Standards (ESCC 2015) and the guidelines issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Results

The area which was stripped in respect of the new access and roadway measured approximately 4.5m by 6.70m (Fig. 3; Pls 1–3). The area was stripped down to the natural clay geology and the stratigraphy above the natural geology generally consisted of up to 0.50m of turf and topsoil (50) and 0.25m of subsoil (51). The soil deposits were less deep towards the southern end of the site. No archaeological finds or features were observed, although some modern finds (pottery fragments and a 1940 penny) were found within the topsoil but were not retained.

Conclusion

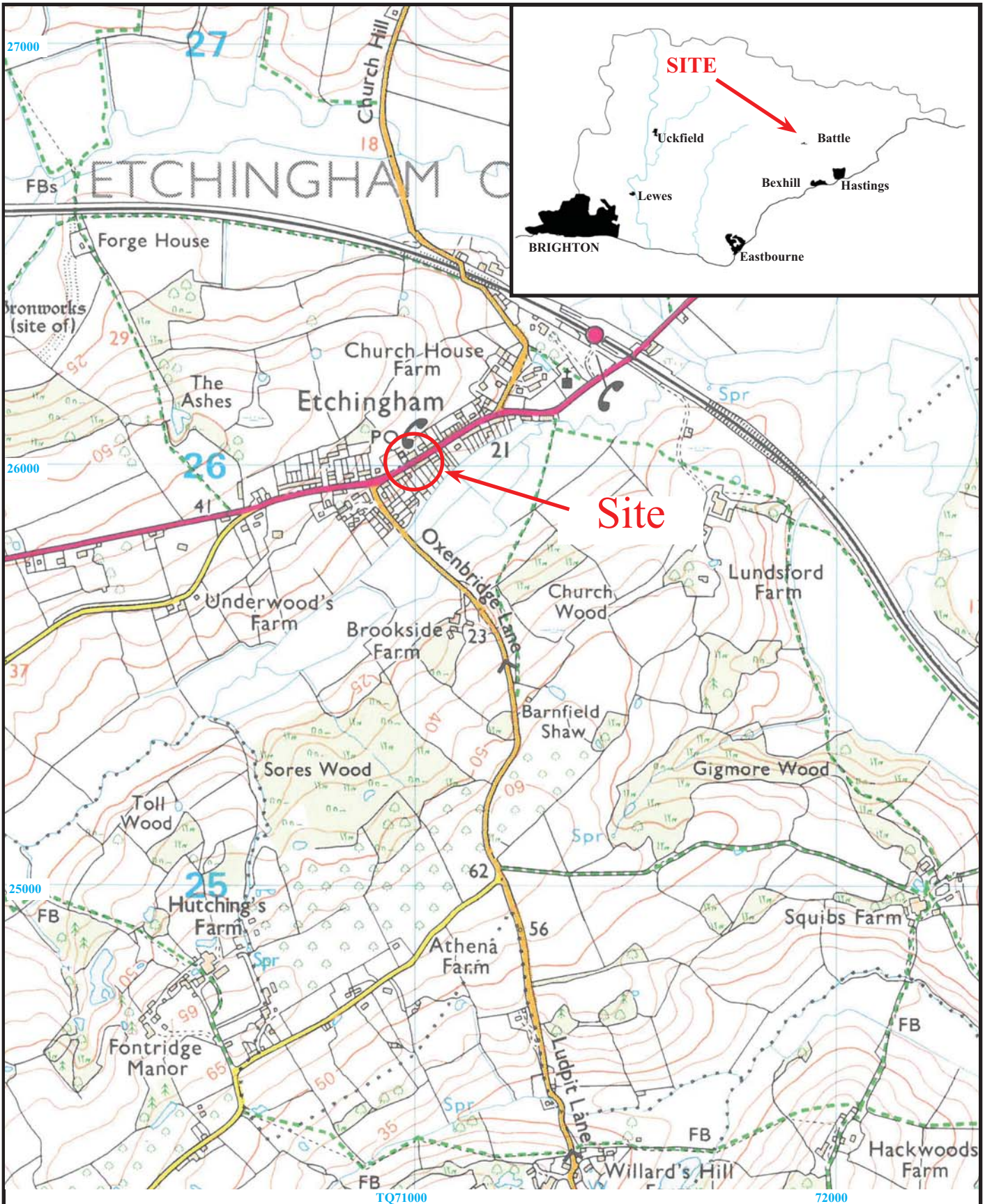
The watching brief at this site successfully examined the area which was to be most affected by the new access and driveway. Despite the archaeological potential of the surrounding area and the fact that the area does not appear to have been significantly disturbed in the past, no archaeological finds or features were observed.

References

BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 304, Solid and Drift Edition, Southampton

ESCC, 2015, *Sussex Archaeological Standards*, East Sussex County Council, Lewes

NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London



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

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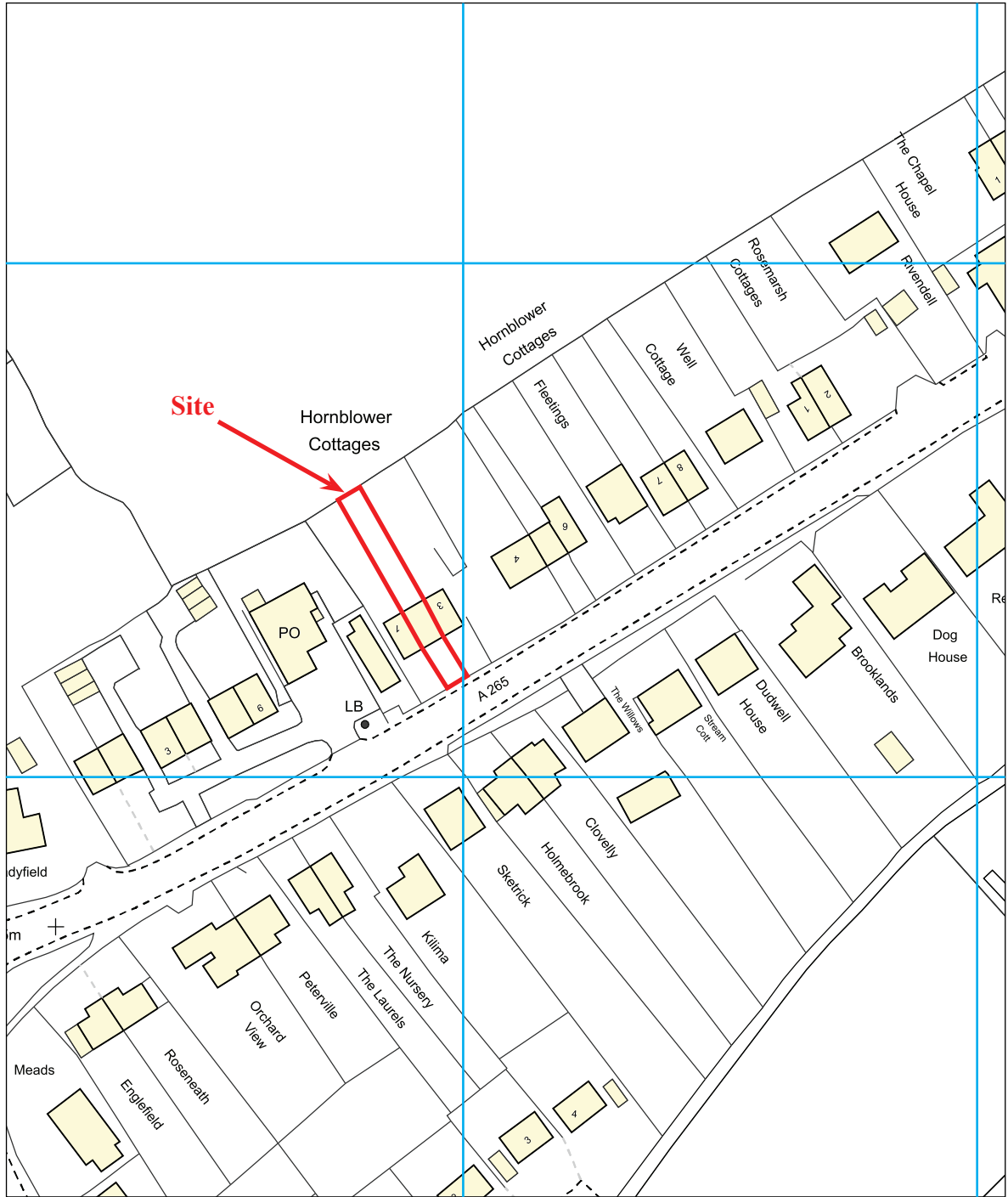
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Site

Hornblower Cottages



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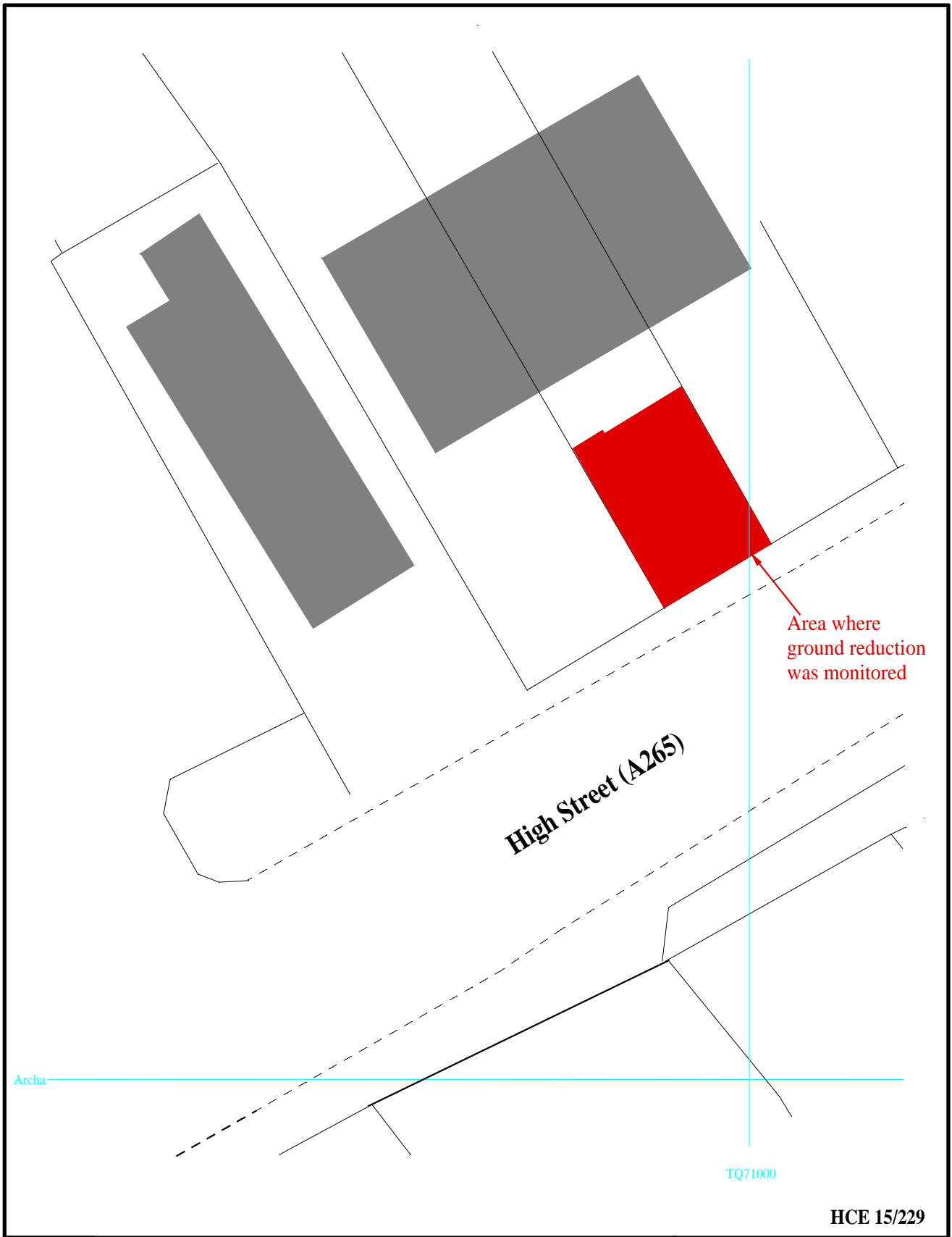


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site

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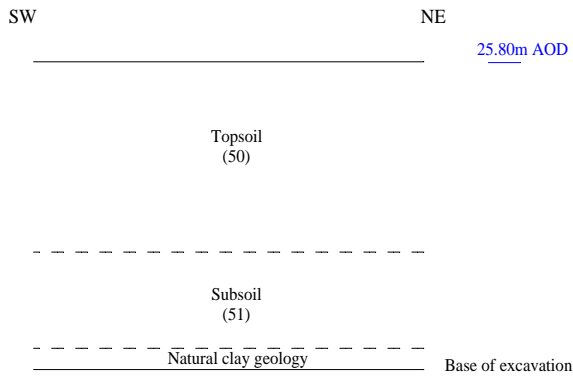


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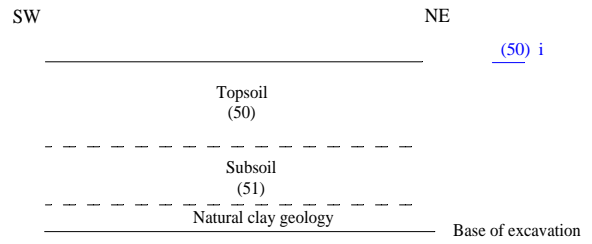
Figure 3. Location of area monitored.



General stratigraphy at north-west corner of excavation area



General stratigraphy at south-west corner of excavation area



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Figure 4. Representative Sections





Plate 3. General site view.

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Plate 3

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Plate 1. View of site during stripping: the dark stripe is merely loose soil, not a feature



Plate 2. Section looking south west, Scales: 1m and 0.5m

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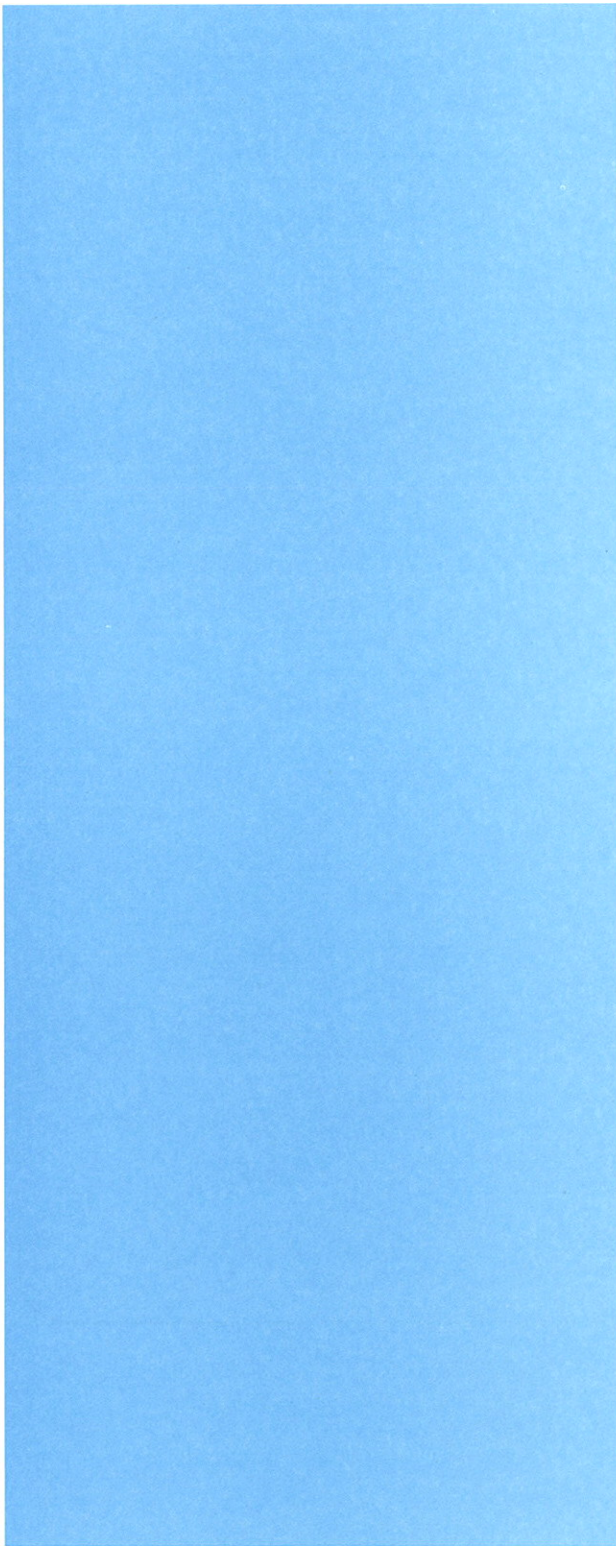
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Plates 1-2

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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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