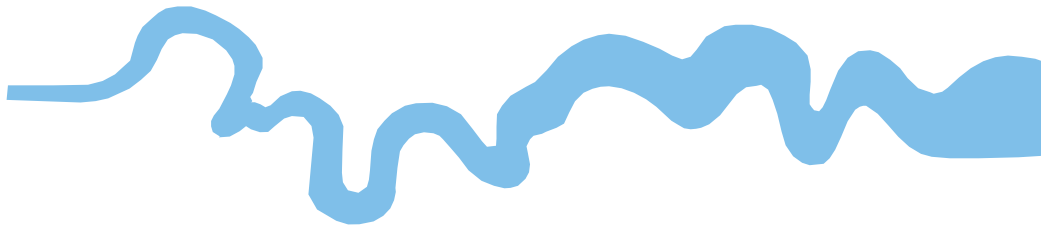


**T V A S**



**SOUTH**

**Wealden Farm, Parrock Lane,  
Hartfield, East Sussex**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Sean Wallis**

**Site Code: WFH14/147**

**(TQ 4493 3464)**

**Wealden Farm, Parrock Lane, Hartfield,  
East Sussex**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Ms Caroline Vickery**

**Planning Reference : WD/2010/1238**

by Sean Wallis

TVAS South

Site Code WFH 14/147

**September 2021**

## Summary

**Site name:** Wealden Farm, Parrock Lane, Hartfield, East Sussex

**Grid reference:** TQ 4493 3464

**Planning reference:** WD/2010/1238

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 6th October 2014 - 7th September 2021

**Project manager:** Sean Wallis

**Site supervisor:** Sean Wallis

**Site code:** WFH 14/147

**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 house but no archaeological finds or features were recorded.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at TVAS South, Brighton, and will be deposited with an appropriate museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 28.09.21
	Steve Preston ✓ 28.09.21

# Wealden Farm, Parrock Lane, Hartfield, East Sussex An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Sean Wallis

**Report 14/147**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Wealden Farm, Parrock Lane, Hartfield, East Sussex (TQ 4493 3464) (Figs. 1 and 2). The work was commissioned by the property's owner, Ms Caroline Vickery.

Planning permission (WD/2010/1238) had been gained from Wealden District Council to construct a new house on the site. The consent was subject to a standard planning condition (4) relating to archaeology and historic environment, which required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work.

This was in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District 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 former East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer (Mr Greg Chuter). It is noted that the *National Planning Policy Framework* has been updated on a number of occasions since 2012, the most recent revision being issued earlier this year (NPPF 2021).

Due to the time limits associated with the original planning permission, some of the new footings were excavated in October 2014. However, it was not until earlier this year that the client was finally in a position to continue with the construction work. The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken by Felicity Thompson and Sean Wallis between 6th October 2014 and 7th September 2021, and the site code is WFH 14/147. The archive is currently held at TVAS South, Brighton, and will be deposited with an appropriate museum in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located to the east of Parrock Lane, close to where the road turns south by Upper Parrock Farm (Figs. 1 and 2). An access road from Parrock Lane leads into the site. The eastern part of the site is currently occupied by a mobile home on a concrete base, whilst the western area is occupied by a couple of agricultural type buildings around a hardstanding. Wealden Farm is located at the top of a hill, although the area where the watching brief took place is relatively flat and lies at a height of approximately 100m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of the Ashdown Beds, and this was

confirmed during the watching brief, with a light brownish yellow clayey sand being recorded in all the areas monitored, with varying amounts of sandstone inclusions (BGS 1971).

### **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been gleaned from a search of the East Sussex Historic Environment Record, which was carried out in 2013. In summary, the site is located within an area associated with the medieval ironworking industry of the Weald. Numerous trackways, quarries and iron production sites have been identified within a 1km radius of the site. Of particular relevance to the site itself, is the record relating to the discovery of iron working slag, about 40m south-west of the new house, which suggests the presence of a kiln, bloomery or furnace nearby.

### **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 East Sussex 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**

A small section of the footings for the new house were excavated in October 2014, and had been concreted shortly afterwards. However, due to the requirements of Building Control, the original concrete had to be removed, and the footing trenches re-dug. The rest of the footing trenches were dug in September 2021, and were mostly 0.70m wide and up to 1.10m deep. The stratigraphy observed in the footing trenches generally consisted of about 0.28m of topsoil (50) and 0.08m of subsoil (51) above the natural clayey sand geology. No archaeological finds or features were recorded, although a ceramic land drain was noted in the easternmost footing trench.

The excavation of two new service runs was also monitored during the project, with ground reduction being observed down to the top of the underlying clayey sand geology. Subsequent excavation of the trenches

down to their required level took place without archaeological supervision. The trenches were generally 0.50m wide, although several 1m by 1m squares were excavated along their length for interceptors. This work took place in July 2021.

The foul service trench was monitored from the south-eastern corner of the new house, roughly north-westwards for about 55m. The stratigraphy above the natural clayey sand geology generally consisted of 0.22m of topsoil (50) and 0.09m of subsoil (51), although the topsoil horizon was slightly thicker at the eastern end of the trench. A small section of the trench was monitored in the area where it crossed the existing hardstanding, where 0.25m of made ground was seen to lie directly above the natural geology. It was clear that this area had been stripped before, and therefore the remainder of the trench across the hardstanding was not monitored. No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

Just over 20m of the new surface water trench was monitored up to the point where was to enter a new attenuation tank. The area where the tank was to be situated measured approximately 5m by 4.50m, and was stripped under archaeological supervision. The stratigraphy recorded in this area and along the surface water trench generally consisted of 0.26m of topsoil (50) and 0.07m of subsoil (51) above the natural clayey sand geology. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

## **Finds**

No archaeological finds were recovered during the watching brief.

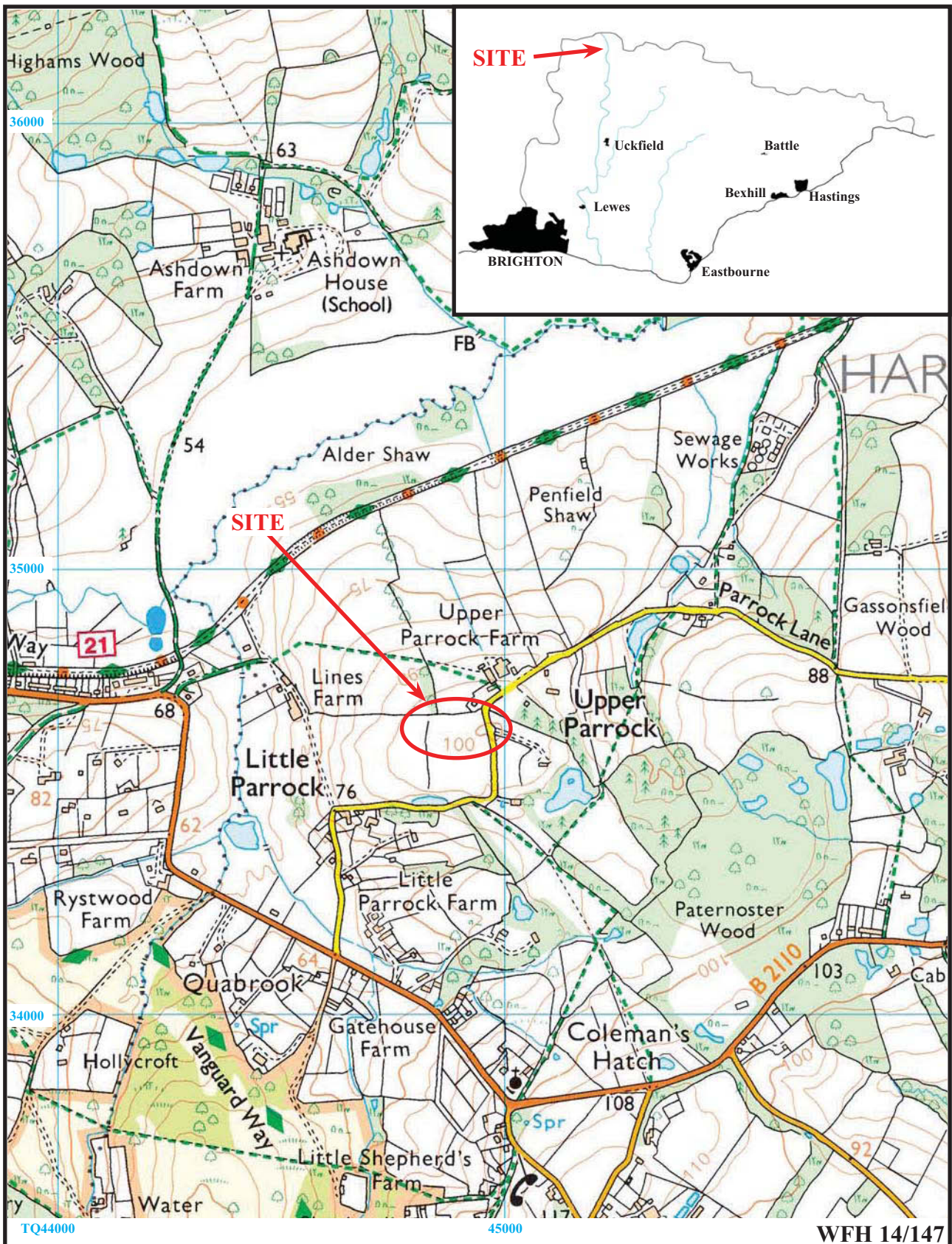
## **Conclusion**

The watching brief at Wealden Farm, Hartfield, successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of a new house. The majority of the groundworks associated with the development were monitored, including a large proportion of the new drainage, but no archaeological finds or features were recorded. Apart from where one of the new services crossed an existing hardstanding, the site appears to have been relatively undisturbed in the past, and the topsoil and subsoil layers were very sterile. No archaeological features were recorded, and no finds were recovered from the soil horizons.

## **References**

BGS, 1971, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet **303**, Solid and Drift Deposits Edition, Keyworth.  
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

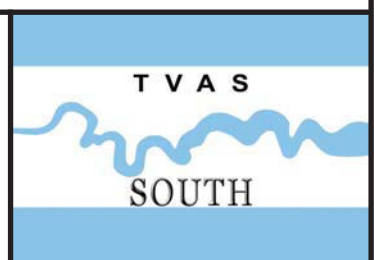


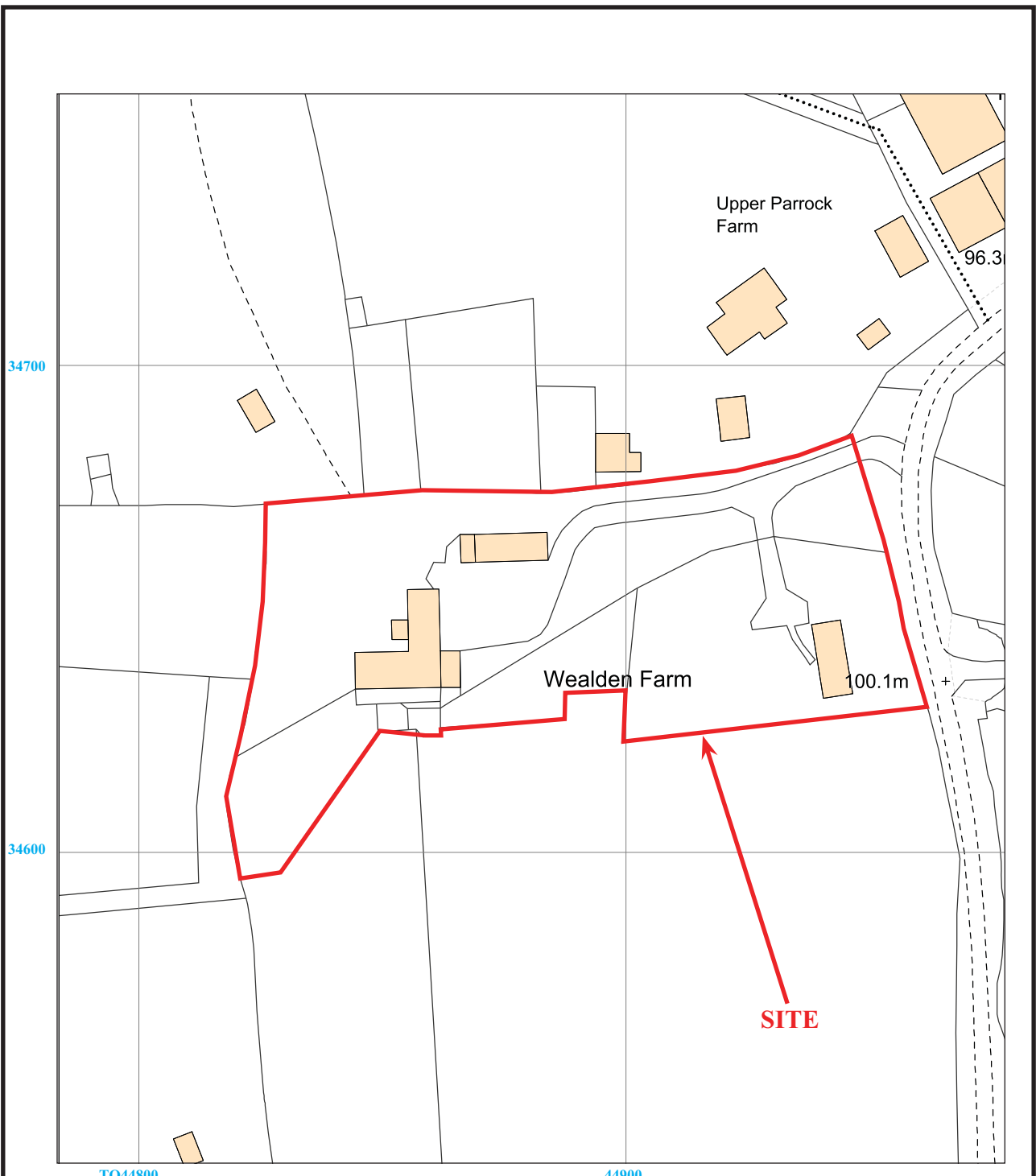


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Figure 1. Location of site within Hartfield and East Sussex.

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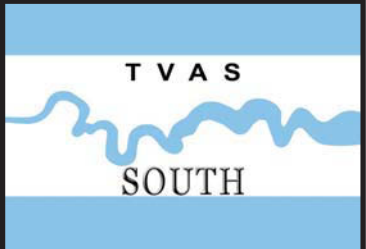


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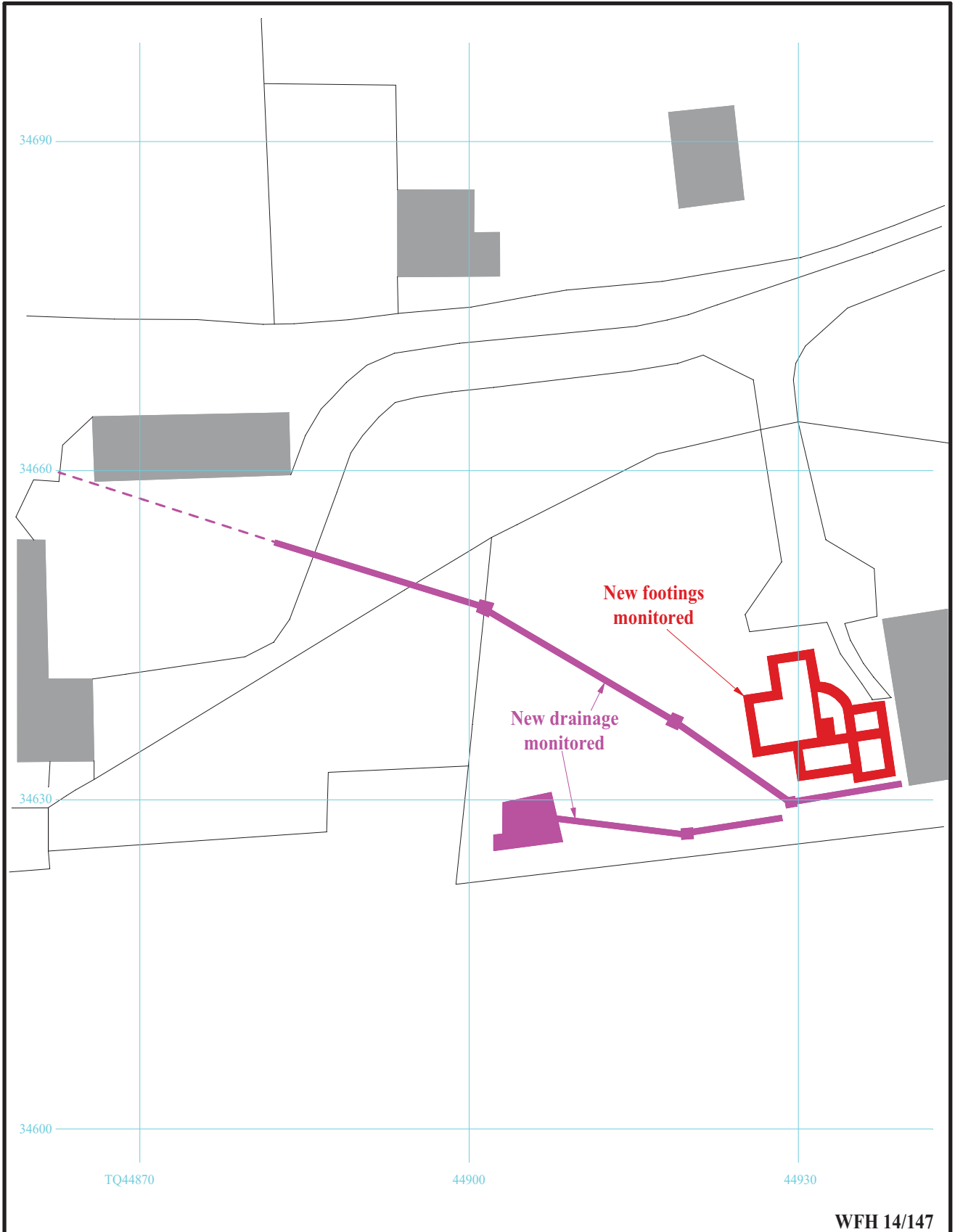


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East Sussex, 2021  
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Figure 2. Detailed site location.

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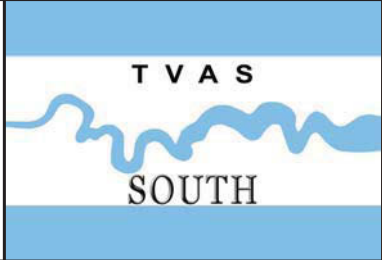


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Figure 3. Plan showing the areas monitored during the watching brief.



### House Footing Trench

N \_\_\_\_\_ S 100.11m AOD

Topsoil (50)

-----  
Subsoil (51)  
-----

Ashdown Beds (natural geology)

----- Base of trench

### Foul Service Trench (East End)

NW \_\_\_\_\_ SE 100.09m

Topsoil (50)

-----  
Subsoil (51)  
-----

-----  
Ashdown Beds (natural geology)  
-----

Base of initial  
ground reduction

### Foul Service Trench (West End)

NW \_\_\_\_\_ SE 99.74m

Made ground

-----  
Ashdown Beds (natural geology)  
-----

Base of initial  
ground reduction

### Attenuation Tank

W \_\_\_\_\_ E 100.24m

Topsoil (50)

-----  
Subsoil (51)  
-----

-----  
Ashdown Beds (natural geology)  
-----

Base of initial  
ground reduction

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## Wealden Farm, Parrock Lane, Hartfield, East Sussex, 2021 Archaeological Watching Brief

Figure 4. Representative sections.

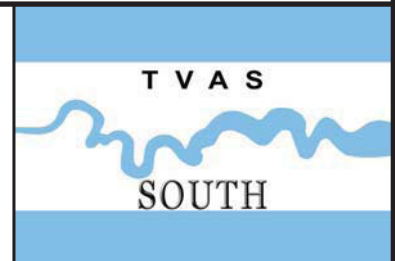




Plate 1. Easternmost house footing trench, looking East. Scale: 1m.



Plate 2. General view of house footings, looking North-west.



Plate 3. General view of foul service trench, looking South-east.



Plate 4. General view of foul service trench, looking North-west.



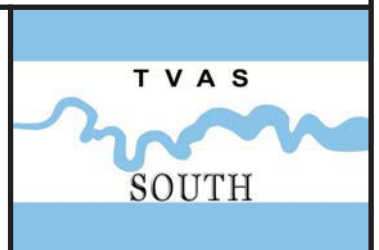
Plate 5. Stratigraphy in foul service trench, looking South. Scale: 0.30m



Plate 6. General view of area stripped for attenuation tank, looking North-west. Scales: 1m and 0.50m.

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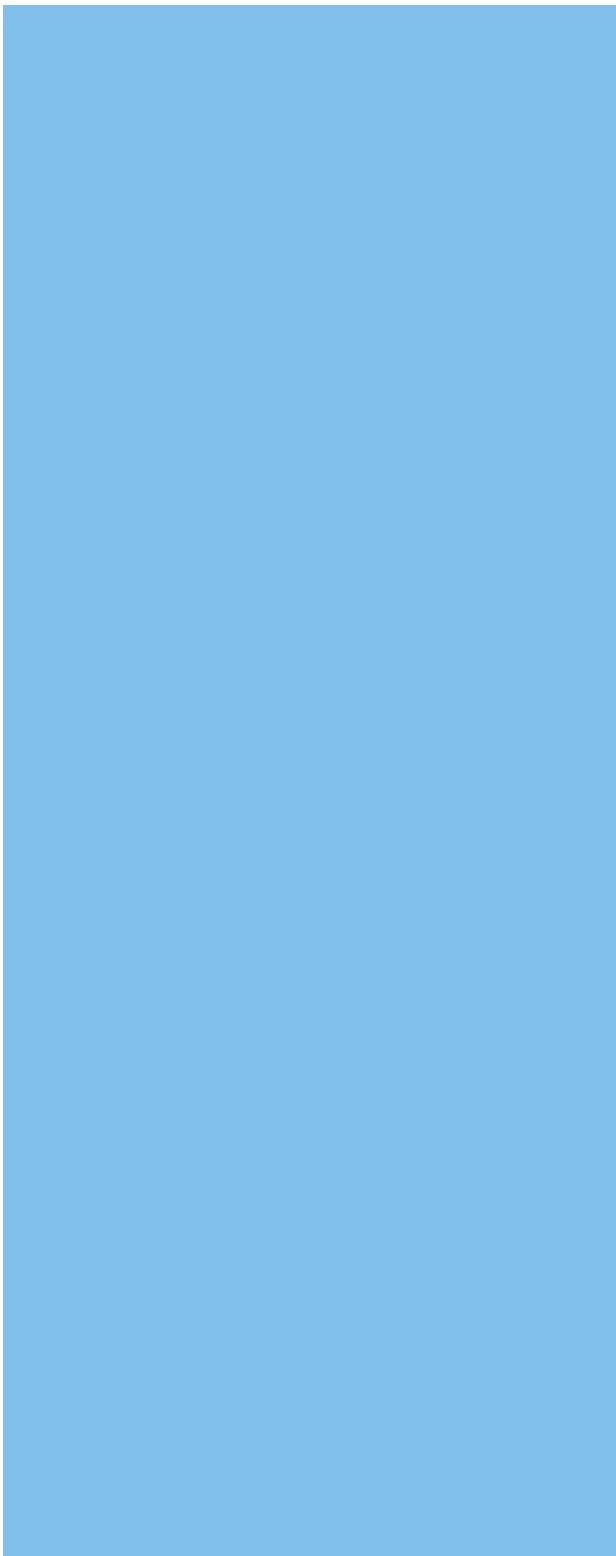
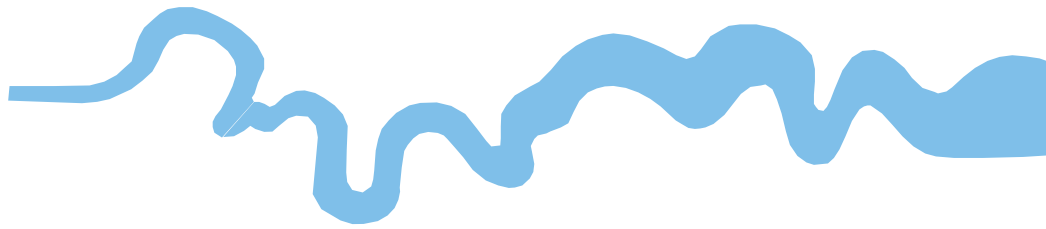
Wealden Farm, Parrock Lane, Hartfield,  
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 Plates 1 to 6.



## 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





**TVAS (South),  
77a Hollingdean Terrace  
Brighton, BN1 7HB**

**Tel: 01273 554198  
Email: [south@tvas.co.uk](mailto:south@tvas.co.uk)  
Web: [www.tvas.co.uk/south](http://www.tvas.co.uk/south)**

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