THAMES VALLEY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

SERVICES

SOUTH

Newhaven Primary School, Newhaven, East Sussex

Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Site Code: NSN14/110

(TQ 4401 0056)

Newhaven Primary School, Newhaven, East Sussex

An Archaeological Evaluation

for East Sussex County Council

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code NSN14/110

February 2015

Summary

Site name: Newhaven Primary School, Newhaven, East Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 4401 0056

Site activity: Evaluation

Planning reference : LW/3226/CC

Date and duration of project: 12th - 15th January 2015

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Sean Wallis

Site code: NSN 14/110

Area of site: *c*. 2.1 ha

Summary of results: The evaluation successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the proposed development. No archaeological features were recorded, and the only finds (struck flint) were recovered from a modern dump deposit. Despite the lack of archaeological evidence, the evaluation has provided valuable information about how the development area has been affected by past activity, especially by the school which formerly stood on the site. It is clear that the central area, currently occupied by Tarmac and the concrete bases of the former school buildings, has been significantly truncated. However, the trenches in the north and south-eastern parts of the site indicate that these areas have not been significantly affected by past events.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with a suitable depository (preferably Lewes Museum) in due course.

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 03.02.15
	Steve Preston✓ 03.02.15

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd, 77a Hollingdean Terrace, Brighton, BN1 7HB

Tel. (01273) 554198; Fax (01273) 564043; email south@tvas.co.uk; website: www.tvas.co.uk

Newhaven Primary School, Newhaven, East Sussex
An Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Report 14/110b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at land to the south-west of the historic core of Newhaven, East Sussex (TQ 4401 0056) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Martyn Jones of Kier Construction, Longley House, International Drive, Southgate Avenue, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 6AQ on behalf of East Sussex County Council.

Planning permission (LW/3226/CC) has been gained from East Sussex County Council for the construction of a new primary school building on the site, along with associated car parking areas, sports pitches, access roads and landscaping. The consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology, which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in advance of groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the County Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Gregory Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist at East Sussex County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Fergal Nevin, Theresa Vieira and Sean Wallis between 12th and 15th January 2015, and the site code is NSN14/110. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading. The preferred recipient museum for the site and finds archive is Lewes Museum, but unfortunately they are not accepting new material at this time. As a result the archive will be held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services until a suitable repository can be found.

Location, topography and geology

The site lies to the south-west of the historic core of Newhaven, immediately to the east of Seahaven Academy (formerly known as Tideway School), East Sussex TQ 4401 0056 (Figs 1 and 2). The area under investigation was formerly occupied by a school, which was demolished following a fire. As a result, the northern part of the site largely consisted of access roads and hardstandings associated with the former school, whilst the southern part was covered in grass. The ground generally slopes down towards the south-west, although certain areas have clearly been landscaped in the past. As a result the northern end of the site lies at a height of about 57m above

Ordnance Datum, whilst the area around the trenches in the south-western part of the site lies at a height of approximately 52m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of chalk from the Culver Chalk Formation, with clay from the Woolwich and Reading Formations being present in the northern part of the site (BGS 2006). However, the natural geology encountered during the evaluation was quite varied, with gravel, clay, clayey sand and sand being recorded in different trenches. As a result, the geology recorded in each trench will be discussed in detail below.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential has been summarized in a desk-based assessment. The site lies on the South Downs, which is an area known to be rich in archaeological remains from most periods (Rudling 2003). Mesolithic flintwork has been found immediately to the west of the site, along with a Bronze Age cremation burial and a similarly dated pit or ditch. A Bronze Age bowl barrow has been identified to the south-west of the site. Cartographic evidence suggests that the site was farmland up until the Second World War. After the war a school was built on the site, and this complex continued to expand until quite recently, when it was abandoned following a major fire. Although areas of the proposed site have clearly been affected by the construction of the former school complex, the level of truncation across the site is not entirely clear. Although archaeological features and deposits may have been destroyed in the past by foundation trenches and landscaping works, it is possible that remains in other areas may have survived, if present (Wallis 2014).

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 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 there is any evidence of Mesolithic activity surviving on the site; and

to determine whether there is any evidence of Bronze Age activity on the site.

to determine the extent of the damage caused by the construction of the former school complex.

Seventeen trenches were to be dug, each measuring 25m in length and 1.60m in width. These were to be dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision.

All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds. Any archaeological features present were to be excavated by hand to an agreed sample fraction.

Results

The seventeen trenches were dug close to their original planned positions, although a few had to be shifted slightly due to site constraints such as services (Fig. 3). All the trenches were 1.60m wide, and measured between 11.50m and 29.0m in length, and between 0.37m and 2.40m in depth. No archaeological features were recorded during the evaluation, although a large number of trenches contained some evidence of modern disturbance. Despite the lack of archaeological remains, the geology recorded in the trenches is regarded as being relevant and, as a result, a short description of each trench is given below. A complete list of the trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Fig. 4; Pl. 1)

This trench was orientated approximately SSW-NNE, and was 21.0m long and up to 0.64m deep. The western part of the trench had been disturbed by features relating to the former school, and services were encountered within the trench. The natural geology throughout the trench consisted of mid orange brown clay, with few gravel inclusions.

Trench 2 (Pl. 2)

This trench was orientated approximately WNW-ESE, and was 21.5m long and up to 0.78m deep. The trench was positioned in part of the site which sloped down towards the south-east. The natural geology recorded along most of the trench consisted of light brownish yellow sand, although an overlying deposit of sand and gravel was observed at the western end.

Trench 3

This trench was orientated approximately NW-SE, and was 28.2m long and up to 0.40m deep. The south-eastern part of the trench was situated in an area covered with Tarmac. The natural geology varied along the trench, with alternating bands of gravel and orange brown clay being recorded.

Trench 4 (Pls 3 and 4)

This trench was orientated approximately SSE-NNW, and was 19.4m long and up to 0.60m deep. The southern part of the trench was situated in an area covered with Tarmac. The natural geology varied along the length of the trench. Clayey sand was recorded at the northern end, with sand and gravel in the central part, and clay with occasional gravel inclusions at the southern end. A small test pit was excavated at the southern end of the trench to a depth of 1m. This revealed that the gravel inclusions in the clay became more frequent with depth.

Trench 5 (Pl. 5)

This trench was orientated approximately W-E, and was 23.5m long and up to 0.77m deep. The trench was positioned in an area which had previously had a school building on it and, as a result, the ground had been heavily disturbed. Natural sand and gravel was recorded along the length of the trench. A small test pit was excavated at the eastern end of the trench, to a depth of 1.30m. This revealed clay deposits, with varying amounts of gravel inclusions, beneath the overlying sand and gravel. Interestingly the various bands of geology observed in the test pit appeared to be near vertical.

Trench 6 (Fig. 4; Pl. 6)

This trench was orientated approximately NE-SW, and was 26.0m long and up to 0.49m deep. The trench was situated in an area covered with Tarmac. The natural geology along the length of the trench consisted of mid orange brown clay.

Trench 7

This trench was orientated approximately NW-SE, and was 23.0m long and up to 0.40m deep. The northern part of the site was situated in an area covered with Tarmac, whilst the southern part was within the footprint of one of the former school's buildings. As a result, numerous services and walls were encountered along the length of the trench. The natural geology recorded along the entire length of the trench consisted of sand and gravel.

Trench 8 (Fig. 5; Pl. 7)

This trench was orientated approximately NW-SE, and was 11.5m long and up to 2.40m deep. The trench was positioned within the footprint of one of the former school's buildings. Due to the depth of the trench and the presence of numerous foundations, it was agreed with the East Sussex County Council Archaeologist that the trench did not need to be dug to its full intended length. Natural geology (clay and gravel) was recorded beneath deep deposits of made ground, indicating that the area had probably been built up before the previous building was been constructed. A small number of struck flints were recovered from one of the layers of made ground.

Trench 9

This trench was orientated approximately W-E, and was 23.0m long and up to 0.56m deep. The western part of the trench was situated in an area previously occupied by one of the former school's buildings. Several services were encountered, along with one of the walls of the former school building. The natural geology along the entire length of the trench consisted of sand and gravel.

Trench 10

This trench was orientated approximately NW-SE, and was 24.0m long and up to 0.62m deep. The northern part of the trench was positioned in an area covered by a Tarmac path. The natural geology recorded along the entire length of the trench consisted of light brownish yellow clayey sand.

Trench 11

This trench was orientated approximately SSW-NNE, and was 29.0m long and up to 0.65m deep. A number of services associated with temporary cabins which recently stood on the site were recorded. The natural geology along the entire length of the trench consisted of sand and gravel.

Trench 12

This trench was orientated approximately NW-SE, and was 23.0m long and up to 0.68m deep. The area had been slightly disturbed by the portacabins which recently stood in this part of the site, and two service trenches were recorded. The natural geology throughout the entire length of the trench consisted of sand and gravel.

Trench 13 (Pl. 8)

This trench was orientated approximately NW-SE, and was 24.2m long and up to 0.55m deep. The geology encountered in this trench consisted of alternating bands of gravel and clayey sand.

Trench 14

This trench was orientated approximately NNE-SSW, and was 24.9m long and up to 0.50m deep. The area had been significantly disturbed by the portacabins which recently stood in this part of the site. The natural geology recorded along the entire length of the trench consisted on sand and gravel.

Trench 15 (Fig. 5)

This trench was orientated approximately E-W, and was 25.2m long and up to 0.37m deep. The area had been quite disturbed by the portacabins which formerly stood in this part of the site. The natural geology recorded in this trench largely consisted of light brownish yellow sand, although gravel was observed at the east and west ends.

Trench 16

This trench was orientated approximately NW-SE, and was 25.6m long and up to 0.90m deep. The trench was deeper at its southern end, as there was a dump layer of re-deposited natural (sand and gravel). The natural geology observed in the trench largely consisted of light brownish yellow sand, with clayey sand towards the northern end.

Trench 17

This trench was orientated approximately NW-SE, and was 25.8m long and up to 0.73m deep. A dump layer of re-deposited natural (sand and gravel) was recorded at the southern end of the trench, immediately above the buried soil horizon. The natural geology largely consisted of gravel, although light brownish yellow sand was observed at the far north end of the trench.

Finds

Struck Flint by Steve Ford

A collection comprising 4 struck flints was recovered during the course of this fieldwork, all from modern made ground in Trench 8. They are all flakes, all broken and otherwise chipped and edge damaged. One is burnt, one patinated white, one patinated light blue and the final one as unpatinated suggesting a heterogeneous collection (as might be expected from a modern dump deposit). None of the pieces are closely datable but are likely to be of Neolithic or Bronze Age date.

Conclusion

The evaluation successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the proposed development. No archaeological features were recorded, and the only finds (struck flint) were recovered from a modern dump deposit. Despite the lack of archaeological evidence, the evaluation has provided valuable information about how the development area has been affected by past activity, especially by the school which formerly stood on the site. It is clear that the central area, currently occupied by Tarmac and the concrete bases of the former school buildings, has been significantly truncated. However, the trenches in the north and south-eastern parts of the site indicate that these areas have not been dramatically affected by past events.

References

BGS 2006, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 319/334, Bedrock and Superficial Deposits Edition, Keyworth

ESCC 2007, *Standards for archaeological fieldwork, recording and post-excavation work in East Sussex*. East Sussex County council, 2007vl, Lewes

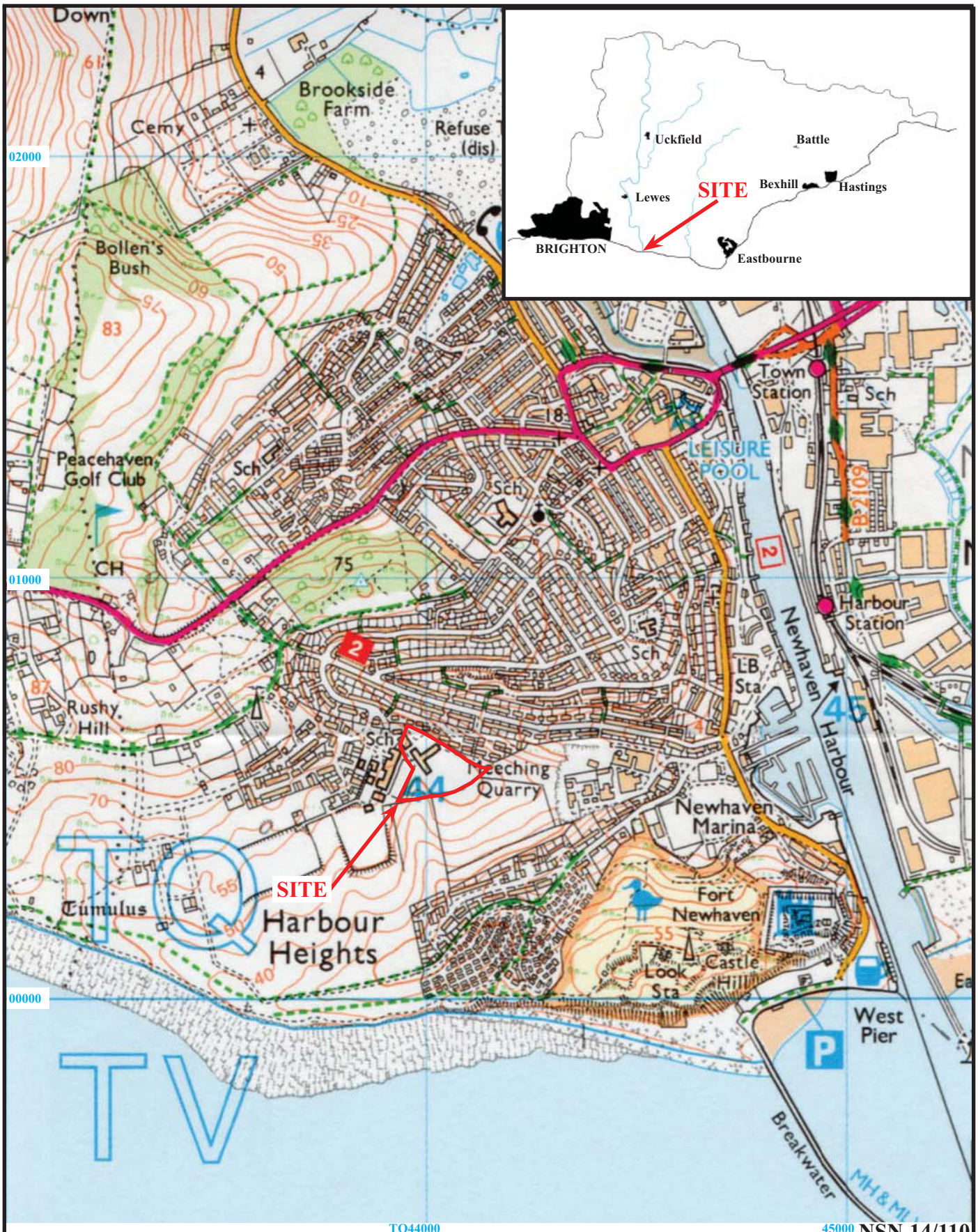
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department of Communities and Local Government, London (TSO)

Rudling, D., (ed) 2003, *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, Centre for Continuing Education, University of Sussex, Brighton

Wallis, S, 2014, 'Newhaven Primary School, Newhaven, East Sussex – an archaeological desk-based assessment', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpublished report **14/110**, Brighton

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

Trench	*Length (m)*	*Breadth (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Comment*
1	21.00	1.60	0.64	SSW end: 0-0.47m made ground; 0.47-0.64m+ natural geology (clay). NNE end: 0-0.05m topsoil; 0.05-0.28m subsoil; 0.28-0.35m+ natural geology (clay). Base of trench at 56.66m AOD (SSW end) and 56.23m AOD (NNE end). **[Pl. 1]**
2	21.50	1.60	0.78	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10-0.36m made ground; 0.36-0.58m buried soil; 0.58-0.78m+ natural geology (mostly sand with gravel at WNW end). Base of trench at 54.16m AOD (WNW end) and 52.78m AOD (ESE end). **[Pl. 2]**
3	28.20	1.60	0.40	NW end: 0-0.07m topsoil; 0.07-0.19m subsoil; 0.19-0.40m+ natural geology (clay). SE end: 0-0.10m tarmac; 0.10-0.17m chalk made ground; 0.17-0.28m+ natural geology (gravel). Base of trench at 52.75m AOD (NW end) and 52.30m AOD (SE end).
4	19.40	1.60	0.60	SSE end: 0-0.12m tarmac; 0.12-0.24m chalk made ground; 0.24-0.39m+ natural geology (clay). NNW end: 0-0.08m topsoil; 0.08-0.17m subsoil; 0.17-0.50m+ natural geology (clayey sand). Base of trench at 52.95m AOD (SSE end) and 52.54m AOD (NNW end).**[Pls 3 and 4]**
5	23.50	1.60	0.77	0-0.22m concrete; 0.22-0.32m made ground; 0.32-0.77m+ natural geology (gravel). Base of trench at 51.58m AOD (W end) and 51.81m AOD (E end). **[Pl. 5]**
6	26.00	1.60	0.49	0-0.15m tarmac; 0.15-0.24m chalk made ground; 0.24-0.49m+ natural geology (clay). Base of trench at 51.99m AOD (NE end) and 51.87m AOD (SW end). **[Pl. 6]**
7	23.00	1.60	0.40	NW end: 0-0.07m tarmac; 0.07-0.22m chalk made ground; 0.22-0.30m+ natural geology (gravel). SE end: 0-0.16m concrete; 0.16-0.28m gravel made ground; 0.28-0.40m+ natural geology (gravel). Base of trench at 51.62m AOD (NW end) and 51.51m AOD (SE end).
8	11.50	1.60	2.40	0-0.55m concrete slab and bedding layer; 0.55-0.62m silty sand with frequent gravel inclusions; 0.62-1.03m re-deposited natural (sand and gravel); 1.03-1.25m clayey silt made ground; 1.25-2.40m re-deposited natural (sand and gravel); 2.40m+ natural geology (clayey gravel). **[Pl. 7]** Base of trench at 51.05m AOD.
9	23.00	1.60	0.56	E end: 0-0.19m topsoil; 0.19-0.26m subsoil; 0.26-0.56m+ natural geology (gravel). W end: 0-0.16m concrete; 0.16-0.28m made ground; 0.28-0.39m+ natural geology (gravel). Base of trench at 52.07m AOD (E end) and 51.87m AOD (W end).
10	24.00	1.60	0.62	SE end: 0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15-0.50m subsoil; 0.50-0.62m+ natural geology (clayey sand). NW end: 0-0.08m tarmac; 0.08-0.28m gravel (re-deposited natural); 0.28-0.45m subsoil; 0.45-0.53m+ natural geology (clayey sand). Base of trench at 52.30m AOD (SE end) and 52.02m AOD (NW end).
11	29.00	1.60	0.65	SSW end: 0-0.24m gravel made ground (hardcore surface); 0.24-0.54m subsoil; 0.54m+ natural geology (gravel). NNE end: 0-0.30m concrete and bedding layer; 0.30-0.60m subsoil; 0.60-0.65m+ natural geology (gravel). Base of trench at 51.61m AOD (SSW end) and 52.49m AOD (NNE end).
12	23.00	1.60	0.68	SE end: 0-0.05m topsoil; 0.05-0.48m re-deposited soil made ground; 0.48-0.68m+ natural geology (gravel). NW end: 0-0.17m topsoil; 0.17-0.50m subsoil; 0.50-0.64m+ natural geology (gravel). Base of trench at 51.59m AOD (SE end) and 51.75m AOD (NW end).
13	24.20	1.60	0.55	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15-0.40m subsoil; 0.40-0.55m+ natural geology (alternating bands of gravel and clayey sand). Base of trench at 51.63m AOD (NW end) and 51.90m AOD (SE end).**[Pl. 8]**
14	24.90	1.60	0.50	0-0.17m topsoil; 0.17-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ natural geology (gravel). Base of trench at 52.08m AOD (NNE end) and 52.25m AOD (SSW end).
15	25.20	1.60	0.37	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10-0.25m subsoil; 0.25-0.37m+ natural geology (mostly sand, with gravel at E and W ends). Base of trench at 52.23m AOD (W end) and 52.52m AOD (E end).
16	25.60	1.60	0.90	NW end: 0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.35m subsoil; 0.35-0.50m natural geology (clayey sand). SE end: 0-0.82m re-deposited natural (gravel); 0.82-0.90m+ natural geology (sand). Base of trench at 52.30m AOD (NW end) and 52.70m AOD (SE end).
17	25.80	1.60	0.73	NW end: 0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.40m subsoil; 0.40-0.50m+ natural geology (sand). SE end: 0-0.36m re-deposited natural (gravel); 0.36-0.46m buried soil; 0.46-0.73m+ natural geology (gravel). Base of trench at 52.25m AOD (NW end) and 52.95m AOD (SE end).



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Archaeological Evaluation

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

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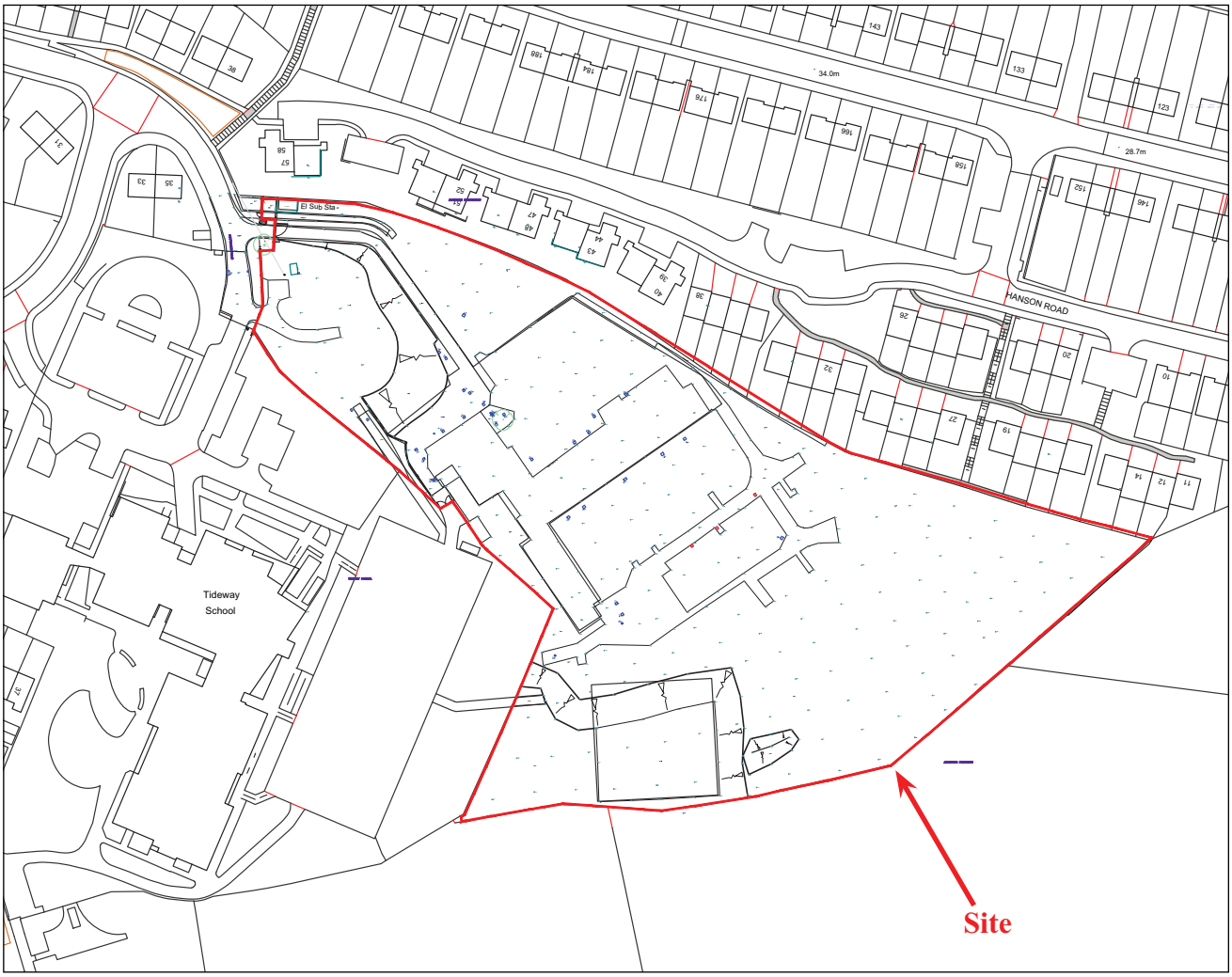

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Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 2. Detailed location of site

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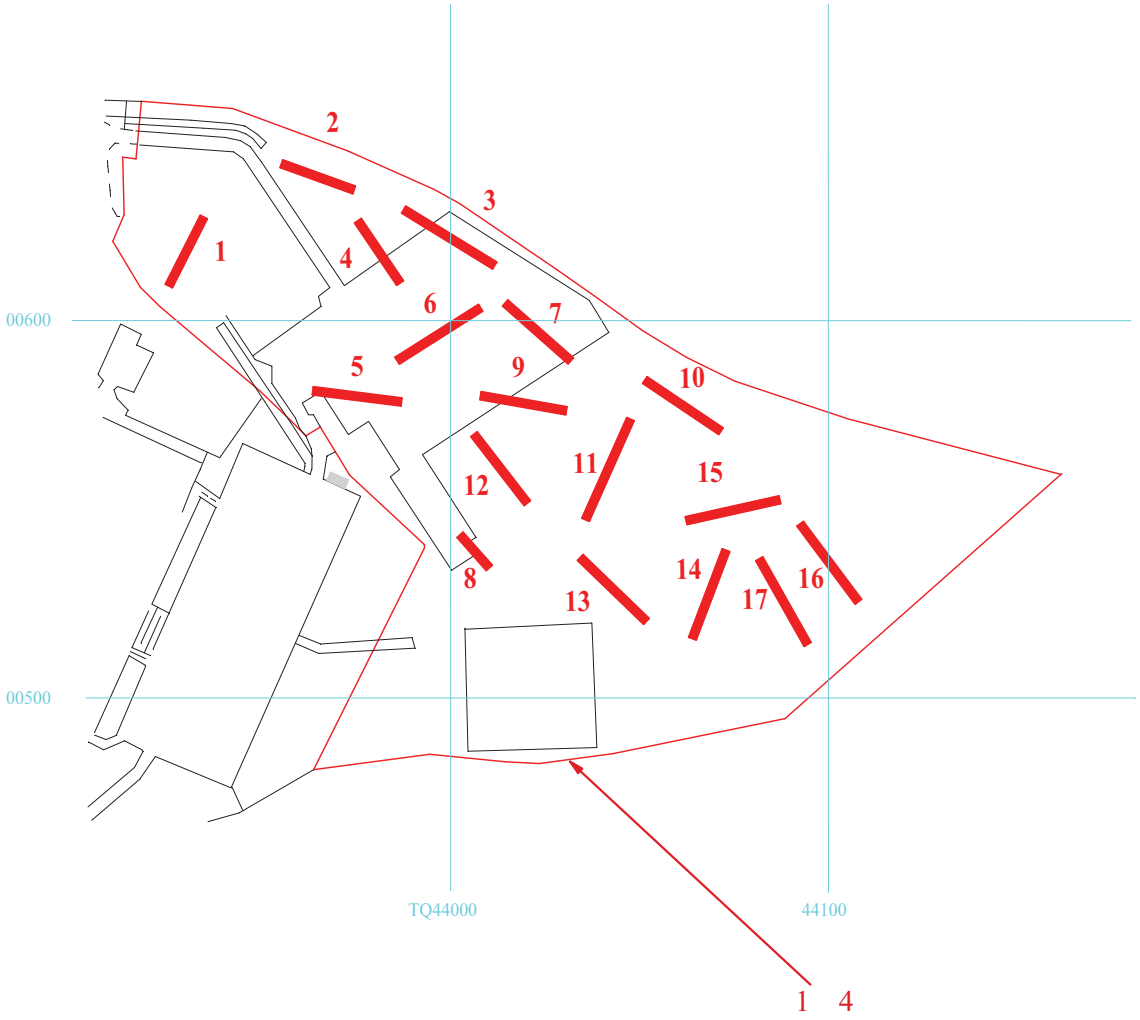

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Figure 3. Location of trenches

0 100m

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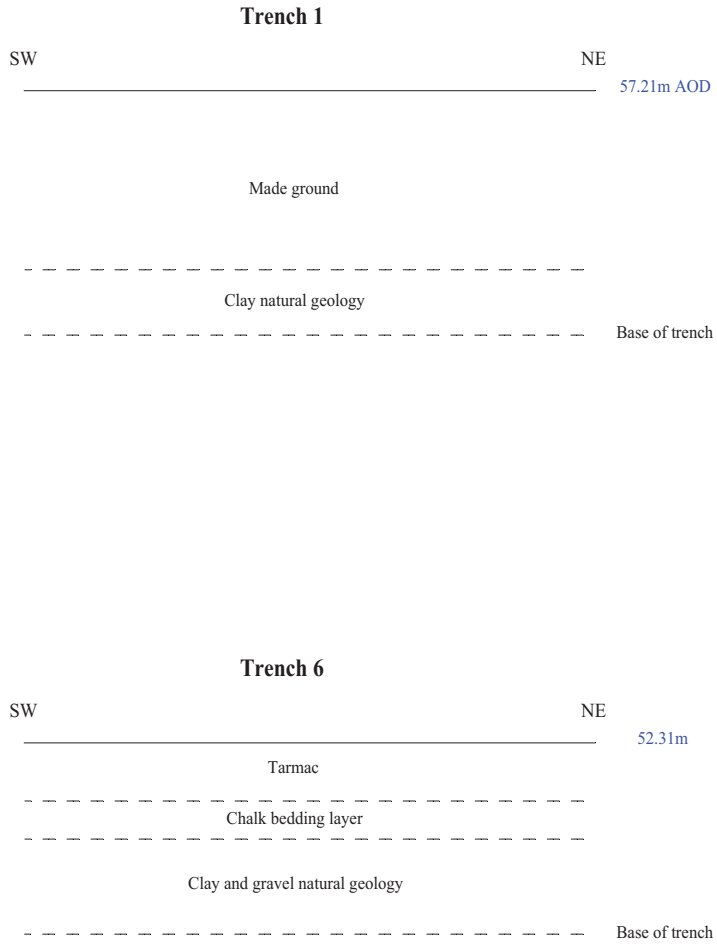

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Figure 4. Representative sections.

0 1m

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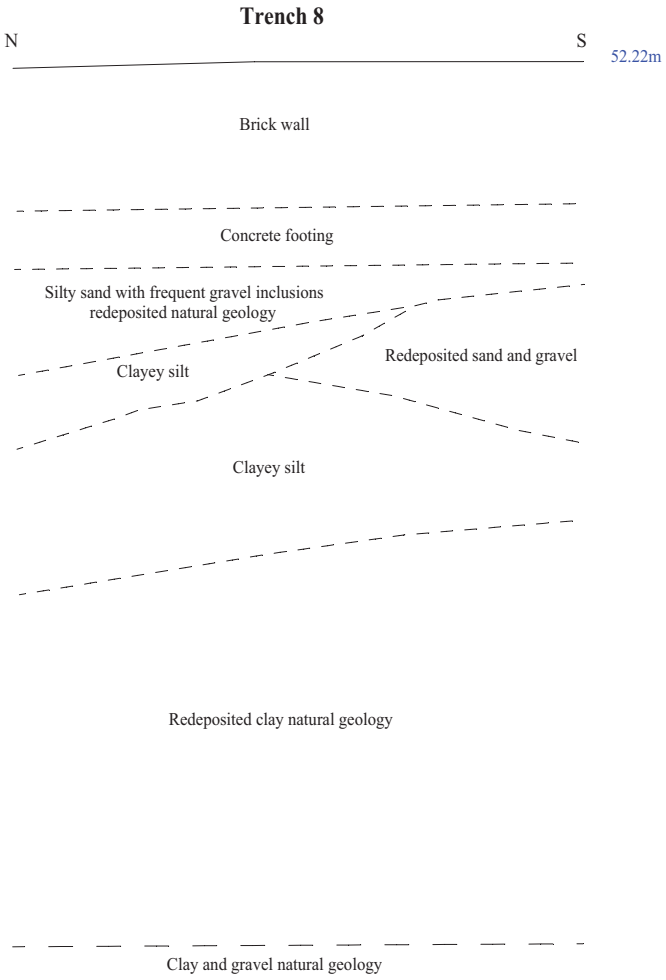

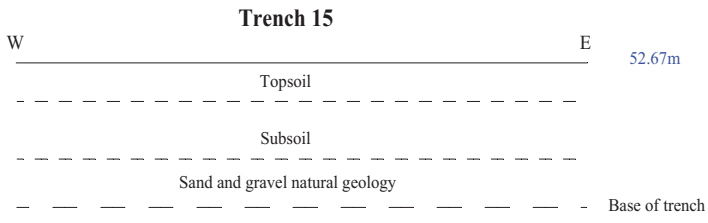

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Figure 5. Representative sections.

0 1m

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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

Plate 2. Trench 2, looking west, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

NSN 14/110

Newhaven Primary School, Newhaven,
East Sussex, 2015
Archaeological Evaluation

Plates 1 and 2.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES SOUTH

Plate 3. Trench 4, looking north, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

Plate 4. Trench 4 test pit, looking north, Scale 1m.

NSN 14/110

Newhaven Primary School, Newhaven,
East Sussex, 2015
Archaeological Evaluation

Plates 3 and 4.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES SOUTH

Plate 5. Trench 5 test pit, looking north, Scale 1m.

Plate 6. Trench 6, looking north-east, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

NSN 14/110

Newhaven Primary School, Newhaven,
East Sussex, 2015
Archaeological Evaluation

Plates 5 and 6.

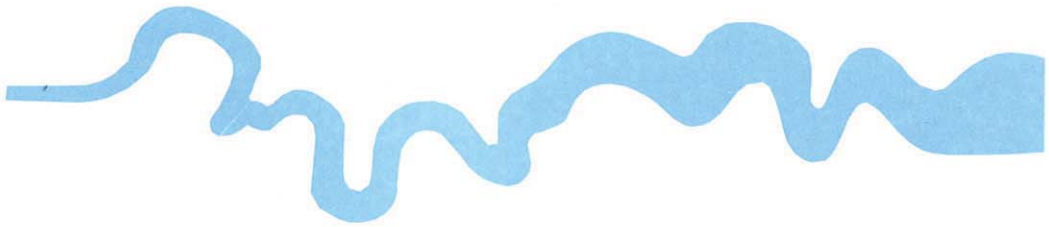
THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES SOUTH

Plate 7. Trench 8 test pit, looking west.

Plate 8. Trench 13, looking north-west, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern	AD 1901
Victorian	AD 1837
Post Medieval	AD 1500
Medieval	AD 1066
Saxon	AD 410
Roman	AD 43
Iron Age	BC/AD 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
Sussex, BN1 7HB

[redacted]