

**T V A S**



**SOUTH**

**18 Church Street, Willingdon,  
East Sussex**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Sean Wallis**

**Site Code: CSW19/45**

**(TQ 5884 0240)**

**18 Church Street, Willingdon,  
East Sussex**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Mr Joe Hirst**

**Planning Reference : WD/2018/2049/F**

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CSW 18/45

**September 2019**

## Summary

**Site name:** 18 Church Street, Willingdon, East Sussex

**Grid reference:** TQ 5884 0240

**Planning reference:** WD/2018/2049/F

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 6th - 7th August 2019

**Project manager:** Sean Wallis

**Site supervisor:** Sean Wallis

**Site code:** CSW 18/45

**Summary of results:** The watching brief at 18 Church Street, Willingdon, successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of a new hardstanding. A small area was stripped down to the top of the natural geology by hand, but no archaeological finds or features were recorded. The area immediately to the north had been significantly disturbed in the past by flower beds and a hedge.

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

*This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 11.09.19 Steve Preston ✓ 11.09.19
---

# 18 Church Street, Willingdon, East Sussex An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Sean Wallis

Report 19/45

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 18 Church Street, Willingdon, East Sussex (TQ 5884 0240) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by the property's owner, Mr Joe Hirst.

Planning permission (WD/2018/2049/F) had been gained from Wealden District Council to construct a new hardstanding next to the existing garage. The consent is subject to standard planning conditions (1 and 2) relating to archaeology and the historic environment, which required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), 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 Sean Wallis between 6th and 7th August 2019, and the site code is CSW 19/45. The archive is currently held at TVAS South, Brighton, and will be deposited with Eastbourne Museum in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the south side of Church Street, within the historic core of Willingdon, East Sussex (Fig. 1). It is occupied by a detached house, garage and garden (Fig. 2). The site is generally flat, and lies at a height of approximately 44m above Ordnance Datum. However, it is clear that the surrounding area has been significantly landscaped in the past, probably when the existing houses and associated gardens were constructed. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of the West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation (BGS 2006), and this was confirmed during the watching brief, with soft greyish white chalk being recorded in the stripped area.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site largely derives from its location with an Archaeological Notification Area relating to the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Willingdon, as detailed in the East Sussex Historic Environment Record. In summary the village is first mentioned in Domesday Book (1086) as *Willendone*, which is thought to mean 'hill of a man called Willa' (Mills 1993). The parish church, dedicated to St Mary, is situated about 100m east of the site. Historic maps suggest that the site was open land until the present house was built in the early 20th century. Although two watching briefs have been carried out in the village in recent years, in close proximity to the present site, no archaeological finds or features were recorded. It was noted during the project at 21 Church Street, to the north of the present site, that any archaeologically relevant levels had probably been removed during landscaping works (Wallis 2017).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The primary aim of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the proposed 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 by hand, or by using a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision.

## **Results**

A small area in the front garden, measuring 3.60m by 1.80m, was stripped by hand down to the top of the natural chalk geology (Fig. 3, Pls 1 and 2). This involved the removal of approximately 0.25m of topsoil (50) and 0.17m of subsoil (51) from the area (Fig. 4). No archaeological features were observed cutting into the natural geology, and no finds were recorded from the soil. The construction cut for the retaining wall was visible along the eastern edge of the stripped area. The area immediately to the north had been heavily disturbed by a hedge and flower bed. As the natural geology had been exposed, further ground reduction took place without archaeological supervision.

It was clear that the surrounding area had been significantly landscaped in the past, probably when the existing house and garage were built in the 20th century (Pls 3 and 4). It seems likely that the ground would

originally have sloped down towards the road to the north, although the slope would probably have been less severe than it is now. The area where the hardstanding was to be built was possibly one of the few areas which had not been significantly disturbed in the past, along with the adjacent portions of the front garden.

## **Finds**

No archaeological finds were recovered during the watching brief.

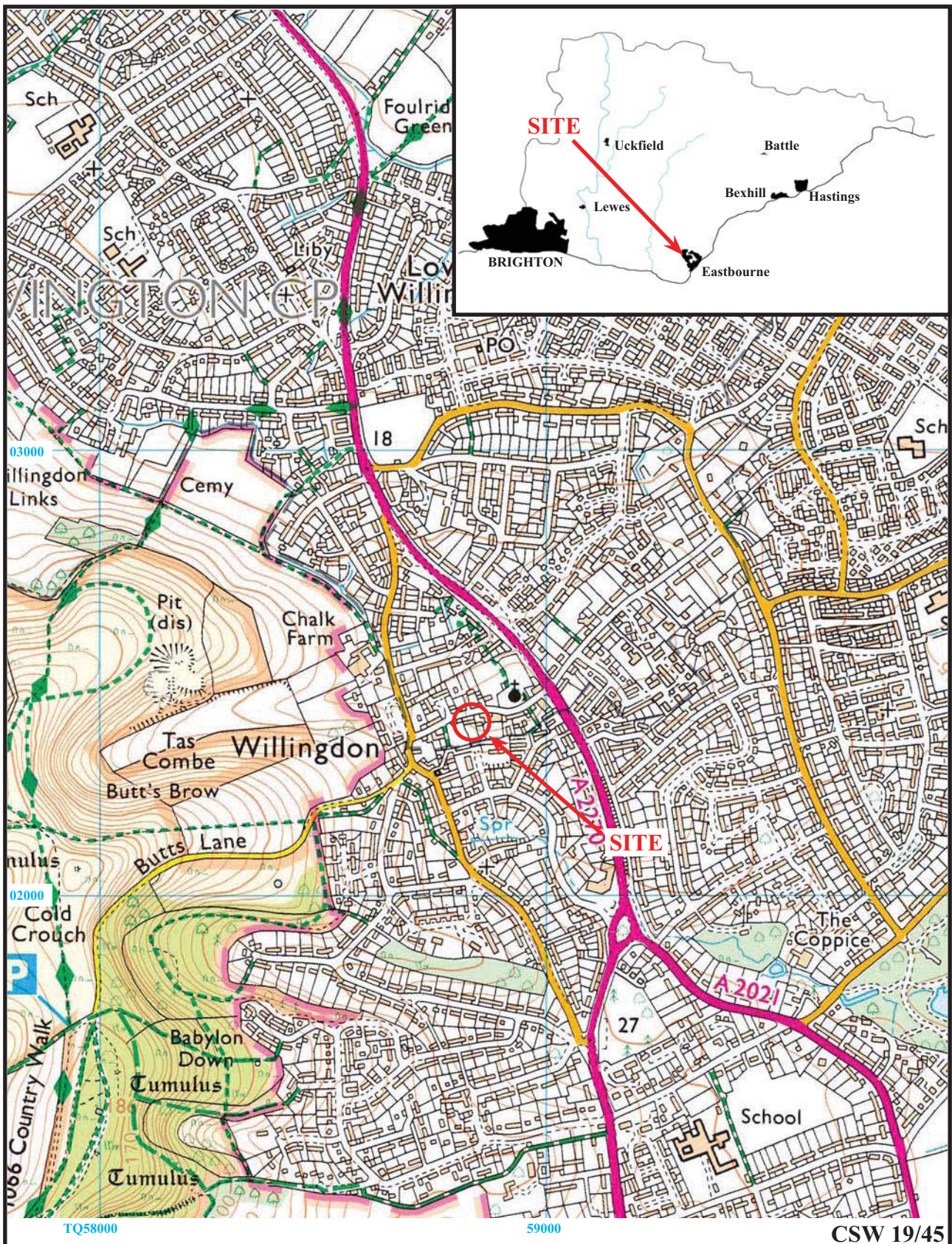
## **Conclusion**

The watching brief at 18 Church Street, Willingdon, successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of a new hardstanding. A small area was stripped down to the top of the natural geology by hand, but no archaeological finds or features were recorded. The area immediately to the north had been significantly disturbed in the past by flower beds and a hedge.

## **References**

- BGS, 2006, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet **318/333**, Bedrock and Superficial Deposits Edition, Keyworth
- Mills, A D, 1993, *English Place-names*, Oxford
- NPPF, 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework* (revised), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London
- Wallis, S, 2017, '21 Church Street, Willingdon, Eastbourne, East Sussex: an archaeological watching brief', TVAS South unpubl rep **17/140**, Brighton

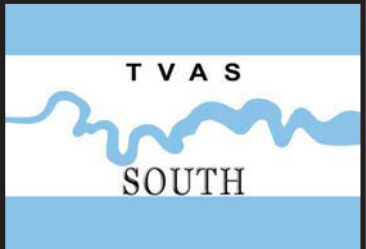




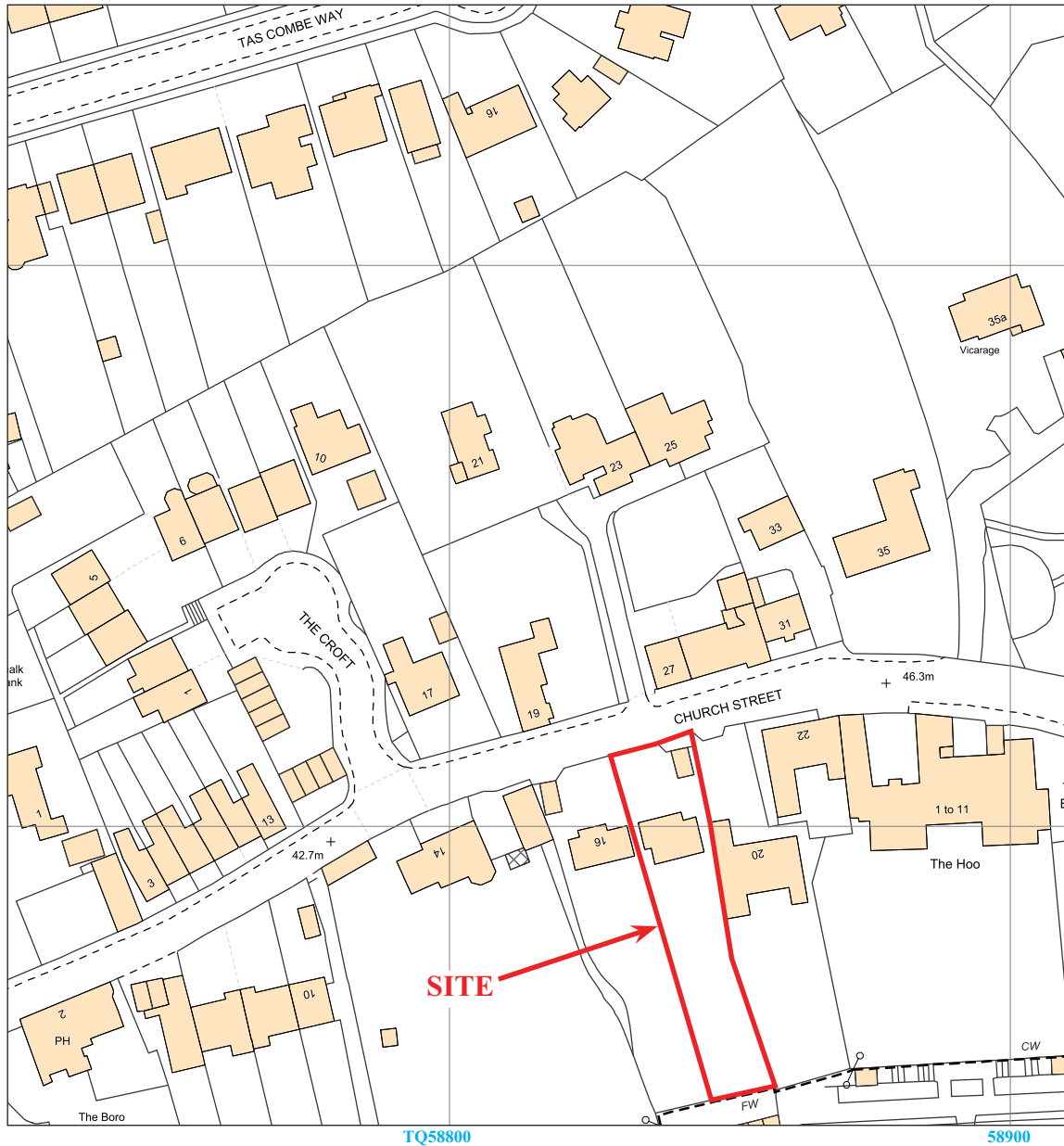
**18 Church Street, Willingdon,  
East Sussex, 2019  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

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

Reproduced under licence from Ordnance Survey Explorer Digital mapping at 1:12500  
Crown Copyright reserved





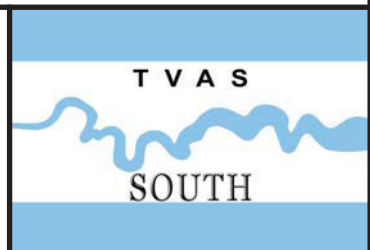


CSW 19/45

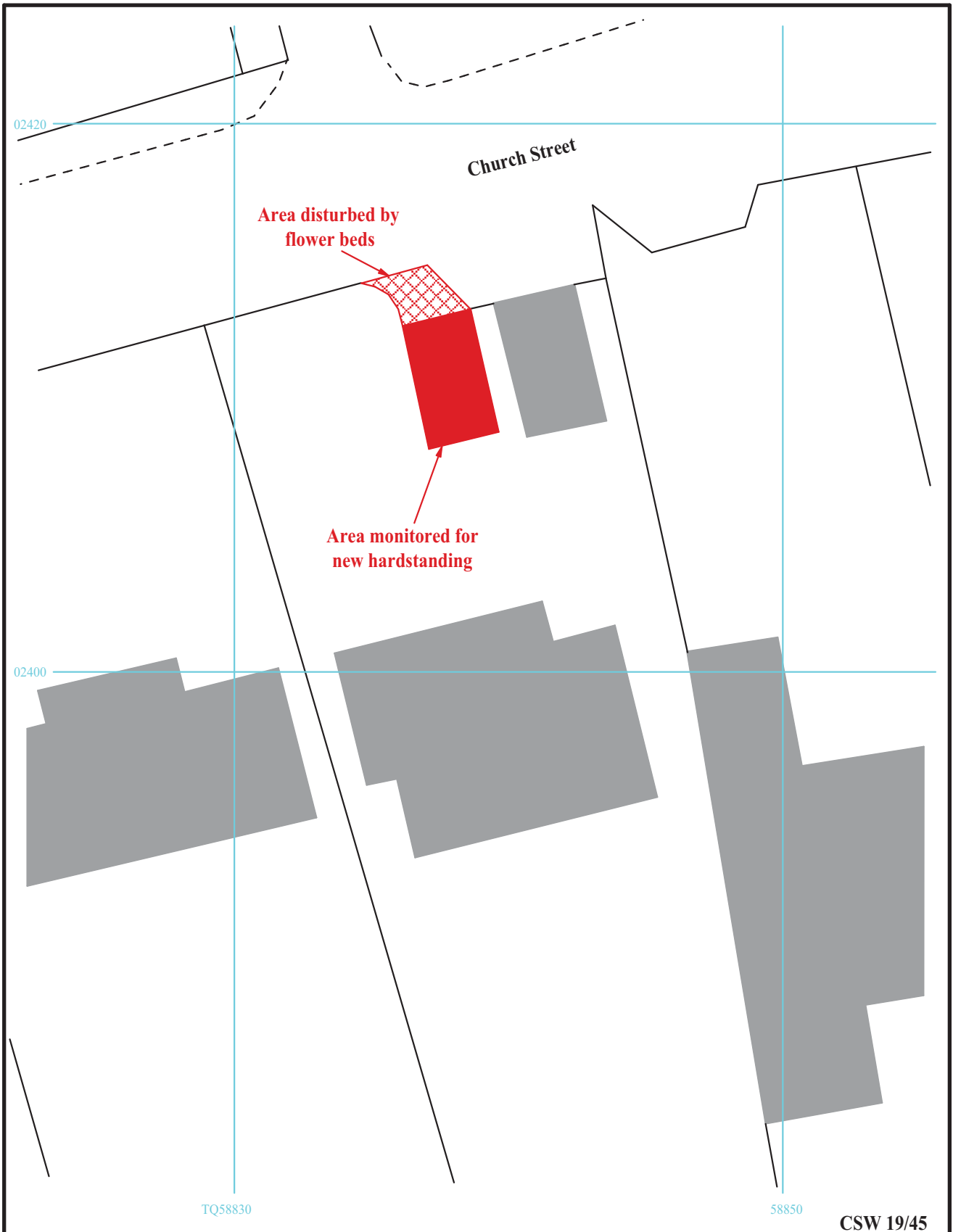


**18 Church Street, Willingdon,  
East Sussex, 2019  
Archaeological Watching Brief**  
Figure 2. Detailed site location.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Digital Mapping under licence.  
Crown copyright reserved. Scale 1:2500

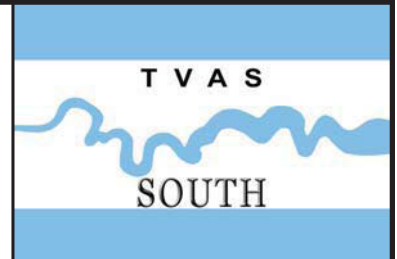






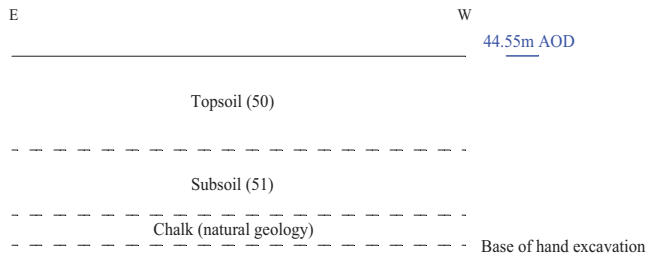
**18 Church Street, Willingdon,  
East Sussex, 2019  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Site plan showing area monitored.



CSW 19/45

*Area reduced for hardstanding*



CSW 19/45

**18 Church Street, Willingdon,  
East Sussex, 2019  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 4. Representative section.

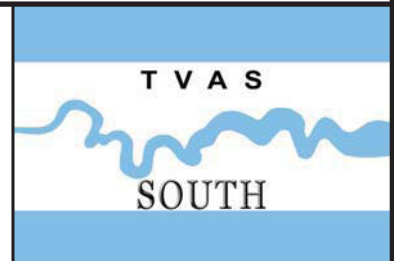




Plate 1. Area stripped in front garden, looking South-East.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.30m.



Plate 2. Area stripped in front garden, looking North.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.30m.



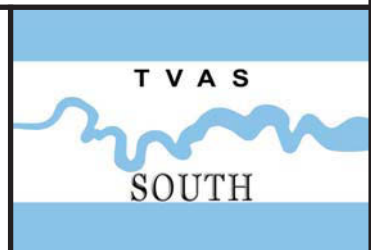
Plate 3. General view of site, looking South-east.



Plate 4. General view of site, looking South.

CSW 19/45

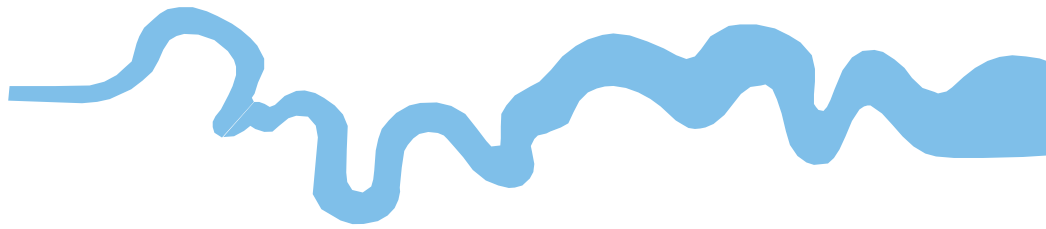
**18 Church Street, Willingdon,  
East Sussex, 2019  
Archaeological Watching Brief  
Plates 1 to 4.**



## 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





**TVAS (South),  
77a Hollingdean Terrace  
Brighton, BN1 7HB**

**Tel: 01273 554198  
Email: [south@tvas.co.uk](mailto:south@tvas.co.uk)  
Web: [www.tvas.co.uk/south](http://www.tvas.co.uk/south)**

***Offices in:  
Reading, Taunton, Stoke-on-Trent and Ennis (Ireland)***