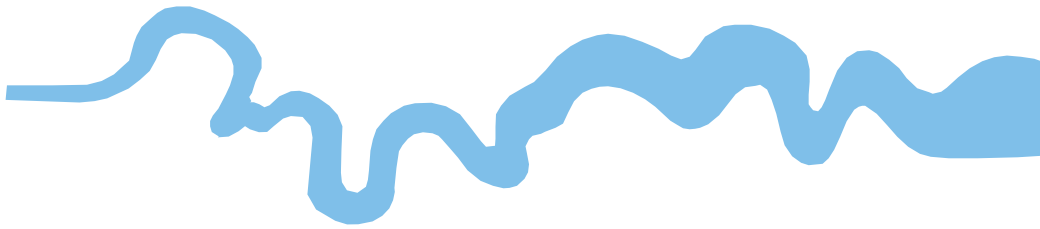


T V A S



SOUTH

**Farthings, River Lane, Alfriston,
East Sussex**

Building Recording

by Sean Wallis

Site Code: FAS18/18

(TQ 5210 0311)

Farthings, River Lane, Alfriston, East Sussex

Building Recording

For Ms Sharon Alison

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code FAS 18/18

September 2018

Summary

Site name: Farthings, River Lane, Alfriston, East Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 5210 0311

Site activity: Building Recording

Date and duration of project: 10th April 2018

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site code: FAS 18/18

Summary of results: A 16m long section of garden wall, which was to be demolished and replaced, was recorded during the building survey. The wall runs along a property boundary which dates from at least 1842, although it is difficult to determine the actual date of the wall, as the style of construction used has been prominent in Sussex for centuries. The earliest part of the wall was constructed from flints laid in a herringbone pattern, whilst the northern part of the wall is clearly later, and is constructed from 'bungaroosh'. The upper sections of the wall have been subject to much later repairs.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at East Sussex Record Office in due course.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 20.09.18
	Steve Preston✓ 20.09.18

Farthings, River Lane, Alfriston, East Sussex Historic Building Recording

by Sean Wallis

Report 18/18

Introduction

This report documents the results of building recording in respect of one of the boundary walls at Farthings, River Lane, Alfriston, East Sussex (TQ 5210 0311) (Figs. 1 and 2). The work was commissioned by Mr Christopher Eadie of The Flint Wall Company, on behalf of the property's owner, Ms Sharon Alison.

Planning permission (SDNP/17/04656) had been granted by the South Downs National Park Authority for the partial demolition and rebuilding of one of the boundary walls. The consent was subject to a standard planning condition (3) relating to archaeology and the historic environment, and it was agreed with the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer that a building recording would be carried out prior to the commencement of any demolition work, followed by an archaeological watching brief in respect of any intrusive works for the new section of wall.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Authority's policies on the historic environment. This report documents the results of the building survey: the watching brief will be reported separately. The fieldwork was undertaken by Sean Wallis and Jim Webster on 10th April 2018, and the site code is FAS 18/18.

The archive is presently held at TVAS, Brighton and will be deposited at East Sussex Record Office and a copy sent to the Historic England Archive (formerly National Monuments Record) in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located within the historic core of Alfriston, and is accessed via an entrance through the rear garden from the southern end of River Lane (Fig. 2). The section of boundary wall which was recorded during the project was in the south-west part of the rear garden (Fig. 3). The surrounding area generally slopes down towards the River Cuckmere, which flows to the east of the village. However, the rear garden of Farthings is relatively flat, although the garden does rise up slightly to meet the boundary wall which was surveyed. As a result, the bottom of the boundary wall was recorded at approximately 7.80m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Head Deposits (BGS 2006).

Historical Background

The village of Alfriston has late Saxon origins, and is first mentioned in Domesday Book (1086) as *Alvricestone*, which probably means 'farmstead or village of a man called Aelfric' (Mills 1993). The parish church, dedicated to St Andrew, has elements dating from the 14th century, although there have been various later additions and alterations. Alfriston developed close to the River Cuckmere, and River Lane runs around the eastern part of the village from the High Street.

A recent search of the East Sussex Historic Environment Record indicates that many of the buildings within the village are Listed, especially those fronting the High Street to the west of the present site. Interestingly, Farthings is not a Listed Building, despite the fact that it may date from the 17th century.

A range of maps was studied at East Sussex Record Office in order to ascertain the site's history. The earliest available map to show the area in detail was the 1842 tithe map for the parish of Alfriston (Fig. 3). There is a building shown in the position of the present house at the northern end of Plot 53, and the boundary wall which was recorded appears to be present on the eastern side of a narrow alley. Plot 53 is described in the tithe apportionment as 'house, garden, barn and yard', and it is possible that the existing house was the barn referred to, at the northern end of a sub-rectangular yard. The plot is actually quite large in size and includes a large open area which runs up to the river to the east. To the west of the present site, plot 54 is described as '4 houses and garden', whilst plot 55 is simply referred to as a 'chapel'.

The First Edition Ordnance Survey of the village was produced in the 1870s (Fig. 4). Whilst Farthings is shown much as it is on the tithe map, the boundary to the south of it appears to have moved southwards slightly, and the building no longer seems to be connected directly to the sub-rectangular yard, which now appears to be a garden area with an ornamental path. The western part of this path runs close to the present eastern boundary wall. Some of the other buildings shown on plot 53 on the 1842 tithe map appear to have been demolished by the 1870s.

Very little appears to have happened to the site by the time the Second Edition Ordnance Survey was published in 1899 (Fig. 5). The garden path shown on the 1870s map is not shown, although this is merely due to the fact that the Second Edition maps generally did not show as much detail as the First Editions. In the wider area, further buildings depicted on plot 53 on the 1842 tithe map appear to have been demolished between 1870 and 1899.

No changes are visible on the 1909 edition of the Ordnance Survey (not illustrated), but the 1928 map (Fig. 6) shows new boundary walls to the east and south of Farthings. It is believed that the property may have

become a residential dwelling at around this time, so the small square area to the south of the house may represent a garden. Unfortunately large scale Ordnance Survey maps were available at the East Sussex Records Office for the period after 1928. The modern Ordnance Survey (Fig. 2) indicates that Farthings was extended sometime after 1928, and the present eastern wall of the garden built, possibly incorporating the wall which was first shown on the 1928 Ordnance Survey.

The map regression indicates that the wall recorded during this project is situated on a property boundary which dates back to at least 1842. The same can be said of the narrow alley immediately west of the wall.

Methodology

The survey was carried out in accordance with guidelines set out by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments (RCHM(E) 1996) for a level 3 record. The survey comprised a fully analytical record of the wall's development, a comprehensive photographic survey, paying attention to the methods of construction, chronological development and alterations, and features of special interest. The wall has been recorded photographically using digital media which is catalogued (Appendix 1).

Description

The section of wall which was to be rebuilt measured 16m in length, and was located in the south-west part of the site, about 13m south of the house. Although the eastern face of the wall was easily visible from the garden, it was difficult to record the western elevation clearly due to the narrowness of the alley which separates Farthings from the properties to the west. As a result the survey mainly concentrated on the eastern elevation of the wall, although several angled photographs were taken of the other side.

The wall is generally 1.6m high along its entire length, when measured from the eastern side, and about 0.28m wide. It rises slightly towards the north due to the gentle slope of the rear garden, and it seems likely that the lower courses of the wall may have been obscured by a build up of soil of the years.

The earliest section of the recorded wall is at its southern end, measuring approximately 12.40m. This part of wall is constructed from flints laid in a herringbone pattern, although there are a few random bricks present. The flints are relatively uniform in size (c. 80mm x 150mm), and set within a grey lime mortar with shingle inclusions. A number of cracks are visible in this section of the wall, including two major ones at the southern end. Up to fifteen courses of flint were visible, although it is likely that further courses have been obscured by a build up of soil against the wall.

The northern part of the recorded wall is clearly a later rebuild as the coursing is more random in nature, and there are more bricks present. This style of 'bungaroosh' construction is common in East Sussex, especially in the Brighton area. In contrast to the earlier section of wall to the south, no clear coursing is visible in this part of the wall's construction. Numerous patches of grey sandy mortar were visible along the eastern elevation, obscuring the original wall, and these are obviously later repairs.

The upper section of the southern part of the wall appears to have been repaired or re-pointed with a greyish sandy mortar which contained occasional shingle inclusions. The flintwork still appeared to follow the herringbone pattern seen in the original wall. A further repair was visible along the top of the entire wall, consisting of concrete or cement with frequent shingle inclusions. The flints in this later repair were laid in a random manner.

Apart from the uppermost repair, none of the phasing mentioned above is clearly visible in the western facing elevation of the wall. It is therefore possible that previous repairs were carried out independently on either side of the wall, possibly due to issues relating to property ownership.

Conclusion

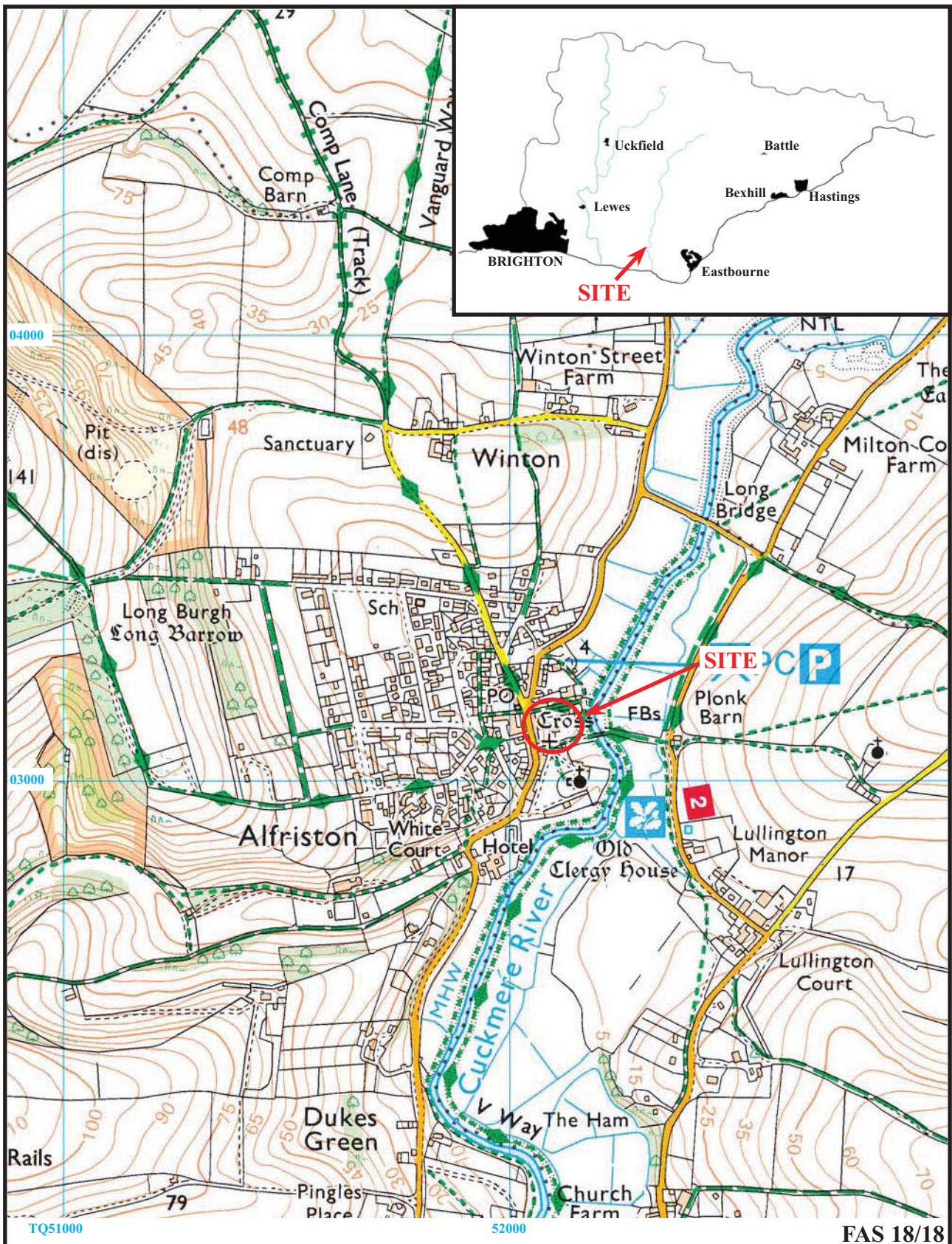
A 16m long section of garden wall, which was to be demolished and replaced, was recorded during the building survey. The wall runs along a property boundary which dates from at least 1842, although it is difficult to determine the actual date of the wall, as the style of construction used has been prominent in Sussex for centuries. The earliest part of the wall was constructed from flints laid in a herringbone pattern, whilst the northern part of the wall is clearly later, and is constructed from 'bungaroosh'. The upper sections of the wall have been subject to much later repairs.

References

- BGS, 2006, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet **319/334**, Bedrock and Superficial Deposits Edition, Keyworth.
- Mills, A D, 1993, *English Place-names*, Oxford.
- NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- RCHME, 1996, *Recording Historic Buildings: a descriptive specification*, 3rd edn, Roy Comm Hist Monuments (England), London

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Catalogue

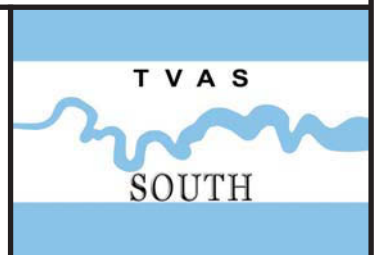
Cat. No.	Location	Direction	Description
1	External	NNW	General view of garden. [Pl. 1]
2	External	NNW	General view of garden.
3	External	SSW	General view of garden. [Pl. 2]
4	External	NNE	General view of alley. [Pl. 3]
5	External	SSE	General view of alley. [Pl. 4]
6	External	NNE	General view of wall. [Pl. 5]
7	External	NNE	General view of wall.
8	External	NNE	General view of wall.
9	External	SSE	General view of wall.
10	External	WW	General view of wall. [Pl. 6]
11	External	W	General view of wall.
12	External	W	General view of wall.
13	External	W	General view of wall. [Pl. 7]
14	External	W	Close up of wall section (0-2m).
15	External	W	Close up of wall section (2-4m).
16	External	W	Close up of wall section (4-6m).
17	External	W	Close up of wall section (6-8m).
18	External	W	Close up of wall section (8-10m).
19	External	W	Close up of wall section (10-12m). [Pl. 8]
20	External	W	Close up of wall section (12-14m).
21	External	W	Close up of wall section (14-16m).

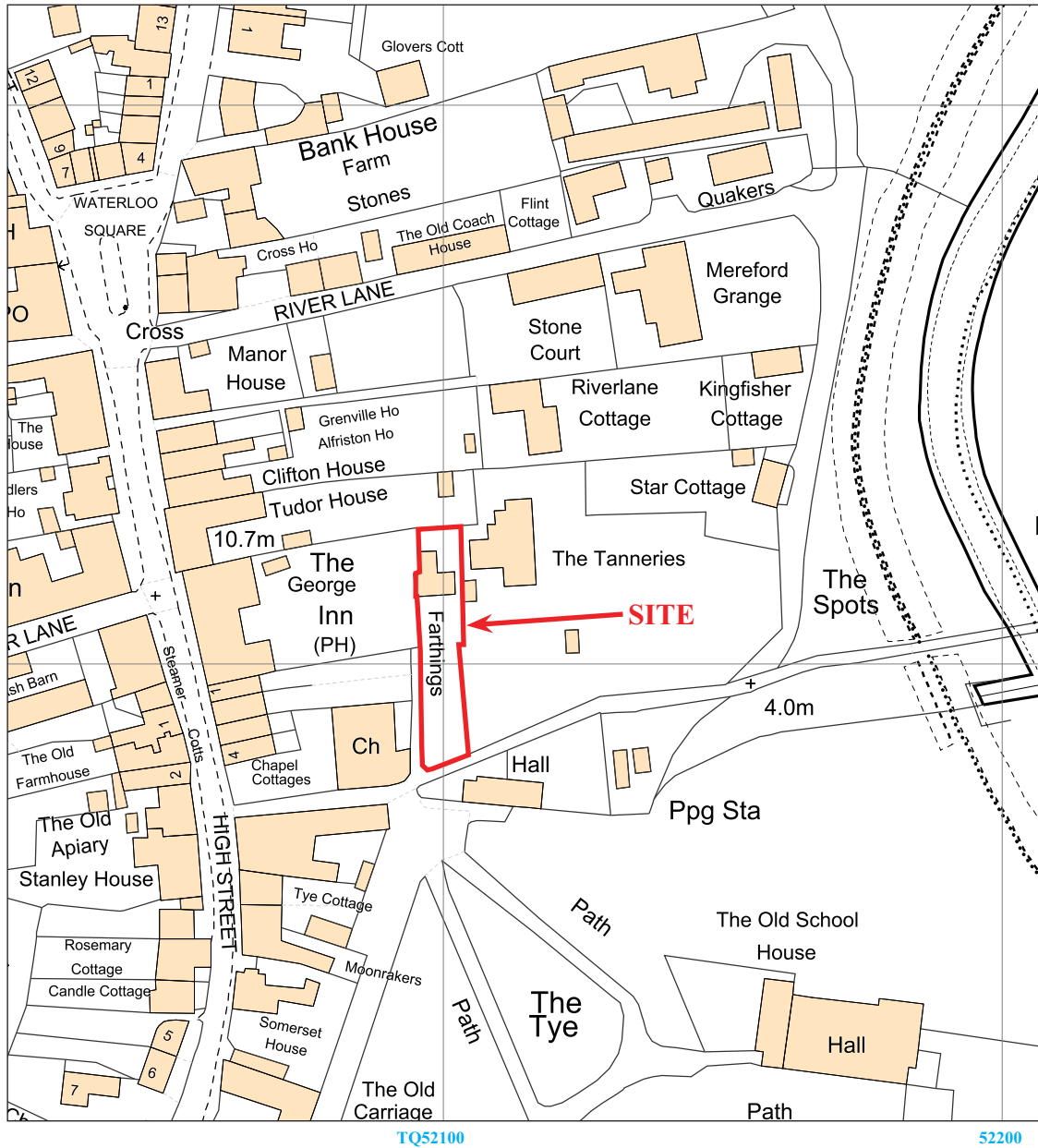


**Farthings, River Lane, Alfriston,
East Sussex, 2018
Building Recording**

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

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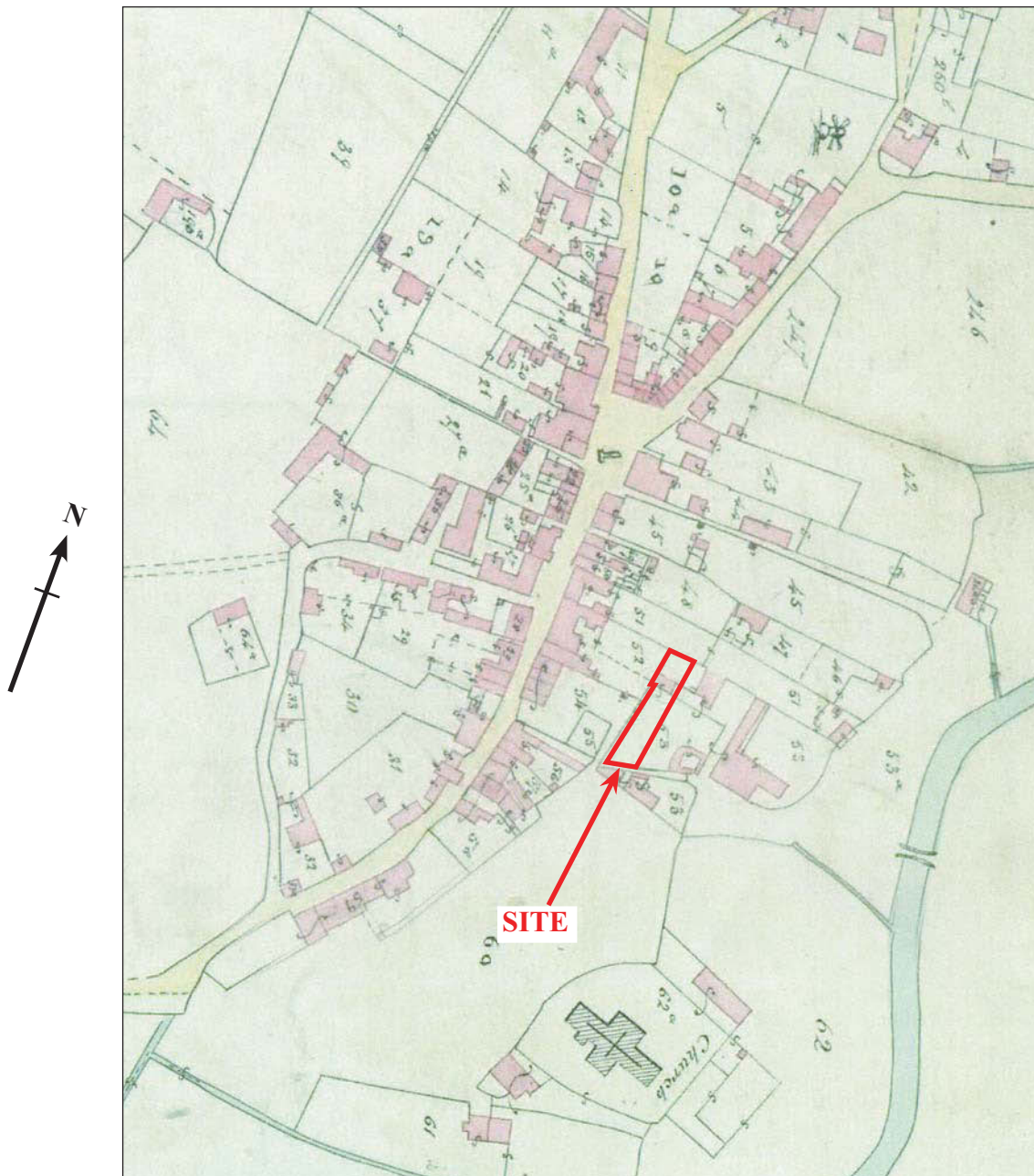
FAS 18/18

**Farthings, River Lane, Alfriston,
East Sussex, 2018
Building Recording**

Figure 2. Detailed site location.

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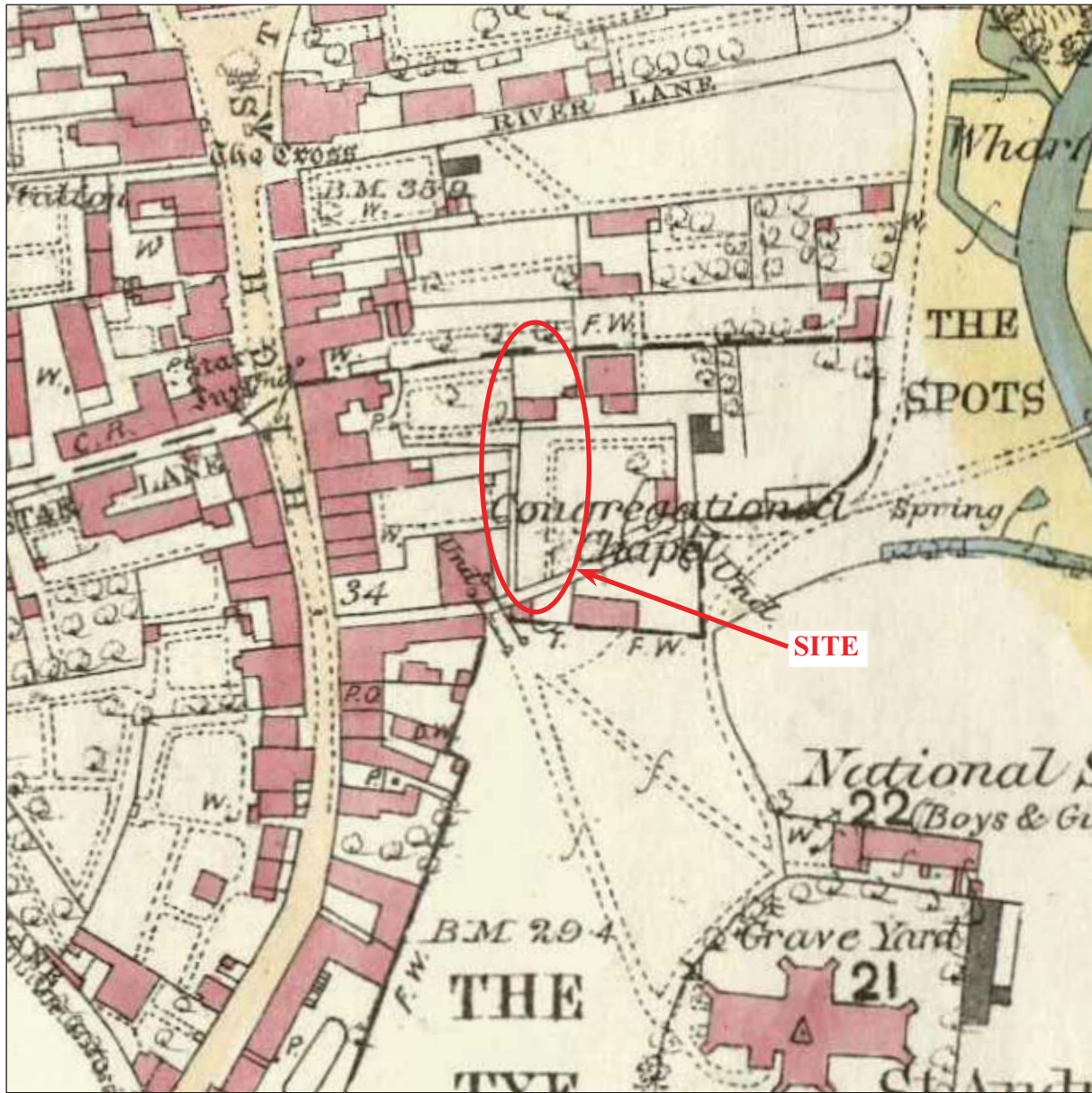


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**Farthings, River Lane, Alfriston,
East Sussex, 2018
Building Recording**

Figure 3. Alfriston parish tithe map 1842.





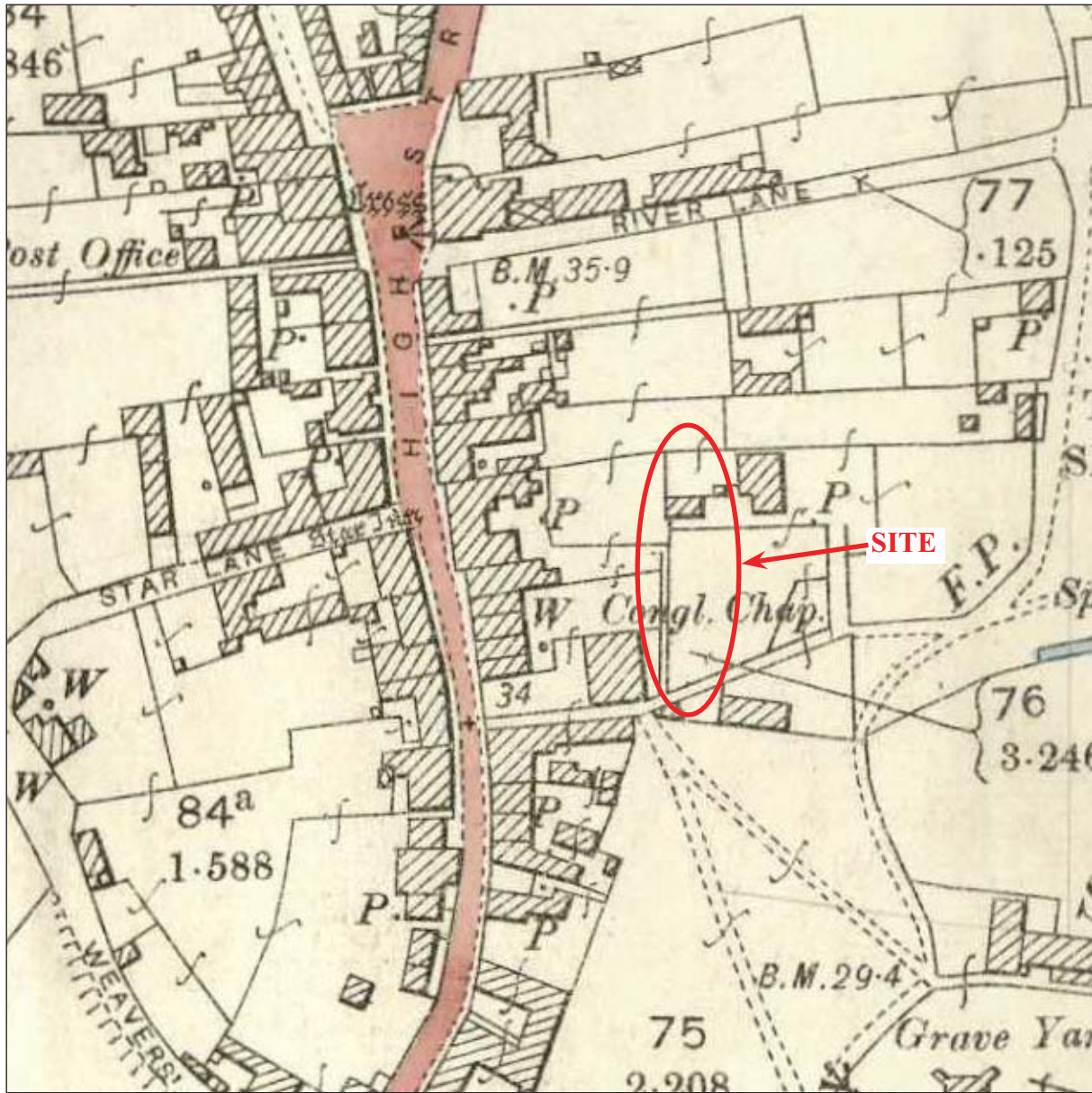
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Farthings, River Lane, Alfriston,
East Sussex, 2018
Building Recording

Figure 4. First Edition Ordnance Survey 1870s.





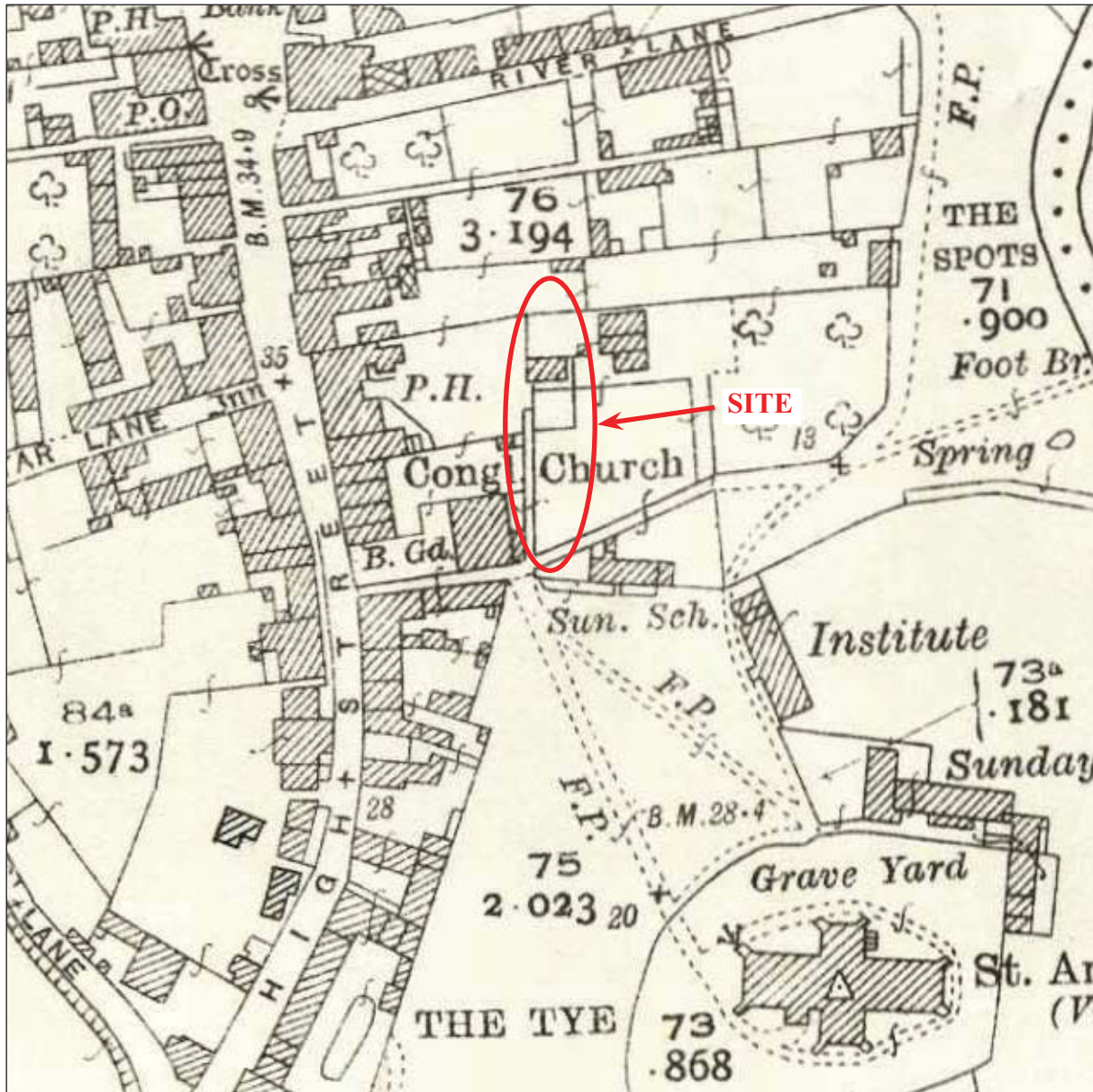
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Farthings, River Lane, Alfriston,
East Sussex, 2018
Building Recording

Figure 4. Second Edition Ordnance Survey 1899.



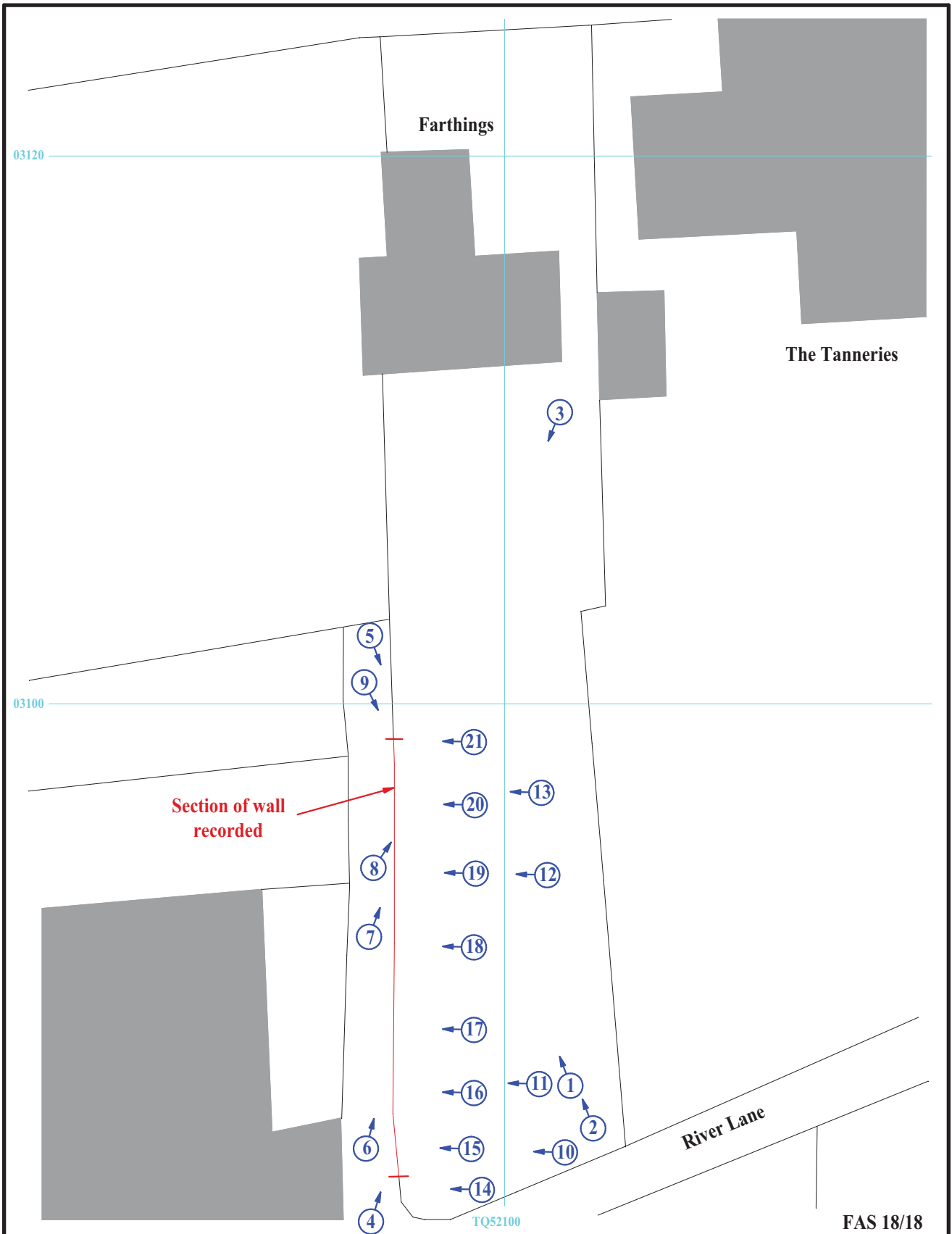


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Figure 6. Ordnance Survey 1928.





**Farthings, River Lane,
Alfriston, East Sussex, 2018
Building Recording**

Figure 7. Detailed plan of site showing wall recorded and photographs taken.

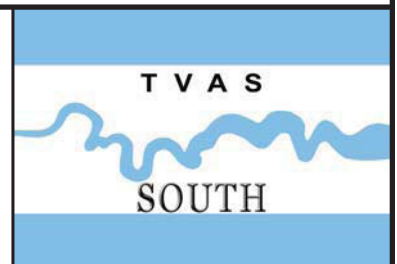




Plate 1. General view of site, looking North North-east.



Plate 2. General view of site, looking South South-west.



Plate 3. West side of wall, looking North North-east.



Plate 4. West side of wall, looking South South-east.



Plate 5. West side of wall, looking North North-east.



Plate 6. East side of wall, looking West.
Scale: 1m.

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**Farthings, River Lane,
Alfriston, East Sussex, 2018
Building Recording
Plates 1 to 6.**

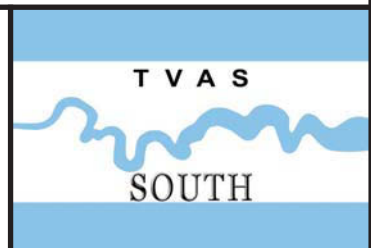




Plate 7. East side of wall showing later 'bungaroosh' construction, looking West. Scale: 1m.



Plate 8. Close up of east side of wall, looking West. Scales: 2m and 1m.

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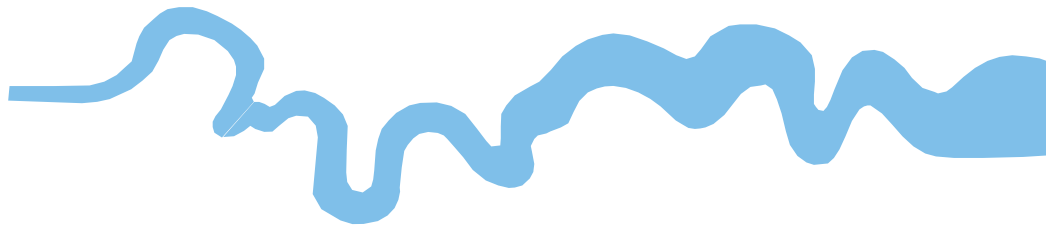
**Farthings, River Lane,
Alfrsiton, East Sussex, 2018**
Building Recording
Plates 7 to 8.



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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