

**T V A S**



**SOUTH**

**Land at Bolney Road,  
Ansty, West Sussex**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Sean Wallis**

**Site Code: BRA 19/38**

**(TQ 2900 2318)**

# **Land at Bolney Road, Ansty, West Sussex**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Sigma Homes Ltd**

By Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code  
BRA 19/38

**June 2019**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land at Bolney Road, Ansty, West Sussex

**Grid reference:** TQ 2900 2318

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 3rd - 4th June 2019

**Project manager:** Sean Wallis

**Site supervisor:** Sean Wallis

**Site code:** BRA 19/38

**Area of site:** c. c. 0.81 ha

**Summary of results:** The Archaeological evaluation at Bolney Road, Ansty successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the proposed development of the site. Despite the fact that the site does not appear to have been disturbed in the past, no archaeological finds or features were recorded during the project. The archaeological potential of the site is therefore regarded as being low.

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

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 10.06.19
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Steve Preston✓ 10.06.19
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# Land at Bolney Road, Ansty, West Sussex An Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

**Report 19/38**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out to the south of Bolney Road, Ansty, West Sussex (TQ 2900 2318) (Figs. 1 and 2). The work was commissioned by Mr Adam Light of Sigma Homes Ltd, 44-46 Springfield Road, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 2PD.

Outline planning permission (DM/16/2347) has been granted by Mid Sussex District Council to redevelop the site for residential housing. The consent is subject to a standard condition (9) relating to archaeology and the historic environment, which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work prior to the commencement of groundworks.

As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by the development, it was proposed to carry out a field evaluation in order to better inform the planning process.

This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* as revised in 2019 (NPPF 2019), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by the Local Planning Authority following consultation with the Surrey County Council Archaeological Officer who advises the District Council on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by Sean Wallis on the 3rd and 4th of June 2019, and the site code is BRA 19/38. The archive is presently held at TVAS South, Brighton, and will be deposited with a suitable depository in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located to the south of Bolney Road, just west of the main core of Ansty village, and is centred on NGR TQ 2900 2318 (Figs 1 and 2). The site consists of an irregular shaped field which is bounded to the east by residential properties, along with part of the adjacent field. A hedgerow incorporating some mature trees forms the boundary between the two fields. Although the ground drops quite steeply down to the main road beyond the northern boundary, the site itself is relatively flat, and lies at a height of approximately 78m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of the Tunbridge Wells

Sand Formation (BGS 1972), and this was confirmed in all the evaluation trenches as a light brownish yellow clay with varying amounts of sandstone and ironstone inclusions.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been considered in a recent desk-based assessment (Mayo 2016). In summary, the site is located in the Weald which is thought to have been heavily wooded until the post-medieval period. Until recently, very little prehistoric activity had been recorded in the Weald, although finds of flintwork suggested that the area had been utilised by Mesolithic hunter-gatherers. However, this paucity of evidence may be due to the fact that relatively little archaeological fieldwork has been carried out in the Weald. Indeed, settlement evidence from the Bronze Age and Iron Age periods has been recorded during recent excavations in Burgess Hill and Broadbridge Heath, respectively (Wallis 2012; Taylor 2016). The Weald was utilised for iron production during the Iron Age, Roman, Saxon, medieval and early post-medieval periods, and numerous features survive from this industry, some of the most obvious being mill ponds which were used to power the foundries. Very little from the Roman or Saxon periods has been recorded close to the site, although a Roman cremation burial was found "in the high road at Highbridge Hill" near Ansty. The site is situated immediately south-west of Ancient Farm, which has been identified as a historic farmstead, probably dating from the medieval period. The present farmhouse is a Listed Building, and is believed to date from at least the 17th century. Historic maps indicate that the site has been used for agricultural purposes from the late 18th century onwards.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of the proposed development.

Specific aims of the project were;

- To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site.

- To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

- To determine if archaeological deposits from the medieval period are present.

- To determine if archaeological deposits from the post-medieval period are present.

Thirteen trenches were to be dug, each measuring 20m in length and 2.00m in width. The trenches were positioned to target those parts of the site which would be most affected by the new buildings. The trenches were

to be dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

## **Results**

The majority of trenches were dug close to their original planned positions, although several had to be moved due to the presence of an overhead power line (Fig. 3). The western boundary of the development site actually lies within the adjacent field, and the hedges and most of the trees will eventually be removed to facilitate this. However, it was decided to move the position of trench 10 to avoid the hedges and trees during the evaluation phase. The trenches measured between 19.60m and 21.60m in length, between 2.00m and 2.40m in width, and between 0.40m and 0.55m in depth. A complete list of the trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

### Trench 1 (Fig. 4; Pl. 1)

This trench was orientated approximately WSW-ENE, and was 21.10m long and up to 0.53m deep. The natural geology was encountered beneath 0.32m of topsoil (50) and 0.16m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

### Trench 2

This trench was orientated approximately SW-NE, and was 21.60m long and up to 0.49m deep. The natural geology was encountered beneath 0.29m of topsoil (50) and 0.15m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

### Trench 3 (Fig. 4)

This trench was orientated approximately WSW-ENE, and was 20.30m long and up to 0.54m deep. The natural geology was encountered beneath 0.32m of topsoil (50) and 0.16m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

### Trench 4

This trench was orientated approximately W-E, and was 20.70m long and up to 0.50m deep. The natural geology was encountered beneath 0.28m of topsoil (50) and 0.16m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

### Trench 5 (Pl. 2)

This trench was orientated approximately S-N, and was 20.60m long and up to 0.43m deep. The natural geology was encountered beneath 0.26m of topsoil (50) and 0.11m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

#### Trench 6

This trench was orientated approximately SW-NE, and was 21.10m long and up to 0.40m deep. It had to be moved from its original intended position due to the presence of an overhead power line. The natural geology was encountered beneath 0.21m of topsoil (50) and 0.11m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

#### Trench 7 (Fig. 4)

This trench was orientated approximately SW-NE, and was 21.30m long and up to 0.43m deep. The natural geology was encountered beneath 0.28m of topsoil (50) and 0.11m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

#### Trench 8

This trench was orientated approximately SE-NW, and was 19.60m long and up to 0.46m deep. The natural geology was encountered beneath 0.26m of topsoil (50) and 0.14m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

#### Trench 9 (Pl. 3)

This trench was orientated approximately W-E, and was 20.30m long and up to 0.42m deep. The natural geology was encountered beneath 0.27m of topsoil (50) and 0.09m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

#### Trench 10

This trench was orientated approximately SE-NW, and was 20.30m long and up to 0.55m deep. It was shifted from its original intended position to avoid digging through the present field boundary, which is lined with vegetation. The natural geology was encountered beneath 0.31m of topsoil (50) and 0.15m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

#### Trench 11 (Pl. 4)

This trench was orientated approximately SW-NE, and was 20.70m long and up to 0.43m deep. The natural geology was encountered beneath 0.26m of topsoil (50) and 0.10m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

#### Trench 12

This trench was orientated approximately SW-NE, and was 21.00m long and up to 0.49m deep. The natural geology was encountered beneath 0.30m of topsoil (50) and 0.11m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

### Trench 13 (Fig. 4)

This trench was orientated approximately S-N, and was 20.00m long and up to 0.46m deep. The natural geology was encountered beneath 0.31m of topsoil (50) and 0.11m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

### **Finds**

No archaeological finds were recovered during the evaluation.

### **Conclusion**

The Archaeological evaluation at Bolney Road, Ansty successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the proposed development of the site. Despite the fact that the site does not appear to have been disturbed in the past, no archaeological finds or features were recorded during the project. The archaeological potential of the site is therefore regarded as being low.

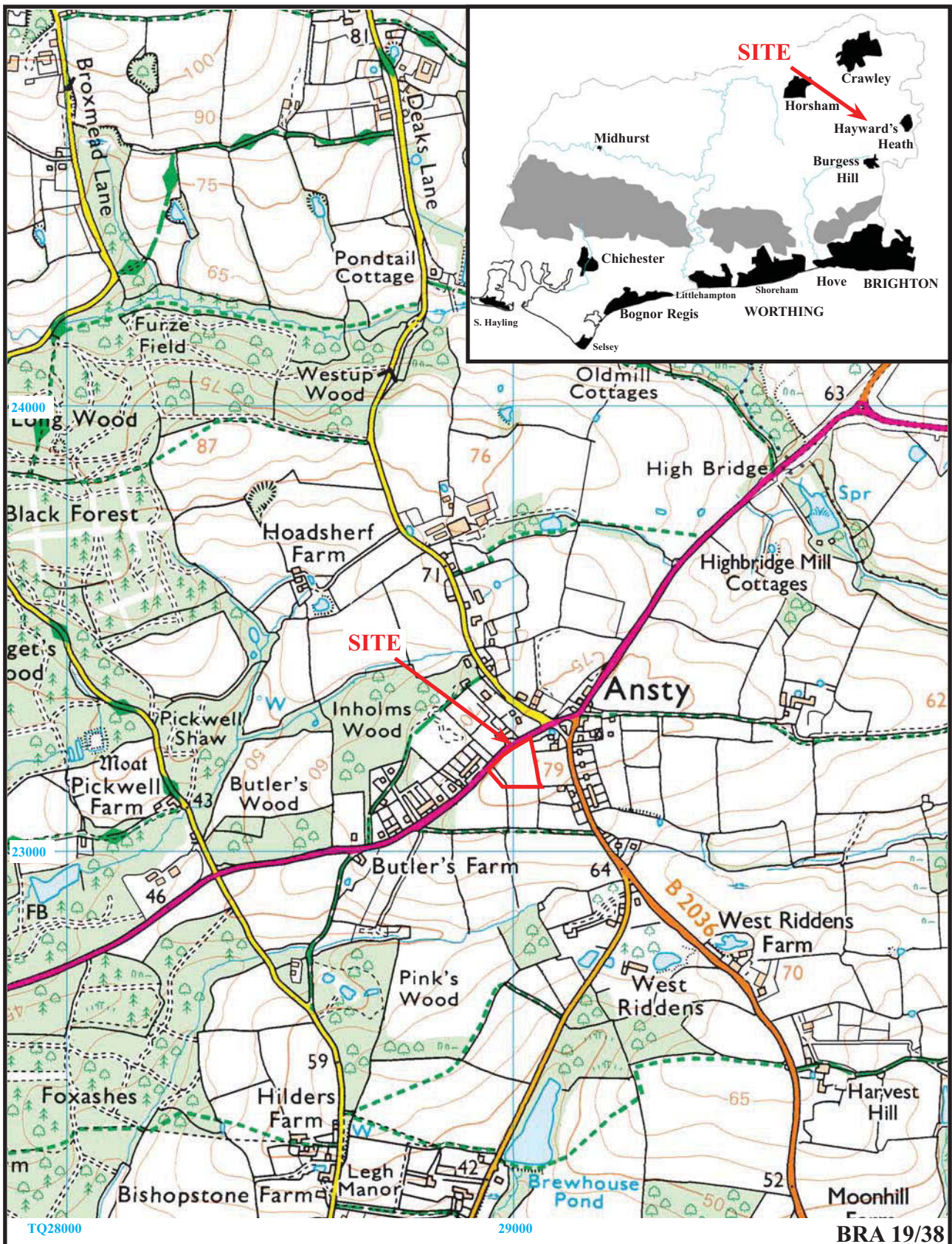
### **References**

- BGS, 1972, *British Geological Survey*, 1:63360, Sheet 302, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth.
- Mayo, L, 'Land at Bolney Road, Ansty, Cuckfield, West Sussex : an archaeological desk-based assessment', CgMs unpublished report **LM/21708**, London.
- NPPF, 2018, *National Planning Policy Framework* (revised), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London.
- Taylor, A, 2016, 'Land north of Old Guildford Road, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, West Sussex - an archaeological excavation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpublished report **12/173d**, Brighton.
- Wallis, S, 2012, 'Middle/Later Bronze Age Occupation at Manor Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex', Thames Valley Archaeological Services Occ Pap **9**, Reading.



**APPENDIX 1: Trench details**

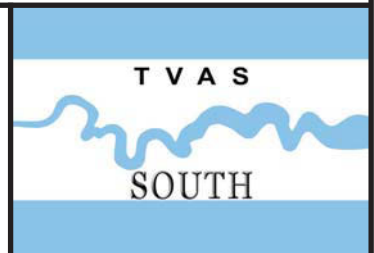
Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	21.10	2.00	0.53	0-0.32m topsoil (50); 0.32-0.48m subsoil (51); 0.48-0.53m+ natural geology (light brownish yellow clay). <b>[Pl. 1]</b>
2	21.60	2.40	0.49	0-0.29m topsoil (50); 0.29-0.44m subsoil (51); 0.44-0.49m+ natural geology (light brownish yellow clay).
3	20.30	2.00	0.54	0-0.32m topsoil (50); 0.32-0.48m subsoil (51); 0.48-0.54m+ natural geology (light brownish yellow clay). <b>[Pl. 2]</b>
4	20.70	2.00	0.50	0-0.28m topsoil (50); 0.28-0.44m subsoil (51); 0.44-0.50m+ natural geology (light brownish yellow clay).
5	20.60	2.30	0.43	0-0.26m topsoil (50); 0.26-0.37m subsoil (51); 0.37-0.43m+ natural geology (light brownish yellow clay).
6	21.10	2.00	0.40	0-0.21m topsoil (50); 0.21-0.32m subsoil (51); 0.32-0.40m+ natural geology (light brownish yellow clay).
7	21.30	2.30	0.43	0-0.28m topsoil (50); 0.28-0.39m subsoil (51); 0.39-0.43m+ natural geology (light brownish yellow clay). <b>[Pl. 3]</b>
8	19.60	2.10	0.46	0-0.26m topsoil (50); 0.26-0.40m subsoil (51); 0.40-0.46m+ natural geology (light brownish yellow clay).
9	20.30	2.10	0.42	0-0.27m topsoil (50); 0.27-0.36m subsoil (51); 0.36-0.42m+ natural geology (light brownish yellow clay).
10	20.30	2.10	0.55	0-0.31m topsoil (50); 0.31-0.46m subsoil (51); 0.46-0.55m+ natural geology (light brownish yellow clay).
11	20.70	2.20	0.43	0-0.26m topsoil (50); 0.26-0.36m subsoil (51); 0.36-0.43m+ natural geology (light brownish yellow clay).
12	21.00	2.10	0.49	0-0.30m topsoil (50); 0.30-0.41m subsoil (51); 0.41-0.49m+ natural geology (light brownish yellow clay).
13	20.00	2.20	0.46	0-0.31m topsoil (50); 0.31-0.42m subsoil (51); 0.42-0.46m+ natural geology (light brownish yellow clay). <b>[Pl. 4]</b>

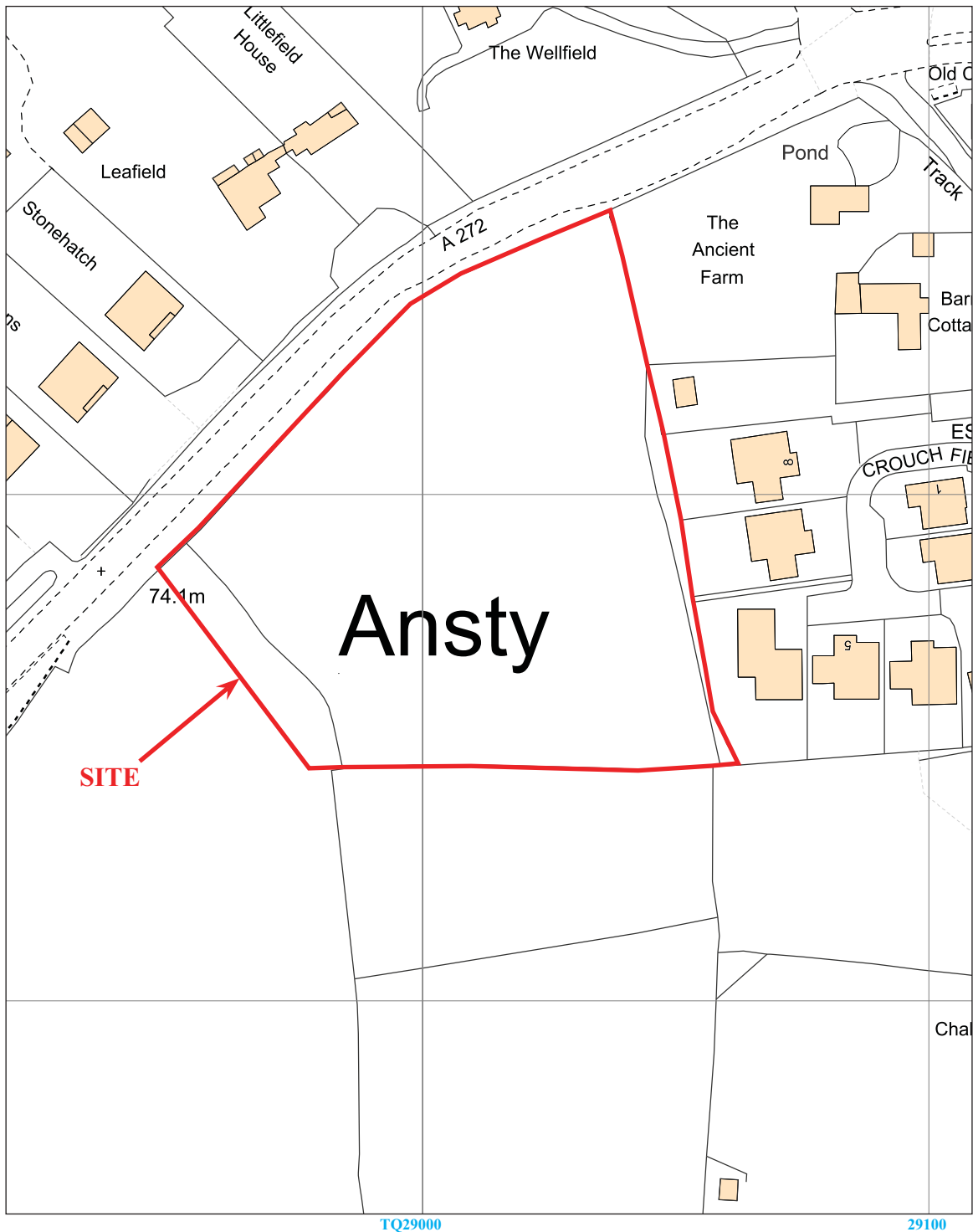


**Land at Bolney Road, Ansty,  
West Sussex, 2019  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Ansty and West Sussex.

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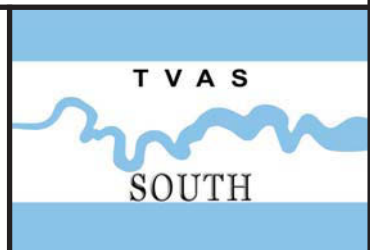


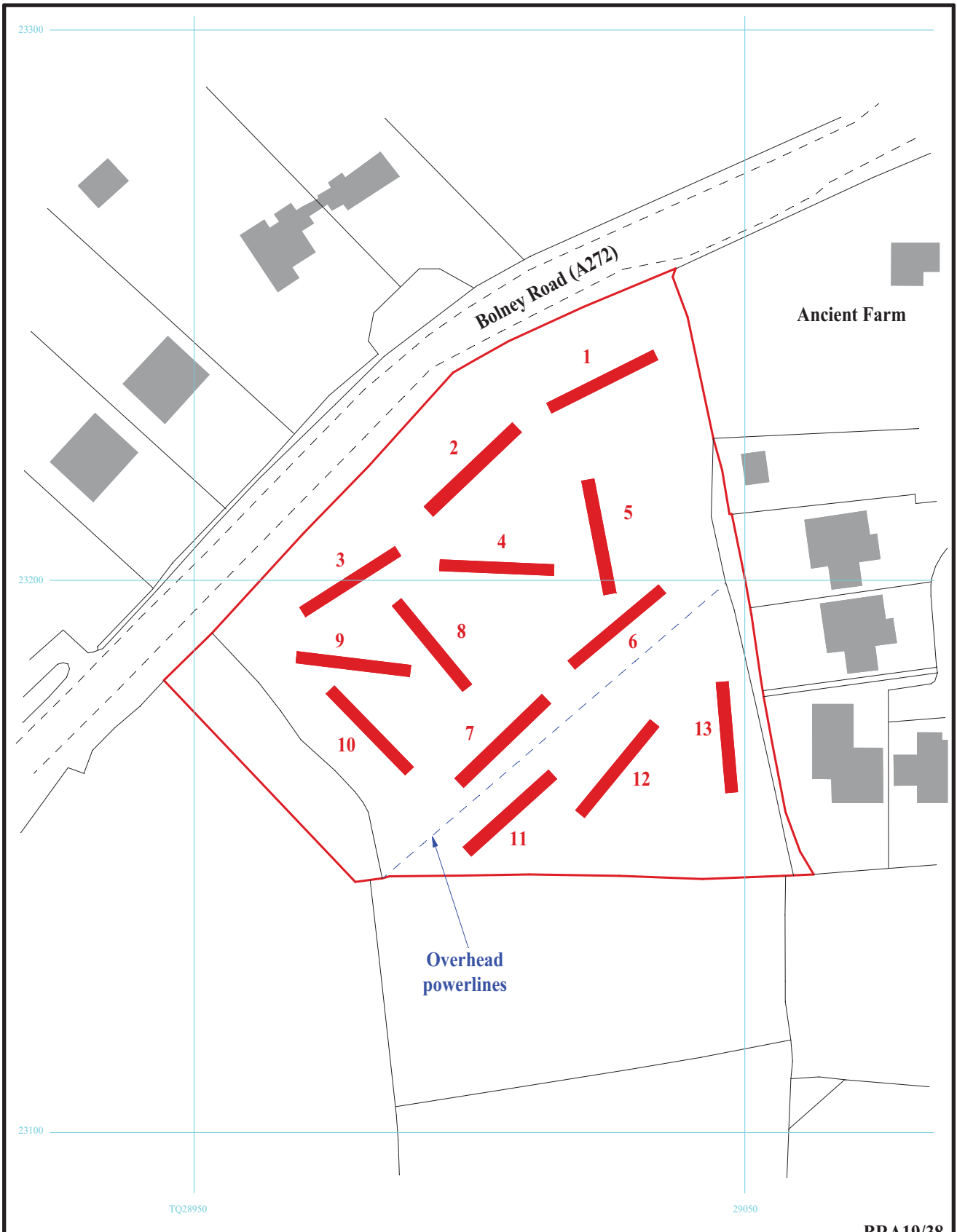
BRA 19/38



**Land at Bolney Road, Ansty,  
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Figure 2. Detailed site location.

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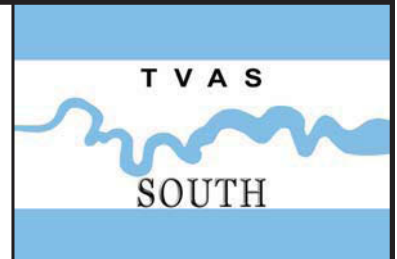


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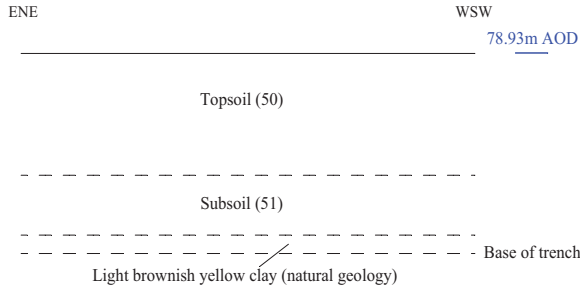
**Land at Bolney Road, Ansty,  
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Figure 3. Detailed location of site showing excavated trenches.

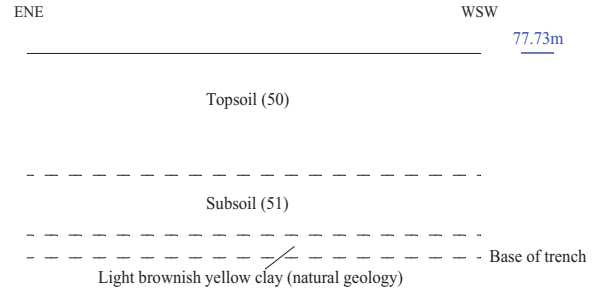




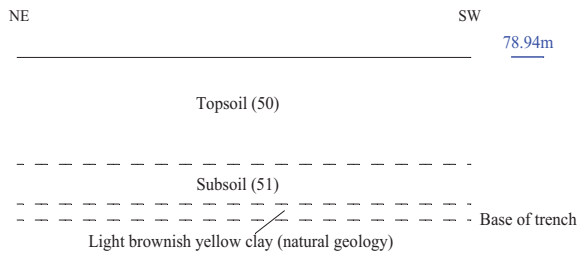
*Trench 1*



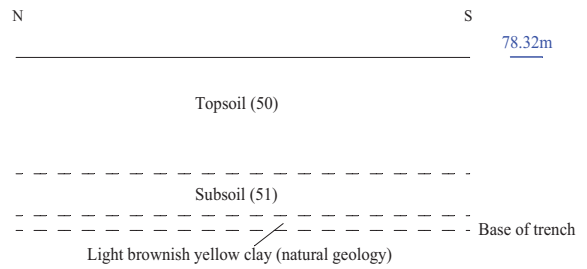
*Trench 3*



*Trench 7*



*Trench 13*



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Figure 4. Representative sections.

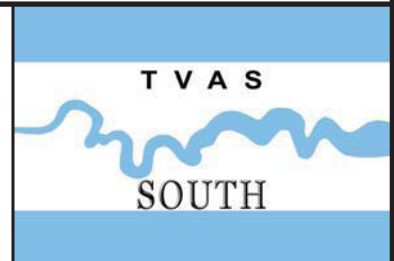




Plate 1. Trench 1, looking North-east.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 2. Trench 5, looking South.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



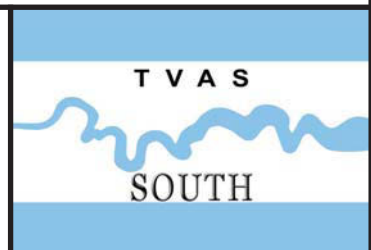
Plate 3. Trench 9, looking East.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 4. Trench 11, looking North-east.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.

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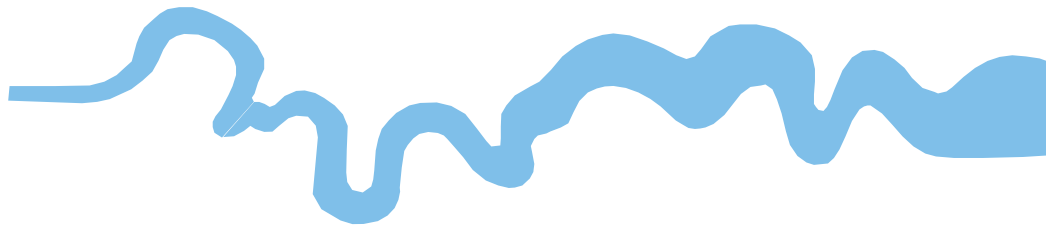
**Land at Bolney Road, Ansty,  
West Sussex, 2019  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 1 to 4.**



## 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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