

T V A S



SOUTH

**Barton Junior School, Barton Road,
Dover, Kent**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Site Code: BJS18/74

(TR 3117 4251)

**Barton Junior School, Barton Road,
Dover, Kent**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for T and B Contractors**

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BJS 18/74

August 2018

Summary

Site name: Barton Junior School, Barton Road, Dover, Kent

Grid reference: TR 3117 4251

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 11th - 25th July 2018

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Sean Wallis

Site code: BJS 18/74

Area of site: c. 800 sq m evaluated within overall area of c. 1 ha

Summary of results: The archaeological evaluation at Barton Junior School successfully investigated those areas which will be most affected by the construction of a new school building. A thick deposit of colluvium was recorded in the two trenches and, in both cases, it appeared to seal a buried archaeological horizon which in turn lay directly above the natural Head geology. Three prehistoric struck flints and a small amount of prehistoric pottery were recovered.

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

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

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	Steve Preston ✓ 14.08.18

Barton Junior School, Barton Road, Dover, Kent An Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Report 18/74

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried at Barton Junior School, Barton Road, Dover, Kent (TR 3117 4251) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Salvatore Conti, for T and B Contractors, Riverside House, Place Farm, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire, AL4 8SB.

Planning permission has been sought from Dover District Council for the construction of a new two-storey school building and the demolition of some of the existing school buildings. As it was likely that any consent would be subject to conditions relating to archaeology and the historic environment it was proposed to carry out a field evaluation prior to planning permission being granted, to determine whether buried archaeological deposits might be damaged or destroyed by the proposed development.

This was in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Ben Found, the Kent County Council Archaeological Officer who advises the District Council on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by Sean Wallis and Jim Webster between 11th and 25th July 2018, and the site code is BJS 18/74. The archive is presently held at TVAS South, Brighton, and will be deposited with Dover Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the south of Barton Road, north-west of the historic core of Dover (Figs 1 and 2). The existing school buildings are located at the eastern end of an irregular shaped plot of land, with the western end being occupied by the school's playing field. The area generally slopes down towards the River Dour to the south, although it is clear that the site has been terraced to some extent. As a result the site is relatively flat, at a height of approximately 11m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the site is positioned close to the junction of alluvial and underlying Head deposits (BGS 1977). However, during the evaluation it appeared that the Head deposits with overlaid by a thick layer of hillwash (colluvium).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been gleaned from a recent desk-based report (Mott MacDonald 2017). In summary, the site is located close to the River Dour, and such waterside areas are known to have been preferred sites for activity in prehistoric and later periods. The present, narrow, course of the river is the result of land being reclaimed and built up in the medieval and post-medieval periods. Prior to this the river valley would have been considerably wider. The site is located close to the valley bottom, and previous investigations of the River Dour have revealed buried peat deposits, along with colluvium containing prehistoric, Roman and Saxon material. It was therefore possible that deposits of geoarchaeological and / or palaeo-environmental interest might be present on the site. Around 1km to the south-east is the site of a substantial Roman house with mosaics (known locally as ‘the painted house’) (Philp 1989) and Dover was an important port in the Roman period. The Buckland Saxon cemetery (Parfitt and Anderson 2012) is located on high ground to the north-west, and it is believed that any associated settlement may have been situated in the valley bottom. As far as subsequent periods are concerned, the River Dour has long been the focus for industrial activity, and numerous mills have been identified along its length.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of the proposed development.

Specific aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine whether any evidence of prehistoric activity is present;
- to determine whether any evidence of Saxon activity is present; and
- to determine whether any evidence of medieval or post-medieval industrial activity is present.

Two trenches were to be dug, each measuring 12m in length and 1.80m in width. The trenches were to be positioned to target those parts of the site which would be most affected by the proposed development. The trenches were to be dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

Results

The two trenches were dug close to their original planned positions (Fig. 3), although they were only 1.6m wide due to the fact that it was not possible to get a larger excavator onto site. They measured respectively 11.00m and 11.50m in length, and 0.4m and 0.95m in depth. A sondage was excavated at one end of each trench, taking the final depths to 1.30m and 1.74m. A complete list of the trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 1 and 2)

This trench was orientated approximately NNE-SSW, and was 11.00m long. The trench was originally excavated down to the top of a deposit of mid orange brown silty sandy clay (54), which was interpreted as colluvium (hillwash). This deposit was observed immediately below 0.40m of Tarmac and made ground. No archaeological features were visible at this level. A sondage was then excavated at the southern end of the trench to a depth of 1.30m below the existing playground surface. The colluvial layer (54) was up to 0.90m thick, and was fairly sterile. However, two small pieces of medieval or post-medieval tile were recovered from this deposit. The colluvial layer sealed a buried deposit of dark brownish grey silt (55), which lay directly above the underlying natural geology (Head). The silt layer (55) was only seen along the eastern side of the sondage, suggesting that it was the fill of a small channel. On the western side of the sondage the colluvium (54) lay immediately above the Head natural. A column sample was taken through layers 54 and 55, and a small slot was excavated through deposit 55 by hand. This produced several small sherds of the late prehistoric pottery and three pieces of struck flint, along with fragments of animal bone, a few fragments of unworked flint and unworked burnt flint. The top of deposit 55 was recorded at 9.80m above Ordnance Datum.

Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 3 and 4)

Trench 2 was orientated WNW-ESE, and was 11.50m long. As with trench 1, machine excavation initially revealed the top of a deposit of mid orange brown silty sandy clay (50), which was interpreted as colluvium (hillwash). This deposit was observed below 0.67m of Tarmac and made ground, and again no archaeological features were visible at this level. A sondage was then excavated at the western end of the trench to a depth of 1.74m below the existing playground surface. This revealed that colluvial layer 50 was at least 0.83m deep, but no finds were recovered from the deposit. The colluvial deposit lay directly above a possible buried soil horizon (51), which was about 0.10m thick and contained a moderate amount of small chalk inclusions. A possible peat deposit (52) was observed below layer 51, and a bulk sample of this deposit was taken for analysis. The peat lay directly above the natural geology (Head), but unfortunately it was not possible to take a column sample as the

sondage flooded with groundwater as soon as it was excavated. The peat deposit, however, contained no visible macroscopic organic remains. The top of deposit 52 was recorded at 9.83m above Ordnance Datum.

Finds

Prehistoric Pottery by Richard Tabor

The pottery assemblage comprised a total of four sherds, weighing 20g, which had fragmented into eight pieces following discovery (Appendix 3). All were from the silty deposit (55) in trench 1, and all were of fabric SF1.

McNee has provided a valuable assessment of Kent's Middle Bronze Age to earlier Iron Age pottery and a fabric series founded on detailed petrological analysis (McNee 2012, appendices 3 and 4). Fabric SF1 corresponds most closely with her F5a/8, which had an extended currency during her ceramic phases 2 to 5 which cover periods from the Late Middle Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age (McNee 2012, 53-5, 360; tab 5.3).

Late Bronze Age to earlier Iron Age: sandy flint

SF1 (coarse) Moderately hard pink, micaceous sandy fabric with pink surfaces including poorly-sorted moderate to common fine (<1mm) to sparse medium (<2mm) angular burnt flint and rare to sparse reddish brown iron oxides (<1mm).

Fired Clay by Richard Tabor

A single rounded fragment of fired clay weighing <1g was recovered from deposit 55 in trench 1 (Appendix 3). The soft, pink, sandy fabric included sparse to moderate fine (<1mm) to medium/coarse (<2mm) sub-rounded brown iron oxides and sparse fine sub-rounded (0.1-0.25mm) quartz. There were no surviving surfaces to indicate how the material had been used.

Animal Bone by Richard Tabor

Four small fragments of mammal bone, weighing <1g in total, were recovered from the silty deposit (55) in trench 1. Due to the small size of the fragments it was not possible to identify the species.

Struck Flint by Steve Ford

Three struck flints were recovered, all from deposit 55 in Trench 1 (Appendix 4). They consist of a segment of broken blade which is likely to be of Mesolithic date, and a flake and core which are less closely datable but likely to be of broadly Neolithic to Bronze Age date.

Burnt Flint by Sean Wallis

Five small fragments of burnt flint, weighing 218g, were recovered from silt layer 55 in trench 1. None of the pieces had been worked in any way.

Ceramic Building Material by Danielle Milbank

Two fragments of tile (32g) were recovered during the evaluation, from colluvial deposit 54 in trench 1. The tile fragments are both broadly late medieval or post medieval, and comprise a hard evenly-fired slightly sandy orange fabric, with a neat, even form and sharp edges.

Macrobotanical plant material and charcoal by Danielle Milbank and Jo Pine

Two bulk samples from deposits encountered during the evaluation were processed by wet sieving to 0.25mm and air dried. The flots were examined under a low-power binocular microscope at magnification of x10. No charred plant macrofossils or other carbonized plant remains were present in either sample. Sample 1 (from peat deposit 52) contained a small number of mollusc shells (less than 1mm). More than one species is present, and there are sufficient that they could be identified if further analysis is needed.

A column sample of 25cm length through the basal layers of Trench 1 was examined by hand lens at x10 magnification. The lowest sediment (silt 55), at 0 to 8cm, was a dark brown grey fine grained silt with occasional minute shell fragments and occasional <2mm gravel. No plant remains were visible at x10 magnification. Sealing this was colluvium (54); at 8cm to 25cm. This was a mid reddish brown fine grained silt with very occasional sand grains inclusions. No plant remains were visible at x10 magnification, however, a slither of flint (possibly struck) was found embedded in this sediment.

The environmental potential of the column sample is such that it is likely to be suitable for pollen analysis. However the potential for the occurrence of larger macro plant remains within these sediments is low.

Conclusion

The archaeological evaluation at Barton Junior School successfully investigated those areas which will be most affected by the construction of a new school building. A thick deposit of colluvium was recorded in both trenches and, in both cases, it seemed to seal a buried archaeological horizon which lay directly above the natural Head geology. The buried deposit in trench 1 (55) was quite silty in nature and contained a variety of

archaeological finds suggesting a late prehistoric date. In contrast, the buried deposit in trench 2 (50) was originally thought to represent a peat layer, but contained very little in the way of environmental evidence.

References

- BGS, 1977, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 290, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- English Heritage, 2005, *Research Agenda*, English Heritage, London
- McNee, B, 2012, *The Potters' Legacy: Production, Use and Deposition of pottery in Kent, from the middle Bronze Age to the early Iron Age*, unpublished thesis, Southampton (accessed: 2nd March 2016).
- Mott MacDonald, 2017, 'Barton Junior School: Statement of Significance', unpublished report
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London
- Parfitt, K and Anderson, T, 2012, *Buckland Anglo-Saxon Cemetery, Dover: Excavations 1994*, Archaeology of Canterbury, ns vol 6, Canterbury
- Philp, B J, 1989, *The Roman House with Bacchic Murals at Dover*, Res Rep Kent Monogr ser 5, Dover

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	11.00	1.60	0.40 1.30 (sondage)	0-0.22m Tarmac and bedding layer; 0.22-0.40m made ground; 0.40m-1.22m mid orange brown colluvium (54); 1.22-1.30m dark greyish brown silt (55); 1.30m+ natural geology (Head Deposits). [Pls 1 and 2]
2	11.50	1.60	0.95 1.74 (sondage)	0-0.10m Tarmac and bedding layer; 0.10-0.67m made ground; 0.67- 1.50m mid orange brown colluvium (50); 1.50-1.60m possible buried soil (51); 1.60-1.74m possible peat deposit (52); 1.74m+ natural geology (Head Deposits). [Pls 3 and 4]

APPENDIX 2: Deposit details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Level at top</i>
2	-	50	mid orange brown colluvium	10.73m aOD
2	-	51	possible buried soil	9.90m aOD
2	-	52	possible peat	9.83m aOD
1	-	53	made ground	-
1	-	54	mid orange brown colluvium	10.63m aOD
1	-	55	dark greyish brown silt	9.80m aOD

APPENDIX 3: Catalogue of pottery and fired clayby context

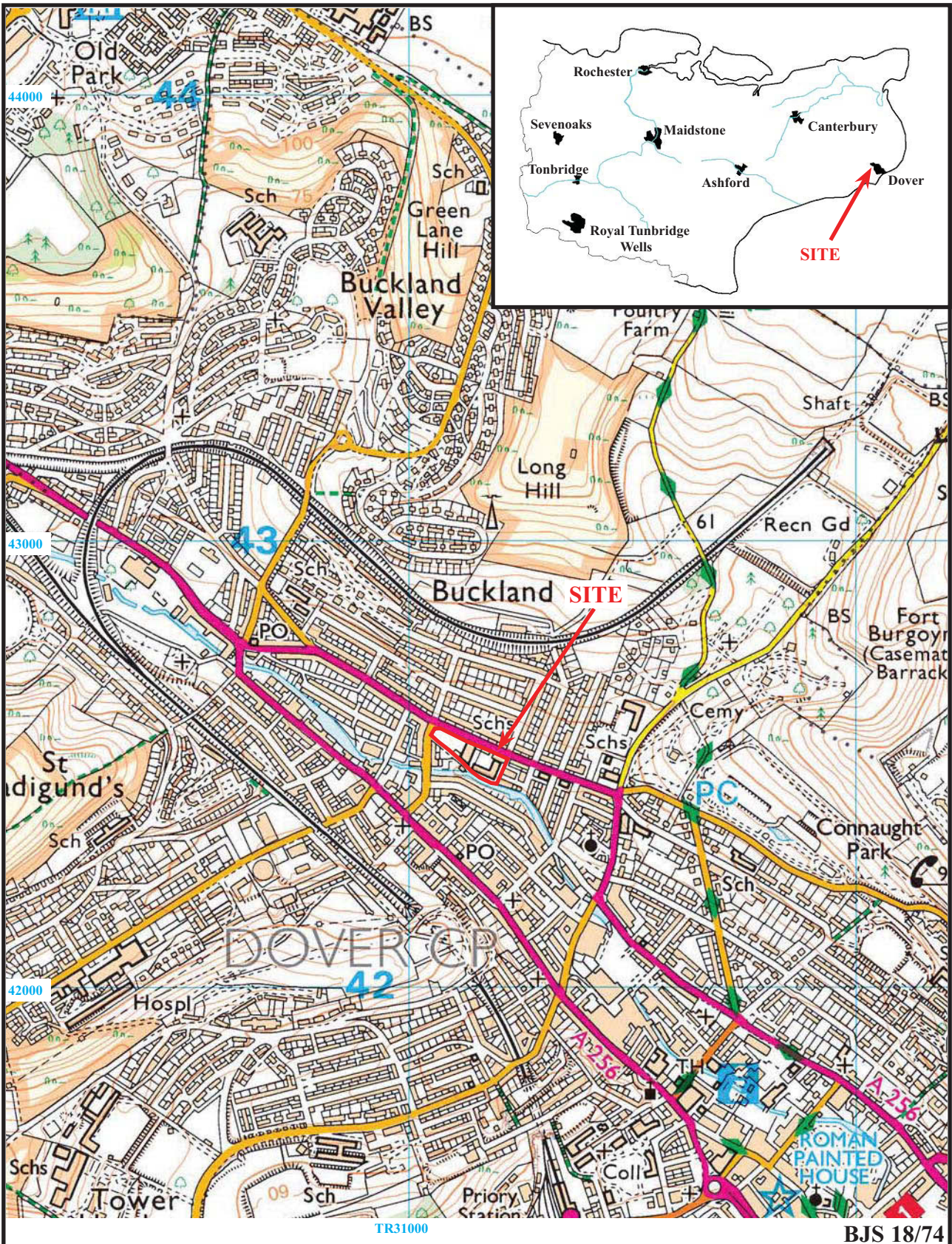
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>No sherds</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	-	55	4	20	SF1	Body sherds
1	-	55	1	<1	-	-

APPENDIX 4: Struck flint catalogue by context

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Broken Blade</i>	<i>Flake</i>	<i>Core</i>
1	55	1	1	1

Site Name: Barton Junior School, Barton Road, Dover, Kent	
Site Address: Barton Junior School, Barton Road, Dover, Kent	
Summary of discoveries: A thick deposit of colluvium was recorded in the two trenches and, in both cases, it appeared to seal a buried archaeological horizon which in turn lay directly above the natural Head geology. Three prehistoric struck flints and a small amount of prehistoric pottery were recovered.	
District/Unitary: Dover	Parish: Dover
Period(s): (probably) Bronze Age, post-medieval; [Mesolithic flint in later deposit]	
NGR (centre of site to nearest 1m): TR 31170 42510 (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)	
Type of archaeological work (delete) Evaluation	
Date of fieldwork (dd/mm/yy) From: 11/07/18 To: 25/07/18	
Unit/contractor undertaking recording: Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd	
Geology: Head	
Title and author of accompanying report: Barton Junior School, Barton Road, Dover, Kent: An Archaeological Evaluation by Sean Wallis	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) The natural Head geology was below a silt deposit in one trench and a peat deposit and possible buried soil in the other. In both trenches, these were overlain by a thick deposit of colluvium. Three prehistoric struck flints and a small amount of prehistoric pottery were recovered from the silt layer. The colluvium contained what is probably late medieval or early post-medieval tile.	

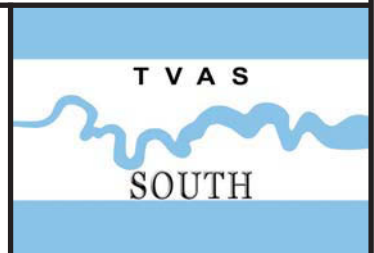
Location of archive/finds: The archive and finds are presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Brighton, and will be deposited with Dover Museum in due course.	
Contact at Unit: Sean Wallis	Date: 13/08/2018

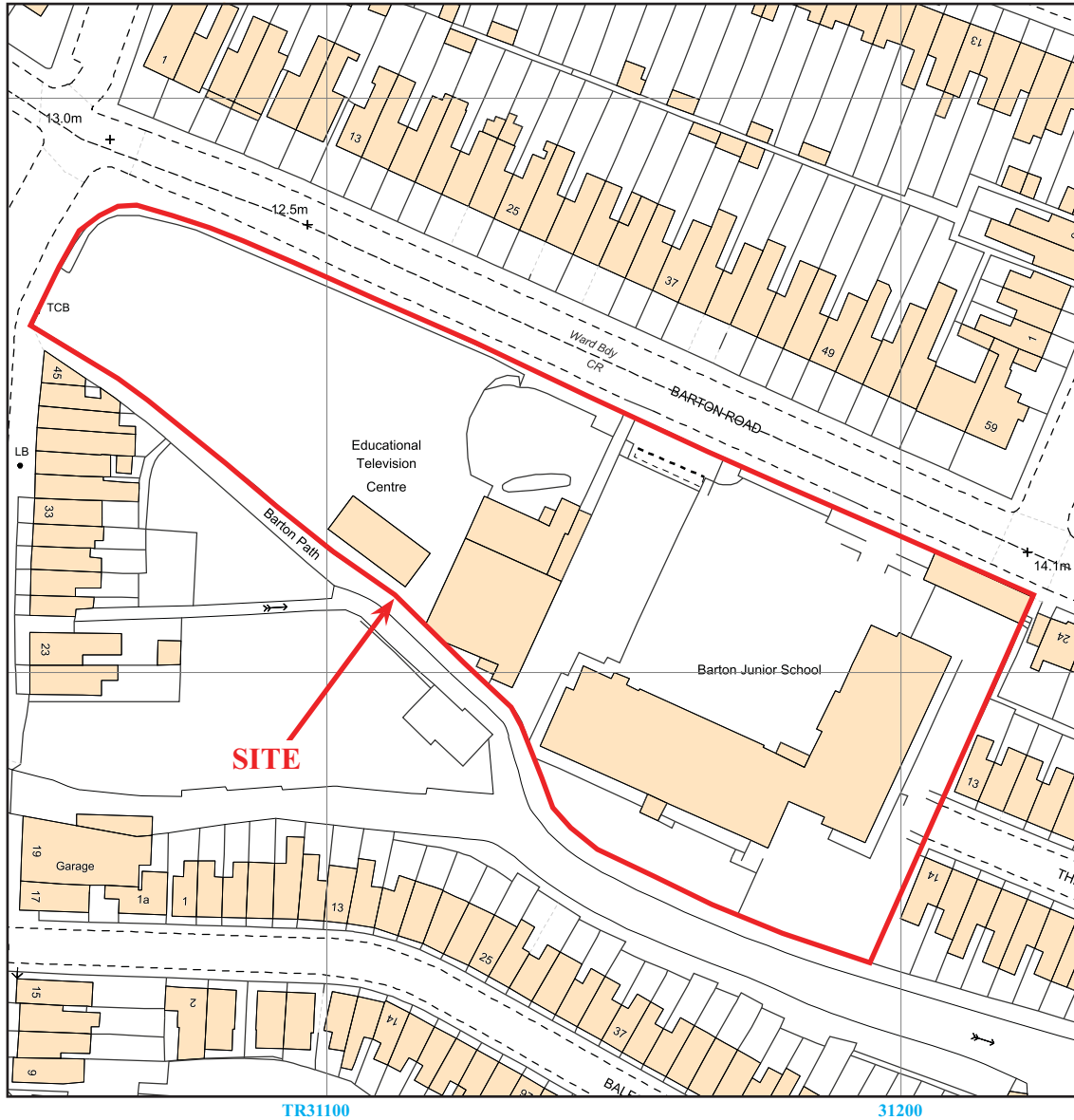


**Barton Junior School, Barton Road,
Dover, Kent, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Dover and Kent.

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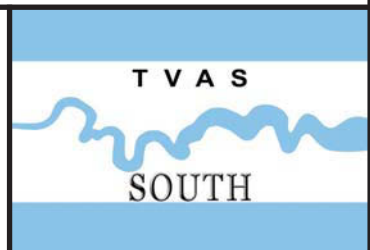


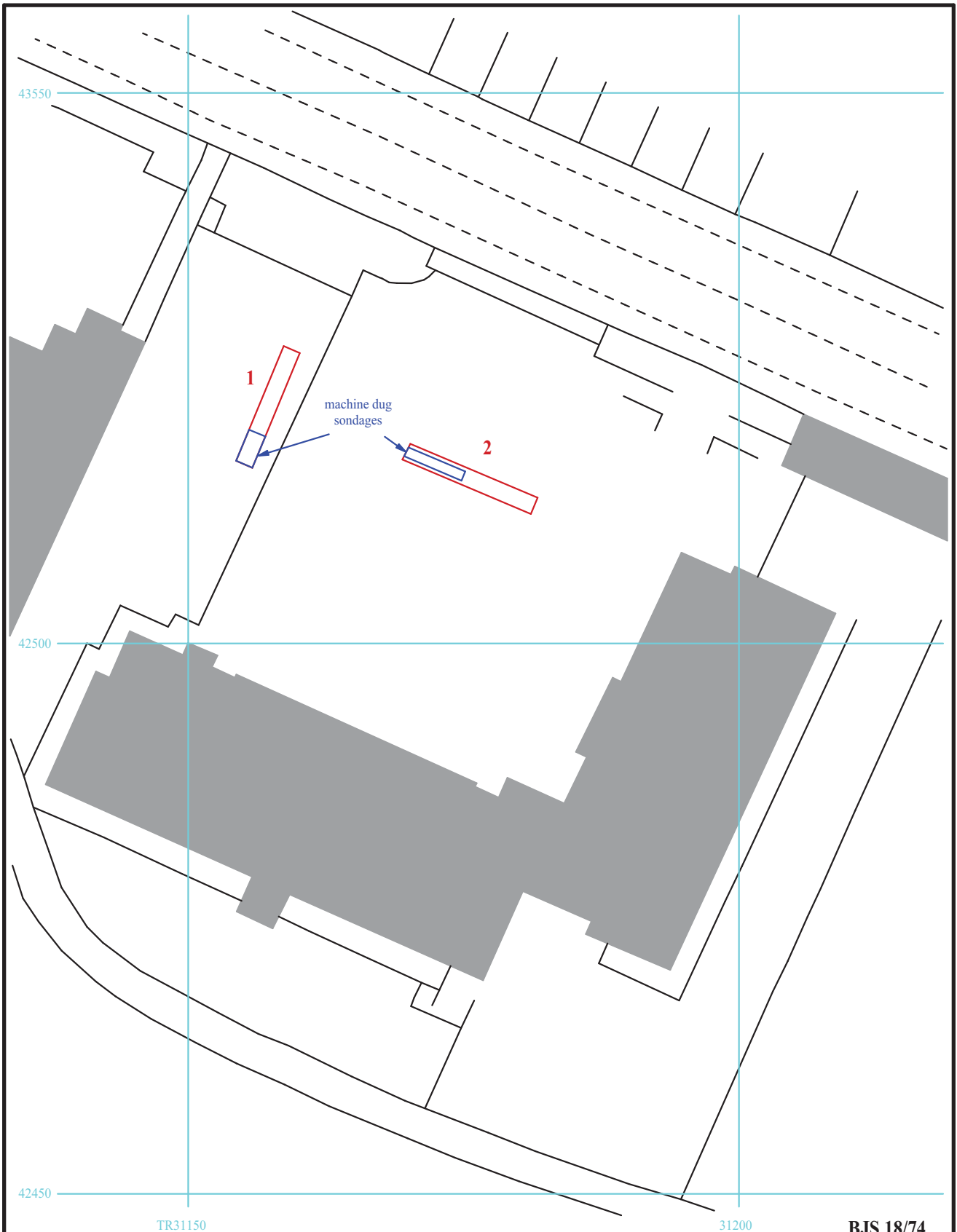
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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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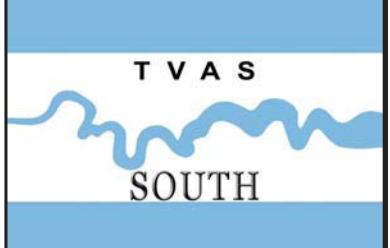


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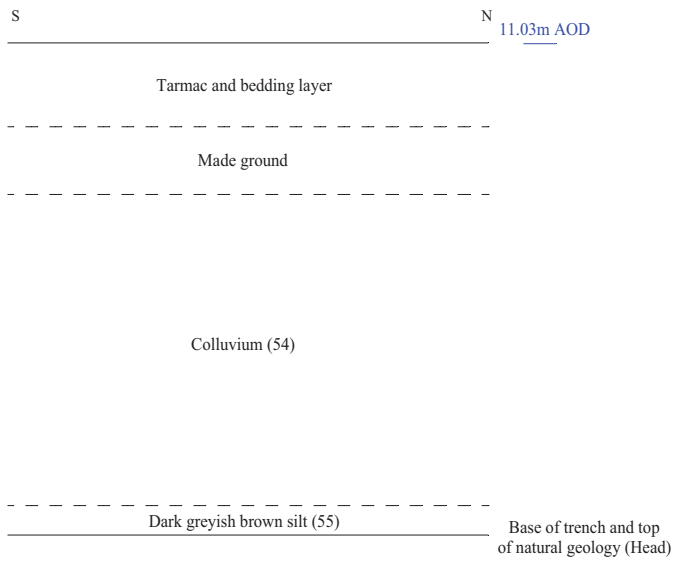


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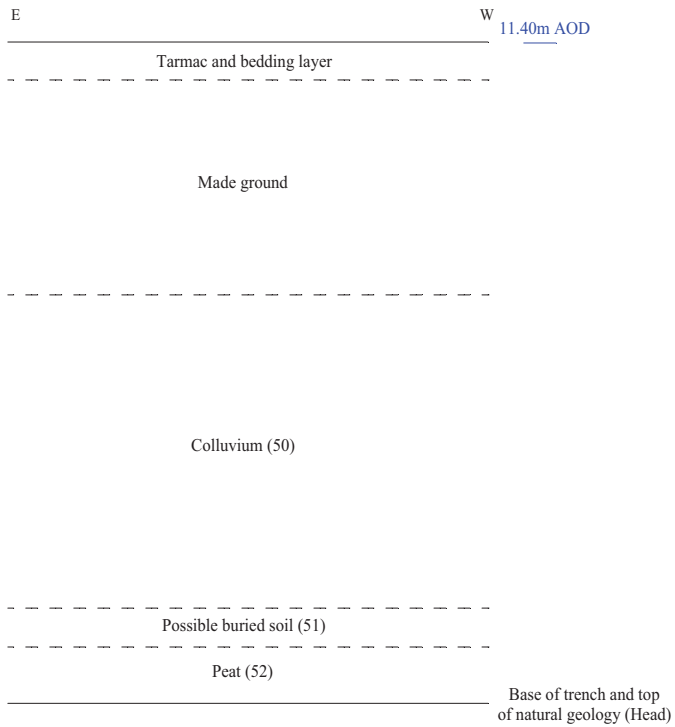
Figure 3. Locations of evaluation trenches and sondages.



Trench 1 (sondage at southern end of trench)



Trench 2 (sondage at western end of trench)



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Figure 4. Representative sections.

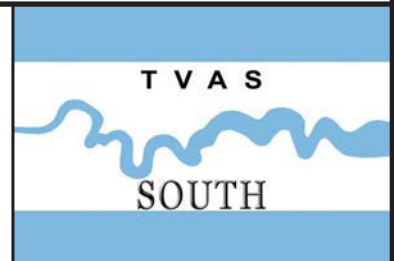




Plate 1. Trench 1, looking South.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 2. Deposit 55 in trench 1, looking South-east.
Scales: 0.50m and 0.20m.



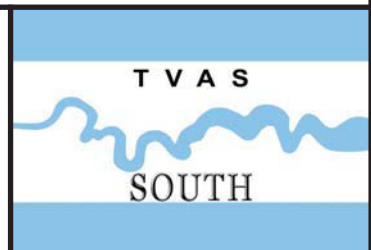
Plate 3. Trench 2, looking East.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.30m.



Plate 4. Sondage in trench 2, looking North-west.
Scale: 1m.

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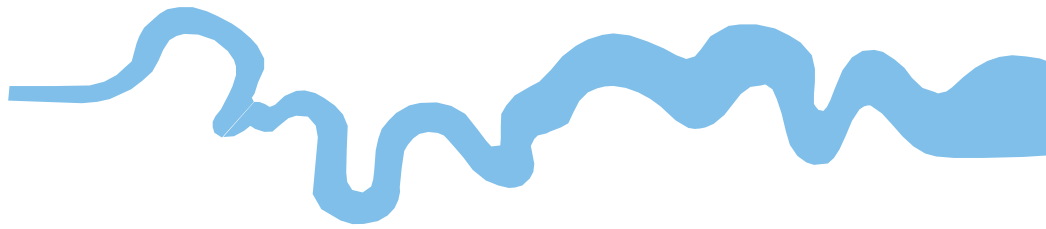
**Barton Junior School, Barton Road,
Dover, Kent, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 to 4.**



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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