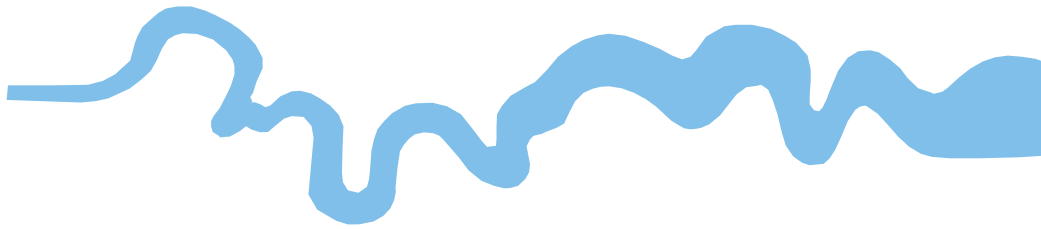


T V A S



SOUTH

**Knights Court, South Road, South Chailey,
Lewes, East Sussex**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Odile Rouard

Site Code: HBL19-56KC

(TQ 3968 1589))

**Knights Court, South Road, South Chailey,
Lewes, East Sussex**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Antler Homes**

by Odile Rouard
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HBL 19/56KC

December 2019

Summary

Site name: Knights Court, South Road, South Chailey, Lewes, East Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 3968 1589

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 3rd December 2019

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Odile Rouard

Site code: HBL 19/56KC

Planning reference: LW/17/0030

Area of site: c. 2620 sq. m.

Summary of results: The archaeological evaluation at Knights Court, 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 were recorded immediately above the natural geology, which had clearly been truncated.

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

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

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 09.12.19 Steve Preston ✓ 09.12.19
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Knights Court, South Road, South Chailey, Lewes, East Sussex An Archaeological Evaluation

by Odile Rouard

Report 19/56KC

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried at Knights Court, South Road, South Chailey, Lewes, East Sussex (TQ 3968 1589) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Jonathan Towell of Antler Homes, Portland House, Park Street, Bagshot, Surrey, GU19 5AQ.

Planning permission (LW/17/0030) has been granted by Lewes District Council to re-develop the site for residential housing. The consent was subject to two conditions (25 and 26) 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. 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 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 the 3rd of December 2019, and the site code is HBL 19/56KC. The archive is presently held at TVAS Brighton, and will be deposited with a suitable depository in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the east of the A275 to the south of South Chailey, north of Lewes in East Sussex, and is centred on NGR TQ 3968 1589 (Figs 1 and 2). It consists of an irregular shaped area comprising a building, recently demolished. The general topography of the site was flat and the height above Ordnance Datum was approximately 28m. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Weald Clay - sandstone (BGS 1980), and this was confirmed during the evaluation. 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 considered in a desk-based assessment (Gailey 2014). In summary, the site is located in the Weald which is thought to have been heavily wooded until the post-medieval period. Until recently, very little prehistoric activity had been recorded although finds of flintwork suggested that the area had been utilized by Mesolithic hunter-gatherers. However, this paucity of evidence may be due to the fact that relatively little archaeological fieldwork has been carried out. Indeed, settlement evidence from the Bronze Age and Iron Age periods has been recorded during recent excavations in Burgess Hill and Broadbridge Heath, respectively (Wallis 2012; Taylor 2017). The Weald was utilized for iron production during the Iron Age, Roman, Saxon, medieval, and early post-medieval periods, and numerous features survive from this industry, some of the most obvious being mill ponds which were used to power the foundries. The East Sussex Historic Environment Record contains very little relating to the prehistoric period in the vicinity of the site. A Roman Road (Greensand Way - Margary route 140) is thought to run about 600m south of the site (Fig. 1), and Roman features including two kilns were recorded close to the road at Chiltington. Documentary evidence indicates that Hewenstreet Farm, immediately south of the present site, originated in the medieval period.

Clay extraction on the site immediately east of Knights Court (Hamsey Brickworks) had commenced by at least the mid 19th century, although it is possible that it started earlier but was not recorded on any maps. The brickworks continued in use until the late 20th century, by which time most of the eastern part of the site had been quarried away. The buildings on the present site appear to date from sometime after the 1950s. Whilst it is possible that any buried archaeology may have been destroyed by the construction of the buildings, the level of truncation in the yard areas may have been less severe.

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.

Two trenches were to be dug, each 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. 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). They were 1.80m wide, and measured respectively 21.40m and 22m in length, and 0.85m and 0.45m 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 8 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 1)

This trench was orientated approximately S-N, and was 21.40m long and up to 0.85m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.85m of modern made-ground (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench, which was heavily truncated by modern disturbances.

Trench 9 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 2)

This trench was orientated approximately W-E, and was 22m long and up to 0.45m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.45m of made-ground (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench. The whole eastern part of the trench served as a dump for modern rubbish and was not fully excavated.

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

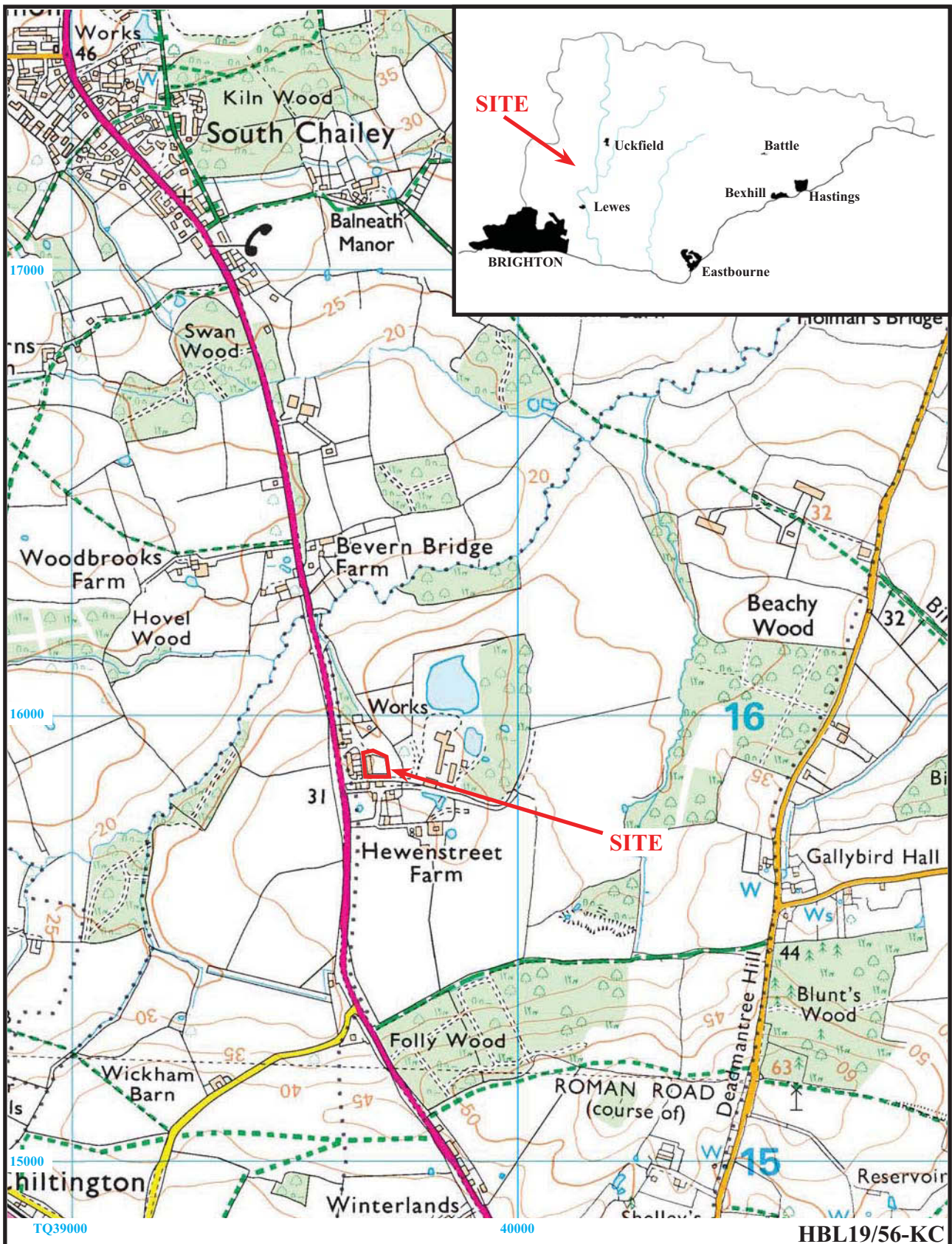
The archaeological evaluation at Knights Court, South Road, South Chailey successfully investigated those areas which will be most affected by the re-development of the site. No archaeological finds or features were recorded, and it appears that the site was significantly disturbed in the past, as made ground and re-deposited natural were recorded immediately above the natural geology, which had clearly been truncated.

References

- BGS, 1980, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 320/321, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Gailey, S, 2014, 'Old Hamsey Brickworks, Lewes, an archaeological desk-based assessment', CgMs Consulting, London
- NPPF, 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework* (revised), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London
- Taylor, A, 2017, 'Early to Middle Iron Age occupation north of Old Guildford Road, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, West Sussex', in J McNicoll-Norbury, D Sanchez, A Taylor, F Thompson and S Wallis, *Archaeological Investigations in Sussex: Prehistoric and Roman features in Selsey, Worthing, Angmering and Horsham, and Medieval occupation in Hailsham, Horsham and Crawley*, TVAS Occas Pap 17, Reading, 41–7
- Wallis, S, 2012, *Middle/Later Bronze Age Occupation at Manor Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex*, TVAS Occas Pap 9, Reading

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

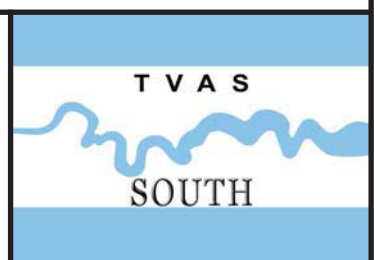
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
8	21.40	1.80	0.85	0-0.85m made-ground (51); 0.85m+ natural geology (Weald Clay Formation). [Pl. 1]
9	22	1.80	0.45	0-0.45m made-ground (51); 0.45m+ natural geology (Weald Clay Formation). [Pl. 2]

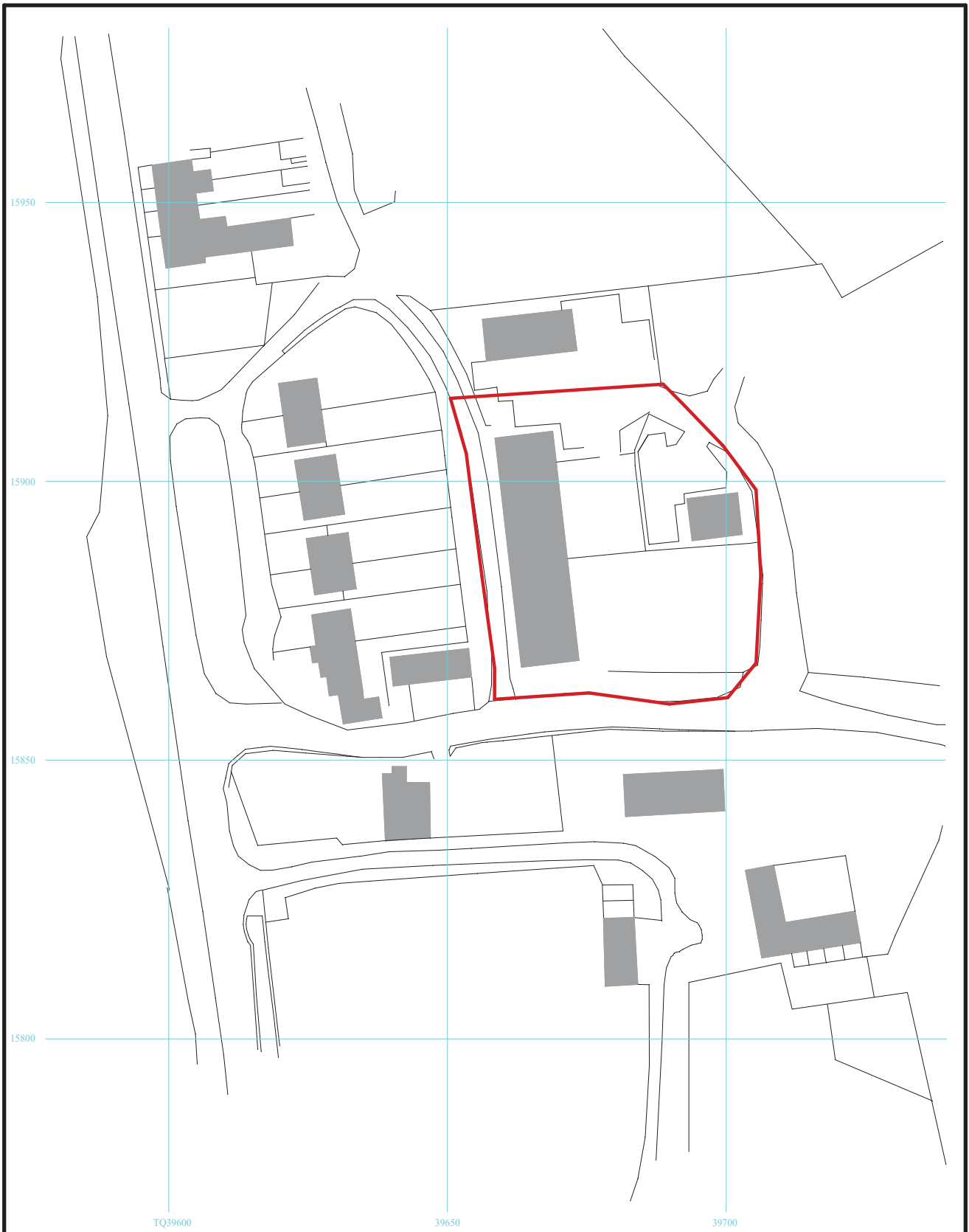


**Knights Court, South Road, South Chailey,
Lewes, East Sussex, 2019
Archaeological Evaluation**

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

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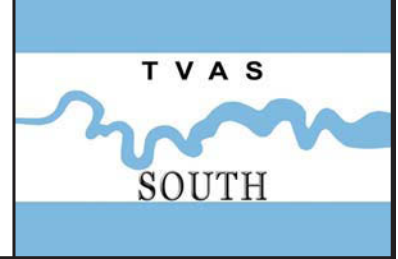


HBL 19/56 -KC



**Knights Court, South Road, South Chailey
Lewes, East Sussex, 2019
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site.



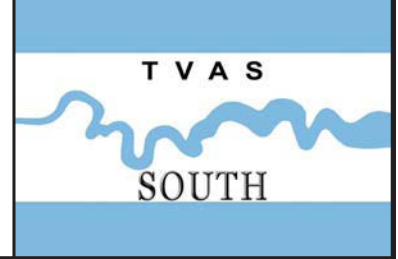


HBL 19/56 -KC



**Knights Court, South Road, South Chailey
Lewes, East Sussex, 2019
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Detailed location of site and trenches excavated.



Trench 8

S _____ N 28.90m AOD

Made ground (51)

----- Base of trench and top of natural geology (Head)

Trench 9

S _____ N 28.71m AOD

Made ground (51)

----- Base of trench and top of natural geology (Head)

HBL19/56-KC

**Knights Court, South Road, South Chailey
Lewes, East Sussex, 2019
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Trench sections.

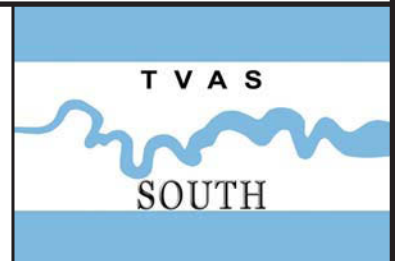




Plate 1. Trench 8, looking North.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 2. Trench 9, looking West.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.

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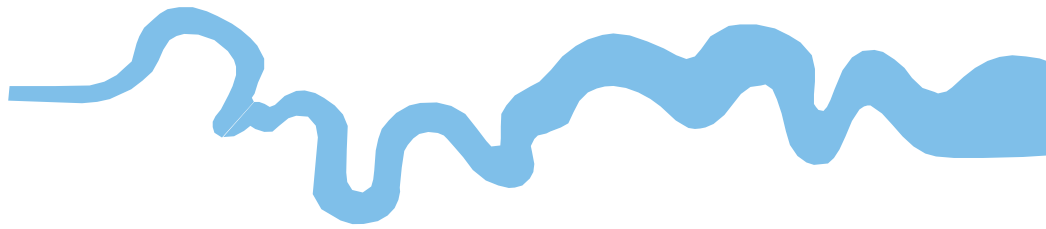
Knights Court, South Road, South Chailey
Lewes, East Sussex, 2019
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 to 2.



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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