

**T V A S**



**SOUTH**

**21 Church Street, Willingdon,  
Eastbourne, East Sussex**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Sean Wallis**

**Site Code: CSW17/140**

**(TQ 5880 0247)**

**21 Church Street, Willingdon, Eastbourne  
East Sussex**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Mr Robert Evans**

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code: CSW 17/140

**August 2017**

## Summary

**Site name:** 21 Church Street, Willingdon, Eastbourne, East Sussex

**Grid reference:** TQ 5880 0247

**Planning reference:** WD/2017/0830/F

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 26th July 2017

**Project manager:** Sean Wallis

**Site supervisor:** Sean Wallis

**Site code:** CSW 17/140

**Area of site:** c. 21 sq m

**Summary of results:** The watching brief was carried out on those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of a new extension. However, no deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were recorded in the footing trenches, and it appears that the area around the existing house has been significantly landscaped in the past.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 16.08.17 Steve Preston ✓ 11.08.17
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# 21 Church Street, Willingdon, Eastbourne, East Sussex An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Sean Wallis

Report 17/140

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 21 Church Street, Willingdon, Eastbourne, East Sussex (TQ 5880 0247) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by the property's owner, Mr Robert Evans.

Planning permission (WD/2017/0830/F) had been gained from Wealden District Council to build a new single-storey rear extension. The permission was subject to a standard planning condition (3) relating to archaeology and historic environment. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on site which may 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. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer, Mr Greg Chuter, who advises Wealden District Council on archaeological matters. Where appropriate and relevant, the recommendations in *Sussex Archaeological Standards* (ESCC 2015) were to be followed.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Sean Wallis on 26th July 2017, and the site code is MWH 17/19. The archive is currently held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services, and will be deposited with Eastbourne Museum in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

Willingdon forms part of the northwards spread of Eastbourne on the coast of East Sussex (Fig. 1). The site is located to the north of Church Street, within the historic core of Willingdon (Fig. 2). Although the area where the new extension was to be constructed was relatively flat, lying at a height of approximately 10m above Ordnance Datum, the general topography is sloping and it was clear that the site has been heavily landscaped in the past. These historic landscaping works effectively created a flat terrace to the rear of the house, in an area which would have originally sloped down towards the north. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying consists of the West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation (BGS 2006), and this was confirmed during the watching brief, with soft off-white chalk being recorded in all the foundation trenches.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been gleaned from a recent Historic Environment Record Consultation Report. In summary, the site lies within an Archaeological Notification Area associated with the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Willingdon. Although the village has gradually merged with the conurbation of Eastbourne over the last hundred and fifty years, historically it was a separate hamlet within the parish of Jevington and Willingdon. The site lies close to the parish church of St Mary the Virgin, which dates from the 13th century, although the present building is likely to have replaced an earlier structure. The settlement is first mentioned in Domesday Book (1086) as *Willendone* (Mills 1993; Williams and Martin 2002). The village lies at the foot of the South Downs, approximately 1.4km west of the Neolithic causewayed enclosure at Coombe Hill, where there are also several Bronze Age barrows (Rudling 2003).

## **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 examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, including any significant ground reduction and the digging of foundation trenches for the new extension. Where archaeological deposits were present, the features will be excavated by hand and fully recorded, to ensure their 'preservation by record'.

## **Results**

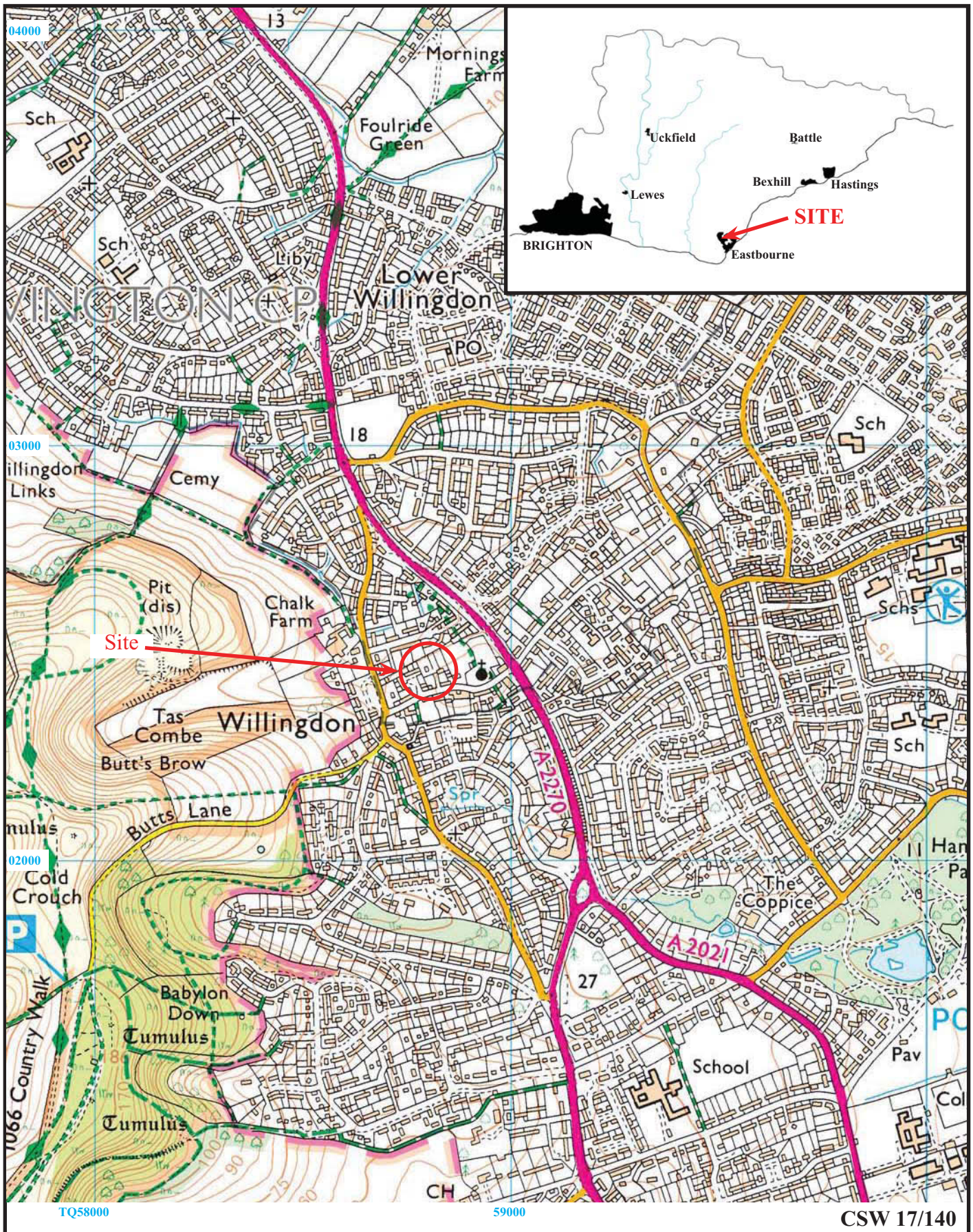
The footing trenches for the new extension were excavated under constant archaeological supervision, although concrete paving slabs had been removed from the area before the watching brief commenced. All the footing trenches were about 0.70m wide, and between 1.00m and 1.10m deep (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 1-3). At the southern end of the new extension the natural chalk was encountered immediately beneath the bedding layer (up to 0.15m deep) for the concrete slabs. Elsewhere, the natural geology appeared to slope down towards the north, and was overlain by a deposit of mid grey silty soil up to 0.38m thick. This slope was most visible in the western footing trench. However, the complete absence of any subsoil layer suggests that the area had been significantly truncated during previous landscaping works. Whilst some modern services were noted, unsurprisingly, no archaeological finds or features were recorded in the footing trenches. Following discussions with the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer it was agreed that the small area of footings beneath the existing extension did not need to be monitored as this area had clearly been heavily disturbed in the past.

## **Conclusion**

The watching brief successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of a new extension. No archaeological finds nor features were recorded in the footing trenches, and it appears that the area around the existing house has been significantly landscaped in the past which would have removed the archaeologically relevant levels.

## **References**

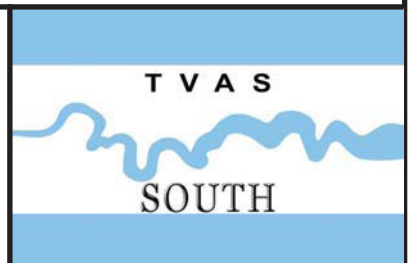
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- ESCC, 2015, *Sussex Archaeological Standards*, East Sussex County Council, Lewes
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- Rudling, D (ed), 2003, *Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, King's Lynn
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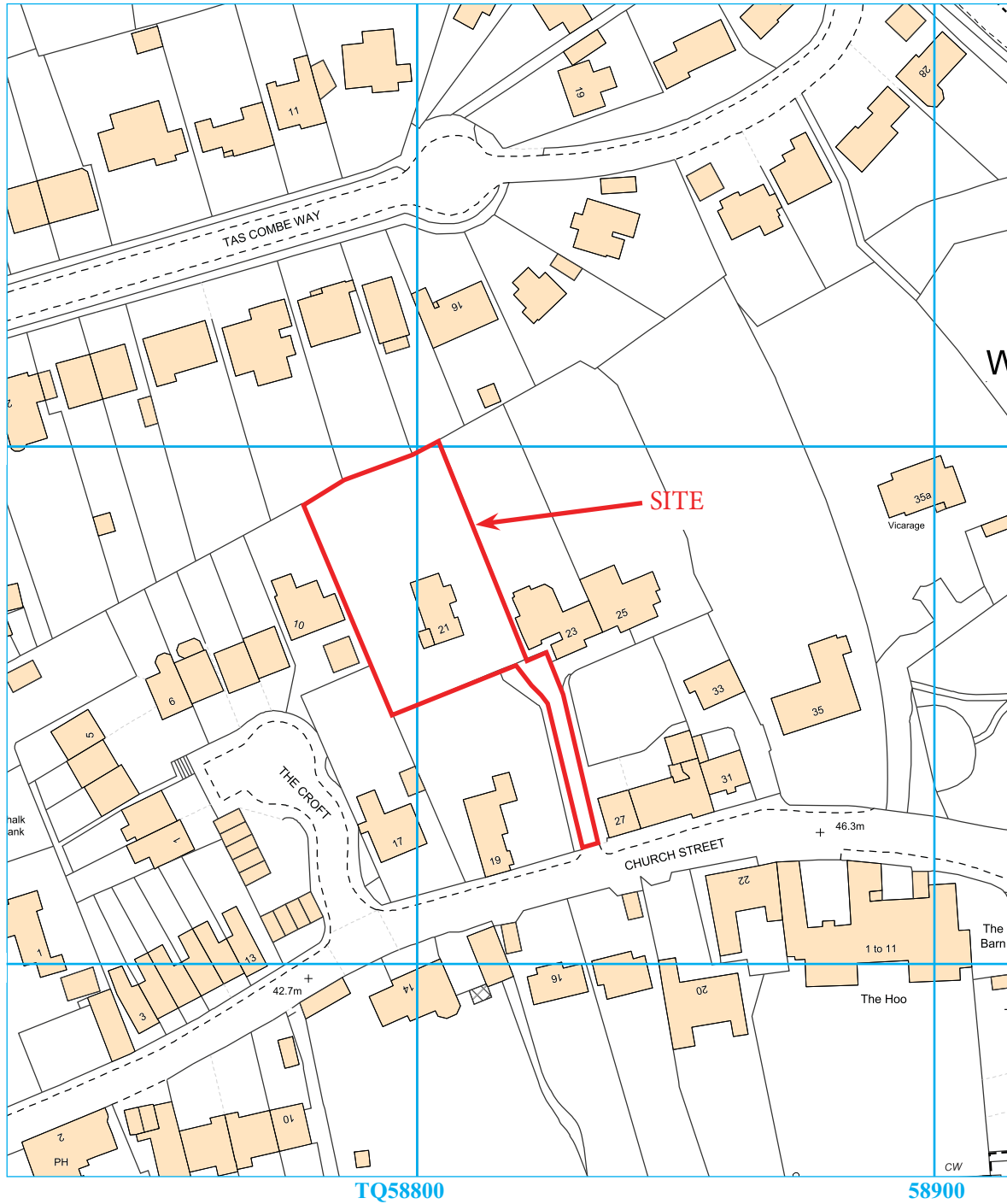


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Figure 1. Location of site within Willingdon and East Sussex.

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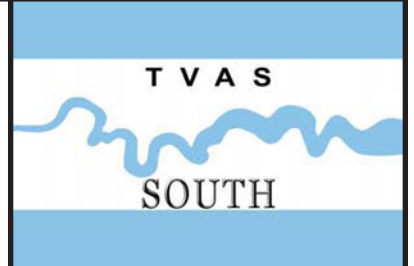


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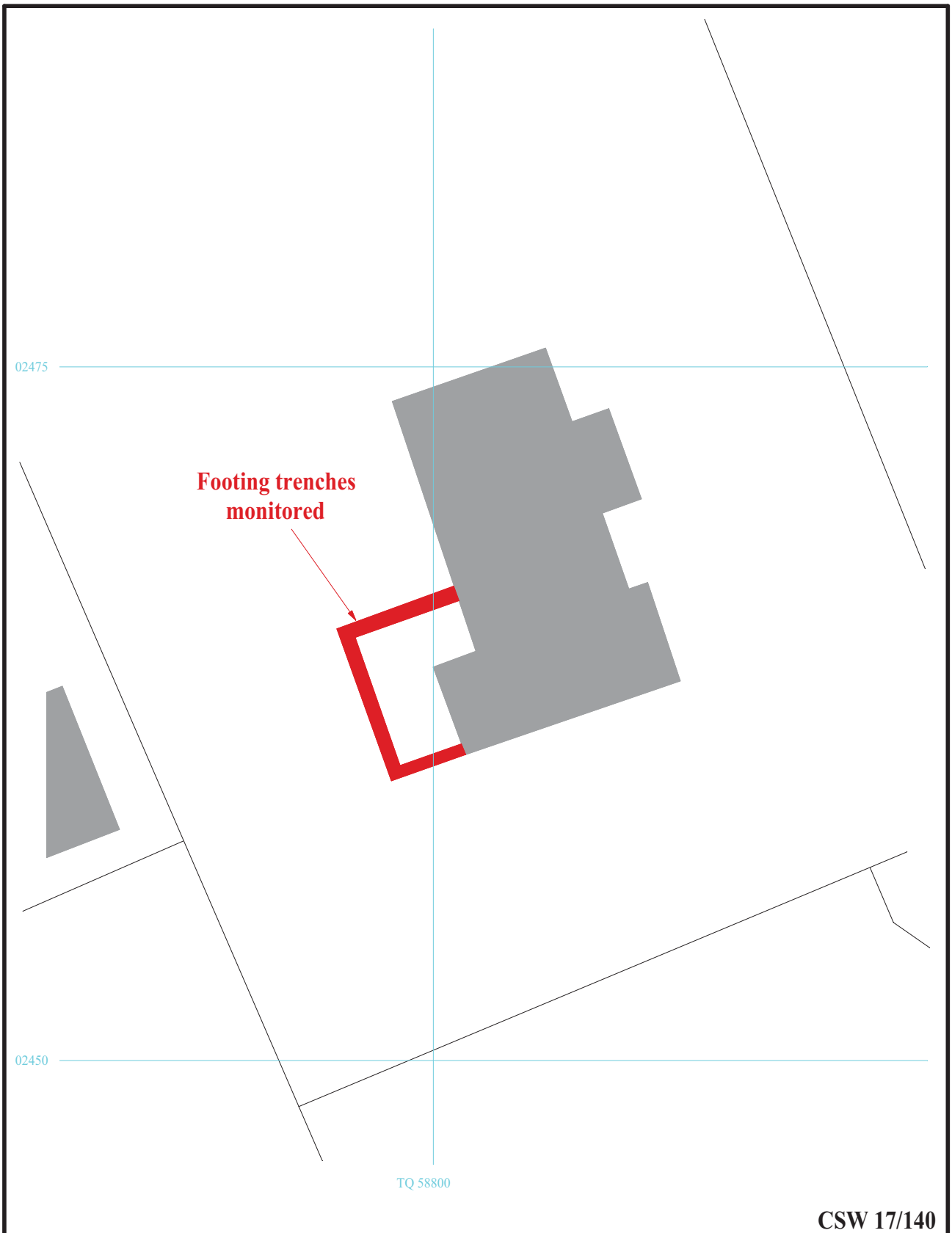


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site**

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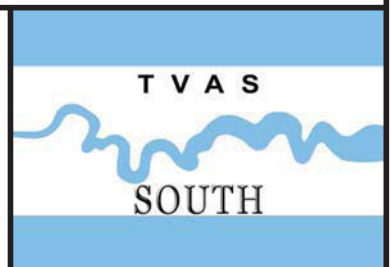






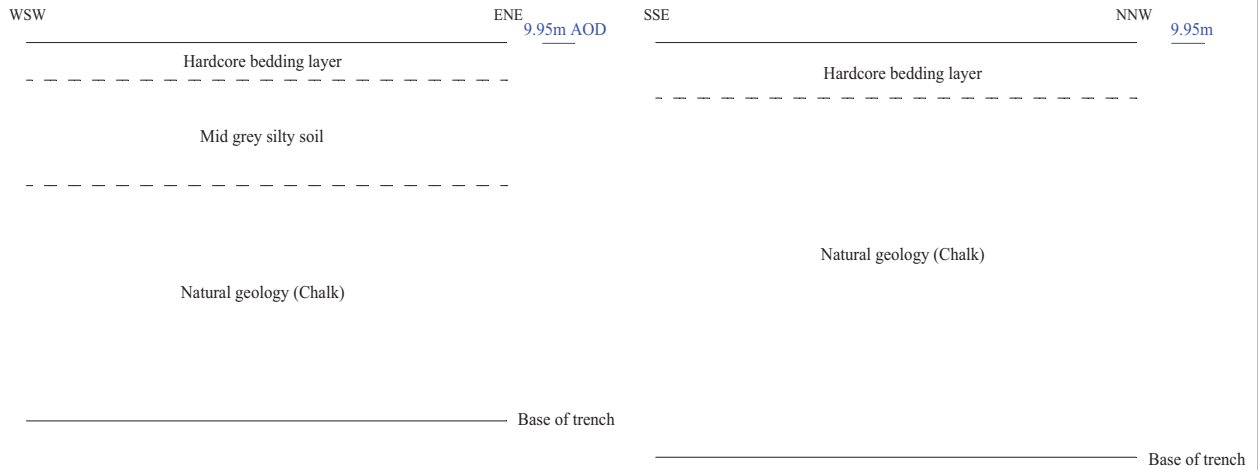
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Figure 3. Location of areas monitored during watching brief.



**Footing Trench (Northern end)**

**Footing Trench (Southern end)**



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Figure 4. Representative sections.

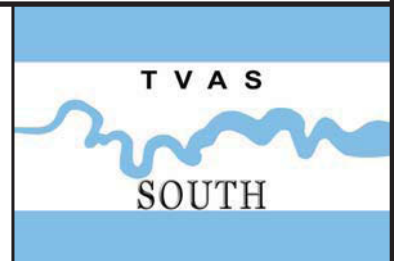




Plate 1. Southern end of footings, looking North-east.  
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Western footing trench, looking West.  
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 3. Northern footing trench, looking North-west.  
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. General view of site, looking South.

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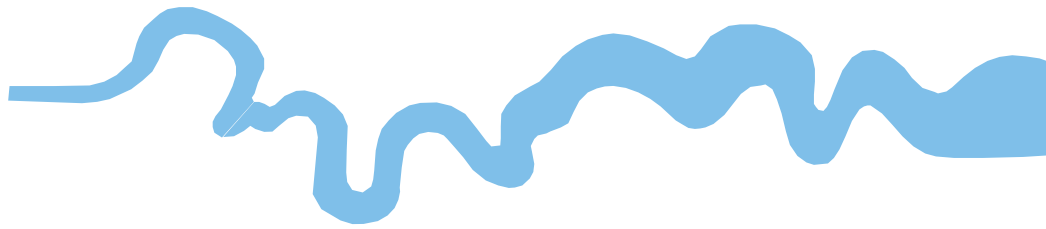
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Plates 1 - 4.**



## 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





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