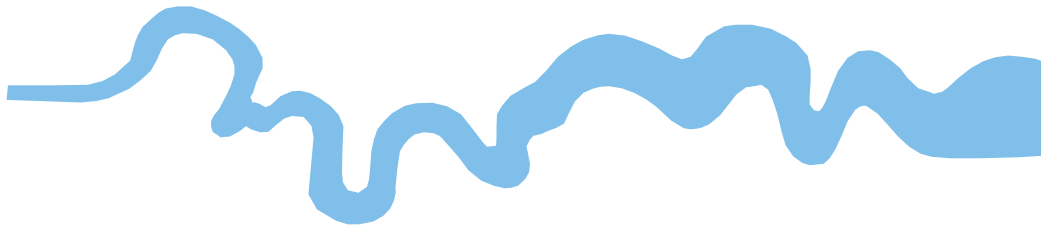


**T V A S**



**SOUTH**

**Land to the East of 2, Bartletts Cottages, Main Street,  
Beckley, East Sussex**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Odile Rouard**

**Site Code: BCB22/248**

**(TQ 8502 2385)**

**Land to the East of 2, Bartletts Cottages, Main Street,  
Beckley, East Sussex**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Pump House Designs Ltd**

by Odile Rouard

TVAS South

Site Code: BCB 22/248

**March 2023**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land to the East of 2, Bartletts Cottages, Main Street, Beckley, East Sussex

**Grid reference:** TQ 8502 2385

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 1st March 2023

**Project manager:** Odile Rouard

**Site supervisor:** Odile Rouard

**Site code:** BCB 22/248

**Area of site:** c. 1100 sq m

**Summary of results:** The archaeological evaluation on land to the East of 2, Bartletts Cottages, Main Street, Beckley, successfully investigated those areas which will be most affected by the development of the site. No archaeological features were identified in any of the trenches. No finds were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil. The site can be considered to have negligible archaeological potential.

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

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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✓ 16.03.23 Steve Preston✓ 15.03.23
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# Land to the East of 2, Bartletts Cottages, Main Street, Beckley, East Sussex An Archaeological Evaluation

by Odile Rouard

Report 22/248

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried on land to the East of 2, Bartletts Cottages, Main Street, Beckley, East Sussex (TQ 8502 2385) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Julie Warden of Pump House Designs Ltd, 38 High Street, Battle, East Sussex, TN33 0EA.

Planning permission (appln. no RR/2021/1610/P) has been granted by Rother District Council for the re-development of the site for residential housing. The consent is subject to two standard conditions (3 & 4) relating to archaeology and the historic environment. 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 assess the site's archaeological potential and provide information on which to base a mitigation strategy if required.

This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2021), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Christopher Greatorex and Mr Neil Griffin, the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officers who advise the District Council on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by Odile Rouard and Mikaila Walker on 1st March 2023, and the site code is BCB 22/248. The archive is presently held at TVAS, Brighton, and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located immediately to the south of Main Street, which is the main road running through the village of Beckley, and is centred on NGR TQ 8502 2385 (Figs 1 and 2). It consists of a broadly rectangular area bordered by Main Street to the north, Beckley Primary School to the east, and pasture fields to the west and south. The general topography of the site is relatively flat and the height above Ordnance Datum is about 25m. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Weald Clay (BGS 1980), and this was

confirmed during the evaluation. The geology recorded in the trenches generally consisted of light-yellow grey clay with varying amounts of ironstone and manganese inclusions.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the Saxon, medieval and post-medieval settlement of Beckley. The settlement is first mentioned in a document from about AD 880 as *Beccanlea*, which is thought to mean 'Becca's Clearing'. Bartletts Cottages are actually one building, which is thought to date from at least the mid-19th century. It is Grade II Listed. A watching brief was carried out immediately to the east of the present site, at Beckley Primary School, but no archaeological finds or features were recorded.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of the proposed 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 from the Saxon or medieval period are present.
- to determine if archaeological deposits from the post-medieval period are present.
- to provide information in order to draw up an appropriate mitigation strategy if required.

Three trenches measuring 7m in length and 1.60m in width, and one trench measuring 4m in length and 1.60m in width were to be dug. However, because of site constraints consisting of a live service, Trench 4 could not be dug. The trenches were largely positioned to target those parts of the site which would be most affected by the development. The trenches were to be dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed would then be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of outlined above, without compromising the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warrant preservation *in situ*. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds. The work was to be carried out in line with the relevant sections of the respective Standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA 2020) and East Sussex County Council (2019).

## **Results**

The three trenches were dug close to their original planned positions (Fig. 2). Trenches 2 and 3 were slightly lengthened to compensate for Trench 4 not being dug. All the trenches were 1.60m wide, and measured between 7m and 8.70m in length, and were between 0.65m and 0.75m in depth. 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 & 4; Pl. 1)

This trench was orientated South-east/North-west, and was 7m long and up to 0.66m deep. The natural geology, which consisted of a light yellow grey clay with frequent manganese inclusions, was observed beneath 0.26m of topsoil (50) and 0.40m of subsoil (51). No archaeology was observed in this trench. The north-western part of the trench was disturbed by rooting.

### Trench 2 (Figs 3 & 4; Pl. 2)

This trench was orientated approximately South-west/North-east, and was 7.30m long and up to 0.65m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.32m of topsoil (50) and 0.28m of subsoil (51). There were no archaeological features identified in this trench.

### Trench 3 (Figs 3 & 4; Pl. 3)

Trench 3 was orientated approximately South-east/North-west, and was 8.70m long and up to 0.75m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.30m of topsoil (50) and 0.30m of subsoil (51). No archaeological features were present in this trench.

## **Finds**

The archaeological work did not uncover any archaeological features and no finds were recovered from any of the trenches.

## **Conclusion**

The archaeological evaluation at 2 Bartletts Cottages, Beckley successfully investigated those areas which will be most affected by the re-development of the site. No archaeological features were identified in any of the trenches. On the basis of these results, the site's archaeological potential can be considered to be negligible.

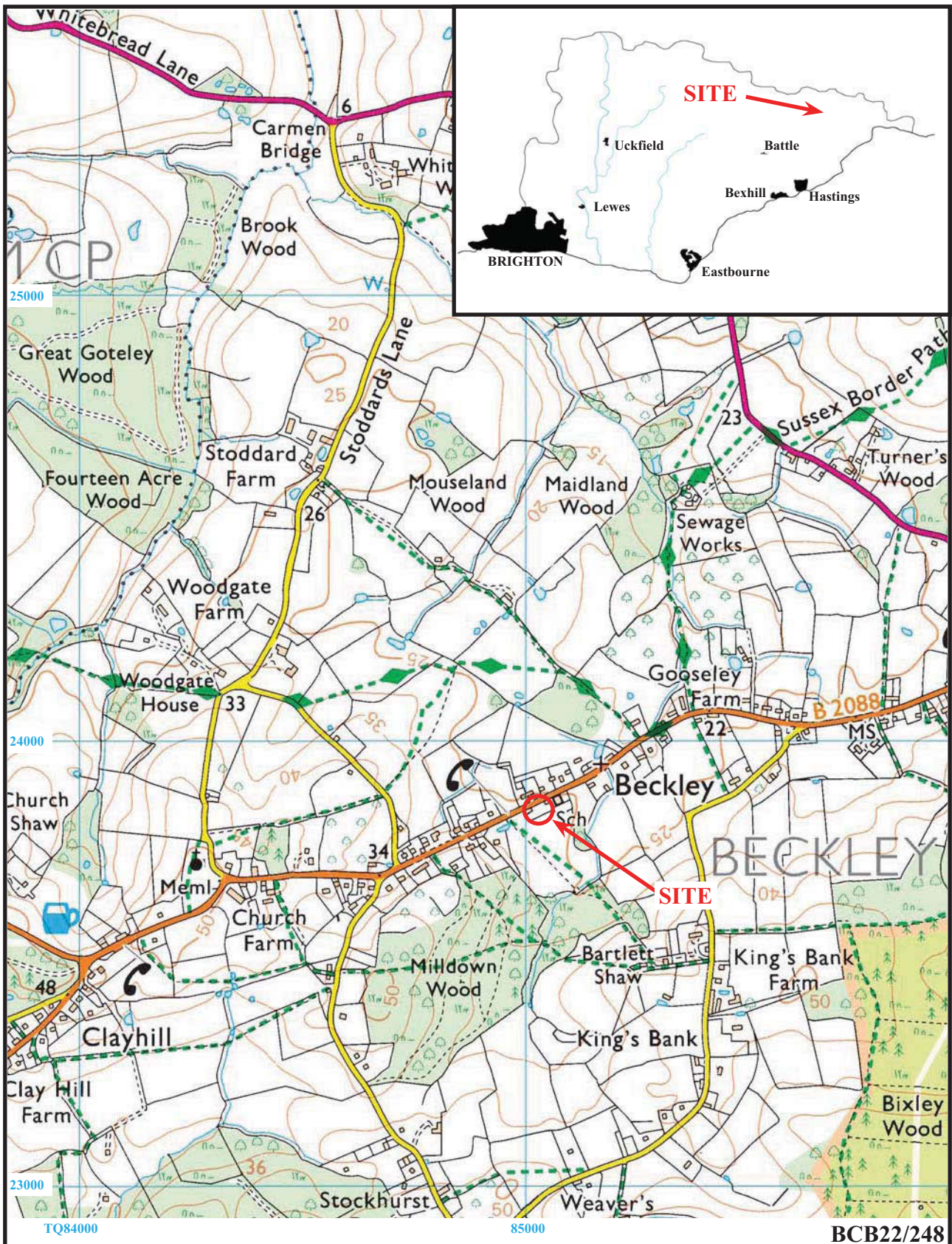
## References

- BGS, 1980, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 320/321, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth.
- CIfA, 2020, *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading
- ESCC, 2019, *Sussex Archaeological Standards*, East Sussex County Council, Lewes
- NPPF, 2021, *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	7.0	1.60	0.66	0-0.26m topsoil (50); 0.26-0.66m subsoil (51); 0.66m+ natural geology (Weald Clay Formation). <b>[Pl. 1]</b>
2	7.30	1.60	0.65	0-0.32m topsoil (50); 0.32-0.60m subsoil (51); 0.60m+ natural geology (Weald Clay Formation). <b>[Pl. 2]</b>
3	8.70	1.60	0.70	0-0.30m topsoil (50); 0.30-0.65m subsoil (51); 0.65m+ natural geology (Weald Clay Formation). <b>[Pl. 3]</b>

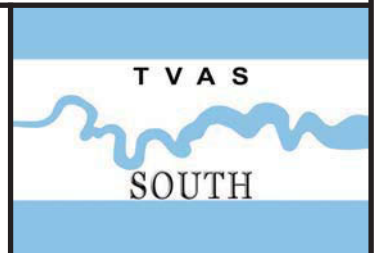


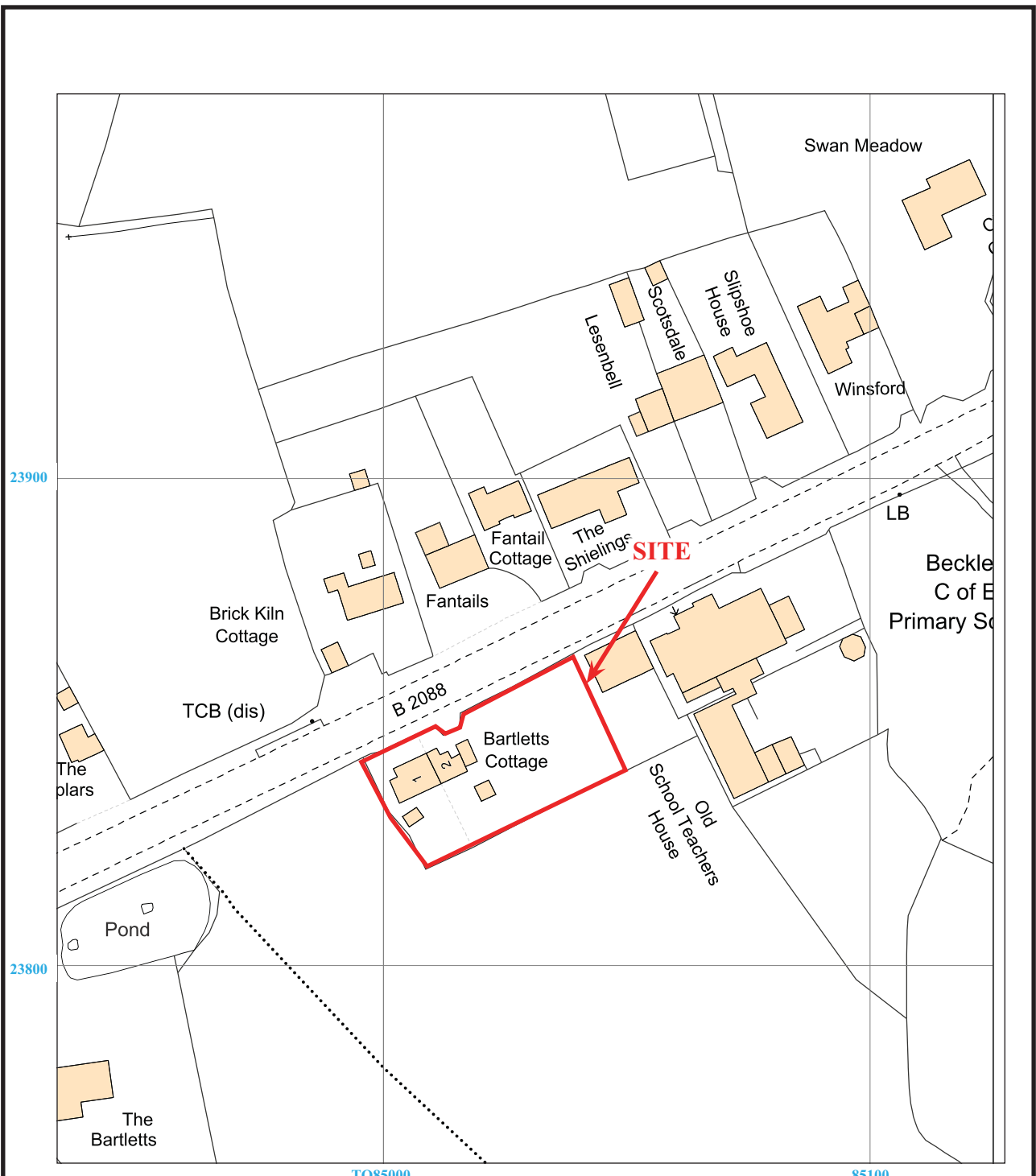


**Land to the east of 2 Bartlett's Cottages, Main Street,  
Beckley, East Sussex  
Archaeological Evaluation**

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

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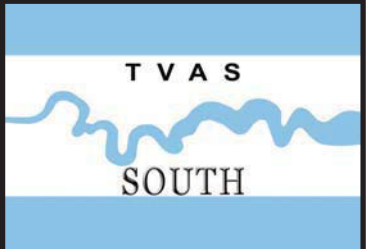
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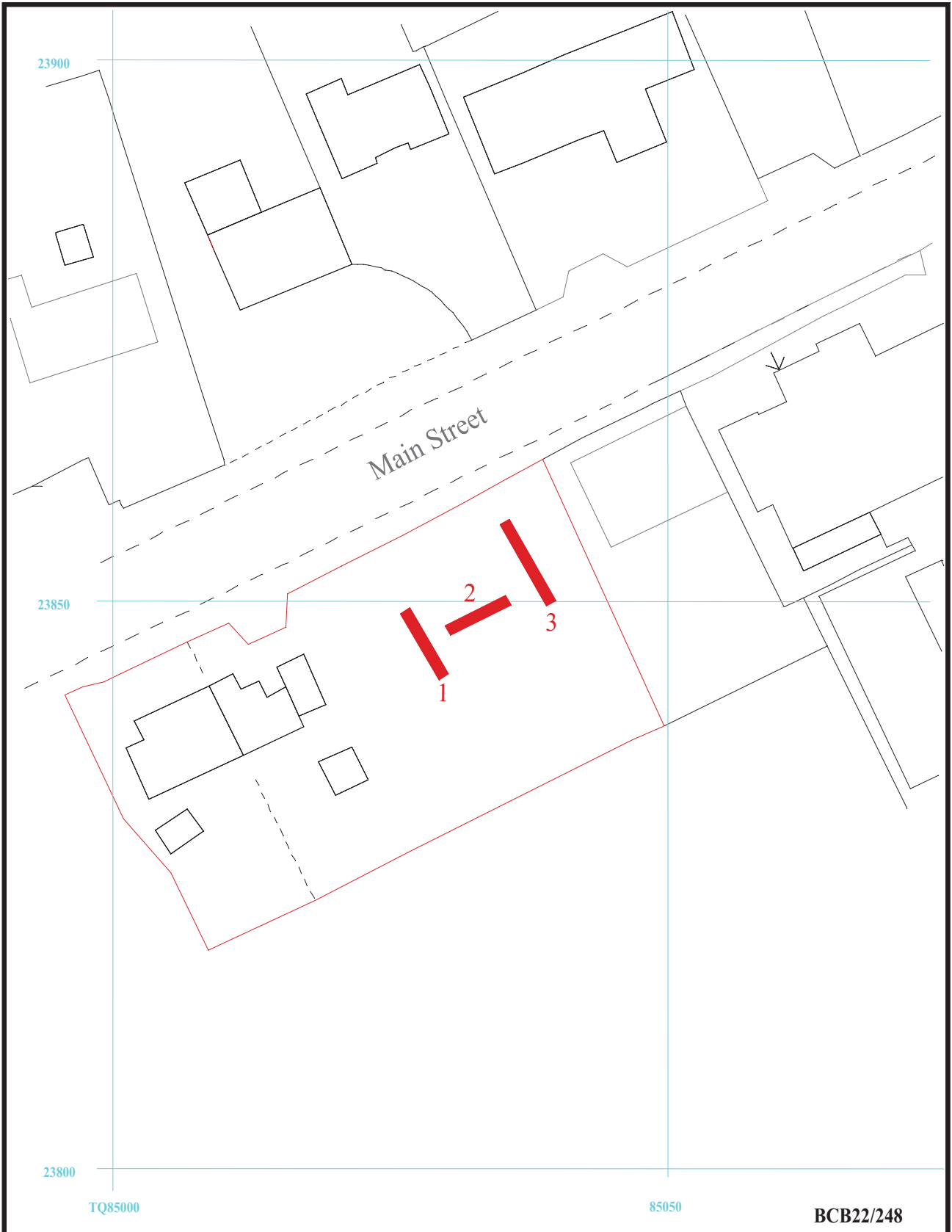


**2 Bartletts Cottages, Main Street, Beckley,  
East Sussex**  
**Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Detailed site location.

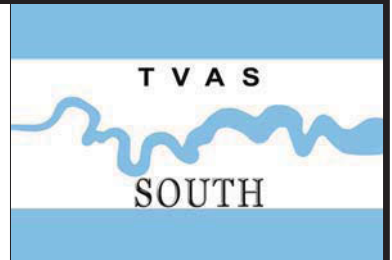
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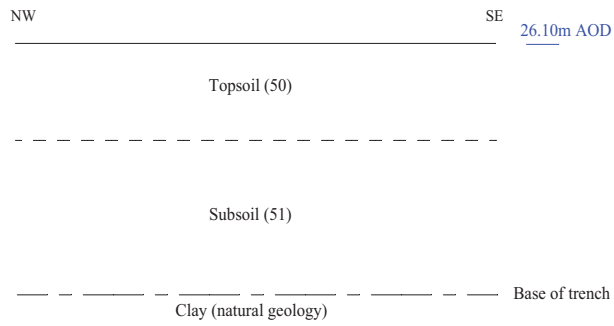


**Land to the east of 2 Bartletts Cottages, Main Street,  
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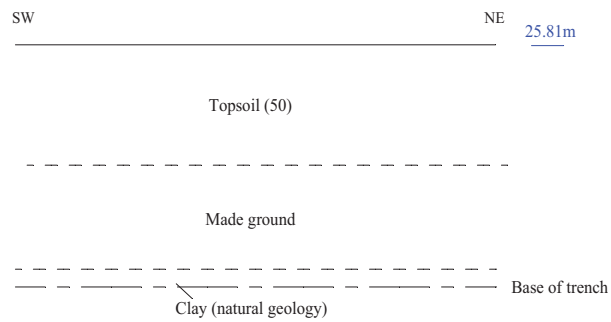
Figure 3. Plan of site showing evaluation trenches



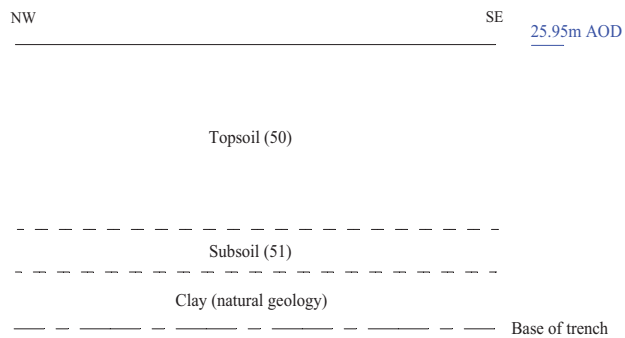
### Trench 1



### Trench 2



### Trench 3



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## Land to the east of 2 Bartletts Cottages, Main Street, Beckley, East Sussex Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 2. Representative sections





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



Plate 3. Trench 3, looking South.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.30m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking North-east.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.30m.

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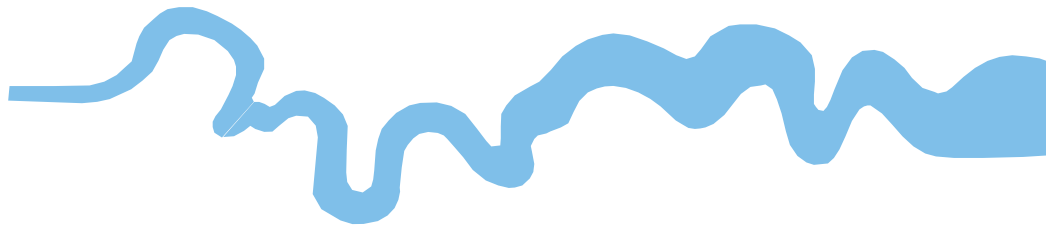
**Land to the East of 2, Bartletts Cottages, Main Street,  
Beckley, East Sussex  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 1 to 3.**



## 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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