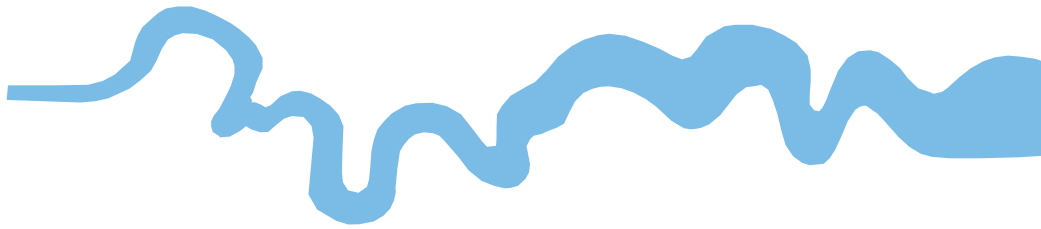


T V A S



SOUTH

**Wisteria Cottage, New England Lane,
Playden, Rye, East Sussex**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Odile Rouard

Site Code: WCP19/84

(TQ 9221 2152)

**Wisteria Cottage, New England Lane,
Playden, Rye, East Sussex**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr Terry Crick

Planning Reference: RR/2016/640/P

by Odile Rouard

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WCP 19/84

July 2019

Summary

Site name: Wisteria Cottage, New England Lane, Playden, Rye, East Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 9221 2152

Planning reference: RR/2016/640/P

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 10th – 15th July 2019

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Odile Rouard

Site code: WCP 19/84

Area of site: 25 sq m observed (overall site 350 sq m)

Summary of results: The watching brief at Wisteria Cottage, New England Lane, Rye, successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by planned construction work. The area was located just below a hedge and showed some root disturbance. Modern disturbances were also recorded around the existing garage, which was not demolished and will be integrated within the new structure. No archaeological finds or features were recorded when the area was stripped down to the natural Wadhurst Clay geology.

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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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 26.07.19
	Steve Preston ✓ 24.07.19

Wisteria Cottage, New England Lane, Playden, Rye, East Sussex An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Odile Rouard

Report 19/84

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Wisteria Cottage, New England Lane, Playden, Rye, East Sussex (TQ 9221 2152) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by the property's owner, Mr Terry Crick.

Planning permission (RR/2016/640/P) has been granted by Rother District Council to construct a new garage on site. The consent is subject to a standard condition (3) relating to archaeology and the historic environment, which stipulated that an archaeological investigation be carried out during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District Council's policies on the historic environment. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by the local planning authority, following consultation with the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Odile Rouard and Sean Wallis between 10th and 15th July 2019, and the site code is WCP 19/84. The archive is currently 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 New England Lane, within the hamlet of Playden, just to the north of Rye in East Sussex (Fig. 1). The area to be developed is within the garden of Wisteria Cottage (Fig. 2) and currently occupied by a small garage that is to be retained within the new structure (Pl. 1). Playden occupies a ridge overlooking the river Rother just before the latter enters the coastal plain, and the site lies on a slope down east, towards the river, and has a height varying between approximately 43m and 45m above Ordnance Datum. The existing garage had been terraced into the slope. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Wadhurst Clay – Mudstone (BGS 1976), and this was confirmed during the watching brief.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its located within an Archaeological Notification Area relating to the historic settlement at Playden as recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. The development site occupies the probable site of a medieval chapel, recorded as ‘the old decayed chapel’ in 1567. Although its location is not closely recorded, it is likely that this may have stood in the vicinity of the existing cottage, due to the local topography. Archaeological excavations were carried out in the late 1970s, probably close to the existing garage, which produced finds of medieval and post-medieval dates but no evidence for a chapel. Two post-holes were recorded on the site, cut into the natural yellow clay. Due to the proximity of the chapel, it was also considered possible that human burials may be present on the site. However, none were recorded during the previous archaeological work. The Cottage itself is late 18th-century.

Objectives and methodology

The primary aim of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. Where archaeological deposits which may warrant preservation *in-situ* were encountered, their treatment was to be discussed in consultation with the client and the East 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.

All significant ground reduction was to be carried out using a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision.

Results

The groundworks were monitored between 10th and 15th of July, when an area of 25 sq m around the garage was stripped down to the natural geology (Fig. 3). The natural clay geology was revealed beneath 0.30m of topsoil (50) and 0.40m of subsoil (51) (Fig. 4). The site was located on the lower part of a bank sloping down from the south towards the north (Pl. 2). The hedge at the top of the bank caused significant root disturbance.

No archaeological features were exposed in the stripped area, and no finds were recovered. Once the area had been reduced down to the natural clay geology, further ground reduction was allowed to take place without an archaeological presence. (At the rear of the garage, this was 0.6m deep through the clay (Pl. 3)).

Finds

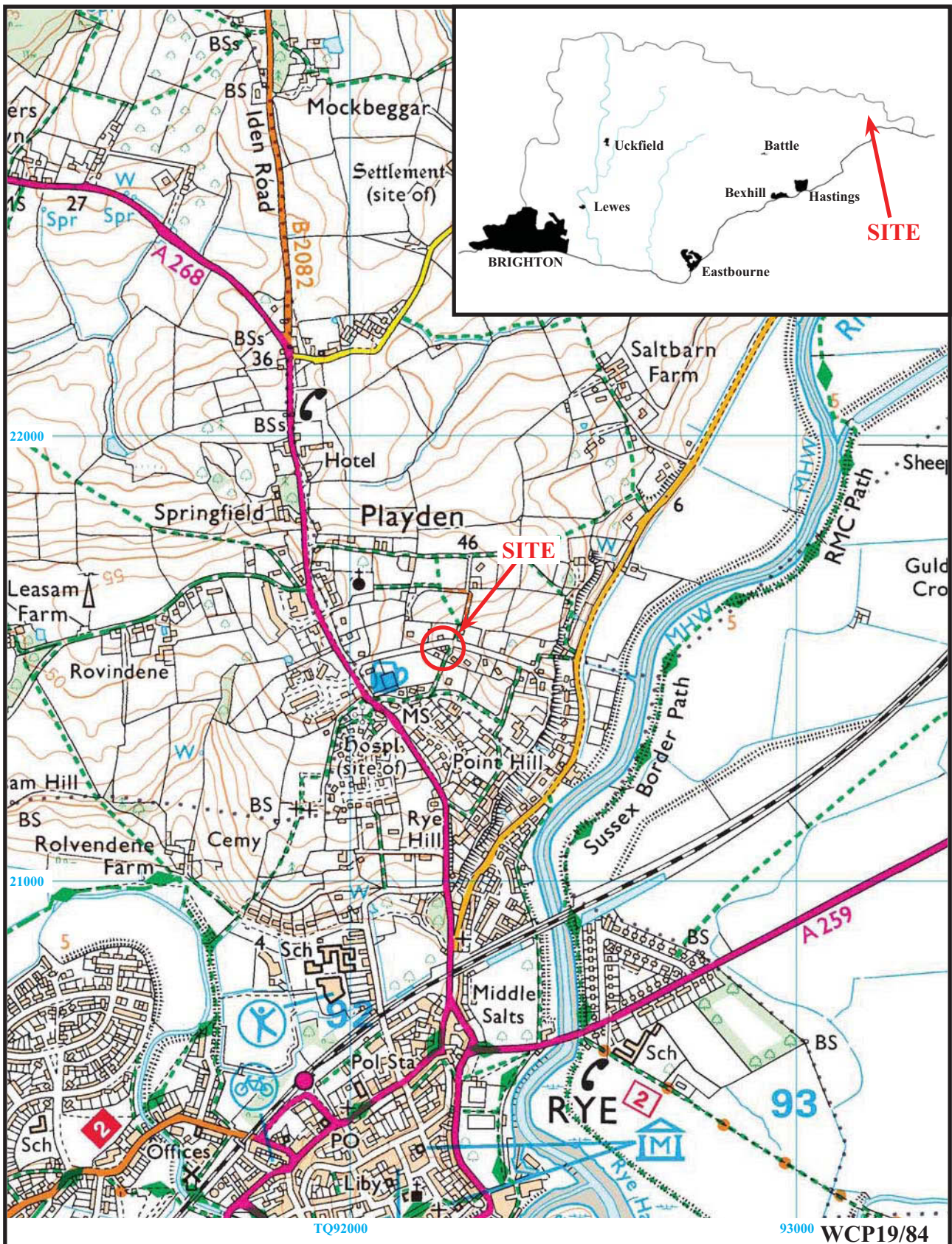
No archaeological finds were recovered during the watching brief.

Conclusion

The watching brief at Wisteria Cottage, New England Lane, Playden, Rye, successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by planned construction work. The area was located just below a hedge and showed some root disturbance. Modern disturbances were also recorded around the existing garage, which was not demolished and will be integrated within the new structure. No archaeological finds or features were recorded when the area was stripped down to expose the natural Wadhurst Clay geology.

References

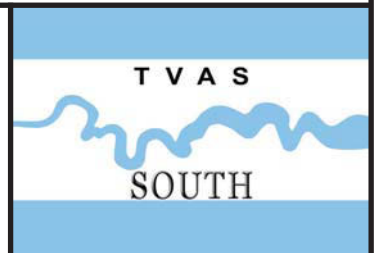
BGS, 1976, *British Geological Survey*, Sheet **318**, Solid and Drift Edition, 1:50000, Keyworth
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London

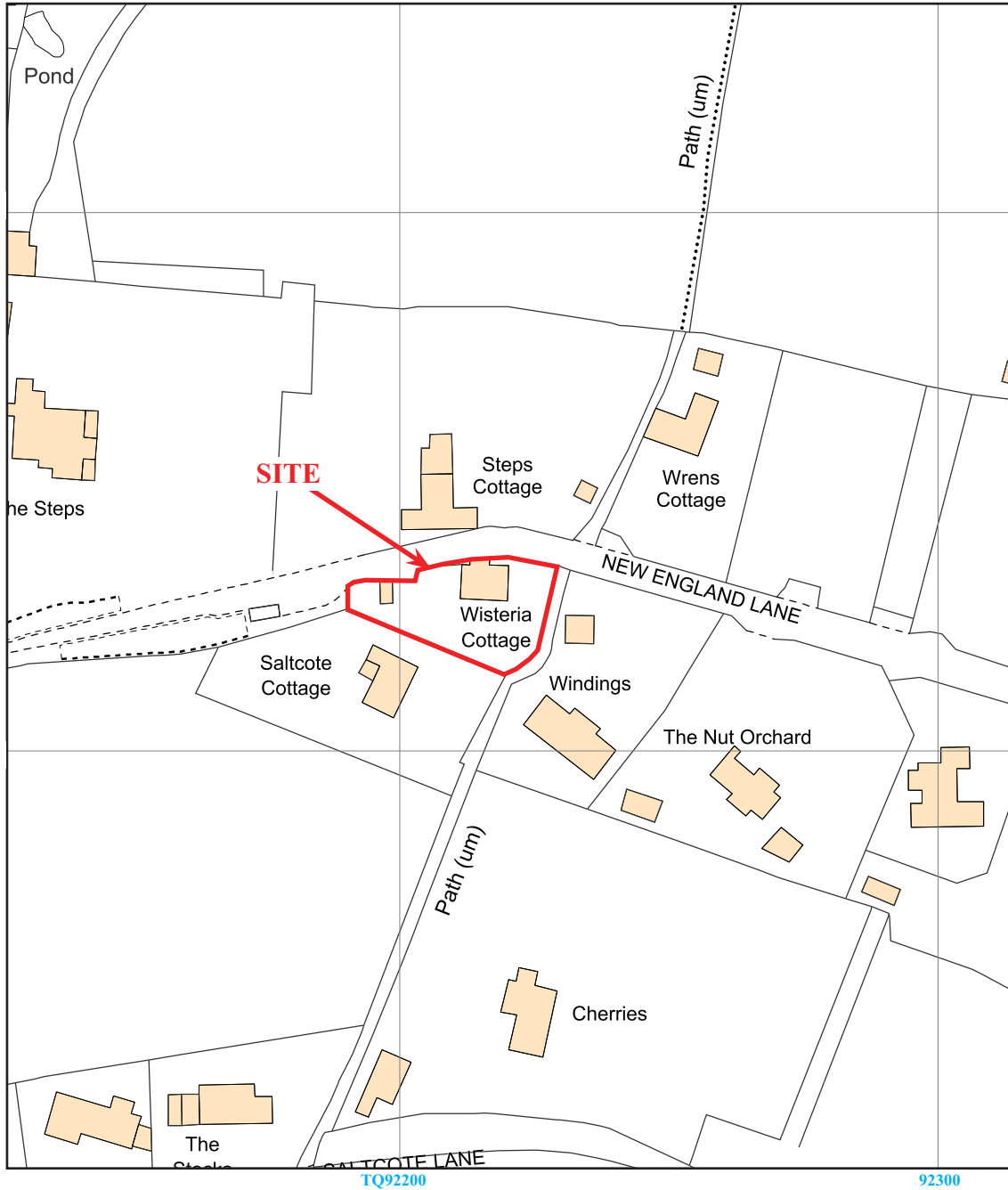


**Wisteria Cottage, New England Lane,
Playden, Rye, East Sussex, 2019
Archaeological Watching Brief**

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

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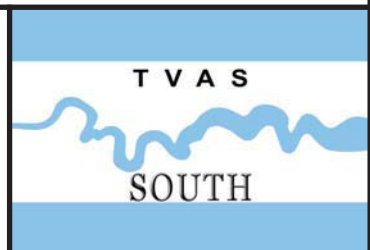
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**Wisteria Cottage, New England Lane, Playden, Rye,
East Sussex, 2019**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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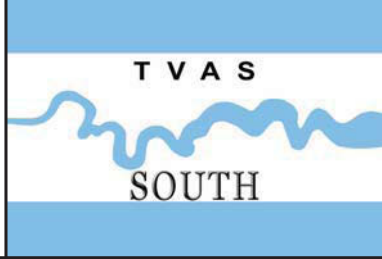


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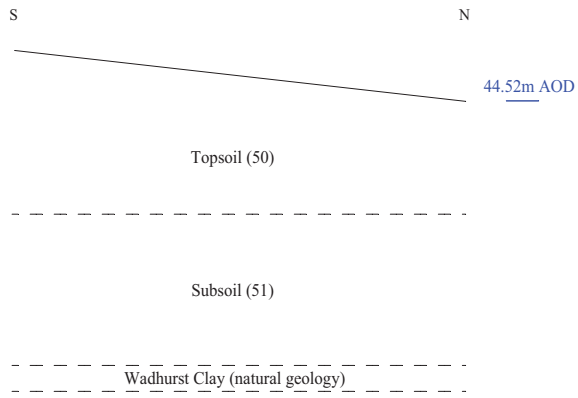


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East Sussex, 2019
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Site plan showing area monitored.



Western section



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**Wisteria Cottage, New England Lane, Playden, Rye,
East Sussex, 2019
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 4. Representative section.

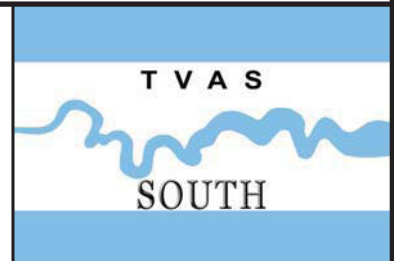




Plate 1. Site, showing existing structure, looking South-east.



Plate 2. Site, showing bank, looking West.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 3. Site, showing section through bank, looking East.
Scales: 2m and 1m.

WCP 19/84

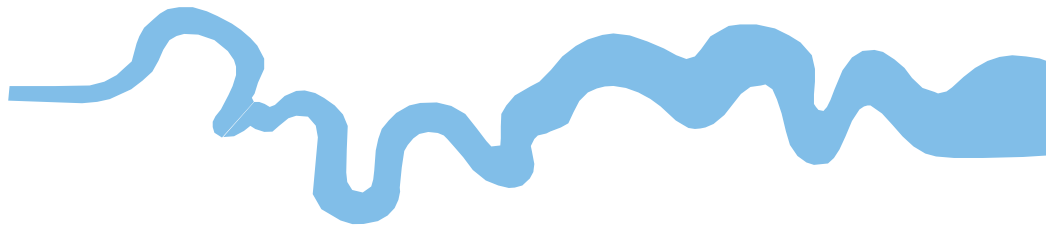
**Wisteria Cottage, New England Lane, Playden, Rye,
East Sussex, 2019
Archaeological Watching Brief
Plates 1 - 3.**



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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