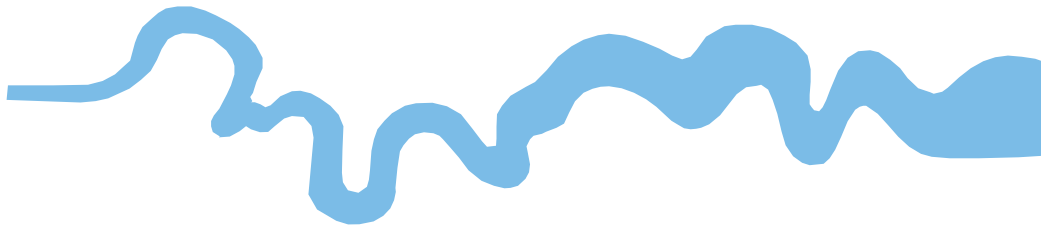


**T V A S**



**SOUTH**

**Pear Tree House, Crook Road,  
Brenchley, Tonbridge, Kent**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Virginia Fuentes and Odile Rouard**

**Site Code: PBT20/200**

**(TQ 6921 4242)**

**Pear Tree House, Crook Road, Brenchley,  
Tonbridge, Kent**

**An Archaeological Evaluation**

**for Mr Yarl Morris**

**Planning reference: 20/01842/FULL**

by Virginia Fuentes and Odile Rouard

TVAS South

Site Code  
PBT 20/200

**January 2021**

## Summary

**Site name:** Pear Tree House, Crook Road, Brenchley, Tonbridge, Kent

**Grid reference:** TQ 6921 4242

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Planning reference:** 20/01842/FULL

**Date and duration of project:** 14th January 2021

**Project manager:** Sean Wallis

**Site supervisor:** Odile Rouard

**Site code:** PBT 20/200

**Area of site:** c. 1500 sq m

**Summary of results:** The archaeological evaluation at Pear Tree House, Crook Road, Brenchley, successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the proposed development of the site. Although the historic maps suggested that remains of post-medieval brickworks may have been present to the north of the existing house, no finds or features were recorded during the evaluation.

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

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 21.01.21
	Steve Preston ✓ 21.01.21

# Pear Tree House, Crook Road, Brenchley, Tonbridge, Kent An Archaeological Evaluation

by Virginia Fuentes and Odile Rouard

**Report 20/200**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried at Pear Tree House, Brenchley, Tonbridge, Kent (TQ 6921 4242) (Figs 1 and 2). The work was commissioned by Mr Adam Gerken of Pump House Designs Ltd, Pump House Yard, The Green, Sedlescombe, East Sussex, on behalf of the property's owner, Mr Yarl Morris.

Planning permission (20/01842/FULL) has been sought from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council to replace the existing house on the site with a new building. 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 the planning process with regard to its potential archaeological implications.

This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology and the historic environment. The field investigation was carried out in accordance with Kent County Council's guidelines for trial trenching (KCC 2013) and in accordance with the relevant guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a).

The fieldwork was undertaken by Odile Rouard and Elisabet Diaz on 14th January 2021, and the site code is PBT 20/200. The archive is presently held at TVAS South, Brighton, and will be deposited with Archaeology Data Service in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located to the north of Crook Road, about 1.4km north-east of the historic core of Brenchley, Kent and is centred on NGR TQ 6921 4242 (Figs 1 and 2). The area is relatively flat and lies at a height of approximately 75m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Wadhurst Clay (BGS 1976), and this was confirmed in the evaluation trenches.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site is largely derived from the fact that a brickworks is shown close to the existing house on the First Edition Ordnance Survey from the 1870s. The brickworks appears to have been closed by the time the Second Edition Ordnance Survey was published in 1899, however, it is possible that the remains of structures and other features relating to brick production may have survived on the site. Although any deposits present may have been destroyed or disturbed by the present building, the new house will be slightly bigger than the existing structure, and the historic maps suggest that remains may be present to the north of the present building. The site is also located about 300m south of a Scheduled Ancient Monument known as Castle Hill. This was traditionally thought to represent the remains of a motte and bailey castle, although further research suggests that it may in fact be a medieval defensive ringwork. It is possible that outlying features associated with these earthworks may be present on site.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or paleoenvironmental deposits within the area of the proposed area of 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 dating from the medieval period are present; and
- to determine if archaeological deposits from the post-medieval brickworks are present.

Two trenches were to be dug, measuring 10m and 5m long respectively, and 1.6m in width. The trenches were positioned to target those parts of the site which would be most affected by the proposed development, and 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 two trenches were dug close to their original planned positions (Fig. 3). Both trenches were 1.60m wide, and measured 10.2m and 5.18m in length, and 0.35m and 0.45m in depth respectively. 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 WNW-ESE, and was 10.2m long and up to 0.35m deep. The natural geology was visible beneath 0.11m of topsoil (50) and 0.0.18m 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 NNE-SSW, and was 5.18m long and up to 0.45m deep. The natural geology was encountered beneath 0.21m of topsoil (50) and 0.19m 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 Pear Tree House, Crook Road, Brenchley, successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the proposed development of the site. Although the historic maps suggested that archaeological remains from post-medieval brickworks may have been present to the north of the existing house, where the trenches were placed, no finds or features were recorded during the evaluation.

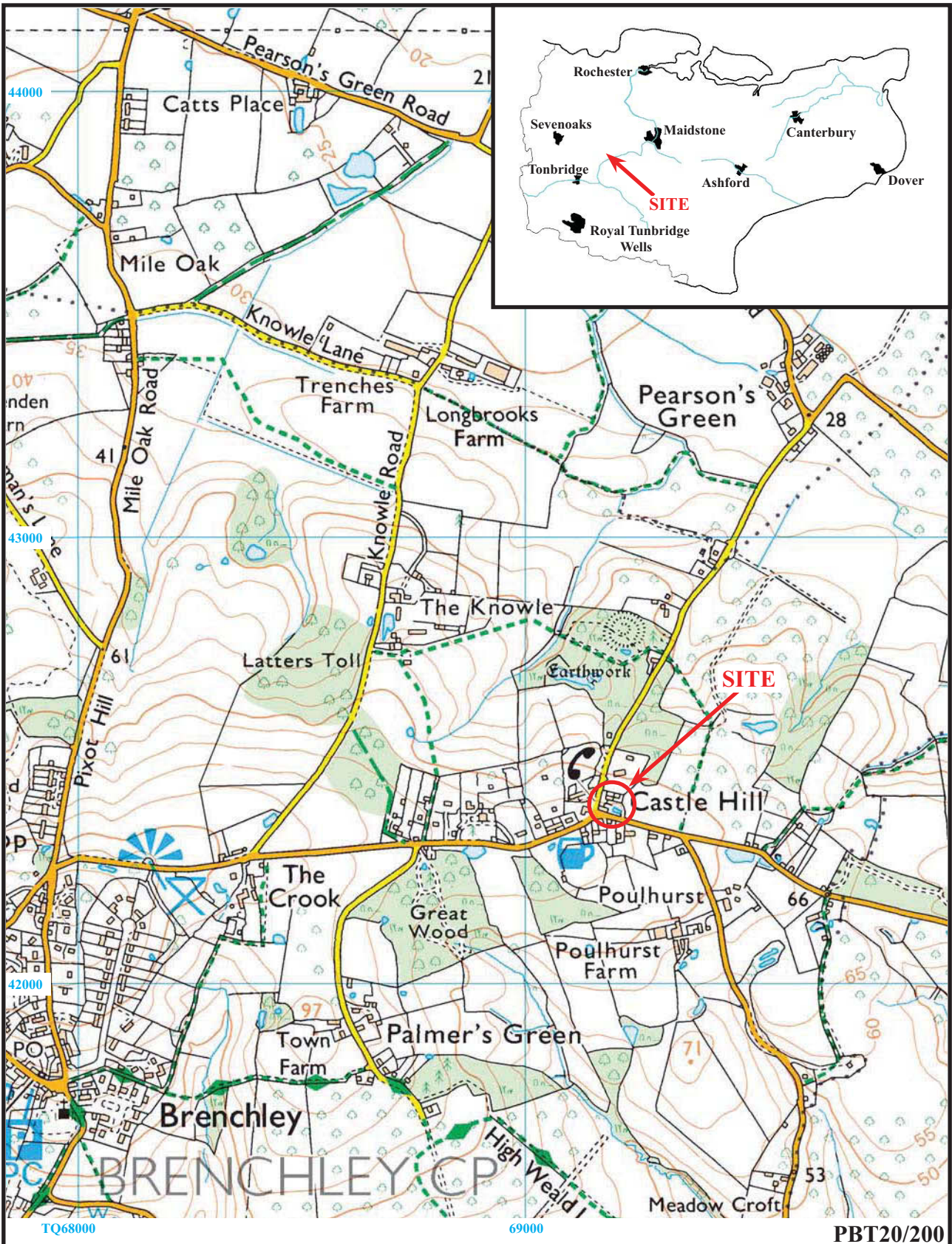
### **References**

BGS, 1976, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet **288**, Drift Edition, Keyworth.  
NPPF, 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework* (revised), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London.

**APPENDIX 1: Trench details**

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	10.20	1.60	0.35	0-0.011m Topsoil (50); 0.11-0.29m Subsoil (51); 0.29-0.35m+ natural geology (Wadhurst Clay). <b>[Pl. 1]</b>
2	5.18	1.60	0.45	0-0.21m Topsoil (50); 0.21-0.40m Subsoil (51); 0.40-0.45m+ natural geology (Wadhurst Clay). <b>[Pl. 2]</b>

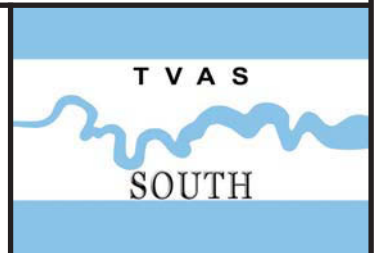




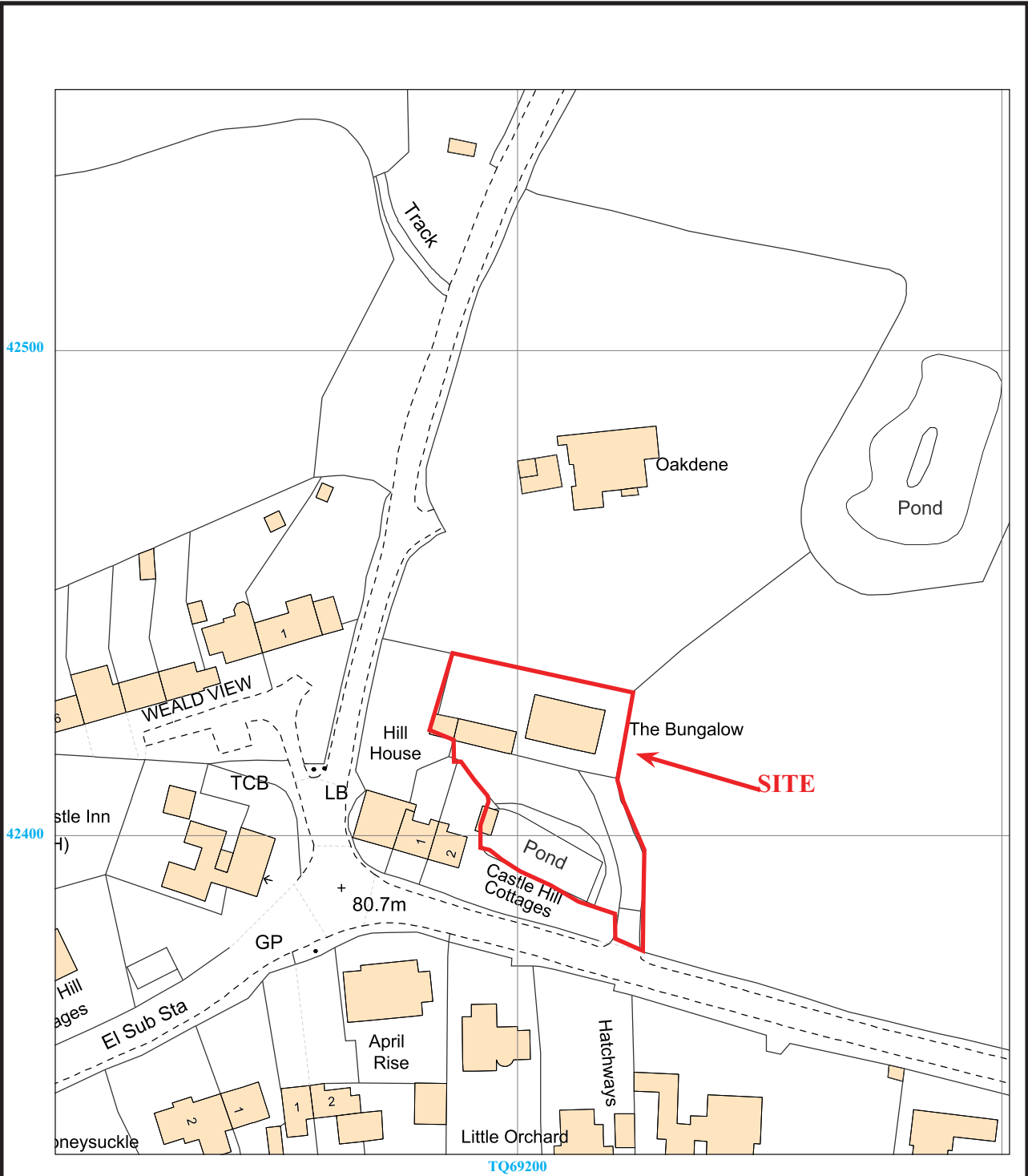
**Pear Tree House, Crook Road, Brenchley  
Tonbridge, Kent, 2021  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Brenchley and Kent.

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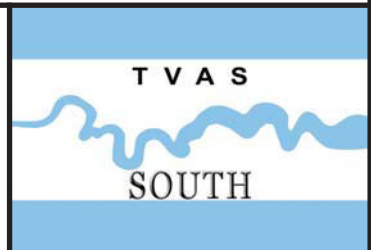


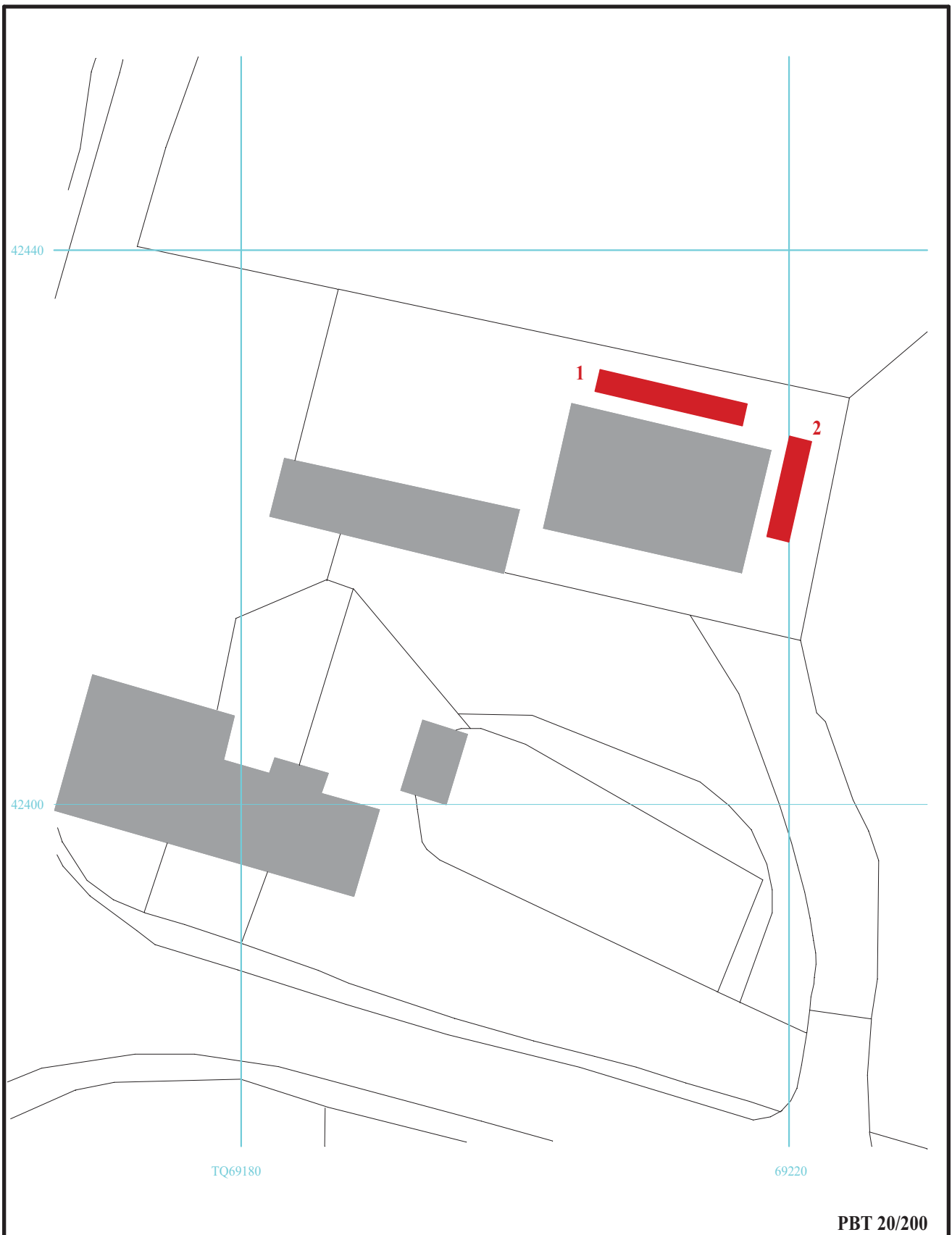
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**Pear Tree House, Crook Road, Brenchley**  
**Tonbridge, Kent, 2021**  
**Archaeological Evaluation**  
 Figure 2. Detailed site location.

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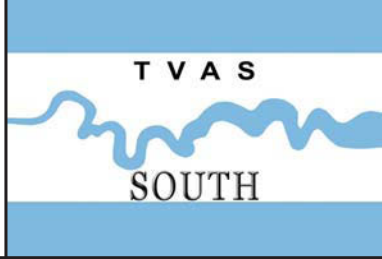


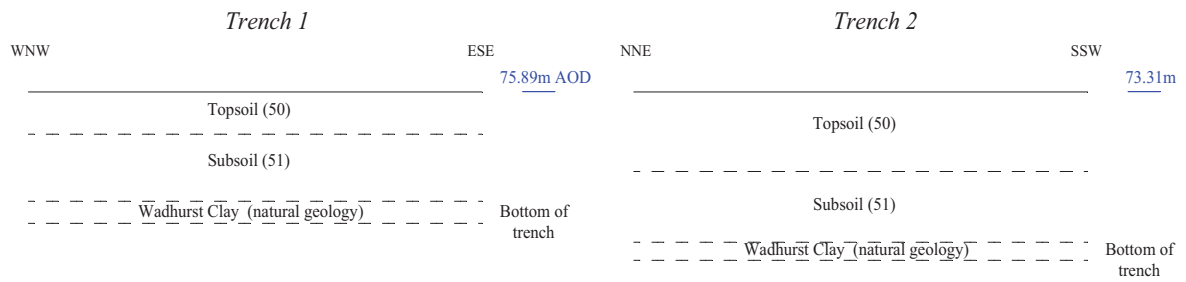
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Figure 3. Site plan showing evaluation trenches.





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Figure 4. Representative sections.

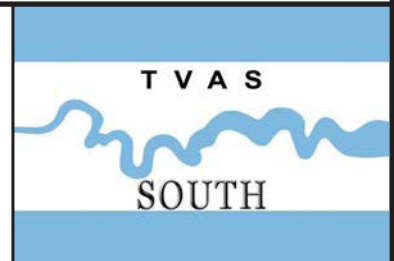




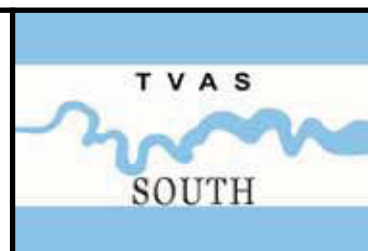
Plate 1. Trench 1, looking East, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.30m.



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

**PBT 20/200**

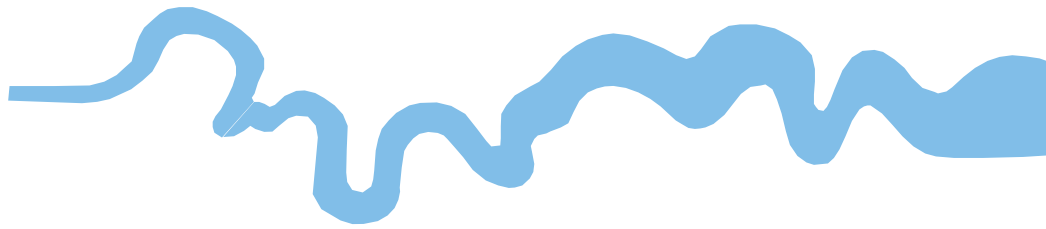
**Pear Tree House, Crook Road, Brenchley  
Tonbridge, Kent, 2021  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 1 and 2.**



## 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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