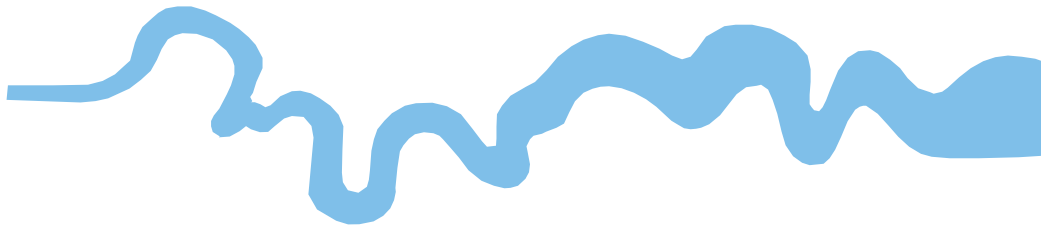


**T V A S**



**SOUTH**

**68 Longhill Road, Ovingdean,  
Brighton, East Sussex**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Sean Wallis**

**Site Code: LOB17/115**

**(TQ 3604 0359)**

**68 Longhill Road, Ovingdean,  
Brighton, East Sussex**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For K and S Construction Ltd**

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code LOB 17/115

**August 2017**

## Summary

**Site name:** 68 Longhill Road, Ovingdean, Brighton, East Sussex

**Grid reference:** TQ 3604 0359

**Planning reference:** BH2017/00572

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 20th July 2017

**Project manager:** Sean Wallis

**Site supervisor:** Jim Webster

**Site code:** LOB 17/115

**Area of site:** c. 50 sq m

**Summary of results:** The watching brief successfully investigated the part of the site which was to be affected by the construction of a new extension. The footprint of the new extension was stripped under archaeological supervision to reveal the natural geology. Despite the fact that the area had not been significantly truncated in the past, no archaeological finds or features were recorded in the footing trenches.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 17.08.17 Steve Preston✓ 14.08.17
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# 68 Longhill Road, Ovingdean, Brighton, East Sussex An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Sean Wallis

Report 17/115

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 68 Longhill Road, Ovingdean, Brighton, East Sussex (TQ 3604 0359) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Kevin Radcliffe of K and S Construction Ltd, Unit 24, Bolney Grange Business Park, Stairbridge Lane, Bolney, West Sussex, RH17 5PB.

Planning permission (BH2017/00572) has been gained from Brighton and Hove City Council to build a new extension, along with a new porch and two bay windows. The permission was subject to a standard planning condition (4) relating to archaeology and historic environment, in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012). 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 and the City 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 the City 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 Jim Webster on 20th July 2017, and the site code is LOB 17/115. The preferred depository for the site archive is Brighton Museum, but unfortunately the museum is not accepting new material at the present time. As a result, the archive will be held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services until a suitable repository is found.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the east side of Longhill Road, about 500m east of the historic core of Ovingdean village just east of Brighton. Longhill Road generally runs along the western slope of a hill, with the ground sloping down towards the south-east. Although the site itself slopes down towards the west, the area where extension was to be built in the rear garden was relatively flat, and lies at a height of approximately 64m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of the Newhaven Chalk

Formation (BGS 2016), and this was confirmed during the watching brief, with chalk being recorded within the whole extent of the reduced area.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been gleaned from a recent search of the East Sussex Historic Environment Record. In summary, the site lies within an Archaeological Notification Area associated with a Saxon inhumation burial which was discovered during the building of a new house close to the present site. As far as the surrounding area is concerned, numerous archaeological finds and features have been recorded which attest to occupation in the prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, Medieval and Post-medieval periods. Barrows, largely dating from the Bronze Age, have been recorded nearby, including to the south of the present site on Beacon Hill. A crouched inhumation burial was found during road widening to the north of the site, and another probable burial was recorded during a recent archaeological evaluation on Long Hill (Wallis 2016). Field systems dating from the late prehistoric or Roman periods have been mapped on the downland to the north, east and south-east of the site. The historic core of Ovingdean is located to the west of the present site, close to the 12th-century church dedicated to St Wulfram. A great deal of archaeological fieldwork has been carried out close to the church, which has revealed part of a medieval manorial complex, along with an enclosure ditch which is thought to date from either the late Iron Age or Roman period.

## **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 house. Where archaeological deposits were present the features were to be excavated by hand and fully recorded, to ensure their 'preservation by record'.

## **Results**

Although it was originally planned to monitor the footing trenches for the new extension, the groundworkers decided to reduce the area prior to digging the foundations (Pls 3 and 4). This ground reduction was therefore carried out under constant archaeological supervision and, as the natural chalk geology was exposed within the

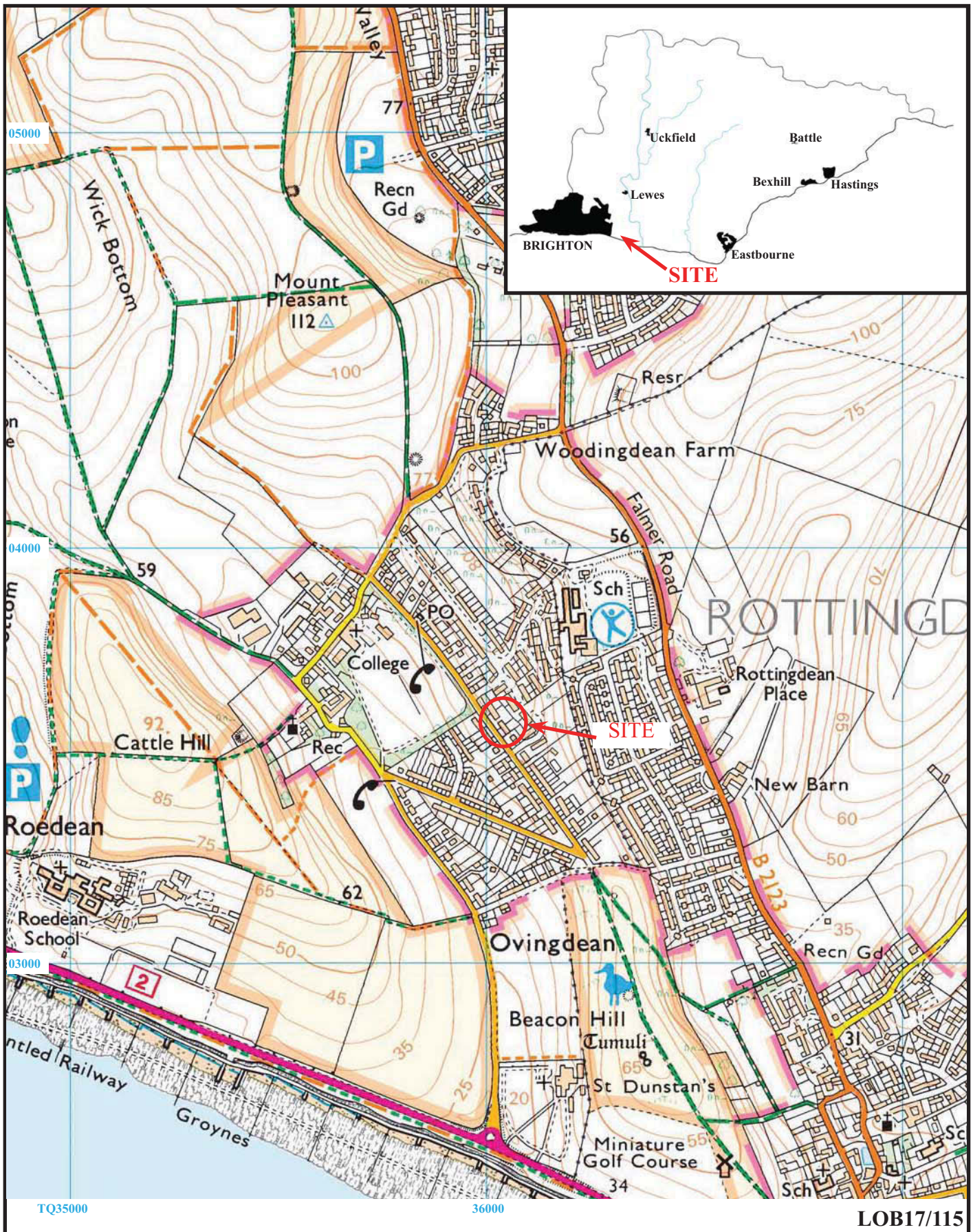
footprint of the new extension, it was not necessary to monitor the subsequent excavation of the footing trenches. The monitored area was roughly rectangular in shape and measured approximately 12m by 4.60m (Fig. 3). It reached a maximum depth of 0.5m below ground level. The stratigraphy above the natural chalk geology recorded in the southern part of this area consisted of 0.20m of topsoil, and 0.17m of subsoil (Fig. 4; Pl. 1). There was no subsoil recorded in the northern part of the stripped area where a thin layer of topsoil (0.05m) lay directly above the natural chalk (Pl. 2). No archaeological finds or features were recorded but modern disturbance in the form of a soakaway was observed, abutting the eastern wall of the existing building.

## **Conclusion**

The watching brief at Longhill Road successfully investigated the part of the site which was affected by the construction of a new extension. Despite the fact that the area had not been significantly truncated in the past, no archaeological finds or features were recorded in the reduced area.

## **References**

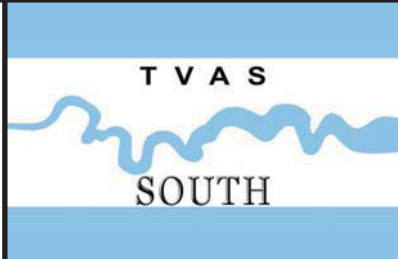
- BGS, 2006, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 318/333, Bedrock and Superficial Deposits Edition, Keyworth
- ESCC, 2015, *Sussex Archaeological Standards*, East Sussex County Council, Lewes
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London
- Wallis, S, 2016, 'Land at Wanderdown Road, Ovingdean, East Sussex - an Archaeological Evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **15/288**, Brighton



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

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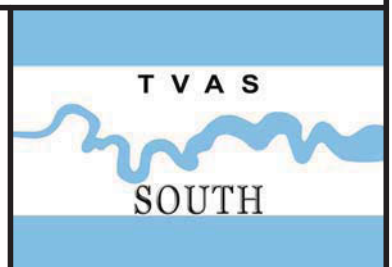




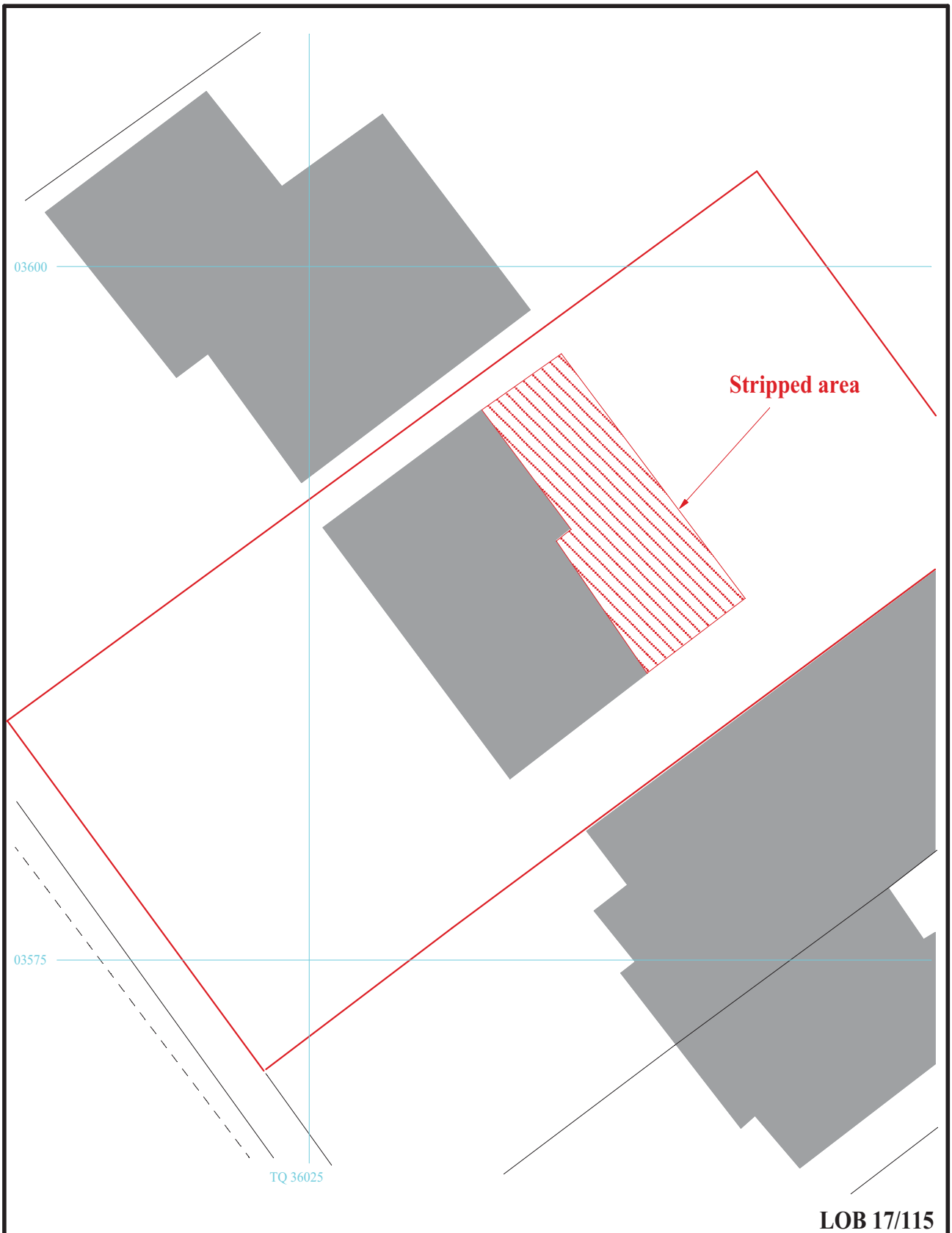
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

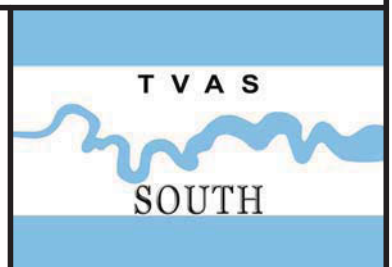




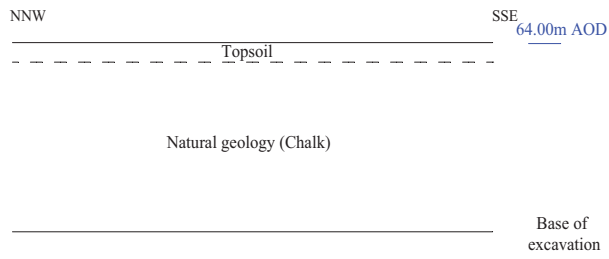


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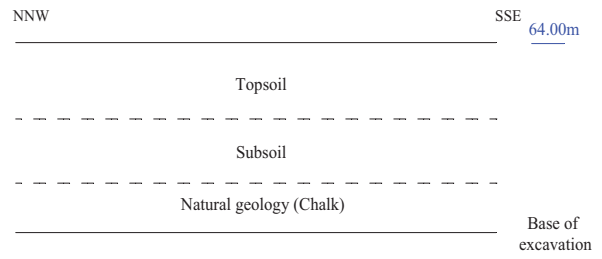
Figure 3. Location of area monitored during watching brief.



**Stripped area (North)**



**Stripped area (South)**



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Figure 4. Representative sections.

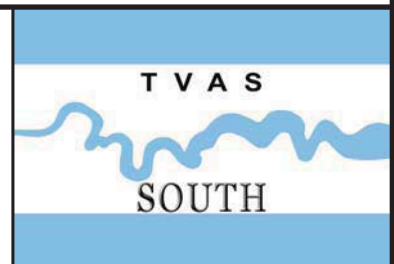




Plate 1. Stratigraphy in southern part of stripped area, looking East. Scales: 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Stratigraphy in northern part of stripped area, looking East. Scales: 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 3. General view of stripped area, looking South. Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. General view of stripped area, looking West. Scales: 2m and 1m.

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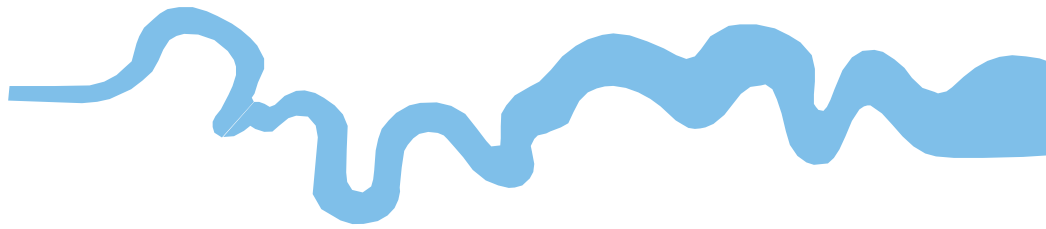
68 Longhill Road, Ovingdean,  
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Plates 1 - 4.



## 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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