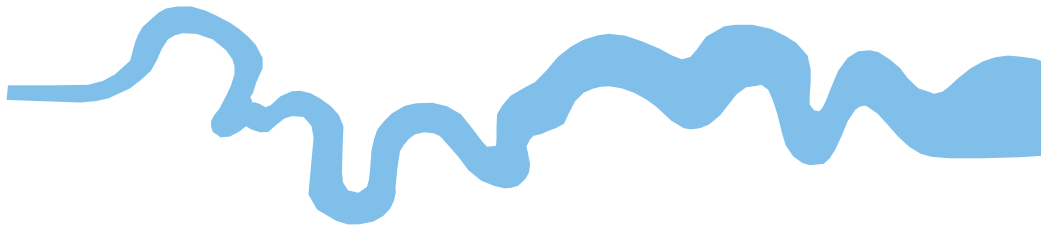


T V A S



SOUTH

**Sunny Corner, Copse Lane,
Walberton, West Sussex**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Site Code: SCW20/27

(SU 9639 0645)

**Sunny Corner, Cope Lane, Walberton,
West Sussex**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Driftstone Developments Ltd**

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code: SCW 20/27

February 2020

Summary

Site name: Sunny Corner, Copse Lane, Walberton, West Sussex

Grid reference: SU 9639 0645

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 24th - 25th February 2020

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Sean Wallis

Site code: SCW 20/27

Area of site: c. 0.92 ha

Summary of results: The archaeological evaluation at Sunny Copse, Walberton 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 nor 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.*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 26.02.20
	Steve Preston ✓ 26.02.20

Sunny Corner, Copse Lane, Walberton, West Sussex An Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Report 20/27

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out to the west of Copse Lane, Walberton, West Sussex (SU 9639 0645) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Jason Osborn of Driftstone Developments Ltd, 24 Palmerston Business Park, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 1DJ.

Planning permission (WA/75/17/PL) has been granted on appeal (APP/C3810/W/18/3210153) by Arun District Council to develop the site for housing. The consent is subject to a standard condition (3) relating to archaeology and the historic environment, which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work prior to the commencement of groundworks. This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (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 development, it was proposed to carry out a field evaluation in order to assess the site's archaeological potential and allow the formulation of a mitigation strategy if appropriate.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by the Local Planning Authority following consultation with the Chichester District Council Archaeological Officer (Mr James Kenny) who advises Arun District Council on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by Charlotte Brown and Sean Wallis on 24th and 25th of February 2020, and the site code is SCW 20/27. 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 between West Walberton Lane (to the west) and Copse Lane (to the east), about 500m north-west of the historic core of Walberton village, and is centred on NGR SU 9639 0645 (Figs 1 and 2). The site consists of an irregular-shaped field which is largely bounded by residential properties and their associated gardens, and was accessed via West Walberton Lane. Although the surrounding area generally slopes down towards the south, the site itself slopes down towards West Walberton Lane and, as a result, it lies at a height of between approximately 16m and 19m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the

underlying geology consists of Raised Beach Deposits (BGS 1996). The natural geology encountered in the evaluation trenches consisted of a light orange grey clay with gravel inclusions. The angular nature of the gravel suggests that this may represent Head Gravel, as this is shown in the area to the north of Walberton on the geological map.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site largely stems from its location on the Sussex Coastal Plain, which is a flattish area between the English Channel and the South Downs. The area is characterized by its underlying Brickearth geology, the soils of which are particularly fertile. Whilst numerous archaeological sites and monuments still survive as earthworks on the South Downs, any such features which may have been present on the coastal plain have usually been ploughed flat by centuries of agriculture. However, recent archaeological fieldwork projects have indicated that the area was heavily utilized in the past. Bronze Age and Middle Iron Age settlement activity was recorded at Woodgate, just over 3km south-west of the present site, along with Roman field systems (Wallis and Ford 2014). Recent excavations on the other side of the River Arun, in Littlehampton, have revealed extensive areas of occupation, spanning the Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and Saxon periods (Bray *et al.* 2019; Wallis 2019). The village of Walberton has Saxon origins, and is first mentioned in Domesday Book (AD1086) as *Walburgestone*, which derives from the Old English for 'farmstead or village of a woman called Wealdburh or Waldburg' (Mills 1992).

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 prehistoric period are present;
- to determine if archaeological deposits from the Roman period are present; and to
- to determine if archaeological deposits from the Saxon period are present.

Six trenches were to be dug, each measuring 25m in length and between 1.60m-1.80m in width. The trenches were positioned to target those parts of the site which would be most affected by the new buildings and

access roads. 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 trenches were dug close to their original planned positions, although several had to be moved slightly to avoid the spoilheaps which had been left on site following some recent ecological mitigation work (Fig. 3). This work had resulted in about 0.10m of turf and topsoil being removed from the entire development area. The trenches were all 1.60m wide, and measured between 23.00m and 27.80m in length, and between 0.25m and 0.40m 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 3 and 4; Pl. 1)

This trench was orientated approximately NNE-SSW, and was 26.20m long and up to 0.40m deep. The natural geology was encountered beneath 0.20m of topsoil (50) and 0.16m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 2)

This trench was orientated approximately WSW-ENE, and was 26.10m long and up to 0.32m deep. The natural geology was encountered beneath 0.16m of topsoil (50) and 0.14m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

Trench 3 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 3)

This trench was orientated approximately N-S, and was 25.90m long and up to 0.31m deep. The natural geology was encountered beneath 0.15m of topsoil (50) and 0.14m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

Trench 4 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 4)

This trench was orientated W-E, and was 24.30m long and up to 0.25m deep. The natural geology was encountered beneath 0.11m of topsoil (50) and 0.09m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

Trench 5 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 5)

This trench was orientated approximately NNW-SSE, and was 23.00m long and up to 0.37m deep. The natural geology was encountered beneath 0.12m of topsoil (50) and 0.19m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

Trench 6 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 6)

This trench was orientated approximately NW-SE, and was 27.80m long and up to 0.28m deep. The natural geology was encountered beneath 0.10m of topsoil (50) and 0.15m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

Finds

No archaeological finds were recovered during the evaluation.

Conclusion

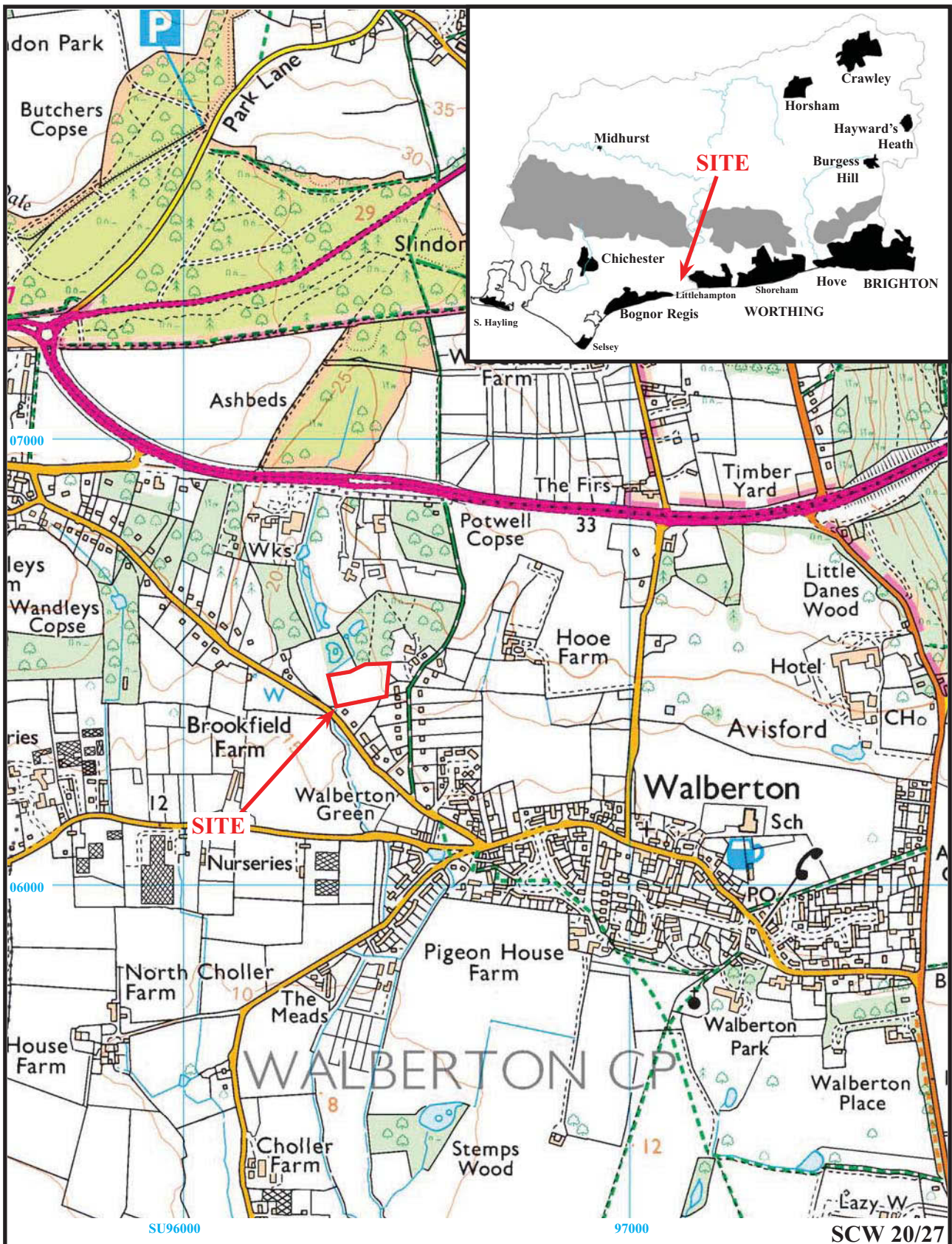
The archaeological evaluation at Sunny Corner, Walberton successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the proposed development of the site. Despite the fact that the site does not appear to have been disturbed in the past, no archaeological finds or features were recorded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

References

- BGS, 1996, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet **317/332**, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Bray, D, Porter, S and Wallis, S, 2019, *Late Iron Age, Roman and Saxon Occupation at Courtwick Lane, Littlehampton, West Sussex*, TVAS Monogr **33**, Reading
- Mills, A D, 1992, *English Place-names*, Oxford
- NPPF, 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework* (revised), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London
- Wallis, S, 2019, *Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman Settlement at Toddington Lane, Littlehampton, West Sussex*, TVAS Monogr **37**, Reading
- Wallis, S and Ford, S, 2014, *Bronze Age and Middle Iron Age Occupation and Roman Fields at Lidsey Landfill, Woodgate, West Sussex*, TVAS Occas Pap **5**, Reading

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

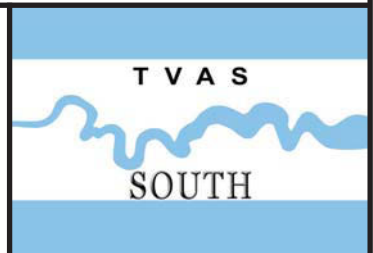
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	26.20	1.60	0.40	0-0.20m topsoil (50); 0.20-0.36m subsoil (51); 0.36-0.40m+ natural geology (light orange grey clay with gravel inclusions). [Pl. 1]
2	26.10	1.60	0.32	0-0.16m topsoil (50); 0.16-0.30m subsoil (51); 0.30-0.32m+ natural geology (light orange grey clay with gravel inclusions). [Pl. 2]
3	25.90	1.60	0.31	0-0.15m topsoil (50); 0.15-0.29m subsoil (51); 0.29-0.31m+ natural geology (light orange grey clay with gravel inclusions). [Pl. 3]
4	24.30	1.60	0.25	0-0.11m topsoil (50); 0.11-0.20m subsoil (51); 0.20-0.25m+ natural geology (light orange grey clay with gravel inclusions). [Pl. 4]
5	23.00	1.60	0.37	0-0.12m topsoil (50); 0.12-0.31m subsoil (51); 0.31-0.37m+ natural geology (light orange grey clay with gravel inclusions). [Pl. 5]
6	27.80	1.60	0.28	0-0.10m topsoil (50); 0.10-0.25m subsoil (51); 0.25-0.28m+ natural geology (light orange grey clay with gravel inclusions). [Pl. 6]

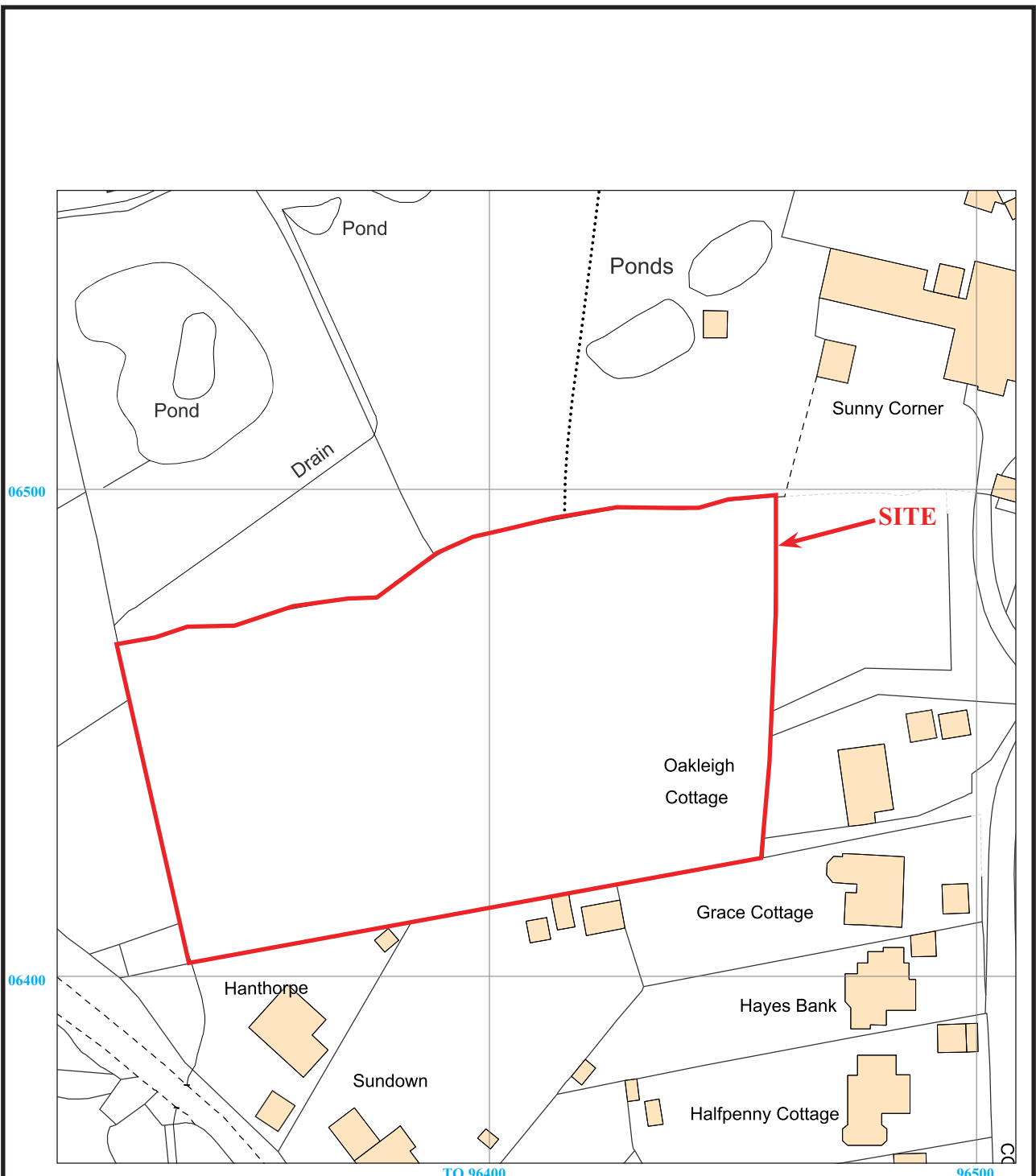


**Sunny Corner, Copse Lane, Walberton,
West Sussex, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation**

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

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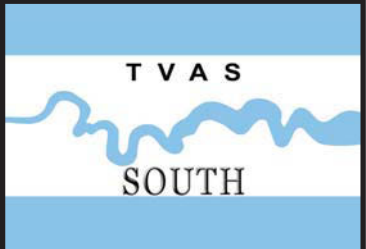


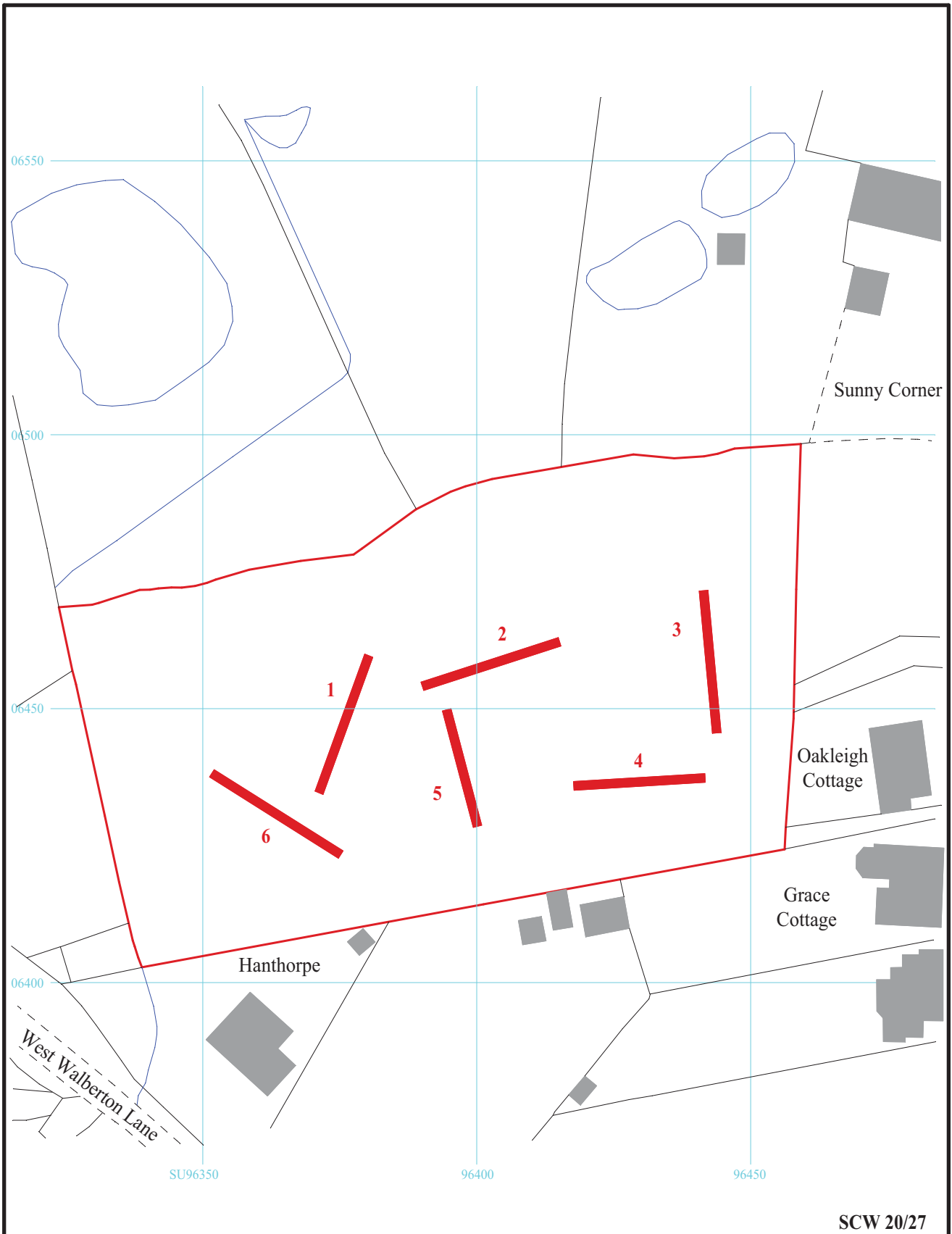
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**Sunny Corner, Copse Lane, Walberton,
West Sussex, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation**
Figure 2. Detailed site location.

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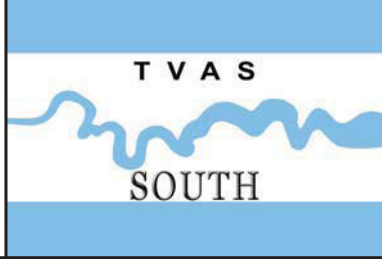




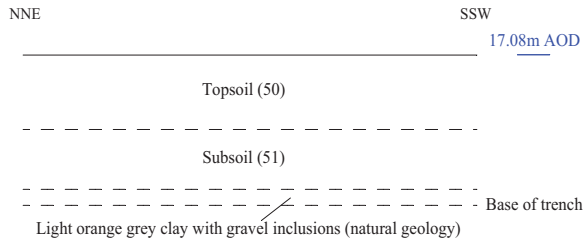
SCW 20/27

**Sunny Corner, Copse Lane, Walberton,
West Sussex, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation**

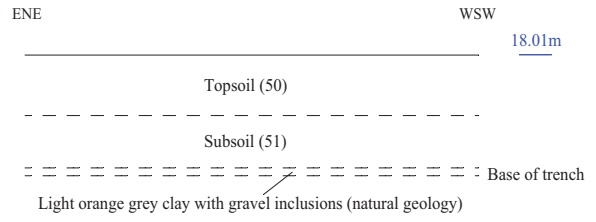
Figure 3. Site plan showing evaluation trenches.



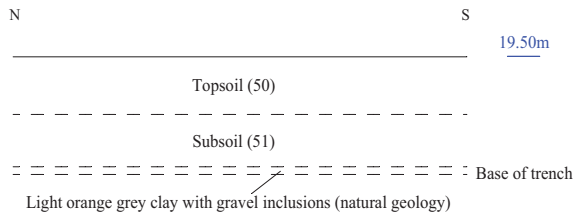
Trench 1



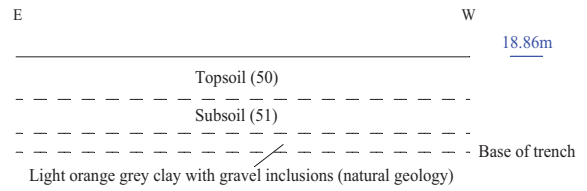
Trench 2



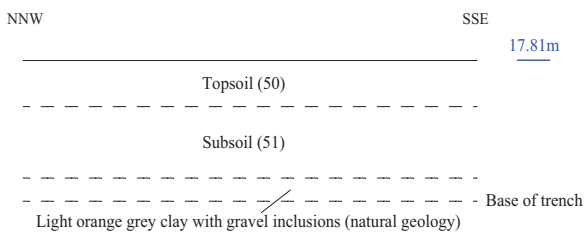
Trench 3



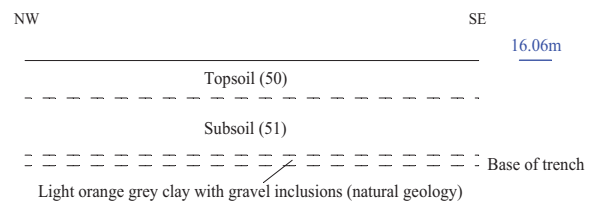
Trench 4



Trench 5



Trench 6



SCW 20/27

**Sunny Corner, Copse Lane, Walberton,
West Sussex, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Representative sections.

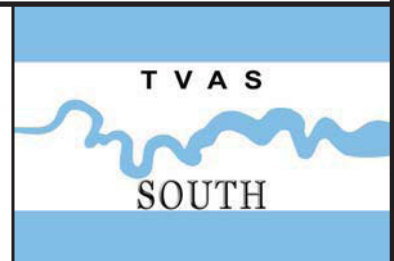




Plate 1. Trench 1, looking North-north-east.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



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



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



Plate 4. Trench 4, looking West.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m



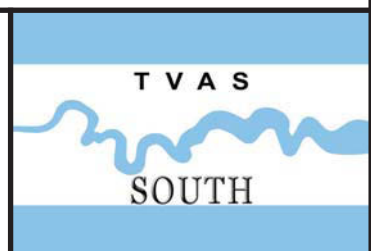
Plate 5. Trench 5, looking North-north-west.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 6. Trench 6, looking North-west.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m

SCW 20/27

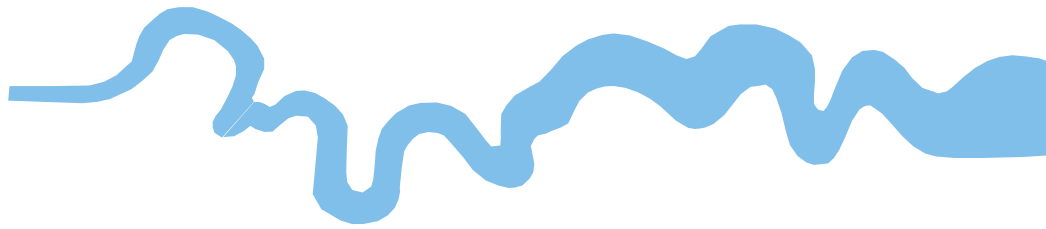
**Sunny Corner, Copse Lane, Walberton,
West Sussex, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 to 6.**



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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