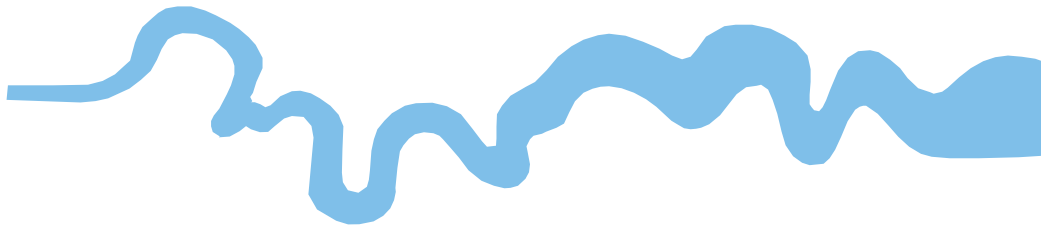


T V A S



SOUTH

**Two Trees Cottage, The Street, Kingston,
Lewes, East Sussex**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Sean Wallis

Site Code: TTC17/197

(TQ 3929 0827)

**Two Trees Cottage, The Street, Kingston,
Lewes, East Sussex**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr Chris Knapp

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services

Ltd

Site Code TTC 17/197

November 2017

Summary

Site name: Two Trees Cottage, The Street, Kingston, Lewes, East Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 3929 0827

Planning reference: SDNP/17/02512/HOUS

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 30th October 2017

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Sean Wallis

Site code: TTC 17/197

Summary of results: The watching brief at Two Trees Cottage, Kingston successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of the new extension to the existing house. The area has clearly been significantly disturbed in the past, as a probable subsoil horizon was only recorded in the northern footing trench. Elsewhere a compact soil layer containing late post-medieval material was recorded immediately above the natural geology. The footings of a wall were recorded in the western part of the new extension, and this is likely to relate to a small building which is depicted on historic maps from the 1840s onwards. This building appears to have been demolished at sometime between 1911 and 1930.

Location and reference of archive: The preferred depository for the site and finds archive is Lewes Museum. Unfortunately they are not accepting new material at this time, so the archive will be held at TVAS, Brighton until a suitable repository can be found.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 21.11.17
	Steve Preston ✓ 21.11.17

Two Trees Cottage, The Street, Kingston, Lewes, East Sussex An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Sean Wallis

Report 17/197

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Two Trees Cottage, The Street, Kingston, Lewes, East Sussex (TQ 3929 0827) (Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by the property's owner, Mr Chris Knapp, to carry out the necessary archaeological work in respect of the site.

Planning permission (SDNP/17/02512/HOUS) had been gained from the South Downs National Park Authority to construct a two storey side extension to the existing house. In accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Authority's policies on archaeology and the historic environment, the permission was subject to a standard planning condition (1) condition 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 to record any archaeological remain prior to destruction. 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 Authority 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 30th October 2017, and the site code is TTC 17/197. The archive is currently held by TVAS, Brighton, and will be deposited with a suitable depository in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located within the historic core of Kingston, East Sussex (Fig. 1), and the extension was built in the garden to the west of the existing house (Fig. 2). Although the surrounding area generally slopes down towards the east, the site itself was relatively flat, and lies at a height of approximately 26m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Head Deposits (BGS 2006), and this was confirmed during the watching brief.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within an Archaeological Notification Area associated with the medieval and post-medieval village of Kingston. Historic maps indicate that there was an earlier building on the site, to the south of the present house, which appears to have been demolished by 1898. The maps also depict a small structure close to where the new extension is to be built, which appears to have been altered in the early 20th century. It is possible that features relating to these earlier structures may be present on the site. Recent archaeological work at Hollowdown Cottage, to the west of the present site, revealed flintwork and pottery dating from the Bronze Age, along with a flint wall and chalk floor which may have been associated with the medieval manor house of Hyde. The parish church, dedicated to St Pancras, is located to the south-west of the present site, and the village contains a number of historic buildings dating from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, many of which are Listed.

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 encountered the features were to be excavated by hand and fully recorded.

Results

The footings for the new extension were all 0.65m wide. The machine excavation of the footing trenches was monitored down to the natural Head geology, which was generally encountered between 0.55m and 0.70m below the existing ground surface. It was clear that any further reduction requested by the building inspector would not have any archaeological implications. Following the excavation of the footing trenches, the interior of the new extension was reduced. Due to the fact that the area slopes down slightly towards the south, this ground reduction varied from between 0.25m (south end) to 0.50m (north end).

The stratigraphy varied slightly across the area of the new extension. In the northern footing trench the natural geology was encountered beneath 0.40m of turf and topsoil (50), and 0.15m of mid orange brown clayey silt subsoil (51). Elsewhere it was clear that the area had been disturbed in the past, as there was no subsoil layer present, and instead a compact layer of soil (53) lay between the modern topsoil deposit (50) and the natural

Head geology. A small assemblage of late post-medieval pottery was recovered from layer 53, along with one abraded medieval sherd.

The only archaeological feature recorded during the watching brief was wall 52, which was cut through twice by the western footing trench. The north-south section of wall 52 remained *in situ* following the ground reduction within the footprint of the new extension. The wall largely consisted of flint nodule footings, 0.25m to 0.35m wide, within a lime mortar matrix. However, some brickwork had survived above the flint footings at the northern end of the wall. The bricks are likely to date from the 17th to 18th century, and the wall almost certainly relates to a small rectangular building which is shown on the Kingston Parish Tithe Map from the 1840s (Fig. 5). This building appears to straddle the property boundary, and was probably a small animal pen. It is shown on the early Ordnance Surveys up to 1911, but the 1930s edition suggests that the half of the building in the present site had been demolished.

Finds

Pottery by Luke Barber

The archaeological work recovered 10 sherds of pottery, weighing 125g, from a layer of compact soil (53) immediately below the modern topsoil (50) (Appendix 1). Medieval fabric has been allocated the Lewes fabric code (Barber forthcoming) while post-medieval ones have been allocated common name only.

The single medieval sherd is slightly abraded and clearly a residual piece. It is likely to date to between c. 1225 and 1350.

The remaining pottery is all of the 19th century, probably from the period c. 1800-1850. The material is quite fragmented but fresh, suggesting it has not been subjected to any degree of notable reworking. A fairly typical domestic assemblage appears to be present but the sample is too small to comment on meaningfully.

The pottery assemblage is small, mixed and of types well known of in Lewes.

Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

A single brick sample was recovered from wall 52. The brick is complete (2582g) with dimensions of 220 x 110 x 55mm. The fabric contains moderate fine 'sugary' quartz, common black iron oxides to 4mm and occasional white/yellow flecks to 2mm. The brick, which is quite well formed and medium/well fired, is set in a buff lime mortar with abundant sub-rounded flint aggregate to 5mm. An 17th to 18th century date range appears likely.

Conclusion

The watching brief at Two Trees Cottage, Kingston successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of the new extension to the existing house. The area has clearly been significantly disturbed in the past, as a probable subsoil horizon was only recorded in the northern footing trench. Elsewhere a compact soil layer containing late post-medieval material was recorded immediately above the natural geology. The footings of a wall were recorded in the western part of the new extension, and this is likely to relate to a small building which is depicted on historic maps from the 1840s onwards. This building appears to have been demolished at sometime between 1911 and 1930.

References

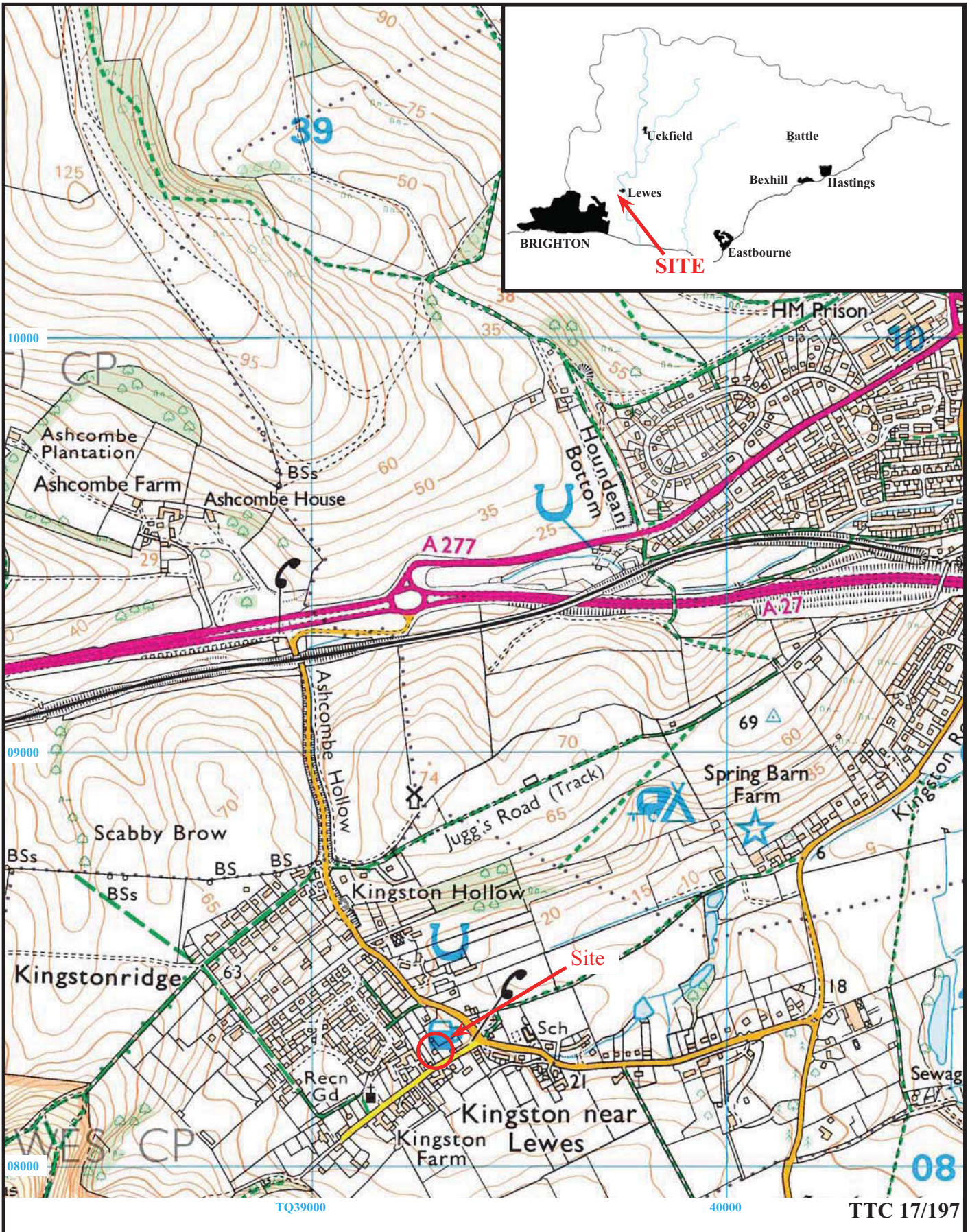
- Barber, L, forthcoming, 'The Pottery' in 'Excavations at the Lewes House and Baxter's Printworks Sites, Lewes, East Sussex', Archaeology South-East Monograph
- BGS, 2006, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet **319/334**, Bedrock and Superficial Deposits Edition, Keyworth
- ESCC, 2015, *Sussex Archaeological Standards*, East Sussex County Council, Lewes
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London

APPENDIX 1: Catalogue of pottery

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Comments (including estimated number of different vessels represented)</i>
53	Glazed red earthenware (late)	LPM	1	14g	Bowl x1 (clear glaze internally)
53	London stoneware	LPM	1	14g	Bottle x1 (iron wash, salt glaze)
53	Yellow ware	LPM	1	12g	Bowl x1
53	Creamware	LPM	1	22g	Plate x1
53	Pearlware	LPM	1	14g	Side plate x1 (even blue shell-edge decoration)
53	Unglazed red earthenware	LPM	1	32g	Flower pot x1
53	Yellow ware	LPM	1	12g	Carinated bowl x1 (white central band bordered by two annular black lines each side)
53	HML 3b Developed Ringmer sandy ware	HM	1	8g	Jug x1 (oxidised, external green glaze)
53	Yellow ware	LPM	2	8g	Bowl x1 (wormed slip decoration)

HM High Medieval

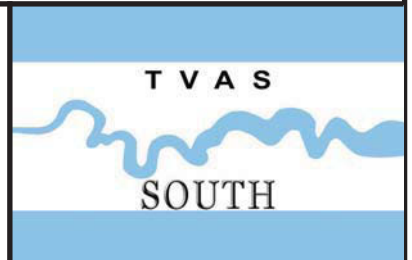
LPM late Post Medieval

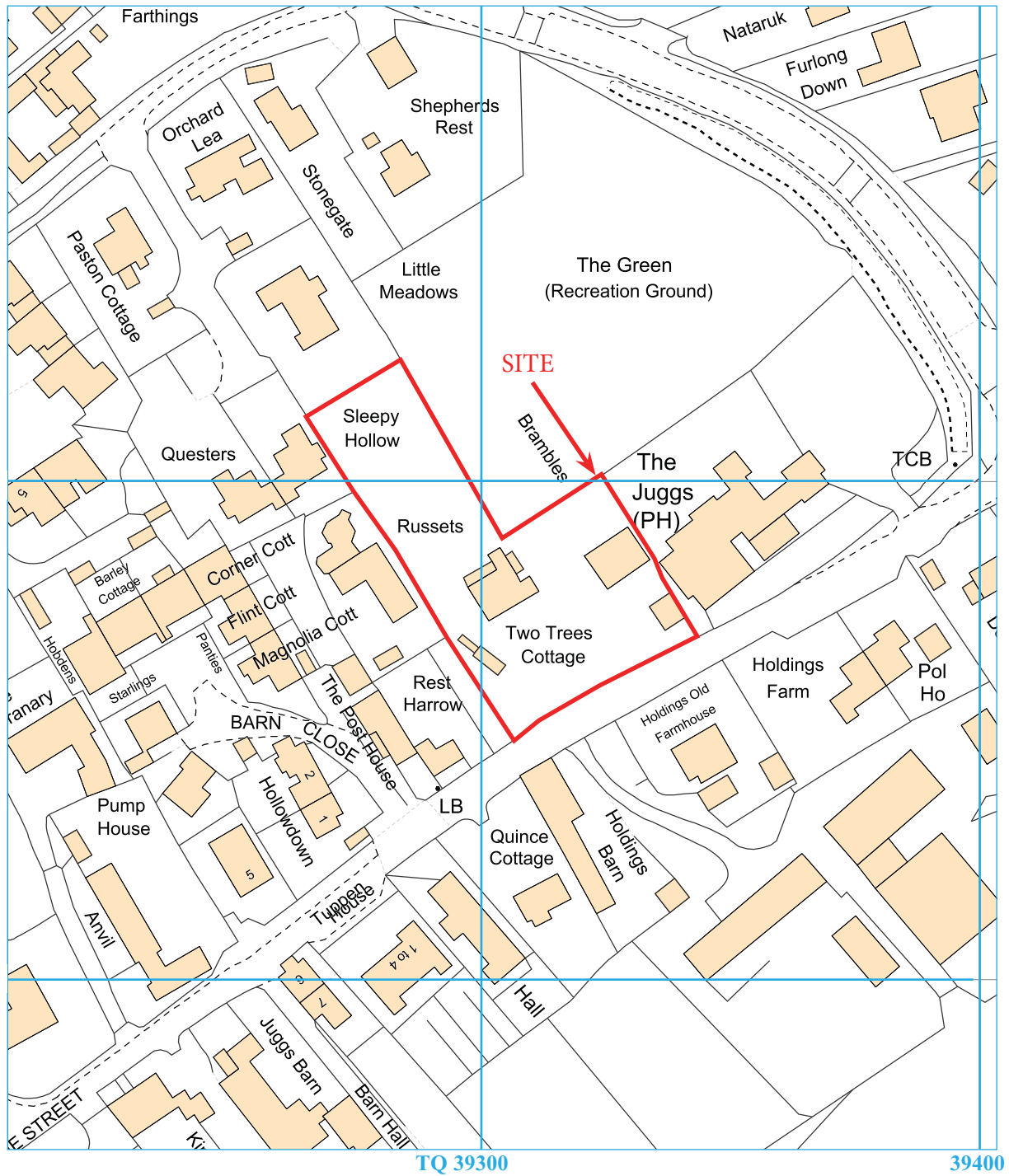


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Figure 1. Location of site within Kingston and East Sussex.

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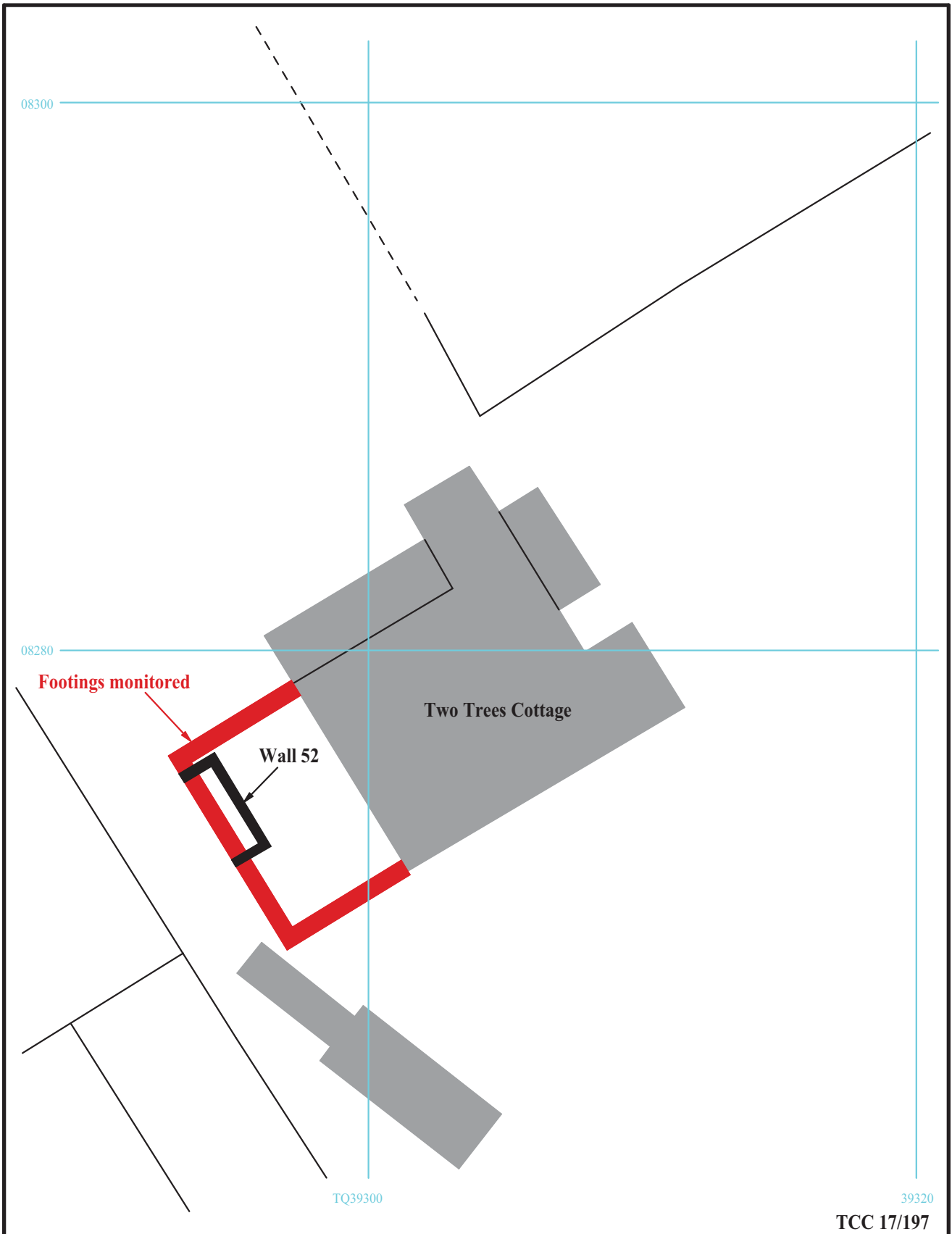
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site**

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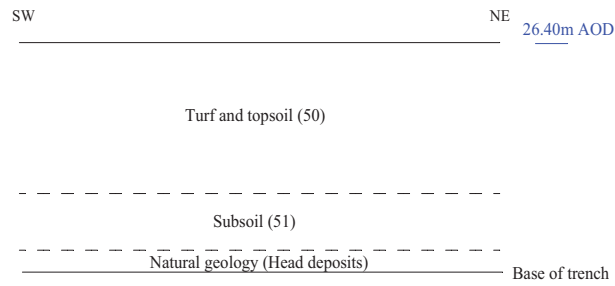


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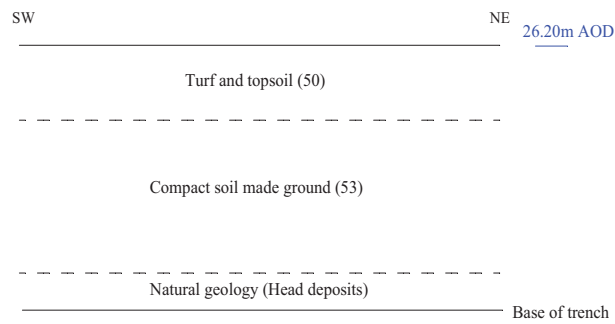
Figure 3. Site plan showing monitored areas.



Footing trench (north end)



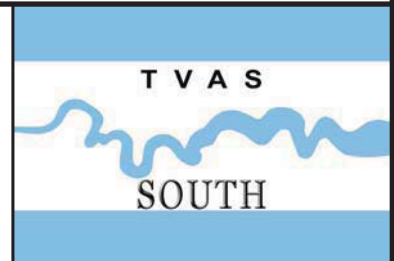
Footing trench (south end)

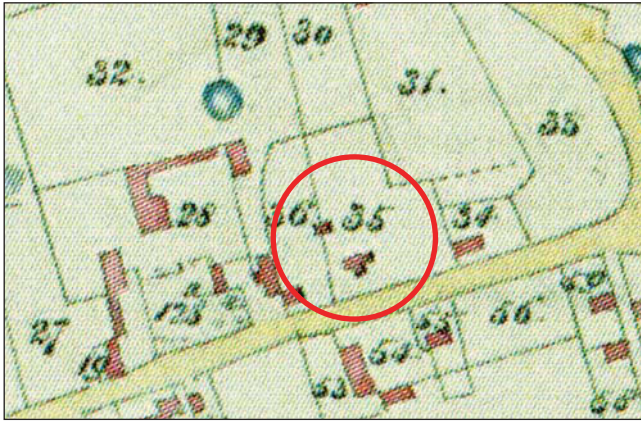


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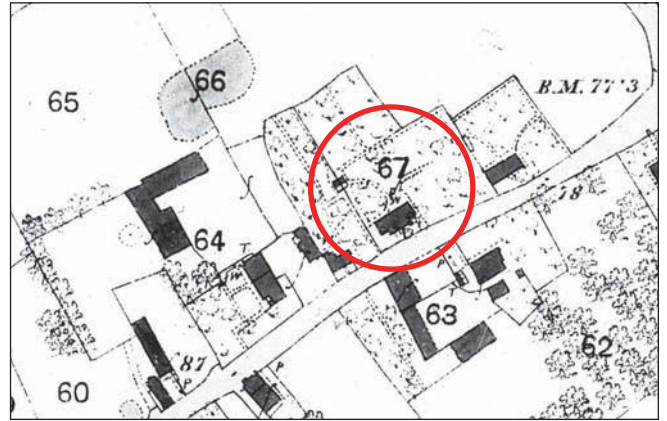
**Two Trees Cottage, The Street, Kingston,
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Figure 4. Representative sections.

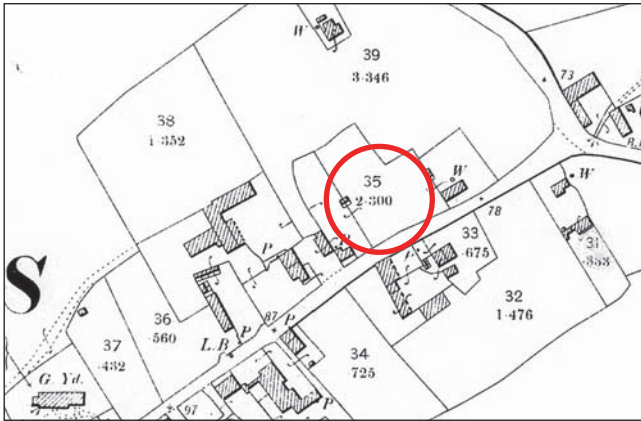




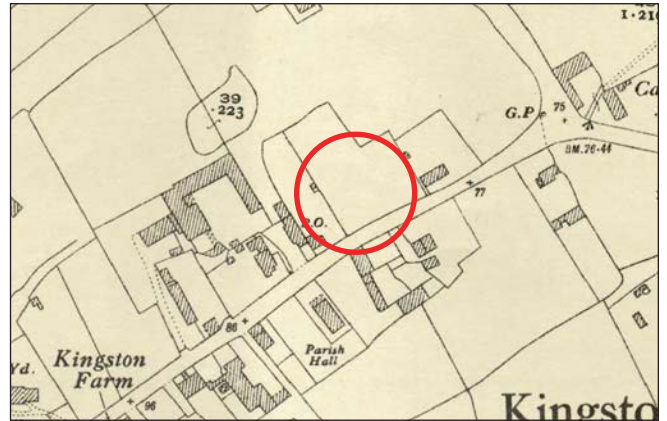
Kingston Parish Tithe Map - 1840s.



First Edition Ordnance Survey - 1870s.



Second Edition Ordnance Survey - 1898.



Ordnance Survey - 1930s.

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Figure 5. Historic Maps.





Plate 1. General view of site, looking South.



Plate 2. General view of site showing wall 52, looking North. Scale: 2m.



Plate 3. Close up of wall 52, looking South.
Scales: 0.30m and 0.10m.



Plate 4. Southern footing trench, looking North-west.
Scales: 0.50m.

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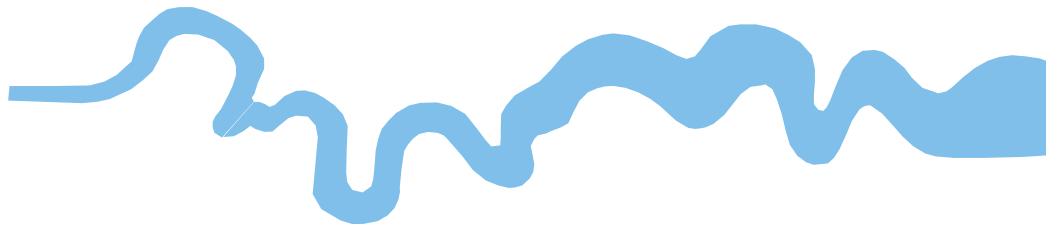
**Two Trees Cottage, The Street, Kingston,
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Plates 1 - 4.**



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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