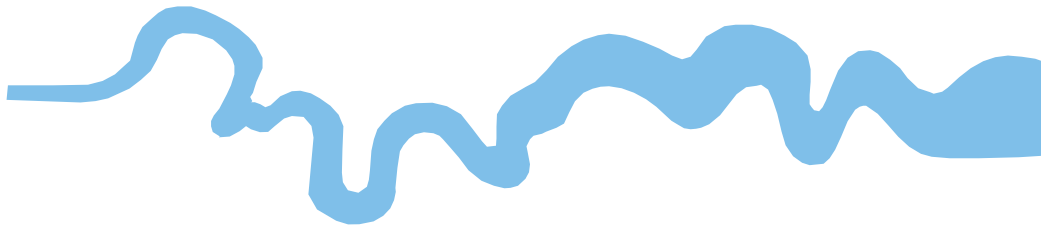


T V A S



SOUTH

**Fairlawn, 17 Lawns Avenue,
Eastbourne, East Sussex**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Jim Webster

Site Code: LAE127/201

(TQ 5989 9958)

**Fairlawn, 17 Lawns Avenue,
Eastbourne, East Sussex**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr Scott Newman

by Jim Webster

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code LAE 17/201

November 2017

Summary

Site name: Fairlawn, 17 Lawns Avenue, Eastbourne, East Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 5989 9958

Planning reference: PC/160391

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 1st - 7th November 2017

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Jim Webster

Site code: LAE 17/201

Area of site: c. 90 sq m

Summary of results: The watching brief at Lawns Avenue successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of new extensions to the existing house. The area has been significantly disturbed in the past, probably when the existing house was constructed. As a consequence, no archaeological finds or features were discovered.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 09.11.17 Steve Preston ✓ 09.11.17

Fairlawn, 17 Lawns Avenue, Eastbourne, East Sussex An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Jim Webster

Report 17/201

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 17 Lawns Avenue, Eastbourne, East Sussex (TQ 5989 9958) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Scott Newman, the property's owner.

Planning permission (PC/160391) has been gained from Eastbourne Borough Council to construct side and rear extensions to the existing house. The permission was subject to a standard planning condition (4) condition relating to archaeology and historic environment, in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF, 2012) and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology and the historic environment. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on site which may be damaged or destroyed by the building work, it was proposed to carry out a watching brief. 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 Borough 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 and Odile Rouard between the 1st and 7th November 2017, and the site code is LAE 17/201. The archive is currently held by TVAS Brighton, and will be deposited with Eastbourne Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the east side of Lawns Avenue, close to the historic core of Eastbourne, East Sussex (Figs 1 and 2). The new extensions were built in areas to the rear and side of the existing house which up until recently had been a driveway and garden patio area. Although the area generally slopes down towards the south, the site itself was relatively flat, and lies at a height of approximately 18m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of the Weald Clay Formation (BGS 2006). However, the natural geology recorded in the footing trenches consisted of light greyish white chalk.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within an Archaeological Notification Area within the town associated with the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Eastbourne. The area now covered by the modern town of Eastbourne consisted of a number of villages or hamlets until the mid 19th century. The site is located within the area known as Old Town, which corresponds closely with the former hamlet of Bourne, or East Bourne. The settlement was first mentioned in a 10th-century Saxon charter, and is listed in Domesday Book (1086) as *Burne*, meaning '(place at) the stream' (Mills 1993). The prefix 'East' appears to have been used from the early 14th century onwards to differentiate it from similarly named places. Although historic maps from the 19th century do not show any buildings on the present site, it lies close to the parish church dedicated to St Mary. Recent archaeological work to the south-west of the site has revealed evidence of the 17th-century development of the town. The surrounding area was historically associated with Parsonage Farm, and a pond from this complex is shown very close to the present site on historic maps.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the watching brief were to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the 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 extensions. Where archaeological deposits were present, the features were to be excavated by hand and fully recorded, to ensure their 'preservation by record'.

Results

Prior to the footing trenches being excavated, the existing patio to the rear of the property had been removed. The footings were then dug under constant archaeological supervision. All the footing trenches were about 0.60m wide, and between 1.0m and 1.30m deep (Fig. 3; Pl. 3).

The stratigraphy recorded in the footings for the rear (east) extension consisted of 0.30m of concrete and its associated bedding layer, above 0.60m to 0.95m of made ground containing modern material including concrete and plastic fragments (not retained). The made ground was recorded immediately above the natural geology, indicating that the area had been significantly disturbed in the recent past (Fig. 4; Pls 1 and 2).

The footings for the side (south) extension showed that the stratigraphy above the natural geology generally consisted of 0.10m of concrete, above 0.60m of modern made ground and 0.30m of sterile mid grey silty clay (Fig. 4; Pls 4 and 5).

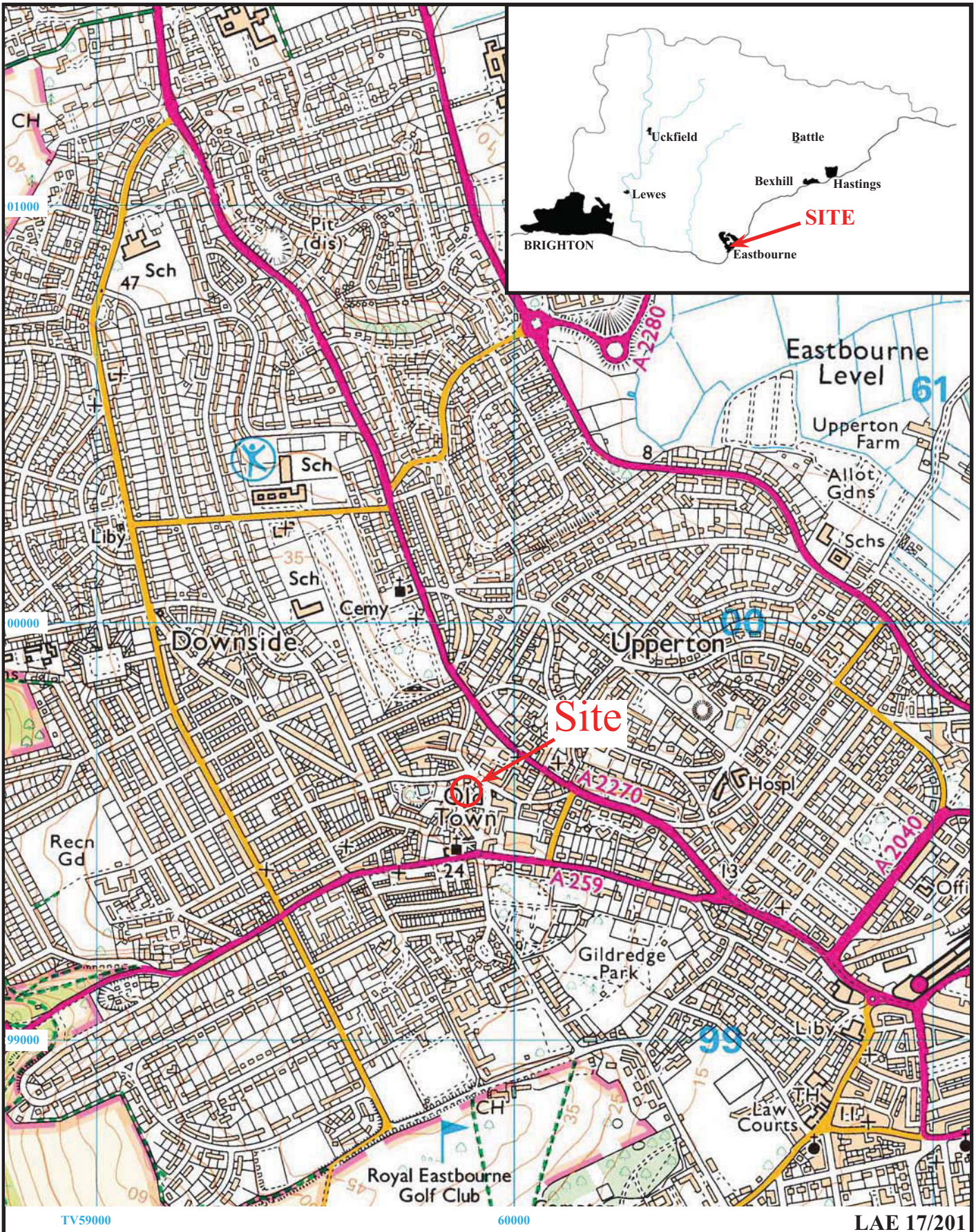
No archaeological finds or features were recorded during the watching brief.

Conclusion

The watching brief at Lawns Avenue successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of new extensions to the existing house. The area has clearly been significantly disturbed in the past, possibly when the present house was built. As a result, modern made ground was recorded directly above the natural geology in many parts of the site. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

References

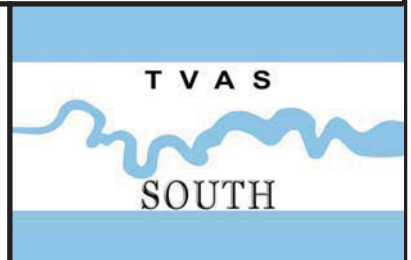
- BGS, 2006, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet **319/334**, Bedrock and Superficial Deposits Edition, Keyworth
- ESCC, 2015, *Sussex Archaeological Standards*, East Sussex County Council, Lewes
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- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept of Communities and Local Government, London

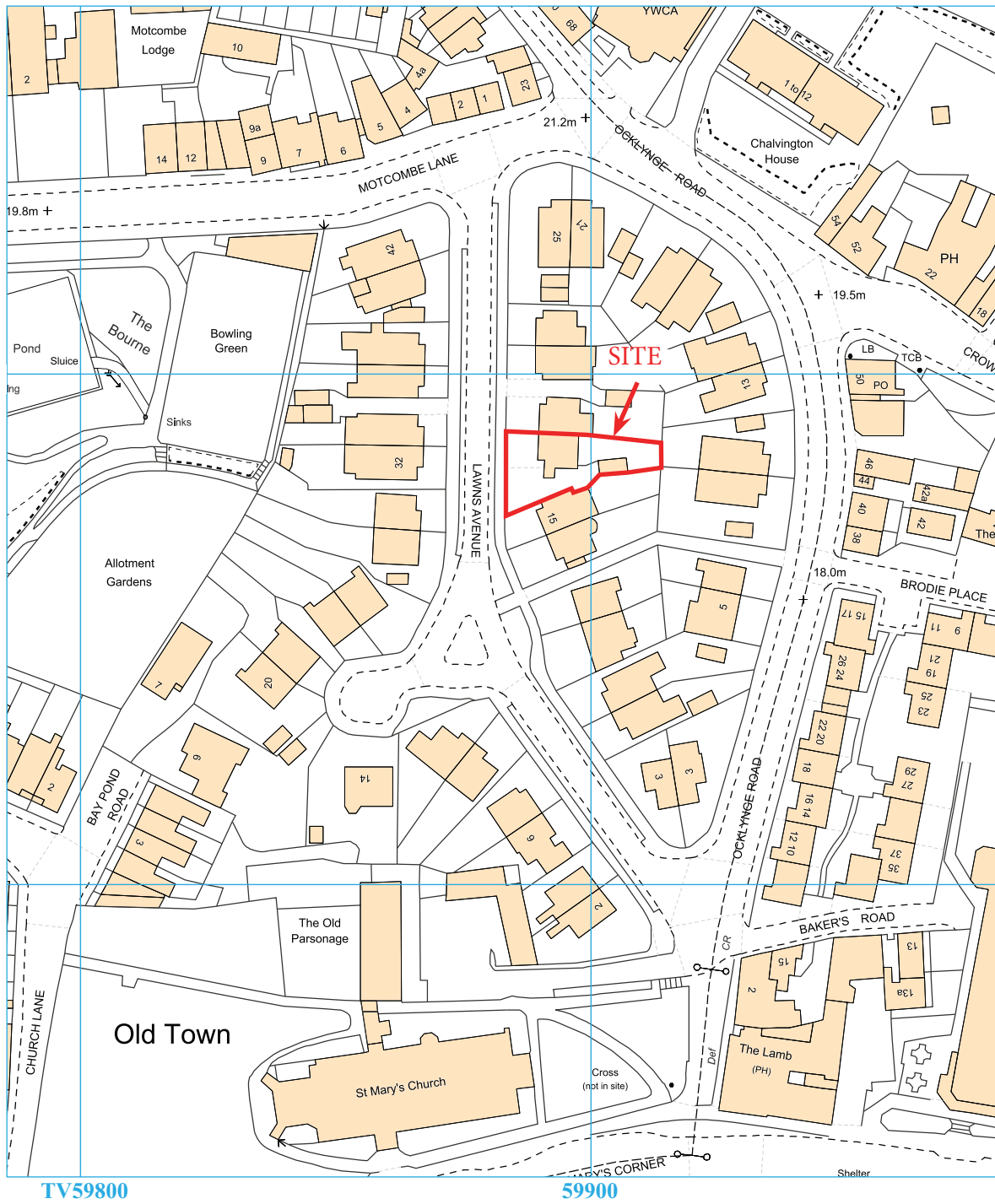


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Figure 1. Location of site within Eastbourne and East Sussex.

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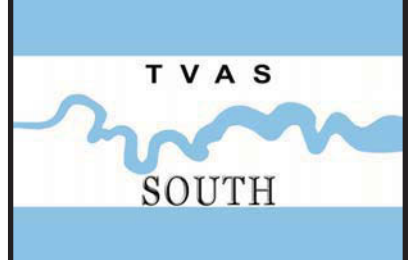


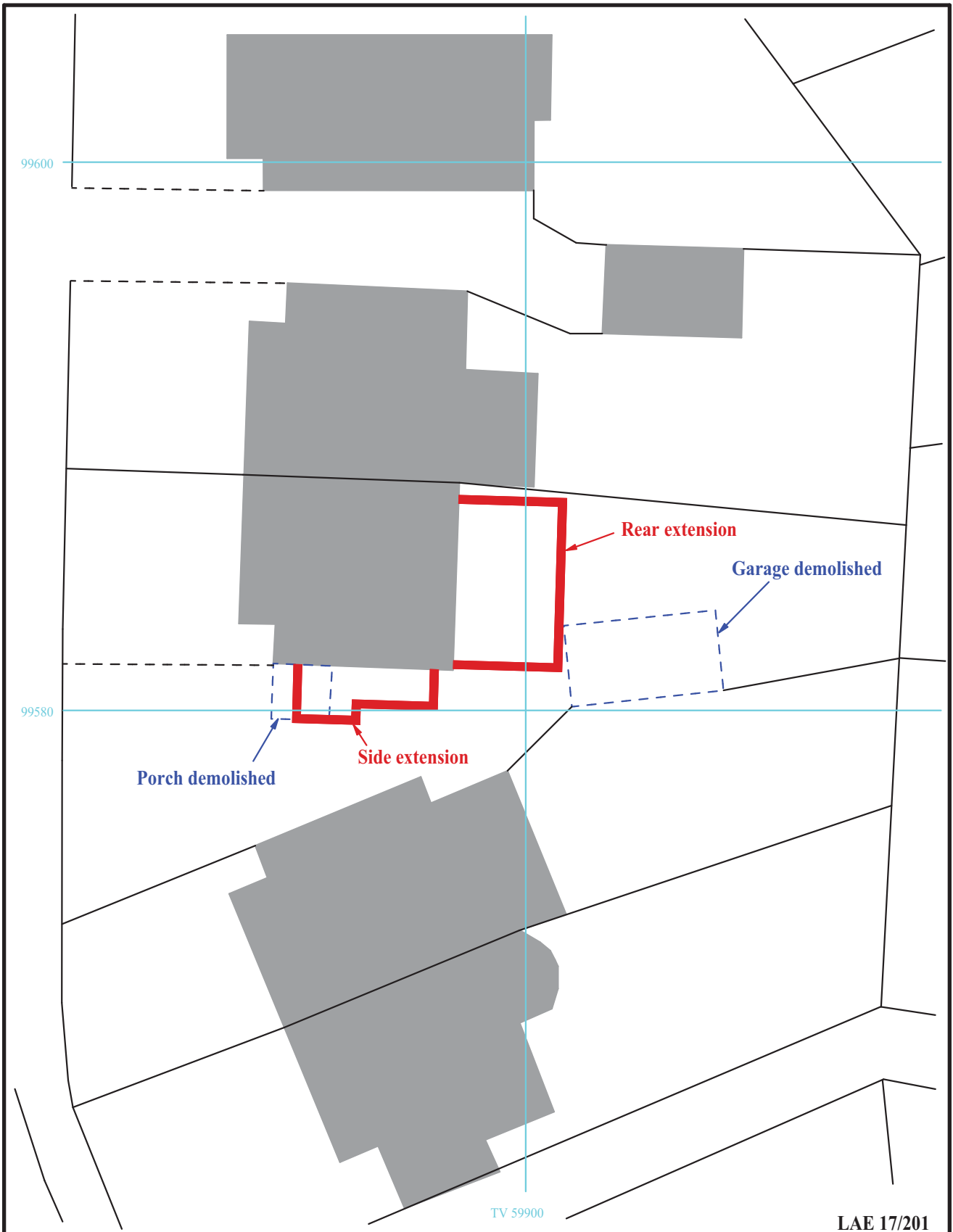
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site

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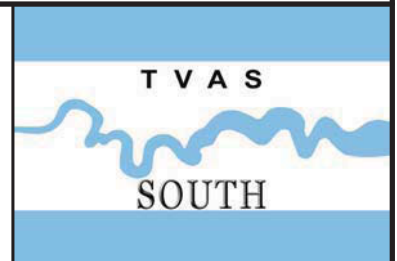


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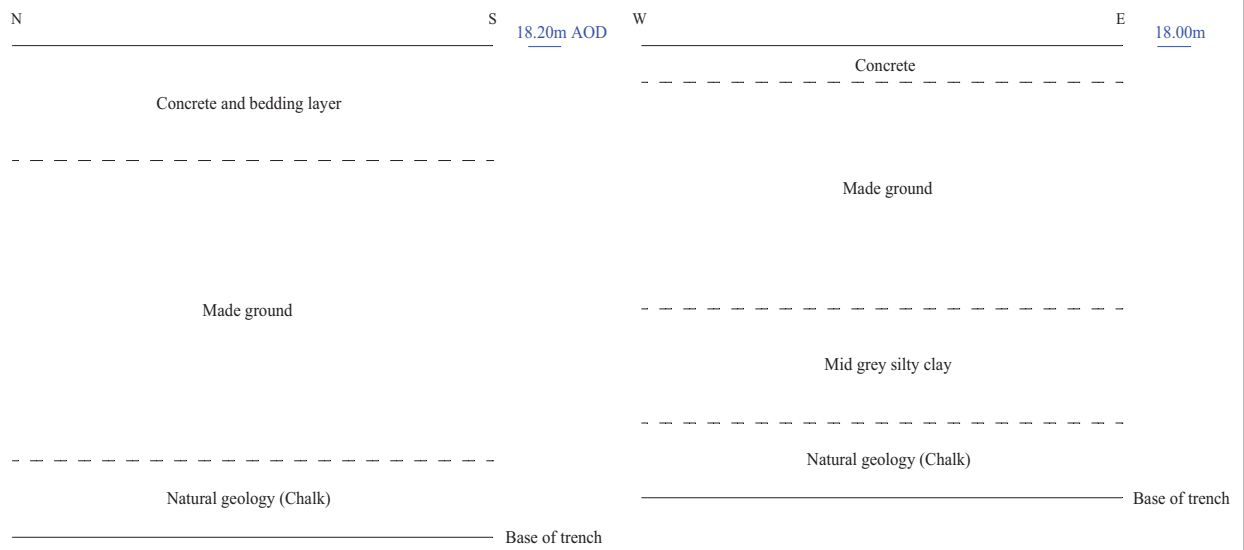
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Figure 3. Site plan showing monitored areas.



Footing trench (Rear extension)

Footing trench (Side extension)



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Figure 4. Representative sections.

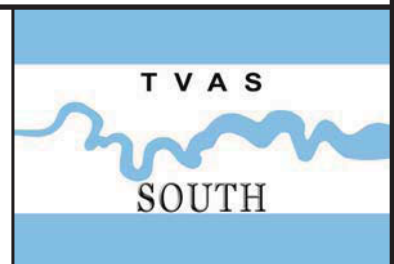




Plate 1. Footings of rear extension, looking North.
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Footings of rear extension, looking North.
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 3. General view of site, looking West.



Plate 4. Footings of side extension, looking North-west.



Plate 5. Footings of side extension, looking West.
Scale: 1m.

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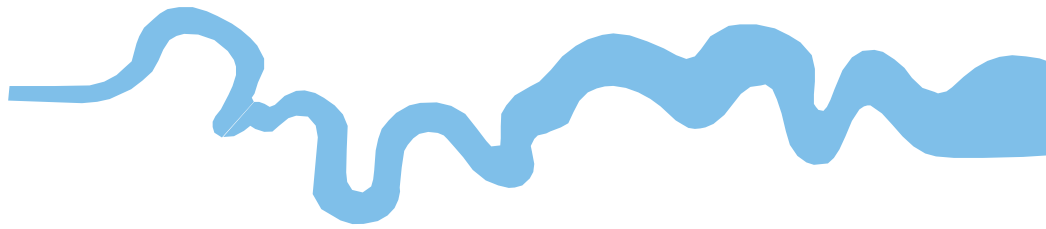
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Plates 1 - 5.



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:
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