

**T V A S**



**SOUTH**

**Old House, Court Lodge Cottages,  
Udimore, East Sussex**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Odile Rouard**

**Site Code: OHU21/221**

**(TQ 8637 1890)**

# **Old House, Court Lodge Cottages, Udimore, East Sussex**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Mr and Mrs Fairway**

**Planning Reference : RR/2021/129/P**

by Odile Rouard

TVAS South

Site Code: OHU 21/221

**April 2022**

## Summary

**Site name:** Old House, Court Lodge Cottages, Udimore, East Sussex

**Grid reference:** TQ 8637 1890

**Planning reference:** RR/2021/129/P

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 1st March 2022

**Project manager:** Sean Wallis

**Site supervisor:** Odile Rouard

**Site code:** OHU 21/221

**Area of Site:** 56 sq m observed

**Summary of results:** The watching brief successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be affected by the construction of a new garage, but no archaeological finds or features were recorded. It appears that the site had been quite disturbed in the past, with the ground being built up. No topsoil was visible and no archaeological features were identified below the subsoil horizon, nor finds recovered.

**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✓ 11.04.22
	Steve Preston✓ 11.04.22

# Old House, Court Lodge Cottages, Udimore, East Sussex An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Odile Rouard

Report 21/221

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out to the north of Old House, Court Lodge Cottages, Udimore, East Sussex (TQ 8637 1890) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Julie Warden of Pump House Designs Ltd, Pump House Yard, Sedlescombe, East Sussex, TN33 0QA, on behalf of the property's owners, Mr and Mrs Fairway.

Planning permission (RR/2021/129/P) has been granted by Rother District Council to construct a new garage on the site, following the demolition of an existing garage. 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 is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), 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 East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Odile Rouard on the 1st of March 2022, and the site code is OHU21/221. The archive is currently held at TVAS South, Brighton, and will be deposited with an appropriate museum in due course. Rye Castle Museum would be the preferred repository.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located within the historic core of Udimore, East Sussex (Fig. 1), north of Court Lodge Cottages and south of the Church (Fig. 2). The site is generally flat, and lies at a height of approximately 63m above Ordnance Datum. The ground level drops quite significantly beyond the northern boundary of the site. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of mudstone and sandstone (BGS 1979), and this was confirmed during the watching brief, with a light yellow brown clay containing frequent mudstone and sandstone inclusions being recorded in all the areas monitored.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been gleaned from an East Sussex Historic Environment Record Consultation Report. In summary, the site is located within an archaeological Notification Area associated with the historic settlement of Udimore. The settlement is first recorded in Domesday Book (1086), and the parish church, dedicated to St Mary, contains elements dating from the 11th century. During the medieval period there was a moated manor to the south of the church, along with an associated farmstead. The original medieval manor house no longer exists, but parts of the moat still survive (Fig. 2). The Old House is all that survives of a much larger building which was mostly dismantled in 1912 and re-erected at Groombridge in Kent. The original building had elements dating back as far as the late 15th century, and the present Old House is one of the surviving rear wings, which dates from the late 16th century. Medieval and post-medieval finds were recovered during an archaeological watching brief at 2 Court Lodge Cottages. Archaeological work at St Mary's Church revealed features and finds from the prehistoric period through to the post-medieval period. It is therefore possible that Saxon, medieval or post-medieval features may be present in the area where the new garage is to be built.

## **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**

The area monitored was located to the north of the house, where a new detached garage was to be built. The footings for the garage measured 7m by 6m and had a width of 0.60m (Fig. 3). They reached a maximum depth of 1m (Pl. 1) and the natural geology was visible below 0.25m of made-ground and 0.55m of subsoil. It seems the ground was built up and no topsoil was present.

No archaeological finds or features were observed, and the area was subsequently reduced further to enable the new garage to be built.

## **Finds**

No archaeological finds were recovered during the watching brief.

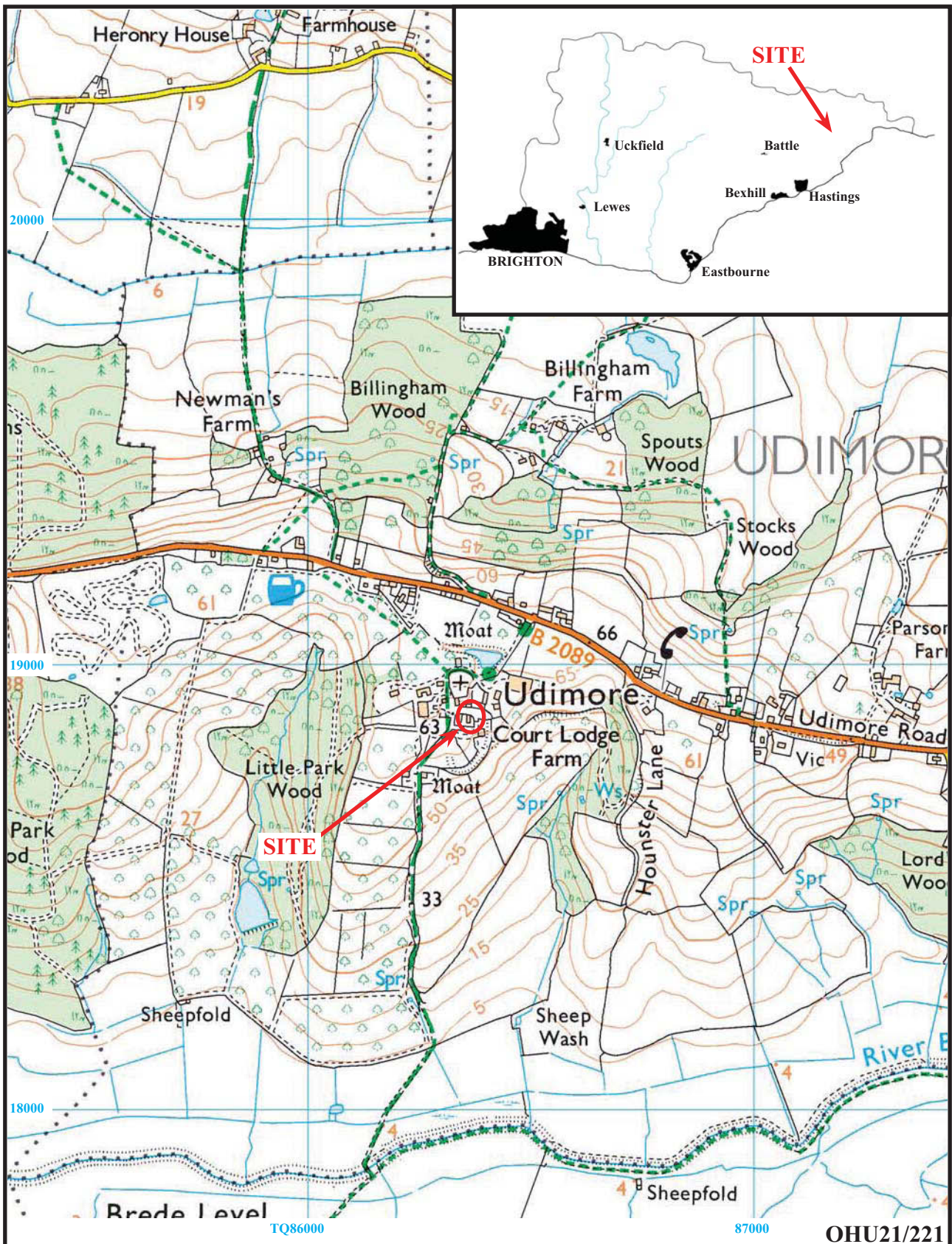
## **Conclusion**

The watching brief at Old House, Court Lodge Cottages, Udimore, successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of a new detached garage. The majority of the groundworks associated with the development were monitored, but no archaeological finds or features were recorded. It appears that the site had been quite disturbed in the past, with the ground being built up. No topsoil was layer was visible and no archaeological features were identified below the subsoil horizon.

## **References**

BGS, 1979, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet **319**, Solid and Drift Deposits Edition, Keyworth.  
NPPF, 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework* (revised), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London.

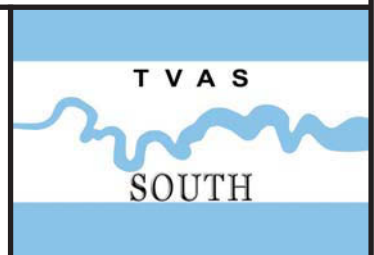


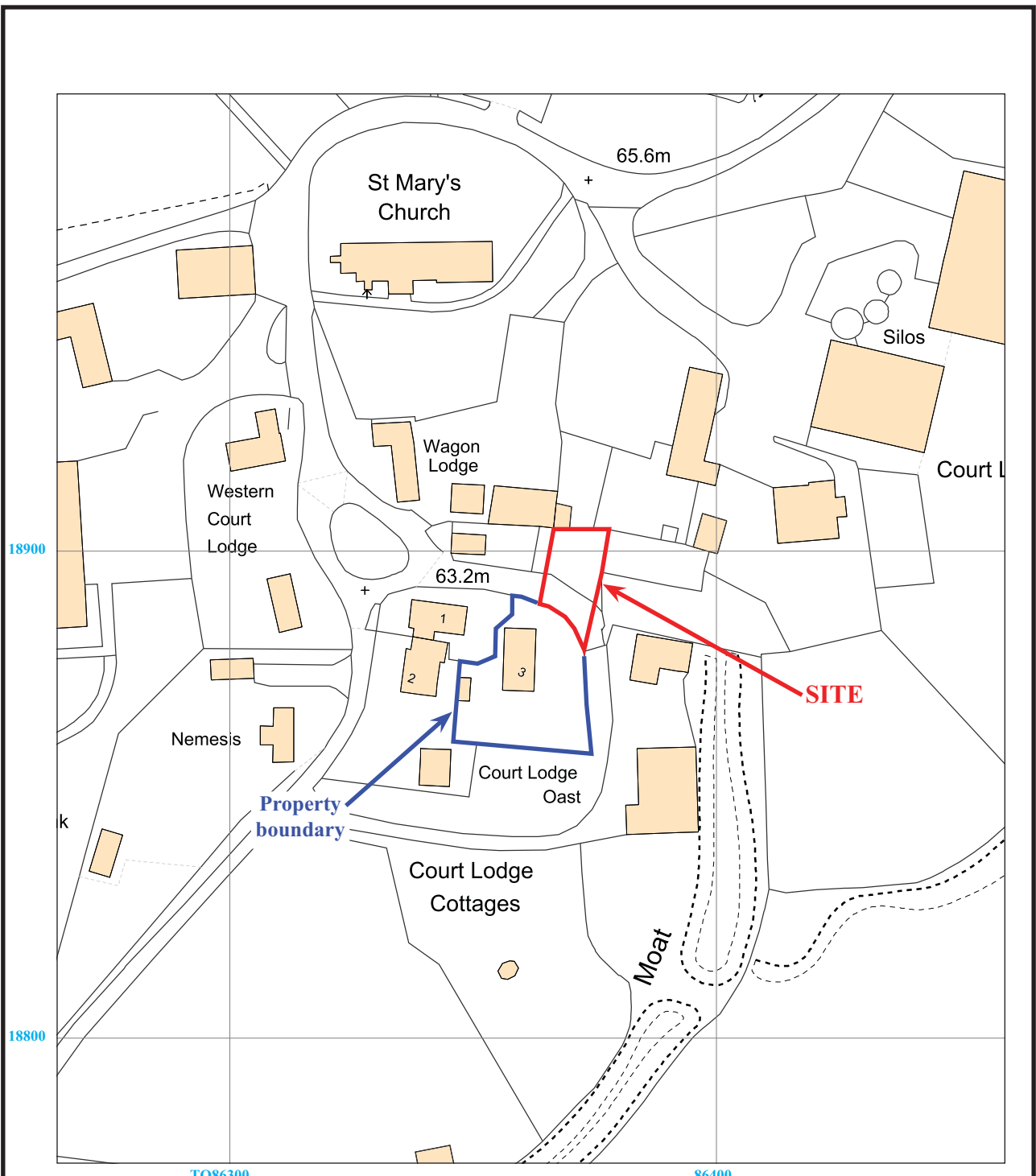


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Figure 1. Location of site within Udimore and East Sussex.

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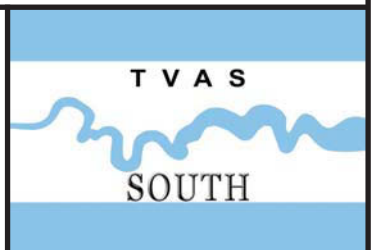




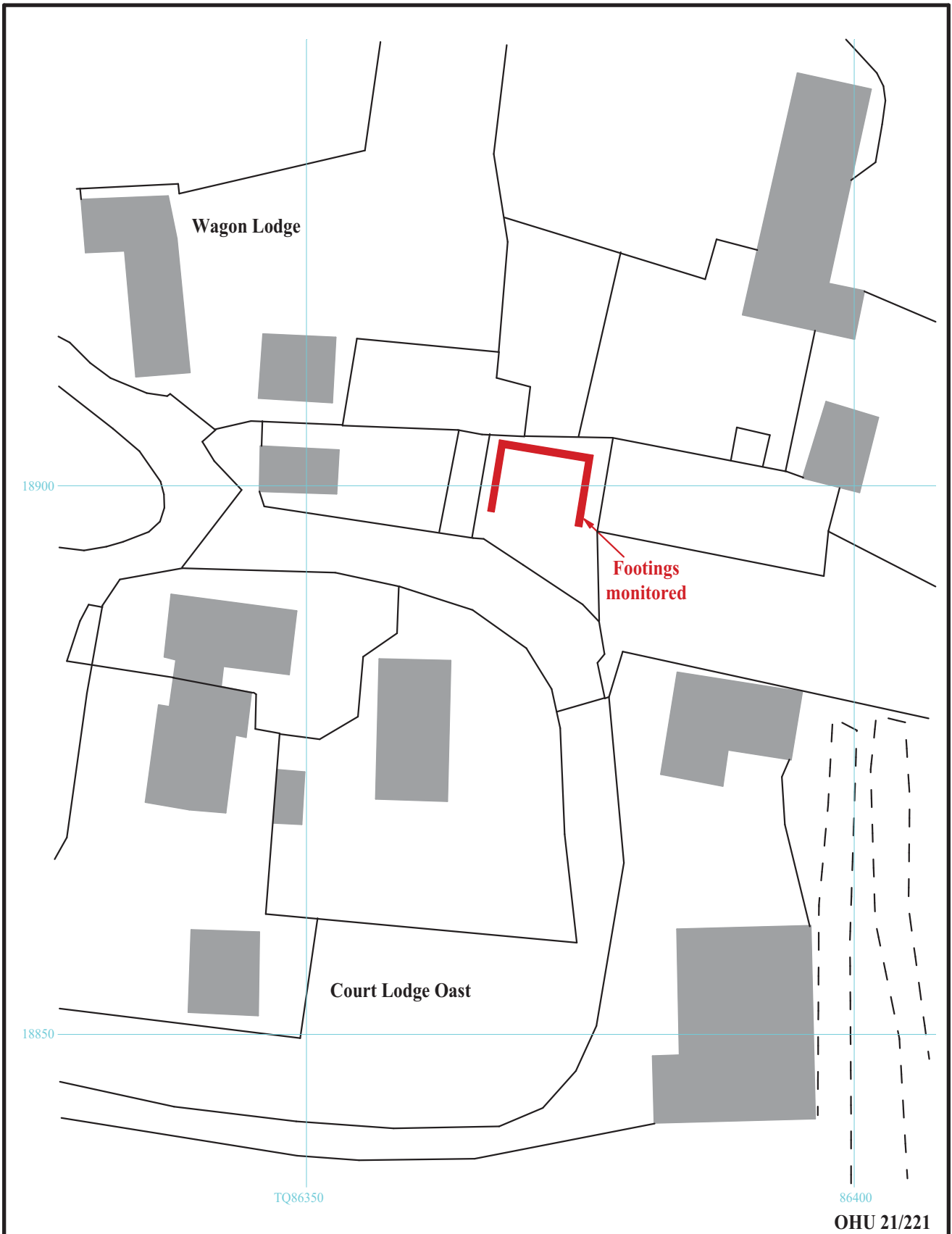
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Figure 2. Detailed site location.

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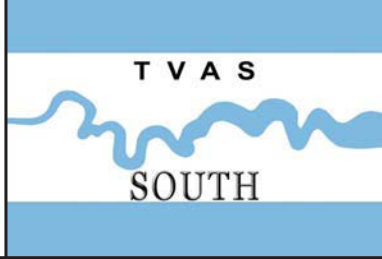


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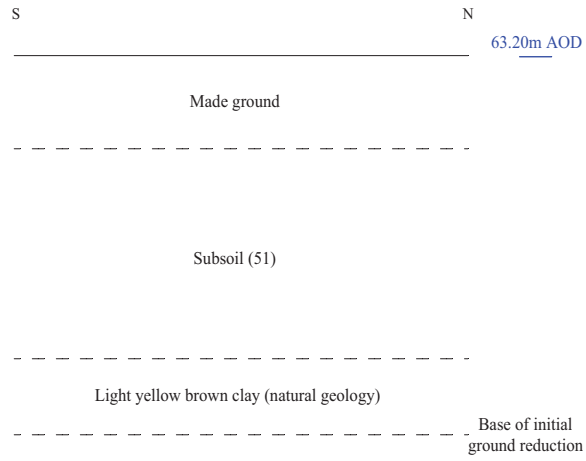


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Figure 3. Site plan showing areas monitored during the watching brief.



*Garage Footings*



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Figure 3. Representative section.

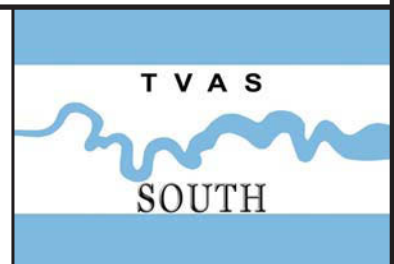




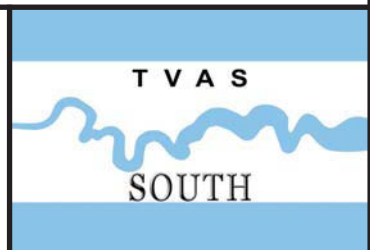
Plate 1. Section, looking North.  
Scales: 1m and 1m.



Plate 2. Section, looking East.  
Scales: 1m and 1m.

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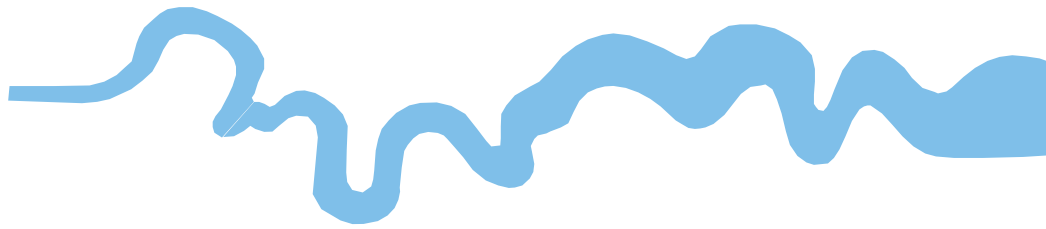
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Plates 1 and 2.**



## 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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