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Desk-based Assessment
for
Highfield Junior School,
Eastbourne, East Sussex

Project No. CBAS0216

(EB/3010/CC, EB/3018/CC & EB/3019/CC)

by
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Summary

An archaeological Desk-based Assessment has been carried out on the site of Highfield Junior School, Dallington Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex.

The desk-based assessment has established that there has been a significant amount of activity in the immediate area of the site, including Mesolithic hunter-gatherer camps, Bronze Age trackways, Iron Age/Romano-British farming and the Medieval village and harbour of Hydneye. Following use for grazing during the Post Medieval period, the only prior impact on the site has been the construction of the school in the mid 20th century.
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- **Appendix 1** Archaeological Sites Recorded on HER
1. **Introduction**

1.1 Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd has been commissioned by Michael Cook Associates on behalf of East Sussex County Council (The Client) to carry out an Archaeological Desk-based Assessment on the site of Highfield Junior School, Dallington Road, Eastbourne (Fig. 1), in order to establish the likely presence and importance of any archaeological remains that may be affected by the proposed construction, as part of an initial feasibility study.

1.2 As a result of the site's location, and the archaeological potential of the area, the local planning authority have required a programme of archaeological work to be undertaken prior to a decision being made on the planning applications for the provision of:

*EB/3010/CC*

A mobile nursery with new landscaped area and 8 car park spaces, to be located to the south west of the main school building for a temporary period of five years to August 2016 (Fig. 15).

*EB/3018/CC*

An extension north of the school to provide a three classroom extension, play canopy and hardstanding to south side of existing block of three classrooms. New platform lift extension to north-south corridor link (Fig. 16).

*EB/3019/CC*

External works to the south side of the school, including new extended parking facilities, an improved hard play area, a new enclosed front entrance canopy, new play canopy and associated landscaping (Fig. 17).

1.3 Highfields Junior School is located on the north-east side of Eastbourne, on the north side of Dallington Road, in Hydneye, on the edge of the Willingdon Levels at approximately 4m OD, and is within the Archaeological Notification Area defining the site of the deserted medieval village and port of Hydneye (Fig. 2).

1.4 The geology of the site, according to the British Geological Survey sheet 319/334, shows that the site is situated on a spur of Gault Clay and Lower Greensand, which projects out into the Alluvium of the Willingdon Levels. The site itself sits astride the boundary between the Gault Clay to the north and Alluvium to the south (Fig. 3).
1.5 This archaeological work is being carried out in advance of a planning decision by ESCC. The recommendation for an archaeological assessment was set out in correspondence from the County Archaeologist for East Sussex to ESCC CRD. The work will be in accordance with PPS 5 – Planning for the Historic Environment, and the Eastbourne Borough Plan (2001-2011).

1.6 This report initially covers the objectives and scope of the survey, then discusses the methodology used in the Desk-based Assessment, and then reviews the archaeological heritage of the area. A field visit was also carried out. Finally a conclusion assesses the potential impact of the development. A full listing of all the known archaeological sites from the HER is contained in Appendix 1 to this report.

1.7 The programme of archaeological work also includes an archaeological evaluation, for which a written scheme of investigation has been prepared. The results of the evaluation excavation are the subject of a separate report.
2. **Objectives & Scope of Report**

2.1 The objective of this report is to gain information about the known or potential archaeological resource of the site and its immediate area. This will include information relating to the presence or absence of any archaeology, its character and extent, date, integrity, state of preservation, and the relative quality of the potential archaeological resource. The brief specified the following objectives:

- identification, on the basis of the sources studied, any archaeological/historic features (including landscape features) within the study area (and agreed surrounding area) and, as far as is reasonably possible, to define their location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality.
- assessment of the extent to which previous and existing development and land use will have affected the archaeological resource within the proposed development site.
- assessment of the likely impact of any proposed or possible development works on the known and/or potential archaeological resource.
- conclusions to inform decision-making regarding a future planning application and to assist in the development of any further archaeological research or evaluation and mitigation works.

2.2 This will allow an assessment of the merit of the archaeology in context to be made, leading to the formulation of a strategy for the recording, preservation and management of the resource or, where necessary, the formulation of a strategy for further investigation where the character and value of the resource is not sufficiently defined to permit a mitigation strategy or other response to be defined.

2.3 The report will consider the archaeological resource within a radius of 1km around the site, whilst also taking into account sites further afield where these may be considered to have an impact or relevance to the site in its landscape setting.

2.4 It should be noted that this report can only take into account the existing known archaeology, and by its nature cannot provide a complete record of the archaeological resource of the site. Its intention is to provide an overview of the known archaeology in the area of the site, from which judgements can be made about the potential archaeological resource of the site itself.
3. Methodology

3.1 This Desk-based Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5), the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment (Institute for Archaeologists 2001), and the Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording and Post Excavation Work in East Sussex (ESCC 2008). A brief for this Desk-based Assessment was prepared by the Archaeology Team at East Sussex County Council.

3.2 The research for this Desk-based Assessment has included an analysis of the following resources:

- ESCC Historic Environment Record (HER)
- Historic mapping (including that provided with ESCC HER)
- NMR records and aerial photographs
- East Sussex Record Office (ESRO)
- Sussex Archaeological Society Library
- Defence of Britain database
- British Geological Survey
- Aerial Photograph search (Cambridge & Sussex Universities)
- Personal & Eastbourne library resources

3.3 The following maps were used:

- Speed 1610
- Morden’s Sussex 1695
- Bowen 1756
- Kitchen 1750 & 1763
- Yeakell & Gardiner 1778-83
- Cole’s Sussex 1808
- Moule’s Sussex 1837
- Dugdale’s Sussex 1840
- 1842 Willingdon Tithe Map (ESRO – TD/E56)
- 1st Edition OS Map (1874)
- 2nd Edition OS Map (1899)
- 3rd Edition OS Map (1909)
- 4th Edition OS Map (1928)

Information gained from the map regression exercise is contained in the Post Medieval section below.

3.5 The Sites and Listed Buildings recorded on the HER and other sources are listed in Appendix 1 to this report and mentioned in the text where relevant. The Monuments are shown on Fig. 4. Historical and other sources are given as footnotes as appropriate.
4. **Archaeological & Historical Background**

4.0.1 This section considers each archaeological period in turn, reviewing the known archaeological resource of the area, defining its location and extent, character, date, integrity, state of preservation, and quality.

4.0.2 There has been no previous archaeological work at the site, although there have been a number of archaeological events recorded on the ESCC HER in the vicinity of the site.

4.0.3 The review of each period will also bring in evidence for that period from a wider area, especially where there is little known archaeological evidence locally. This will enable a more accurate judgement to be made about the archaeological potential for the site. This evidence will include that taken from similar landscapes and geologies.

4.0.4 One major factor that affects this area, and therefore the understanding of how the local landscape would have been used in any period, is the state of the Levels that surround the site. During different periods this area of low lying land may have been either permanently flooded, tidally inundated, or marshy ground; until permanently reclaimed in the Medieval period. Where such information is known it is discussed in each relevant period.

4.1 **Palaeolithic Period (750,000BC – 10,000BC)**

4.1.1 This period covers a huge period of time, during which early hominid occupation of Southern Britain was intermittent. The period is divided into warm and cold periods, with the evidence suggesting that hominid occupation occurred during some of the warm periods. Apart from a small number of exceptional sites (e.g. Boxgrove), most of the evidence for human activity in this period comes from isolated finds of stone tools, often in secondary deposits.

4.1.2 A single acheulian handaxe has been found at Lottbridge Drove (MES507). Most local finds of Palaeolithic flintwork come from the South Downs, with the nearest find spots being located in the Cuckmere Valley¹. This isolated find at Lottbridge Drove is from an unusual location, and is probably not in its original context.

4.1.3 The likely potential for in-situ Palaeolithic archaeology being present on the site is considered to be very low.

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¹ Wymer, J. 1999 *The Lower Palaeolithic Occupation of Britain, Vol. 1*, Wessex Archaeology & English Heritage
4.2 Mesolithic Period (10,000BC – 4,000BC)

4.2.1 The start of the Mesolithic period sees Britain largely covered by pine and birch woodland, which was gradually replaced by a mixed deciduous woodland that provided an ideal environment for the bands of hunter-gatherers who were exploiting the resources on a seasonal basis².

4.2.2 There is no evidence for Mesolithic activity in the immediate vicinity of the site, however there are numerous find spots of Mesolithic flintwork around the edges of the Levels, to the north (MES5042) and east (MES5051/MES5052). These include debitage and a tranchet adze³, whilst other finds including debitage, cores and microliths have been found between Westham and Pevensey⁴.

4.2.3 It has been noted that the Mesolithic sites around the Pevensey Levels occur just above the 5m contour level (Fig. 5), where they have not been covered by the subsequent accumulation of peat, and may indicate that the Levels provided an ideal landscape for hunting and fishing throughout this period⁵. As the site is situated at around the 5m contour it is possible that there will be discoveries of Mesolithic artefacts, especially as projecting areas of higher ground around the Levels appear to have been preferred sites for hunting camps.

4.3 Neolithic Period (4,000BC to 2,500BC)

4.3.1 A number of changes occur during the Neolithic, some of which may have had an impact on the local area. Environmental evidence suggests that some of the woodland was being cleared and small scale agricultural activities are likely to have started. However, it is likely that hunting and gathering will have continued in the Levels where the landscape remained largely unchanged from the proceeding Mesolithic period.

4.3.2 Other changes in the earlier part of the Neolithic period include the construction of large-scale monuments and the first industrial activity. The closest of these sites is the causewayed enclosure located at Combe Hill on the South Downs above Willingdon, which would have looked out across the Levels, and may have exerted an influence over this area⁶.

³ Burton, C.E.C.-H 1940 ‘Mesolithic and Bronze Age Flints at Westham, Pevensey’ SN&Q 8, 43-4.
⁵ Butler, C. 2002 ‘A Mesolithic site and later finds at Magham Down, near Hailsham, East Sussex’, Sussex Archaeological Collections 140, 139-144.
⁶ Oswald et al. 2001 The Creation of Monuments, Swindon, English Heritage.
4.3.3 A number of scatters of Neolithic flintwork and individual finds of Neolithic axes have been identified from around the Levels\(^7\), suggesting that activity, probably associated with hunting and fishing, was continuing around the edges of the marshy Levels during this period.

4.3.4 It is possible that Neolithic artefacts could be present although the likelihood of finding Neolithic sites is considered to be low.

4.4 *The Bronze Age (2500BC to 800BC)*

4.4.1 The Bronze Age saw continued clearance of the woodland in the adjacent Weald and Downland landscapes, although there is little evidence for complete clearance or widespread agriculture. The period of greatest exploitation appears to have been in the Later Neolithic and early Bronze Age, which may suggest that the soils became exhausted and settlement retreated subsequently\(^8\). Elsewhere in Sussex, such as the South Downs and Coastal Plain, there is extensive evidence for the landscape being densely populated by small farming settlements in the Middle and Later Bronze Age.

4.4.2 Although there is growing evidence for agriculture in the adjacent Weald and Downland landscapes during the Bronze Age, the evidence is that the Levels continued to be used for hunting and fishing, although the peat had begun to accumulate during this period\(^9\), perhaps allowing greater access into the area.

4.4.3 In 1995 a Late Bronze Age timber platform and associated trackway (MES7375) was discovered on Shinewater Marsh a short distance to the north-east of the site. Copper-alloy artefacts, pottery, worked and burnt flint was recovered during the limited excavations\(^10\). This and other trackways/alignments (MES15463 & MES16119) hint at extensive activity in the Late Bronze Age (Fig. 6).

4.4.4 Given the evidence for extensive activity in the vicinity of the site, it is possible that Bronze Age features or artefacts may be found at the site.

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\(^7\) Butler, C. 2002 ‘A Mesolithic site and later finds at Magham Down, near Hailsham, East Sussex’, *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 140, 139-144.

\(^8\) Needham, S. 1987 ‘The Bronze Age’ in *The Archaeology of Surrey to 1540*, 97-137 Guildford, Surrey Archaeological Society.


\(^10\) Greatorex, C. 2003 Living on the Margins? The Late Bronze Age Landscape of the Willingdon Levels in Rudling, D. *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, Heritage Marketing & Publications Ltd.
4.5 The Iron Age (800BC to 43AD)

4.5.1 During the Early Iron Age it seems likely that surrounding Levels had become untenable due to flooding from the sea\(^{11}\), which may have led to a decrease in activity in the area, or more likely a retreat to the higher ground again.

4.5.2 One major feature of the Iron Age is the hillfort, of which 25 are known from Sussex. Many of these also appear to have originated in the Later Bronze Age, but become important centres of control and redistribution in the Middle and Later Iron Age. It seems unlikely that the sphere of influence of any of the Sussex hillforts could have extended to the area of the Levels.

4.5.3 The Willingdon Levels were formed in the Iron Age/Roman periods when this former lowland flooded and was then buried in alluvial deposits. This event sealed the former prehistoric landscape beneath c. 1 – 2 metres of clay. This sequence of events has recently been identified during a geoarchaeological watching brief at Arkwright Road immediately to the south of the site where the clay was located at depths of between 1.2m and 1.8m below ground level, and peat deposits survive at a depth of c. 1.5 metres below the current ground surface\(^ {12} \).

4.5.4 Three archaeological features; two ditches and a pit, were identified cut into the top of the alluvium during an archaeological evaluation at the proposed site of St Wilfrid’s Hospice to the south-west of the site. The ditches were similar in form and type of fill and are likely to have been contemporary Late Iron Age/early Roman date, forming part of a more extensive field boundary system\(^ {13} \).

4.6 The Roman Period (43AD to 410AD)

4.6.1 The Roman invasion of Britain in 43AD resulted in dramatic changes to this island’s social and economic environments, although they did not always occur immediately\(^ {14} \). It is likely that many of the rural farmsteads and associated field systems that were in existence in the Later Iron Age continued throughout the Roman period (see 4.5.4 above).

\(^{11}\) Greatorex, C. 2003 ‘Living on the margins? The Late Bronze Age Landscape of the Willingdon Levels’ in Rudling, D. The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000, Heritage Marketing and Publications Ltd.


4.6.2 Villa’s are almost unknown in the area, being almost entirely concentrated on the Sussex Coastal Plain and immediately to the north of the South Downs; the closest being at Eastbourne. There is also little evidence for any larger settlements, although recent work by HAARG at Kitchenham Farm, Ashburnham, to the north-east of the Levels has suggested the presence of a large Roman settlement.¹⁵

4.6.3 The large Saxon Shore Fort at Pevensey was built in the later 3rd Century AD on a peninsular that stuck out into the Levels, and may have provided shelter for a harbour on its protected north side.

4.6.4 There is evidence for Roman activity in the immediate area, and additionally with the presence of the Roman fort at Pevensey there is a possibility of encountering Roman remains at the site.

4.7 The Saxon Period (410AD to 1066AD)

4.7.1 In the early Post-Roman period there was a change in the economy and land-usage with any areas that had been previously cultivated reverting to woodland, although the adjacent Weald remained an important area of grazing for pigs and other animals.¹⁶

4.7.2 A Saxon Charter dating to 947 relates to land at West Hankham and Glynleigh, further north given by King Eadred to Edmund and describes the location of the manor being granted, including a reference to salt pans.¹⁷ King Edward held Eastbourne before 1066, whilst Willingdon was held by Earl Godwin, and it is likely that few people lived in the area as it was still marginal land on the edge of the flooded Levels.

4.7.3 There is no mention of Hydneye in the Domesday book, and no earlier documentary evidence to suggest that there was a settlement here in the Saxon period. However, there is a reference to a Saxon cemetery (MES652) having been discovered and excavated at Hydneye, although this cannot be substantiated.¹⁸ It is considered unlikely that any evidence for Saxon activity will be encountered.

¹⁵ Cornwall, K. & L. 2007 ‘A Roman site on Kitchenham Farm, Ashburnham – First Interim Report’, HAARG Journal
4.8 The Medieval Period (1066AD to 1500AD)

4.8.1 After 1066 the Manors of Eastbourne and Willingdon were granted to the Count of Mortain. As well as meadow, land for 28 ploughs and a mill there were 16 salthouses in Eastbourne, whilst in Willingdon there was land for 36 ploughs, 60 acres of meadow and 11 salthouses. The salthouses are likely to have been situated around the edges of the Levels, and indicate the importance of this industry in the area.

4.8.2 There were a number of Medieval settlements in the area which do not appear to have survived, such as Cudnow (MES5053) and Hydneye (MES517) immediately to the north of the site. The latter was a port attached to Hastings from early times although there is practically no significant documentary evidence and the site has been built over by housing development since 1940. Turner maintained that the earliest reference was a deed of 1229 with further mentions in charters throughout the period 1235-60 and 1308. There was probably a small harbour at Hydneye which silted up in the period 1250-1350 depriving the community of its livelihood. This suggests that this land was still marginal, reflecting the risk from flooding and difficulties in reclaiming the land.

4.8.3 Much of the Levels was reclaimed by the 13th century. To the north, Hankham Level was divided into portions drained by Martins Gut and Hankham Gut, although the area was inundated in the 15th century. A conveyance of 1306 refers to a piece of land called ‘Est Tunge’ at Glenleigh that was enclosed with ditches. There are again references to salt pans, suggesting that this was still an industry of the Levels’ margins.

4.8.4 The presence of the remains of a possible Medieval boat (MES504), probably clinker-built, found in 1963 during sewer laying operations, and possibly a 12th-14th century trading vessel, under the roundabout at the Junction of Lottbridge Drove and Seaside, suggests that this location was on the edge of the navigable waters, perhaps leading to Hydneye harbour.

4.8.5 Given the location of the site and its relationship to the Medieval village at Hydneye, it is very possible that there will be some evidence for Medieval activity at the site.

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22 Dulley, A.J.F. 1966 ‘The Level and Port of Pevensey in the Middle Ages’, Sussex Archaeological Collections 104, 26-45
24 ESRO (AMS279)
4.9 *The Post Medieval Period (1500AD to the Present Day)*

4.9.1 There is little evidence for the use of this area during the early Post Medieval period until the 19th century. A lease of 1682\(^26\) includes meadow of 4½ acres, part of the Totts, near Lottbridge Drove, together with pieces of marshland. The presence of Lottbridge Drove to the east of the site suggests that it was used for moving animals around the edges of the Levels between areas of grazing, although it is likely to have originated at an earlier date.

4.9.2 The early maps of Sussex, such as Speed (1610), Morden (1695) and Bowen (1756), and the maps of Kitchen (1750), Cole (1808), Moule (1837) and Dugdale (1840) are not sufficiently detailed to show anything of interest, and none of these show Hydneye. Yeakell & Gardiner (1778-83)\(^27\) shows much more detail, with the entire area divided up into fields. Lottbridge Drove is shown to the south-east of the site (Fig. 7).

4.9.3 A survey of several parcels of land belonging to the Right Honourable John Earl of Ashburnham was carried out in 1763\(^28\). This shows parcels of land immediately east of Hampden Park adjoining Hydneye Bridge in the centre of Willingdon, in the west centre of Willingdon, west of Ratton Park, and Burg-Land, being 22a. in the south-east of Willingdon, east of Lot Bridge. The area of the site is within one of a number of fields shown; Lot Bridge is also shown on the map.

4.9.4 The 1813 Ordnance Survey draft\(^29\) shows Lottbridge Drove crossing Bourne Level, with a series of lanes leading into the Levels from the west, which were presumably used for moving stock into and out of the Levels. Ratton Park is shown to the west of the site, whilst the site itself is shown as open ground. A map of Eastbourne published in 1819\(^30\) shows the area to the east of Eastbourne up to Lottbridge Drove as ‘Pasture Fields’ (Fig. 8).

4.9.5 The Willingdon Tithe map of 1842\(^31\) (Fig. 9) shows no detail of the Hydneye earthworks. The field in which the site is located is called ‘Court Hidney’, and along with the adjacent fields is owned by Inigo Thomas. This field and those to the south are occupied by Arnold Denman, whilst the remaining adjacent fields are occupied by Joseph Seymour. All of the fields are Pasture. The adjacent field to the east is called ‘New Enclosure’ and shows a building and adjacent pen, possibly a sheep fold. The two fields (Court Hidney and New Enclosure) preserve the curving southern edge which may be a boundary associated with the original Hydneye settlement.

\(^{26}\) ESRO ASH/4501/1083  
\(^{27}\) [http://www.envf.port.ac.uk/geo/research/historical/webmap/sussexmap/Yeakelllarge36.htm](http://www.envf.port.ac.uk/geo/research/historical/webmap/sussexmap/Yeakelllarge36.htm)  
\(^{28}\) ESRO ASH4440 (inspected at ESRO – copy requested for archive file)  
\(^{29}\) Timeline Historical Map 199  
\(^{30}\) Elleray, D.R. 1995 *Eastbourne A Pictorial History*, Phillimore (Map possibly drawn by W. Figg in 1816)  
\(^{31}\) ESRO – TD/ES6
4.9.6 The 1st Edition OS map (1874) shows a complex of earthworks forming ‘The site of Hydneye’ to the north of the site. The area of the site is broadly outlined as a separate field (Fig. 10). The 2nd Edition OS map (1899) shows little change (Fig. 11). The 3rd Edition OS (1910) map shows a sewage pumping station is now situated to the west of the site, and a brickfield32 to the east (Fig. 12).

4.9.7 A circular mound is shown to the north of the site (MES8523). A community excavation led by Charles Goring, the Vicar, in c. 2005 in the garden of the rectory in the area of the mound recorded a ditch 60cm wide and at least 40cm deep. Romano-British and Medieval pottery was also recovered from this excavation.

4.9.8 The Hampden Park Council School for junior mixed and infants was built in 1911 for 240 children and was situated on the eastern side of Brodrick Road next to Junction Cottages and to the south of the railway crossing. From 1 Sep 1945 the infants and junior departments became separate schools on the same site, although separate log books had been kept since at least 1942.

4.9.9 The 4th Edition OS map (1925) shows a similar situation, with allotment gardens between the site and the brickworks (Fig. 13). The 1938 OS map shows that the area to the north of the site had been laid out with road in preparation for housing development, and a small building may be located in the southern part of the site (Fig. 14). Later maps show the development surrounding the site to the north, east and west and then industrial estates to the south.

4.9.10 On the 12th April 1947 Eastbourne Education Committee released a Notice of Intent to build the school; tenders were issued in 1948 for a school comprising nine classrooms, lavatories and stores on the ground floor, and a basement heating chamber. The school was opened in late 194933, and in November 1949 the junior school moved to the new premises and became known as Highfield County Junior School. Only part of the building had been completed by November 1949. The remainder was ready and taken into use in September 1950 and the whole school was officially opened by the Duke of Devonshire on 20 November 195134.

4.9.11 A number of archaeological events have taken place around the site, most associated with the Bronze Age platform and trackways at Shinewater (e.g. EES14056). An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks associated with the construction of a single storey extension at 28 Court Road, a short distance to the south-east of the site in 2004 (EES14026). No archaeological features or artefacts were discovered.

34 ESRO E/SC/259
4.9.12 An evaluation excavation was carried out at 2 Sackville Road in 2010. The topsoil produced late 20\textsuperscript{th} century building rubble that overlay layers of calcareous material and clays and peat. Within the water-logged peat layer a few off-cuts of tanned leather were discovered, which although un-dateable represent a potentially significant archaeological discovery\textsuperscript{35}. Another evaluation excavation was carried out at 66, Kingston Road in 2011\textsuperscript{36}. No archaeological features were noted during the course of the excavation, although a small number of artefacts were recovered from the upper deposits, all dating to the 20\textsuperscript{th} century. The same layer of dark brown silty peat that had also been noted at 2 Sackville Road was located, although no archaeological finds were recovered from this layer.

4.9.13 Other recent archaeological work at Arkwright Road immediately to the south of the site located clay at depths of between 1.2m and 1.8m below ground level, and peat deposits survived at a depth of c. 1.5 metres below the current ground surface\textsuperscript{37}. Three Late Iron Age/Roman features; two ditches and a pit, were identified cut into the top of the alluvium during an archaeological evaluation at the proposed site of St Wilfrid’s Hospice to the south-west of the site\textsuperscript{38}.

\textsuperscript{35} Seaman, A. 2010 An Archaeological Evaluation Excavation at 2 Sackville Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, CBAS0168
\textsuperscript{36} Butler, K. 2011 An Archaeological Evaluation Excavation at 66, Kingston Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, CBAS0190
\textsuperscript{37} Peyre, L. 2011 Arkwright Road Eastbourne, East Sussex: Geoarchaeological Watching Brief, ASE Report 2011051.
\textsuperscript{38} Dawkes, G. & Pope, M. 2010 St Wilfrid’s Hospice, Eastbourne, East Sussex: Report on an Archaeological and Geoarchaeological Evaluation, ASE Report 2010143
5.0 Site Visit

5.1 A site visit was made on the 2nd June 2011. The school is situated on the north side of Dallington Road, with Port Road on its east side. To the north are houses which front onto Knoll Crescent, and on the west side are houses fronting onto the Hydneye. Further north is housing development, whilst to the south is a playing field and Highfield Industrial Estate (Fig. 1).

5.2 The school buildings run the entire width of the site with an entranceway off Dallington road to the south with a tarmac drive leading to a small roundabout at the east end of the site. The remaining area at the front (south side of the school) is grassed, with a number of mature trees at the west end of the site. There is a noticeable drop from the front of the school onto Dallington Road, and then a further small drop into the playing field on the south side of Dallington Road, where a large pond is located in its north-west corner.

5.3 The entire north side of the school is a tarmac playground, with play equipment and other temporary structures located here. There is an extension to the main school building extending into the north-east corner of the site, with a gated entrance and drive to Port Road.

5.4 The entire school site appears to have been levelled or built up, and there is no noticeable gradient across the site. A spot height of 3m is given for the junction of Dallington Road and The Hydneye, with the site itself being around 4m to 5m above sea level.
6. Impact of the Development

6.1 The proposed developments at Highfield School will have an impact to the ground at the front of the school, along most of its length, and also in the north-east corner of the school. The front of the school has been targeted by an archaeological evaluation excavation, whilst the north-east corner, which is currently obstructed by the tarmac surface and play equipment has been subject to a watching brief during geotechnical test pitting and boreholes. The results of the evaluation and watching brief are covered in a separate report.

6.2 The desk-based assessment has shown that there has been little change in the immediate landscape, and land use between the Medieval period and the mid 20th century has remained as pasture for grazing until the developments before and after the Second World War. The Medieval settlement and harbour of Hydneye is situated immediately to the north of the site.

6.3 No evidence for any earlier archaeological features or activity within the site has been found in this desk-based assessment. However, the site’s location on the edge of the Levels, and the presence of archaeological remains in the broader landscape, may suggest the presence of buried archaeological remains from prehistory through to the Medieval period.

6.4 Given the evidence accumulated so far during this desk-based assessment, the probability of finding remains from each of the different archaeological periods is shown in Table 1 below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Potential</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palaeolithic</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mesolithic</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neolithic</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronze Age</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron Age</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roman</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saxon</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medieval</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Medieval</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.5 It is considered that there will be a high potential that any below ground deposits at the site will have archaeological (palaeo-environmental remains and geo-archaeological) interest at this site, especially at greater depths, due to the potential for waterlogged remains.
7. **Conclusions**

7.1 This desk-based assessment has established that there is evidence for activity from the Mesolithic period through to the Post Medieval period in the wider surrounding area of the site. The map and documentary evidence for the more recent agricultural landscape in the immediate surroundings suggests that it has not altered to any great extent over the last 300-400 years and possibly earlier, until the recent housing developments of the 20th century.

7.2 The only known existing impact to the site has been the construction of the school in 1949/50, which may have involved the building up of the ground level on the south side of the site to provide a level base for the development. Alternatively the drop in ground level to the south of the site may represent the transition from the higher Gault Clay to the lower Alluvium. On the north side of the site there may have been some terracing into the shallow slope, however the ground only rises very slightly to the north.

7.3 This desk based assessment has demonstrated a medium to high potential for below ground archaeological remains to be present at the site, sufficient to recommend an archaeological watching brief during the development. However a full recommendation for future mitigation during the development will be provided in the separate report on the evaluation excavation.

8. **Acknowledgements**

8.1 I would like to thank Stuart Eatock of Michael Cook Associates on behalf of East Sussex County Council for commissioning this desk-based assessment. Casper Johnson, County Archaeologist at ESCC, provided the specification for the desk-based assessment, and Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist provided copies of the East Sussex HER.

8.2 I would also like to thank the staff at East Sussex Records Office and at the Sussex Archaeological Society Library for their help in locating aerial photographs and other sources in their possession. Rachel Butler recorded and analysed the Tithe map apportionments.
Fig. 1: Highfield Junior School, Eastbourne: Site Location
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Fig. 2: Highfield Junior School: Site Location & Archaeological Notification Area
(Adapted from map provided by ESCC)
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Fig. 3: Highfield Junior School, Eastbourne: Geological Map
Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100037471
Fig. 4: Highfield Junior School, Eastbourne: Monuments on the HER  
(Adapted from map provided by ESCC)  
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Fig. 5: Highfield Junior School, Eastbourne: Mesolithic sites around Pevensey Levels
(Adapted from Butler, C. 2002 ‘A Mesolithic site and later finds at Magham Down, near Hailsham, East Sussex’, Sussex Archaeological Collections 140, 139-144)
Fig. 6: Highfield Junior School, Eastbourne: Later Bronze Age environment (Adapted from Greatorex 2003)
Fig. 7: Highfield Junior School, Eastbourne: Yeakell & Gardiner’s map (1778-83)
Fig. 8: Highfield Junior School, Eastbourne: Map of Eastbourne 1819
(from Elleray, D.R. 1995 *Eastbourne A Pictorial History*)
Fig. 9: Highfield Junior School, Eastbourne: Tithe map ESRO – TD/E56 (Reproduced with permission of ESRO)

**Apportionment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Occupier</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>271</td>
<td>Inigo Thomas</td>
<td>Joseph Seymour</td>
<td>Court Lag</td>
<td>Pasture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>272</td>
<td>Inigo Thomas</td>
<td>Joseph Seymour</td>
<td>Court Lag</td>
<td>Pasture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>273</td>
<td>Inigo Thomas</td>
<td>Arnold Denman</td>
<td>Court Hidney</td>
<td>Pasture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>274</td>
<td>Inigo Thomas</td>
<td>Joseph Seymour</td>
<td>New Enclosure</td>
<td>Pasture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>276</td>
<td>Inigo Thomas</td>
<td>Arnold Denman</td>
<td>Court Lag</td>
<td>Pasture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>277</td>
<td>Inigo Thomas</td>
<td>Arnold Denman</td>
<td>Little Court Hidney</td>
<td>Pasture</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. 10: Highfield Junior School, Eastbourne: 1st Edition OS Map (1874)

Fig. 11: Highfield Junior School, Eastbourne: 2nd Edition OS Map (1899)
Fig. 12: Highfield Junior School, Eastbourne: 3rd Edition OS Map (1910)

Fig. 13: Highfield Junior School, Eastbourne: 4th Edition OS Map (1925)
Fig. 14: Highfield Junior School, Eastbourne: 1938 OS Map
Fig. 15: Highfield Junior School, Eastbourne: Site Plan showing the area for the proposed temporary nursery and car parking at the front of the school (EB/3010/CC)
Fig. 16: Highfield Junior School, Eastbourne: Site Plan showing the area for the proposed new classrooms at the rear of the school (EB/3018/CC)
Fig. 17: Highfield Junior School, Eastbourne: Site Plan showing the area for the proposed new car parking at the front of the school (EB/3019/CC)
Fig. 18: Highfield Junior School, Eastbourne: Photograph of area at front of school looking west

Fig. 19: Highfield Junior School, Eastbourne: Photograph of area to rear of school looking east

Fig. 20: Highfield Junior School, Eastbourne: Photograph of area at front of school looking east
### Appendix 1: Archaeological Sites Recorded on HER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SMR No.</th>
<th>NGR</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Type of Site</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MES504</td>
<td>TQ 6268 0103</td>
<td>Medieval?</td>
<td>Remains of boat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MES507</td>
<td>TQ 61 01</td>
<td>Palaeolithic</td>
<td>Acheulean handaxe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MES517</td>
<td>TQ 612 025</td>
<td>Medieval</td>
<td>Settlement and harbour</td>
<td>Hydneye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MES644</td>
<td>TQ 607 021</td>
<td>Post Medieval</td>
<td>Hampden Park Railway Station</td>
<td>Listed Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MES652</td>
<td>TQ 610 028</td>
<td>Saxon</td>
<td>Cemetery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MES7032</td>
<td>TQ 6119 0232</td>
<td>20th century</td>
<td>Windpump</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MES7033</td>
<td>TQ 613 025</td>
<td>20th century</td>
<td>Windpump associated with brick kilns</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MES7375</td>
<td>TQ 61458 02949</td>
<td>Bronze Age</td>
<td>Timber platform and trackway</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MES8523</td>
<td>TQ 60990 02527</td>
<td>Undated</td>
<td>Circular mound</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MES15463</td>
<td>TQ 6145 0250</td>
<td>Prehistoric</td>
<td>Timber trackway</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MES16119</td>
<td>TQ 6136 0304</td>
<td>Bronze Age</td>
<td>Clay and timber causeway</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd

Chris Butler has been an archaeologist since 1985, and formed the Mid Sussex Field Archaeological Team in 1987, since when it has carried out numerous fieldwork projects, and was runner up in the Pitt-Rivers Award at the British Archaeological Awards in 1996. Having previously worked as a Pensions Technical Manager and Administration Director in the financial services industry, Chris formed Chris Butler Archaeological Services at the beginning of 2002.

Chris is a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, a committee member of the Lithic Studies Society, and is a part time lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Sussex, and until recently taught A-Level Archaeology at Bexhill 6th Form College.

Chris specialises in prehistoric flintwork analysis, but has directed excavations, landscape surveys, watching briefs and evaluations, including the excavation of a Beaker Bowl Barrow, a Saxon cemetery and settlement, Roman pottery kilns, and a Mesolithic hunting camp. Chris is Co-Director of the Barcombe Roman Villa excavations. He has also recently undertaken an archaeological survey of Ashdown Forest and Broadwater Warren.

Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd is available for Flintwork Analysis, Project Management, Military Archaeology, Desktop Assessments, Field Evaluations, Excavation work, Watching Briefs, Fieldwalking, Landscape & Woodland surveys, Post Excavation Services and Report Writing.

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