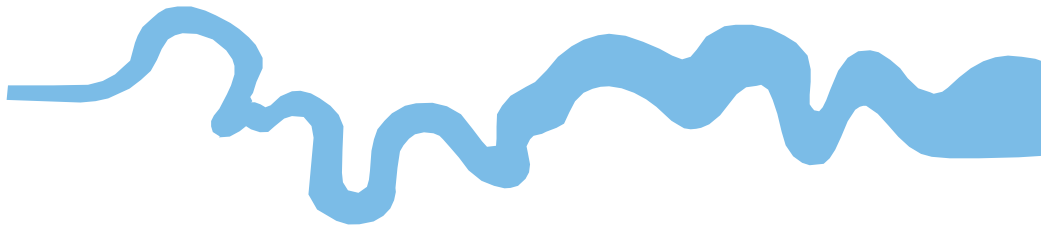


**T V A S**



**SOUTH**

**Old Hamsey Brickworks, South Chailey,  
Lewes, East Sussex**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Odile Rouard**

**Site Code: HBL19/56**

**(TQ 3988 1597)**

# **Old Hamsey Brickworks, South Chailey, Lewes, East Sussex**

**An Archaeological Evaluation**

**for Antler Homes**

by Odile Rouard

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HBL 19/56

**December 2019**

## Summary

**Site name:** Old Hamsey Brickworks, South Chailey, Lewes, East Sussex

**Grid reference:** TQ 3988 1597

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 3rd December 2019

**Project manager:** Sean Wallis

**Site supervisor:** Odile Rouard

**Site code:** HBL 19/56

**Planning reference:** LW/14/0712/FUL

**Area of site:** c. 9.2 ha

**Summary of results:** The archaeological evaluation at Hamsey Brickworks, South Chailey, successfully investigated those areas which will be most affected by the development of the site. No archaeological finds or features were recorded, and it appears that the site was significantly disturbed in the past, as made ground and re-deposited natural geology were recorded immediately above the natural geology, which had clearly been truncated. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at TVAS South, Brighton and will be deposited with a suitable repository in due course.

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 09.12.19
	Steve Preston ✓ 09.12.19

# Land at Old Hamsey Brickworks, South Chailey, Lewes, East Sussex An Archaeological Evaluation

by Odile Rouard

**Report 19/56**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Old Hamsey Brickworks, South Chailey, Lewes, East Sussex (TQ 3988 1597) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Jonathan Towell of Antler Homes, Portland House, Park Street, Bagshot, Surrey, GU19 5AQ.

Planning permission (LW/14/0712/FUL) has been gained from Lewes District Council to re-develop the site for residential housing. The consent was subject to two conditions (35 and 36) relating to archaeology and the historic environment. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by the proposed development, it was proposed to carry out a field evaluation in order to better inform the planning process, and a building recording to ensure the preservation by record of an historic building on the site. This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The building recording will be reported separately. This report concerns the field evaluation.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Greg Chuter, the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer who advises the District Council on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by Charlie Brown and Odile Rouard on 3rd December 2019, and the site code is HBL 19/56. The archive is presently held at TVAS South, Brighton, and will be deposited with a suitable repository in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

South Chailey is located north of Lewes in East Sussex. The site is located to the east of the A275 to the south of South Chailey, and is centred on NGR TQ 3988 1597 (Figs 1 and 2). It consists of an irregular shaped area of former brick quarry, mainly comprising a lake and woodland areas. The natural topography of the site has been lost as a result of quarrying but the height above Ordnance Datum varies between approximately 28m (south-eastern corner) and 30m (north-eastern corner). According to the British Geological Survey the underlying

geology consists of Weald Clay - sandstone (BGS 1980), and this was confirmed as the geology recorded in the trenches generally consisted of light-yellow grey clay with varying amounts of sandstone and flint inclusions.

### **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been gleaned from a recent search of the East Sussex Historic Environment Record. In summary, the site lies within the Weald in which historically has had few archaeological sites and finds prior to the medieval period compared to other regions, though recent fieldwork in response to development has begun to reveal numerous prehistoric and Roman settlements. The Weald was noteworthy for iron production from the late Iron Age up to post-medieval times. Apart from a Palaeolithic handaxe, there are no other prehistoric finds recorded in the area surrounding the site but a number of Roman finds including a kiln site and a Roman road (Fig. 1) are noted along with a number of medieval and post-medieval farmsteads. Most notable is the documentary reference to Hewenstreet Farm which is of late 14th century date and which lies just south of the brickworks. The brickworks originated in the 19th century when a number of small clay pits are recorded on the site. Its development can be seen on the various editions of the Ordnance Survey which indicate that much of the site has been affected by clay extraction, including some areas which were later occupied by buildings.

### **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 if components of the former brickwork buildings have survived on the site; and
- to provide information in order to draw up an appropriate mitigation strategy if required.

Seven trenches were to be dug, two at 10m long and five at 20m long and 1.80-2m wide (depending on the size of the machine). The trenches were largely positioned to target those parts of the site which would be most affected by the proposed development, although several trenches were to specifically target the former brickwork buildings. 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 seven trenches were dug close to their original planned positions (Fig. 3), although trench 1 had to be moved because of overhead powerlines and ground conditions. All the trenches were 1.80m wide, and measured between 10m and 21.30m in length, and were between 0.50m and 1.10m in depth. 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; Pl. 1)

This trench was orientated SW-NE, and was 20m long and up to 0.77m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.15m of topsoil (50) and 0.40m of made-ground (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench, which was heavily truncated by modern disturbances.

### Trench 2 (Fig.3)

This trench was orientated approximately SSE-NNW, and was 19.50m long and up to 0.75m deep. The natural geology was observed directly beneath 0.75m of modern made-ground (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

### Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

Trench 3 was orientated approximately SSE-NNW, and was 21m long and up to 0.78m deep. The natural geology was recorded beneath 0.78m of made-ground (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

### Trench 4 (Fig. 3; Pl. 2)

This trench was orientated approximately W-E, and was 21.30m long and up to 1.10m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 1.10m of made-ground (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

### Trench 5 (Fig. 3)

Trench 5 was orientated approximately WSW-ENE, and was 19.20m long and up to 0.85m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.30m of topsoil above 0.55m of made-ground (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

### Trench 6 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 3)

This trench was orientated approximately WNW-ESE, and was 10.00m long and up to 0.50m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.12m of topsoil (50) and 0.23m of made ground (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

### Trench 7 (Fig. 3; Pl. 4)

This trench was orientated SE-NW, and was 10.20m long and up to 0.90m deep. The natural geology was observed directly beneath 0.90m of made-ground (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded, which was heavily truncated by modern disturbances.

## **Finds**

The only material noted during the evaluation was clearly modern in date (brick, glass, etc), and came from the made ground layers. These finds were retained on site.

## **Conclusion**

The archaeological evaluation at Old Hamsey Brickworks, South Chailey successfully investigated those areas which will be most affected by the re-development of the site. No archaeological finds or features were recorded, and it appears that the site was significantly disturbed in the past, as modern made ground and re-deposited natural were recorded immediately above the natural geology, which had clearly been truncated. On the basis of these results the area to be developed has negligible archaeological potential.

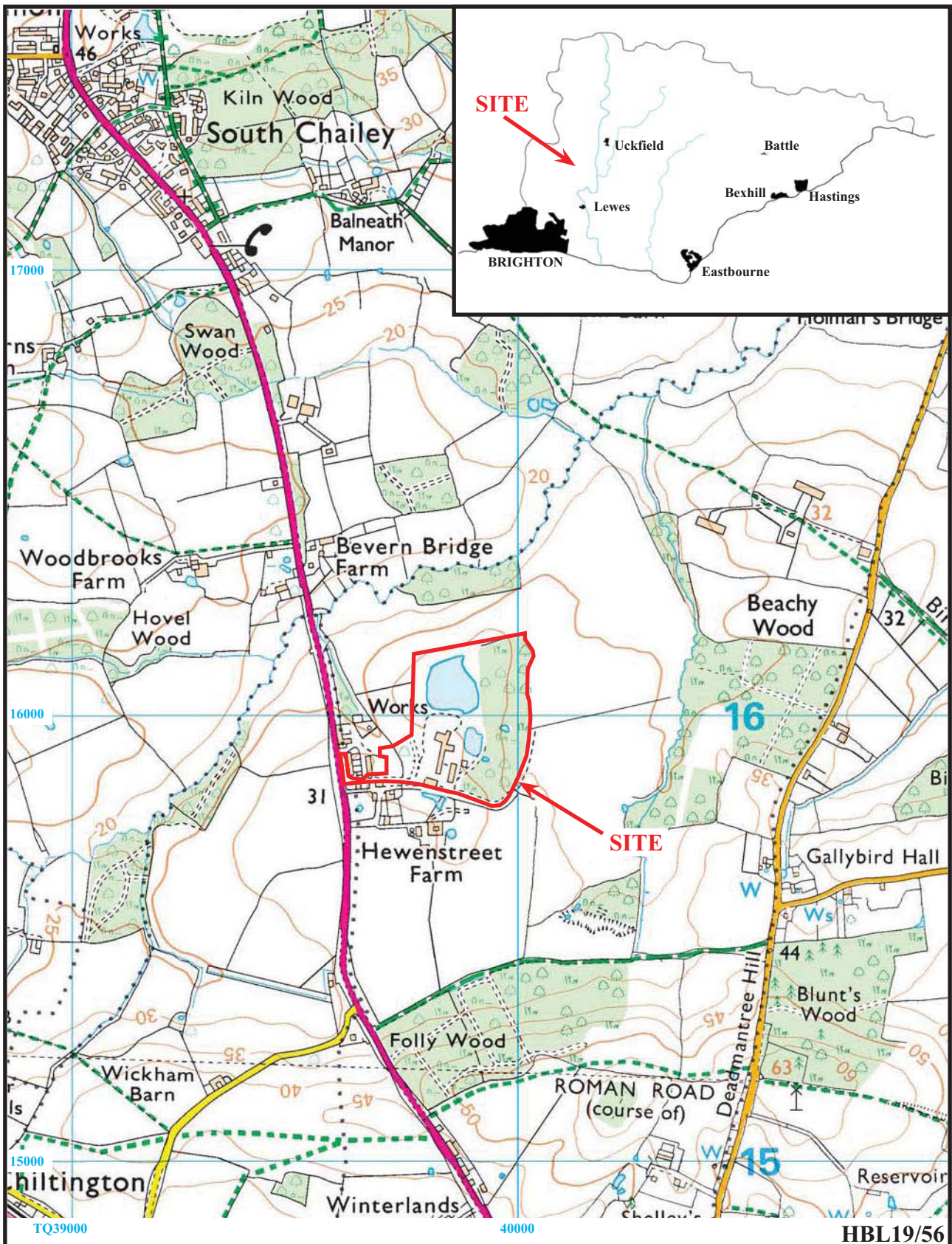
## **References**

BGS, 1980, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 320/321, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth.  
NPPF, 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework* (revised), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London

**APPENDIX 1: Trench details**

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	20	1.80	0.77	0-0.15m topsoil (50); 0.15-0.55m made-ground (51); 0.55m+ natural geology (Weald Clay Formation). <b>[Pl. 1]</b>
2	19.50	1.80	0.75	0-0.75m made-ground (51); 0.75m+ natural geology (Weald Clay Formation).
3	21	1.80	0.78	0-0.78m made-ground (51); 0.78m+ natural geology (Weald Clay Formation).
4	21.30	1.80	1.10	0-1.10m made-ground (51); 1.10m+ natural geology (Weald Clay Formation). <b>[Pl. 2]</b>
5	19.2	1.80	0.79	0-0.30m topsoil (50); 0.30-0.55m made-ground (51); 0.55m+ natural geology (Weald Clay Formation).
6	10	1.80	0.50	0-0.12m topsoil (50); 0.12-0.35m made-ground (51); 0.35m+ natural geology (Weald Clay Formation). <b>[Pl. 3]</b>
7	10.20	1.80	0.90	0-0.90m made-ground (51); 0.90m+ natural geology (Weald Clay Formation). <b>[Pl. 4]</b>

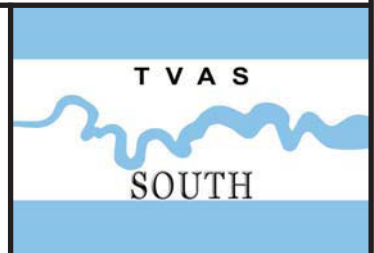


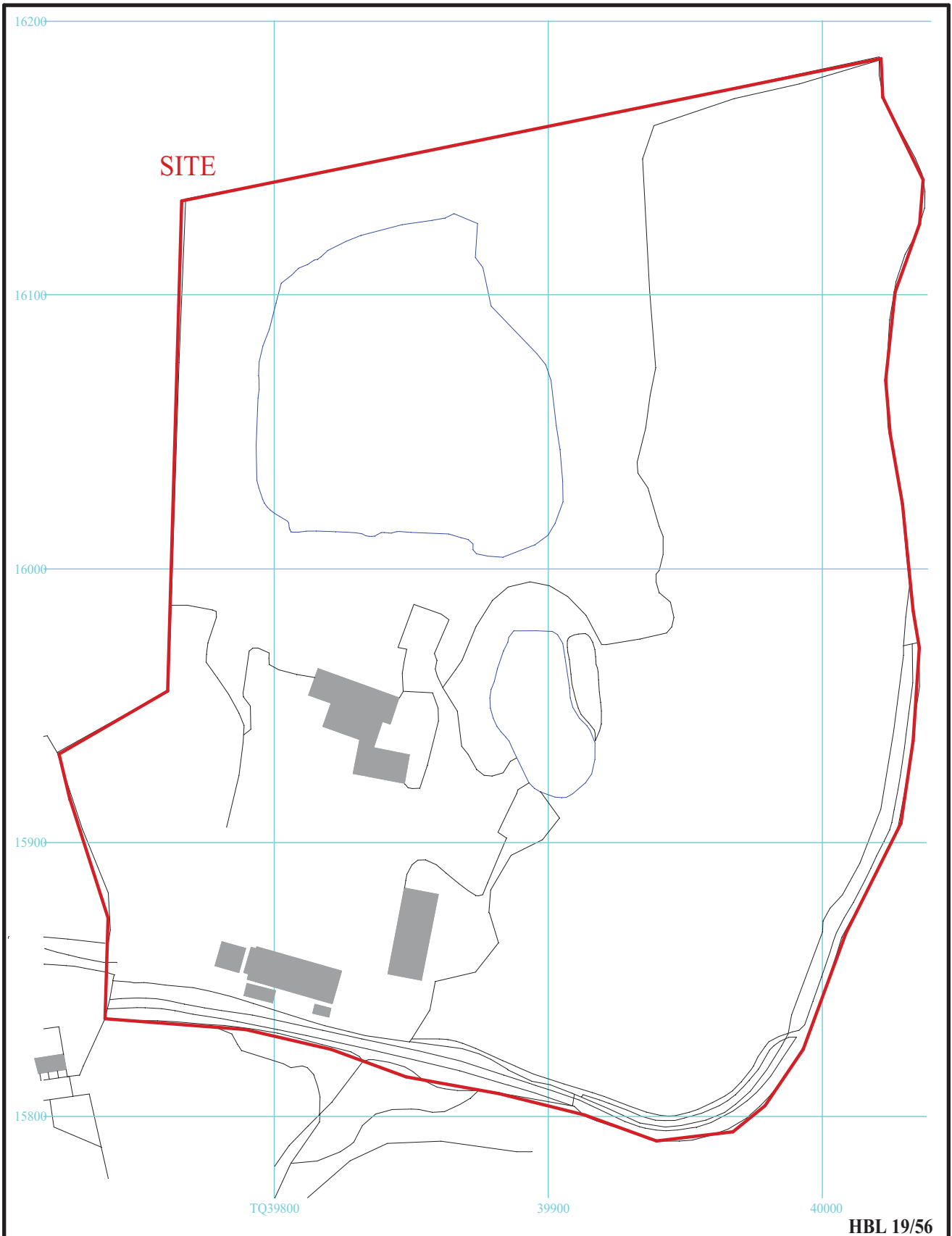


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Figure 1. Location of site within South Chailey and East Sussex.

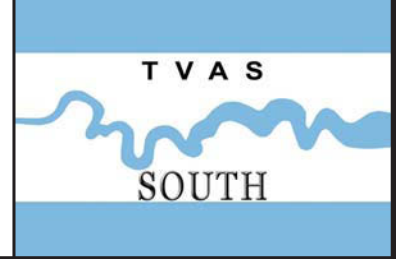
Reproduced under licence from Ordnance Survey Explorer Digital mapping at 1:12500  
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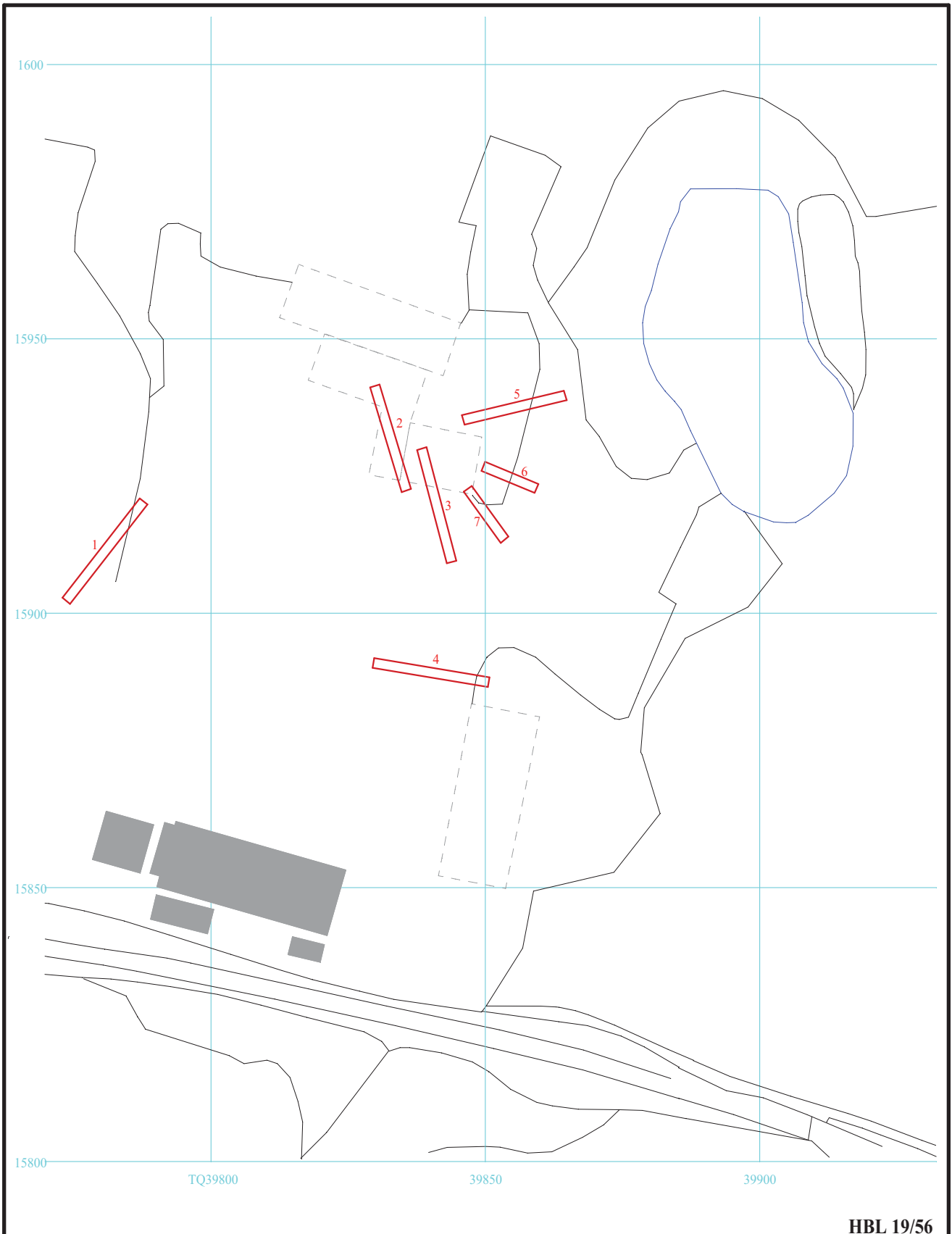




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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

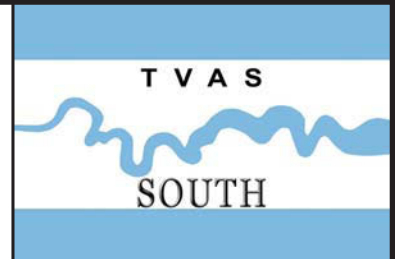




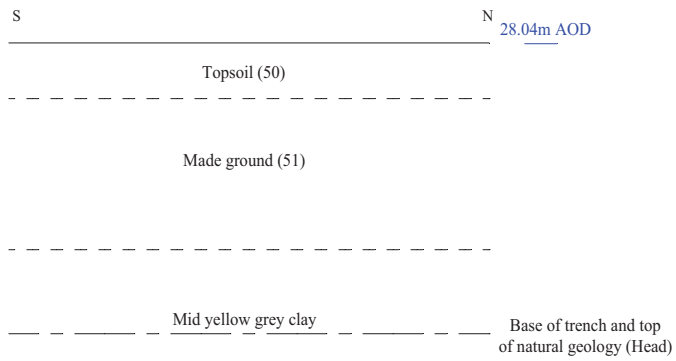
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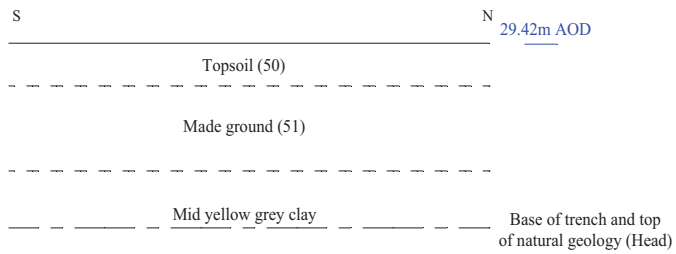
Figure 3. Location of trenches excavated.



### Trench 1



### Trench 6



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Figure 4. Representative trench sections.

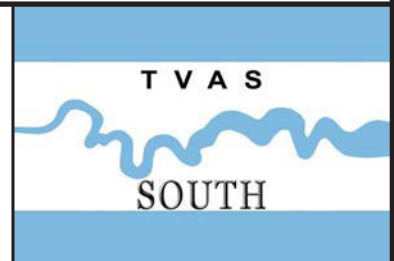




Plate 1. Trench 1, looking North-east.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 2. Trench 4, looking West.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 3. Trench 6, looking North.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 4. Trench 7, looking North.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.

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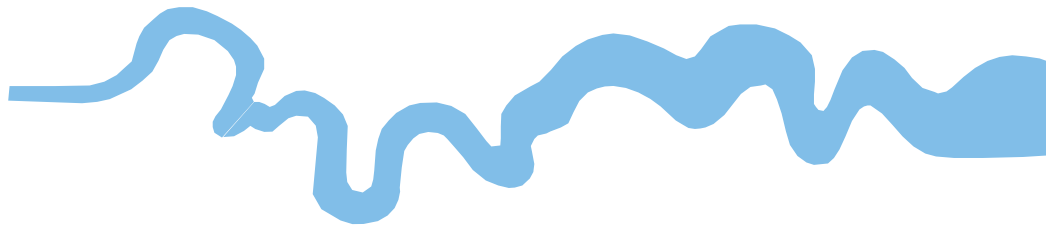
Old Hamsey Brickworks, South Chailey,  
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Plates 1 to 4.



## 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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