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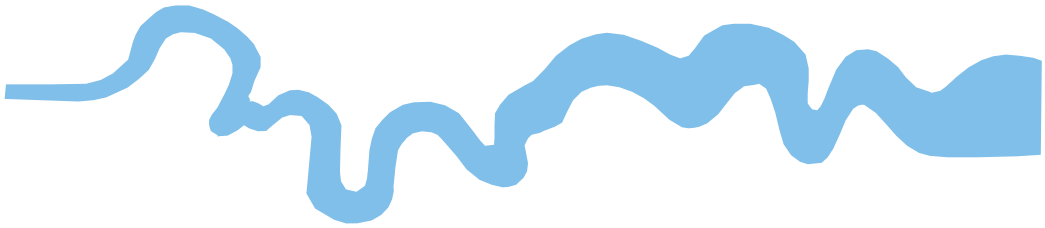

SOUTH

Barton Junior School, Barton Road, Dover, Kent

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Sean Wallis

Site Code BJS18/74

(TR 3117 4251)

Barton Junior School, Barton Road, Dover, Kent

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For T and B Contractors

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BJS 18/74

May 2019

Summary

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

Grid reference: TR 3117 4251

Planning reference: DOV/18/00424

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 7th May 2019

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Sean Wallis

Site code: BJS 18/74

Summary of results: The watching brief successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of a new building at Barton Junior School. Two attenuation tanks were observed, and colluvial deposits were recorded in both tanks, immediately below modern made ground. Although a few struck flints were recovered from the colluvium, no archaeological features were observed. It was clear that the tanks were not deep enough to expose any underlying peat or Head deposits, should they be present.

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.

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 03.06.19 Steve Preston✓ 05.06.19

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Barton Junior School, Barton Road, Dover, Kent
An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Sean Wallis

Report 18/74c

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Barton Junior School, Barton Road, Dover, Kent (TR 3117 4251) (Figs. 1 and 2). The work was commissioned by Mr Tim Parker of T and B Contractors, Riverside House, Place Farm, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire, AL4 8SB.

Planning permission (DOV/18/00424) has been granted by Dover District Council to construct a new school building on the site and to demolish two of the existing structures. The consent was subject to standard planning conditions (5 and 6) relating to archaeology and the historic environment. This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2018), and the District Council's policies on the historic environment. Condition 5 required that a building recording be carried out in respect of the existing school buildings, prior to their demolition. This has already been reported upon (Wallis 2019). Condition 6 required the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks in respect of the new school building.

The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by the Kent County Council Archaeological Officer, Mr Ben Found, who advises the District council on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by Sean Wallis on 7th May 2019, and the site code is BJS 18/74. The archive is currently 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 in the past. As a result, most of the site is relatively flat, and lies 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, a recent archaeological evaluation suggested that the Head deposits are overlaid by a thick layer of hillwash (colluvium) (Wallis 2018).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site was initially gleaned from a 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. This was confirmed during a recent archaeological evaluation of the site, where dark deposits of silt and / or peat were recorded beneath a relatively thick layer of colluvium. In one of the evaluation trenches the dark silty layer, containing prehistoric pottery, was recorded immediately above the natural Head deposits (Wallis 2018). The Buckland Saxon cemetery 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 primary aim of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the proposed groundworks. Where archaeological deposits which may warrant preservation *in-situ* were encountered, their treatment was to be discussed in consultation with the client and the Kent County Council Archaeological Officer. Where it was not possible or practicable to preserve archaeological remains *in-situ* the features were to be excavated by hand and fully recorded, to ensure their preservation by record.

It had been established during the earlier evaluation that any possible archaeological deposits were buried beneath relatively thick deposits or made ground and colluvium. Following discussions with the client and the Kent County Council Archaeological Officer it became clear that the only excavations which might impact on any potential archaeology were the two attenuation tanks, which were to be dug to the north and south of the new school building. The new school building was to be built using piles, following the laying down of a piling mat, whilst any services had been left deliberately high. As a result, it was clear that the groundbeams for the new building and any associated services would only affect the made ground and colluvial deposits on the site, and these works were not monitored as part of the watching brief.

Results

The northern attenuation tank measured 21m by 2.35m, and was excavated to the north of the new school building (Fig. 3; Pl. 1). Approximately 0.70m of Tarmac and made ground had previously been removed from the area, so the tank only needed to be excavated to a depth of about 0.90m to reach the required level. The stratigraphy consisted of a number of colluvial deposits (57, 58 and 59), with varying amounts of inclusions, below the remnants of the modern made ground (Fig. 4). A deposit of mid orange brown silty clay with occasional flint inclusions was exposed at the bottom of the tank (59), and two struck flints were recovered from it. At either end of the tank the colluvial deposit contained a great deal of degraded chalk fragments. No archaeological features were seen to cut through any of the layers.

The southern attenuation tank measured 35m by 3.8m, and was excavated to the south of the new school building (Fig. 3; Pls 2–4). A relatively sterile layer of mid orange brown silty clay (57) was recorded beneath 1.15m of Tarmac and modern made ground (Fig. 4). This colluvial layer was approximately 0.40m thick, and lay above another colluvial deposit (58) which contained a moderate amount of flint inclusions. Seven struck flints were recovered from deposit 58, although no archaeological features were observed. Some small patches of degraded chalk were visible on the stripped surface at the eastern end of the tank.

Finds

The Struck Flint by Steve Ford

A small collection of 9 struck flints was recovered during the excavation of two attenuation tanks. All came from a colluvial deposit (58) with two coming from the northern tank, and the remainder from the southern tank. All of the flints exhibit edge damage of some form or another presumably due to attrition when the colluvium was forming, but not clearly from deliberate retouch. The collection is not closely datable and only a broad Neolithic to Bronze Age date can be suggested.

Conclusion

The watching brief successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of a new building at Barton Junior School. Two attenuation tanks were observed, and colluvial deposits were recorded in both, immediately below modern made ground. Although a few struck flints were recovered from the colluvium, no archaeological features were observed. It was clear that the tanks were not deep enough to expose any underlying peat or Head deposits, should they be present.

References

BGS, 1977, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet **290**, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth

Mott MacDonald, 2017, 'Barton Junior School: Statement of Significance', unpublished report

NPPF, 2018, *National Planning Policy Framework* (revised), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London

Wallis, S, 2018, 'Barton Junior School, Barton Road, Dover, Kent - an archaeological evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpublished report **18/74**, Brighton

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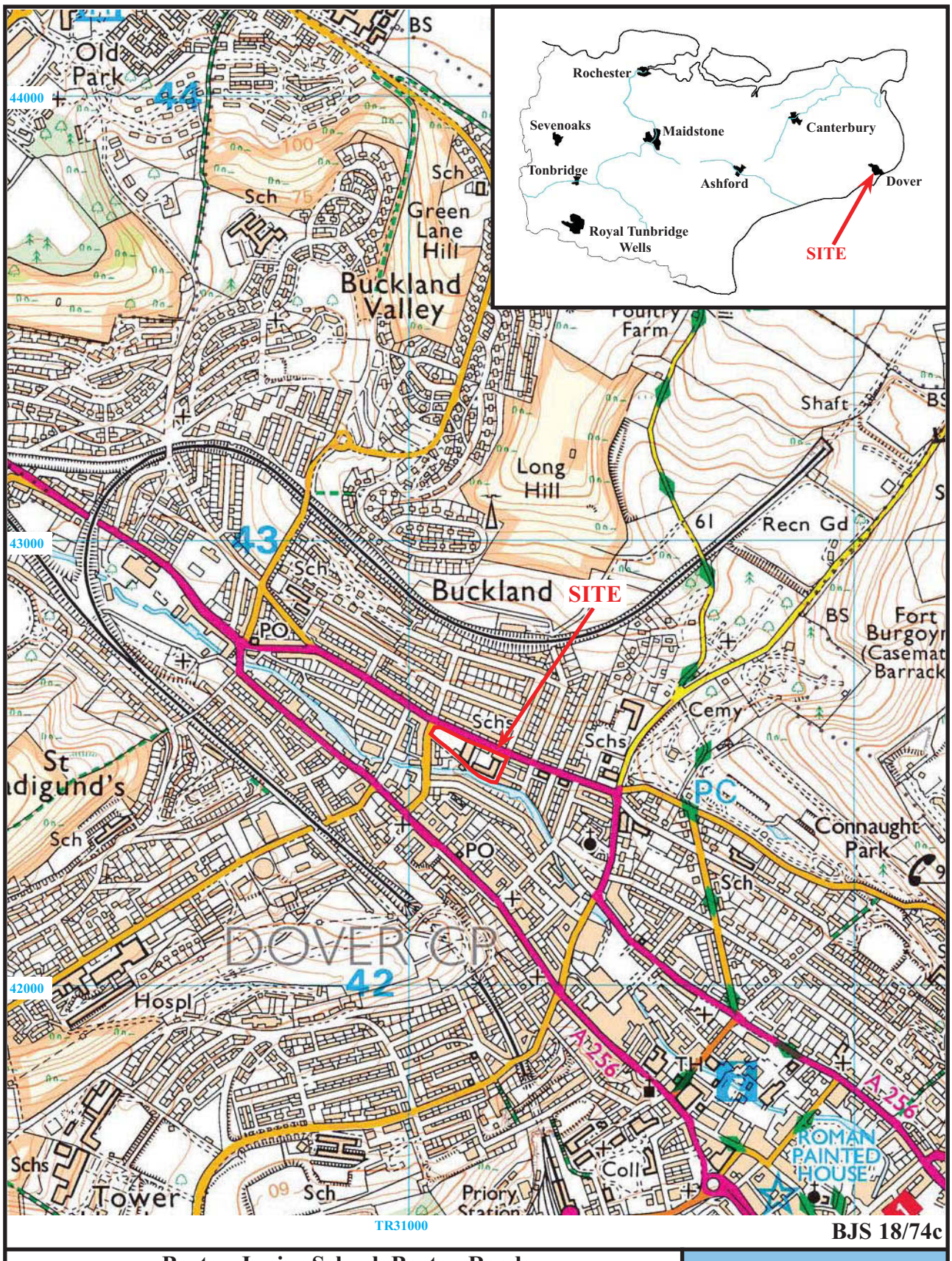

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Figure 1. Location of site within Dover and Kent.

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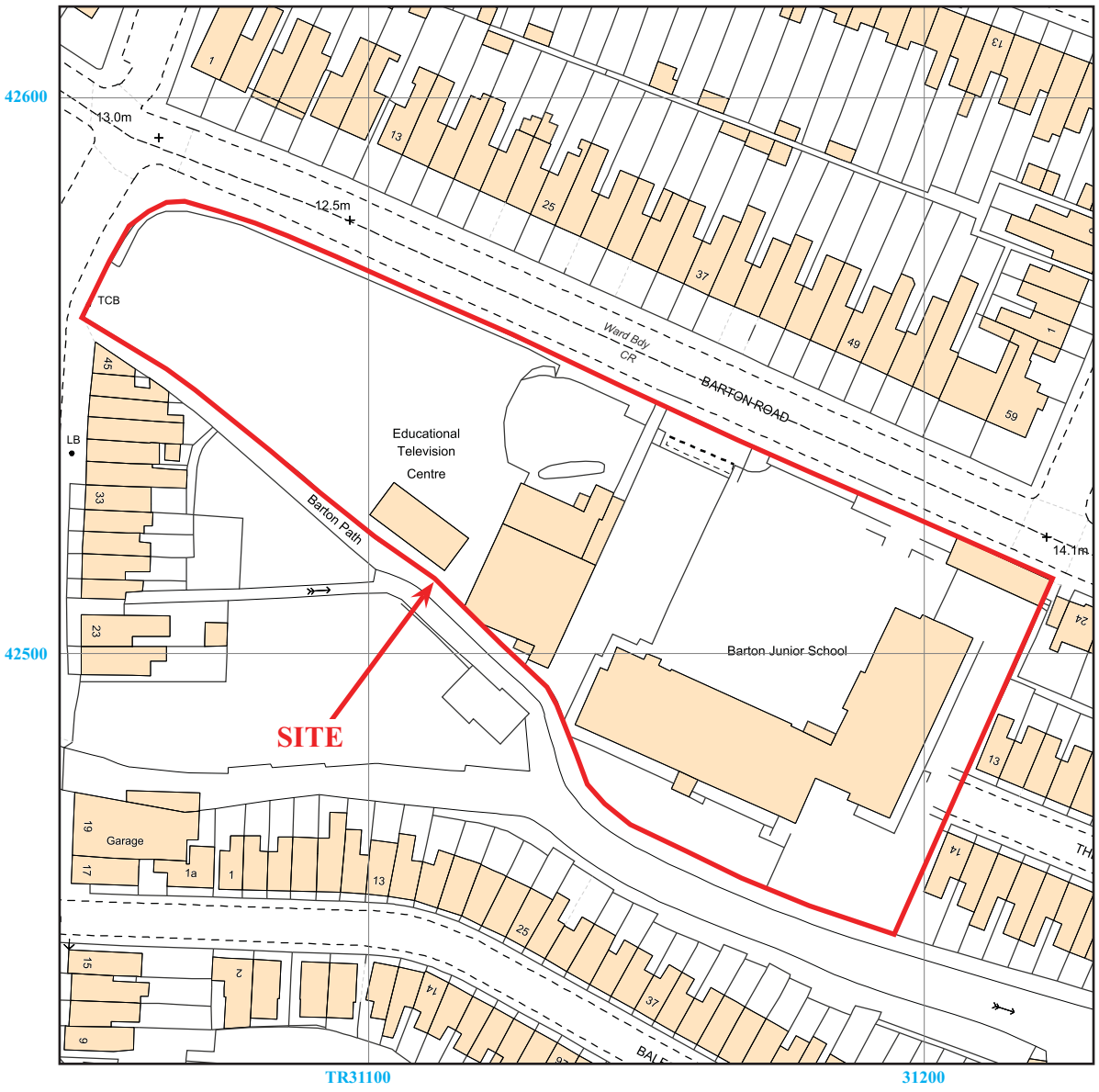

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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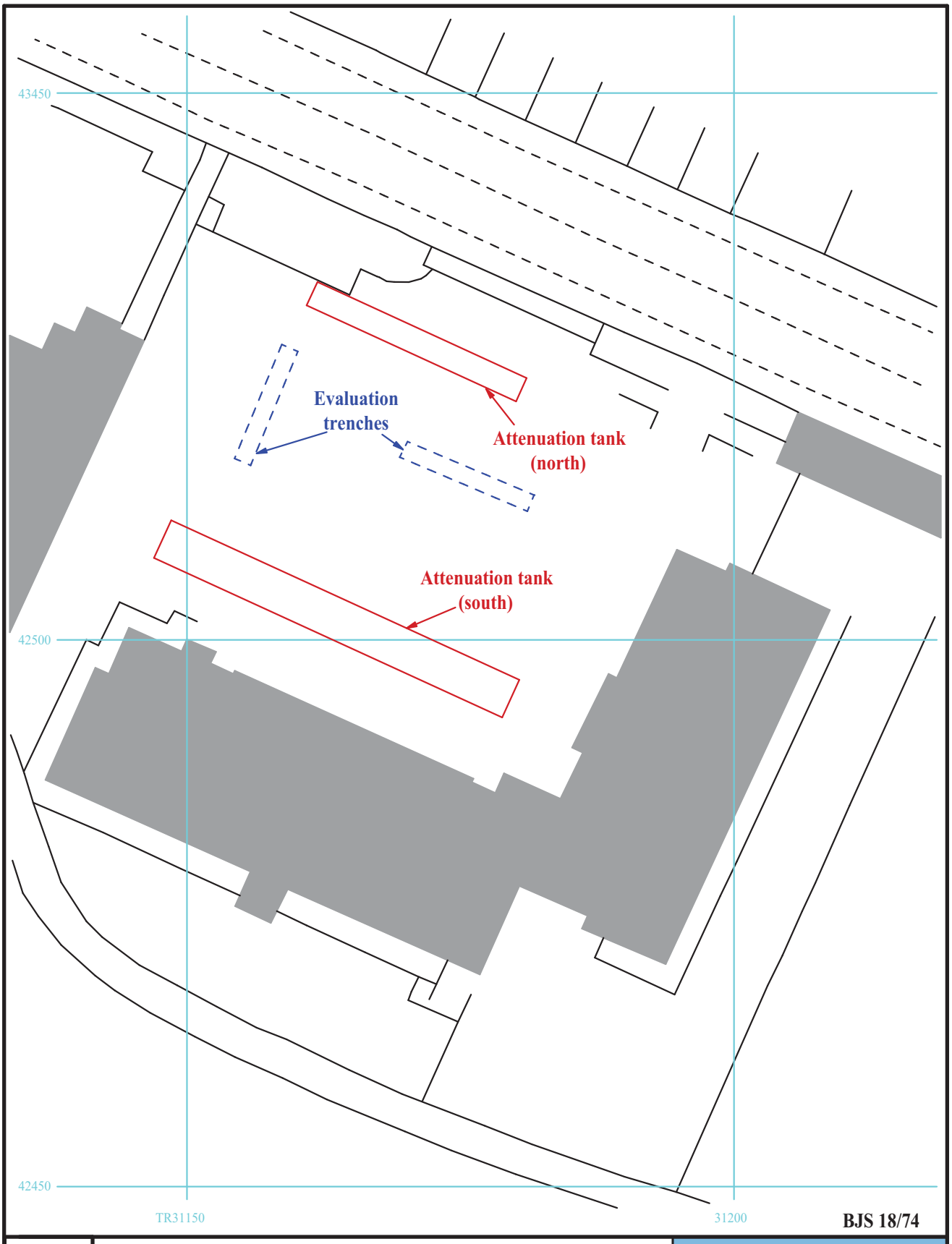

N

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

Figure 3. Site plan showing evaluation trenches.

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Figure 4. Representative sections.

0 1m

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Plate 1. Northern Attenuation Tank, looking North-west.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.

Plate 2. Southern Attenuation Tank, looking North-west.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.

Plate 3. Southern Attenuation Tank, looking South-east.

Plate 4. Stratigraphy in Southern Attenuation Tank, looking South-west.
Scale: 0.50m.

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Barton Junior School, Barton Road,
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Plates 1 to 4.

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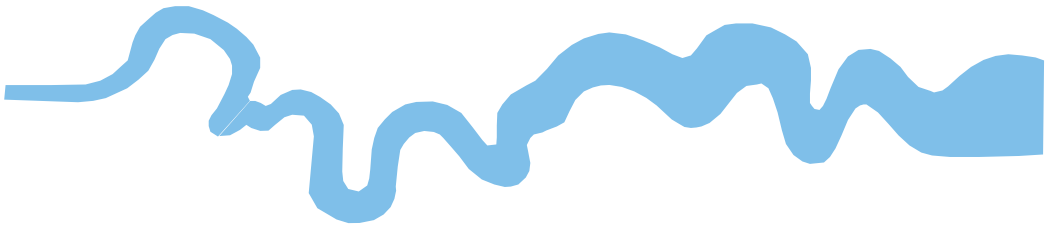
TIME CHART

	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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