

**T V A S**



**SOUTH**

**Parkwood House, West Street,  
Harrietsham, Kent**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Odile Rouard**

**Site Code: PHH20/50**

**(TQ 8600 5271)**

**Parkwood House, West Street,  
Harrietsham, Kent**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief  
For CareTech Community Services Ltd**

**Planning Reference : 18/506223/FULL**

by Odile Rouard

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code PHH 20/50

**July 2020**

## Summary

**Site name:** Parkwood House, West Street, Harrietsham, Kent

**Grid reference:** TQ 8600 5271

**Planning reference:** 18/506223/FULL

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 29th June 2020

**Project manager:** Sean Wallis

**Site supervisor:** Odile Rouard

**Site code:** PHH 20/50

**Summary of results:** The watching brief at Parkwood House, West Street, Harrietsham, successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of a new sewage treatment plant. Two areas were stripped down to the top of the natural geology but no archaeological finds or features were recorded. The area immediately to the north had been significantly disturbed in the past by the excavation of a pond.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 10.07.20
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# **Parkwood House, West Street, Harrietsham, Kent An Archaeological Watching Brief**

by Odile Rouard

**Report 20/50**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Parkwood House, West Street, Harrietsham, Kent (TQ 8600 5271) (Figs. 1 and 2). The work was commissioned by Ms Vanessa Farrow of CareTech Community Services Ltd, Metropolitan House, 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, EN6 1AG.

Planning permission (18/506223/FULL) had been gained from Maidstone Borough Council to construct a new sewage treatment plant. 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.

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 Kent County Council Archaeological Officer.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Odile Rouard on the 29th June 2020, and the site code is PHH 20/50. The archive is currently held at TVAS South, Brighton, and will be deposited with Maidstone Museum or Archaeology Data Service in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located immediately to the north of West Street, about 500m west of the historic core of Harrietsham, Kent (Figs. 1 and 2). The site consists of a care home, Parkwood House, and its associated garden areas. Although the area generally slopes down towards the north, the area where the watching brief took place was relatively flat, and lies at height of approximately 75m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Folkestone Formation - Sandstone (BGS 2006), and this was confirmed during the watching brief, where a light yellow brown sand with moderate sandstone inclusions was recorded in the stripped areas.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site largely stems from its location close to the river Len. Watercourses are known to have attracted settlement and other activity in prehistoric times, and a Mesolithic working site was discovered overlooking the river, to the west of Harrietsham. A large quantity of flintwork was recovered, including scrapers, microliths and numerous waste flakes. Evidence of prehistoric and early Roman activity, in the form of pits and ditches, was found close to Harrietsham school, to the east of the present site. A number of probable archaeological features, including enclosures and ring ditches, have been identified in the area around Harrietsham from aerial photographs. The village itself has late Saxon origins, and is mentioned in Domesday Book of 1086 (Williams and Martin 2002). There are numerous Listed Buildings in the village, including the parish church, dedicated to St John the Baptist, which contains elements dating back to the 11th century.

## **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 Kent 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 using a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision.

## **Results**

Two areas were stripped down to the natural sand geology: Area A measured 2.80m by 4.80m and was to contain a new tank, whilst Area B measured 22m by 7m and would be used for drainage. The two areas were stripped down to the top of the natural sand geology using a mechanical excavator under constant archaeological supervision. The natural geology consisted of light yellow brown sand with moderate sandstone inclusions, and was generally revealed beneath 0.18m of topsoil (50) and 0.14m of subsoil (51). A modern service trench was exposed in the northern part of Area A (Pl. 1), whilst the western part of Area B had previously been disturbed by a former pond (Pl. 2). This pond is shown on the modern Ordnance Survey (Fig. 2), but was actually slightly bigger than it is depicted on the map. It had recently been backfilled by the care home for health and safety reasons. Apart from these modern truncations, no archaeological features were observed cutting into the natural geology in either area, and no finds were recovered from the soil horizons. As no features had been observed in the stripped areas, further ground reduction was allowed to take place without archaeological supervision.

## **Finds**

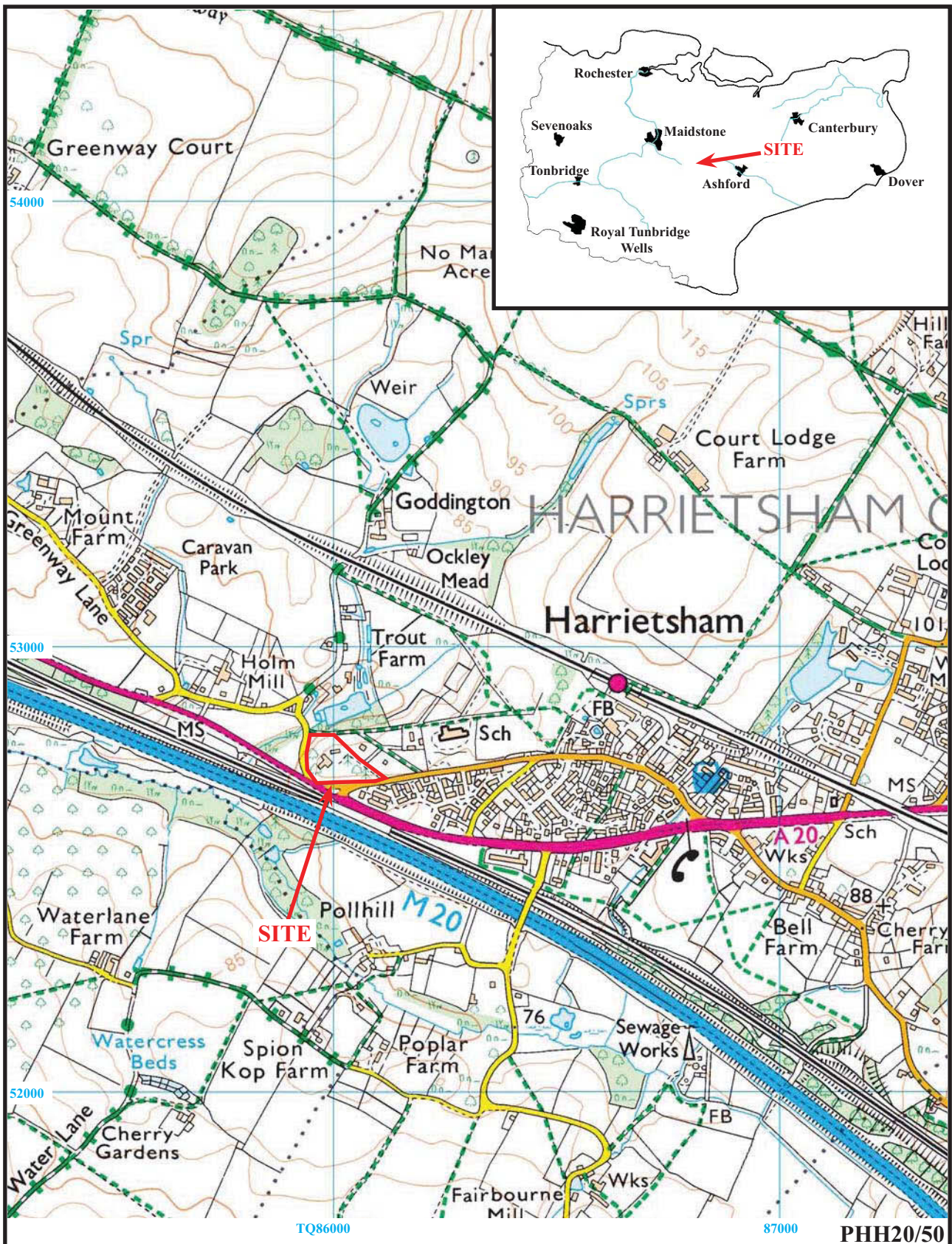
No archaeological finds were recovered during the watching brief.

## **Conclusion**

The watching brief at Parkwood House, West Street, Harrietsham, Kent, successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of a new sewage treatment plant. Two areas were stripped down to the top of the natural geology, but no archaeological finds or features were recorded. One of the areas had been significantly disturbed by a former pond which had been backfilled recently.

## **References**

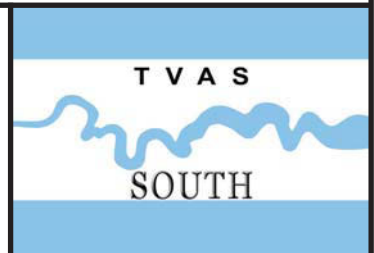
- BGS, 2006, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet **318/333**, Bedrock and Superficial Deposits Edition, Keyworth.
- Mills, A D, 1993, *English Place-names*, Oxford.
- NPPF, 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework* (revised), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London.
- Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation*, London

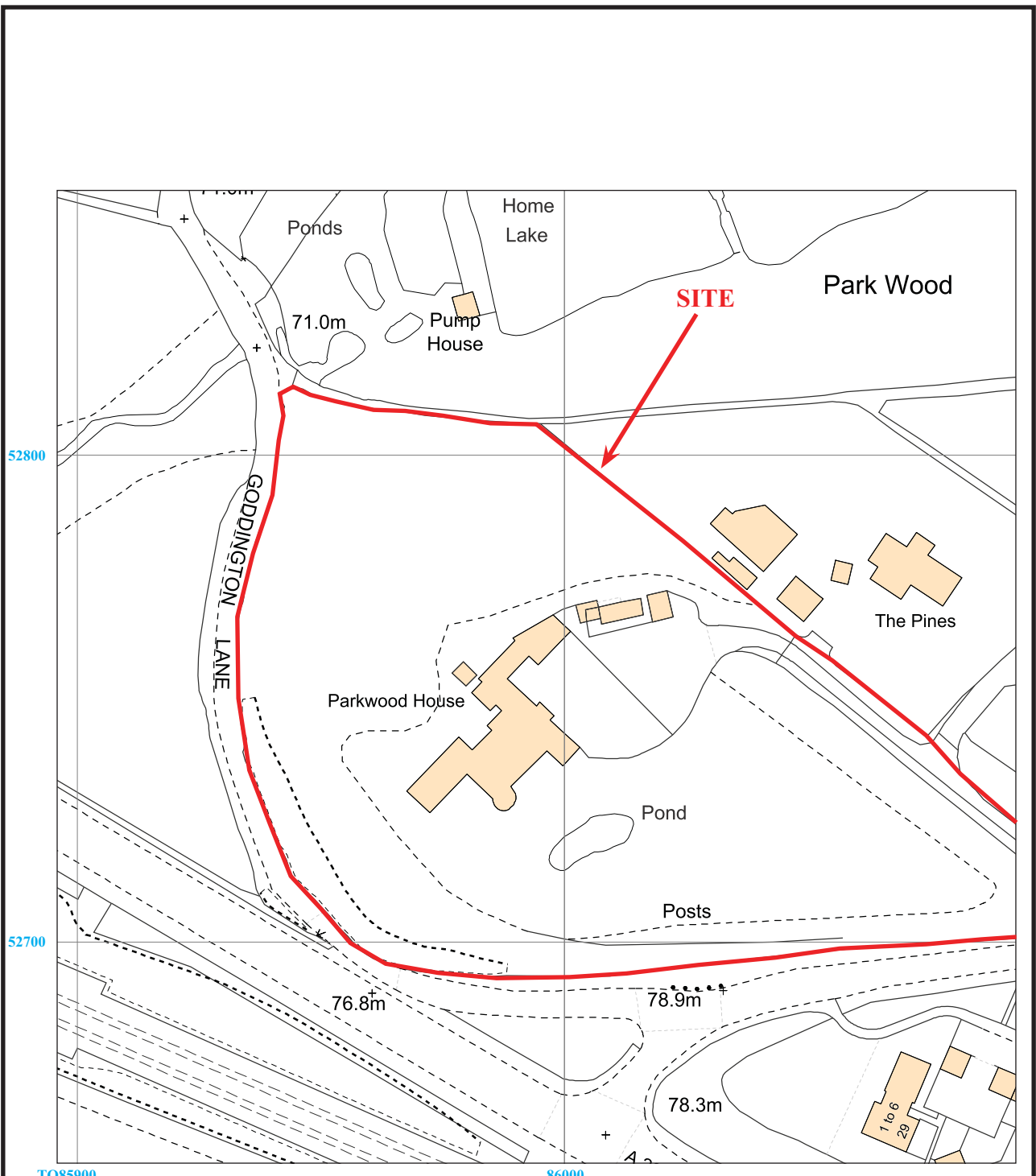


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Harrietsham, Kent, 2020  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 1. Location of site within Harrietsham and Kent.

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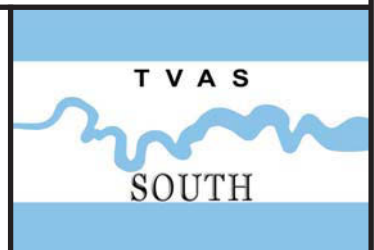


PHH 20/50

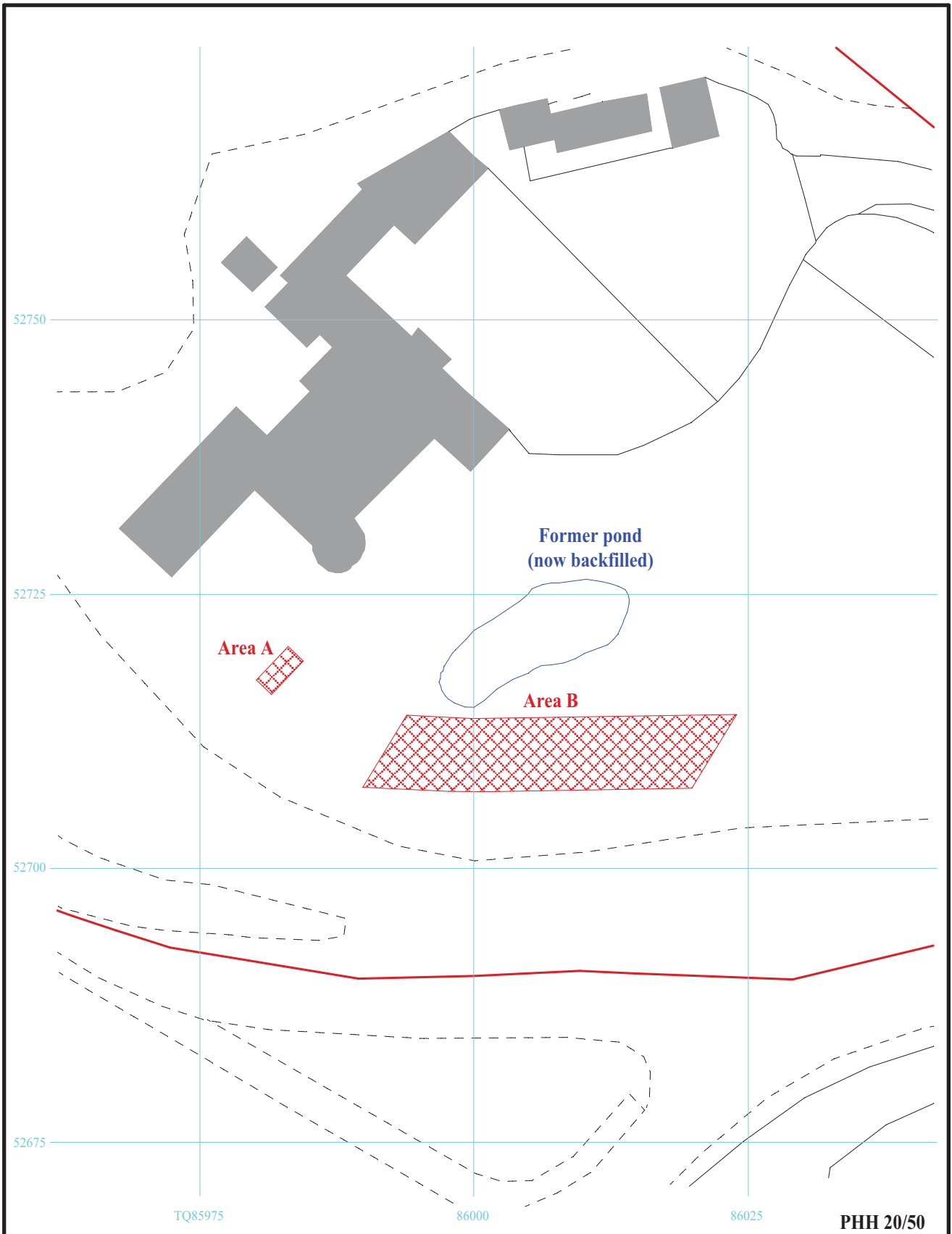


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Harrietsham, Kent, 2020  
Archaeological Watching Brief**  
Figure 2. Detailed site location.

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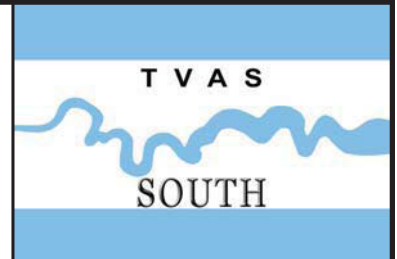




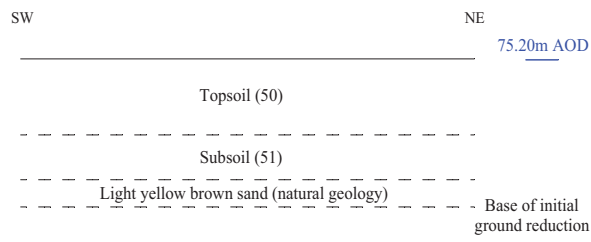


**Parkwood House, West Street,  
Harrietsham, 2020  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

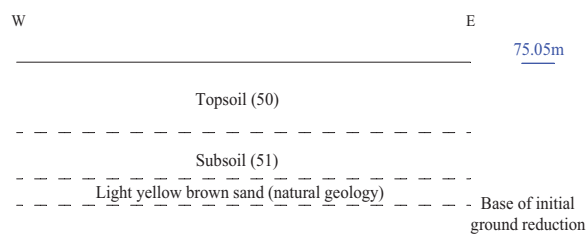
Figure 3. Plan showing the areas monitored during the watching brief.



*Area A*



*Area B*



PHH 20/50

**Parkwood House, West Street,  
Harrietsham, Kent, 2020  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 4. Representative sections.

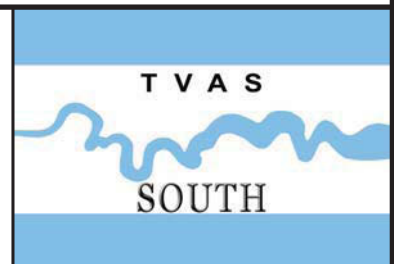




Plate 1. Area A, looking North-west.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



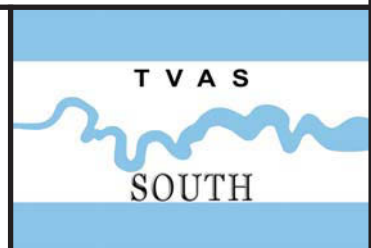
Plate 2. Area B, looking East.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 3. Area B, looking West.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m

PHH 20/50

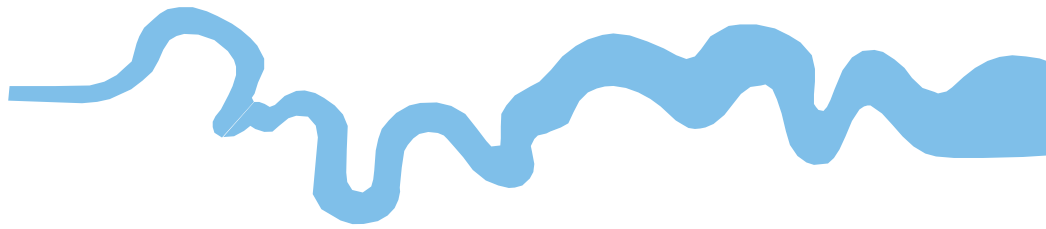
**Parkwood House, West Street,  
Harrietsham, Kent, 2020  
Archaeological Watching Brief  
Plates 1 to 3.**



## 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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