

**An Archaeological Evaluation at Southwick Library,
Southdown Road, Southwick,
West Sussex.**

(TQ 524367 105422)

**Planning Reference SW/77/05/TP
ADUR: Southwick**

By

Samantha Worrall BSc PGCE

Project No. 2452

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**Archaeology South-East
1 West Street
Ditchling
East Sussex
BN6 8TS**

**Tel: 01273 845497
Fax: 01273 844187
email : fau-ucl@btconnect.com
website: www.archaeologyse.co.uk**

Archaeology South-East

Archaeology South-East is a division of the University College London Field Archaeology Unit. The Institute of Archaeology at UCL is one of the largest groupings of academic archaeologists in the country. Consequently, Archaeology South-East has access to the conservation, computing and environmental backup of the college, as well as a range of other archaeological services.

The Field Archaeology Unit and South Eastern Archaeological Services (which became Archaeology South-East in 1996) were established in 1974 and 1991 respectively. Although field projects have been conducted worldwide, Archaeology South-East retains a special interest in south-east England with the majority of our contract and consultancy work concentrated in Sussex, Kent, Greater London and Essex.

Drawing on experience of the countryside and towns of the south east of England Archaeology South-East can give advice and carry out surveys at an early stage in the planning process. By working closely with developers and planning authorities it is possible to incorporate archaeological work into developments with little inconvenience.

Archaeology South-East, as part of the Field Archaeology Unit, is a registered organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists and, as such, is required to meet IFA standards.

Abstract

An archaeological evaluation comprising two trial trenches measuring 8m and 10m in length was carried out on 25th April 2006 prior to the redevelopment of the Southwick Library site, Southdown Road, Southwick, West Sussex. Post medieval remains likely to be associated with a former farmyard/orchard were revealed, in the form of flint-cobbled walls, part of a cobbled floor surface, and general levelling/demolition layers.

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SMR Summary Sheet

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit (UCLFAU), was commissioned by Laishley Ltd., to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Southwick Library, Southdown Road, Southwick, West Sussex (NGR TQ 524367 105422) (Fig. 1).
- 1.2** An application for planning permission for the redevelopment of the Southwick Library site was submitted by Laishley Ltd., to Adur District Council (Ref: SW/77/05-TP). The development consists of the demolition of the present Southwick Library and the construction of a new Library building. Following the advice of the West Sussex County Archaeologist (in his capacity as advisor on archaeological planning matters to the local planning authority), Adur District Council have imposed a planning condition (No. 11) on the planning permission, regarding the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. It was proposed that the work initially involve the excavation of two trial trenches, with any further recording works to be determined on the basis of the findings.
- 1.3** As a result, ASE contacted John Mills, Archaeologist at West Sussex County Council (WSCC), in order to establish the scope for this Stage 1 work. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was compiled by Jon Sygrave of ASE, and was duly acknowledged by WSCC prior to the works being carried out. Any further work required during the latter phase of development (if the Stage 1 evaluation revealed significant archaeological remains) would be covered under a separate WSI.
- 1.4** The British Geological Survey map Sheet 318/333 (Brighton & Worthing) Solid and Drift Edition (1:50,000 scale) indicates that the site lies on Head Gravels.
- 1.5** The fieldwork was undertaken by Samantha Worrall (Field Officer) and Dan Wray (Archaeological Assistant) on 25th April 2006. The project was managed by Jon Sygrave (Project Manager) and Louise Rayner (Post-excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The site is located within the grounds of Southwick library, on the corner of Southdown Road and Southwick Street, Southwick (NGR TQ 524367 105422) (Fig. 1).
- 2.2** Although there has been little recorded archaeological excavation carried out in Southwick, the site was considered to have archaeological potential as it lay

in the historic core of Southwick Village. It was part of the Manor Farm complex, the barn and some associated buildings of which still survive on Southwick Street. Local knowledge revealed that the site was occupied by a yard and orchard as late as the 1960's, when the existing library was built.

- 2.3** The West Sussex County Sites and Monuments Record contain the following entries within a 1km radius of the site.

Table 1: SMR Entries

No. on Fig. 1	NGR (TQ)	Description
1	25330 05410	Neolithic polished axe and other flint work found north of Fishersgate halt in 1928.
2	25330 05410	Late Bronze Age urns found in Fishersgate in 1926
3	24520 05670	Preshistoric flint work found at The Crescent, Southwick in 1992.
4	23553 05039	Flint work including stone socketed axe, antler and pottery found at Shoreham College.
5	24460 05650	Iron Age postholes discovered during various excavations at Southwick Roman Villa.
6	24740 05020	Hoard of bronzes of various dates from Roman to medieval, found near Fischersgate Rec. in 1958.
7	24460 05650	Southwick Roman Villa. Courtyard and corridor style villa, with baths and ancillary buildings.
8	23570 05215	St. Julian's Church. Late C11th with C13th-16 th and modern additions. Re-used Roman tile. Under floor structure may be Anglo-Saxon.
9	23600 05300	Uneven ground to SE junction of Kingston Lane and Park Lane may be remains of medieval house platforms of shrunken settlement of Kingston Buci.
10	23942 05400	St. Michael's Church. Dating from C12th-13 th .
11	24400 05000	Maltings house erected in 1816.
12	24000 06000	Windmill shown on cartographic sources. Now demolished.
13	24100 04800	Shoreham Harbour Locks. Initially opened in 1818.
14	24800 06200	Large pit, possibly chalk quarry, noted on cartographic sources. Undated.
15	23574 05163	Report of smugglers' tunnel from lighthouse to cellar of Shoreham College. Also incorporates a priest hole.
16	24428 05370	Building of c.1500, with extensive later additions.

- 2.4** In addition to the above data, a number of brickfields are listed, as are a small number of WWII anti-aircraft defences. A 1st –2nd century AD Roman cremation urn was also discovered in Church Road.
- 2.5** In 2005 ASE conducted a small-scale archaeological excavation at Manor Cottage, Southwick Street in order to identify and record archaeological remains in danger of destruction during the proposed rebuilding of part of the historic structure demolished during the 1970s. Stone footings of this structure were identified despite considerable modern truncation/landscaping. A test-pit

was also excavated to the north of the cottage, which uncovered an undated mortar spread. A range of artefacts were recovered including prehistoric flint work and medieval pottery, but the largest assemblage dated from the post-medieval period, and included pottery, clay pipe, tile, metalwork, glass and coins (including a late C17th- early C18th Spanish piece).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 The objective of the archaeological evaluation was to ascertain:

- a) Whether archaeological remains extend across the development site notably remains associated with Southwick Roman Villa and the Southwick's medieval centre.
- b) The character date and quality of ancient remains and deposits
- c) How they might be affected by the development of the site
- d) Whether particularly important remains should be preserved *in situ*
- e) What options should be considered for mitigation

3.2 The locations of all the trenches were scanned with a CAT scanner prior to excavation to check for the presence of service cables. No live services were located. A metal detector was used to examine the spoil and all archaeological features.

3.3 The trenches were excavated with a 5 tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket, under the supervision of staff from Archaeology South-East. Machine excavation was carried out to the top of archaeological deposits or the surface of geological drift deposits, whichever was uppermost.

3.4 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the Specification using Archaeology South-East context record sheets. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.

3.5 All trenches were levelled to a site datum, which was tied in to a nearby Ordnance Survey benchmark. A full photographic record of the work was kept (black and white and colour slide) and will form part of the site archive. The archive (including the finds) is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Ditchling and will be offered to a suitable local museum.

3.6 Two trial trenches were excavated to a width of 1.6m each (Fig. 2). Trench 1 was 8m in length and Trench 2 was 10m in length. The trenches were located on the grassed area to the front of the library building.

3.7 On completion of the work the trenches were backfilled and compacted,

although there was no reinstatement to existing condition.

4.0 RESULTS (Fig. 3)

4.1 Trench 1

4.1.1 This was orientated roughly E/W and revealed a stratigraphy comprising:

- Approximately 0.30m thick. Dark brown, slightly sandy silty clay with frequent sub-rounded flints, brick, tile, glass, slate and coal fragments. Topsoil (Context **1/001**).
- Between 0.15m and 0.20m thick. Mid to dark orange brown, slightly silty clay, with moderate fragments of sub-angular flints and occasional chalk fragments. Disturbed patchy subsoil, not continuous in trench section (Context **1/002**).

Natural deposits: Strong mid orange brown, slightly silty clay, with very frequent sub-angular flints throughout (Head Gravels) (Context **1/011**).

4.1.2 Located approximately 1.3m from the eastern extent of the trench was a flint cobbled wall foundation (Context **1/003**). This was orientated N/S across the width of the trench and measured c. 0.40m in width, comprising five courses of unfaced flint nodules and rare red brick, set into a creamy yellow mortar with moderate small gravels. The wall lay directly under the topsoil (Context **1/001**).

4.1.3 Located 1.5m to the west of **1/003** was a truncated flint cobbled surface measuring c. 1.2m in length and 0.7m in width, situated against the northern baulk of the trench (Context **1/004**). This comprised tightly packed, round flints with rare red brick fragments, set into a greyish gritty mortar with very small gravels. Some patches of burning were visible on this feature.

4.1.4 The cobbled surface of Context **1/004** overlay a possible pit, also situated against the northern baulk, and semi circular in shape. It measured c.4m in diameter and extended c.0.75m into the trench (Context **1/012**). It had steep sides and a flattish base and was filled by very loose chalk rubble with very rare red brick fragments and flints, with rare fragments of creamy yellow mortar mixed throughout (Context **1/005**).

4.1.5 Running across the length of the trench on an oblique E/W orientation were the truncated remains of a wall foundation trench (Context **1/006**). This measured c.0.5m in width and only survived to a depth of c.0.25m. Where present the wall material itself comprised gritty greyish white mortar, with

one or two surviving flint nodules and one large rounded limestone piece (Context **1/007**). This wall butted wall **1/003** at a right angle.

4.1.6 Situated in the north western corner of the Trench was an irregular sub-circular feature, measuring c. 1.2m in length and 0.3m in width (Context **1/008**). This was filled by loose, crumbly dark brown organic loam, with rare flints and ceramic building material (eg brick, tile - henceforth CBM). (Context **1/009**). It was excavated to a depth of c.0.45m and was interpreted as tree throw, due to its irregular shape and presence of root holes in the base.

4.1.7 Revealed only at the far eastern extent of the trench, butting wall **1/003** was a layer of redeposited or made ground, measuring c.0.65m in depth (Context **1/010**). This comprised friable mid to dark brown, gritty silty clay, mixed with patches of black ashy deposits and mid orange brown clay patches. Fragments of sandy mortar, occasional flints and flint gravels were also mixed throughout. Fragments of CBM, glass, coal and an old penny coin were also recovered from this deposit, which probably represents a build up of material against the wall.

4.1.8 No further archaeological remains or artefacts were observed within Trench 1.

4.2 *Trench 2*

4.2.1 This was orientated roughly E/W and revealed a stratigraphy comprising:

- Approximately 0.3m thick. Mid brown, slightly sandy silty clay with occasional sub-rounded flints, brick, tile, charcoal and coal fragments. Topsoil (Context **2/001**).
- Approximately 0.18m thick. Mid to dark orange brown, clay silt, with frequent fragments of brick and tile, moderate sub-angular flints and occasional chalk fragments. Redeposited/demolition layer (Context **2/002**).
- Approximately 0.20m thick. Dark brown to black, clay silt, with frequent small fragments of brick and tile, sub-angular flints and chalk fragments. Redeposited/demolition layer (Context **2/003**).
- Approximately 0.25m thick. Mid to light orange brown, clay silt, with very frequent fragments of chalk, occasional brick, tile, glass and metal fragments. Redeposited/demolition layer (Context **2/004**).

Natural deposits: Strong mid orange brown, slightly silty clay, with very

frequent sub-angular flints throughout (Head Gravels) (Context **2/005**).

4.2.2 Located approximately 2m from the eastern extent of Trench 2 was a flint cobbled wall foundation, orientated roughly N/S across the width of the trench (Context **2/006**). This measured c.0.4m in width and comprised three courses of sub-rounded unfaced flint nodules, and rare red bricks set into a gritty greyish white mortar with frequent small gravels.

4.2.3 No further archaeological remains were observed within this trench.

5.0 THE FINDS by Luke Barber

5.1 The evaluation produced a very small assemblage of finds. These are quantified in Table 1 below.

Spot Dates

[1/009] Mid/late C18th – early 19th
[1/010] George III ½ penny. 1st issue: 1770–5 (some wear)
[2/ +] C18th pot

Context	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Metal	Weight (g)	Coal	Weight (g)
[1/009]	2	8	2	66	1	4	3	22	3	6
[1/010]							1	8		
[2/ +]	1	112								

Table 1: Finds quantification table

5.2 Pottery

Only three sherds of pottery were recovered. The earliest sherd consists of part of the base from an under-fired pinkish orange stoneware with iron wash and matt salt glaze (Tr 2 unstratified). It is probable this represents a late Frechen product of the 18th century. Similar wares were recovered from mid 18th- century contexts at the Ropetackle site, Shoreham (Barber in prep). The remaining two sherds are both from context [1/009]. These consist of an unglazed earthenware flower pot sherd and a small piece of glazed red earthenware. Both are likely to date between the mid/late 18th and early 19th centuries.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material

Only two pieces of tile were recovered, context [1/009]. Both consist of peg tile fragments (one with distorted peg hole) in a medium-fired fine/medium

sand tempered fabric with white clay and iron oxide inclusions to 4mm. An 18th- century date is most likely.

5.4 Other

Context [1/010] produced a 1st issue George III ½ penny (dated 1770–5) though the coin has some wear suggesting it may have been lost toward the end of the century. The remaining finds were all recovered from context [1/009]. These include the shank from a copper alloy square-sectioned boat nail, two heavily corroded iron nails, three pieces of coal and a long-bone fragment possibly from a juvenile sheep/pig.

- 5.5** The current assemblage of finds is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis and all has been discarded.

6.0 CONCLUSION

- 6.1** The archaeological remains revealed in the trenches appear to be of post-medieval date and are likely to be associated with the former farmyard/orchard that once stood on the site. Further investigation and machining after these features had been recorded was carried out but no further archaeological remains of pre post-medieval date were encountered.

Bibliography

Barber, L in prep The Pottery in S Stevens *Excavations at the Ropetackle Site, Shoreham*

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	SLS 06					
Identification Name and Address	Southwick Library, Southwick, West Sussex.					
County, District &/or Borough	Adur District Council					
Planning Reference	SW/77/05/TP					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 524367 105422					
Geology	Head Gravels					
Arch. South-East Project Number	2452					
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. ✓ 25 th April 2006	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Laishley Ltd.					
Project Manager	Jon Sygrave and Louise Rayner					
Project Supervisor	Samantha Worrall					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other ✓		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p>An archaeological evaluation comprising two trial trenches measuring 8m and 10m in length was carried out on 25th April 2006 prior to the redevelopment of the Southwick Library site, Southdown Road, Southwick, West Sussex. Post medieval remains likely to be associated with a former farmyard/orchard were revealed, in the form of flint-cobbled walls, part of a cobbled floor surface, and general levelling/demolition layers.</p>						

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OASIS ID: archaeol6-16867

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Evaluation at Southwick Library, Southwick
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation comprising two trial trenches measuring 8m and 10m in length was carried out on 25th April 2006 prior to the redevelopment of the Southwick Library site, Southdown Road, Southwick, West Sussex. Post medieval remains likely to be associated with a former farmyard/orchard were revealed, in the form of flint-cobbled walls, part of a cobbled floor surface, and general levelling/demolition layers.
Project dates	Start: 25-04-2006 End: 25-04-2006
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	2452 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	SW/77/05/TP - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX ADUR SHOREHAM BY SEA Southwick Library
Postcode	BN42 4FT
Study area	30.00 Square metres
National grid reference	TQ 52436 10542 Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South East

Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	JON SYGRAVE
Project supervisor	SAM WORRALL
Sponsor or funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Metal'
Digital Archive recipient	n/a
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

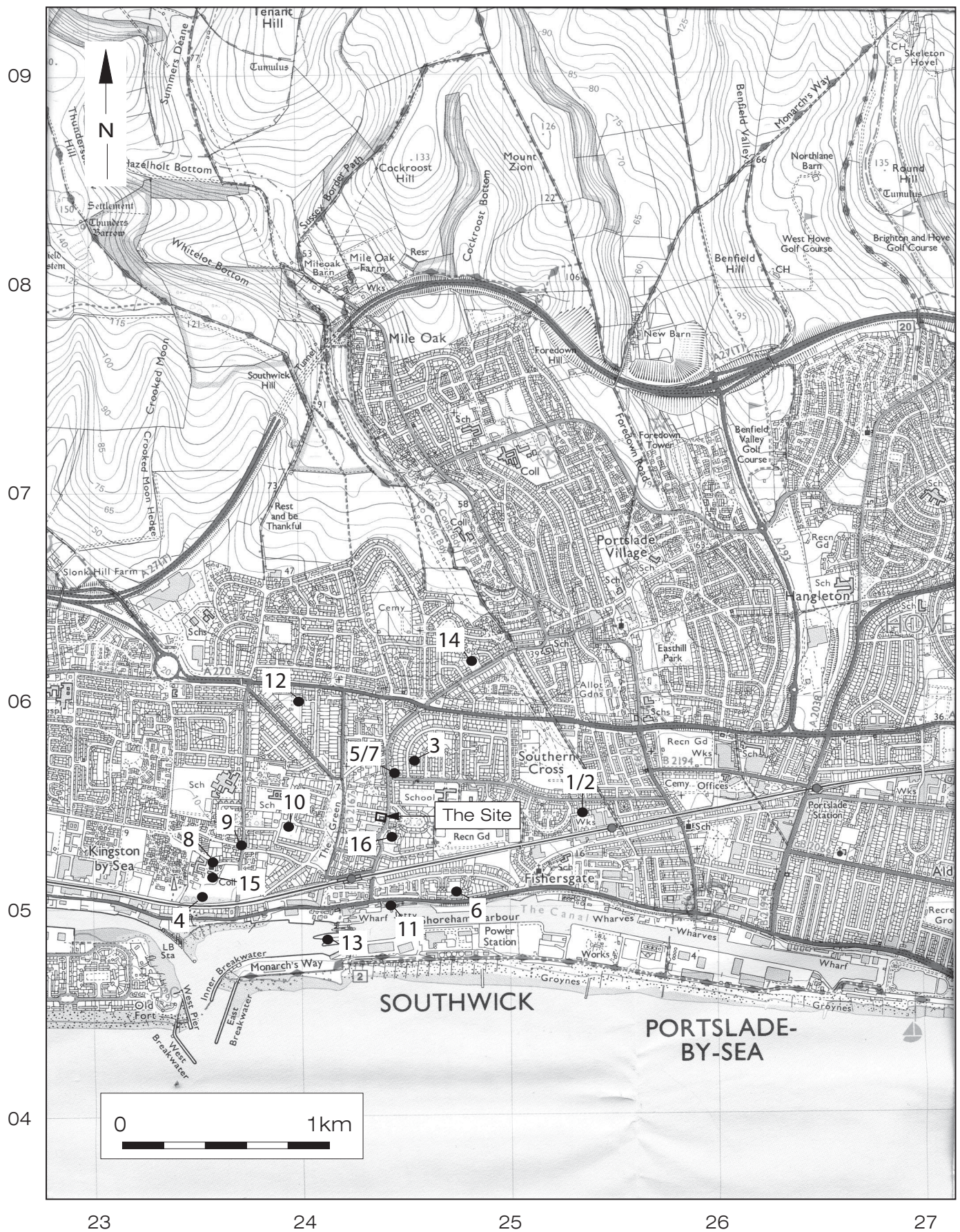
Project bibliography 1

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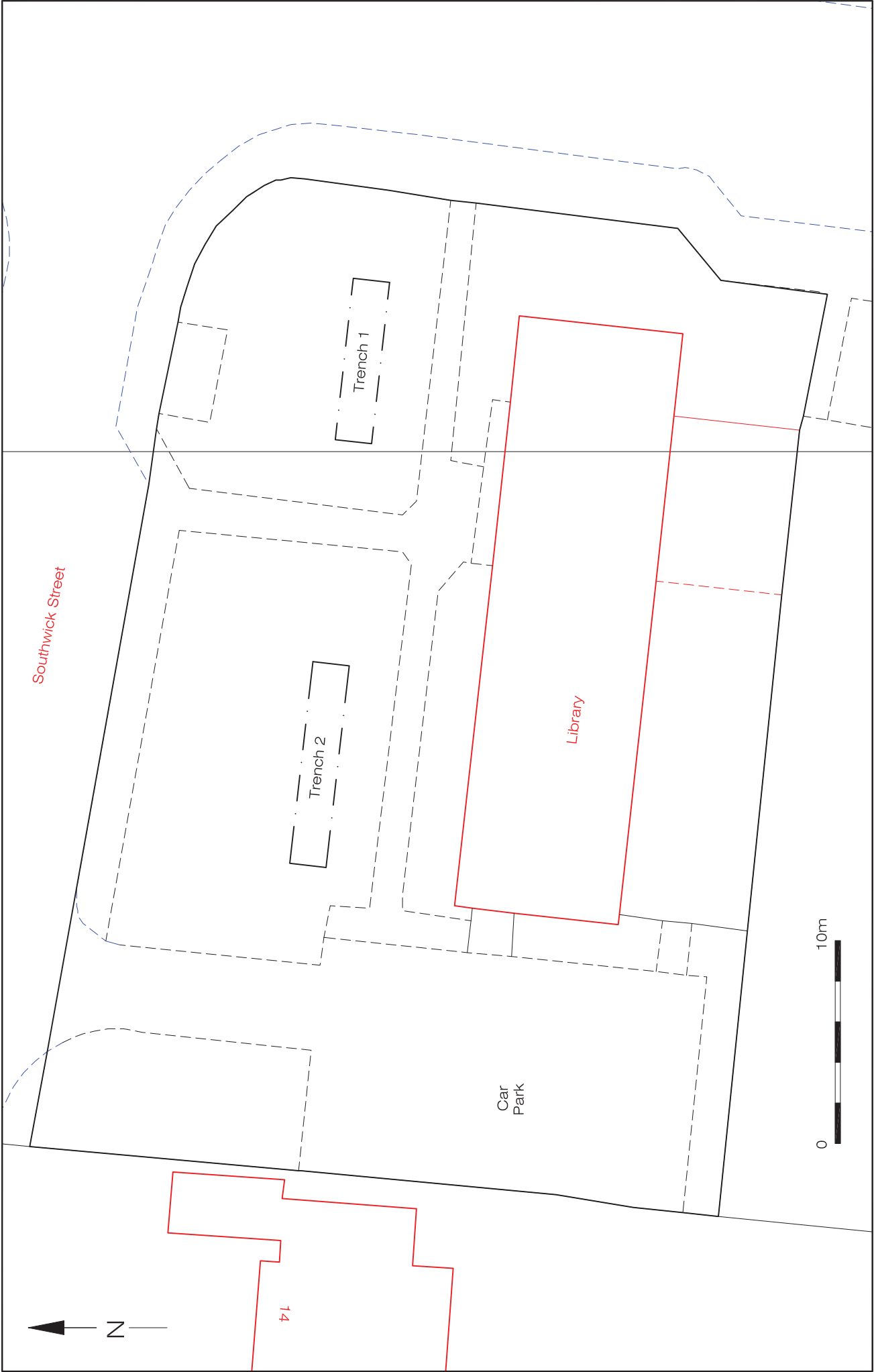
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© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST			Southwick Library	Fig.2
Ref: 2452	June 2006	Drawn by: JLR		
			Trench Location Plan	

