

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Chantry Community Primary School
Barrack Road, Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex**

**NGR 574203 108245
(TQ 742 082)**

Planning ref: RR/3110/CC

**ASE Project No: 6059
Site Code: CCP13**

**ASE Report No: 2013194
OASIS ID: archaeol6-156848**



By Diccon Hart

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August 2013

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Mackellar Schwerdt Architects Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the Chantry Community Primary School, Barrack Road, Bexhill, East Sussex during groundworks associated with the relocation of a mobile classroom on the site.

Monitored groundworks included the excavation of two drainage trenches measuring 0.45m wide and 0.60m deep, with an associated soakaway measuring 1.20m² and 1.5m deep. The underlying natural geology was recorded at a maximum height of 26.94m OD. This was sealed by a buried ploughsoil horizon, in turn overlain by a levelling layer for a 20th century brick built terraced property. This consisted of brick footings supported on thin concrete foundations with associated screeded concrete floors. The remains of this building were sealed by an associated demolition horizon, in turn sealed by the topsoil of the site. Analysis of historic Ordnance Survey maps shows the terraced property stood on the site from the turn of the 20th century until the 1960s. No other archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the archaeological watching brief.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of the University College London (UCL) Institute of Archaeology (IoA) Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), was commissioned by Mackellar Schwerdt Architects Ltd. on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the Chantry Community Primary School, Barrack road, Bexhill-on-Sea during groundworks associated with the relocation of a temporary classroom. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 574203 108245 and its location shown in Figure 1.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the latest data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology of the site consists of the Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation (BGS 2013). Topographically, the site lies at around 28m OD and consists of school buildings of the Chantry Community Primary School, with associated hard and soft landscaped play areas. The site is bounded by Crowmere Road to the north-east, Barrack Road to the south-east and by residential development to the north-west and south-west. The monitored groundworks lay within a grassed play area in the north of the site.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted for the temporary relocation of an existing single mobile classroom to allow for construction of an extension to the main school building on the site (Planning Ref. RR/3110/CC). The site lies within an Archaeological Notification Area, so designated due to potential medieval and post-medieval settlement remains relating to the earlier history of Bexhill-on-Sea and the site of the 19th century barracks of the kings German Legion, known to have existed in this area of Bexhill. As a consequence, Conditions 4 and 5 of the decision notice stated that:

'4. No development shall take place until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation, which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment.

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework.

5. The development hereby permitted shall not be brought into use until the archaeological site investigation and post investigation assessment (including provision for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition) has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under Condition 4 to the satisfaction of the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment.

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework.'

- 1.3.2 A *Specification* was duly prepared by the East Sussex County Council Archaeology Team (ESCC 2013), which outlined the scope of the archaeological works. All work was undertaken in accordance with this document and with the relevant standards and guidance documents of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2009) and with the Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording, and Post-Excavation Work in East Sussex (ESCC 2008).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The aims of the programme of trial trenching were outlined in the *Specification* (ESCC 2013) and are herein reproduced below:

'The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are to mitigate impacts of the development through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks. It is likely that remains of the structures and features noted above in 2.1, will survive as archaeological remains below ground and observations of them will yield information about the early history of the site. Particular attention will be made to the character, depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of any deposits.'

1.5 Scope of report

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief undertaken on the site, carried out between 6th and 8th August 2013 Diccon Hart (Senior Archaeologist). The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and Jim Stevenson (Post-excavation Manager).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological background to the site was outlined in the *Specification* (ESCC 2013) and is summarised below.

- 2.2 The site lies within an Archaeological Notification Area defining the site of the early 19th century barracks of the Kings German Legion, constructed in 1804 which, by 1805 housed 3500 troops in wooden huts.

- 2.3 The legion was composed of German expatriate personnel drawn from the disbanded army of the Electorate of Hanover following the occupation of Hanover by French forces in 1803.

- 2.4 The legion remained attached to the British army until disbanded in 1816 and was the only German unit to see uninterrupted action against the French during the Napoleonic Wars.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

(Figure 2)

- 3.1 Monitored groundworks associated with the relocation of the mobile classroom consisted of the excavation of two drainage trenches measuring c. 0.45m wide to a depth of 0.60m (Trenches 1 and 2) and the excavation of a soakaway pit measuring c. 1.2m² to a depth of 1.5m below ground level (Pit 1). Other groundworks associated with the relocation of the mobile classroom included excavations for post-pads measuring around 0.6m² to a depth of c. 0.15m below ground level. These excavations were not of sufficient depth to disturb archaeological remains and thus did not require archaeological monitoring.
- 3.2 All monitored excavations were undertaken using a mechanical excavator under the constant supervision of the attendant archaeologist. The spoil from the excavations was inspected to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.
- 3.3 All excavation and recording was carried out in accordance with the specification (ESCC 2013). All encountered deposits were recorded according to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East record sheets. Brick samples were obtained from discrete building phases where possible, although in light of the obviously recent date of the remains encountered neither these or the few modern finds recovered during the course of the work have been processed and reported upon.
- 3.4 A full photographic record of the work, comprising digital images, was maintained throughout the fieldwork and will form part of the site archive. The archive, which has been quantified in the table below, is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices in Portslade and will be offered to Bexhill Museum in due course.

Number of Contexts	28
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	6
Photographs	13 digital images

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4 RESULTS

(Figures 3-4)

4.1 Natural geology

4.1.1 The underlying natural geology of the site consisted of mid yellow sandy clay of the Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation. This was encountered at a maximum height of 26.94m OD in Pit 1.

4.2 Open area 1: Undeveloped agricultural land

4.2.1 The earliest recorded deposits on the site consisted of a buried soil horizon of mid grey silty clay [015] and which probably represents a pre-existing plough soil prior to the development of the site. This deposit measured up to 0.40m thick and survived to around 27.34m OD. No finds were recovered from this deposit and its date is uncertain.

4.3 Building 1: a 20th century terraced house

4.3.1 A layer of mixed mid yellow-mid greyish brown silty clay [003], containing fragments of 19th-20th century brick and tile and welsh slate, overlay the buried soil horizon [015] in soakaway Pit 1. This deposit probably represents efforts to level up the site prior to the construction of a brick terrace (building B1) on the site in the early 20th century.

4.3.2 The remains of building B1 itself were recorded in all monitored excavations and consisted of a series of brick walls on north-west/southeast alignments, including walls [004], [006]=[010] and [017], with further brick walls and internal partitions on perpendicular northeast-southwest alignments, including walls, [007] and [016], [008] and [019]. These walls were constructed in unfrogged red brick measuring around 220 by 65 by 110mm, bonded with a very hard lime mortar. Where the deeper excavations for soakaway Pit 1 permitted examination of the foundations for walls [008], [016] and [017], these proved to consist of thin poured concrete foundations measuring some 0.10-0.15m thick ([012], [022], [023], supporting stepped brick footings, with the brick superstructure walls [008], [016] and [017] constructed in stretcher bond.

4.3.3 Associated floors of screeded concrete were recorded in the eastern half of the building only, including floors [011], [012], [013] and [014]. These measured up to 0.10m thick and were recorded between 27.20m and 27.30m OD. The absence of any intact floor levels in the western half of the building probably suggests the floors here were laid at a higher level and have not survived the subsequent demolition and levelling of the building.

4.4 Open Area 2: The demolition of Building 1 and landscaping for the school play areas.

4.4.1 A thick layer of mid greyish brown silty clay [002] containing frequent 20th century brick rubble, glass, iron nails *et cetera* that sealed the masonry remains of building B1 probably represents the demolition of that building and the subsequent levelling of the site. This was directly sealed by the topsoil horizon of the site [001].

5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1 The archaeological monitoring of groundworks at this site has revealed a basic sequence consisting of a buried horizon, overlain by the remains of a brick terraced house, in turn overlain by deposits associated with the demolition of that house. While no dating evidence was recovered from buried soil horizon [015], it is probable that the soil horizon represents agricultural land prior to the development of the site and its environs in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- 5.2 Although the site lies in an area known to have been occupied by the barracks of the Kings German Legion from 1804 onwards, no evidence of any structures or landuse associated with the barracks was identified during the course of the archaeological monitoring. Rather, the masonry building remains recorded appear to represent the below ground evidence for a 20th century terraced property which stood on the site until the 1960s. This property, which formed part of a terrace of three properties, first appears on the 1909 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map (not illustrated) and is last shown on the 1963 1:250 edition (Figure 4), after which the site is cleared and formed part of the grounds of the adjacent primary school.
- 5.3 Given the limited exposures afforded by the monitored groundwork, the truncation associated with the construction of the 20th century terrace on the site and the fact that the wooden huts which housed the troops barracked on the site are likely to leave only very ephemeral evidence, it is perhaps not entirely unsurprising that no evidence for any structures associated with the barracks of the Kings German Legion were identified during the course of the archaeological watching brief.

References

BGS 2013

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?location=bexhill>.

Accessed 12th August 2013.

ESCC 2008 Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording, and Post-Excavation Work in East Sussex

ESCC 2013 Specification for a level 1 Archaeological Watching Brief during the Groundworks at Chantry Community Primary School, Barrack Road, Bexhill-on-Sea

IfA 2009 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/ifa_standards_field_eval.pdf. Accessed 11.2.12

Acknowledgements

ASE would like to thank Mackellar Schwerdt Architects Ltd for commissioning the work. The advice and guidance of Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist at ESCC and the on-site assistance and co-operation of Amber Construction Services Ltd is also gratefully acknowledged.

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

CONTEXT	CONTEXT TYPE	SUB-GROUP	GROUP	LANDUSE	PERIOD	COMMENTS
01	L	18	7	OA2	C20th	Topsoil
02	L	17	6	OA2	C20th	Demolition
03	L	3	3	B1	C20th	Makeup/levelling
04	M	4	4	B1	C20th	Brick wall footing
05	M	5	4	B1	C20th	Brick wall footing
06	M	6	5	B1	C20th	Brick wall footing
07	M	12	5	B1	C20th	Internal brick partition
08	M	9	5	B1	C20th	Brick wall footing
09	M	10	5	B1	C20th	Brick wall footing
10	M	11	5	B1	C20th	Brick wall footing
11	M	13	5	B1	C20th	Screeded floor
12	M	14	5	B1	C20th	Screeded floor
13	M	15	5	B1	C20th	Screeded floor
14	M	16	5	B1	C20th	Screeded floor
15	L	2	2	OA1	U/K	Made ground
16	M	7	5	B1	C20th	Brick wall footing
17	M	8	5	B1	C20th	Brick wall footing
18	M	7	5	B1	C20th	Concrete foundation for [016]
19	M	8	5	B1	C20th	Concrete foundation for [017]
20	M	9	5	B1	C20th	Concrete foundation for [018]
21	C	9	5	B1	C20th	Construction cut for [020]
22	C	7	5	B1	C20th	Construction cut for [018]
23	C	8	5	B1	C20th	Construction cut for [019]
24	F	6	5	B1	C20th	Construction backfill in [025]
25	C	6	5	B1	C20th	Construction cut for [006]
26	F	4	4	B1	C20th	Construction backfill in [027]
27	C	4	4	B1	C20th	Construction cut for [004]
28	L	1	1		Natural	Natural

APPENDIX 2: OASIS AND HER SUMMARY FORMS

OASIS ID: archaeol6-156848

Project details

Project name	Archaeological watching brief report: Chantry Community Primary School, Barrack Road, Bexhill-on-sea. East Sussex.
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Mackellar Schwerdt Architects Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the Chantry Community Primary School, Barrack Road, Bexhill, East Sussex during groundworks associated with the relocation of a mobile classroom on the site. Monitored groundworks included the excavation of two drainage trenches measuring 0.45m wide and 0.60m deep, with an associated soakaway measuring 1.20m ² and 1.5m deep. The underlying natural geology was recorded at a maximum height of 26.94m OD. This was sealed by a buried ploughsoil horizon, in turn overlain by a levelling layer for a 20th century brick built terraced property. This consisted of brick footings supported on thin concrete foundations with associated screeded concrete floors. The remains of this building were sealed by an associated demolition horizon, in turn sealed by the topsoil of the site. Analysis of historic Ordnance Survey maps shows the terraced property stood on the site from the turn of the 20th century until the 1960s. No other archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the archaeological watching brief.
Project dates	Start: 06-08-2013 End: 08-08-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	CCP13 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	6059 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	WALL Modern
Monument type	FLOOR Modern
Monument type	BURIED SOIL HORIZON Uncertain
Significant Finds	BRICK Modern
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Project location	
Country	England

Site location	EAST SUSSEX ROTHER BEXHILL Chantry Community Primary School.
Postcode	TN40 2AT
Study area	4158.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 742 082 50 0 50 50 47 N 000 28 29 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 27.00m Max: 27.00m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	East Sussex County Council
Project design originator	East Sussex County Council
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Diccon Hart
Type of sponsor/funding body	Mackeller Schwerdt Architects
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Rye or Bexhill
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Rye or Bexhill
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Matrices","Report","Section"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological watching brief report: Chantry Community Primary School, Barrack Road, Bexhill-on-sea. East Sussex.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hart, D
Other bibliographic details	20130194
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or	Archaeology South-East

publication

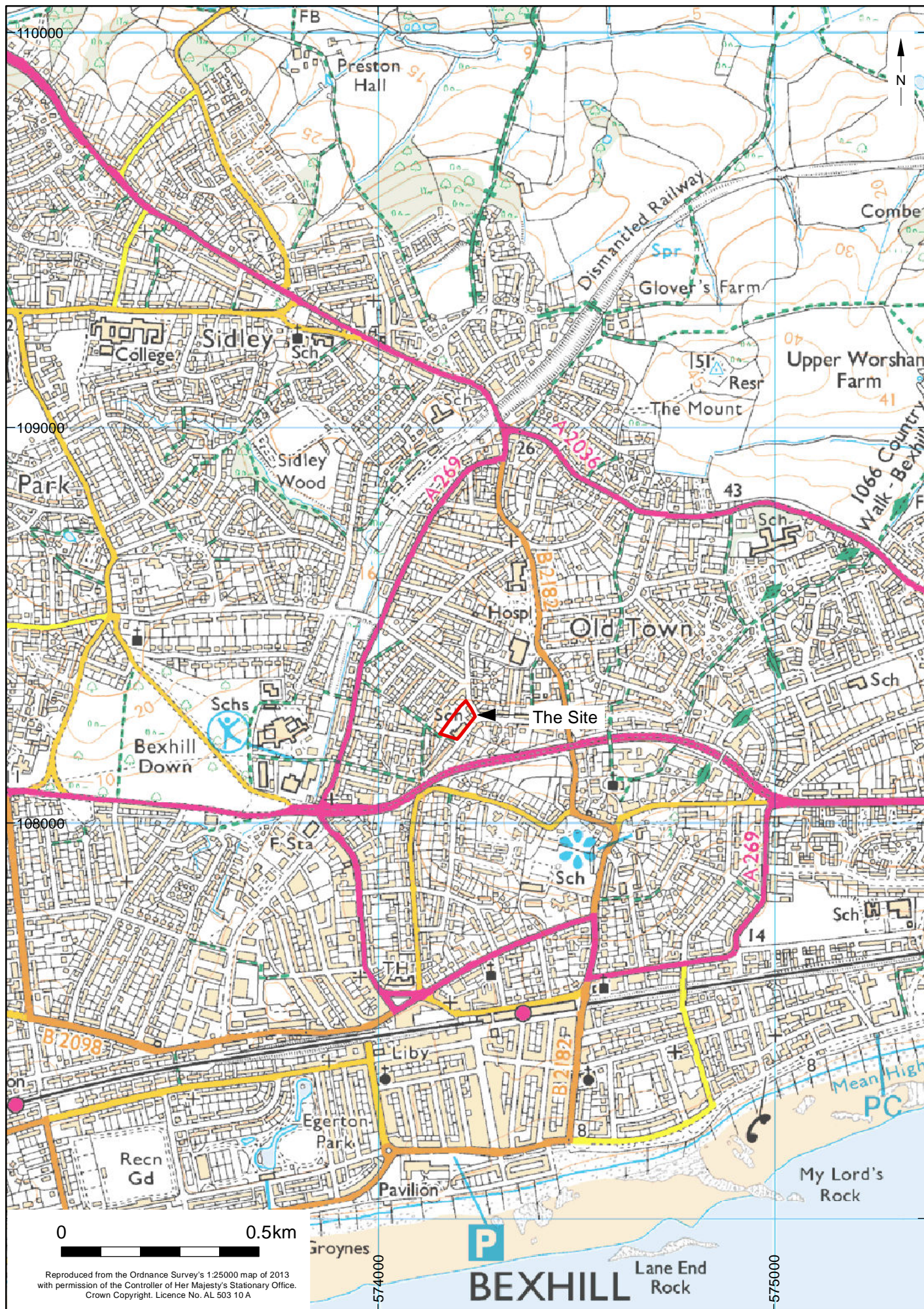
Description A4 bound report

Entered by D Hart (d.hart@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 13 August 2013

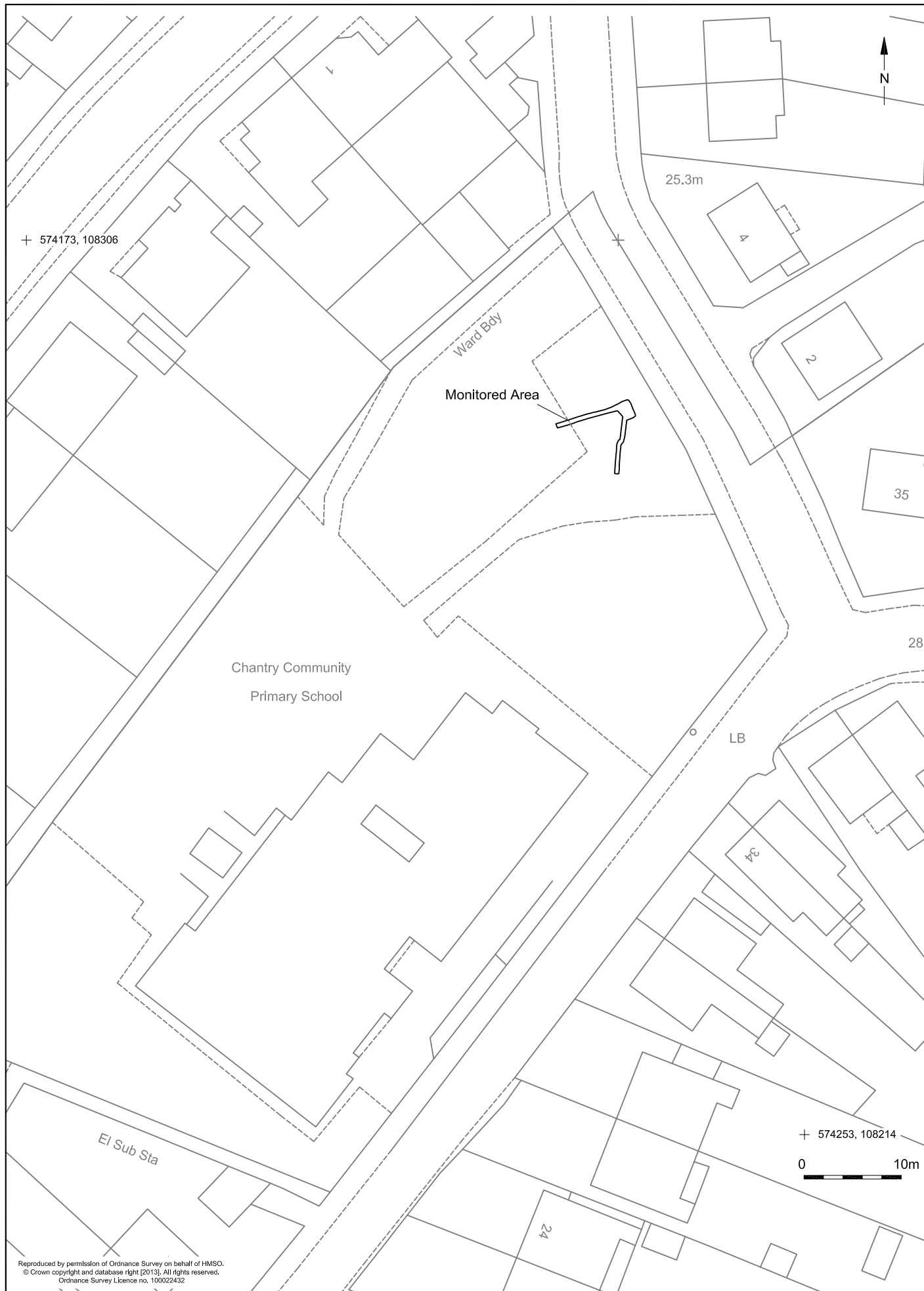
HER Summary Form

Site Code	CCP13					
Identification Name and Address	Chantry Community Primary School, Barrack Road, Bexhill, East Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	East Sussex,					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 574203 108245					
Geology	Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation					
Arch. South-East Project Number	6059					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban ✓	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 06-08.08.13	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Mackellar Schwerdt Architects Ltd.					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Diccon Hart					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other ✓ Modern		
Summary						
<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Mackellar Schwerdt Architects Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the Chantry Community Primary School, Barrack Road, Bexhill, East Sussex during groundworks associated with the relocation of a mobile classroom on the site.</p> <p>Monitored groundworks included the excavation of two drainage trenches measuring 0.45m wide and 0.60m deep, with an associated soakaway measuring 1.20m² and 1.5m deep. The underlying natural geology was recorded at a maximum height of 26.94m OD. This was sealed by a buried ploughsoil horizon, in turn overlain by a levelling layer for a 20th century brick built terraced property. This consisted of brick footings supported on thin concrete foundations with associated screeded concrete floors. The remains of this building were sealed by an associated demolition horizon, in turn sealed by the topsoil of the site. Analysis of historic Ordnance Survey maps shows the terraced property stood on the site from the turn of the 20th century until the 1960s. No other archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the archaeological watching brief.</p>						



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© Archaeology South-East		Chantry Community Primary School, Bexhill-On-Sea	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 6059	August 2013	Site location	
Report Ref: 2013194	Drawn by: RHC		



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© Archaeology South-East		Chantry Community Primary School, Bexhill-On-Sea		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 6059	August 2013	Location of monitored area		
Report Ref: 2013194	Drawn by: RHC			



Fig. 3.1 Pit 1 and Trench 1 looking West

Fig. 3.2 Pit 1 and Trench 2 looking South

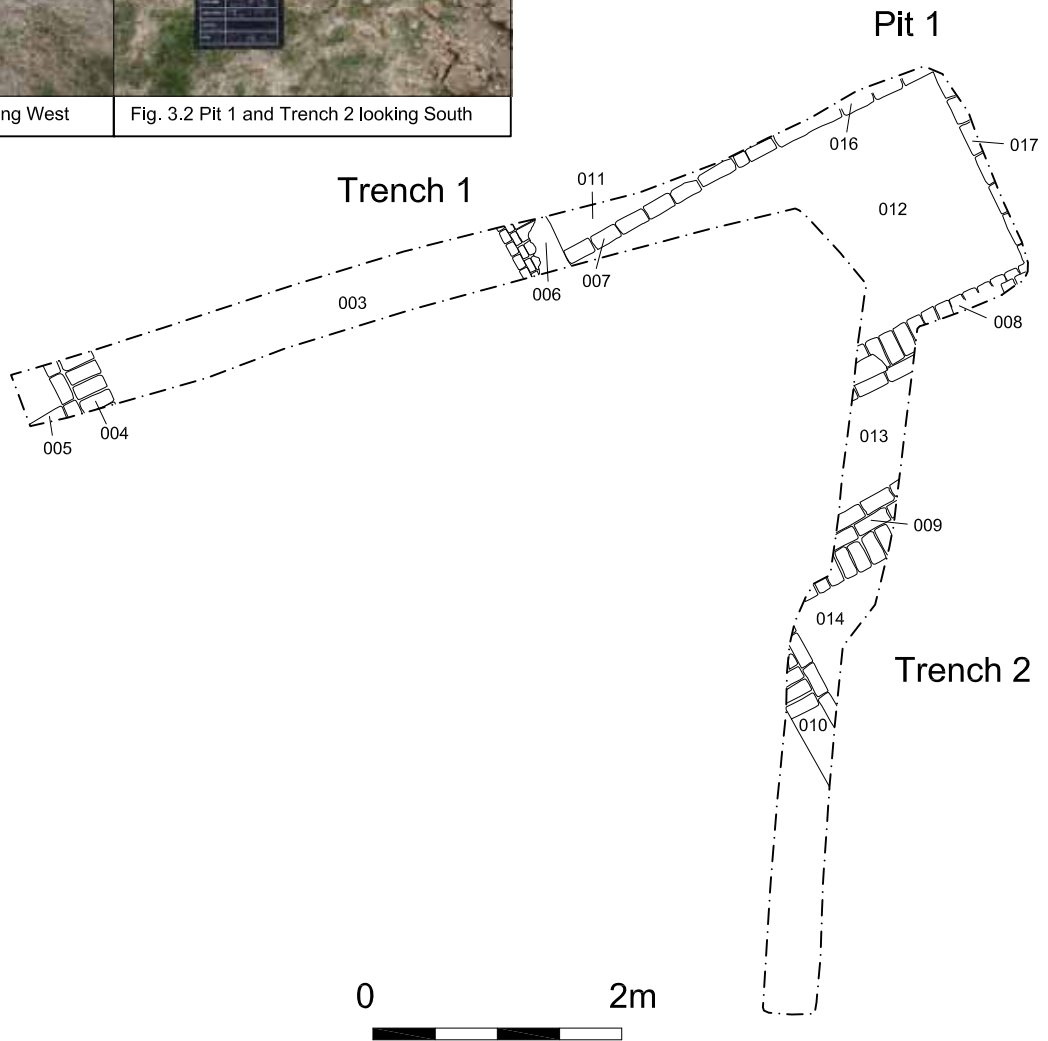
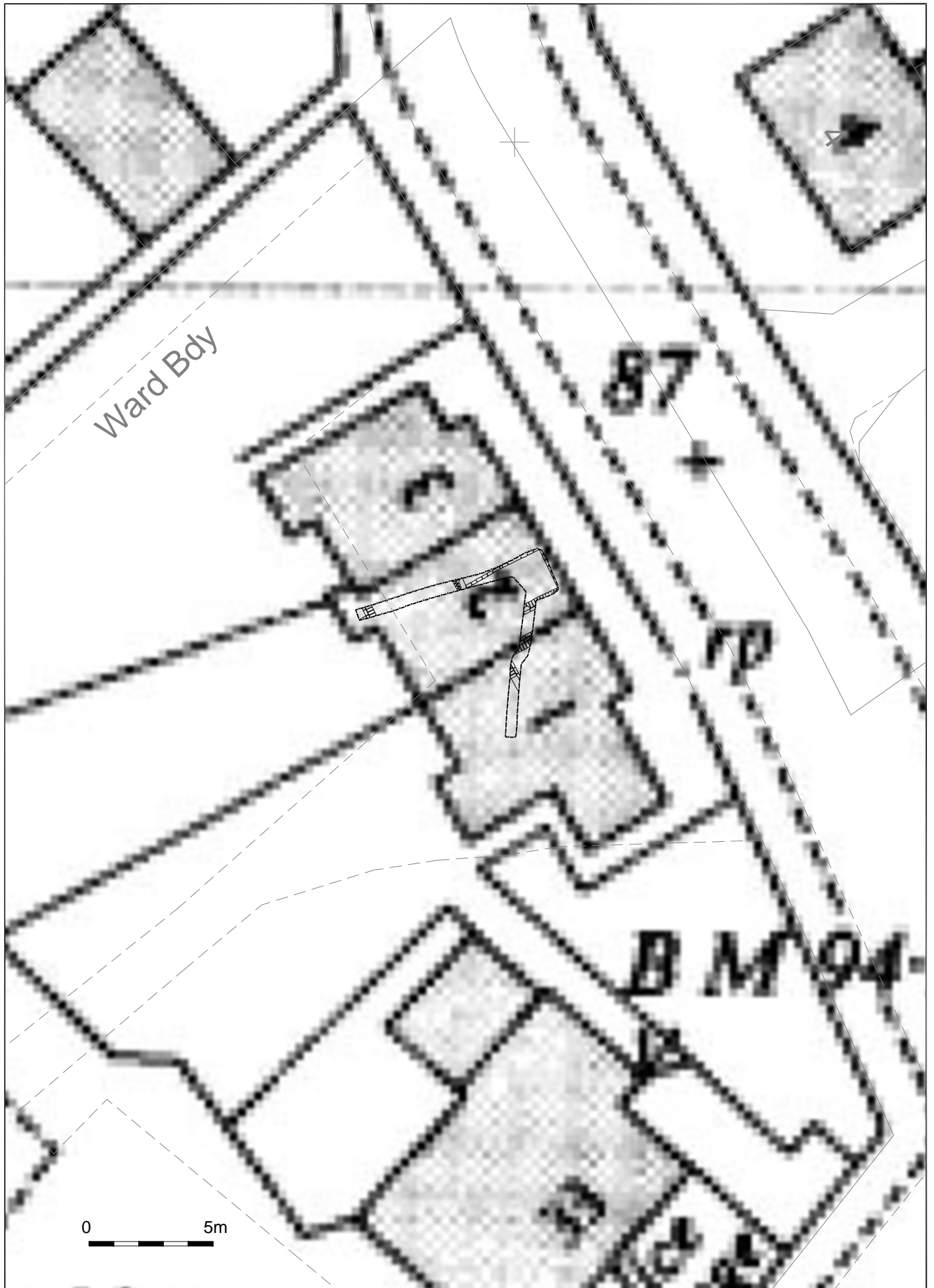


Fig. 3.3 Detail showing walls 009, 010 and floor 014



Fig. 3.4 Detail showing walls 016, 017 and 008 with respective concrete foundations



• Archaeology South-East		Chantry Community Primary School, Bexhill-On-Sea	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 6059	August 2013	Site Plan and 1963 1:1250 Ordnance Survey	
Report Ref: 2013194	Drawn by: RHC		

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