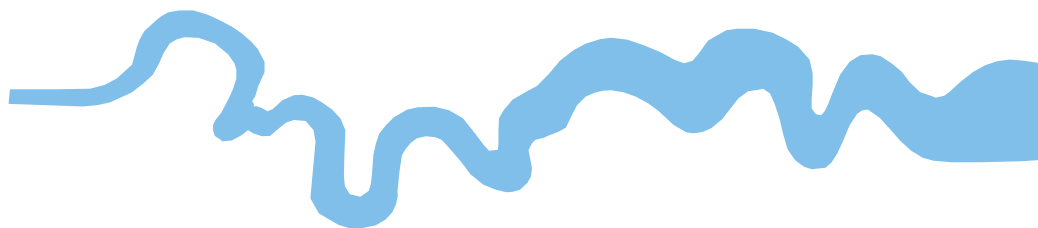


T V A S



SOUTH

**Hove Park School, Nevill Campus,
Hove, East Sussex**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Sean Wallis

Site Code: HPS20/115

(TQ 2822 0620)

**Hove Park School, Nevill Campus,
Hove, East Sussex**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
For Brighton and Hove City Council**

Planning Reference : BH2020/00206

by Sean Wallis
TVAS South

Site Code HPS 20/115

October 2021

Summary

Site name: Hove Park School, Nevill Campus, Hove, East Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 2822 0620

Planning reference: BH2020/00206

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 10th March - 6th October 2021

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Sean Wallis

Site code: HPS 20/115

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 sports hall. It was clear that much of the site where the new sports hall was to be built had been significantly disturbed by past activity, and the natural geology was only revealed in one small area in the south-west corner. No archaeological finds or features were recorded. Groundworks close to the school's Second World War air raid shelter were undertaken carefully, just in case any structural remains were revealed but in the event, only material from the earthen bank covering the air raid shelter was removed.

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 ✓ 29.10.21 Steve Preston ✓ 29.10.21

Hove Park School, Nevill Campus, Hove, East Sussex An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Sean Wallis

Report 20/115

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Hove Park School's Nevill Campus, Hove, East Sussex (TQ 2822 0620) (Figs. 1 and 2). The work was commissioned by Ms Sara De Marco of Brighton and Hove City Council.

Planning permission (BH2020/00206) had been gained from Brighton and Hove City Council to construct a new sports hall on the site, following the partial demolition of the existing gymnasium. 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.

This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), and the City 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 East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer.

The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken by Sean Wallis on 10th March 2021, and the site code is HPS 20/115. Further groundworks took place on 6th October 2021, and TVAS were notified of the results, along with the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer. The archive is currently held at TVAS South, Brighton, and will be deposited with an appropriate museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

Hove Park School's Nevill Campus is located between Nevill Avenue (to the north) and Old Shoreham Road (to the south), approximately 1.2km north of the historic core of Hove, East Sussex (Figs. 1 and 2). The school complex includes a number of buildings in the north-east corner of the site, with playing fields to the west, south-west and south. The watching brief took place in the northern part of the site, where part of the existing gymnasium had recently been demolished. Some other school buildings had also been demolished recently, and a new dining block constructed. However, these alterations are not yet reflected on the Ordnance Survey. The area generally slopes down quite gently towards the south, but the part of the site where the watching brief took place is relatively flat, and lies at a height of approximately 40m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of the Woolwich Beds (BGS 2006), and this was

confirmed during the watching brief, with a mid reddish brown sandy silt with flint gravel inclusions being recorded in the area where the natural geology was exposed.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been considered in a recent desk-based assessment (Redclift 2019). In summary, the site is located within the Godstone Archaeological Notification Area which is thought to have been a preferential location for prehistoric activity due to the well draining nature of the underlying sand geology (Woolwich Beds). However, whilst small amounts of prehistoric flintwork has been found in the area close to the site, very few archaeological sites or features have been identified in the past. More is recorded slightly further afield, including a Roman villa at West Blatchington, whilst Roman finds from Hove Park may indicate the presence of another villa in the area.

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

Prior to the watching brief commencing, the western section of the existing gymnasium was demolished. The Tarmac and underlying made ground deposits were then removed from within the footprint of the new sports hall. It became apparent almost immediately that much of the area had been significantly affected by previous activity. There were in fact three distinct areas (A-C) (Figs. 3 and 4) recorded within the footprint of the new sports hall, all of which differed in stratigraphy.

Area A

This area was immediately to the north of the existing gymnasium, and had previously been used for car parking. It measured 17.20m by 9.06m. The contractors had removed 0.50m of Tarmac and made ground, but this had not exposed the natural geology. It is not clear why this area had been so affected by previous activity, but the sterile deposits of hardcore beneath the Tarmac had clearly been imported into the site. Based on one of the Areas (C) to the south, it was obvious that the natural geology in Area A had been truncated by at least 0.20m, and this would have damaged or destroyed any shallow archaeological features, should they have been present.

Area B

This Area had previously been under the existing gymnasium, and measured 11.95m by 10.26m. The contractors had removed up to 0.52m of concrete / Tarmac and made ground from the area, but the natural geology was not observed. It was obvious from the adjacent Area (C) that the natural geology in Area B had been truncated by at least 0.20m, and this would have damaged or destroyed any shallow archaeological features, should they have been present.

Area C

Area C was located immediately to the west of the existing gymnasium, and measured 10.26m by 5.25m. Up to 0.18m of Tarmac and made ground had been removed by the contractors before the watching brief commenced. Further ground reduction took place under archaeological supervision, and this revealed a layer of buried subsoil, about 0.15m thick, which lay directly above the natural sandy silt geology. A series of twelve modern post-holes, presumably relating to a former school building, were noted within Area C, but these were not recorded in detail. The lack of any buried topsoil indicates that the area had been stripped before this former building was constructed. It was clear that Area C had been least affected by past activity and that, as a result, the adjacent Areas (A and B) had been significantly truncated. Apart from the modern post-holes, no archaeological finds or features were recorded in the area.

Area D

As part of the construction work, it was necessary to strip a small area immediately to the north-east of the new sports hall, so that the access road around the school could be widened slightly. Due to the fact that the school's Second World War air raid shelter was situated in this area, the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer requested that this work be carried out by the contractors, and that they must inform TVAS if any structural remains relating to the air raid shelter were revealed. The work was undertaken on 6th October 2021,

and part of the earthen bank which covered the air raid shelter was removed. However, no structural elements were revealed.

Finds

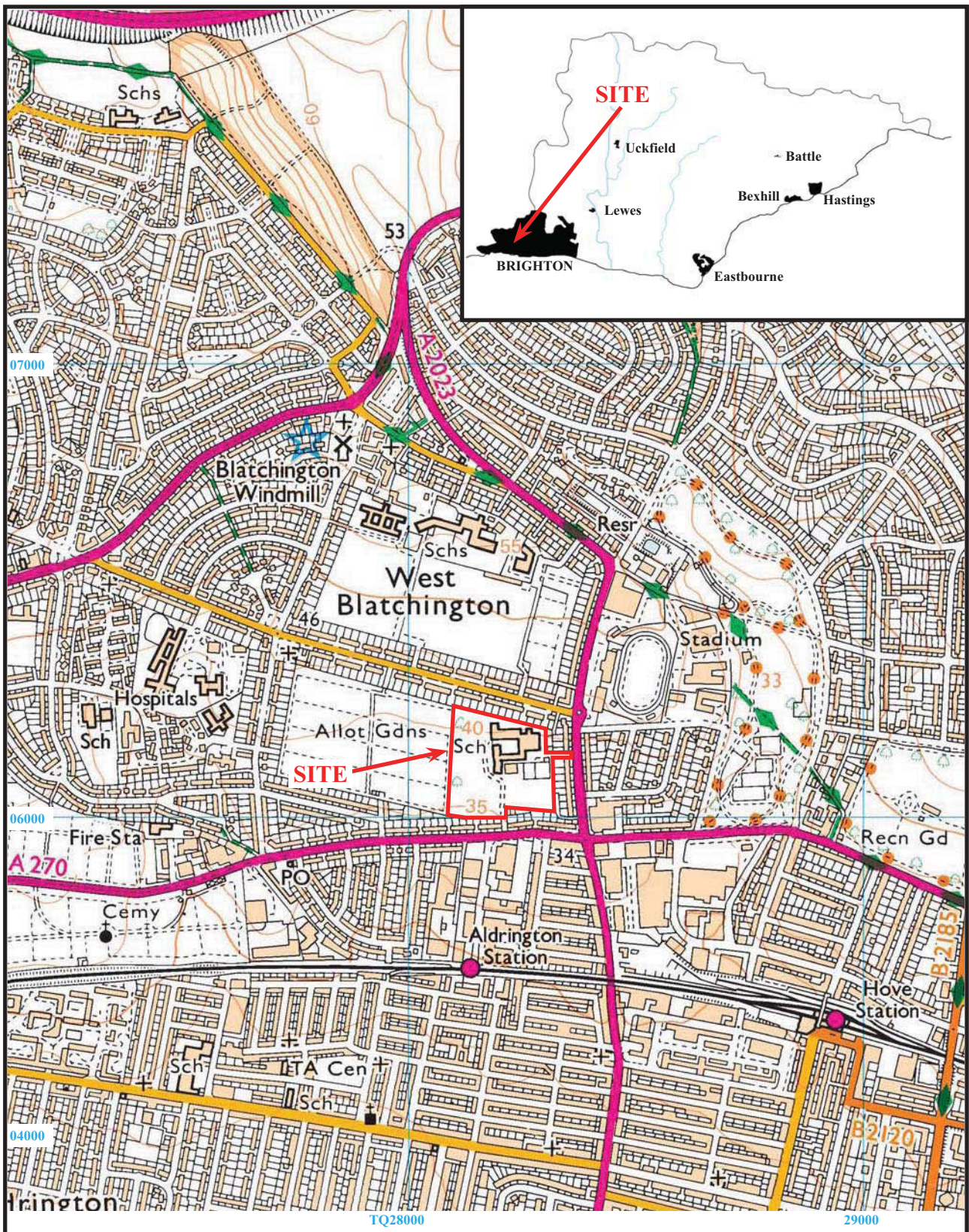
No finds of archaeological interest were recovered during the watching brief.

Conclusion

The watching brief at Hove Park School's Nevill Campus successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of a new sports hall. Much of the site where the new sports hall was to be built had been significantly disturbed by past activity, and the natural geology was only revealed in one small area in the south-west corner. Although the natural geology was observed in this area, no archaeological finds or features were recorded. Based on the results following the initial stripping of the footprint of the new sports hall, it was agreed with the East Sussex County Council Archaeological officer that the deeper excavations did not need to be monitored. However, the groundworks close to the school's Second World War air raid shelter were undertaken carefully, just in case any structural remains were revealed. In the event, only material from the earthen bank covering the air raid shelter was removed.

References

- BGS, 2006, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet **318/333**, Bedrock and Superficial Deposits Edition, Keyworth.
- NPPF, 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework* (revised), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London.
- Redclift, B, 2019, 'Hove Park School, Nevill Road, Hove, BN3 7BN - an archaeological desk-based assessment', unpublished Orion Heritage report **PN2098/3**, Brighton.

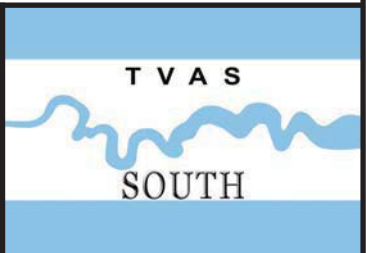


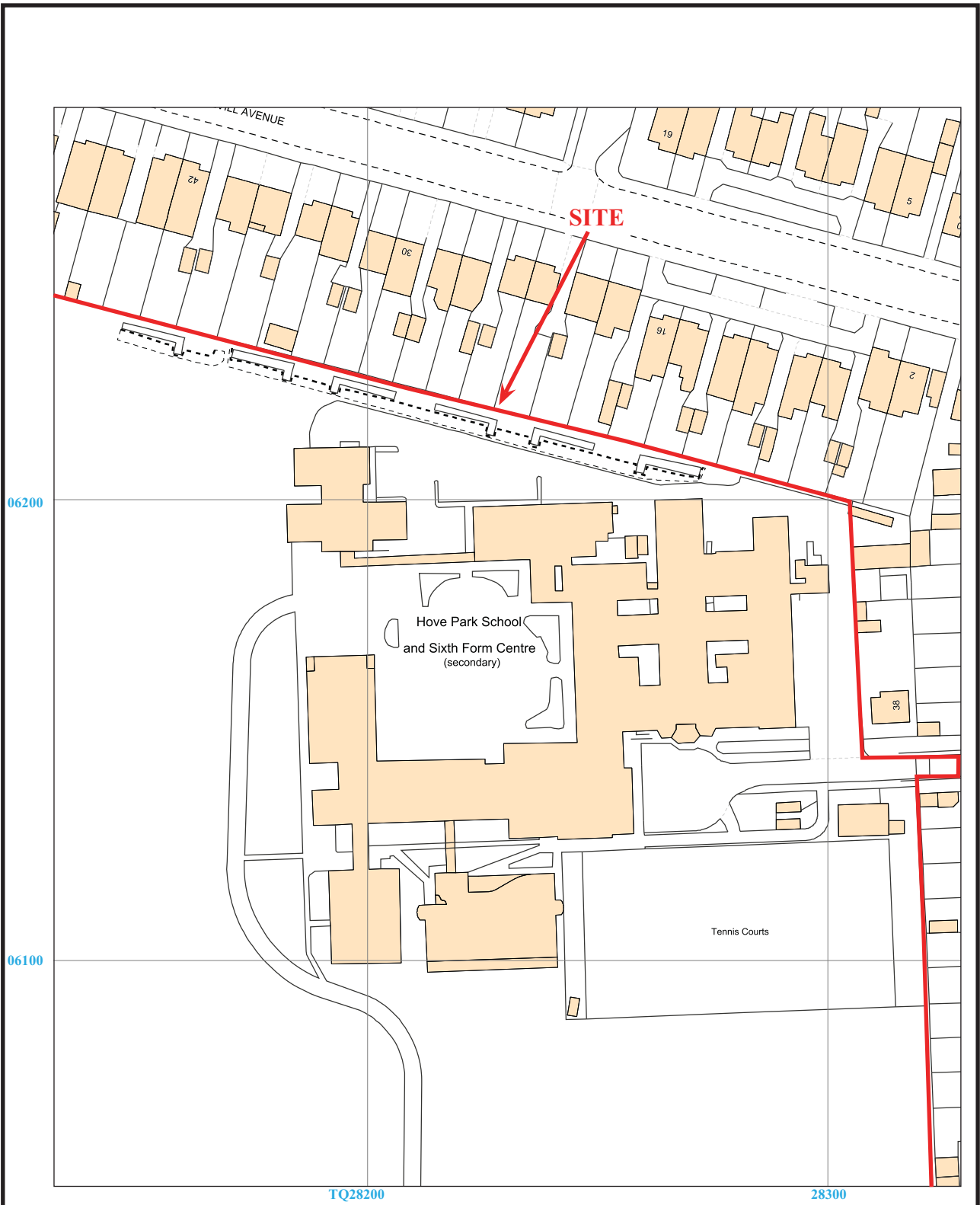
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Figure 1. Location of site within Hove and East Sussex.

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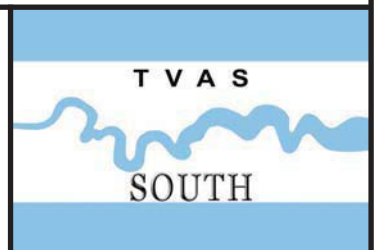


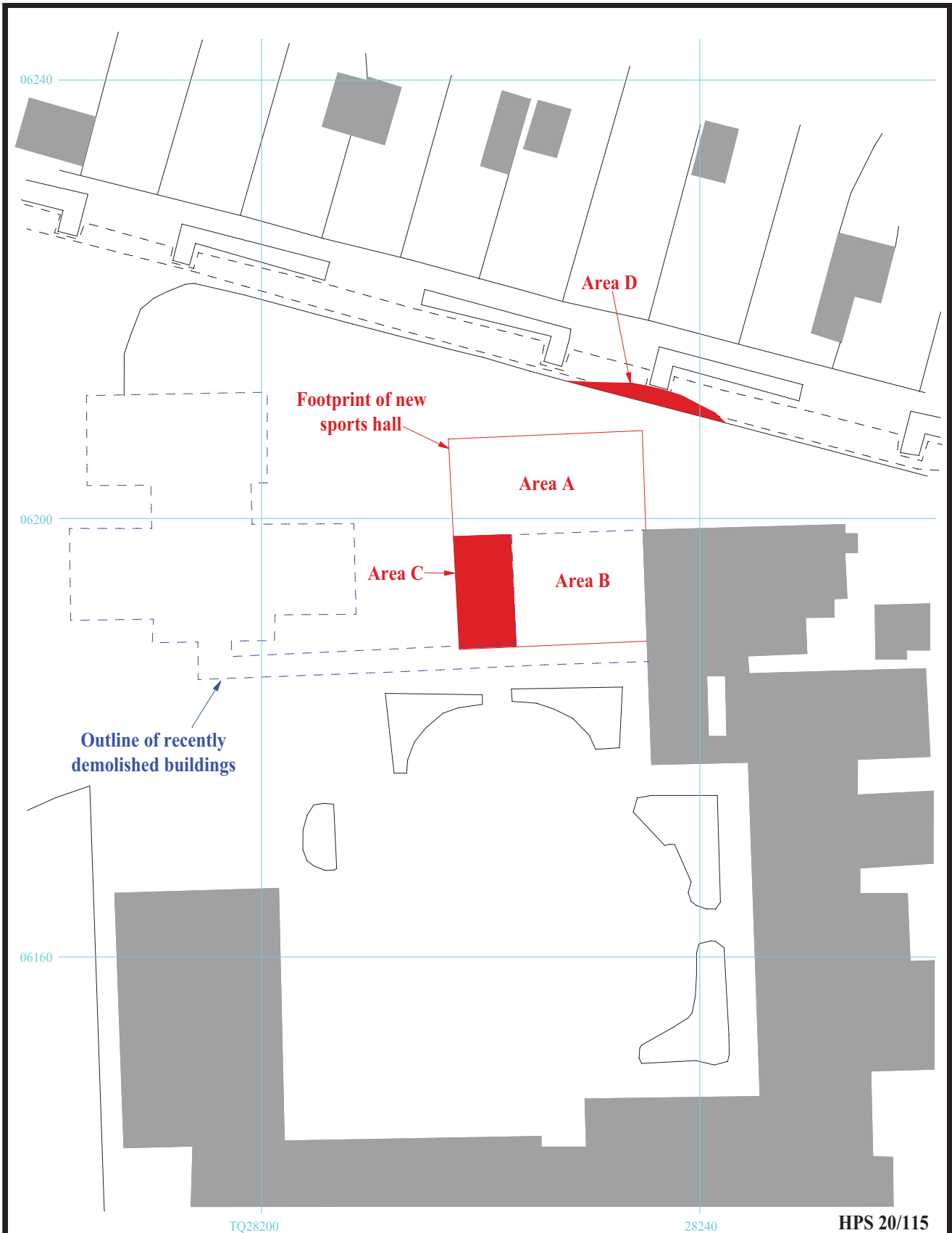
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Figure 2. Detailed site location.

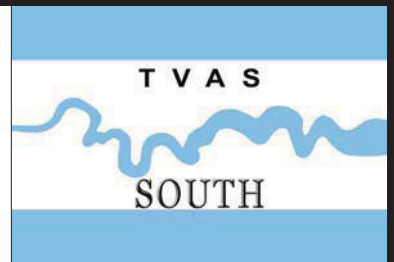
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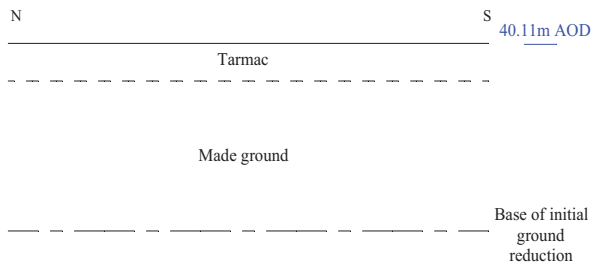
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Figure 3. Plan showing the areas monitored during the watching brief.

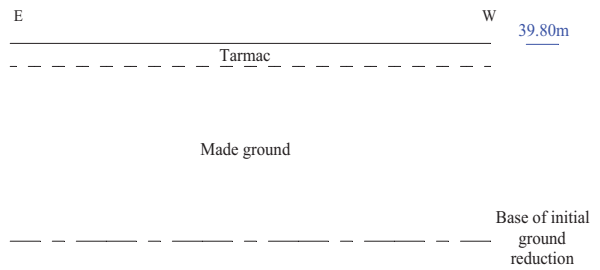


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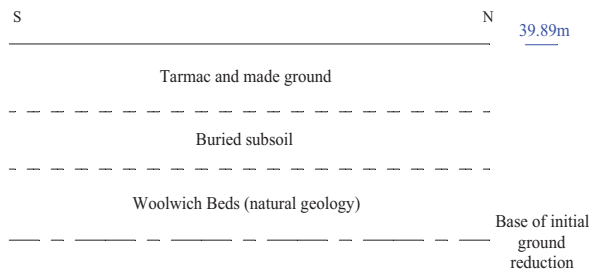
Area A



Area B



Area C



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Figure 4. Representative sections.





Plate 1. General view of site, looking South-east.



Plate 2. General view of site, looking North-east, with Area C in the foreground.



Plate 3. General view of site, looking South-west, with Area C in the foreground.



Plate 4. General view of site, looking North-west, with Area C in the foreground.

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Archaeological Watching Brief
Plates 1 to 4.**

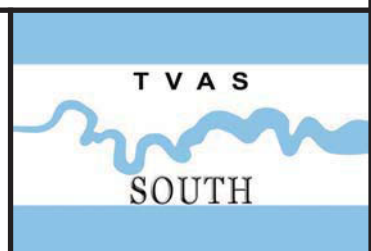




Plate 5. Stratigraphy in Area A, looking East.
Scale: 0.30m.



Plate 6. General view showing stratigraphy in
Area B, looking South. Scale: 0.30m.



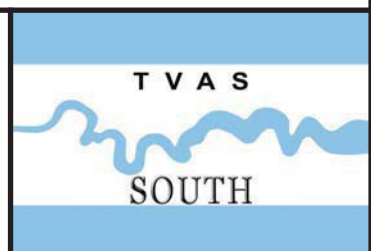
Plate 7. Stratigraphy in Area C, looking West
Scale: 0.30m.



Plate 8. General view of Area D, looking West.

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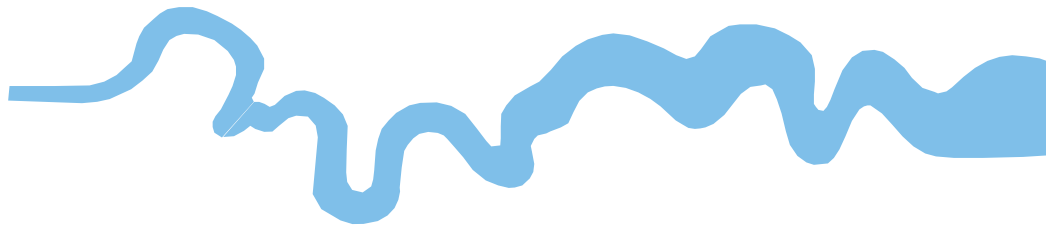
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Plates 5 to 8.**



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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