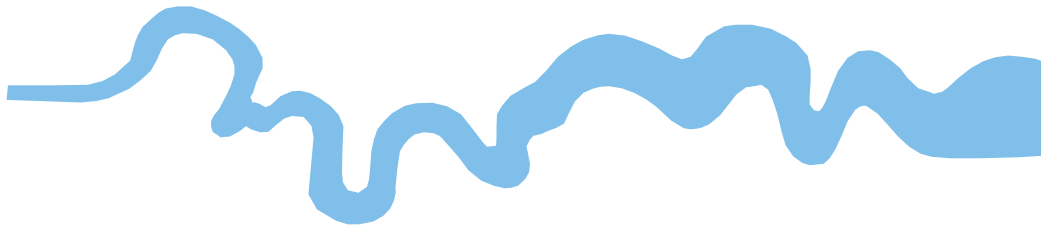


**T V A S**



**SOUTH**

**West Hill Pavilion Workshop, Exmouth Place,  
Hastings, East Sussex**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Sean Wallis**

**Site Code: WPH17/31**

**(TQ 8236 0962)**

**West Hill Pavilion Workshop, Exmouth Place,  
Hastings, East Sussex**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Ms Nicola Bruce**

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code: WPH 17/31

**September 2017**

## Summary

**Site name:** West Hill Pavilion Workshop, Exmouth Place, Hastings, East Sussex

**Grid reference:** TQ 8236 0962

**Planning reference:** HS/FA/15/00924

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 23rd May - 8th July 2017

**Project manager:** Sean Wallis

**Site supervisor:** Sean Wallis

**Site code:** WPH 17/31

**Summary of results:** The watching brief at the West Hill Pavilion Workshop successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of a new office building, and associated groundworks. Despite the fact that the construction method used minimised the impact of the development on buried deposits, a number of archaeological features were recorded. These consisted of two late post-medieval or modern walls, and at least two pits dating from the post-medieval period.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Hastings Museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 15.09.17 Steve Preston✓ 13.09.17
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# West Hill Pavilion Workshop, Exmouth Place, Hastings, East Sussex An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Sean Wallis

Report 17/31

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at the West Hill Pavilion Workshop, Exmouth Place, Hastings, East Sussex (TQ 8236 0962) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by the property's owner, Ms Nicola Bruce.

Planning permission (HS/FA/15/00924) had been gained from Hastings Borough Council for the demolition of the existing workshop, and the construction of a new dwelling, workshop and office. The permission was subject to a standard planning condition (27) relating to archaeology and historic environment. This was in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF, 2012) and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology and the historic environment. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on site which may be damaged or destroyed by the planned building work, it was proposed to carry out a watching brief. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer, Mr Greg Chuter, who advises the Borough Council on archaeological matters. Where appropriate and relevant, the recommendations in *Sussex Archaeological Standards* (ESCC 2015) were to be followed.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Teresa Vieira, Sean Wallis and Jim Webster between the 23rd May and 8th July 2017, and the site code is WPH 17/31. The archive is currently held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services, and will be deposited with Hastings Museum in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located within the historic core of Hastings (Old Town), about 130m east of Hastings Castle, and to the west of the High Street (Fig. 2). At the time of the watching brief the site was occupied by the existing workshop building and surrounding garden areas. The site generally slopes down towards the south-east and, as a result, the height above Ordnance Datum varies between 21m and 27m. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Ashdown Sand (BGS 1971), and this was confirmed during the watching brief, with a light yellow brown clayey sand being revealed in the deepest excavations.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site had been gleaned from a search of the East Sussex Historic Environment Record and comments made by the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer. In summary, the site lies within the historic core of the medieval Cinque Port town of Hastings, in an area that developed as burgage plots in the 11th century. Historic maps from the 19th century show a terrace of buildings on the site which were demolished by the mid 20th century.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The aims of the watching brief were to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the proposed groundworks. This was to involve the examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, including any significant ground reduction and the digging of foundation pits for the new office. Where archaeological deposits were present the features were to be excavated by hand and fully recorded, to ensure their 'preservation by record'. It had been agreed with the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer that the works in connection with the new dwelling and workshop would not need to be monitored, as the existing footings and concrete slab were to be utilised.

## **Results**

Prior to the excavation of the six pad pits in respect of the new office building, the area was reduced (Pls 1 and 2). Due to the sloping nature of the site, the initial ground reduction varied from 0.30m in the south-east to 0.45m in the north-west. Most of the material removed was fairly loose topsoil (50), which was heavily rooted. However, at the deeper, north-western end, a more compact layer of dark greyish brown soil (51) was revealed which contained fragments of post-medieval pottery and clay tobacco pipe.

The remains of a wall (52) were observed during the ground reduction at the north-west end, and the feature was hand cleaned and recorded before further excavation took place (Pl. 3). The wall appeared to be in a construction cut (1) through layer 51, and ran south-eastwards from the edge of the excavation area for about 1.45m before turning north-east at a right angle for a further 1.30m. The wall was composed of loosely packed beach pebbles within a soil matrix, and fragments of post-medieval pottery, clay tobacco pipe and glass were recovered from the feature during its removal, along with a small polished bone disc. It is likely that the wall is a late post-medieval or modern garden feature, as it would have clearly been unable to support any significant weight. A small pit (2) was investigated immediately to the east of wall 52 (Pl. 3). This feature was 0.70m long,

0.36m wide, and 0.30m deep, with a single fill of mid greyish brown sandy silt (53). The pit was fully excavated, and two sherds of post-medieval pottery and a fragment of glass were retrieved from its fill.

Following the ground reduction six pits (1-6) were excavated for the concrete pads which were to support the office building (Pls 5 and 6). The pits generally measured 0.90m square, although they varied slightly, as noted below. Given the close spacing of the pits, differences in the stratigraphy recorded in each one clearly reflect the amount of previous ground reduction / disturbance in the area, along with the presence of buried archaeological deposits and features. A selection of finds was recovered from each pit, where possible, for dating purposes.

Pit 1 measured 1.10m by 0.90m, and was 0.80m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.40m of loose topsoil (50) above 0.40m of compact mid greyish brown sandy silt (54). One sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from layer 54.

Pit 2 measured 0.95m by 0.90m, and was 0.80m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of loose topsoil (50), above 0.22m of light orange brown sandy silt (57), above a layer of mid greyish brown sandy silt (54). Two fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from layer 54, along with a sherd of post-medieval pottery.

Pit 3 measured 1.00m by 0.90m, and was 0.70m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.40m of compact mid greyish brown sandy silt (54), above the mid orange brown sandy silt subsoil (58). Two fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from layer 54, along with five sherds of post-medieval pottery.

Pit 4 measured 0.90m by 0.85m, and was 0.70m deep. Pit 3 was revealed immediately beneath 0.10m of topsoil (50), and had been cut into the subsoil (58). This feature was only partially exposed, but was at least 0.58m long and 0.70m wide, and had a loose fill of animal bone, oyster shell, tile and pottery. A small selection of pottery (5 sherds) was retrieved for dating purposes.

Pit 5 measured 0.90m by 0.85m, and was 0.65m deep. The natural clayey sand geology was revealed beneath 0.55m of subsoil (58), and no archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Pit 6 measured 0.90m by 0.90m, and was 0.70m deep. The natural clayey sand geology was recorded below 0.60m of mid orange brown sandy silt (56). Deposit 56 may represent the fill of a pit, the edges of which could not be seen. Six sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the deposit, along with three fragments of clay tobacco pipe.

The excavation of a new service run was also monitored as part of the watching brief. The trench was 7.40m long and 0.70m wide, and ran between the new office and an existing manhole. It varied in depth from 0.75m to 1.00m due to the undulating nature of the site. The eastern end had been badly disturbed by modern

drains and a concrete base (not recorded in detail), but the stratigraphy at the western end consisted of 0.20m of loose topsoil (50), above 0.14m of mid yellow brown sandy silt (60), above 0.41m of mid greyish brown sandy silt (61). No archaeological finds were recovered from the service trench, but the remains of a red brick wall (59) were recorded in the central section (Pl. 4). This wall was 0.25m wide, and had clearly been partially demolished in the past. It is possible that it may be associated with the terrace of houses shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey from 1873 (Fig. 5). No construction cut was visible, and it appears that deposit 61 had been laid down after the wall be been demolished.

## **Finds**

### *Pottery* by Luke Barber

The archaeological monitoring recovered 30 sherds of pottery, weighing 2598g, from six individually numbered contexts though some actually relate to the same deposit in different locations (Appendix 2). All of the pottery is in notably good condition: the freshness of the assemblage suggests it has not been reworked to any degree.

The vast majority of the pottery belongs to the first half of the 18th century. The few late post-medieval sherds need not post-date 1750 by much and as such the whole assemblage can be seen as a single dumping deposit spanning *c.* 1700-1750. Although a few late 17th century vessels in contemporaneous use may be represented none have to be this early. Overall the material appears to represent waste from a domestic household of some social standing. Of particular interest is the high number of non-local wares. These include tin-glazed wares (probably from London), Verwood wares (Dorset), Staffordshire products and the rarer Devon gravel-tempered ware (only noted in Sussex at Shoreham to date: Barber 2011). Foreign imported vessels are also well represented and are dominated by the Rhenish Westerwald vessels and, more unusually, probable French whitewares. The latter can be closely matched in rim form and decoration to products from the Martincamp industry in northern France (Hebert 2012). To date, this is the first time such wares have been positively identified in the county.

Despite the small size of the pottery assemblage, it is perhaps the best early/mid 18th century group from Hastings to date. Any future work in this area ought to be carefully monitored with the aim of increasing the assemblage sample. The freshness, virtual complete absence of significant residuality and intrusiveness and presence of local wares alongside a range of imported types makes the whole assemblage worth long-term curation in a museum.

### *Clay Tobacco Pipe* by Luke Barber

The archaeological work recovered 19 pieces of clay pipe from the site (Appendix 3). The clay pipe assemblage consists of relatively fresh fragments, the earliest of which are of the later 17th century. The majority however can be placed into the 18th century, particularly in the first half of that century. As such the pipes closely match the dating of the pottery. The bowl fragments are of different AO forms (Atkinson and Oswald 1969) but only two sets of maker's initials are present. The example possibly belonging to Thomas Holness of Hastings, working in the first half of the 18th century, is slightly problematic as the bowl type is notably later. The other maker is not listed for Sussex and could be any number of London makers with that initial (Oswald 1975).

The clay pipe assemblage is small but is associated with the notable pottery assemblage. This, together with some uncertainty about the two makers, means the assemblage is recommended for retention in a museum.

### *Glass* by Luke Barber

The evaluation recovered just four pieces of glass from the site (Appendix 4). The assemblage consists of purely wine bottle shards that can all be placed in an 18th-century date range, probably toward the first half of the period. The material is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis but has been retained due to its association with the ceramics.

### *Worked Bone* by Luke Barber

Context 52 produced a polished 30mm diameter (2.3mm thick) bone disc with 7.5mm diameter central aperture. The piece has feint concentric line grooving on its upper face and is suspected of being a gaming piece. The bone disc is recommended for long-term curation as additional work may shed more light on its function.

## **Conclusion**

The watching brief at the West Hill Pavilion Workshop revealed a number of archaeological features. These consisted of two late post-medieval or modern walls, and at least two pits dating from the post-medieval period. It was clear from the undulating nature of the site that the area has been significantly disturbed and landscaped in the past, and it has obviously been affected by the construction and subsequent demolition of a terrace of houses which appear on 19th century maps. Interestingly, this terrace has left very little trace on the site, with only the partially demolished brick wall found in the service trench possibly belonging to these buildings.



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- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept of Communities and Local Government, London
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## APPENDIX 1: Feature details

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
1	52	Wall	Post-medieval / Modern	Stratigraphy
2	53	Pit	Post-medieval	Pottery
3	55	Pit	Post-medieval	Pottery
	59	Wall	Post-medieval	CBM / Stratigraphy

## APPENDIX 2: Catalogue of pottery

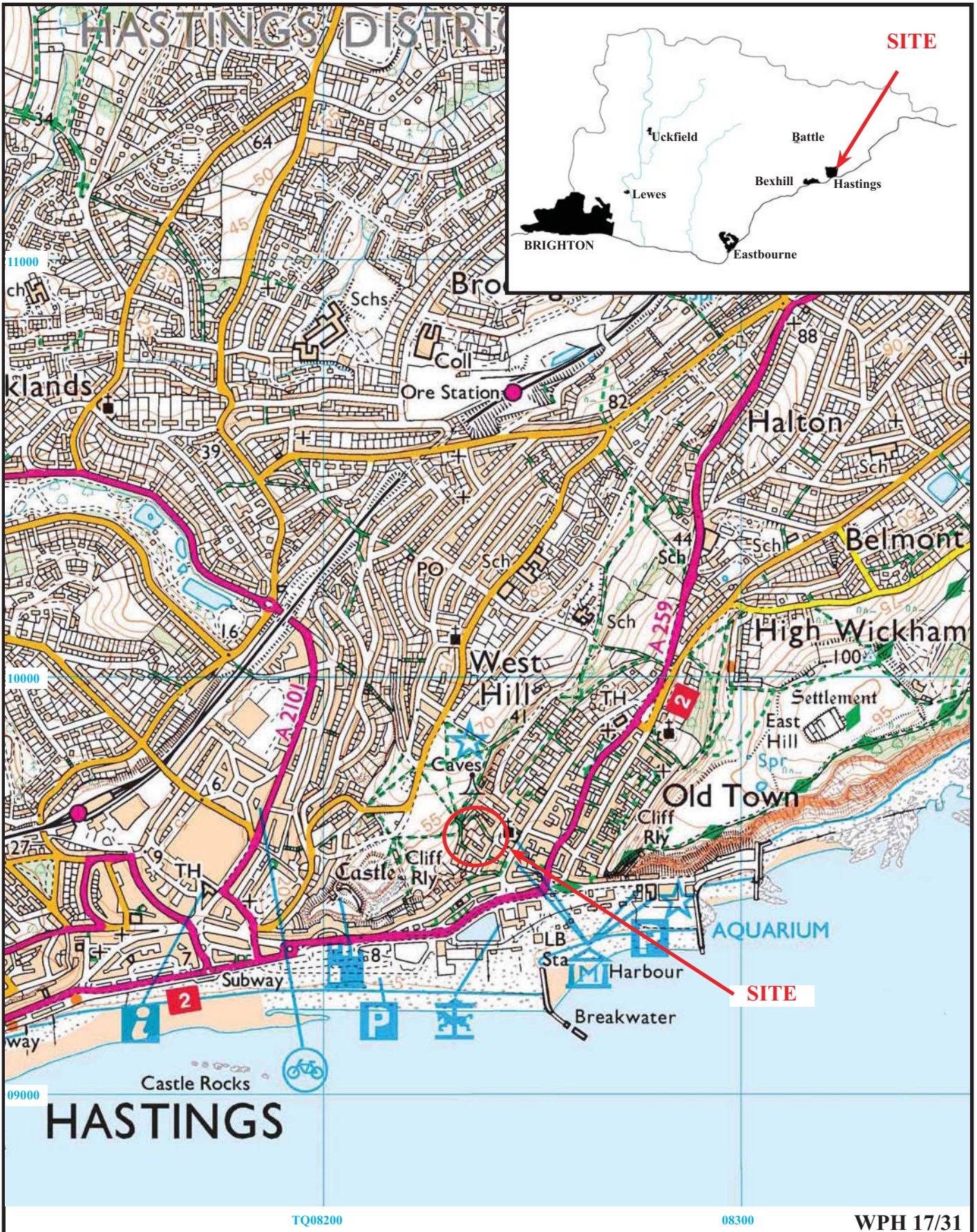
<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
51	Glazed red earthenware (early fine)	EPM	1	16	Uncertain form x1 (clear glaze internally). Base
51	North Devon gravel tempered	EPM	1	1076	Large jar x1 (green internal glaze)
51	Staffordshire slipware	EPM	1	20	Dish x1 (press-moulded, combed slip)
51	Staffordshire white salt-glazed stoneware	EPM	1	22	Tea/coffee pot x1. Lid
51	Tin-glazed earthenware	EPM	1	4	Saucer x1 (blue Chinese design?) C18th
51	Creamware	LPM	1	26	Pedestal vessel x1
52	Glazed red earthenware (early sandy)	EPM	1	42	Jar x1 (clear/green glaze internally). Rounded club rim
52	Glazed red earthenware (early fine)	EPM	1	26	Bowl x1 (clear glaze all over). Simple rim
52	Glazed red earthenware (slip decorated)	EPM	1	26	Plate x1 (trailed white slip under a clear glaze internally). Thickened rim
52	Verwood-type pink-buff earthenware	EPM	1	8	Uncertain form x1 (green glaze internally)
53	Glazed red earthenware (late)	LPM	1	68	Uncertain form x1 (clear glaze all over). Base. Mid/late C18th
53	Verwood-type pink-buff earthenware	EPM	1	38	Divided dish? X1 (green glaze internally)
54 (Pad 1)	Westerwald stoneware	EPM	1	2	Uncertain form x1 (incised lattice with cobalt blue decoration)
54 (Pad 2)	Glazed red earthenware (slip decorated)	EPM	1	80	Plate x1 (trailed white slip wavy line around rim and body, clear glaze internally) Thickened rim. Sandy fabric.
54 (Pad 3)	Glazed red earthenware (early fine)	EPM	1	96	Uncertain form x1 (clear glaze internally)
54 (Pad 3)	Staffordshire slipware	EPM	4	56	Dish x1 (press-moulded, combed slip)
55 (Pad 4)	Glazed red earthenware (early sandy)	EPM	1	374	Handles bowl x1 (clear glaze all over). Horizontal handles
55 (Pad 4)	Staffordshire? red earthenware (slip decorated)	EPM	1	50	Dish x1 (combed). Fine marl-streaked redware with internal white slip, below red slip lines that have been combed
55 (Pad 4)	Westerwald stoneware	EPM	2	68	Cylindrical tankard x1 (incised pattern infilled with cobalt blue)
55 (Pad 4)	Martincamp-type whiteware	EPM	1	108	Dish x1 (brown feint arced lines under clear glaze on interior). Slightly bulbous hammer-headed rim
56 (Pad 6)	Glazed red earthenware (early fine)	EPM	2	132	Uncertain form x1 (metallic glaze internally)
56 (Pad 6)	Martincamp-type whiteware	EPM	2	80	Plate x1 (clear internal glaze). Stepped thickened rim; uncertain form x1 (green glaze patches all over and horizontal incised lines on shoulder)
56 (Pad 6)	Tin-glazed earthenware	EPM	1	44	Bowl x1 (blue floral design). Small footing
56 (Pad 6)	Refined red earthenware	LPM	1	136	Mug/small jug x1 (black glaze all over with vertical purple strips down external body). Mid C18th or later

### APPENDIX 3: Catalogue of clay tobacco pipe

<i>Context</i>	<i>Element</i>	<i>Likely Date</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Bore diam. (mm)</i>	<i>Stem length (mm)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
51	stem	1700-1750	7	38	2.1-2.3	395	
51	stem	1750-1900	1	2	1.6	39	
51	bowl frag	1780-1820	1	10	1.9	16	AO27 type. T/H on heel. Thomas Holness of Hastings, being early C18th, may be too early for this pipe form
51	bowl frag	1700-1770	1	8	2.2	17	AO25. M/H on heel. Unknown
52	stem	1700-1750	1	4	2.2	46	
Pad 3 54	stem	1700-1750	1	8	2.3	68	
Pad 3 54	stem	1750-1900	1	4	1.9	51	
Pad 3 54	bowl frag	1680-1710	1	12	2.6	15	AO21. Milled
Pad 2 54	stem	1700-1750	1	2	2.2	35	
Pad 2 54	stem	1650-1700	1	8	2.7	65	
Pad 6 56	stem	1650-1700	2	16	2.7	145	Fresh
Pad 6 56	bowl	1660-1680	1	14	2.7	35	AO13/15. Milled

#### APPENDIX 4: Catalogue of glass

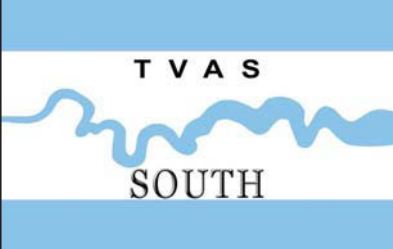
<i>Context</i>	<i>Colour</i>	<i>Body shape</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
52	Green	Cylindrical	Bottle	3	94	Wine bottle. Mallet form? e/m C18th. Heavy gold corrosion
53	Green	Cylindrical	Bottle	1	66	Wine bottle. Mallet/cylindrical? Slight gold corrosion. C18th

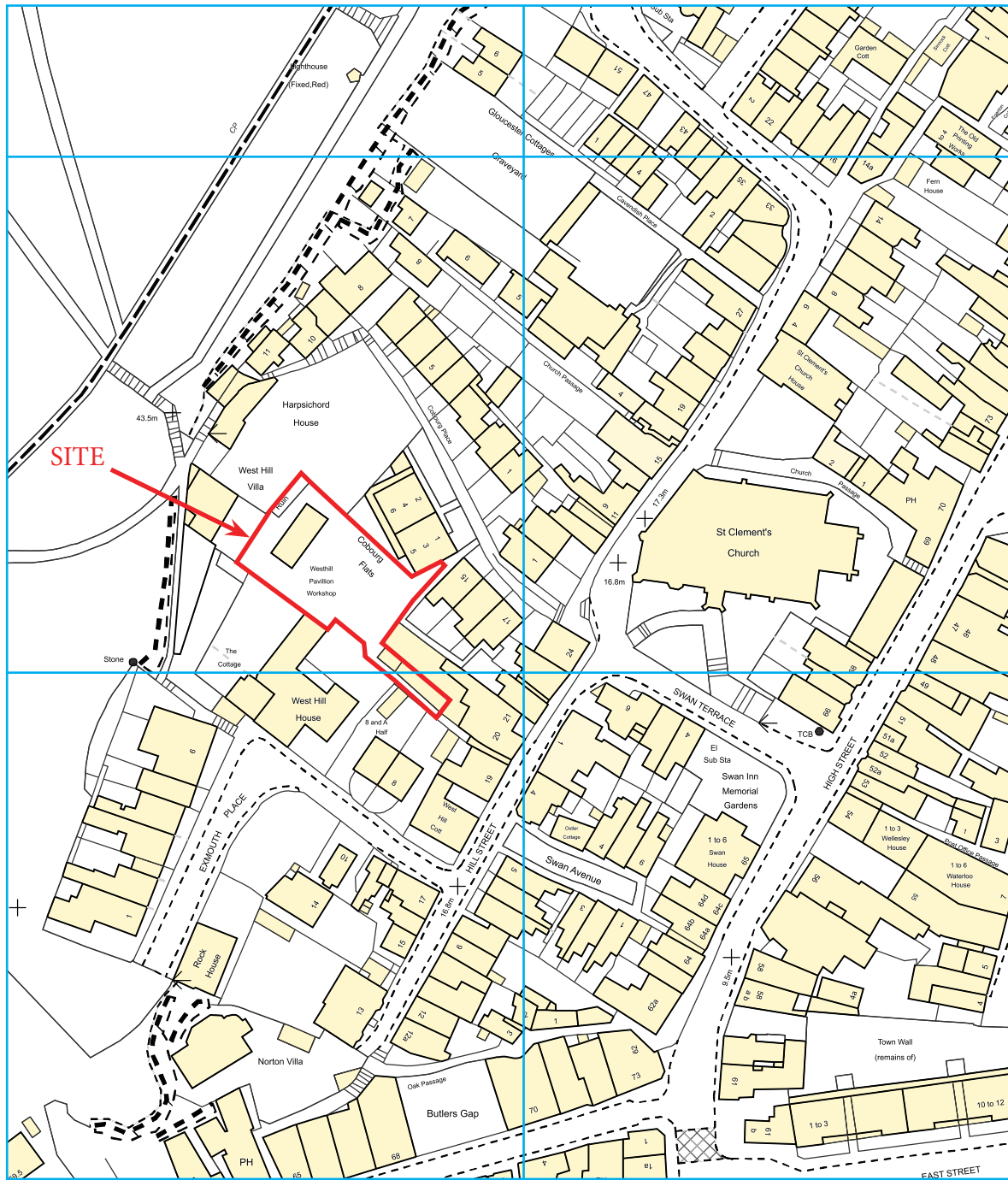


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Figure 1. Location of site within Hastings and East Sussex.

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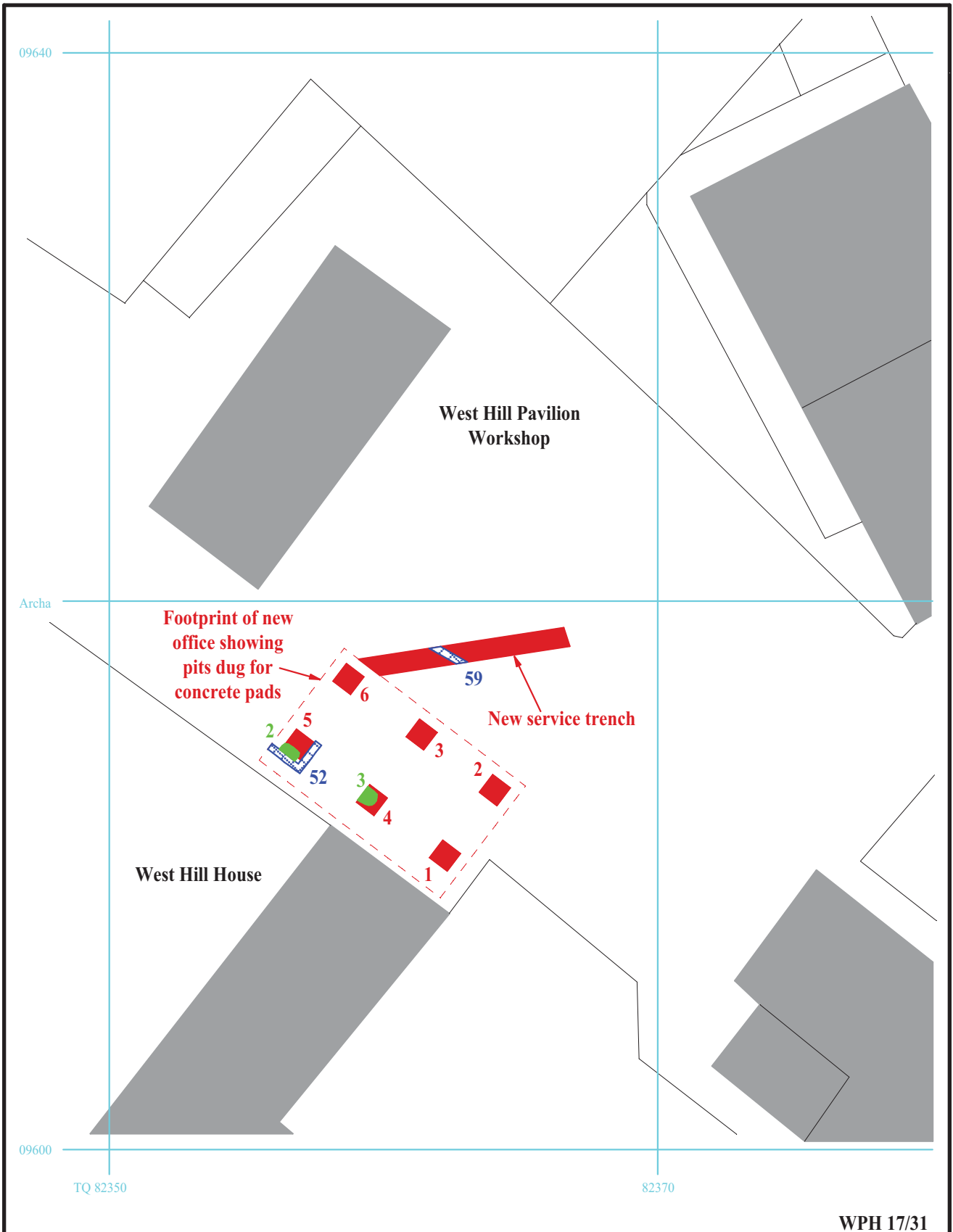
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site**

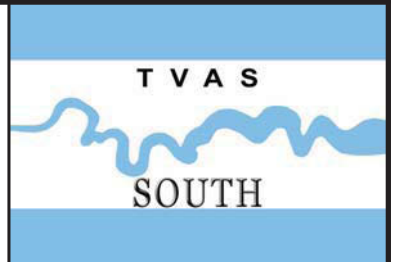
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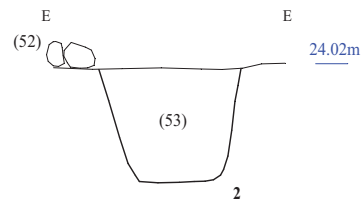
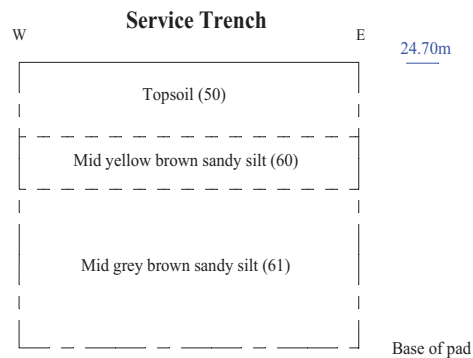
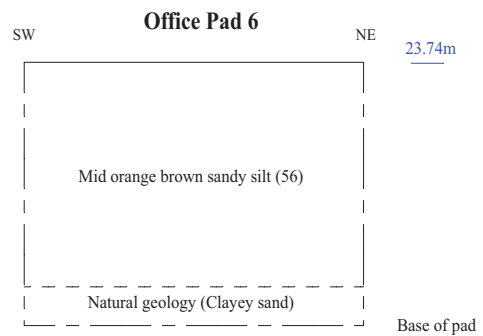
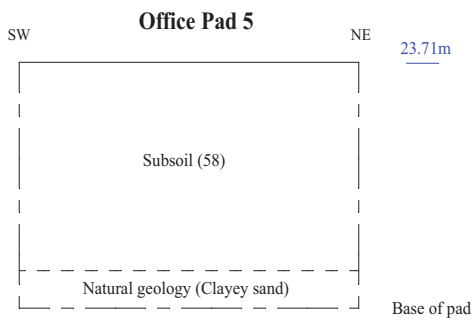
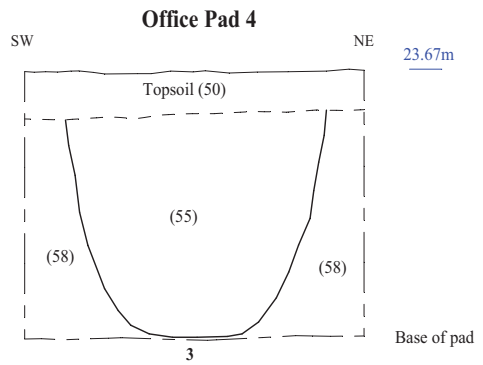
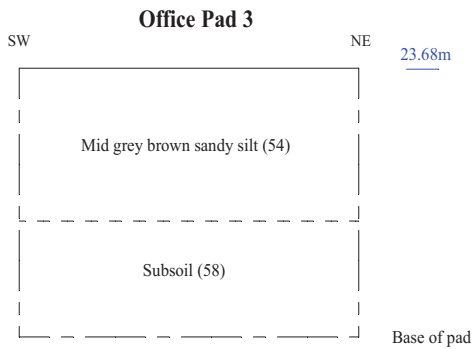
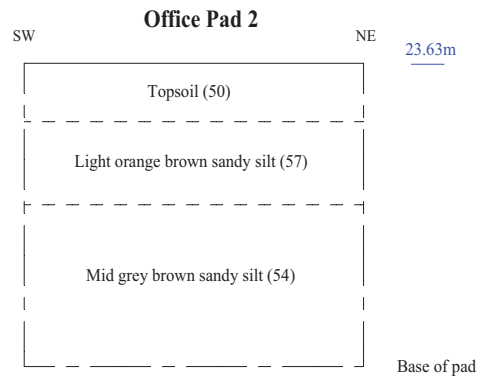
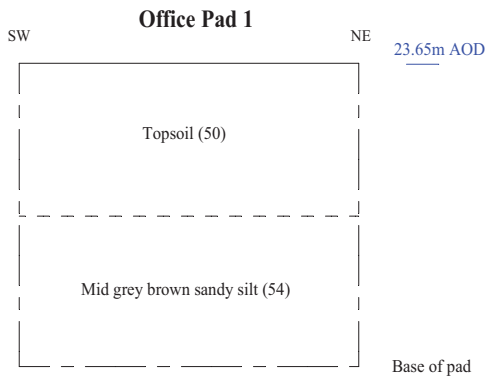


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Figure 3. Plan of site showing areas monitored areas and archaeological features.



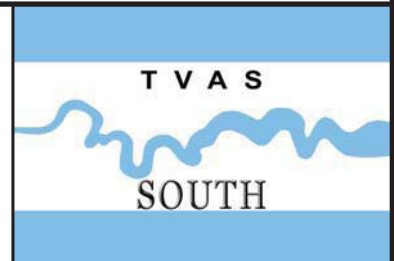


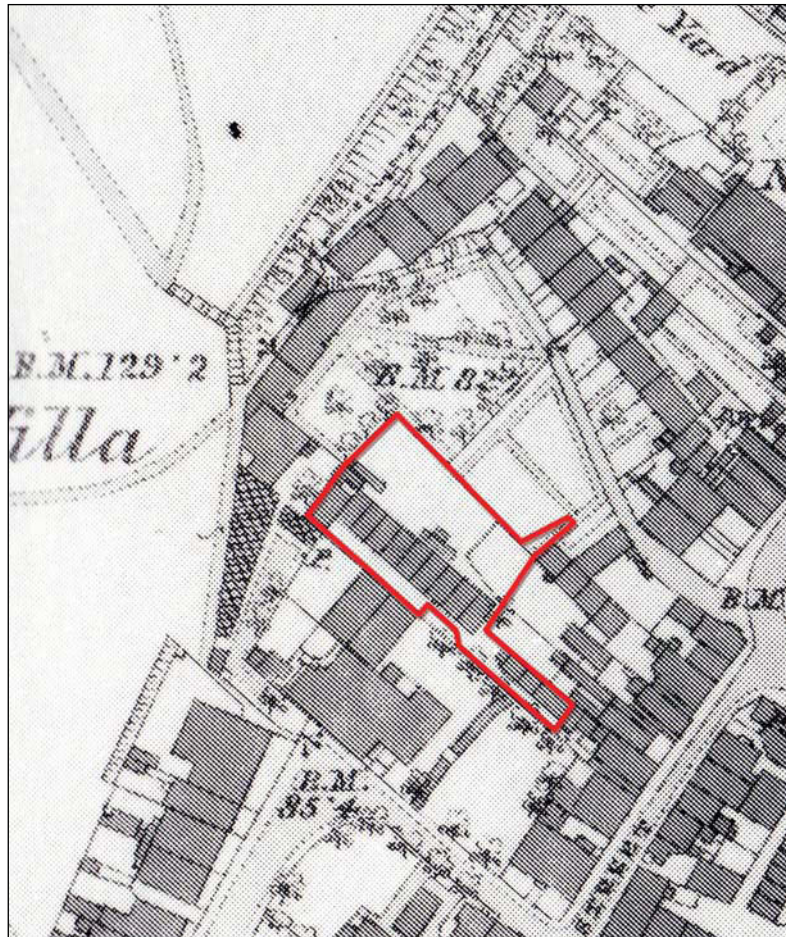


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Figure 4. Sections.





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Figure 5. First Edition Ordnance Survey 1873.





Plate 1. General view of office area, looking South-east.



Plate 2. General view of office area, looking West.



Plate 3. Wall 52 and pit 2, looking North-west.  
Scales: 1m and 0.30m.



Plate 4. Wall 59 in service trench, looking South.  
Scale: 0.50m.

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Plates 1 - 4.**





Plate 5. Pad 4, pit 3, looking North-west.  
Scales: 0.50m and 0.30m.



Plate 6. Pad 5, looking North-west.  
Scale: 0.50m.

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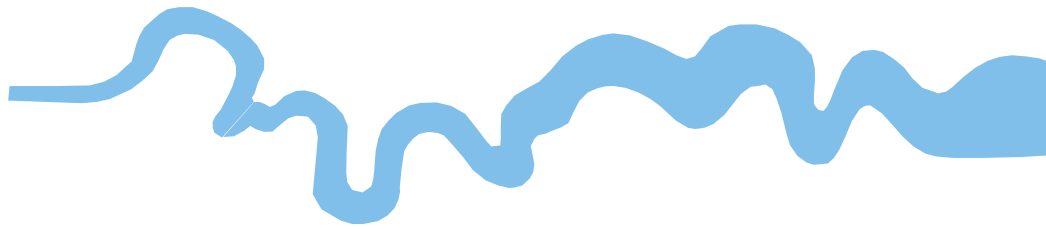
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Plates 5 - 6.**



## TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late .....	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early .....	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late .....	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early .....	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper .....	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle .....	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower .....	2,000,000 BC





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