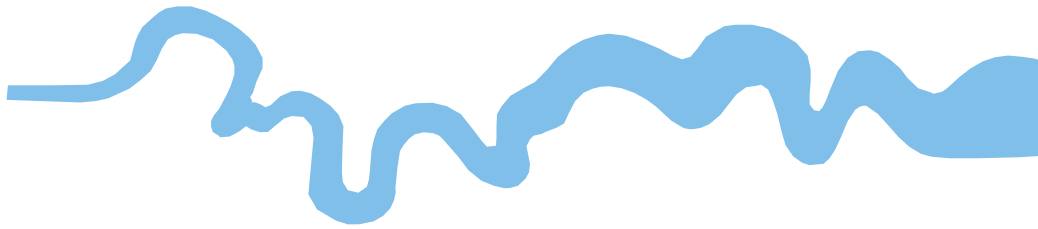


T V A S



SOUTH

**9 St Swithun's Terrace, Lewes,
East Sussex**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Odile Rouard

Site Code: ST117/70

(TQ 4135 0993)

**9 St Swithun's Terrace,
Lewes, East Sussex**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr George Awty

by Odile Rouard

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code STL 17/70

November 2017

Summary

Site name: 9 St Swithun's Terrace, Lewes, East Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 4135 0993

Planning reference: SDNP/17/00004/HOUS

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 22nd June to 30th August 2017

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Jim Webster

Site code: STL 17/70

Area of site: 14.4 sq m

Summary of results: The watching brief successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be affected by the construction of a single-storey extension. Four pits were identified during the investigation. Three of those pits contained pottery dating to the medieval period (13th to 14th century), while the last one is undated but stratigraphically earlier.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS, Brighton, and will be deposited at a suitable depository in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 29.11.17 Steve Preston ✓ 23.11.17

9 St Swithun's Terrace, Lewes, East Sussex An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Odile Rouard

Report 17/70

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 9 St Swithun's Terrace, Lewes, East Sussex (TQ 4135 0993) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by the property owner, Mr George Awty.

Planning permission (SDNP/17/00004/HOUS) had been gained from the South Downs National Park Authority to construct a new single-storey extension to the rear of the existing property. The permission is subject to a standard condition (3) relating to archaeology and the historic environment requiring a programme of archaeological work. This was in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF, 2012), and the Authority's policies on archaeology. It was determined that the archaeological investigation should take the form of a watching brief. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by Mr Greg Chuter, East Sussex Archaeological officer, who advises the Authority on archaeological matters in East Sussex. The fieldwork was undertaken by Jim Webster between 22nd June and 30th August 2017, and the site code is STL 17/70. The scheme of works was The archive is presently held at TVAS, Brighton and will be deposited at a suitable depository in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site lies within the medieval walled town of Lewes (Fig. 1). It is located on the west side of St Swithun's Terrace in a residential area (Fig. 2). According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation (BGS 2006). This was confirmed during the watching brief, when chalk was encountered in all areas monitored. Although St Swithun's Terrace slopes down fairly steeply towards the south, the site itself was fairly flat and the area investigated lay at a height of approximately 16m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location close to the historic core of Lewes, which was an important town in the medieval period, with Saxon origins. The site lies within an Archaeological Notification

Area associated with the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Lewes, within the medieval walled town, about 60m north and east of the town wall, 90m south-east of the west gate, and 100m south of the castle. Although historic maps suggest that the area was not built up until the early 20th century, medieval and post-medieval finds and features have been found nearby. Two medieval pits were found to the south of the site, at 15 St Swithun's Terrace, during a recent archaeological watching brief (Fisher 2015), and further evidence of medieval occupation has been recorded at Knowlands, about 65m north-east of the present site.

Objectives and methodology

The primary aims of the watching brief were to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the development. This was to include monitoring the foundation trenches for the new extension, along with any areas of significant ground reduction. Where appropriate and relevant, the recommendations in *Sussex Archaeological Standards* (ESCC 2015) were to be followed.

Results

Footings trenches were excavated at the rear (west) of the existing building (Fig. 3), covering an area 3.6m by 4m (Pl. 1): the east–west trenches 0.3m wide and the north–south trench 0.6m wide, and all up to 1.3m deep. The stratigraphy encountered during the excavation of the footings consisted of between 0.20m and 0.50m of topsoil (50), overlying between 0.70 and 1.00m of made-ground (51), overlying in turn the natural chalk (Fig. 4).

Four pits were identified at the base of the trenches, beneath the made ground, and although three of them (Pits 1, 3 and 4) could not be hand excavated for health and safety reasons, pottery was recovered from the surface of pits 1, 2 and 3, and animal bones from pits 1 and 2. The features are summarized in Appendix 1.

Pit 1 (Fig. 3; Pl. 2 and 4)

Pit 1 measured 2.90m by 1.88m and was only partially visible in the northern and western footings. It was not excavated due to unsafe conditions but several sherds of pottery were recovered from its fill (52) of mid-grey brown clay silt. The pottery was dated to the 13th/14th century. A molar and a rib from a medium-sized mammal (sheep/goat, pig or deer) were also recovered.

Pit 2 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 3)

Pit 2, in the southern footing where the made ground was shallower, measured 1.10m by 0.40m. It was excavated to a depth of 0.30m but its base was not reached (Fig. 4). Its fill (53) of mid-grey brown clay silt yielded three sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery (dated to the 11th to 13th century), possibly residual, and one sherd

dated to the 13th/14th century. A small mammal rib (dog or cat) and an oyster shell were also recovered from this feature.

Pit 3 (Fig. 3; Pl. 4)

Pit 3 measured roughly 2.70m by 0.40m but was only partially visible in the western footing trench and appeared to be truncated by pit 1. Its fill (54) of mid to dark brown clay silt yielded one sherd of Early Medieval pottery (11th/13th century), possibly residual, and four sherds dated to the medieval period (13th/14th century)

Pit 4 (Fig. 3; Pls 4 and 5)

Pit 4 measured approximately 0.50m by 0.60m but was only visible in plan in the western trench and appeared to be truncated by both pits 1 and 3. It was not excavated either due to unsafe conditions and no pottery was recovered from its fill (55) of mid-brown clay silt.

Finds

Pottery by Luke Barber

The archaeological work recovered 22 sherds of medieval pottery, weighing 246g, from three contexts (Appendix 2). Fabrics have been allocated the Lewes fabric code (Barber forthcoming). Rims have been allocated the Lewes type series number.

On the whole the pottery is in quite fresh condition and, although the average sherd size is not large, there are a few notably larger sherds: one HML 1b fragment from pit 1 (52) measuring about 90mm across. As such the assemblage does not appear to have been repeatedly reworked. However, there is a significant Early Medieval residual element in at least two of the deposits.

Overall a fairly typical range of Lewes fabrics is represented suggesting activity in the later 11th to mid-12th and 13th centuries. Cooking pots dominate but there is at least one glazed jug represented. Unsurprisingly the Ringmer industry appears to have been the main supplier of ceramics.

The pottery assemblage is small, mixed and of types well known of in Lewes. The assemblage contains just rim feature sherds and these are of types already documented from larger better assemblages.

The Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

Pit 4 (55) produced a tiny granule (<1g) of burnt clay tempered with abundant fine sand. The piece is too small to retain any diagnostic features, but it is suspected of being daub.

Slag by Luke Barber

A 1g fragment of light aerated black fuel ash slag was recovered from pit 3 (54). This slag is not diagnostic of process and is so small that it could easily be intrusive.

Animal Bone and Shell by Lizzi Lewins

A small assemblage of animal bone (11 fragments weighing a total of 58g) was recovered during the course of the investigation. The bone is fragmented with a small amount of surface abrasion noted. The only identifiable fragments consisted of a sheep/goat molar and a rib fragment from a medium sized mammal (sheep/goat, pig, deer) from pit 1 (52); a small mammal rib (dog, cat) was recovered from pit 2 (53). A single unidentifiable fragment from pit 3 (54) had been sliced, no further analysis was possible.

A single oyster shell (*Ostrea edulis*) was recovered from pit 2 (53). It measures 62mm in width and 58mm in length.

Conclusion

The watching brief at this site successfully examined those areas which were to be affected by the construction of the new extension. Four pits were identified during the excavation of the foundation trenches. Three pits have been dated to the medieval period (13th or 14th century) while the fourth was stratigraphically earlier than these.

These limited results add to the more prolific finds from 15 St Swithun's Terrace (Fisher 2015) to show that this area was occupied in the medieval period and that remains can survive below the modern town, in this case partially protected by made ground. The area examined was too small to draw any conclusions from the lack of later medieval or early post-medieval finds or features.

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, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth.
- ESCC, 2015, *Sussex Archaeological Standards*, East Sussex County Council, Lewes.
- Fisher, L J, 2015, 'Saxo-Norman pits at St Swithun's Terrace', Archaeology Services Lewes, unpubl rep **ASL28-14**, Lewes
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London

APPENDIX 1: Catalogue of excavated features

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
1	52	Pit	13th-14th century	Pottery
2	53	Pit	11th-13th century	Pottery
3	54	Pit	13th-14th century	Pottery
4	55	Pit	Medieval or earlier	Stratigraphy

APPENDIX 2: Catalogue of pottery by context

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1	52	HML 1a	HM	5	42	Cooking pots x5 (1 with lid-seated Cp5L rim with internal stabbing)
1	52	HML 1b	HM	7	124	Cooking pot x3. Oxidized & reduced. External sooting
1	52	HML 3b	HM	1	4	Jug. Oxidised (incised lines, green glaze externally)
2	53	SNL 3a	EM	3	36	Cooking pots x3. Oxidized. Flaring Cp3c rim
2	53	HML 3a	HM	1	22	Cooking pot (clear/green glazed internal base)
3	54	SNL 3a	EM	1	2	Cooking pot Oxidized
3	54	HML 1a	HM	2	24	Cooking pot x1. Oxidized
3	54	HML 2	HM	2	12	Cooking pot x1. Reduced, sooted

Fabrics

SNL 3a: Lewes Saxo-Norman Flinty Ware

HML 1a: Early Ringmer medium sand with common flints

HML 1b: Developed Ringmer: fine/medium sandy with sparse flint

HML 2: Early Ringmer Sandy: medium sand

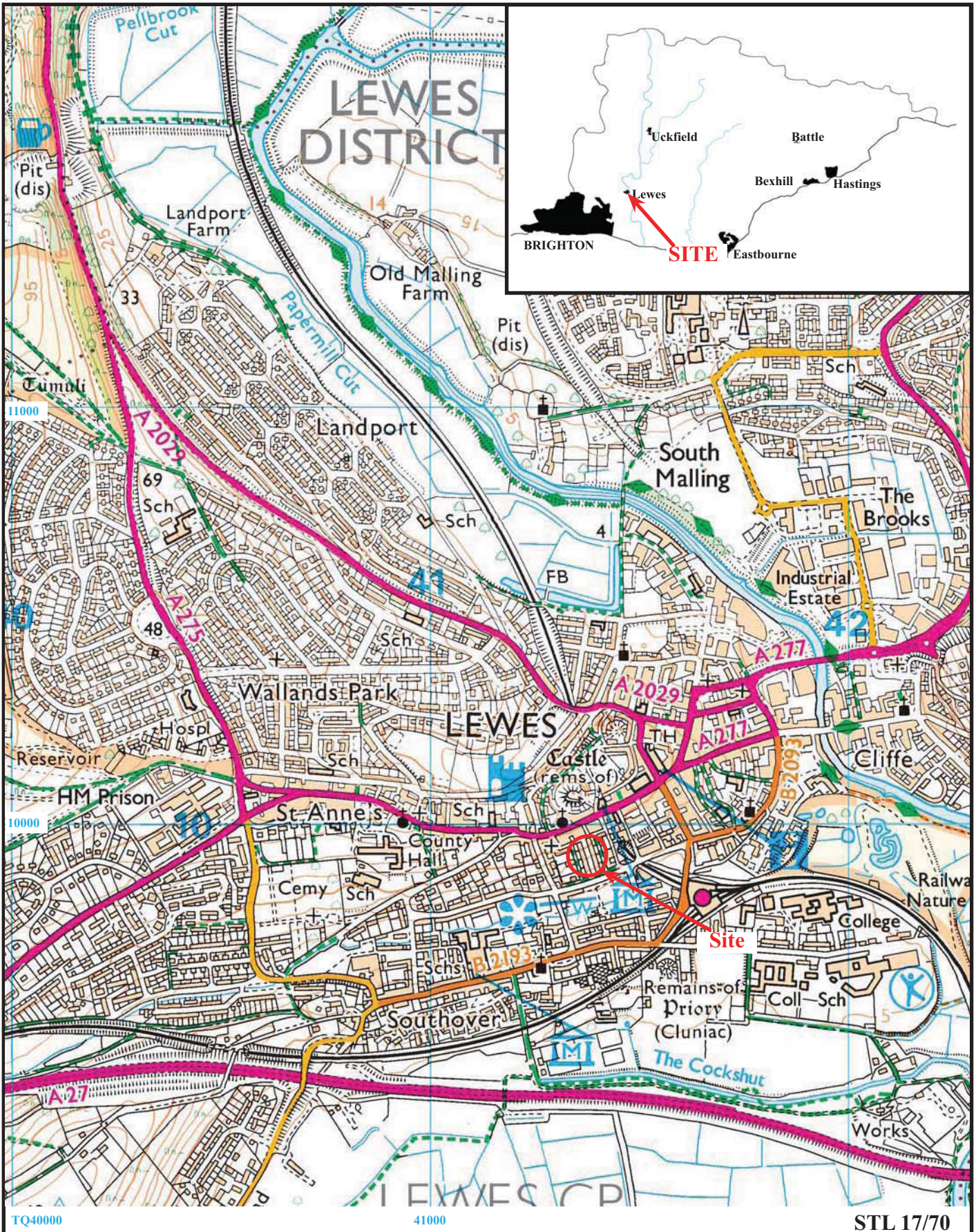
HML 3a: Developed Ringmer: well-fired sandy, very rare flint

HML 3b: Developed Ringmer: well-fired sandy

Periods

EM – Early Medieval *c.* 1050-1200/25

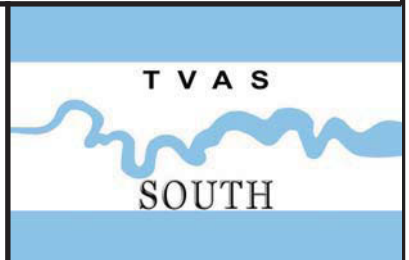
HM - High Medieval *c.* 1200/25-1350/75

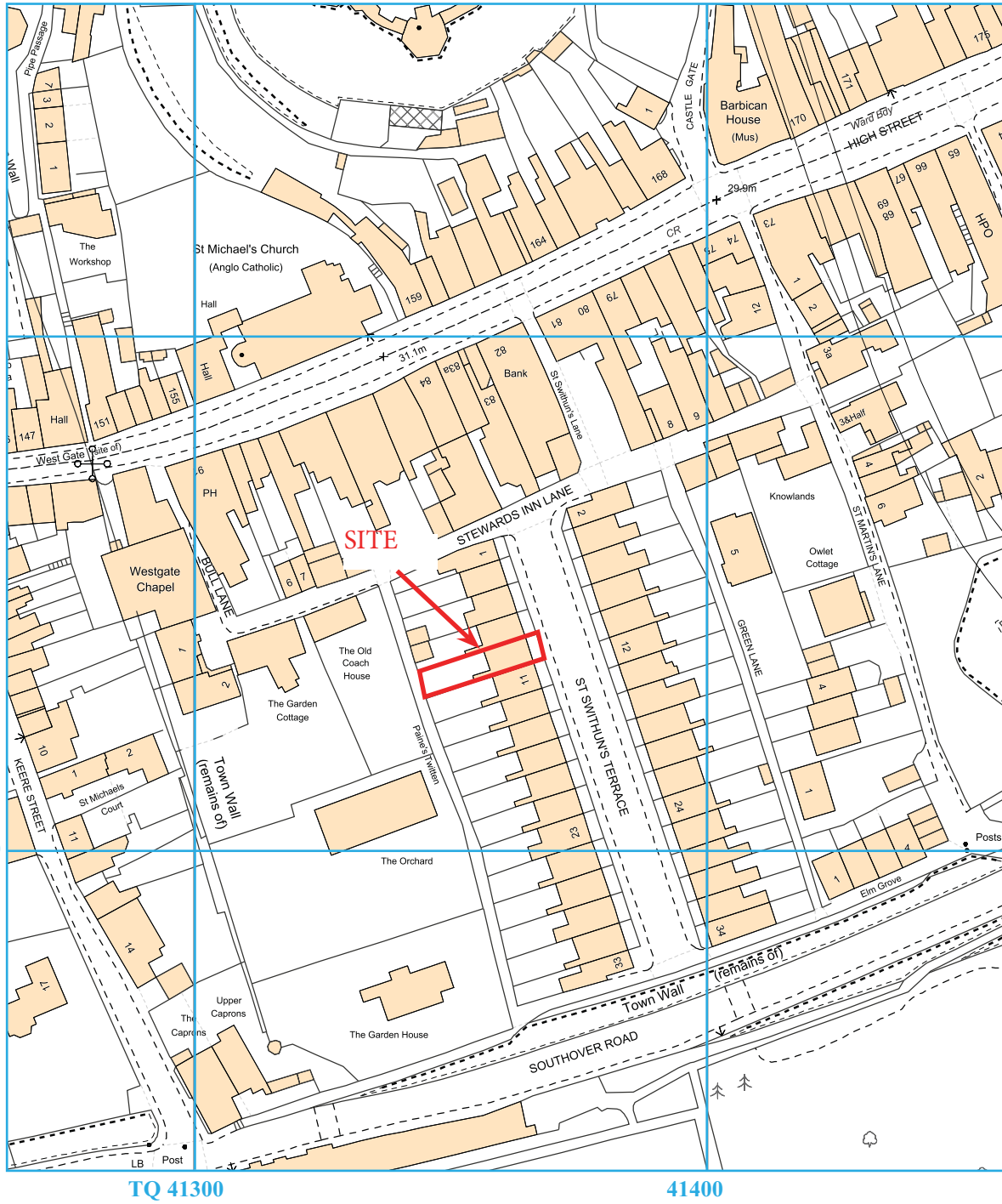


**9 St Swithun's Terrace,
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Figure 1. Location of site within Lewes and East Sussex.

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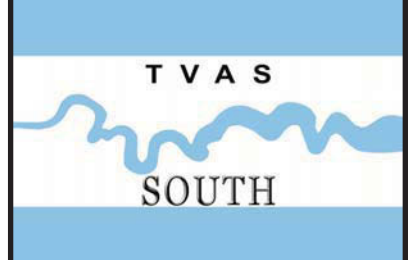


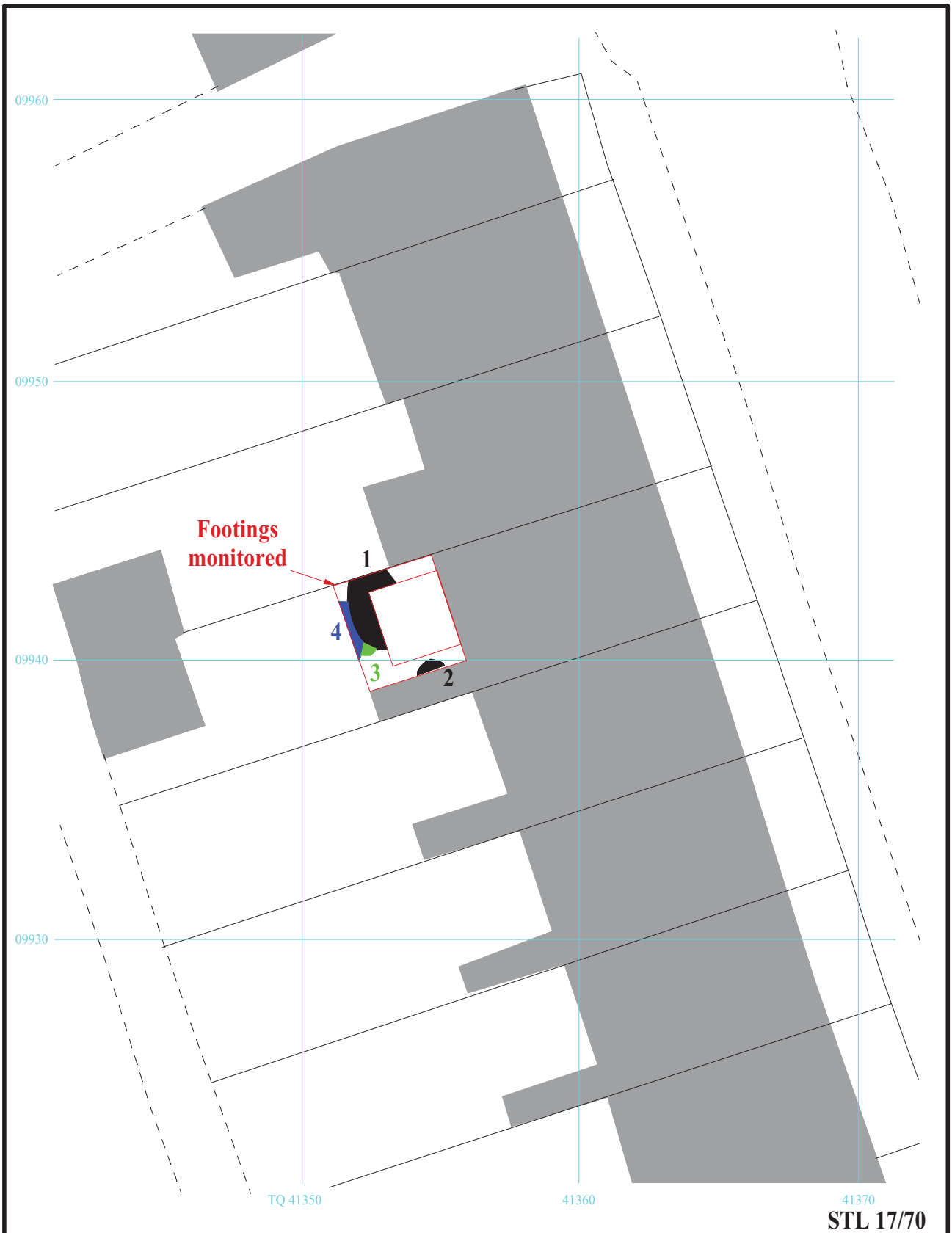
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**9 St Swithun's Terrace, Lewes,
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site**

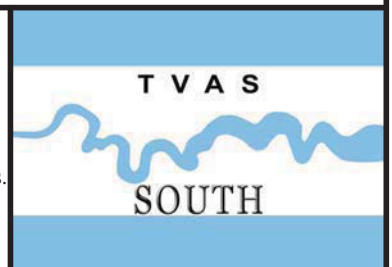
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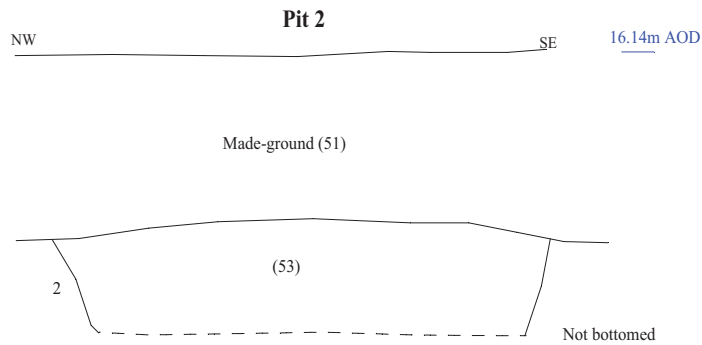
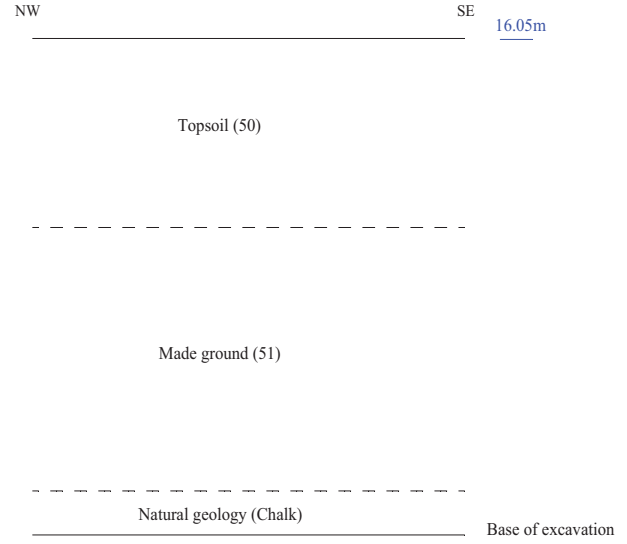
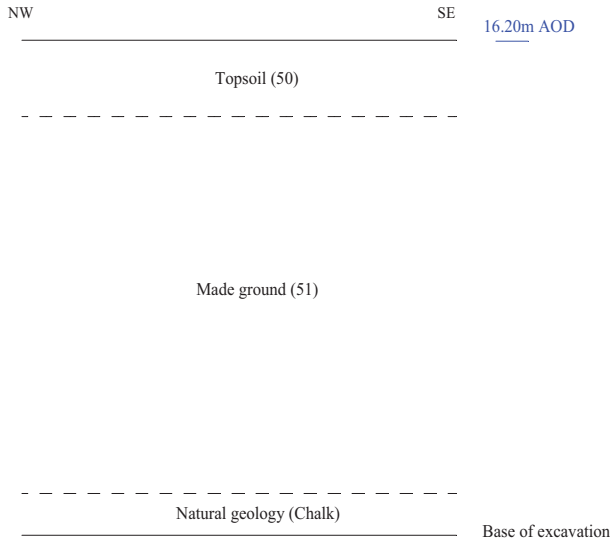
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Figure 3. Detailed location of site showing areas monitored and archaeological features.



North-west corner

South-east corner



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Figure 4. Representative sections and section of Pit 2.

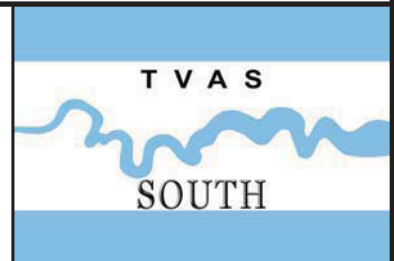




Plate 1. General shot, looking North-east.



Plate 2. Pit 1, looking East.
Scale: 1m.



Plate 3. Pit 2, looking South-west.
Scales: 1m and 0.50m.



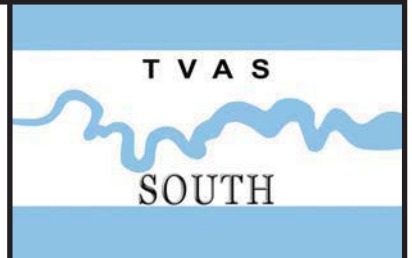
Plate 4. Pits 1, 3 and 4, looking South-west.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 5. Pit 4, looking South-east.
Scales: 0.50m and 0.30m.

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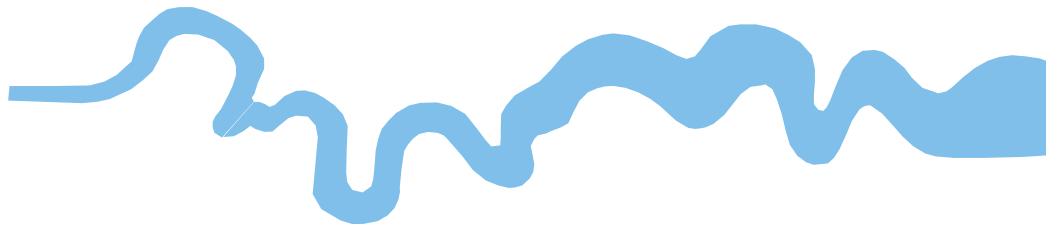
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Plates 1 - 5.



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





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