

**Archaeological Evaluation Report  
71 Telscombe Road, Peacehaven,  
East Sussex  
NGR 540899 102613  
(TQ 40899 02613)**

**Planning Reference: LW/15/0756**

**ASE Project No: 160033  
Site Code: TEL 16  
ASE Report No: 2016044  
OASIS ID: archaeol6-240884**

**By Simon Stevens BA (Hons) MCIfA  
March 2016  
Archaeology South-East**



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**With contributions by  
Karine Le Hégarat and Elena Baldi**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Lid Developments Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 71 Telscombe Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex (NGR 540899 102613) (Figure 1). Two trenches, each measuring 10m by 2m were excavated on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016.*

*No archaeological deposits or features were encountered. Prehistoric flintwork was recovered from the overburden in one of the trenches.*



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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 (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Lid Developments Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 71 Telscombe Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex (NGR 540899 102613) (Figure 1).

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

- 1.2.1 The 0.09ha site lies on the southern side of Telscombe Road, c.1.5km to the north of the modern centre of Peacehaven. It is bounded to the east and west by properties fronting onto Telscombe Road, and to the south by the rear garden of a property fronting onto Rustic Road.
- 1.2.2 According to current data available from the British Geological Survey, the site lies at the interface of the Newhaven Chalk Formation and the Lambeth Group of clay, silts and sands. There are no recorded superficial deposits (BGS 2016).

### **1.3 Planning Background**

- 1.3.1 The site lies within an Archaeological Notification Area (ANA 150), associated with a potential for the survival of prehistoric remains. Given the location, a Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) was completed for the site in 2015, and concluded that there was potential for the discovery of both prehistoric and post-medieval deposits (ASE 2015)
- 1.3.2 Planning permission was subsequently granted by Lewes District Council (LDC) for the demolition of the existing residential property and the construction of two new dwellings (Planning Ref: LW/15/0756). Given the conclusions of the DBA, and following consultations between Lewes District Council and East Sussex County Council (Lewes District Council's advisers on archaeological issues). The archaeological conditions are as follows:

*'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 Local Planning Authority.*

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

*The development hereby permitted shall not be brought into use until the archaeological site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition and the provision for*



*analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured, unless an alternative timescale for submission of the report is first agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

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

- 1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological evaluation was produced by ASE and approved by ESCC prior to the commencement of fieldwork, in this case for an evaluation of the site by the mechanical excavation of trial trenches (ASE 2016). Procedures to be used in recording, reporting and archiving are all in accordance with the *Sussex Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork*, (2015), and with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014a) and their *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014b).

#### **1.4 Research Aims and Objectives**

- 1.4.1 The broad research aims given in the WSI (*ibid.*) were;

*'To assess the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of any archaeological remains and deposits*

*To assess how these remains might be affected by development of the site*

*To establish the extent to which previous groundworks and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site*

*To assess what options should be considered for mitigation'*

- 1.4.2 Site specific aims were also given in the WSI (*ibid.*):

*'Investigation of the site also has the potential to address the following research priorities in alignment with the draft South East Research Framework:*

*To better understand prehistoric occupation of the area*

*To establish whether there is any evidence for Late Iron Age/Roman activity and, if so, how this compares to the relatively low-level evidence for this period generally found in this area*

*The further the study of First World War defences'*



## **1.5 Scope of Report**

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation of the site by trial trenching undertaken on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016. The on-site archaeological work was undertaken by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist), and John Cook (Archaeological Surveyor). The project was managed by Paul Mason (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (Post-Excavation Managers).



## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The following background information was been drawn from the Desk-Based Assessment (ASE 2015).
- 2.2 The earliest human cultural material known from the Peacehaven area is of Palaeolithic date – stray finds of a struck flint and a handaxe have been found, possibly associated with the Clay-with-Flint deposits that once masked the chalk. Mesolithic activity is attested by a number of assemblages of flintwork that have been found concentrated on the Woolwich Beds, deposits that overlie the chalk in localised areas in the vicinity of the site.
- 2.3 A number of Neolithic sites are known on the downland, including causewayed enclosures at Whitehawk and Offham, long barrows and numerous finds of stone axes. Neolithic worked flint and a number of features, including pits, linear features and a possible shaft or well have been recovered from recent excavations by ASE.
- 2.4 Settlement activity increased during the Bronze Age. Several round barrows, all Scheduled Monuments (SM), are known from the Peacehaven area, including one in the vicinity of the site (Cross Dyke). Middle and Later Bronze Age activity is represented by field systems and roundhouses.
- 2.5 Iron Age occupation is represented within the by evidence for settlement and field systems spanning the whole period on Telscombe Tye.
- 2.6 The Roman period saw a large degree of continuity in the rural landscape, with many downland farming settlements originating in the Bronze and Iron Ages continuing to be occupied through the Roman period. A Romano-British settlement site is known from the eastern end of Peacehaven, lying to the north of the coast road, and recent excavations have recorded evidence for early Roman occupation to the south-east of the site.
- 2.7 The site falls within the land that was controlled from an early medieval estate, situated along the edge of the Ouse valley at Telscombe. It is likely that the site itself was used as a mixture of open field arable and common pasture at this time, and continued to be used as such throughout the medieval period. A small farmstead called Moredale may have originated at this time in the Steyning Avenue area of Peacehaven – it was mentioned in documents of 1587 (Payne & Bernard 2000, 4). The site appears to have lain in an area of sheepdown at this time.
- 2.8 For most of its recorded history, the site's broader locale has been used as a sheepwalk – a reference in 1658 describes 'land for feeding 495 sheep on Telscombe Down' (Bernard 2007, 5). A narrow strip of open-field arable existed as part of Telscombe Farm, extending down to the area around the present Smuggler's Rest (formerly Badger's Watch) public house – this was subject to enclosure in 1811, although the process was only partial in nature, with common rights remaining in force and minimal consolidation of land holdings – the distinctive open field landscape is still clearly visible on the Piddinghoe Tithe Map of 1840 and Telscombe Tithe Map of 1842 (ASE 2015).



- 2.9 The Telscombe Cliffs and Peacehaven area began to be developed for residential use from the 1890s onwards. The main stimulus was provided in 1915 when Charles Neville bought up much of the surrounding land to establish a new resort, originally to be called New Anzac-on-Sea in honour of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps' campaign at Gallipoli, but quickly renamed Peacehaven in response to the appalling casualty figures. The area to the south of the site had a military use at this time as a Royal Flying Corps fighter airfield carrying out anti-Zeppelin and anti-submarine patrols along the coast. Building began in earnest in 1920, and by 1924 Neville had also acquired Telscombe Cliffs. By 1927 it had become a thriving town (Bernard 2007).



### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

- 3.1.1 Two trenches each measuring 10m by 2m were mechanically excavated in the agreed positions on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016 using a 3-tonne JCB 8026CTS excavator (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 Excavation, under archaeological supervision, using a flat-bladed bucket was undertaken in small spits down to the top of natural geological deposits. Revealed surfaces of the natural geology were manually cleaned to identify archaeological features. Spoil was scanned for the presence of artefacts, both visually and with a metal detector.
- 3.1.3 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were collected, sampled and recorded to accepted professional standard using standard Archaeology South-East recording forms.
- 3.1.4 The trenches and all features were planned using digital survey technology. A digital photographic record was maintained of the trench and of the site in general.
- 3.1.5 Following inspection by Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist, ESCC the trenches were mechanically backfilled.

#### **3.2 Archive**

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be offered to Lewes Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Tables 1 and 2).
- 3.2.2 A county-wide policy of selection and retention of archaeological finds is currently under review by the Sussex Archaeological Museum Group working party. Once the policy is agreed and in place, it will be implemented by Archaeology South-East. The finds archive will be revised in accordance with this policy in the event that it is implemented before deposition of the archive occurs.

Context sheets	4
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	7 images
Context register	1
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	2

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive



Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box )	1 small bag
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples



## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Max. thickness (m)	Height (m AOD)
1/001	Layer	Overburden	0.54	73.63 - 73.64
1/002	Layer	Natural	-	73.17 - 73.24

Table 3: Trench 1, List of recorded contexts

- 4.1.1 The stratigraphic sequence encountered in the trench was straightforward. It consisted of the natural brownish orange sand, context [1/002] overlain by a deposit of mid-brown humic clayey sand/sandy clay garden soil, context [1/001], which contained an assortment of modern detritus and roots. The surface of the natural was truncated by a modern soakaway filled with brick rubble, and associated pipework.
- 4.1.2 No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.

### 4.2 Trench 2

Context	Type	Description	Max. thickness (m)	Height (m AOD)
2/001	Layer	Overburden	0.42	73.72 - 73.80
2/002	Layer	Natural	-	73.33 - 73.38

Table 4: Trench 2, List of recorded contexts

- 4.2.1 The stratigraphic sequence was similar to that encountered in Trench 1. Again there had been considerable disturbance to the surface of the natural from the laying of services. No archaeological features were identified, but a small assemblage of flintwork was recovered from the overburden.



## **5.0 THE FINDS**

### **5.1 Introduction** by Elena Baldi

- 5.1.1 A very limited assemblage of artefacts was recovered during the evaluation. The material was air dried as appropriate, subsequently quantified by count and weight, and was bagged and labelled (Table 5). The objects were packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (ClfA 2014c). No further conservation is required.

Context	Flint	Wt (g)	FCF	Wt (g)
2/001	2	36	1	18

Table 5: Finds quantification

### **5.2 The Flintwork** by Karine Le Hégarat

- 5.2.1 The evaluation produced two pieces of struck flint weighing 36g and a fragment of burnt unworked flint weighing 18g. The flintwork consists of two flakes, one of which is fragmentary. The flints were found in the topsoil in Trench 2 (context [2/001]) but they display fresh edge condition. This suggests minimal movement after burial. They are otherwise chronologically undiagnostic.



## **6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **6.1 Overview**

- 6.1.1 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered in the trenches, which showed considerable truncation of the natural. The flintwork recovered from the overburden represents a background scatter of material, and is not indicative of prehistoric occupation of the site.

### **6.2 Deposit Survival and Existing Impacts**

- 6.2.1 The absence of any discernible subsoil deposits suggests that the site had been subjected to considerable mixing of the overburden during previous occupation or garden activity. There had been extensive truncation of the natural during the laying of services, and arguably during gardening.

### **6.3 Consideration of Research Aims**

- 6.3.1 The paucity of archaeological deposits and artefacts did not allow the research aims to be addressed, beyond the recognition that the flintwork adds to the corpus of broadly prehistoric material known from the area.

### **6.4 Conclusions**

- 6.4.1 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered in the trial trenches, and based on currently available evidence, it would seem unlikely that any *in situ* archaeological remains survive at the site.



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Lid Developments Ltd. for commissioning the work. Thanks are also due to Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist at East Sussex County Council and for his input at all stages, and for visiting the site.



## HER Summary

Site Code	TEL 16					
Identification Name and Address	71 Telscombe Road, Peacehaven					
County, District &/or Borough	Lewes District, East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	540899 102613					
Geology	Lambeth Group - Sand					
Arch. South-East Project Number	160033					
Type of Fieldwork	Evaluation					
Type of Site				Shallow urban		
Date of Fieldwork	28.01.2016					
Sponsor/Client	Lid Developments Ltd					
Project Manager	Paul Mason					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary						
				None		
<p><i>Summary</i></p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by commissioned by Lid Developments Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 71 Telscombe Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex (NGR 540899 102613) (Figure 1). Two trenches, each measuring 10m by 2m were excavated on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological deposits or features were encountered. Prehistoric flintwork was recovered from the overburden in one of the trenches</i></p>						



**OASIS Form**

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-240884**

**Project details**

Project name	71 Telscombe Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Lid Developments Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 71 Telscombe Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex (NGR 540899 102613) (Figure 1). Two trenches, each measuring 10m by 2m were excavated on 28th December 2016. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered. A small assemblage of artefacts, including prehistoric flintwork was recovered from the overburden in one of the trenches
Project dates	Start: 28-01-2016 End: 28-01-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	TEL 16 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	LW/15/0756 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	160033 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	FLINTWORK Late Prehistoric
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS



Position in the planning process      After full determination (eg. As a condition)

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### Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX LEWES PEACEHAVEN 71 Telscombe Road
Postcode	BN10 7UB
Study area	0.09 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 40899 02613 50.805335139952 -0.000103284383 50 48 19 N 000 00 00 W Point

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### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	East Sussex County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Lid Developments Ltd

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### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Lewes Museum
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Physical Contents	"Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Lewes Museum
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"

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#### **Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Report - 71 Telscombe Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex
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Description	Standard ASE client report, A4-sized with cover logos





© Archaeology South-East		71 Telscombe Road, Telscombe	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 16-0033	January 2016	Site Location	
Report Ref: 2016044	Drawn by: NG		





© Archaeology South-East		71 Teslscombe Road, Peacehaven	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 16-0033	January 2016	Trench Location	
Report Ref: 2016044	Drawn by: NG		



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