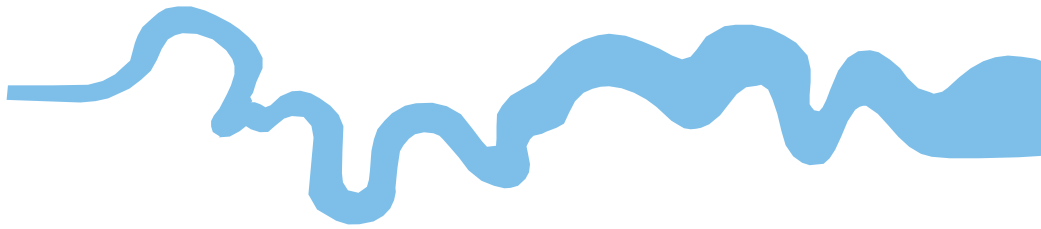


T V A S



SOUTH

**Croust Oast Barns, Hadlow Road,
Five Ashes, East Sussex**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Odile Rouard

Site Code: COB17/193

(TQ 5537 2395)

**Croust Oast Barns, Hadlow Road,
Five Ashes, East Sussex**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Oakensure Ltd

by Odile Rouard

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code COB 17/193

January 2018

Summary

Site name: Croust Oast Barns, Hadlow Road, Five Ashes, East Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 5537 2395

Planning reference: WD/2014/2537/F

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 13th - 21st December 2017

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Odile Rouard

Site code: COB 17/193

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 extension linking two existing buildings as well as the construction of a tank and drainage ditch associated with the new building. The area had been significantly disturbed in the past, by the footings of the existing buildings and by modern services. As a consequence, no archaeological features were recorded.

Location and reference of archive: The preferred depository for the site archive is Lewes Museum. Unfortunately the museum is not accepting new material, so the archive will be held at TVAS Brighton until a suitable repository can be found.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 08.01.18 Steve Preston ✓ 08.01.18

Croust Oast Barns, Hadlow Road, Five Ashes, East Sussex An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Odile Rouard

Report 17/193

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Croust Oast Barns, Hadlow Road, Five Ashes, East Sussex (TQ 5537 2395) (Fig. 1). The project was commissioned Mr Julian Mamlok of DGJP Architecture on behalf of Mr David Spicer of Oakensure Ltd, 1 Hamsell Wood, The Forstal, Eridge Green, TN3 9JY.

Planning permission (WD/2014/2537/F) has been gained from Wealden District Council to construct an extension abutting two redundant agricultural buildings and turning them into a residential dwelling. This permission included the construction of a tank and associated drainage on the northern side of the buildings. The permission was subject to a standard planning condition (3) relating to archaeology, as set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF, 2012) and the District Council's policies on archaeology and the historic environment. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on site which may be damaged or destroyed by the building work, a watching brief was required to satisfy the condition. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer (Mr Greg Chuter), who advises the District Council on archaeological matters.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Odile Rouard and Jim Webster between 13th and 21st December 2017, and the site code is COB 17/193. The archive is currently held at TVAS Brighton and will be transferred to a suitable depository in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the east of Hadlow Down, East Sussex (Fig. 1). The site is bounded by the A272 to the east and north, a farm complex to the south and fields to the west. It was occupied two existing agricultural buildings in the south with ponds to the north (Fig. 2). The site itself lies at the top of a hill, with a sharp slope down to the north to the ponds, and west. The height above Ordnance Datum varies between approximately 130m and 132m. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of the Tunbridge Wells Sands Formation - Sandstone and Siltstone interbedded, with no superficial deposits recorded (BGS 1971) and the geology observed in all the trenches consisted of yellow grey compacted sand and silt with frequent sandstone.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been gleaned from a recent search of the East Sussex Historic Environment Record. In summary, the site lies within an area associated with the Wealden iron industry, which was active from the Iron Age through to the early 19th century. Much of the evidence of iron working in the vicinity of the site seems to be quite early, with several bloomery sites dating from the Iron Age and Roman period being recorded. Two quarries associated with the extraction of iron ore have also been identified in the surrounding area. One of the HER entries relates to a trackway which may have prehistoric origins. This trackway appears to follow the line of the modern road (A267) to the east of the present site. The farm complex at Croust Farm is thought to have medieval origins, although the present buildings are all post-medieval. The farmhouse dates from the early 19th century, and is a Grade II Listed Building. Several medieval and post-medieval farm complexes are located nearby.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the watching brief were to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was to involve the examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, including any significant ground reduction and the digging of foundation trenches for the new extension. 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. The watching brief was to be carried out in accordance with the relevant sections of *Sussex Archaeological Standards* (ESCC 2015).

Results

The footings were dug by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. The footing trenches were about 0.60m wide, and 1.1m deep (Figs 3 & 4; Pls 1 & 2). The tank measured approximately 3m by 3m and was 2m deep (Figs 3 & 4; Pl. 3). The drainage ditch linking the tank to the pond was approximately 27m long, with a width of 0.80m and a depth of 1.8m (Fig. 3; Pl. 4).

The stratigraphy recorded in the footings (Fig. 4) generally consisted of 0.10m of topsoil (50) overlying about 0.30m of made ground (51), overlying in turn between 0.06m to 0.15m of disturbed buried topsoil (52).

These deposits contained modern finds such as glass, brick and tile (not retained). The disturbed buried topsoil (52) was recorded immediately above the natural geology, indicating that the area had been significantly disturbed in the past, probably when the agricultural buildings were erected and services were installed.

The stratigraphy in the tank (Fig. 4) was very similar to that recorded in the footings and consisted of 0.20m of topsoil (50) overlying 0.60m of made ground (51), overlying in turn 0.10m of disturbed buried topsoil (52). These contained only modern finds. The stratigraphy in the drainage ditch was identical to that in the tank.

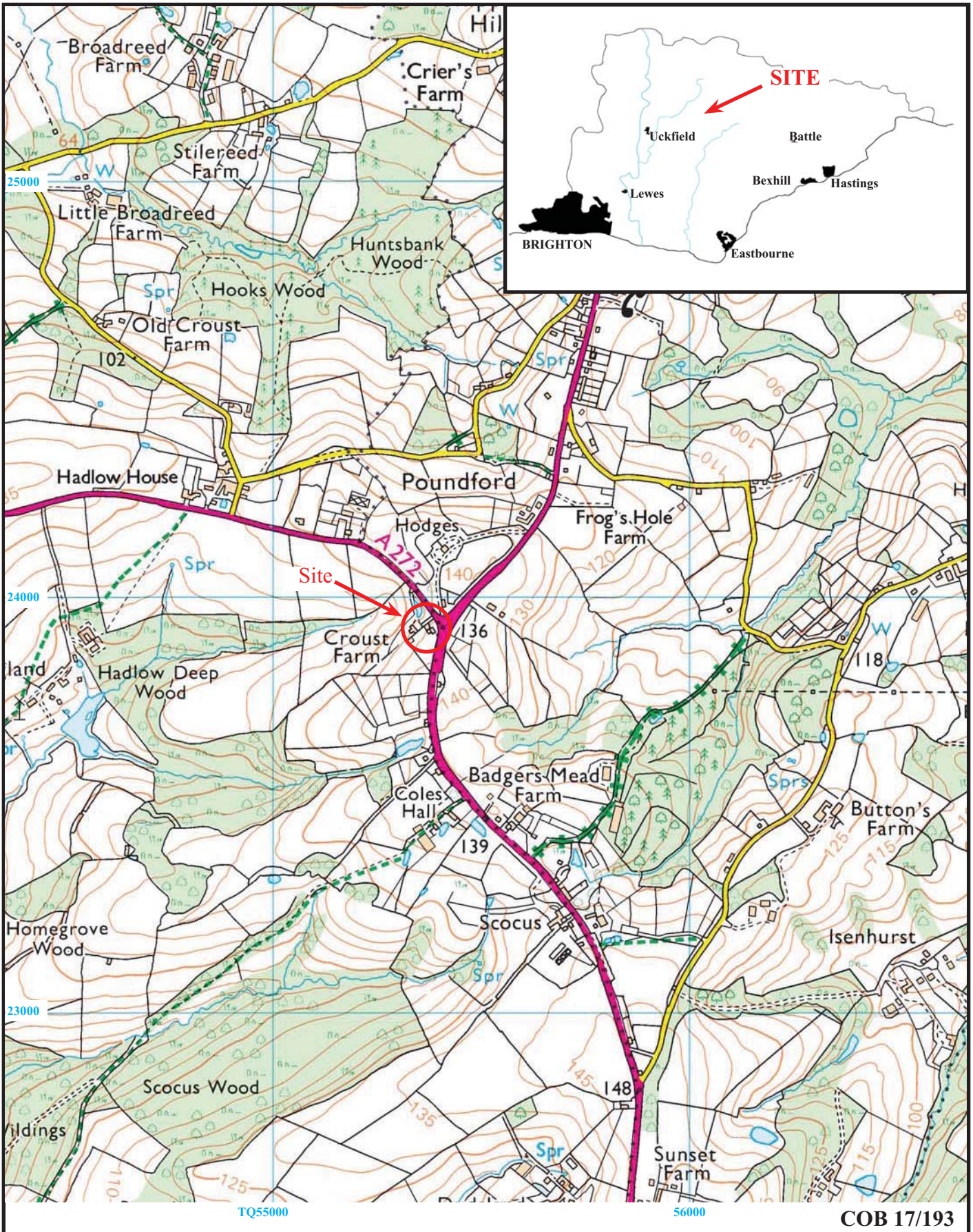
No archaeological features were recorded during the watching brief and only modern finds noted (not retained).

Conclusion

The watching brief investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the digging of the footings between the two existing farm buildings, the digging of the tank and its associated drainage ditch. The area had clearly been significantly disturbed in the past, possibly when the present buildings were erected although some landscaping associated with the ponds may also have taken place. As a result, modern made ground and disturbed topsoil were recorded directly above the natural geology within the site, yielding only modern finds. No archaeological features were recorded.

References

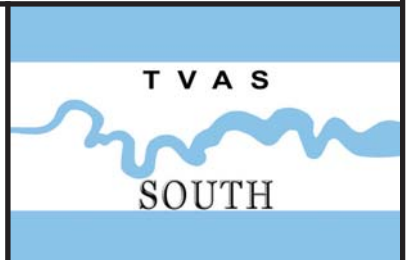
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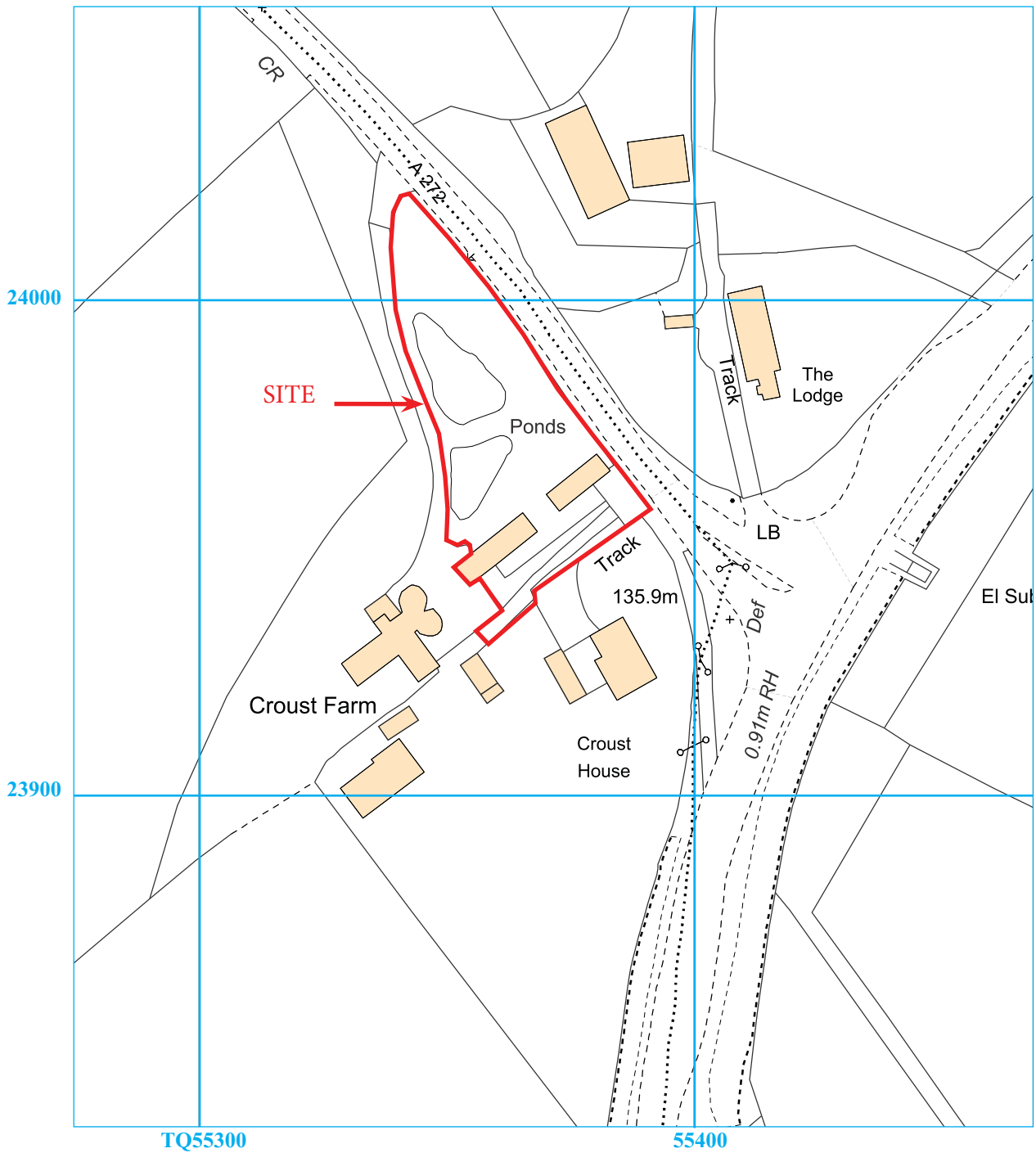


**Croust Oast Barns, Hadlow Road,
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Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 1. Location of site within Five Ashes and East Sussex.

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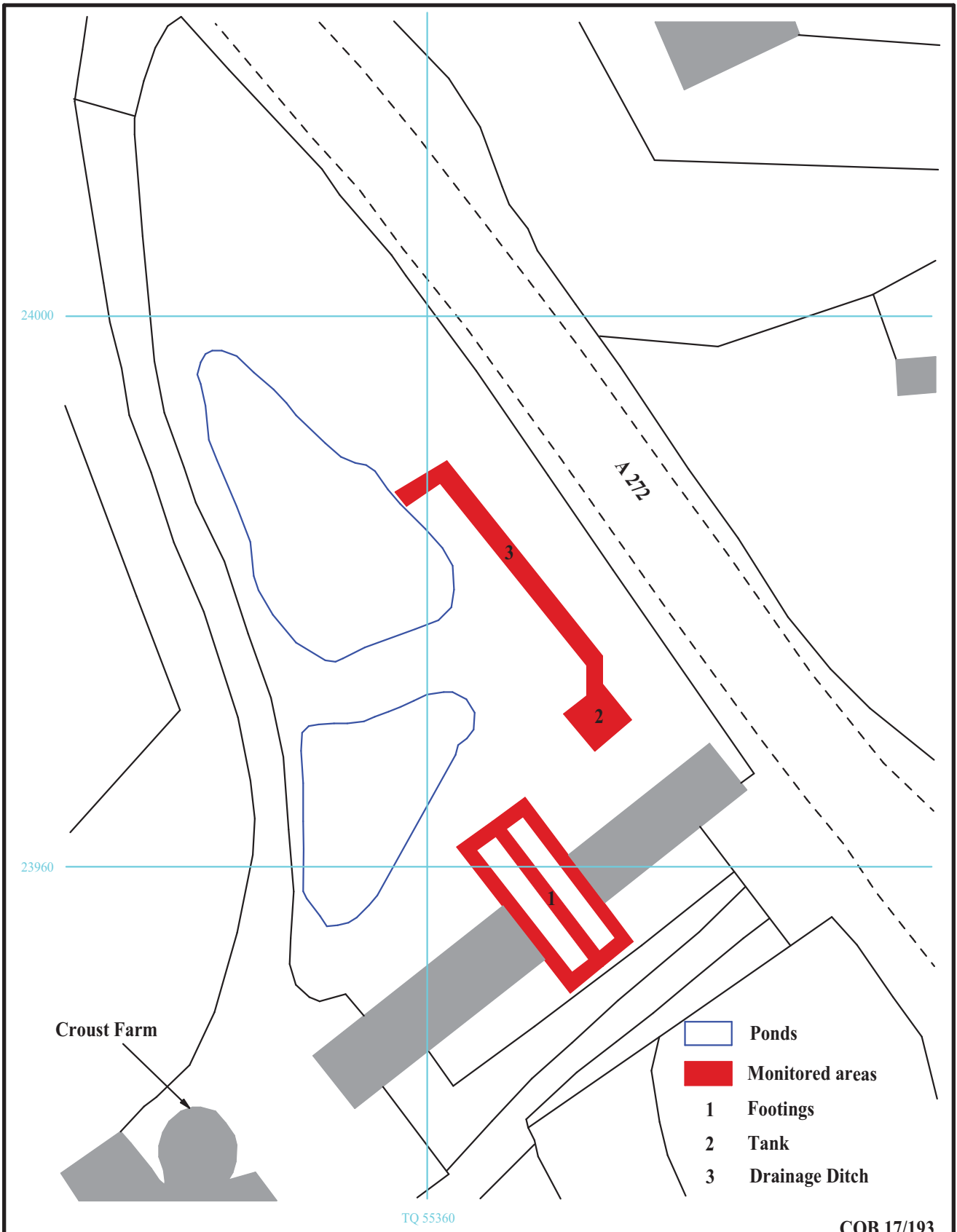
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**Croust Oast Barns, Hadlow Road, Five Ashes,
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site**

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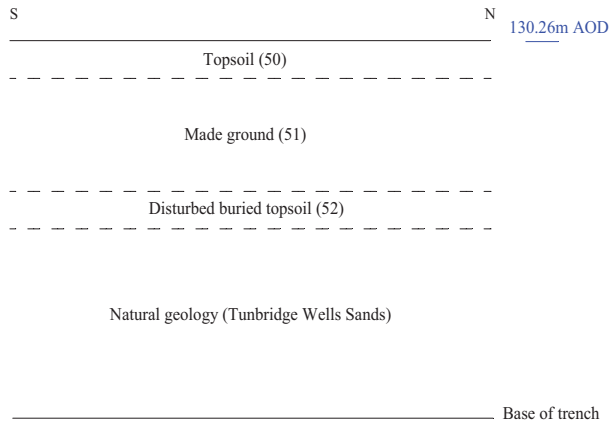


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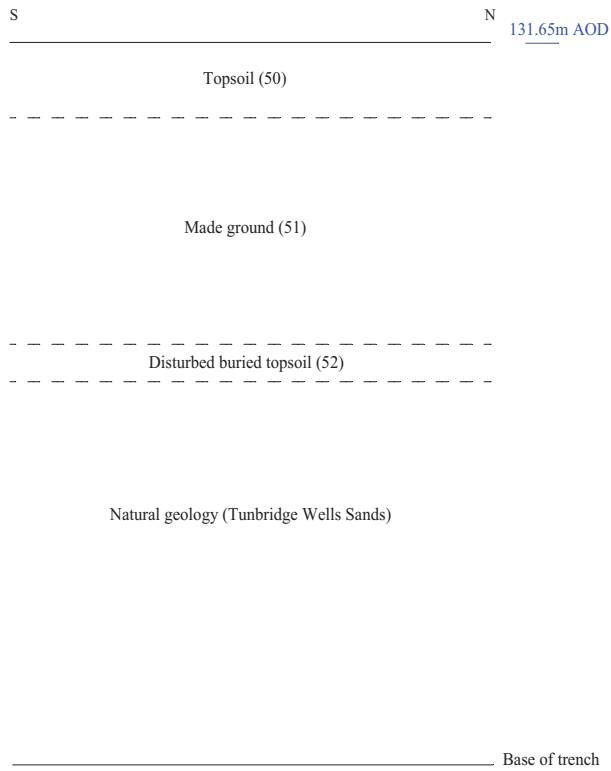
Figure 3. Site plan showing monitored area.



Footing trench



Tank



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Figure 4. Representative section.

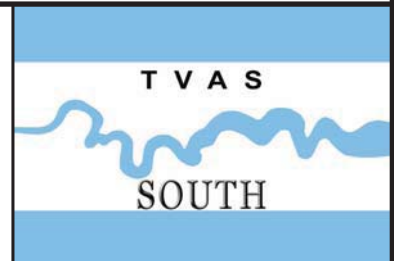




Plate 1. North-west footing, looking North-east.
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. South-east footing, looking East.
Scale: 1m.



Plate 3. Tank, looking East.
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. Drainage ditch, looking East.
Scales: 2m and 1m.

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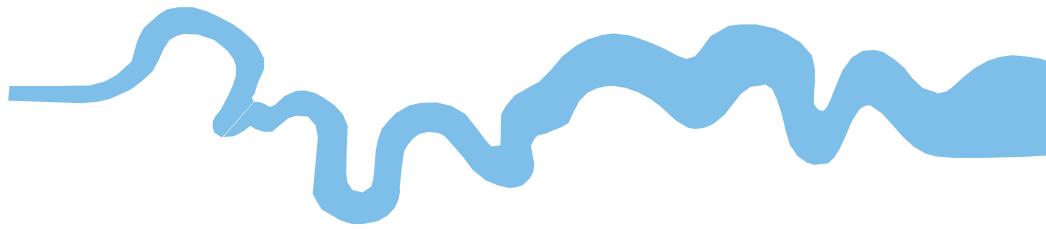
**Croust Oast Barns, Hadlow Road,
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Plates 1 - 4.**



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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