

**An Archaeological Evaluation
at Blatchington Mill School, Nevill Avenue, Hove,
East Sussex**

NGR TQ 2786 0623

Planning Ref: BH2011/01264

**ASE Project No: 5128
Site Code: BMS 11**

**ASE Report No. 2011291
OASIS id: archaeol6-115366**



**By Andrew Margetts
December 2011**

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December 2011

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Brighton and Hove Hockey Club to undertake an archaeological evaluation on playing fields at Blatchington Mill School. The work was undertaken to inform on possible further mitigation in advance of the construction of new hockey pitches.

The natural horizon(s) in all trenches were intact. No archaeological features were encountered and only a few sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered. The site occupies a small area of Reading and Woolwich beds and it is possible that these less favourable soils for agricultural exploitation in comparison to the wider coastal plain geologies may account for the lack of archaeological activity.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London, were commissioned by Brighton and Hove Hockey Club to undertake an archaeological evaluation prior to intrusive ground works associated with the installation of two new sports pitches at Blatchington Mill School in Hove. (Figure 1; NGR 527860 206230).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The solid geology underlying the site comprises bedrock of Chalk, overlain by silty clays and pebbly sands of the Woolwich and Reading formations.

1.2.2 The site is a rectangular plot of sloping land located on the west side of Nevill playing field in the grounds of Blatchington Mill School, Nevill Avenue, Hove, East Sussex. The school is bound on all sides by residential properties and lies within an Archaeological Notification Area as set by Brighton and Hove City Council based on East Sussex County Council recommendations derived from the East Sussex Historic Environment Record.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission for the installation of two artificial sports pitches, including twelve 15m high floodlights , perimeter fencing and associated groundworks was granted by Brighton and Hove City Council (Ref.: BH2011/01264). Following consultation with East Sussex County Council's Archaeologist, Greg Chuter, Brighton and Hove City Council attached a condition to the planning consent for a programme of archaeological work. Condition 10 states:

“No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written statement of investigation, including a timetable for the investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in accordance with the approved details”.

REASON: To enable the recording of any items of historical or archaeological interest, as the development is likely to disturb remains of archaeological interest, in accordance with requirements within PPS5 'Planning for the Historic Environment'; and Policy HE12 of the Brighton & Hove Local Plan.

1.3.2 Originally the required scope of work was for an archaeological watching brief. However, as the site is to be stripped using a bulldozer this was determined to be an impractical approach archaeologically. It was therefore agreed with the client and East Sussex County Council's Archaeologist that a programme of evaluation trenching would be undertaken as a Phase 1 investigation. Following an appropriate report (to the satisfaction of the ESCC Archaeologist) and in the event that no archaeological remains were discovered the condition would be discharged. In the event that

archaeological remains were present a Phase 2 investigation was allowed for; either a watching brief or a set piece excavation, or a combination of the two techniques as stipulated by ESCC's Archaeologist.

1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2011) relating to the archaeological evaluation was prepared and approved by Greg Chuter. All works were carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists standards and guidance (IfA 2001) and the *Standards For Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording, and Post-Excavation Work in East Sussex* (ESCC 2008). Any variations to the scope of work were to be agreed with Greg Chuter prior to implementation.

1.3 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The general aims and objectives of the evaluation as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (*ibid*) were to establish:

- Whether archaeological remains are present on the site and if so assess the date, survival and condition of said remains.
- The character date and quality of ancient remains and deposits.
- How they might be affected by the development of the site
- What options should be considered for mitigation
- To make public the results of the archaeological evaluation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

1.4.2 More specific aims of the evaluation were:

- Is there any evidence for Roman activity and settlement on the site?
- Although the site lies some distance from the Hangleton deserted medieval village, is there any evidence for outliers from the medieval settlement?

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report outlines the results of the evaluation, undertaken by Andrew Margetts (Senior Archaeologist), and Liz Chambers (Assistant Archaeologist) on the 29th of November to the 1st of December 2011. The project was managed by Andy Leonard (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological background of the site was outlined in the preceding WSI (ASE 2011) and is summarised below.
- 2.1.2 The following information is drawn from a 1 km radius search of the Historic Environment Record (HER) held at ESCC centred on NGR TQ 2786 0623. The results of the ESCC HER search are summarised below (Table 1).

ESCC HER No.	OS Co-ordinates (TQ)	Description
MES 358	TQ 287 060	Romano-British pottery findspot
MES 1050	TQ 28 06	Palaeolithic ovate handaxes found during excavations for Goldstone Waterworks
MES 1051	TQ 280 072	West Blatchington Manor House (medieval), now demolished
MES 1054	TQ 286 066	C19th water pumping station
MES 1061	TQ 2871 0690	Hadrianic coin findspot
MES 1074	TQ 2880 0713	Middle Bronze Age urned cremation findspot
MES 1075	TQ 2853 0718	A Roman coin hoard, Iron Age pottery and pits were found during excavations in 1939 for a water main outside 54 Woodlands Avenue
MES 1076	TQ 2715 0754	Early Iron Age pottery findspot
MES 1077	TQ 2694 0745	Roman (Domitian) coin findspot
MES 1090	TQ 287 060	Bronze Age macehead findspot
MES 1095	TQ 276 072	2 nd – 4 th century Roman villa
MES 1096	TQ 269 074	Deserted medieval settlement (abandoned late 14 th /early 15 th century)
MES 1099	TQ 2786 0686	Medieval church of St Peter
MES 1100	TQ 2674 0728	Medieval church of St Helen
MES 1113	TQ 28 07	Palaeolithic hand axe findspot
MES 1118	TQ 278 068	19 th century windmill for corn milling
MES 1120	TQ 28 07	Palaeolithic ovate handaxes findspot
MES 1163	TQ 2701 0797	Dyke Railway, opened in 1887 closed in 1939
MES 8675	TQ 2802 0576	Bronze Age Scraper findspot
MES 15480	TQ 2674 0588	Undated inhumation burial findspot
MES 16719	TQ 2791 0688	Saxon – post medieval hamlet of West Blatchington
DES 6919	TQ 2773 0637	Bishop Hannington Memorial Church (1938-9)
DES 6818	TQ 28 06	Boiler and engine house at Goldstone Pumping Station (1866)
DES 6876	TQ 28 06	Chimney to the south of the boiler and engine house at Goldstone Pumping Station
DES 6917	TQ 2674 0727	Church of St Helen (12 th century)
DES 6897	TQ 2786 0687	Church of St Peter (12 th century)
DES 6819	TQ 28 06	Brick-built cooling pond with leat (1866) associated with boiler house at Goldstone
DES 6873	TQ 2855 0653	Former coal shed at Goldstone Pumping Station (1872)
DES 6914	TQ 2859 0660	Walls enclosing Goldstone pumping station
DES 6780	TQ 2785 0679	West Blatchington windmill (1820)

Table 1: Summary of ESCC HER records within 1. km of NGR TQ 2786 0623

- 2.1.3 The Roman villa at Blatchington, lying approximately 750m to the northwest of the site, was first discovered in 1818 by the Reverend James Douglas and the area was subsequently investigated in stages from 1947 to 1949 by Mr Norris during the construction of the Sunninghill Council Estate (SAC 89, 1-56). Initially evidence for a large settlement (primarily in the form of pits and ditches) was uncovered during the installation of access roads and service trenches before the villa itself was rediscovered in 1948.
- 2.1.4 The villa was located between Amberley Drive and Bramber Avenue and was primarily evidenced by footing trenches, the masonry having been robbed sometime after Douglas's investigations according to Norris. The main structural wall footings were easily identifiable, while the internals less so. The villa was rectangular in shape and measured 35m x 15m, a fairly standard size in Britain although less so in Sussex.
- 2.1.5 Of the seven archaeological interventions recorded on the HER within 1km of the site, two refer to the Blatchington Roman villa (EES 8939 and EES 9411), two to the Hangleton deserted medieval village (EES 8938 and EES8937). The remainder comprise a negative trial trench evaluation at the former Alliance House in Hove (EES 13955), a Desk-Based Assessment of land at Park House, Hove concluding potential for archaeological remains despite quarrying in the area (EES 14418) and a building survey undertaken at the medieval church of St Peter's in West Blatchington (EES 8940).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Excavation Methodology

- 3.1.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of sixteen trenches measuring 30m by 2m located across the areas of the site identified as being the subject of development. The trench pattern was designed to give a good coverage across the site and represents an 8% sample of the site.
- 3.1.2 The trenches were accurately laid out using a GPS survey system and tied in to the National Grid. No modification to the suggested trench positions was necessary.
- 3.1.3 The trenches were scanned prior to excavation using a CAT scanner. The trenches were excavated using a suitable mechanical excavator (360° excavator) equipped with a toothless ditching bucket.
- 3.1.4 Only undifferentiated topsoil, subsoil and overburden of recent origin were removed by machine and were kept separately. The excavation was taken down to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the top of the underlying 'natural' deposit, whichever was uppermost. All machining was undertaken under the supervision of a suitably qualified archaeologist.
- 3.1.5 A metal detector was used on the site to check all archaeological horizons, fills and spoil heaps

3.2 Recording Methodology

- 3.2.1 All excavated archaeological features; layers and/or deposits were planned, photographed and recorded utilising the assigned site code. All excavated archaeological deposits were drawn on plastic film at a scale of 1:20. Where appropriate, additional plans at a scale of 1:10 were made of specific features. Sections of all excavated archaeological contexts were generally drawn at a scale of 1:10, and where appropriate at a larger scale of 1:20. All site drawings were digitised
- 3.2.2 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using the standard context record sheets used by Archaeology South-East.
- 3.2.3 All context numbers were prefixed by the relevant trench number.
- 3.2.4 A photographic record was made of all archaeological features. All photographs, except working shots, included a board that detailed: the site code, date and context number, a scale and a north arrow.
- 3.2.5 The fieldwork generated an archive currently housed at Archaeology South-East offices in Portslade, pending deposition at a suitable local museum. The archive has been offered in the first instance to Brighton Museum and Art Gallery. We are currently awaiting a response.

Number of Contexts	31
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and section sheets	0
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	21 digital images
Registered finds	N/A

Table 2: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS (Figure 2)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The trenches encountered little disturbance and indications were that the natural horizon was intact.

4.2 Trench 1

4.2.1 Trench 1 measured 30m in length x 2m wide and was orientated on a roughly north-south alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m	55.40
1/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	55.05

Table 3: Context Register, Trench 1

4.2.2 Natural Woolwich and Reading Beds [1/002], a firm, mid red brown, silt clay with frequent flint inclusions was overlain by:

4.2.3 A firm mid orange brown silt clay topsoil [1/001]. This contained moderate inclusions of flint and chalk fragments.

4.3 Trench 2

4.3.1 Trench 2 measured 30m in length x 2m wide and was orientated on a roughly east-west alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
2/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.32m	55.42
2/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	55.02

Table 4: Context Register, Trench 2

4.3.2 Natural Woolwich and Reading Beds [2/002], a firm, mid red brown, silt clay with frequent flint inclusions was overlain by:

4.3.3 A firm mid orange brown silt clay topsoil [2/001]. This contained moderate inclusions of flint and chalk fragments.

4.4 Trench 3

4.4.1 Trench 3 measured 30m in length x 2m wide and was orientated on a roughly north-south alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon and was disturbed by a redundant water pipe at the northern end.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
3/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	55.43
3/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	55.02

Table 5: Context Register, Trench 3

4.4.2 Natural Woolwich and Reading Beds [3/002], a firm, mid red brown, silt clay with frequent flint inclusions was overlain by:

4.4.3 A firm mid orange brown silt clay topsoil [3/001]. This contained moderate inclusions of flint and chalk fragments.

4.5 Trench 4

4.5.1 Trench 4 measured 30m in length x 2m wide and was orientated on a roughly north-south alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
4/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	55.20
4/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	54.83

Table 6: Context Register, Trench 4

4.5.2 Natural Woolwich and Reading Beds [4/002], a firm, mid red brown, silt clay with frequent flint inclusions was overlain by:

4.5.3 A firm mid orange brown silt clay topsoil [4/001]. This contained moderate inclusions of flint and chalk fragments.

4.6 Trench 5

4.6.1 Trench 5 measured 30m in length x 2m wide and was orientated on a roughly north-south alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
5/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	54.59
5/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	54.22

Table 7: Context Register, Trench 5

4.6.2 Natural Woolwich and Reading Beds [5/002], a firm, mid red brown, silt clay with frequent flint inclusions was overlain by:

4.6.3 A firm mid orange brown silt clay topsoil [5/001]. This contained moderate inclusions of flint and chalk fragments.

4.7 Trench 6

4.7.1 Trench 6 measured 30m in length x 2m wide and was orientated on a roughly

north-south alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon and was disturbed by a redundant water pipe mid-trench.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
6/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	54.85
6/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.18m	54.65
6/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	54.35

Table 8: Context Register, Trench 6

4.7.2 Natural Woolwich and Reading Beds [6/003], a firm, mid red brown, silt clay with frequent flint inclusions was overlain by:

4.7.3 Mid grey brown firm silt clay subsoil [6/002]. This contained frequent flint inclusions and a thin lense of chalk fragments throughout. This was overlain by:

4.7.4 A firm mid orange brown silt clay topsoil [6/001]. This contained moderate inclusions of flint and chalk fragments.

4.8 Trench 7

4.8.1 Trench 6 measured 30m in length x 2m wide and was orientated on a roughly north-south alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
7/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.29m	54.10
7/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.11m	53.81
7/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	53.62

Table 9: Context Register, Trench 7

4.8.2 Natural Woolwich and Reading Beds [7/003], a firm, mid red brown, silt clay with frequent flint inclusions was overlain by:

4.8.3 Mid grey brown firm silt clay subsoil [7/002]. This contained frequent flint inclusions and a thin lense of chalk fragments throughout. This was overlain by:

4.8.4 A firm mid orange brown silt clay topsoil [7/001]. This contained moderate inclusions of flint and chalk fragments.

4.9 Trench 8

4.9.1 Trench 8 measured 30m in length x 2m wide and was orientated on a roughly north-south alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
8/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28m	54.12
8/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	53.72

Table 10: Context Register, Trench 8

4.9.2 Natural Woolwich and Reading Beds [8/002], a firm, mid red brown, silt clay with frequent flint inclusions was overlain by:

4.9.3 A firm mid orange brown silt clay topsoil [8/001]. This contained moderate inclusions of flint and chalk fragments.

4.10 Trench 9

4.10.1 Trench 9 measured 30m in length x 2m wide and was orientated on a roughly north-south alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
9/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.27m	54.10
9/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	53.81
9/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	53.62

Table 11: Context Register, Trench 7

4.10.2 Natural Woolwich and Reading Beds [9/003], a firm, mid red brown, silt clay with frequent flint inclusions was overlain by:

4.10.3 Mid grey brown firm silt clay subsoil [9/002]. This contained frequent flint inclusions and a thin lense of chalk fragments throughout. This was overlain by:

4.10.4 A firm mid orange brown silt clay topsoil [9/001]. This contained moderate inclusions of flint and chalk fragments.

4.11 Trench 10

4.11.1 Trench 10 measured 30m in length x 2m wide and was orientated on a roughly north-south alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
10/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.27m	53.42
10/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.14m	53.15
10/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	53.01

Table 12: Context Register, Trench 10

4.11.2 Natural Woolwich and Reading Beds [10/003], a firm, mid red brown, silt clay with frequent flint inclusions was overlain by:

4.11.3 Mid grey brown firm silt clay subsoil [10/002]. This contained frequent flint inclusions and a thin lense of chalk fragments throughout. This was overlain by:

4.11.4 A firm mid orange brown silt clay topsoil [10/001]. This contained moderate inclusions of flint and chalk fragments.

4.12 Trench 11

4.12.1 Trench 11 measured 30m in length x 2m wide and was orientated on a roughly north-south alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
11/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	53.52
11/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.12m	53.32
11/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	53.15

Table 13: Context Register, Trench 11

4.12.2 Natural Woolwich and Reading Beds [11/003], a firm, mid red brown, silt clay with patches of dark brown grey silt clay. This contained frequent flint inclusions and was overlain by:

4.12.3 Mid grey brown firm silt clay subsoil [11/002]. This contained frequent flint inclusions and a thin lense of chalk fragments throughout. This was overlain by:

4.12.4 A firm mid orange brown silt clay topsoil [11/001]. This contained moderate inclusions of flint and chalk fragments.

4.13 Trench 12

4.13.1 Trench 12 measured 30m in length x 2m wide and was orientated on a roughly north-south alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
12/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.26m	52.62
12/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	52.36
12/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	52.31

Table 14: Context Register, Trench 12

4.13.2 Natural Woolwich and Reading Beds [12/003], a firm, mid red brown, silt clay with patches of dark brown grey silt clay. This contained frequent flint inclusions and was overlain by:

4.13.3 Mid grey brown firm silt clay subsoil [12/002]. This contained frequent flint inclusions and a thin lens of chalk fragments throughout. Several sherds of

prehistoric pottery were recovered from this context. This was overlain by:

4.13.4 A firm mid orange brown silt clay topsoil [12/001]. This contained moderate inclusions of flint and chalk fragments.

4.14 Trench 13

4.14.1 Trench 13 measured 30m in length x 2m wide and was orientated on a roughly north-south alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
13/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.27m	52.46
13/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	52.10

Table 15: Context Register, Trench 13

4.14.2 Natural Woolwich and Reading Beds [13/002], a firm, mid red brown, silt clay with patches of dark brown grey silt clay. This contained frequent flint inclusions and was overlain by:

4.14.3 A firm mid orange brown silt clay topsoil [13/001]. This contained moderate inclusions of flint and chalk fragments.

4.15 Trench 14

4.15.1 Trench 14 measured 30m in length x 2m wide and was orientated on a roughly north-south alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
14/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	52.44
14/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.13m	52.04
14/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	51.85

Table 16: Context Register, Trench 14

4.15.2 Natural Woolwich and Reading Beds [14/003], a firm, mid red brown, silt clay with patches of dark brown grey silt clay. This contained frequent flint inclusions and was overlain by:

4.15.3 Mid grey brown firm silt clay subsoil [14/002]. This contained frequent flint inclusions and a thin lens of chalk fragments throughout. This was overlain by:

4.15.4 A firm mid orange brown silt clay topsoil [14/001]. This contained moderate inclusions of flint and chalk fragments.

4.16 Trench 15

4.16.1 Trench 15 measured 30m in length x 2m wide and was orientated on a roughly north-south alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
15/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	51.79
15/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	51.54
15/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	51.40

Table 17: Context Register, Trench 15

4.16.2 Natural Woolwich and Reading Beds [15/003], a firm, mid red brown, silt clay with frequent flint inclusions and was overlain by:

4.16.3 Mid grey brown firm silt clay subsoil [15/002]. This contained frequent flint inclusions and a thin lens of chalk fragments throughout. This was overlain by:

4.16.4 A firm mid orange brown silt clay topsoil [15/001]. This contained moderate inclusions of flint and chalk fragments.

4.17 Trench 16

4.17.1 Trench 16 measured 30m in length x 2m wide and was orientated on a roughly north-south alignment. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon.

Context No	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
16/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.26m	51.52
16/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m	51.26
16/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	51.12

Table 18: Context Register, Trench 16

4.17.2 Natural Woolwich and Reading Beds [16/003], a firm, mid red brown, silt clay with frequent flint inclusions and was overlain by:

4.17.3 Mid grey brown firm silt clay subsoil [16/002]. This contained frequent flint inclusions and a thin lens of chalk fragments throughout. This was overlain by:

4.17.4 A firm mid orange brown silt clay topsoil [16/001]. This contained moderate inclusions of flint and chalk fragments.

THE FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A small collection of finds was recovered during the evaluation at Blatchington Mill School.

Context	Pot	Wt (g)
12/002	9	4
Total	9	4

Table 19: Quantification of finds

5.2 The Prehistoric Pottery by Anna Doherty

- 5.2.1 Context [12/002] produced a number of very fragmented flint-tempered sherds, weighing just 4 grams in total, all from the same vessel. The fabric has a laminar silty matrix, containing sparse to moderate, moderately to ill-sorted flint, mostly in the size range 1.5-3mm. It is never possible to date small featureless flint-tempered bodysherds with much confidence as this tempering agent was common throughout most of prehistoric period in Southern Britain. However, the size and sorting of flint inclusions would be most typical of fabrics in either the Neolithic or Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age periods.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1** The evaluation revealed a typical stratigraphic sequence of 0.20m – 0.35m of topsoil overlying, in places, 0.10-0.15m of subsoil, overlying the natural Reading and Woolwich Beds substrate. There was no evidence that the natural horizon had been truncated.
- 6.2** The evaluation succeeded in its general aim of assessing whether archaeological remains existed on the site. No archaeological features were encountered and few finds were retrieved.
- 6.3** Several prehistoric pot sherds, probably from a single broken sherd were found residually in the subsoil of Trench 12. There were no associated archaeological features or deposits and in the absence of other evidence it seems likely that these are an isolated find and not indicative of a wider pattern of prehistoric occupation in the vicinity
- 6.4** No evidence of either Roman or medieval activity was encountered on site.
- 6.5** The general (apart from the isolated pot sherds) lack of archaeological activity may be accounted for by the relatively poor nature of the underlying soils for agriculture. The site exists on a small area of Woolwich and Reading Formations conceivably poor agricultural land in comparison to the wider coastal plain. Evidence of post-medieval marling to improve the ground conditions was witnessed in the southern half of the site by the thin lens of chalk encountered at the base of the plough horizon within subsoil deposits.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

2011 Archaeology South-East, Blatchington Mill School, Nevill Avenue, East Sussex,
Written Scheme of Investigation

2008, ESCC, *Standards For Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording, and Post-Excavation Work in East Sussex.*

Sussex Archaeological Collections, Volume 89 (SAC Vol. 89, 1 - 56) *A prehistoric and Romano-British site at West Blatchington, Hove*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology South East would like to thank Brighton and Hove Hockey Club for funding the work, Mark Brunet of Blatchington Mill School for his help and Greg Chuter of East Sussex County Council for his guidance throughout the project.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	BMS 11					
Identification Name and Address	Blatchington Mill School, Hove					
County, District &/or Borough	Brighton & Hove, East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 2786 0623					
Geology	Woolwich and Reading Formation					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5128					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. X	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other School Field X		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 29 th Nov- 1 st Dec 2011	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Brighton and Hove Hockey Club					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Andrew Margetts					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern X		
<p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Brighton and Hove Hockey Club to undertake an archaeological evaluation on playing fields at Blatchington Mill School. The work was undertaken to inform on possible further mitigation in advance of the construction of new hockey pitches.</i></p> <p><i>The natural horizon(s) in all trenches were intact. No archaeological features were encountered and only a few sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered. The site occupies a small area of Reading and Woolwich beds and it is possible that these less favourable soils for agricultural exploitation in comparison to the wider coastal plain geologies may account for the lack of archaeological activity.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-115366

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at Blatchington Mill School, Nevill Avenue, Hove, East Sussex
Short description of the project	<p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Brighton and Hove Hockey Club to undertake an archaeological evaluation on playing fields at Blatchington Mill School. The work was undertaken to inform on possible further mitigation in advance of the construction of new hockey pitches.</i></p> <p><i>The natural horizon(s) in all trenches were intact. No archaeological features were encountered and only a few sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered. The site occupies a small area of Reading and Woolwich beds and it is possible that these less favourable soils for agricultural exploitation in comparison to the wider coastal plain geologies may account for the lack of archaeological activity.</i></p>
Project dates	Start: 29-11-2011 End: 01-12-2011
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BMS11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Prehistoric
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Amenity area (e.g. public open space)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX BRIGHTON AND HOVE HOVE Blatchington Mill School
Postcode	BN3 7BW

Study area	1.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 2786 0623 50.8408795094 -0.183811185053 50 50 27 N 000 11 01 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 51.00m Max: 56.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	East Sussex County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Andrew Margetts
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Brighton and Hove hockey Club

Project archives

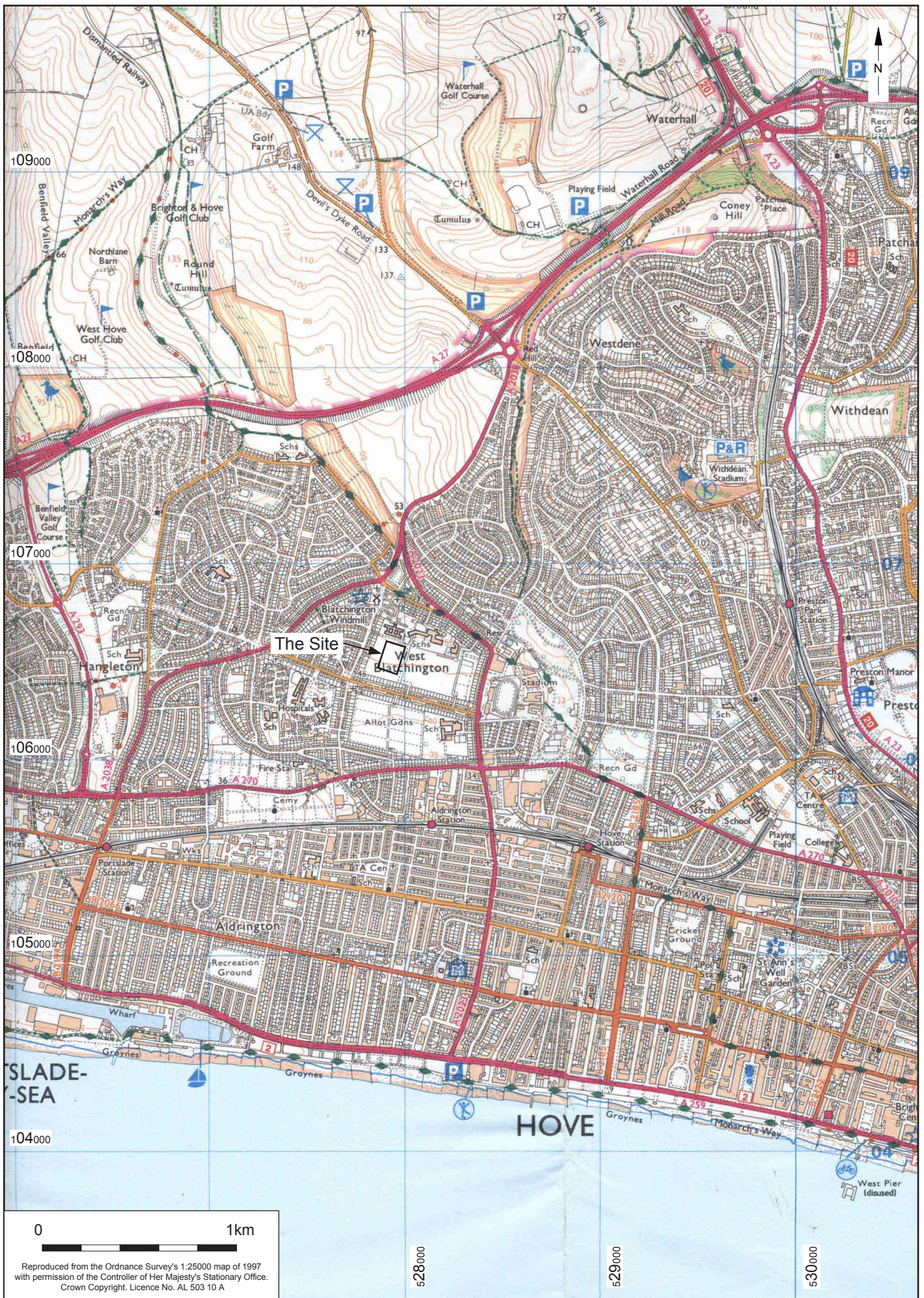
Physical Archive Exists?	Yes
Digital Archive Exists?	Yes
Paper Archive Exists?	Yes

Project bibliography 1

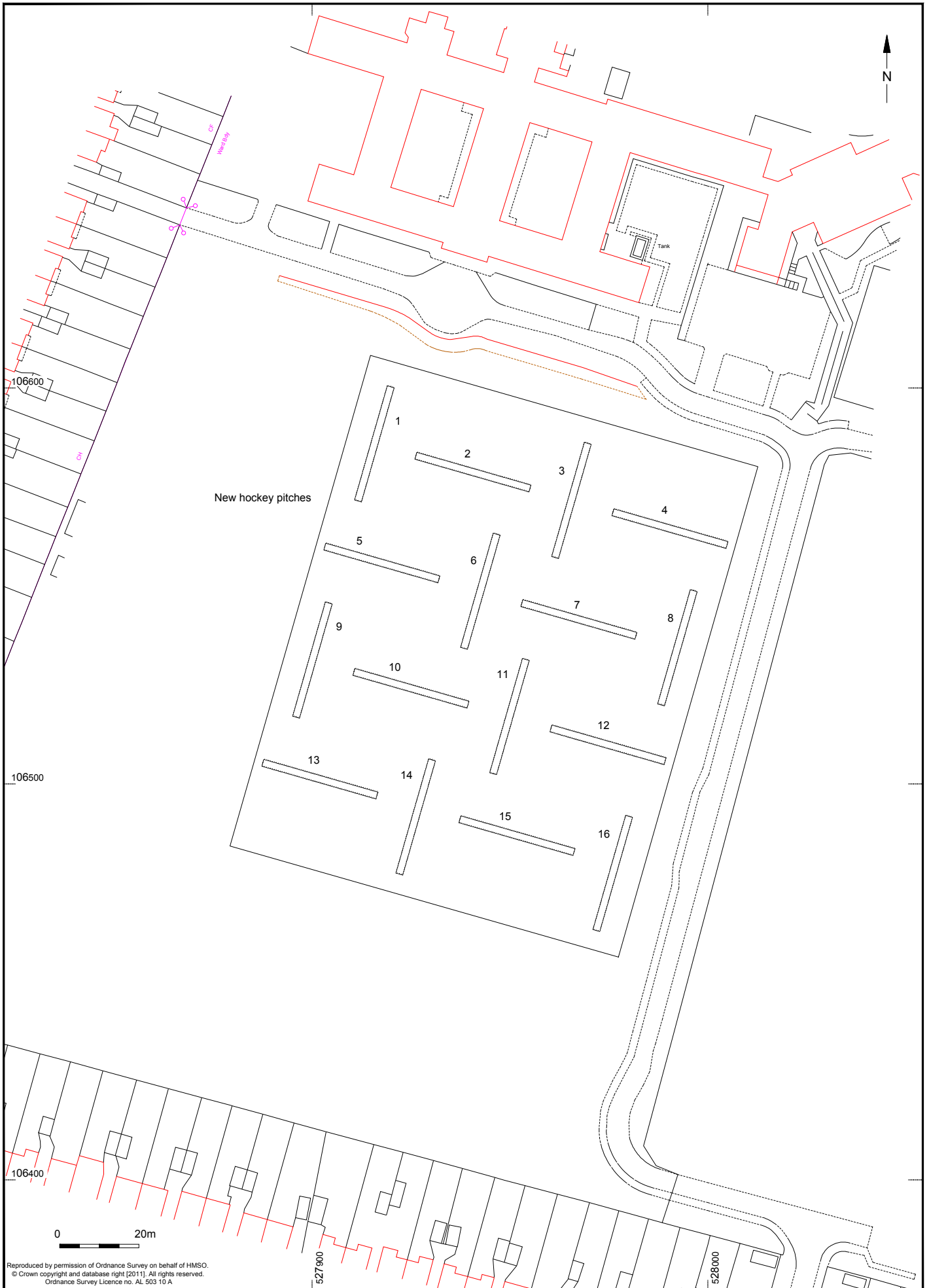
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at Blatchington Mill School, Nevill Avenue, Hove, East Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Margetts, A.
Other bibliographic details	2011291
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology SE

Place of issue or
publication Portslade

Description Eval Rep



© Archaeology South-East		Blatchington Mill School		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5128	Dec 2011	Site location		
Report Ref: 2011291	Drawn by: JLR			



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© Archaeology South-East		Blatchington Mill School		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5128	Dec 2011	Trench location		
Report Ref: 2011291	Drawn by: JLR			

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