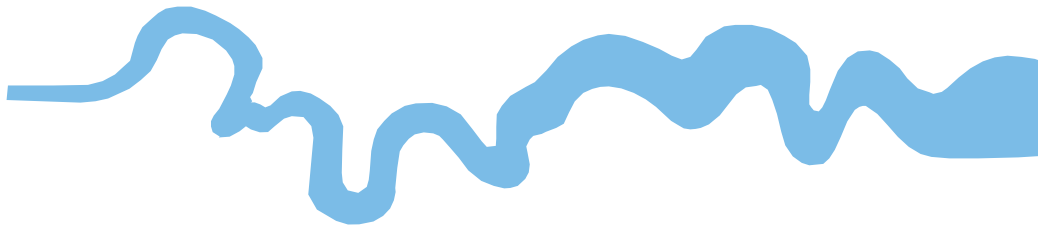


T V A S



SOUTH

**Felpham to Climping Cycle Path (A259),
West Sussex**

Archaeological Recording Action

by Sean Wallis

Site Code: FCC17/01

(SU 9812 0149; SU 9944 0164)

Felpham to Climping Cycle Path (A259), West Sussex

An Archaeological Recording Action

For West Sussex County Council

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code FCC17/01

May 2018

Summary

Site name: Felpham to Climping Cycle Path (A259), West Sussex

Grid reference: SU 9812 0149 (ARA2) and SU 9944 0164 (ARA3)

Site activity: Archaeological Recording Action

Date and duration of project: 8th March - 24th April 2018

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Jim Webster

Site code: FCC 17/01

Summary of results: The recording action which was carried out during the construction of a new cycle path immediately north of the A259 successfully investigated two areas which had been highlighted as having archaeological potential. However, due to the relatively shallow ground reduction and the presence of numerous services no archaeological finds or features were recorded.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 22.05.18 Steve Preston✓ 22.05.18

Felpham to Climping Cycle Path (A259), West Sussex An Archaeological Recording Action

by Sean Wallis

Report 17/01

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological recording action carried out along part of the length of the A259 between Felpham and Climping, West Sussex. The project was focused on two areas centred on SU 9812 0149 (ARA2) and SU 9944 0164 (ARA3) (Figs. 1, 2 and 3). The project was commissioned by Mr John Mills of West Sussex County Council.

West Sussex County Council, as the county Highways Authority, were to carry out a number of highway improvements, including the creation of a 3m wide cycle path along the northern carriageway of the A259 road, for approximately 4.35km between Felpham and Climping.

The West Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer, Mr John Mills, had identified three areas (Archaeological Recording Areas 1, 2 and 3) along the length of the new cycle path where there was the potential for archaeological remains to be destroyed or damaged during the groundworks. It was therefore recommended that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during construction work in these areas.

This was in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the County 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 West Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer (Mr John Mills).

The fieldwork was undertaken by Sean Wallis and Jim Webster between 8th March and 24th April 2018, and the site code is FCC 17/01. The archive is currently held at TVAS Brighton and will be deposited with Littlehampton Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located immediately north of the stretch of the A259 road between Felpham and Climping, although the three Archaeological Recording Areas (ARA) were situated to the north of Middleton-on-Sea, West Sussex. Although the course of the main road is relatively flat, there is a gradual rise towards the east. As a result the height above Ordnance Datum varied from approximately 3m in ARA2 to around 6m in ARA3. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Aeolian Deposits (Brickearth) (BGS 1996).

Although undisturbed natural geology was not observed during the watching brief, the presence of Brickearth was suggested by the nature of the overlying subsoil deposits.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site had been considered in a project brief prepared by the West Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer (Mills 2016). In summary, there have been stray finds of material close to the new cycle path dating from the Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and Saxon periods. A small Bronze Age cremation cemetery was recorded near the eastern end of the path, close to the Oystercatcher public house. A probable Roman settlement, including flint walls and a well, was investigated close to the western end of the route (Comet Corner). A number of linear features, including some dating from the Iron Age and Roman periods, have been recorded along the length of the proposed cycle path.

A recent archaeological watching at Comet Corner recovered a small amount of pottery and flint, but no archaeological features were recorded. Much of the area had, however, been heavily truncated (Wallis 2017).

Objectives and methodology

The primary aim of the recording action was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was to involve the monitoring of ground reduction in three areas which had been identified as having potential. Where archaeological deposits which may warrant preservation *in-situ* were encountered, their treatment was to be discussed in consultation with the client and the West Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer. Where it was not possible or practicable to preserve archaeological remains *in-situ* the features were to be excavated by hand and fully recorded, to ensure their preservation by record. The recording action was to be carried out in accordance with the relevant sections of *Sussex Archaeological Standards* (ESCC 2015).

Results

Prior to the commencement of the project it was agreed with the West Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer that no work needed to be carried out in respect of Archaeological Recording Area 1, which was situated close to Comet Corner. This was due to the fact that revisions in the design of the cycle path meant that this area would not be significantly affected by groundworks.

The ground reduction in Archaeological Recording Areas 2 and 3 was carried out as planned, using a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under archaeological supervision.

Archaeological Recording Area 2 was also referred to as Section 6 by the construction company carrying out the groundworks. A narrow strip, measuring up to 3m wide and 246m in length, was stripped of overburden down to the required level for the new cycle path (Fig. 2; Pl. 1). The area was located immediately north of the carriageway of the A259 road. Ground reduction varied along the length of the area from 0.15m to 0.40m. The material removed was largely topsoil, which had been heavily rooted in places (Pl. 2). No archaeological finds or features were recorded, and it was clear that the area had been significantly disturbed in the past due to the presence of numerous service trenches, most of which ran parallel to the road. In those areas not affected by service runs the natural Brickearth geology was not exposed due to the relatively shallow depth of the ground reduction.

Archaeological Recording Area 3 was referred to by the construction company as Section 10. It measured 234m in length, and was up to 3m wide (Fig. 3; Pls 3 and 4). The ground reduction varied between 0.20m and 0.30m, and was generally deeper towards the north where the area was banked up slightly. As with ARA2, the material removed was largely composed of topsoil, which was heavily rooted in places. No archaeological finds or features were recorded, although several service trenches were identified within the stripped area. In the areas not affected by the service runs the natural Brickearth geology was not exposed due to the relatively shallow depth of ground reduction.

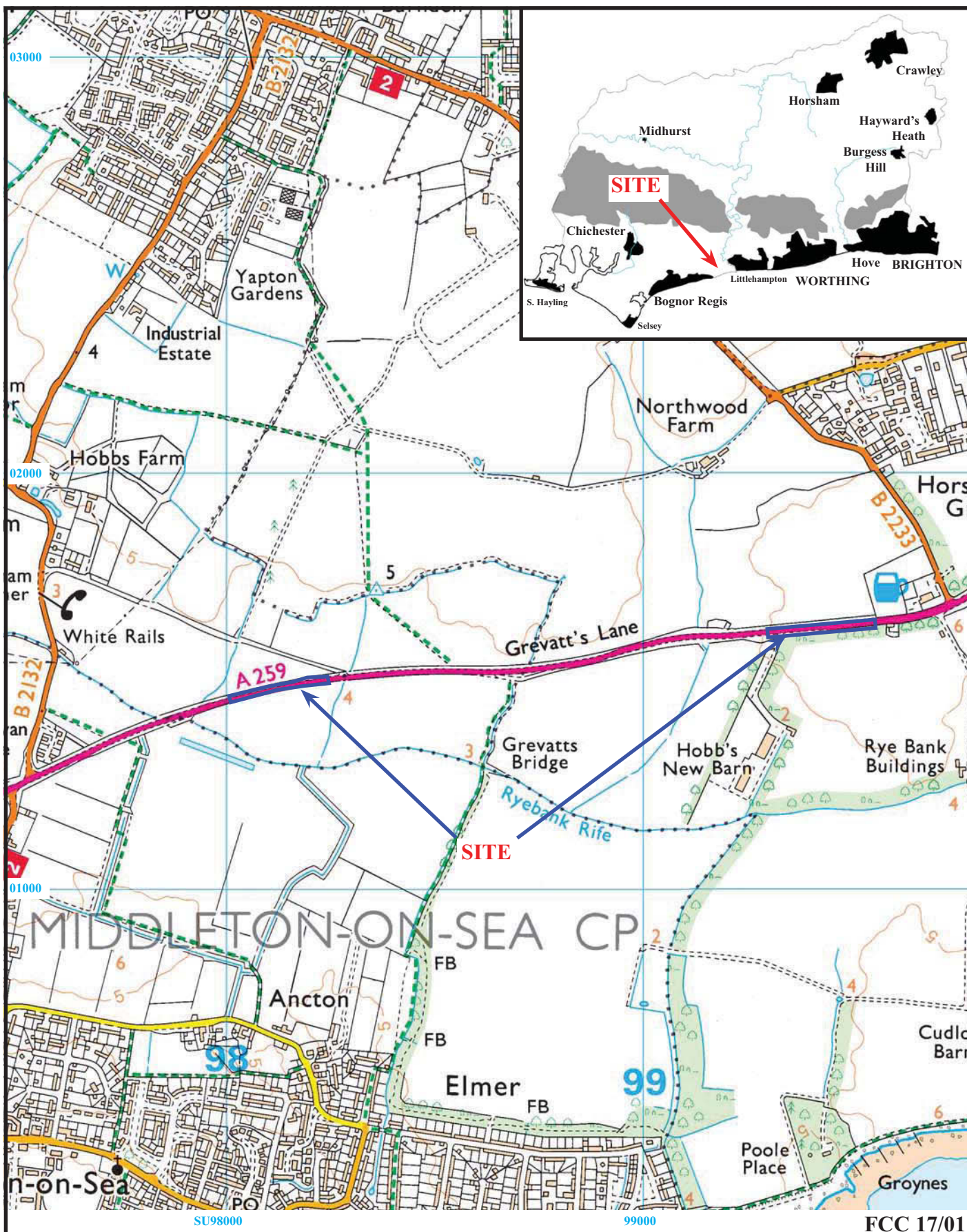
Although the majority of the ground reduction in Archaeological Recording Areas 2 and 3 was monitored, in both cases it was agreed with the West Sussex County Council Archaeologist that monitoring could cease once it was clear that no archaeologically sensitive horizons would be affected by the groundworks.

Conclusion

The recording action which was carried out during the construction of a new cycle path immediately north of the A259 successfully investigated two areas which had been highlighted as having archaeological potential. However, due to the relatively shallow ground reduction and the presence of numerous services no archaeological finds or features were recorded.

References

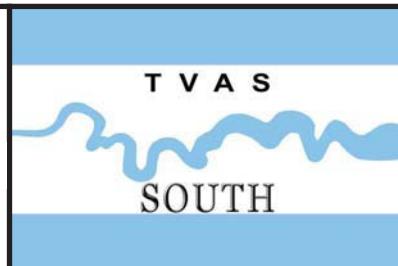
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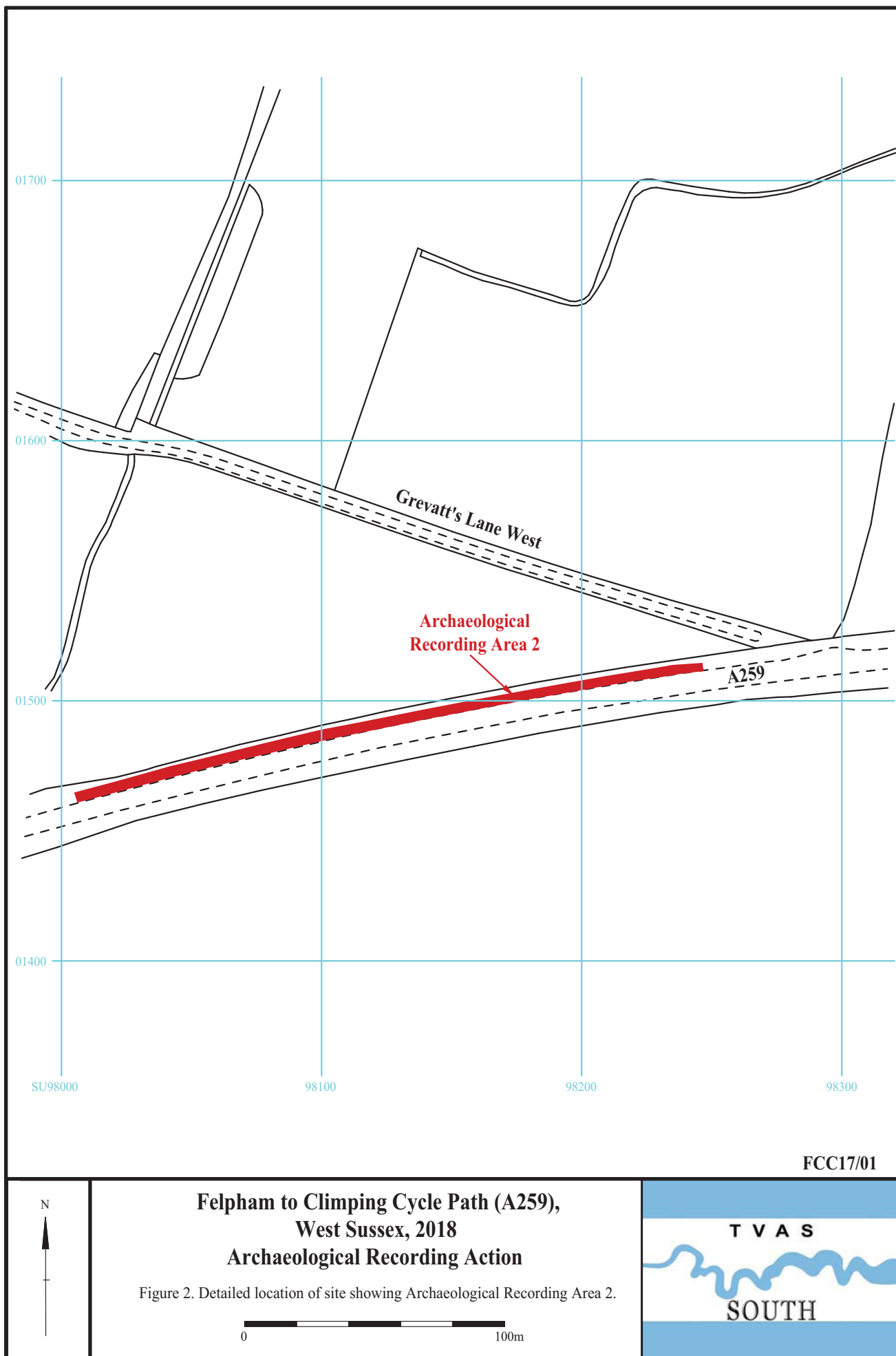


**Felpham to Climping Cycle Path (A259),
Middleton-on-Sea, West Sussex, 2019
Archaeological Recording Action**

Figure 1. Location of site within Middleton-on-Sea and West Sussex.

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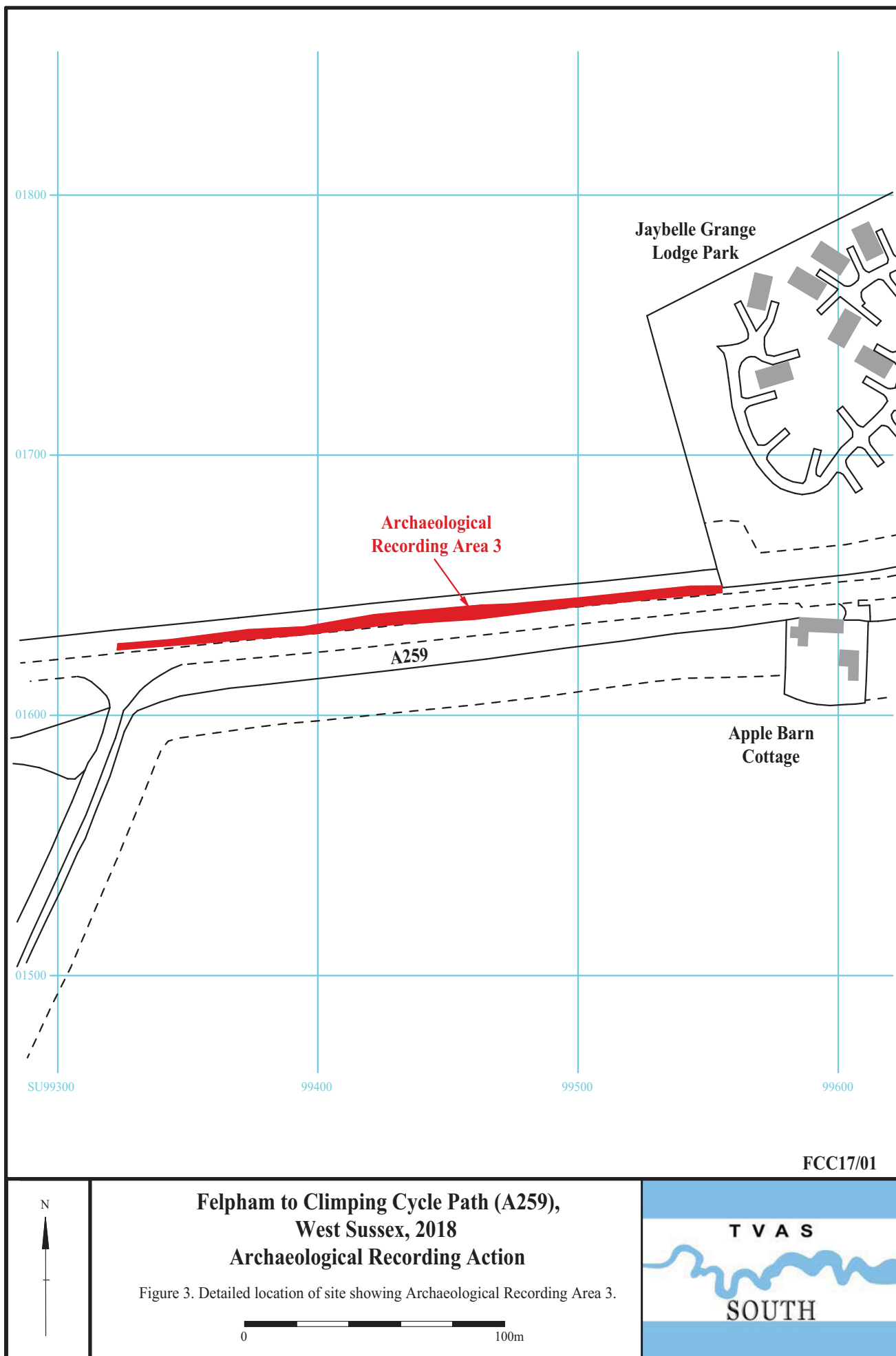




Plate 1. Archaeological Recording Area 2, looking West.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.10m.



Plate 2. Stratigraphy in Archaeological Recording Area 2, looking North. Scales: 1m and 0.20m.



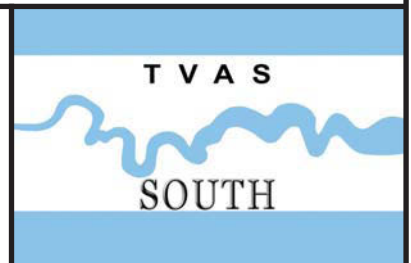
Plate 3. Archaeological Recording Area 3, looking West.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.20m.



Plate 4. Archaeological Recording Area 3, looking East.
Scales: 2m and 1m.

FCC 17/01

**Felpham to Climping Cycle Path (A259),
West Sussex, 2018
Archaeological Recording Action
Plates 1 - 4.**

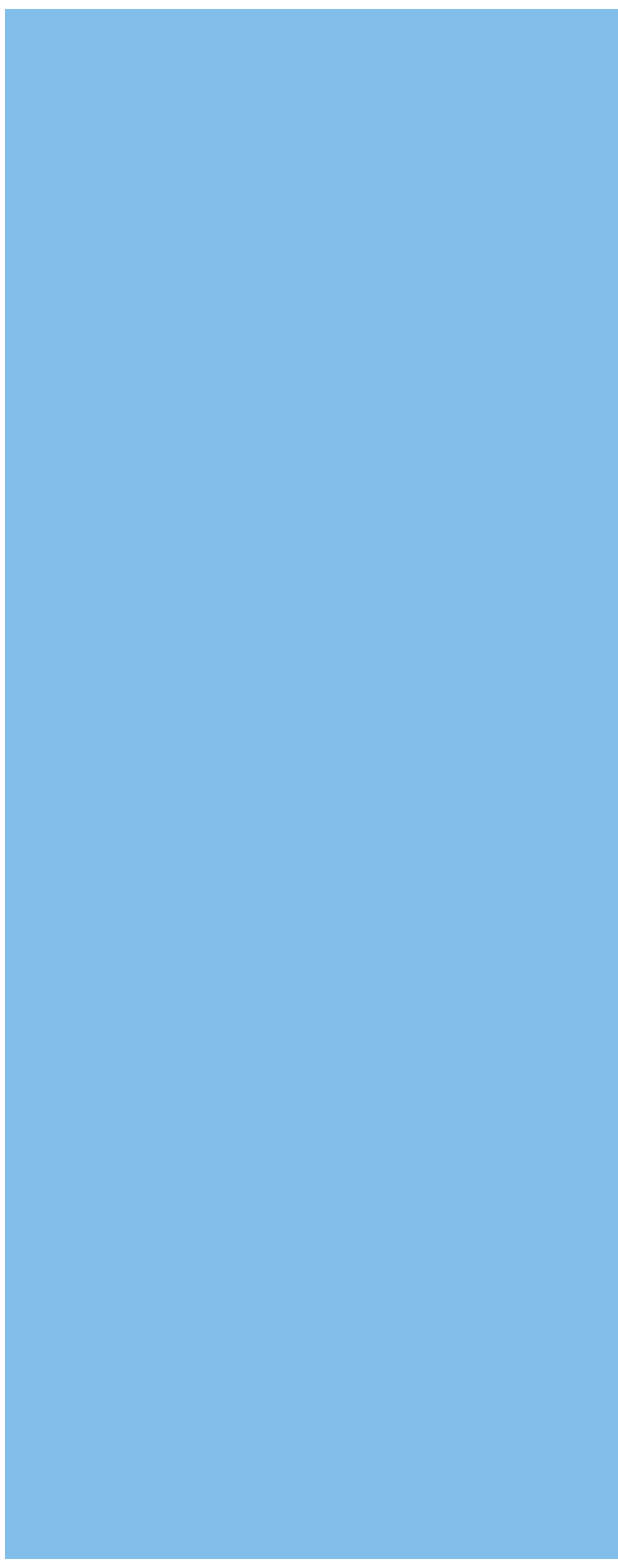
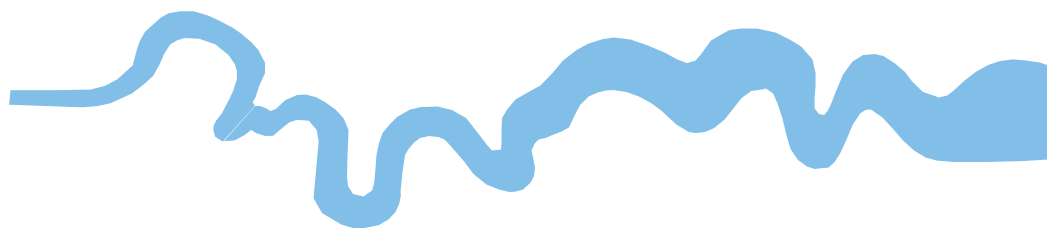


TIME CHART

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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