

T V A S



SOUTH

**Land south of King's Head Public House,
Lower Horsebridge, Hailsham, East Sussex**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Site Code: LCL16/107

(TQ 5775 1144S)

**Land south of King's Head Public House,
Lower Horsebridge, Hailsham, East Sussex**

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Mr Hugh Weaver

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HRH 19/135

October 2019

Summary

Site name: Land south of King's Head Public House, Lower Horsebridge, Hailsham, East Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 5775 1144

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 7th - 8th October 2019

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Sean Wallis

Site code: HRH 19/135

Area of site: c. 0.13ha

Summary of results: The evaluation successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the proposed development. Whilst the western part of the site had clearly been affected by previous activity, including the laying down of a hardstanding and the excavation of various service runs, the eastern part of the site showed relatively little evidence of disturbance in the past. However, no artefacts or deposits of archaeological significance were revealed despite the recording of three small late post-medieval features. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 16.10.19 Steve Preston ✓ 16.10.19

Land south of King's Head Public House, Lower Horsebridge, Hailsham, East Sussex An Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Report 19/135

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out to the south of the King's Head public house, Lower Horsebridge, Hailsham, East Sussex (TQ 5775 1144) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Mike Hill, Croom Cottage, London Road, East Hoathly, BN8 6EL, on behalf of the landowner, Mr Hugh Weaver.

Planning permission (WD/2018/1308/F) has been gained from Wealden District Council to construct three new dwellings on the site. The consent was subject to a standard planning condition (3) relating to archaeology and the historic environment, which required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work prior to the commencement of groundworks on the site. 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. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by the proposed development, it was proposed to carry out a field evaluation in order to inform a mitigation strategy if required.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by the Local Planning Authority following consultation with the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer who advises the District Council on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by Charlotte Brown and Sean Wallis on 7th and 8th October 2019, and the site code is HRH 19/135. The archive is presently held at TVAS South, Brighton, and will be deposited with a suitable repository in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the south of the King's Head public house, Lower Horsebridge, north-west of the historic core of Hailsham, and is centred on NGR TQ 5775 1144 (Figs 1 and 2). The western part of the site was covered by a hardstanding, whilst the eastern part was occupied by a grassed play area. The area is relatively flat, and the site lies at a height of approximately 18m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of River Terrace Deposits (BGS 2006), although a mid orange brown clay was recorded in all the evaluation trenches.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location close to the historic (medieval) core of the settlement of Lower Horsebridge. 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 utilized 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 2016; Taylor 2017). The Weald was utilized 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. A parcel of land immediately south of the present site was subject to an archaeological evaluation in 2017, but this only revealed modern features and post-medieval field boundaries (ASE 2017).

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; and

Three trenches were intended to be dug, each measuring 20m in length. 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. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed would be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the brief, without compromising the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

Results

The three trenches were dug close to their original planned positions (Fig. 3; Pl. 1). All the trenches were 1.5m wide, and measured between 18.30m and 20.70m in length, and between 0.45m and 0.60m 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 (Figs 4 and 5; Pls 2 and 3)

This trench was orientated S-N, and was 18.30m long and up to 0.60m deep. The natural clay geology was generally encountered beneath 0.20–0.32m of made ground (52); 0.13–0.18m of buried soil (53) and 0.10–0.13m of subsoil (51). A large modern truncation, associated with an adjacent sewer, was recorded at the southern end of the trench. A shallow pit (2) was investigated at the northern end of the trench. The feature was sub-rectangular in plan, and measured 0.66m by 0.40m, but was only 0.03m deep. Fragments of late post-medieval pottery, brick/tile and clay tobacco pipe were recovered from its fill of mid greyish brown silty clay (56).

Trench 2 (Figs 4 and 5; Pls 5 and 6)

This trench was orientated approximately SSW-NNE, and was 20.70m long and up to 0.57m deep. The natural clay geology was generally encountered beneath 0.28m of topsoil (50) and 0.16m of subsoil (51), with the topsoil being slightly deeper (0.37m) towards the southern end of the trench. A sub-circular post-hole (1) was recorded at the northern end of the trench. This feature measured 0.30m in diameter and was 0.05m deep, with a single fill of mid greyish brown silty clay (54). This deposit yielded a small fragment of post-medieval clay tobacco pipe.

Pit 3 was partially exposed about 7m from the southern end of the trench. The pit appeared to be sub-rectangular in plan, and measured at least 0.85m by 0.58m. It was up to 0.22m deep with a single fill of mid greyish brown clayey silt (55), which contained two small sherds of late post-medieval pottery, along with a tiny fragment of brick/tile.

Trench 3 (Fig. 5; Pl. 4)

This trench was orientated approximately WSW-ESE, and was 20.20m long and up to 0.58m deep. The natural clay geology was generally encountered beneath 0.21m of topsoil (50) and 0.15m of subsoil (51), although the topsoil became noticeably deeper towards the western end of the trench. No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

Finds

Pottery by Luke Barber

The archaeological work recovered just six sherds of pottery. Pit 3 (55) produced two (3g) sherds from a small vessel of uncertain form in local glazed red earthenware. The vessel, which has a clear internal glaze is best placed between c. 1750 and 1825.

The other four sherds, also in glazed red earthenware, were recovered from pit 2 (56) (12g). These are also from a fairly small/fine vessel, this time with clear glaze all over probably a mug). A similar c. 1750-1825 date range is likely.

Clay Tobacco Pipe by Luke Barber

Post-hole 1 (54) produced a slightly worn 2g bowl fragment with flat heel and just 4mm of the stem remaining. The bore of 1.7mm and general style of the bowl suggest a date in the second half of the 18th century. The pipe has the maker's initials I/H either side of the heel but there are a few possibilities for makers with these initials at the prescribed time (eg John Holness of Hastings and John Harman of Lewes). A mouthpiece fragment from pit 2 (56) measures 16mm long, has a 1.9mm diameter bore and is best placed in the second half of the 18th century, though a later date cannot be ruled out.

Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

Pit 3 (55) produced a tiny 2g granule of brick that, beyond saying it is post-medieval, is too small to date accurately. Another amorphous lump (12g) from pit 2 (56) has a notably 'marl-rich' tempering with some iron oxides. The fabric and finish would suggest an 18th to mid 19th century date to be the most likely.

Conclusion

The evaluation to the south of the King's Head public house successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the proposed development. Whilst the western part of the site had clearly been affected by previous activity, including the laying down of a hardstanding and the excavation of various service runs, the eastern part of the site showed relatively little evidence of disturbance in the past. Three small late post-medieval features were recorded in the evaluation trenches, suggesting low level activity during this period. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

References

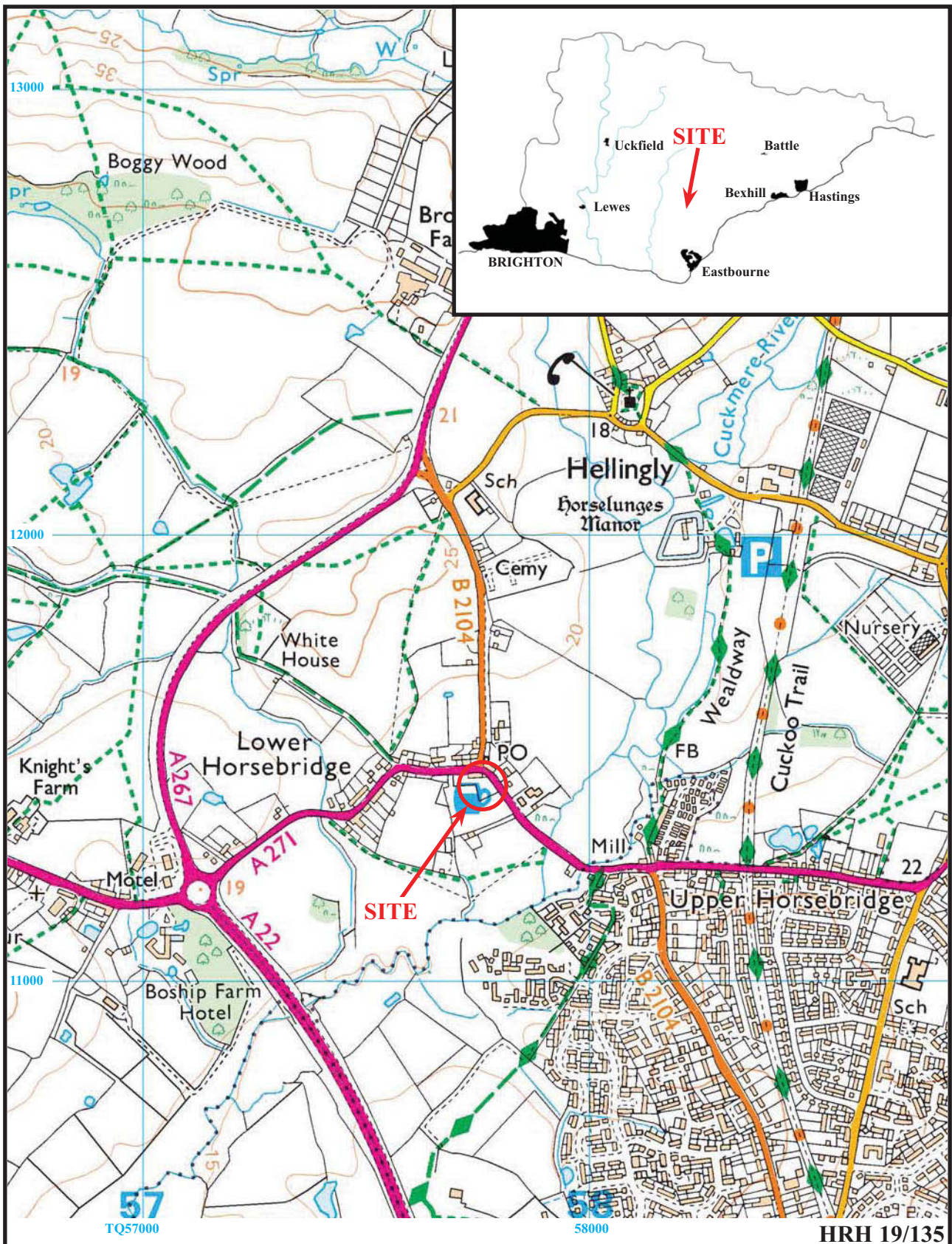
- ASE, 2017, 'Land south of King's Head Public House, Lower Horsebridge, East Sussex - archaeological evaluation', Archaeology South-east unpublished report **2017319**, Portslade.
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- Taylor, A, 2017, 'Early to Middle Iron Age occupation north of Old Guildford Road, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, West Sussex', in J McNicoll-Norbury, D Sanchez, A Taylor, F Thompson and S Wallis, *Archaeological Investigations in Sussex: Prehistoric and Roman features in Selsey, Worthing, Angmering and Horsham, and Medieval occupation in Hailsham, Horsham and Crawley*, TVAS Occas Pap **17**, Reading, 41–7
- Wallis, S, 2016, *Middle/Later Bronze Age Occupation at Manor Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex*, TVAS Occas Pap **9**, Reading

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	18.30	1.50	0.60	South: 0-0.32m made ground (52); 0.32-0.45m buried soil (53); 0.45-0.55m subsoil (51); 0.55-0.60m+ natural geology (mid orange brown clay). North: 0-0.20m made ground (52); 0.20-0.38m buried soil (53); 0.38-0.51m subsoil (51); 0.51-0.58m+ natural geology (mid orange brown clay). Pit 2. [Pls. 2 and 3]
2	20.70	1.50	0.57	South: 0-0.37m topsoil (50); 0.37-0.51m subsoil (51); 0.51m-0.57m+ natural geology (mid orange brown clay). North: 0-0.28m topsoil (50); 0.28-0.44m subsoil (51); 0.44-0.48m+ natural geology (mid orange brown clay) Post-hole 1 and pit 3. [Pls. 5 and 6]
3	20.20	1.50	0.58	West: 0-0.38m topsoil (50); 0.38-0.52m subsoil (51); 0.52m-0.58m+ natural geology (mid orange brown clay). East: 0-0.21m topsoil (50); 0.21-0.36m subsoil (51); 0.36-0.45m+ natural geology (mid orange brown clay) [Pl. 4]

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

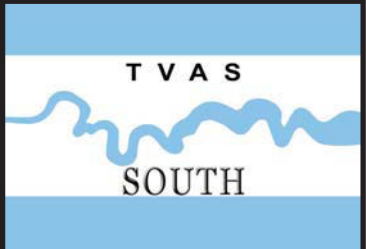
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
2	1	54	Post-hole	Post-medieval	Clay pipe.
1	2	56	Pit	Post-medieval	Pottery and Brick/tile
2	3	55	Pit	Post-medieval	Pottery.

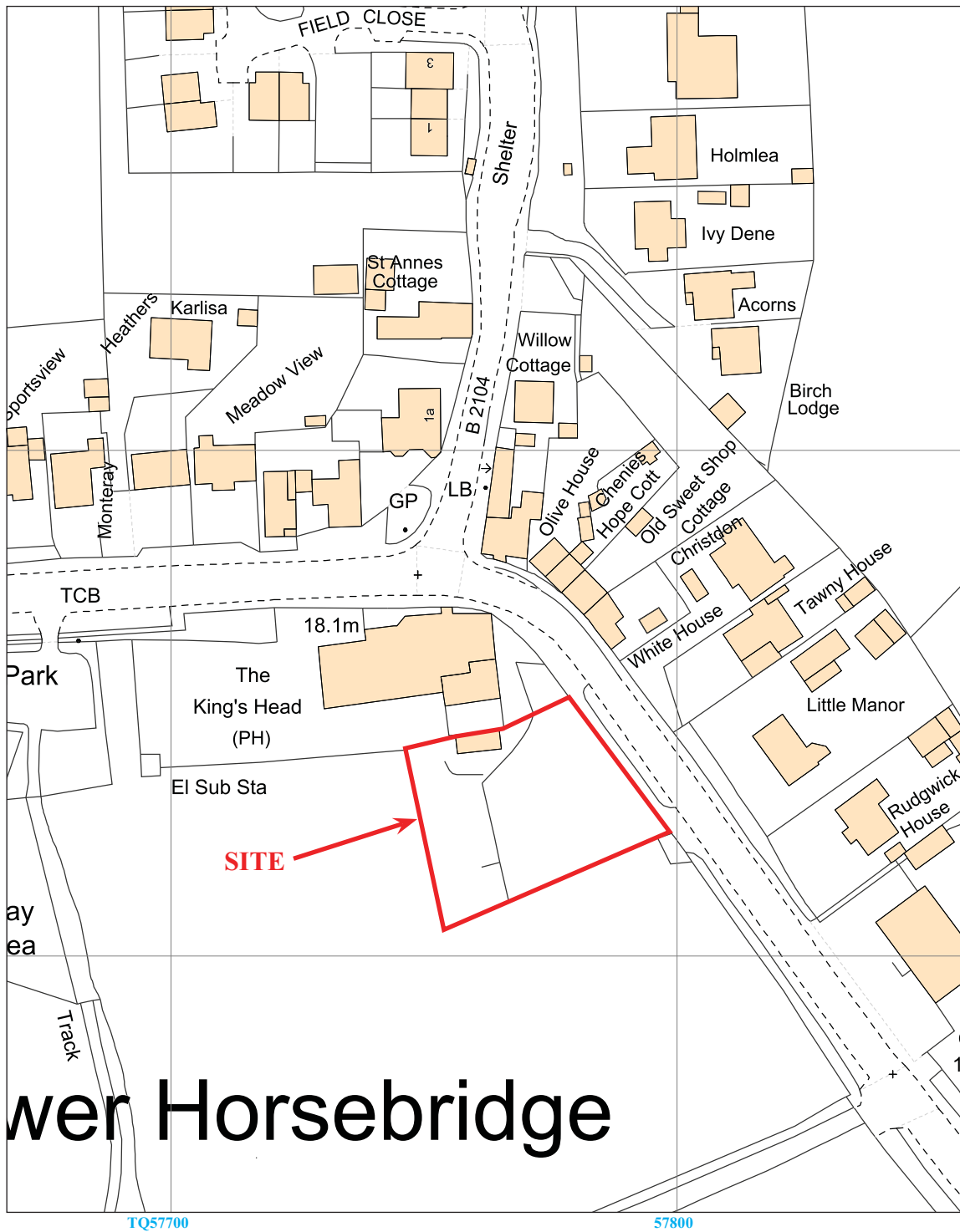


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Figure 1. Location of site within Lower Horsebridge and East Sussex.

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Lower Horsebridge

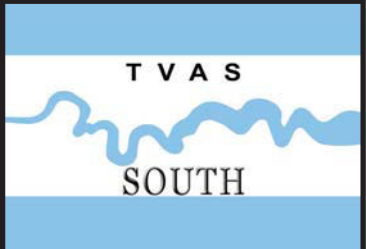
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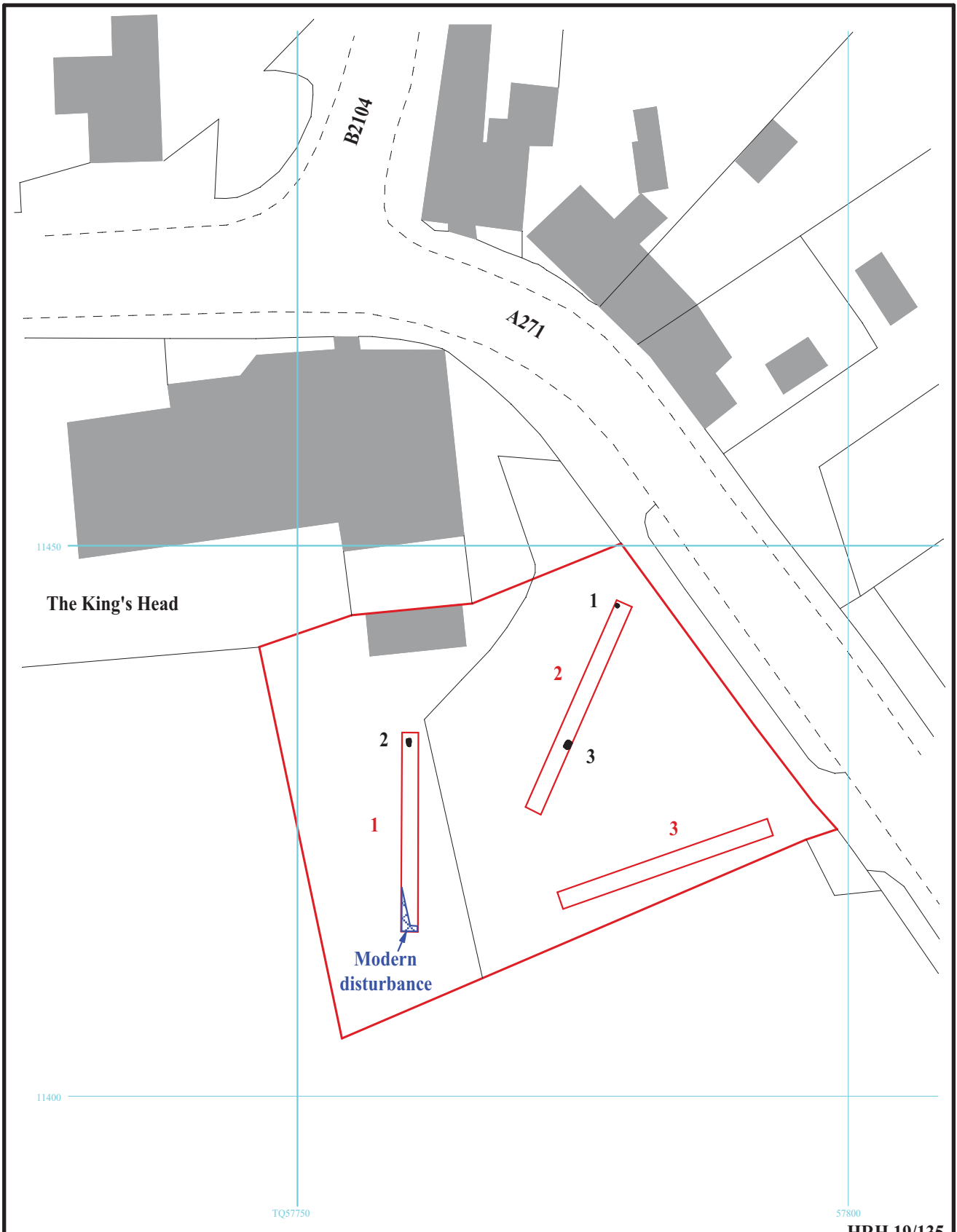


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Figure 2. Detailed site location.

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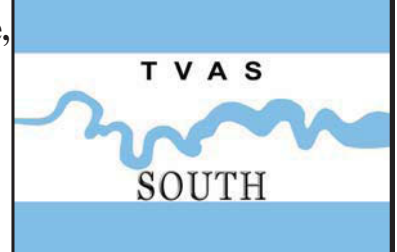


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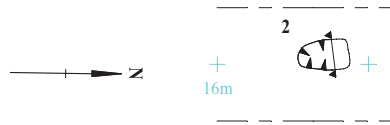


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Figure 3. Detailed location of site showing excavated trenches.



Trench 1



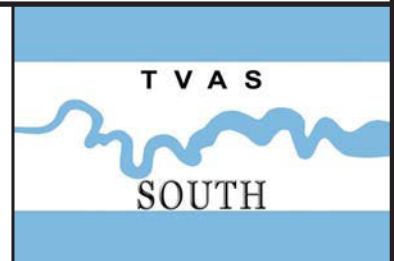
Trench 2



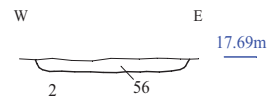
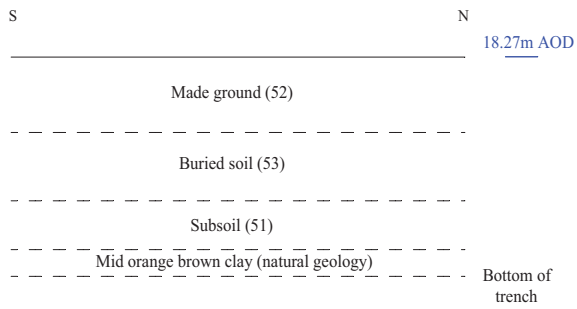
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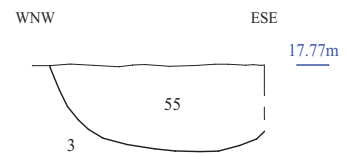
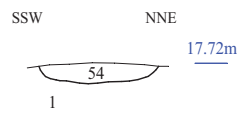
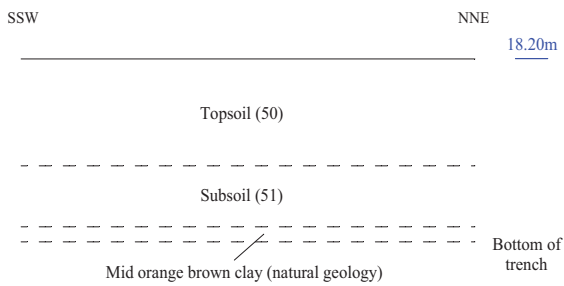
Figure 4. Plan of trenches 1 and 2.



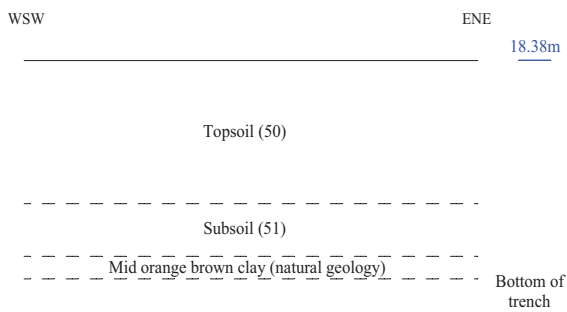
Trench 1 (north end)



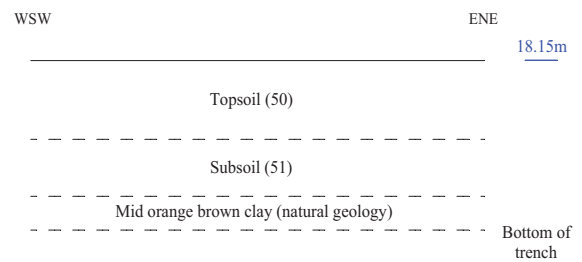
Trench 2 (north end)



Trench 3 (west end)



Trench 3 (east end)



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Figure 5. Sections.

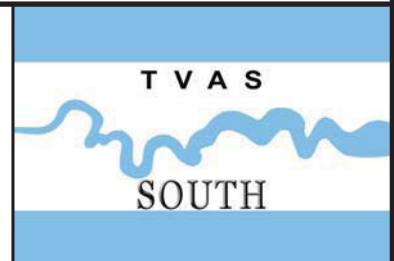




Plate 1. General view of site, looking North-east.



Plate 2. Trench 1, looking North.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.30m.



Plate 3. Trench 1, pit 2, looking North.
Scales: 0.30m and 0.10m.



Plate 4. Trench 3, looking West,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.30m.



Plate 5. Trench 2, post-hole 1, looking North-west,
Scale: 0.30m.



Plate 6. Trench 2, pit 3, looking North-east.
Scales: 0.50m and 0.30m.

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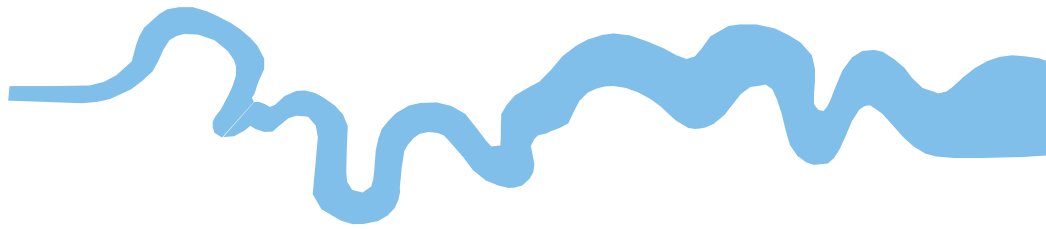
Plates 1 to 6.



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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