

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

**24 Friars Avenue, Peacehaven,
East Sussex**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Sean Wallis

Site Code: FPS16/187

(TQ 4209 0063)

**24 Friars Avenue, Peacehaven,
East Sussex**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr Adam Higgins

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code FPS16/187

February 2017

Summary

Site name: 24 Friars Avenue, Peacehaven, East Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 4209 0063

Planning reference: LW/16/0220

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 1st-2nd February 2017

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Sean Wallis

Site code: FPS 16/187

Area of site: c. 365 sq m

Summary of results: The watching brief successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of a new rear extension. This involved the monitoring of the foundation trenches for the extension. Despite the fact that most of the site had not been significantly disturbed 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 the Archaeology Data Service in due course

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 07.02.17 Steve Preston ✓ 07.02.17

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by Sean Wallis

Report 16/187

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 24 Friars Avenue, Peacehaven (TQ 4209 0063) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by the property's owner, Mr Adam Higgins.

Planning permission (LW/16/0220) had been gained from Lewes District Council to construct a new extension to the rear of the property. The permission was subject to a standard condition (1) relating to archaeology and the historic environment, which required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. The East Sussex County Council Archaeologist Officer who acts as archaeological adviser to the District Council (Mr Greg Chuter), had indicated that this work should comprise an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF, 2012) and the District Council's policies on archaeology and the historic environment. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer. The fieldwork was undertaken by Sean Wallis and Jim Webster on 1st and 2nd February 2017, and the site code is FPS 16/187.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading, and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site lies on the west side of Friars Avenue, Peacehaven, and is occupied by a bungalow and its associated garden areas (Fig. 2). According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Tarrant Chalk Member Chalk, of the Culver Chalk Formation (BGS 2006). However, the natural geology observed during the watching brief largely consisted of either mid orange brown or light yellow brown sand and gravel. The gravel observed was mostly sandstone, with some flint being present. The sand and gravel was overlain with mid orange brown clayey sand in the southern part of the site. The area is relatively flat, and lies at a height of approximately 44m above Ordnance Datum..

Archaeological background

The site lies on the chalkland of the South Downs, which is known to be archaeologically rich for most periods (Rudling 2003). A search of the East Sussex Historic Environment Record was carried out in October 2016 to provide further information on the archaeology which had been recorded in the surrounding area. In summary, the site lies within an Archaeological Notification Area associated with a probable Bronze Age bowl barrow. This feature is recorded on historic maps, and is likely to have been destroyed when the road and houses which make up Friars Avenue were constructed in the 20th century. Further afield, numerous archaeological projects to the north of the site have revealed a multi period landscape, with finds and features being recorded from the Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods.

Objectives and methodology

The primary aim of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the proposed groundworks. This was to involve the monitoring of the excavation of the foundation trenches for the new extension. Archaeological deposits threatened by the groundworks which could not be preserved *in-situ* were to be fully recorded to ensure their preservation by record.

Results

All the footings for the new extension were monitored. The footings were all 0.60m wide and up to 1m deep. The area where the southern footing trench was dug had been heavily disturbed by a nearby soakaway and, as a result, the top of the natural geology (mid orange brown clayey sand) was recorded 0.70m below the present ground surface, immediately beneath 0.50m of mid brown soil. Elsewhere, the top of the natural geology was generally revealed beneath 0.18m of topsoil and 0.24m of subsoil, apart from in the north east corner, where the topsoil had been removed in the past when a patio was laid down. No archaeological features were revealed, and no finds were recovered from the subsoil, despite the spoil being carefully checked.

Finds

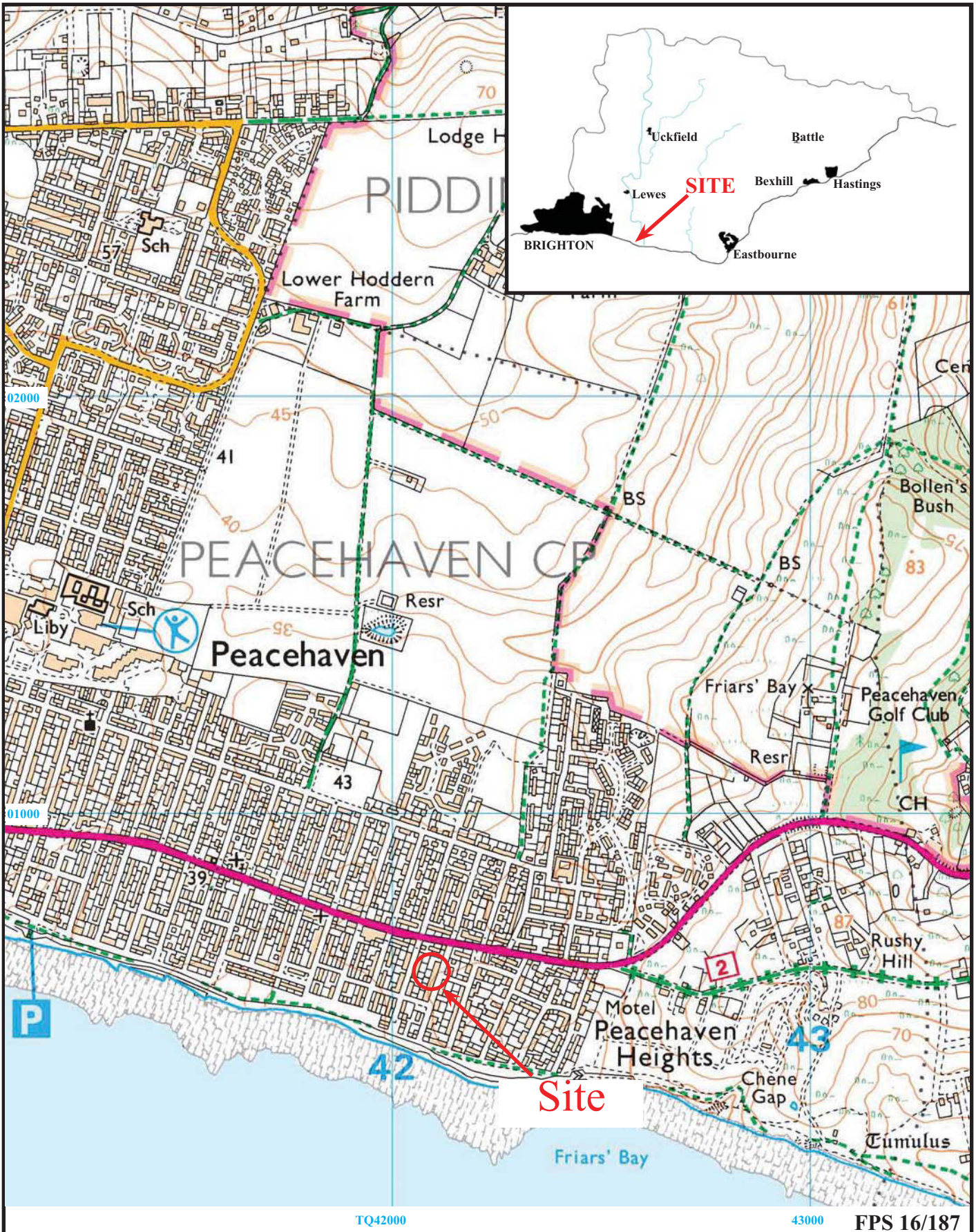
There were no archaeological finds recovered during the watching brief.

Conclusion

The watching brief at Friars Avenue successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of a new extension. Much of the site had not been significantly disturbed in the past, but no archaeological finds or features were recorded.

References

- BGS, 2006, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet319/334, Bedrock and Superficial Deposits Edition, Keyworth
- NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department of Communities and Local Government, London.



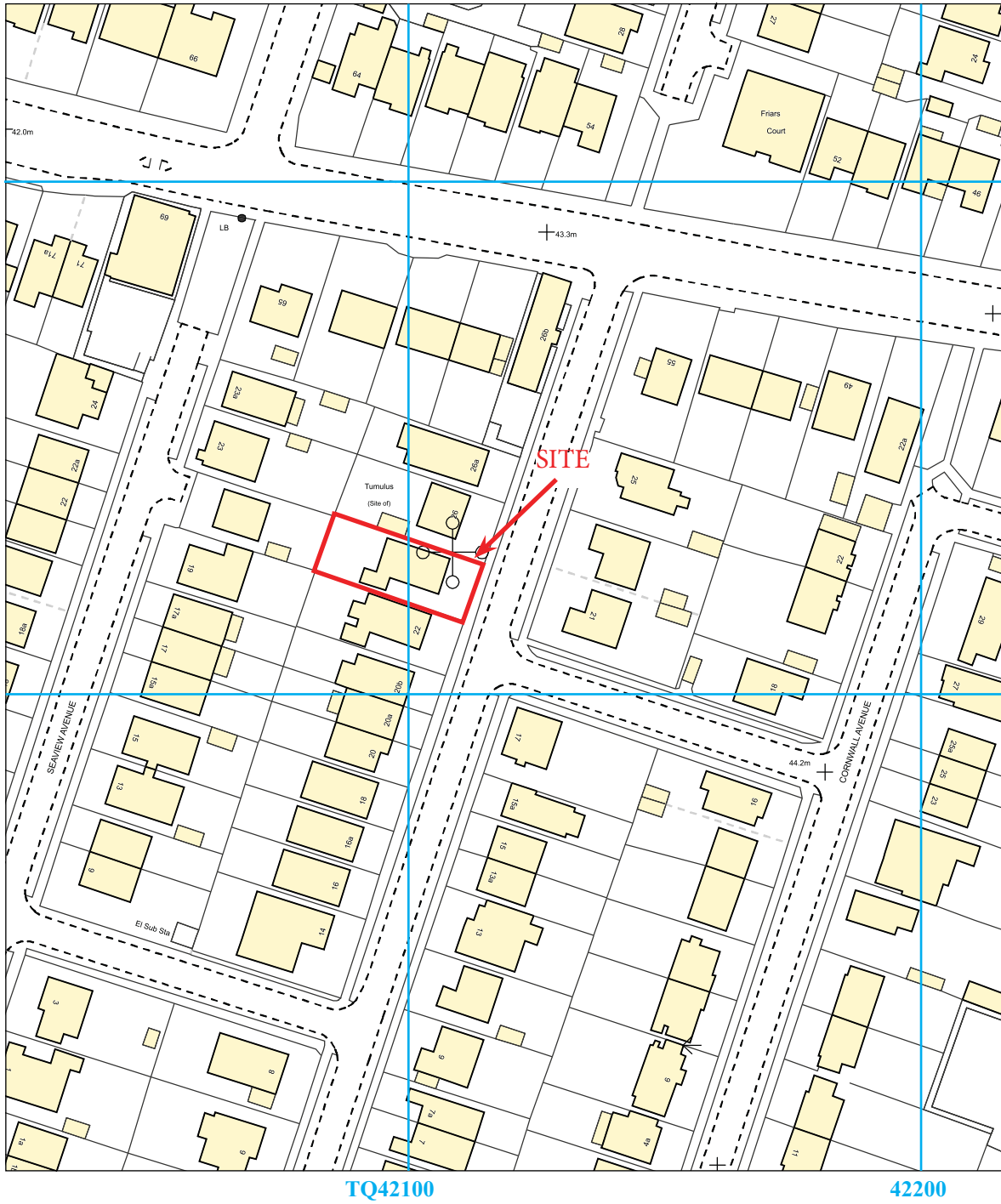
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Figure 1. Location of site within Peacehaven and
East Sussex.

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T V A S

SOUTH



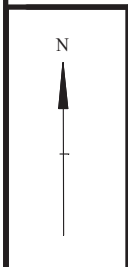
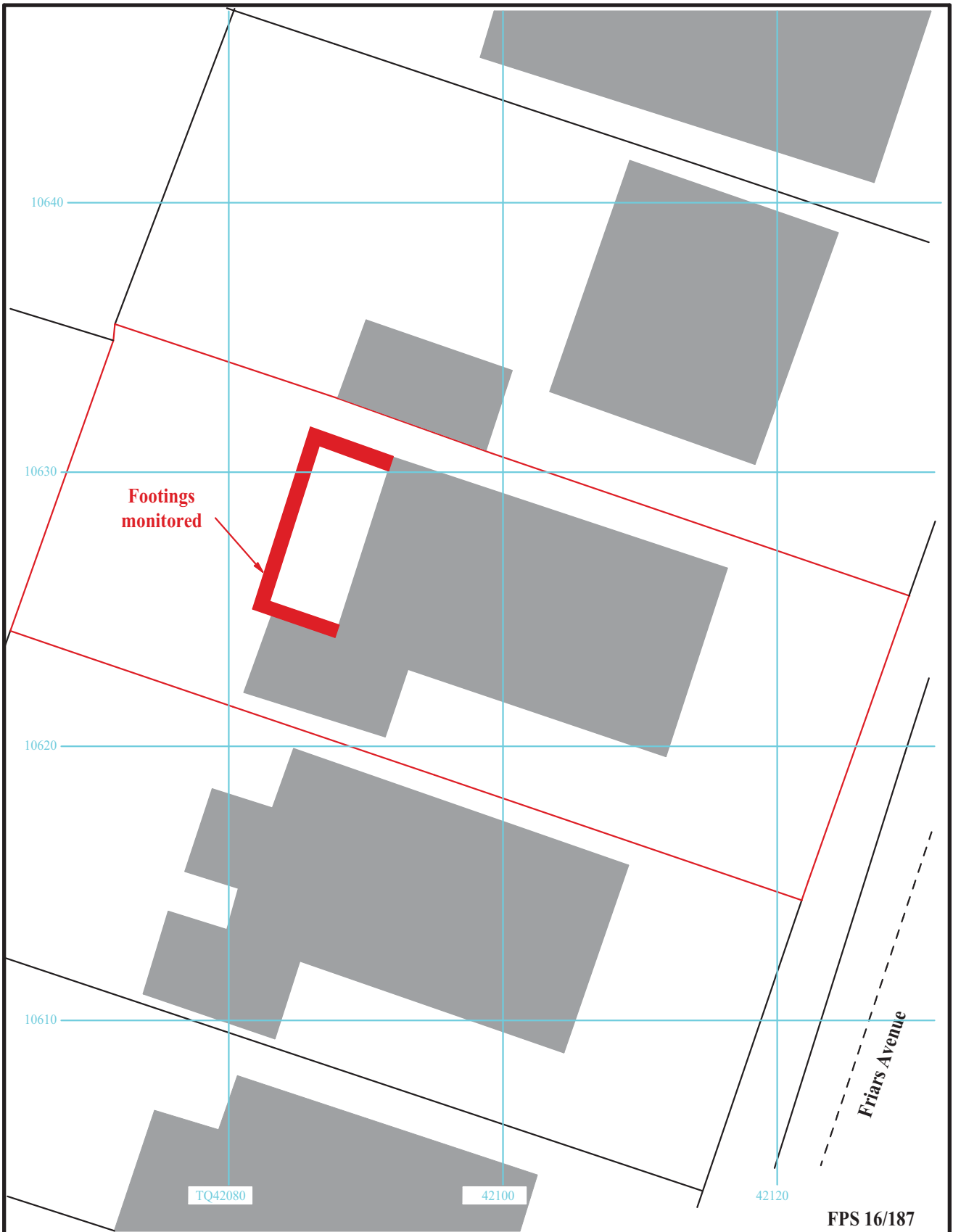
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site**

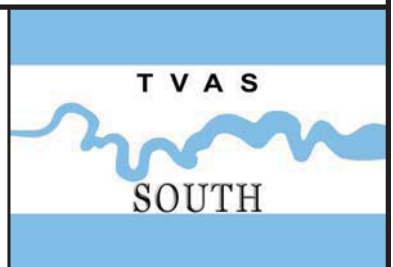
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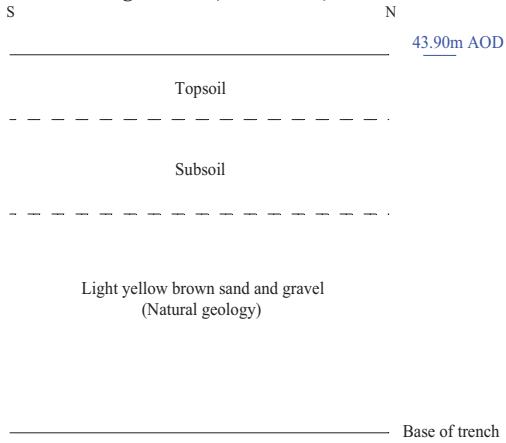


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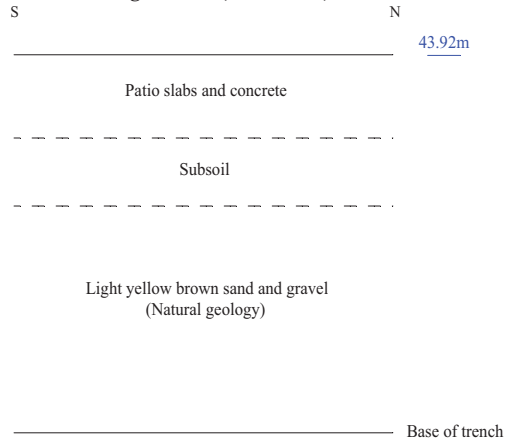
Figure 3. Location of areas monitored.



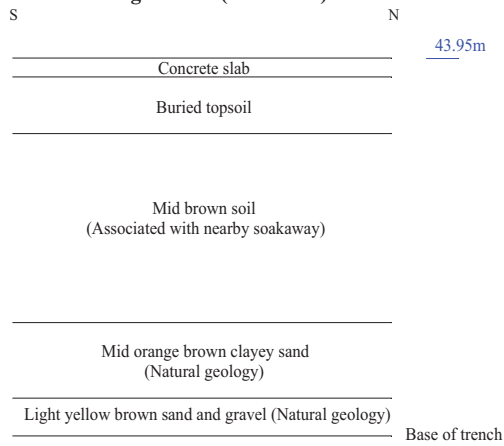
Footing Trench (NW corner)



Footing Trench (NE corner)



Footing Trench (SE corner)



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Figure 4. Representative sections.

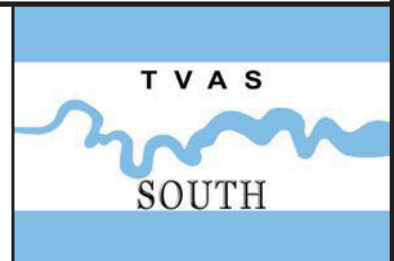




Plate 1. north-western footing trench,
Looking North-West. Scale: 1m.



Plate 2. north-eastern footing trench,
looking East. Scale: 1m.



Plate 3. General view, looking East.



Plate 4. General view, looking North-East.
Scales: 2m and 1m.

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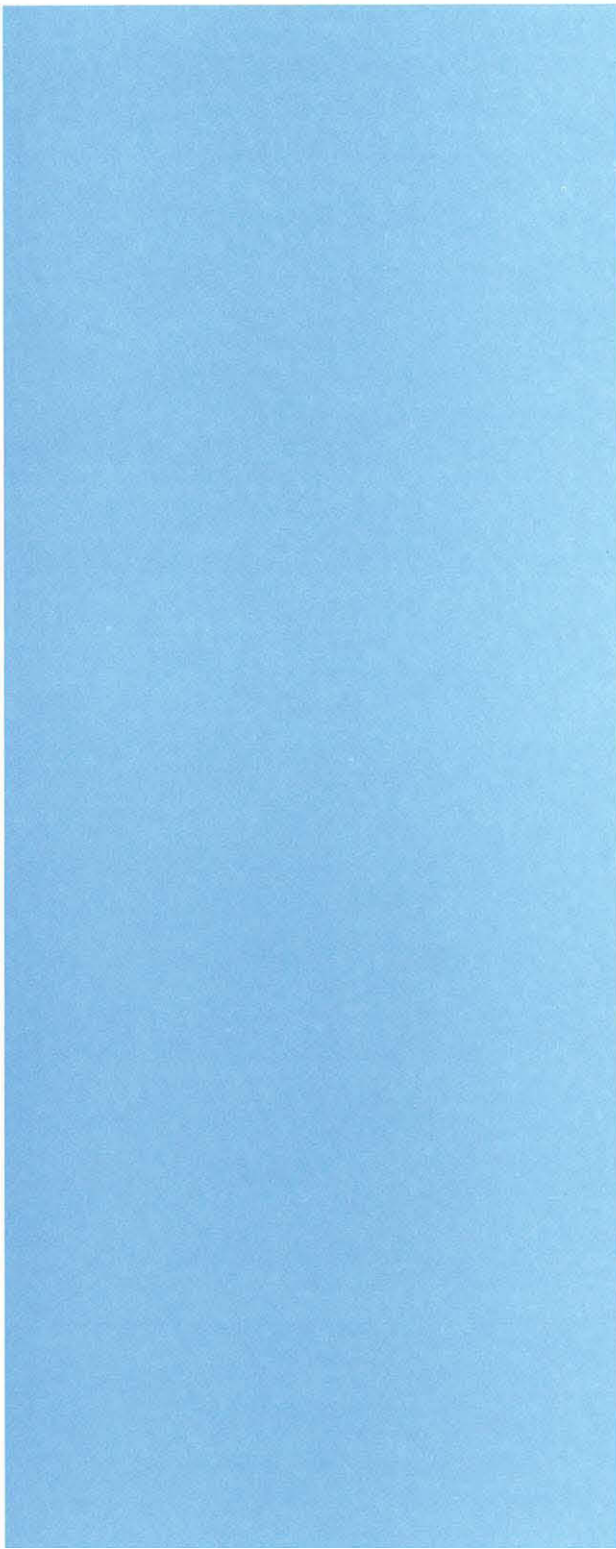
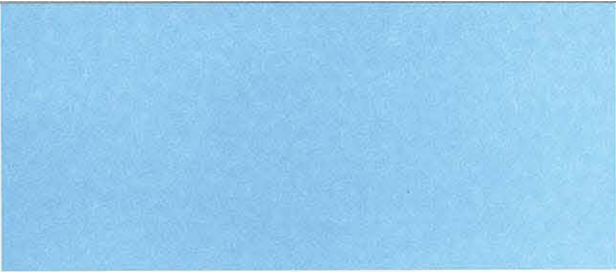
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Plates 1 - 4.



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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