

T V A S



SOUTH

**Land at Martello Cottage, Station Road,
Northiam, East Sussex**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Site Code: MCN17/156

(TQ 8272 2531)

**Land at Martello Cottage, Station Road,
Northiam, East Sussex**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Cudlipp Homes Limited**

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code
MCN 17/156

August 2017

Summary

Site name: Land at Martello Cottage, Station Road, Northiam, East Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 8272 2531

Planning reference: RR/2017/697/P

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 28th July 2017

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Sean Wallis

Site code: MCN 17/156

Area of site: c. 500 sq m

Summary of results: The archaeological evaluation examined those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of a new house. Some modern disturbance was noted but no archaeological finds or features were recorded. The site is considered to have low archaeological potential.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 09.08.17 Steve Preston ✓ 09.08.17

Land at Martello Cottage, Station Road, Northiam, East Sussex An Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Report 17/156

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on a parcel of land adjacent to Martello Cottage, Station Road, Northiam, East Sussex (TQ 8272 2531) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Daniel Cudlipp of Cudlipp Homes Limited, 8 Ridgeway, Hurst Green, East Sussex, TN19 7PJ.

Planning permission (RR/2017/697/P) has been granted by Rother District Council to construct a new dwelling on the site, along with a garage and associated landscaping. The permission was subject to a condition (3) relating to archaeology and the historic environment. Due to the possible presence of sub-surface archaeological deposits on the site, a programme of archaeological work was required to produce a strategy for mitigation if necessary. It was therefore proposed to initially conduct a field evaluation by means of machine trenching.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Greg Chuter of East Sussex County Council, who advises Rother District Council on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by Sean Wallis on 28th July 2017, and the site code is MCN 17/156. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading, and will be deposited with Rye Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the east side of Station Road, close to the historic core of Northiam (Fig. 1). It largely consisted of a former garden area, along with a driveway leading to Martello Cottage (Fig. 2; Pls 3 and 4). The site is relatively flat and lies at a height of approximately 44m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Wadhurst Clay (BGS 1981), and this was observed in both trenches as a mid yellow brown clay, with varying amounts of iron pan and manganese inclusions.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site had been highlighted in a recent East Sussex Historic Environment Record Consultation. In summary, the site lies within the Northiam and Dixter Archaeological Notification Area, which is associated with the medieval and post-medieval village. Northiam is thought to have medieval origins, although it is not mentioned in Domesday Book (1086). Mid to late 19th century maps show a building on a similar footprint to Martello Cottage, which appears to have been altered in the early 20th century. It is possible that features relating to this earlier building may be present on the site. The site is quite close to the historic farmstead known as Goddens Farm, and features associated with this 19th century farm complex may be present. There have been very few archaeological finds or features recorded in the village, although this may merely reflect the lack of modern fieldwork projects. One such project, to the south of the present site, recorded a probable post-medieval field boundary (Thompson and Wallis 2015).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of proposed development.

Specific aims of the project were;

- To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site.

- To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

- To determine whether any evidence of medieval activity is present.

- To determine whether any evidence of post-medieval activity is present.

- To determine whether any features relating to earlier buildings on the site are present.

- To determine whether any features relating to the historic farmstead of Goodens Farm are present.

Two were to be dug, each measuring 8m in length and 1.6m in width. The trenches were positioned to target those parts of the site which would be most affected by the proposed development. The trenches were to be dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

Results

The two trenches were dug close to their intended positions (Fig. 3), and measured between 8.10m and 8.30m in length, and between 0.60m and 0.65m in depth. A complete list of the trenches, giving lengths, breadths, depths, and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Fig. 4; Pl. 1)

This trench was orientated approximately SW-NE, and was 8.10m long and up to 0.60m deep. The top of the natural geology was recorded beneath 0.15m of turf and topsoil (50), 0.32m of buried soil (52) and 0.08m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded, although a modern foundation was observed at the southern end of the trench.

Trench 2 (Fig. 4; Pl. 2)

Trench 2 was orientated approximately SW-NE, and was 8.30m long and up to 0.65m deep. The trench was partially excavated through a Tarmac driveway and, as a result, the stratigraphy differed on either side of the trench. In the western section the top of the natural geology was recorded beneath 0.20m of Tarmac and bedding material, 0.20m of buried soil (52), and 0.20m of clayey made ground (53). In the eastern section the top of the natural geology was observed beneath 0.10m of turf and topsoil (50), 0.40m of buried soil (52), and 0.10m of subsoil (51). Some modern disturbance was noted along the trench, in the area previously covered by the Tarmac driveway, but no archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Finds

No archaeological finds were recovered during the evaluation.

Conclusion

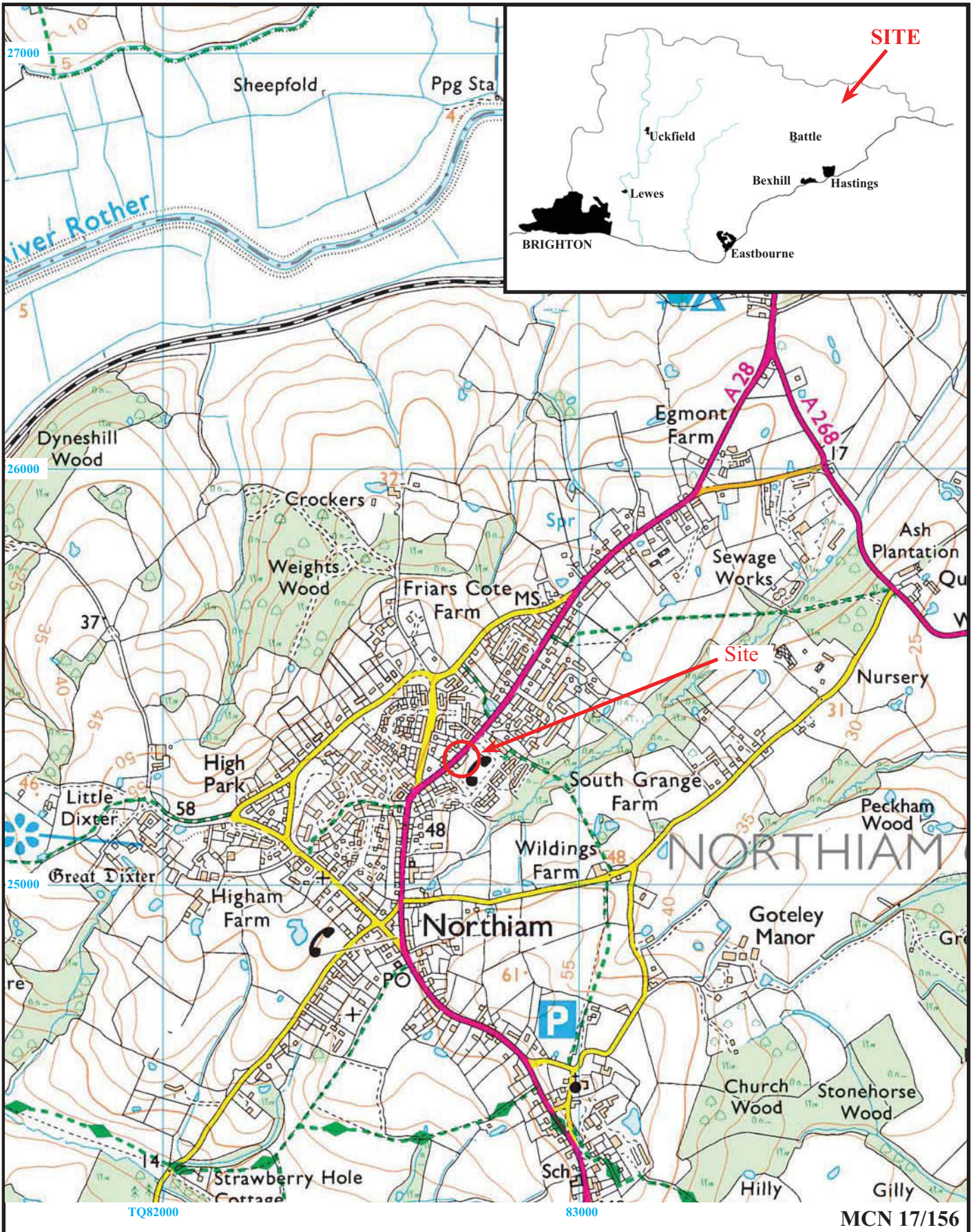
The Archaeological evaluation at Martello Cottage, Northiam, successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of a new house. Some modern disturbance was noted, particularly in the area formerly occupied by a Tarmac driveway, but no archaeological finds or features were recorded. The site is considered to have low archaeological potential.

References

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 304, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
ESHER, 2017, East Sussex Historic Environment Consultation Report, reference 116/17, Lewes
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London
Thompson, F and Wallis, S, 2015, 'Land at The Paddock, Northiam, East Sussex – an archaeological evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 13/181b, Brighton

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

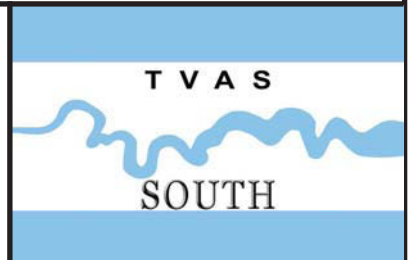
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	8.10	1.60	0.60	0-0.15m turf and topsoil (50); 0.15-0.47m buried soil (52); 0.47-0.55m subsoil (51); 0.55-0.60m+ mid yellow brown clay (natural geology). [Pl. 1]
2	8.30	1.60	0.65	West side: 0-0.05m Tarmac; 0.05-0.20m bedding layer and terram; 0.20-0.40m buried soil (52); 0.40-0.60m clay made ground (53); 0.60-0.65m+ mid yellow brown clay (natural geology). East side: 0-0.10m turf and topsoil (50); 0.10-0.50m buried soil (52); 0.50-0.60m subsoil (51); 0.60-0.65m+ mid yellow brown clay (natural geology). [Pl. 2]

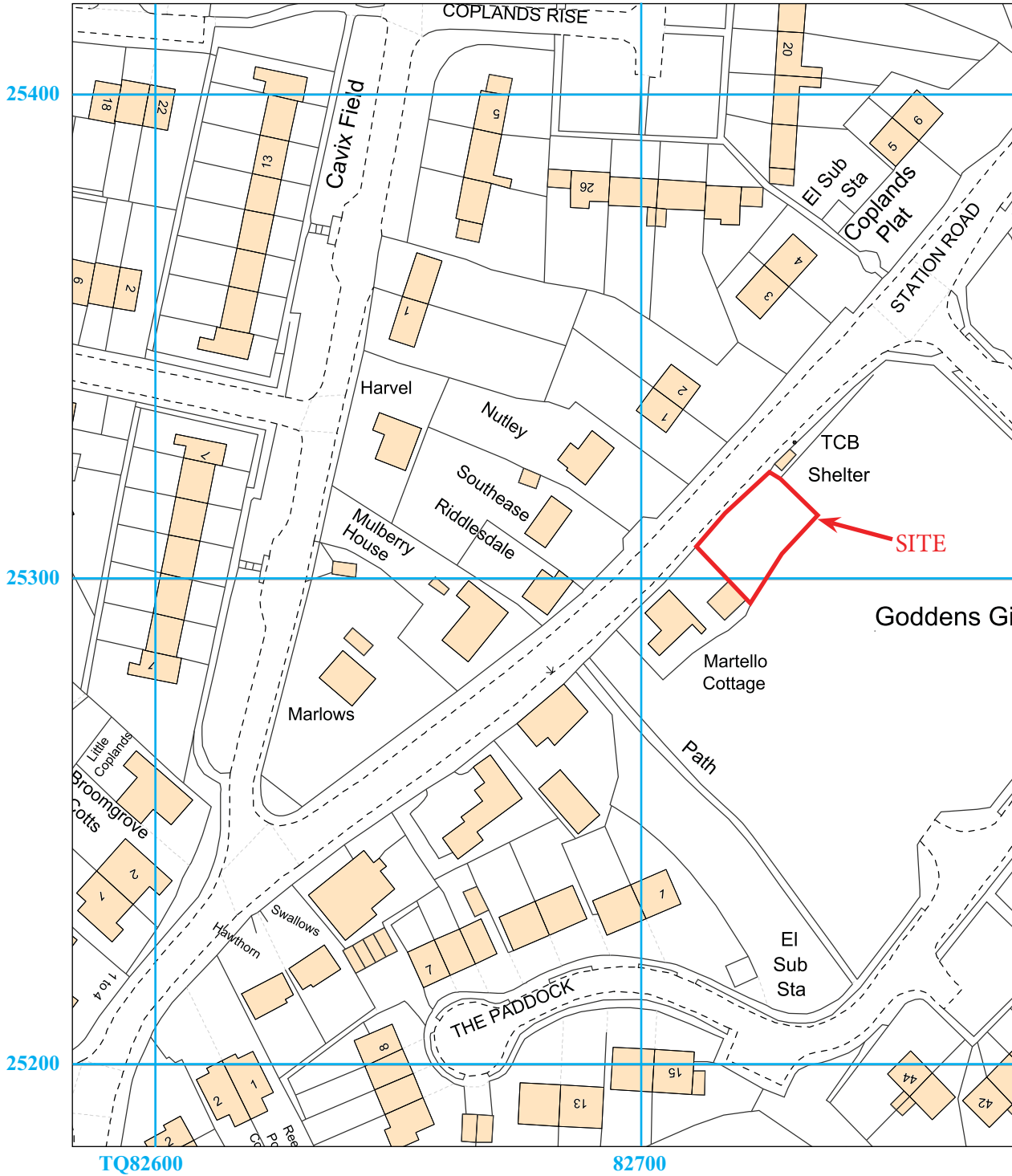


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Figure 1. Location of site within Northiam and
East Sussex.

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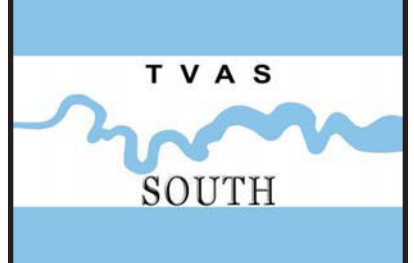
MCN 17/156

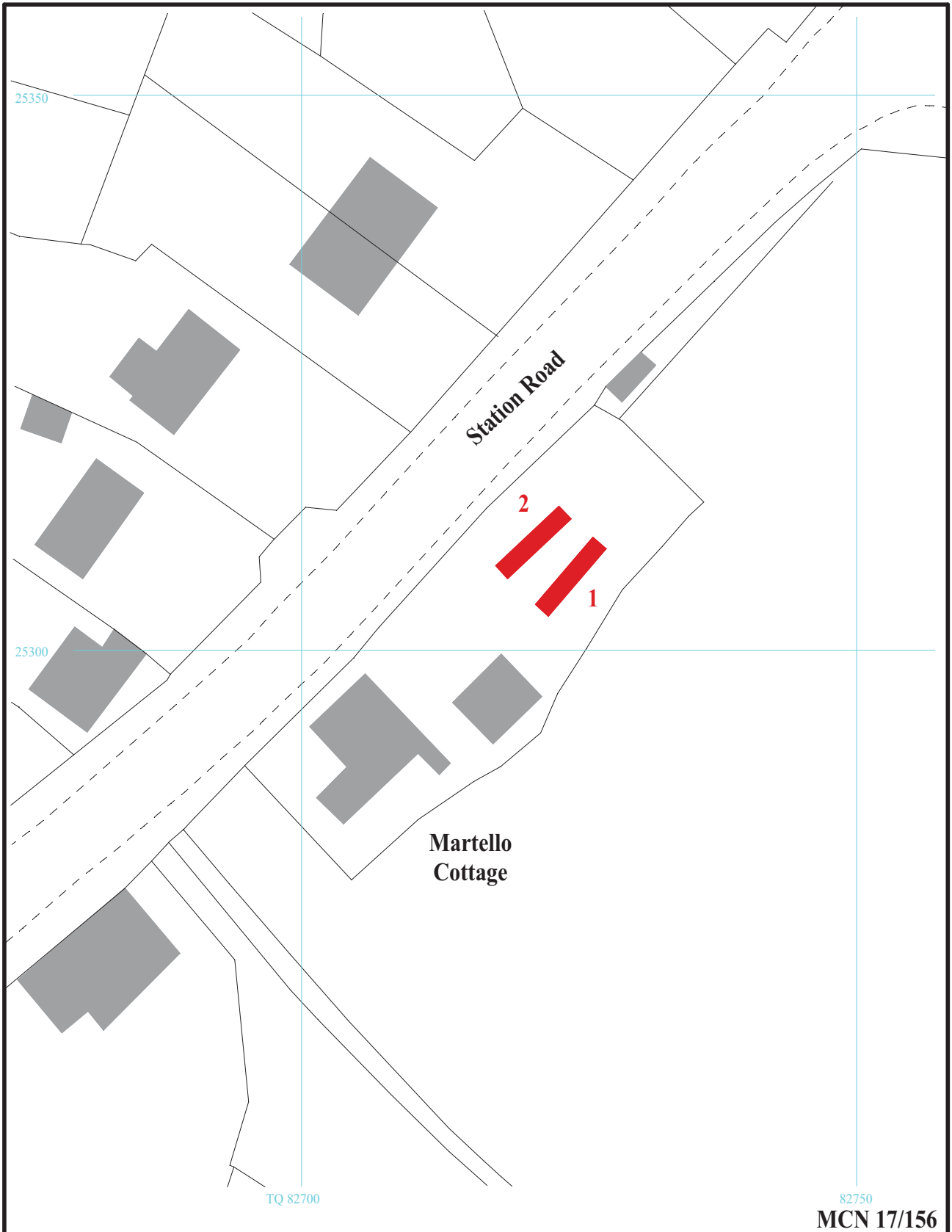


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site

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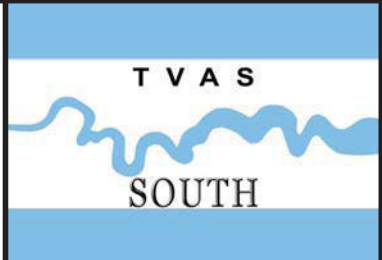


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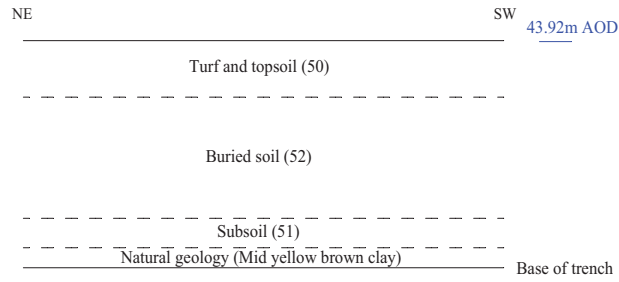


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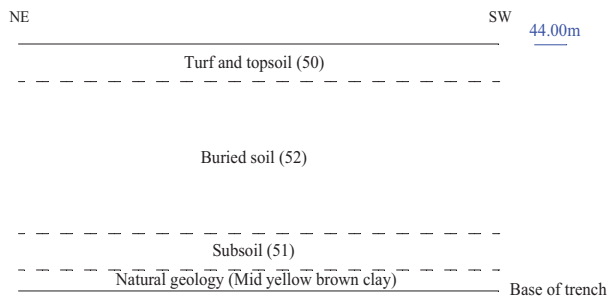
Figure 3. Location of trenches.



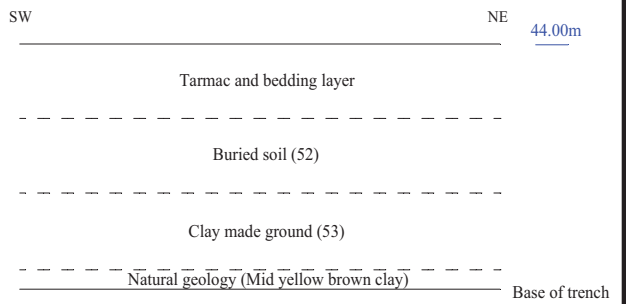
Trench 1



Trench 2 (North-west facing section)



Trench 2 (South-east facing section)



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Figure 4. Representative sections.

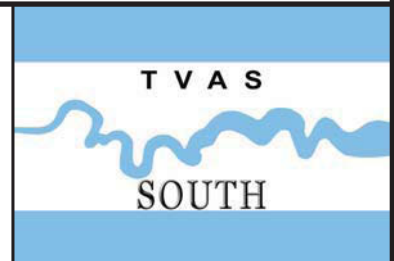




Plate 1. Trench 1, looking North-east.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking North-east.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 3. General view, looking South-west.



Plate 4. General view, looking South.

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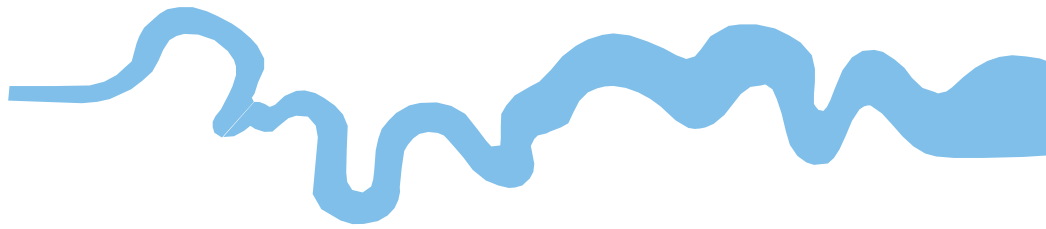
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Plates 1 - 4.**



TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	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, BN1 7HB**

**Tel: 01273 554198
Email: south@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk/south**

***Offices in:
Reading, Taunton, Stoke-on-Trent and Ennis (Ireland)***