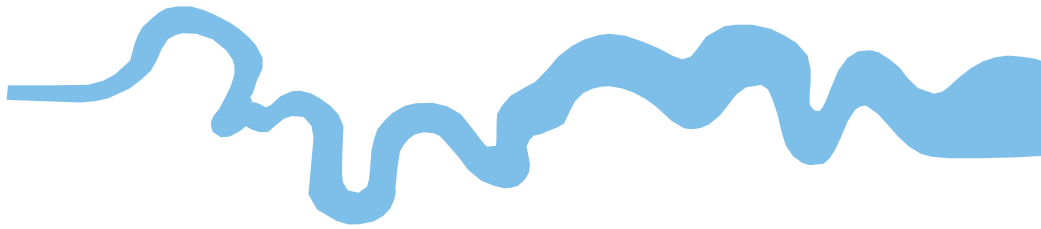


T V A S



SOUTH

**79 Ifield Road, West Green,
Crawley, West Sussex**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Sean Wallis

Site Code: IRC19/141

(TQ 2637 3666)

**79 Ifield Road, West Green, Crawley,
West Sussex**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr Owen Cooban

Planning Reference : CR/2019/0444/FUL

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code IRC 19/141

May 2020

Summary

Site name: 79 Ifield Road, West Green, Crawley, West Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 2637 3666

Planning reference: CR/2019/0444/FUL

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 22nd - 28th April 2020

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Sean Wallis

Site code: IRC 19/141

Summary of results: The watching brief successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of a new extension. Although traces of cottages which once stood on the site were revealed by some of the groundworks, the area had clearly been disturbed by their demolition and the creation of a previous concrete hardstanding, which was subsequently replaced by the recently demolished garage. An undated pit or ditch was observed in the western footing trench, which had been dug through a buried soil horizon. However, the presence of a dark silty clay deposit beneath the buried soil and differences in the level of the underlying clay geology indicate that the area may have been truncated in the past, prior to the former cottages being built in the mid 19th century.

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

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 04.05.20
	Steve Preston ✓ 04.05.20

79 Ifield Road, West Green, Crawley, West Sussex An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Sean Wallis

Report 19/141

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 79 Ifield Road, West Green, Crawley, West Sussex (TQ 2637 3666) (Figs 1 and 2). The work was commissioned by the property's owner, Mr Owen Cooban.

Planning permission (CR/2019/0444/FUL) had been gained from Crawley Borough Council to demolish and existing garage and construct a new extension on the site. The consent was subject to a standard planning condition (5) relating to archaeology and historic environment, which required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in this case, a watching brief. This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), and the Borough 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 Surrey County Council Archaeological Officer who advises Crawley Borough Council on archaeological matters (Ms Alexandra Egginton).

The fieldwork was undertaken by Virginia Fuentes and Sean Wallis between 22nd and 28th April 2020, and the site code is IRC 19/141. The archive is currently held at TVAS South, Brighton, and will be deposited with Crawley Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the north side of Ifield Road, West Green, Crawley, opposite St Peter's Church (Figs 1 and 2). It is occupied by a detached house and associated garden areas (Pl. 8). The site is generally flat, and lies at a height of approximately 71m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand (clay and sandstone) (BGS 1972), and this was confirmed during the watching brief, with a light greyish yellow sandy clay being recorded in all the areas monitored.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its located within an Archaeological Notification Area relating to the medieval settlement of Crawley. The county historic environment record notes that the modern town was historically split between two parishes, Crawley and Ifield, with part of the parish boundary running along the High Street. The 1841 Ifield tithe map shows the area currently occupied by the existing house as open land. However, a series of buildings are depicted on the Ordnance Survey maps from the mid-19th century through to the mid-20th century, some of which appear to have been demolished by 1961. It is therefore possible that below surface remains of these buildings may survive on the site. One of the reasons for Crawley's development and expansion during the medieval and early post-medieval periods was the Wealden iron industry. Evidence of medieval and post-medieval activity, including some relating to the iron industry, has been revealed during a number of archaeological fieldwork projects in the vicinity of the site (eg. Wallis 2012; Saunders 1998).

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 Surrey 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

The small porch and garage which had previously been attached to the front of the house had been demolished shortly before the watching brief commenced. It was originally planned to dig traditional strip foundations for the new extension, but a modern waste pipe was found to run along southern area. It was therefore decided that this foundation would be of concrete and steel construction, supported on four concrete "pads". As a result, two N-S footing trenches were monitored during the project, along with four rectangular pits for the pads (Fig. 3).

The western footing trench was 5.60m long, 0.60m wide, and up to 1.20m deep, and the natural clay geology was generally revealed beneath 0.60m of made ground and 0.20m of buried soil (53) (Pls 1–3). The footings for the existing house were exposed at the northern end of the trench, and the remains of another wall

(55) were observed just to the south (Pl. 1). This red brick wall was about 0.25m wide and probably represents the rear wall of the cottage which was built in the mid 19th century. The bottom of its construction cut (1) was dug into the buried soil horizon (53), but not into the natural, indicating that the cottage had quite shallow foundations. A possible ditch or pit (3) was recorded to the south of wall 55. This feature was visible in both sections of the trench, and it was about 0.60m wide and 0.55m deep (Pl. 2). It had been cut through the buried soil (53) and natural clay, and was sealed by the overlying made ground. The lower fill of the feature consisted of dark greyish brown silty clay (58), but no finds were recovered from this deposit. The upper fill consisted of re-deposited natural clay (59). The badly disturbed remains of another red brick wall (56) were seen to the south of pit 3, and this probably represents a former internal wall from the mid 19th century cottages (Pl. 3). As with wall 55, the construction cut for wall 56 (2) had not penetrated into the natural geology. A modern waste pipe, encased in concrete, was uncovered at the southern end of the footing trench and, as a result, this end of the trench was not dug to its full intended depth.

No archaeological features were seen in the eastern footing trench (Pl. 4), which was 4.50m long, 0.60m and up to 1.08m deep. This is probably due to the fact that this area had been disturbed by the footings of the former garage, along with an earlier concrete hardstanding which was observed beneath the floor of the garage. This hardstanding had been laid directly above the buried soil horizon (53).

The four pad locations were monitored when they were dug by hand and using the machine. They all measured 1.00m square, apart from Pad 1 which was 1.00m by 0.90m.

In Pad 1 the natural geology was revealed beneath 0.22m of concrete and made ground, 0.18m of clinker made ground (51), 0.05m of compact red sand (52), and 0.18m of buried soil (53) (Pl. 5). No archaeological features were observed.

Pad 2 was excavated in the south-east corner of the site, and the front wall of the former cottages (57) was exposed along the southern edge. The stratigraphy above the natural clay geology generally consisted of 0.25m of topsoil (50), 0.15m of clinker made ground (51), 0.09m of compact red sand (52) and 0.24m of buried soil (53) (Pl. 6).

In pad 3 the natural geology was revealed beneath 0.15m of concrete, 0.26m of made ground, 0.21m of buried soil (53), and 0.08m of dark grey silty clay (54) (Pl. 7). No archaeological features were recorded in the hole, and the presence of deposit 54 suggest that the area may have been disturbed or truncated in the past, prior to the build up of buried soil horizon 53.

In Pad 4 the remains of a buried concrete hardstanding, probably the same as that recorded in the eastern footing trench, were revealed immediately above the natural geology. The top of the natural clay was noted just 0.40m below the existing ground level, which also supports the idea that parts of the site had been truncated in the past.

Finds

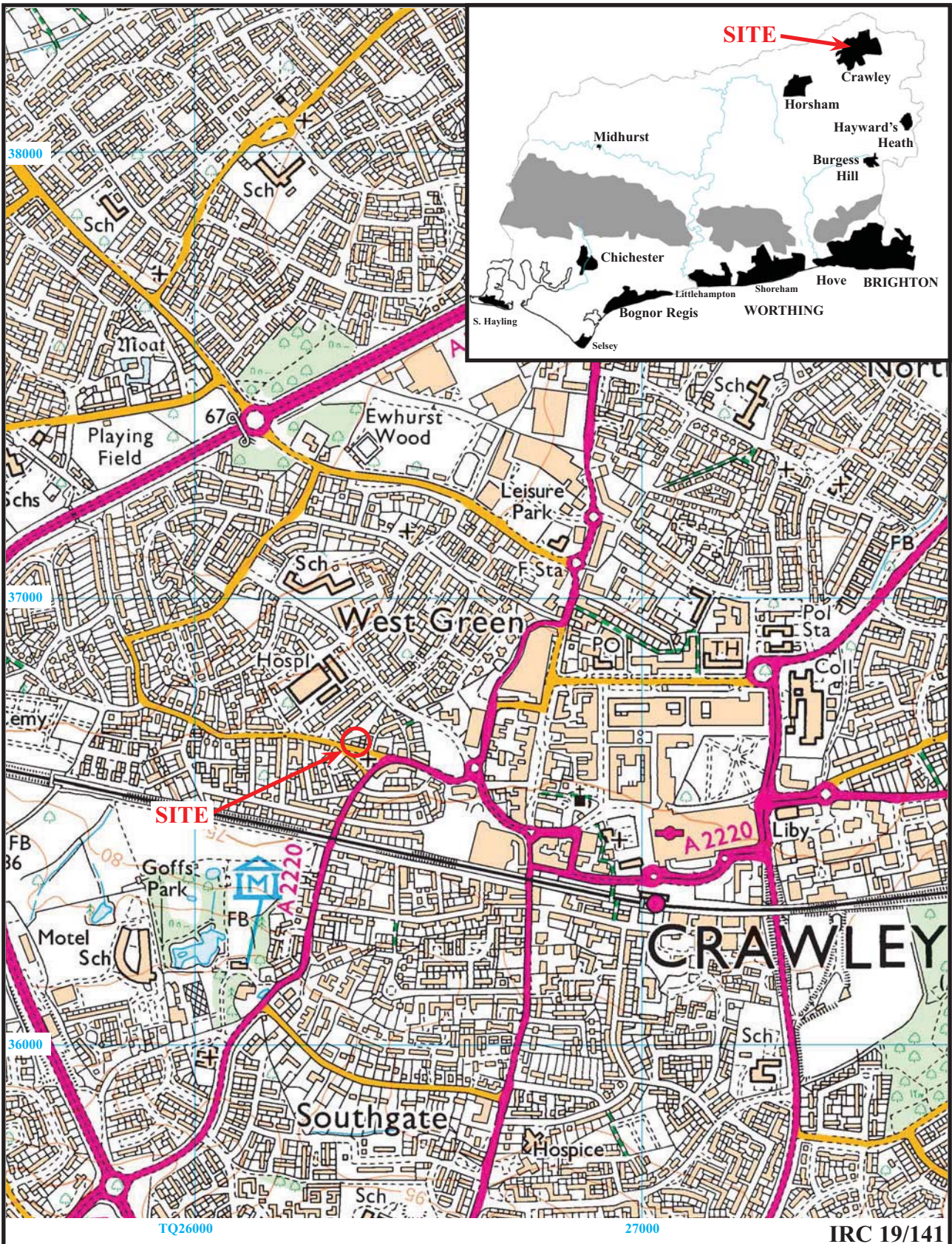
No archaeological finds were recovered during the watching brief.

Conclusion

The watching brief successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of a new extension. Although traces of cottages which once stood on the site were revealed by some of the groundworks, the area had clearly been disturbed by their demolition and the creation of a previous concrete hardstanding, which was subsequently replaced by the recently demolished garage. An undated pit or ditch was observed in the western footing trench, which had been dug through a buried soil horizon. However, the presence of a dark silty clay deposit beneath the buried soil and differences in the level of the underlying clay geology indicate that the area may have been truncated in the past, prior to the former cottages being built in the mid 19th century.

References

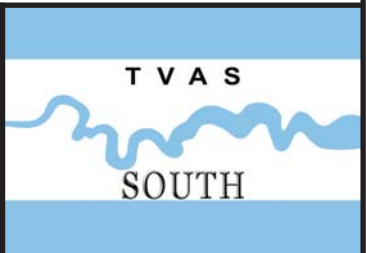
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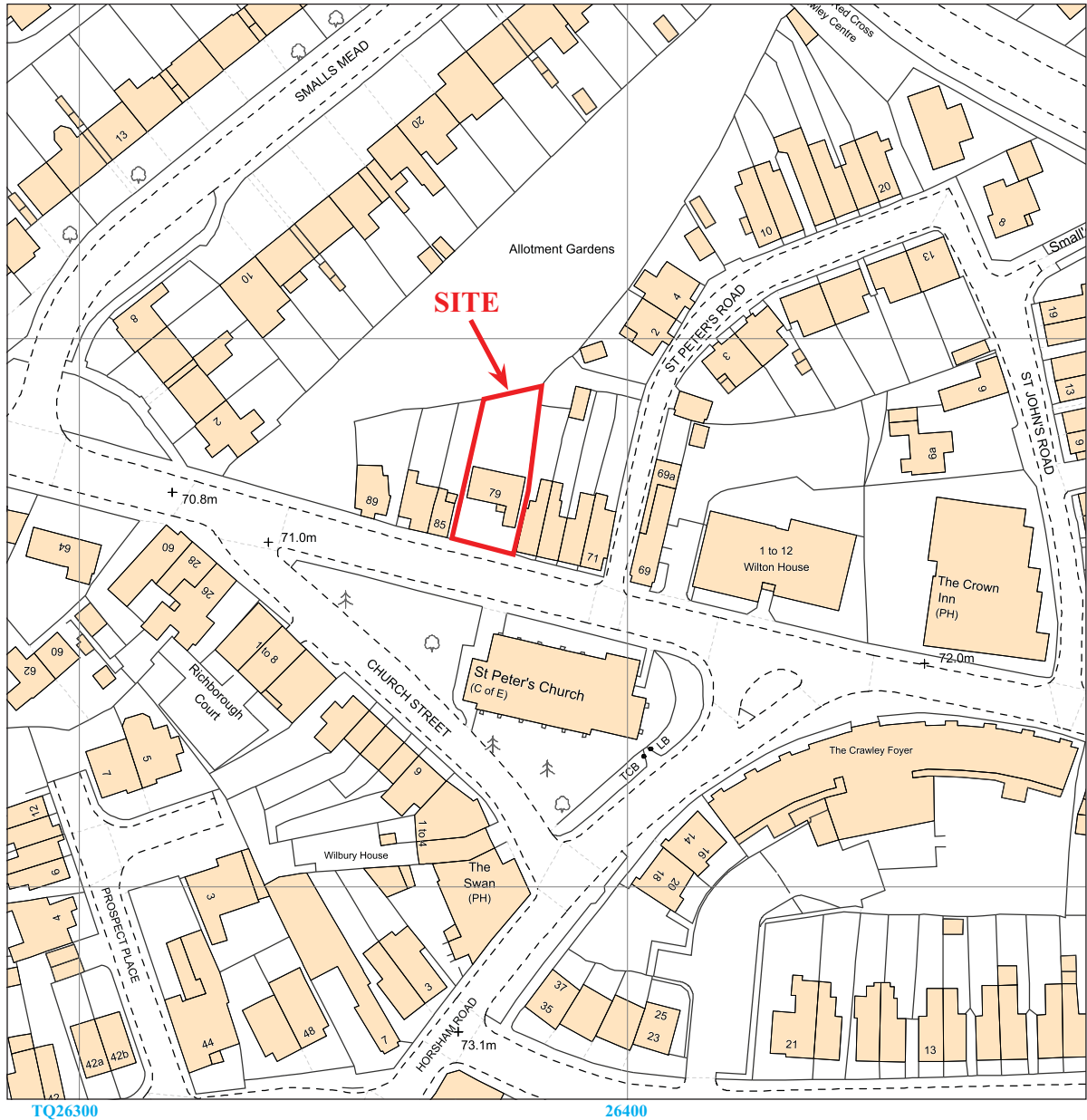


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Figure 1. Location of site within Crawley and West Sussex.

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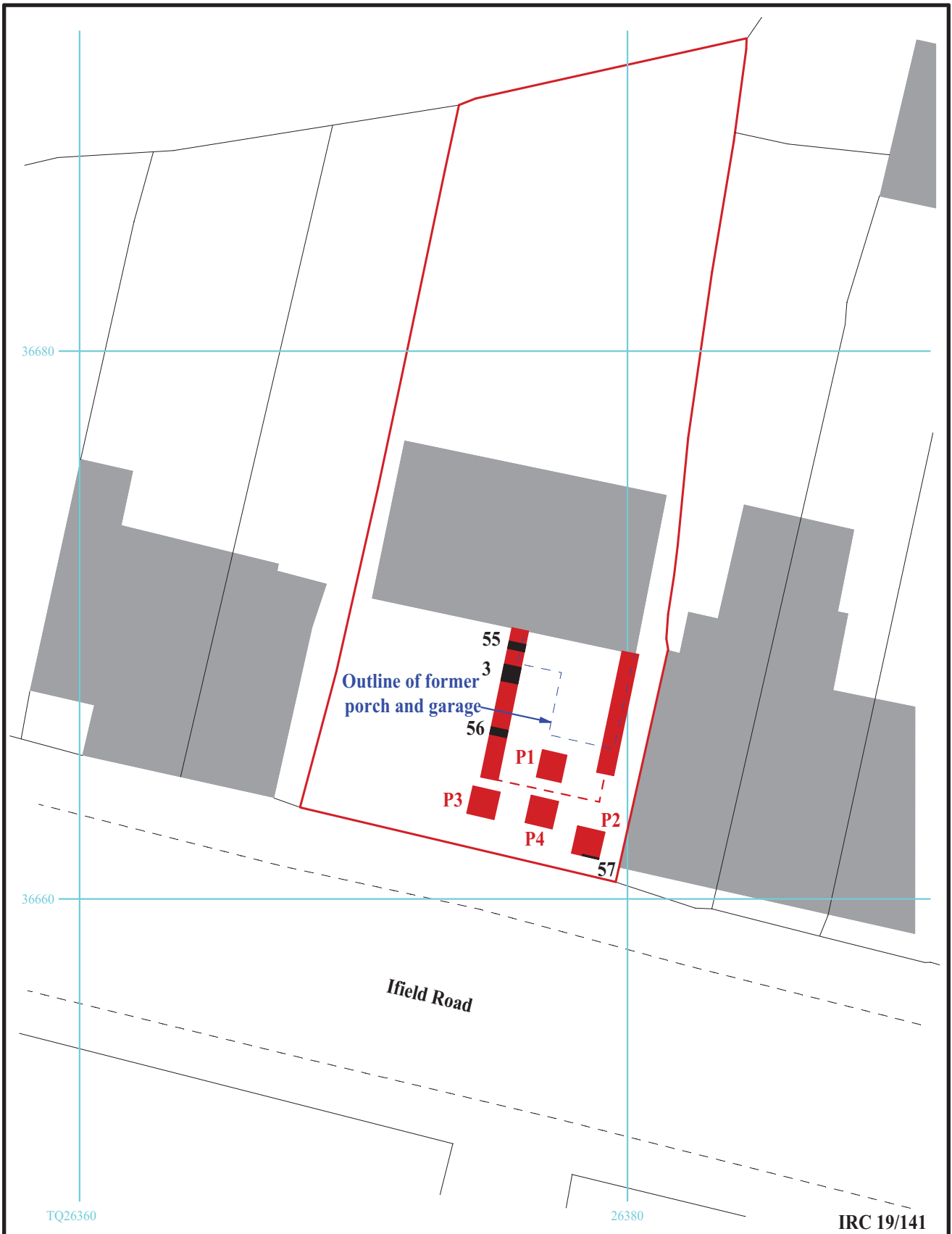
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Figure 2. Detailed site location.

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Figure 3. Site plan showing areas monitored during watching brief.



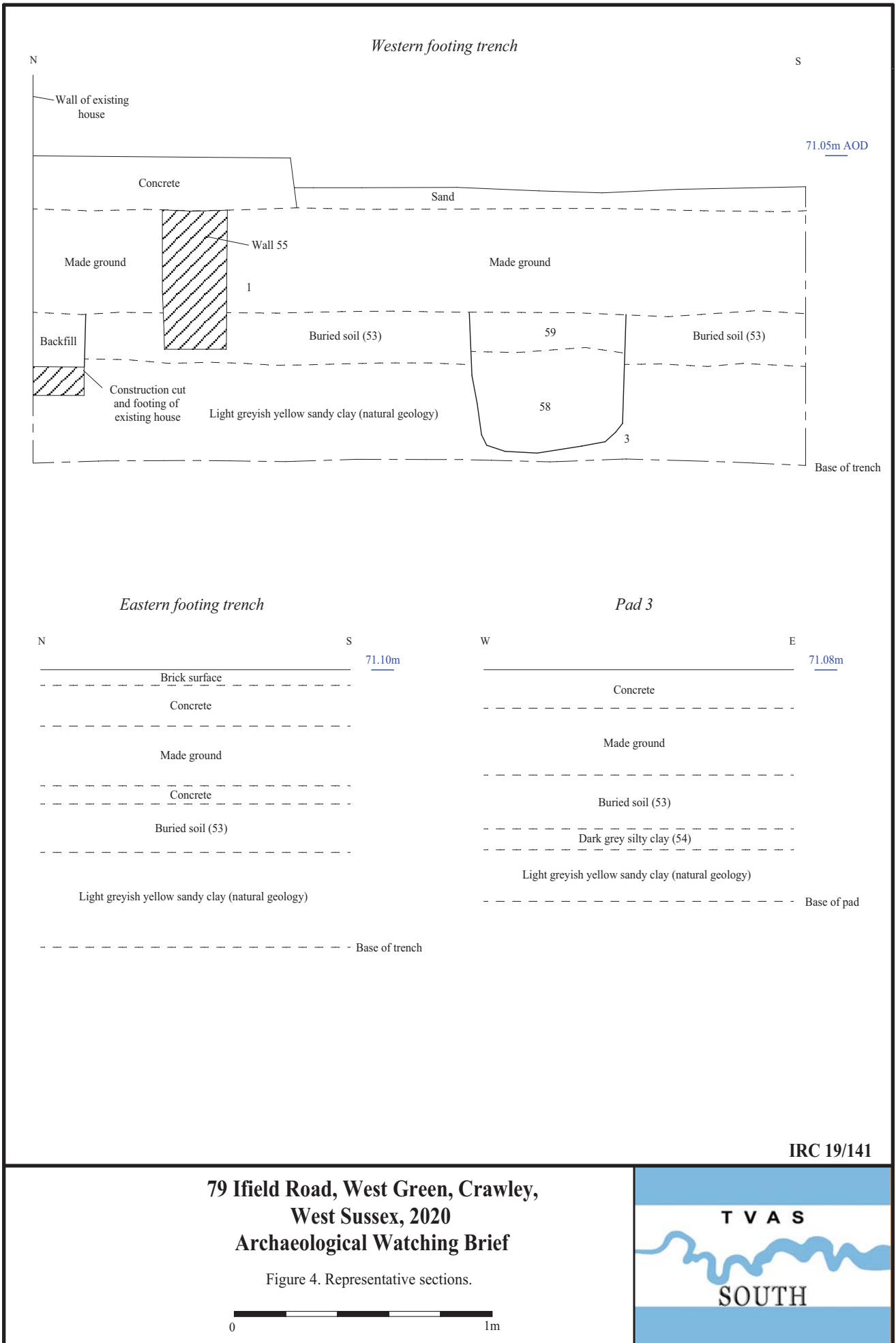




Plate 1. Northern end of western footing trench showing wall 55, looking East.
Scale: 1m.



Plate 2. Western footing trench, looking North-east.
Scale: 1m.



Plate 3. Southern end of western footing trench showing wall 56, looking South-west.
Scale: 1m.



Plate 4. Eastern footing trench, looking North-east.
Scales: 2m and 1m.

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Plates 1 to 4.





Plate 5. Pad 1, looking North.
Scale: 1m.



Plate 6. Pad 2 showing wall 57, looking South-east.
Scale: 1m.



Plate 7. Pad 3, looking North.
Scale: 1m.



Plate 8. General view of site, looking North

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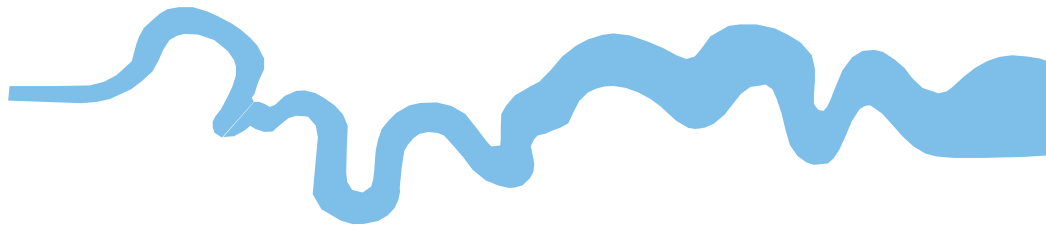
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Plates 5 to 8.**



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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