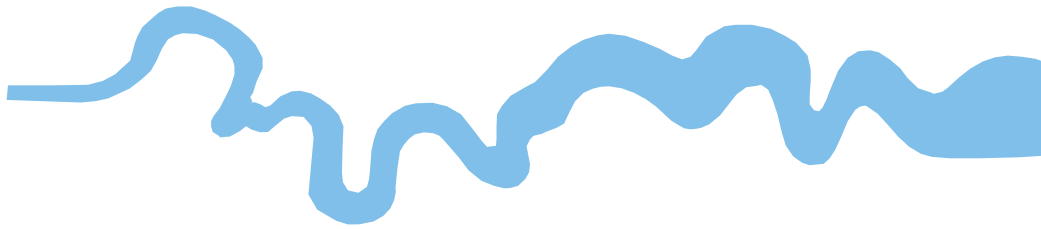


T V A S



SOUTH

**10 John Street, Shoreham-by-Sea,
West Sussex**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Site Code: JSS20/34

(TQ 2148 0507)

**10 John Street, Shoreham-by-Sea,
West Sussex**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Machin Investments Ltd**

Planning reference : AWDM/0741/18

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code JSS 20/34

March 2020

Summary

Site name: 10 John Street, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 2148 0507

Site activity: Evaluation

Planning reference: AWDM/0741/18

Date and duration of project: 4th - 5th March 2020

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Sean Wallis

Site code: JSS 20/34

Area of site: c. 540 sq m

Summary of results: The archaeological evaluation at 10 John Street, Shoreham-by-Sea, successfully investigated those parts of the site which had not obviously been disturbed by the construction of the existing garages. A layer of buried garden soil was recorded across the site, beneath concrete or Tarmac hardstandings, and varying amounts of modern made ground. A number of pits were recorded, including at least three dating from the medieval period. However, the relatively shallow depth of these cut features suggests that the original ground level may have been reduced between the medieval period and the build up of garden soil across the site. No medieval material was recovered from the buried soil horizon. The other features recorded during the evaluation consisted of a late 19th-century well, the robbed out footings of a possible wall, and a probable 19th-century cellar.

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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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 19.03.20 Steve Preston ✓ 19.03.20

10 John Street, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex An Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Report 20/34

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried at 10 John Street, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex (TQ 2148 0507) (Figs. 1 and 2). The work was commissioned by Mr William Bedford of Orion Heritage, on behalf of Machin Investments Ltd, 27 Buckingham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, BN14 5AU.

Planning permission (AWDM/0741/18) has been granted by Adur District Council to develop the derelict garage site for residential purposes. This will comprise the demolition of the existing structures on the site, and the construction of new residential buildings. 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 inform a mitigation strategy if required.

This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), and the Council's policies on archaeology and the historic environment. The field investigation was carried out to a specification prepared by Orion Heritage (OH 2020) and approved by the Local Planning Authority as advised by the West Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer. The fieldwork was undertaken by Virginia Fuentes and Sean Wallis between 4th and 5th March 2020, and the site code is JSS 20/34. The archive is presently held at TVAS South, Brighton, and will be deposited with a suitable repository in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the east of John Street, within the historic core of Shoreham-by-Sea, and is centred on NGR TQ 2148 0507 (Figs 1 and 2). The site is occupied by garages which are located around an eastern yard area, and the access driveway from John Street. There is a small car parking area in front of the garages immediately east of the street. The site is relatively flat, at a height of *c.* 5m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Head Deposits (BGS 2006). The natural geology exposed

in the trenches consisted of a light orange brown silty clay, with very occasional gravel inclusions. This deposit was seen to become more gravelly at depth in the test pit (trench 6).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site largely stems from its location within the historic core of *New Shoreham*, which is first recorded in the 12th century. It is likely that the settlement was established after the river approach to Old Shoreham (to the north) became difficult for larger ships to navigate. It is thought that the present site may have been within an area of burgage plots during the medieval period. Although evidence of medieval activity was recorded during archaeological work opposite the site, at 5 John Street, no remnants of the street frontage or burgage plot boundaries was observed (OH 2020).

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 any evidence of medieval burgage plots is present; and
- to determine if archaeological deposits from the medieval or early post-medieval periods are present.

Two trenches were to be dug, along with three smaller test pits. The trenches were positioned to target those parts of the site which had not obviously been disturbed by the garages. 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

Prior to the commencement of the project, it was agreed that the trench in the eastern part of the site would be slightly shorter, to allow for a narrow trench to be dug for soakage testing. As a result, a total of six trenches or test pits were dug (Fig. 3). The trenches measured between 1.20m and 5.65m in length, and between 0.54m and 0.90m in depth. A complete list of the trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The excavated features are summarized in Appendix 2.

Trench 1 (Figs 3, 4 and 6; Pls 1 and 2)

This trench was orientated approximately N-S, and was 5.65m long and up to 0.84m deep. The remains of a probable chalk yard surface (67) were exposed immediately below the Tarmac in the northern part of the trench. This surface was about 0.26m thick, and lay above a layer of dark brownish grey clayey silt (50) which was interpreted as representing buried garden soil. In this part of the trench the natural silty clay geology was revealed beneath about 0.23m of buried soil (50) and 0.14m of subsoil (51). At the southern end of the trench the area had been disturbed by various service trenches. A brick-built well (59) was recorded in the central part of the trench. The feature had an external diameter of about 0.90m, but no construction cut was visible. A brick sample was taken which appears to date the feature to the mid to late 19th century. The well had been backfilled with soil (60), but this deposit was not sampled.

A probable pit (7) was partially exposed at the southern end of the trench. This feature measured at least 1.60m by 1.10m, but a hand dug slot revealed that it was only 0.22m deep. The pit was filled with a deposit of mid reddish brown silty clay (61), which contained two sherds of medieval pottery.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3, 4 and 6; Pls. 3 and 4)

This trench was excavated in the access road, and was 1.40m long and up to 0.90m deep. The size of the trench was restricted due to the logistical problems of digging in a narrow part of the site. Following the removal of 0.38m of concrete and made ground, the natural geology was revealed beneath 0.31m of buried soil (50) and 0.11m of subsoil (51). A sub-circular pit (1) was partially exposed in the eastern half of the trench. The pit measured at least 0.90m by 0.64m, but was only 0.28m deep. Two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from its single fill of mid reddish brown clayey silt (52), along with a small piece of slate and two fragments of animal bone.

Trench 3 (Figs 3, 4 and 6; Pl. 5)

This trench was also excavated in the access road, and was 1.28m long and up to 0.54m deep. Once again, the size of the trench was restricted due to the logistical problems of digging in a narrow part of the site. The buried soil horizon (50) was revealed beneath 0.35m of concrete and made ground, and the remains of a probable wall footing (57) were exposed in the southern part of the trench when the buried soil was being removed. The wall footing consisted of a mixture of limestone blocks, large beach pebbles and smaller chalk fragments. A probable robber trench (6) was identified in the eastern and western sides of the trench, and it is therefore likely that the upper parts of wall 57 had been removed in the past. The robber trench was backfilled with loose rubble (58). Due to the presence of the wall footing the trench was not excavated deep enough to expose the subsoil and natural geology.

Trench 4 (Figs 3, 4 and 7; Pl. 6)

This trench was also excavated in the access road, and was 1.20m long and up to 0.90m deep. Once again, the size of the trench was restricted due to the logistical problems of digging in a narrow part of the site. The natural geology was revealed beneath 0.32m of concrete and made ground, 0.39m of buried soil (50), and 0.09m of subsoil (51). The natural geology was only seen in the northern part of the trench, as a probable pit (2) was partially exposed. This pit was only 0.24m deep, and the only find from its fill of mid reddish brown silty clay (53) was a fragment of animal bone.

Trench 5 (Figs 3, 5 and 7; Pls 7 and 8)

This trench was excavated close to John Street, aligned parallel to the street frontage, and was 3.20m long and up to 0.90m deep. A backfilled cellar was encountered at the southern end of the trench, immediately below 0.48m of concrete and made ground. The northern cellar wall (62) was exposed, and this was seen to be up to 0.35m wide and constructed from flint pebbles within an off-white lime-mortar matrix. No dating evidence was retrieved from this feature, and further excavation was hindered by the loose nature of the backfilled material (68). To the north of wall 62 the partial remains of a possible floor surface (65) were revealed beneath 0.72m of concrete and made ground. This surface comprised a thin layer of yellow clay, up to 0.08m thick. A layer of reddish buried soil (66), up to 0.10m thick, was recorded below layer 65, and immediately above the natural geology.

Pit 3 was partially exposed along the western side of the trench. The pit measured at least 1.25m by 0.25m, and was at least 0.40m deep. It had a single fill of mid reddish brown clayey silt (54) which contained a large number of oyster shells and a small fragment of medieval tile. Another sub-circular pit (4) was partially exposed in the north-east corner of the trench, and measured at least 0.70m by 0.60m. Pit 4 was only 0.21m deep, with a single fill of mid reddish brown clayey silt (55) which contained a tiny fragment of late post-medieval pottery and a small piece of slate.

Trench 6 (Figs. 3, 5 and 7; Pl. 9)

This trench in the south-east part of the site was primarily excavated so that a soakage test could be carried out. As a result, the trench was 3.40m long, but only 0.45m wide. The natural geology was revealed beneath 0.37m of concrete and made ground, 0.44m of buried soil (50), and 0.09m of subsoil (51). A large pit (5) was recorded in the central part of the trench, and it was agreed that this could be machined out under archaeological supervision. The base of the pit was observed about 1.40m below the ground surface, but no dating evidence was recovered from its fill of mid reddish brown clayey silt (56). Excavation of the trench continued to a depth of 2.40m.

Finds

Pottery by Luke Barber

The archaeological evaluation recovered just five sherds of pottery, weighing 19g, from three contexts (Appendix 3). Medieval fabrics have been given a short descriptive name as well as their county code (Barber 2011), while the post-medieval one has been listed by common name only. Overall the pottery consists of small to medium-sized sherds with no or limited signs of abrasion and does not appear to have been subjected to any significant reworking.

Most of the assemblage is of medieval date and more specifically of the 13th to 14th centuries. That from pit 1 (52) appears to be the earliest, perhaps of the first half of the 13th century while the material from pit 7 (61) appears to be more in keeping with a mid 13th to 14th century date. However, such dating, based on a mere two sherds in each case, can only be tentative. The only later pottery is the pearlware found in pit 4 (55) associated with medieval slate.

Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

A small assemblage of brick and tile was recovered during the archaeological work. The material is generally in fresh condition (Appendix 4). The ceramic building material is of two distinct phases – the earliest being a tiny piece of peg tile from pit 3 (54). This is the only ceramic from this deposit but the single tiny piece of tile is not enough (in size or quantity) to securely date the context. The brick sample from well 59 is more conclusive in its late post-medieval date.

Worked stone by Luke Barber

The evaluation recovered just two pieces of stone (Appendix 5), both fragments of medieval roofing slate. This type was common on buildings of some substance, particularly during the 13th and 14th centuries. It was particularly prolific along the coastal fringe where the sea-borne trade gave easy access to the material.

Animal Bone by Ceri Falys

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from three pits within the evaluated area. Weighing 71g, a total of four fragments of non-human bone were present for analysis (Appendix 6). The remains were well preserved, although all showed some degree of fragmentation.

One “large” animal (cattle or horse) was represented by two fragments of rib from pit 1 (52), which were able to be refit into the vertebral end (“head”). Mandibular fragments of “medium” sized animal(s) (sheep/goat or pig) were recovered from each of pit 2 and pit 3. The right side of a mandible with in situ teeth, was recovered from pit 2 (53). The teeth resemble the shape and size of a sheep/goat. The second “medium” sized fragment, recovered from pit 3 (54) was the mandibular ascending ramus of an unidentified species. This mandibular fragment displayed evidence of butchery practices, in the form of transverse linear cutmarks that severed the ascending ramus from the body of the mandible. A cut mark also severed the posterior edge of the coronoid process. No further information could be retrieved from the small assemblage of animal bone.

Conclusion

The archaeological evaluation at 10 John Street, Shoreham-by-Sea, successfully investigated those parts of the site which had not obviously been disturbed by the construction of the existing garages. A layer of buried garden soil was recorded across the site, beneath the concrete or Tarmac hardstandings, and varying amounts of modern made ground. A number of pits were recorded, including at least three dating from the medieval period, and albeit dating evidence was meagre, it was consistent. However, the relatively shallow depth of these cut features suggests that the original ground level may have been reduced at some time between the medieval period and the build up of garden soil across the site. No medieval material was recovered from the buried soil horizon. The other features recorded during the evaluation consisted of a late 19th-century well, the robbed out footings of a possible wall, and a probable 19th -century cellar.

References

- Barber, L, 2011, ‘The Pottery’ in S, Stevens, *Archaeological investigations of medieval and post-medieval Ropetackle, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex*, Sussex Archaeological Collections **149**, 72-121.
- BGS, 2006, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet **318/333**, Bedrock and Superficial Deposits Edition, Keyworth
- NPPF, 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework* (revised), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London
- OH, 2020, 'Land off John Street, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex: Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation', Orion Heritage unpublished document, reference **PN2081**, Brighton.

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	5.65	1.60	0.84	North End: 0-0.13m Tarmac; 0.13-0.39m chalk layer (67); 0.39-0.62m buried soil (50); 0.62-0.76m subsoil (51); 0.76-0.84m+ natural geology (light orange brown silty clay). South End: 0-0.13m Tarmac; 0.13-0.54m made ground (67); 0.54-0.62m buried soil (50); 0.62-0.76m subsoil (51); 0.76-0.84m+ natural geology (light orange brown silty clay). Well 59 and pit 7. [Pls 1 and 2]
2	1.40	1.20	0.90	0-0.20m Concrete; 0.20-0.38m made ground; 0.38-0.69m buried soil (50); 0.69-0.80m subsoil (51); 0.80-0.90m+ natural geology (light orange brown silty clay). Pit 1. [Pls 3 and 4]
3	1.28	1.20	0.54	0-0.09m Concrete; 0.09-0.35m made ground; 0.35-0.54m buried soil (50). Wall footings 57, robber cut 6. [Pl. 5]
4	1.20	1.20	0.90	0-0.10m Concrete; 0.10-0.32m made ground; 0.32-0.71m buried soil (50); 0.71-0.80m subsoil (51); 0.80-0.90m+ natural geology (light orange brown silty clay). Pit 2. [Pl. 6]
5	3.20	1.30	0.90	North End: 0-0.13m Concrete; 0.13-0.48m compact made ground (64); 0.48-0.72m loose made ground (63); 0.72-0.80m yellowish clay layer (65); 0.80-0.90 dark reddish grey soil (66); 0.90m+ natural geology (light orange brown silty clay). South End: 0-0.22m Concrete; 0.22-0.40m made ground; 0.40-0.76m+ loose rubble (68). Pits 3 and 4, wall 62. [Pls 7 and 8]
6	3.40	0.45	2.80	0-0.08m Concrete; 0.08-0.37m made ground; 0.37-0.81m buried soil (50); 0.81-0.90m subsoil (51); 0.90-2.80m+ natural geology (light orange brown silty clay at top). Pit 5. [Pl. 9]

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence / comments</i>
2	1	52	Pit	Medieval	Pottery
4	2	53	Pit	Undated	
5	3	54	Pit	Medieval ?	Tile
5	4	55	Pit	Late post-medieval ?	Pottery
6	5	56	Pit	Undated	
3	6	58	Robber cut	Late post-medieval / modern	
1	7	61	Pit	Medieval	Pottery
3		57	Wall footings	Undated	
1		59, 60	Well	Late 19th century	Brick
5		62	Wall	19th century ?	Stratigraphy

APPENDIX 3: Catalogue of pottery

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
2	1	52	Abundant fine alluvial grits (F+s/M5)	EM/HM	1	4	Cooking pot (oxidized, externally sooted)
2	1	52	Moderate ill-sorted quartz (Q/M1)	HM	1	4	Cooking pot (oxidized, externally sooted)
5	4	55	Pearlware (transfer-printed)	LPM	1	1	?Cup (landscape design?)
1	7	61	Quartz and sparse shell (Q+s/M4)	HM	1	8	(reduced)
1	7	61	Fine quartz West Sussex Ware type (Q(f)/M3)	HM/LM	1	2	Jug (reduced, vertical combing under an exterior green glaze)

Periods

EM – Early Medieval c. 1050-1200/25

HM - High Medieval c. 1200/25-1350/75;

LM – Late Medieval c. 1350/75-1525/50

LPM - Late Post-Medieval c. 1750-1900+).

APPENDIX 4: Catalogue of ceramic building material

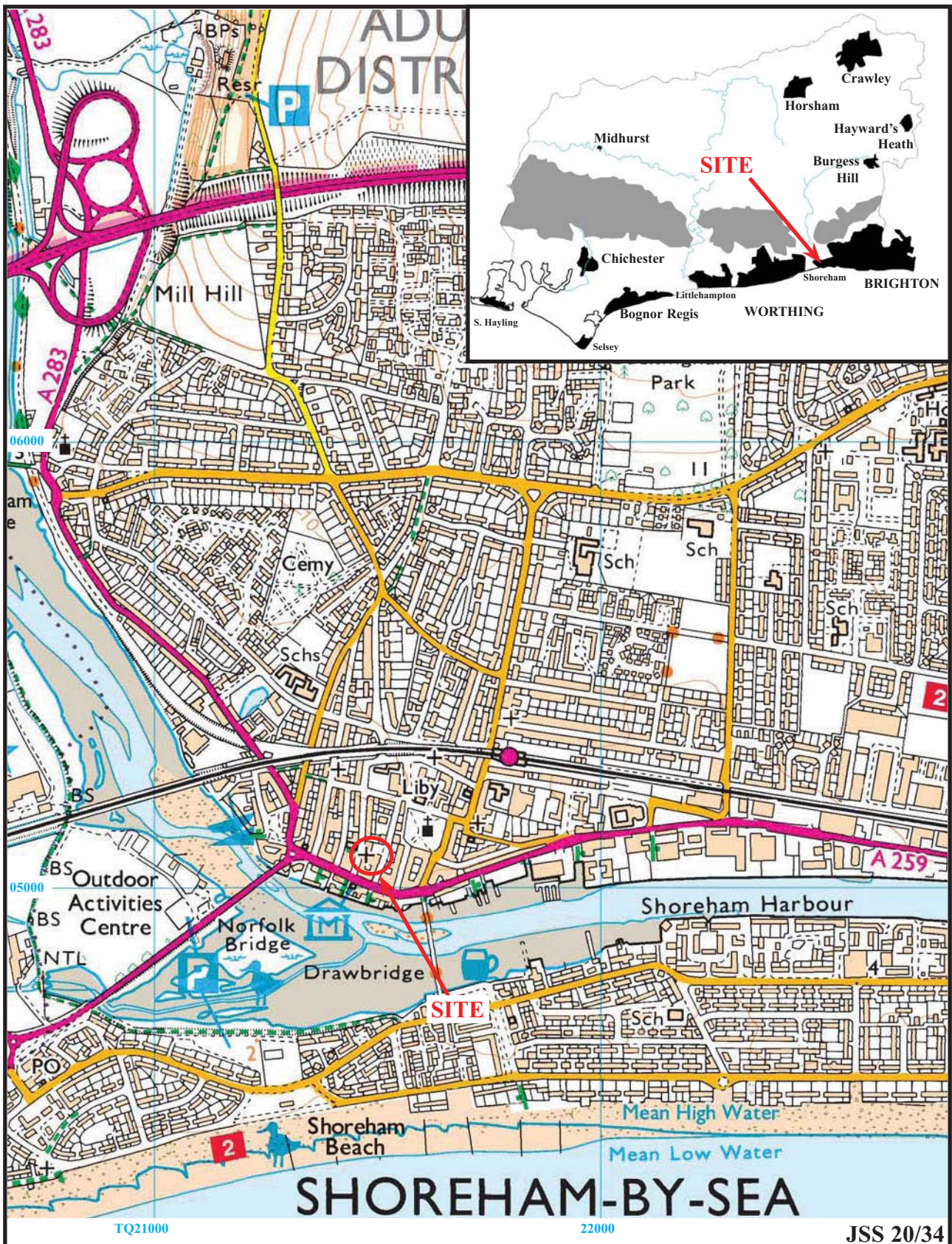
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Dimensions (mm)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
5	3	54	Peg tile	C13th-14th	1	6	13 thick	Common fine/medium quartz, rare calcareous flecks. Quite well formed and fired
1	-	59	Brick	Mid/late C19th	1	2662	230x102x65	Sample. 100% complete. Iron oxide/slaggy fabric. Quite well formed with U-profiled frog. Medium fired

APPENDIX 5: Catalogue of Stone

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	Stone type	No	Wt (g)	Comments
2	1	52	West Country slate	1	4	Silver-grey
5	4	55	West Country slate	1	20	Silver-grey

APPENDIX 6: Catalogue of animal bone

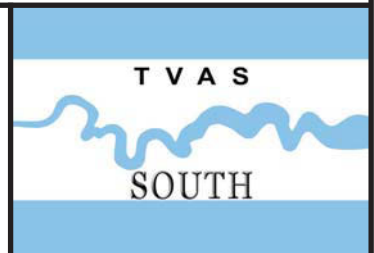
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>No frags</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Large</i>	<i>Sheep/goat</i>	<i>Medium</i>	
2	1	52	2	10	2	-	-	rib (vertebral end)
4	2	53	1	25	-	1 (?)	-	sheep/goat sized teeth in right mandibular fragment
5	3	54	1	36	-	-	1	

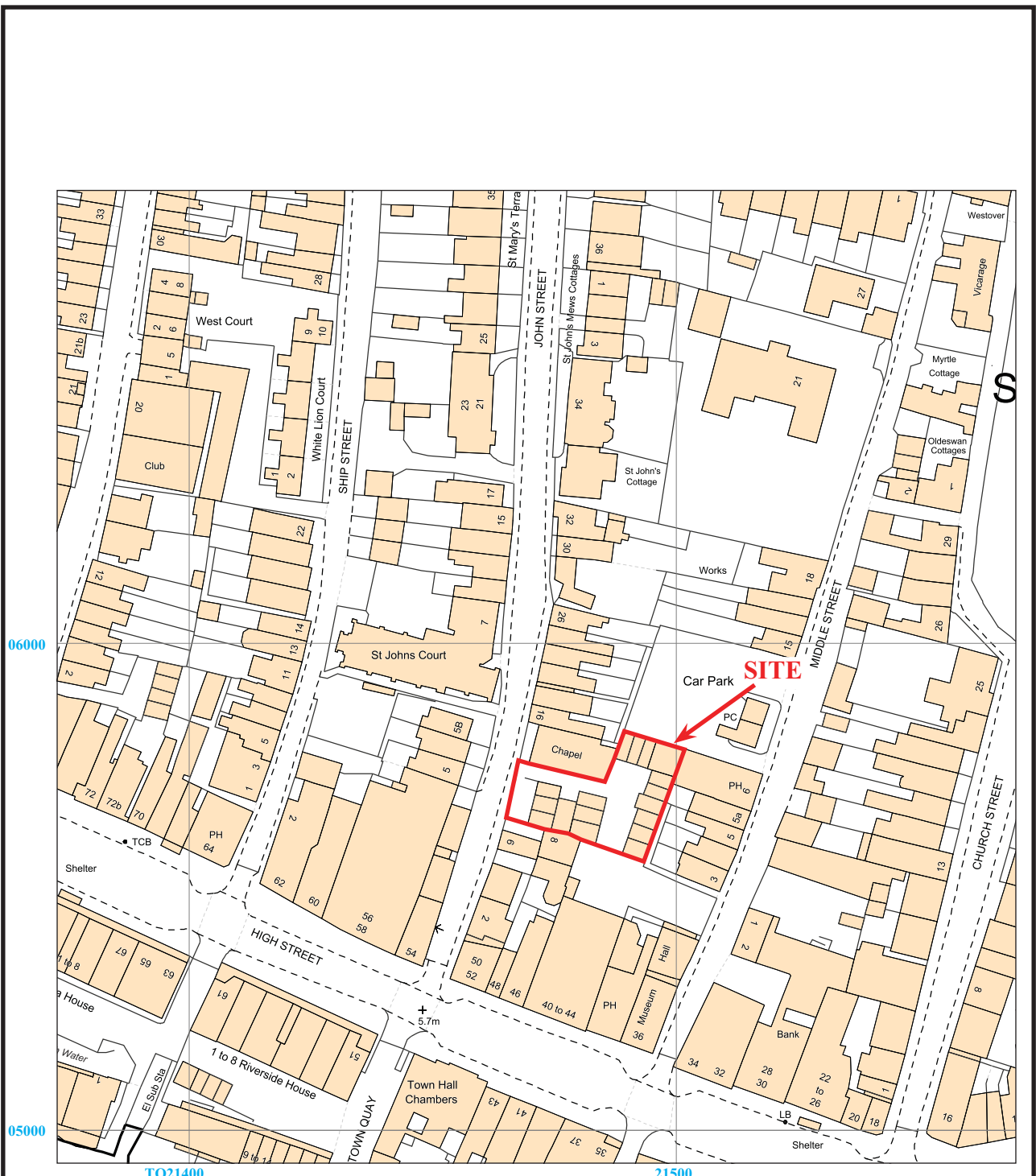


10 John Street, Shoreham-by-Sea,
West Sussex, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 1. Location of site within Shoreham-by-Sea and West Sussex.

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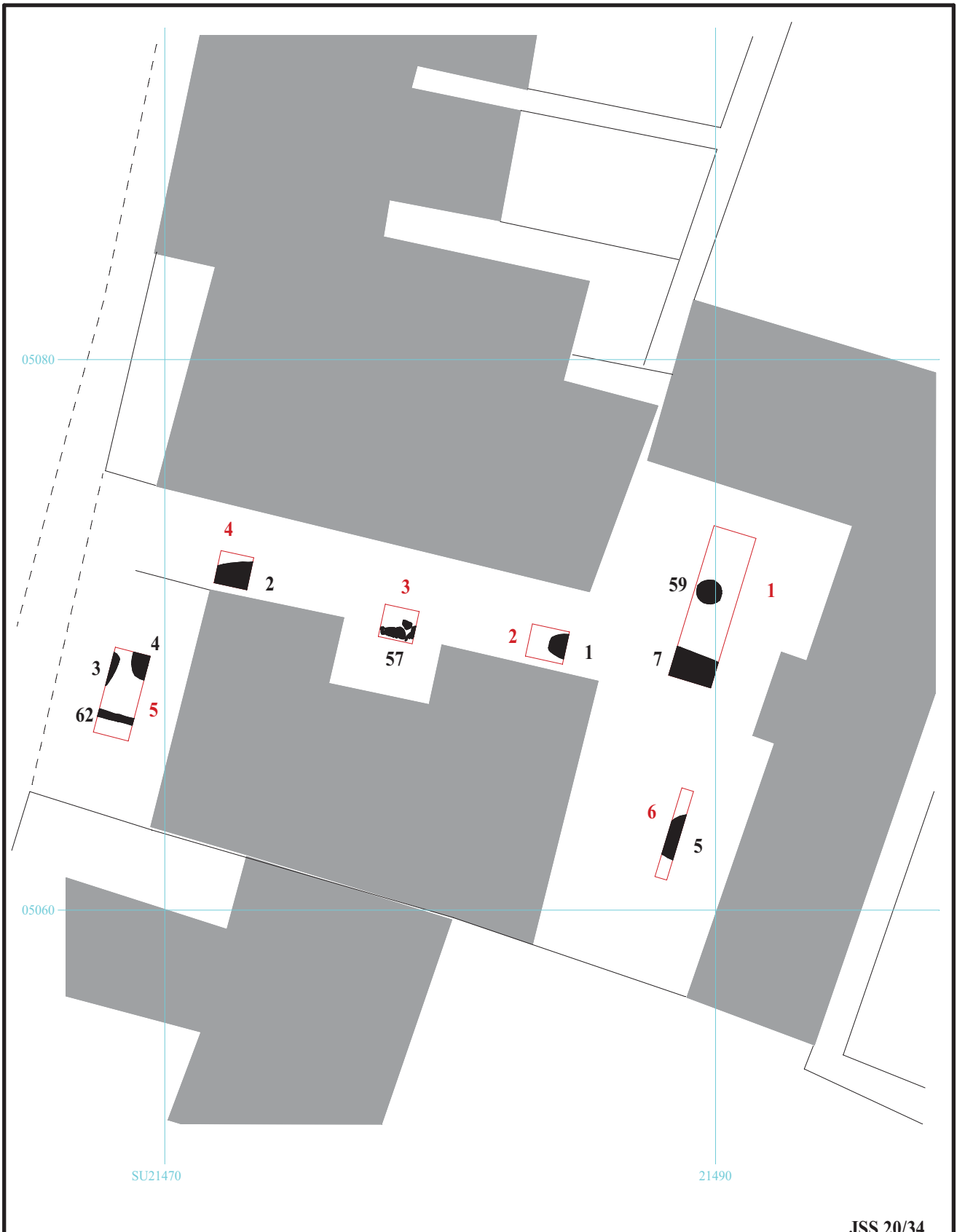
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Figure 2. Detailed site location.

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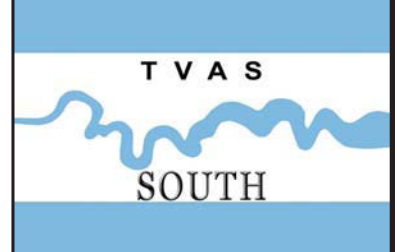


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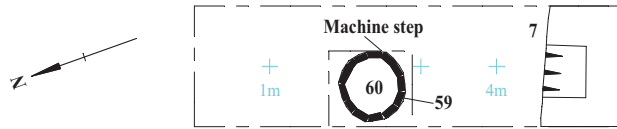


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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Site plan showing evaluation trenches and archaeological features.



Trench 1



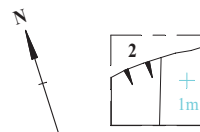
Trench 2



Trench 3



Trench 8



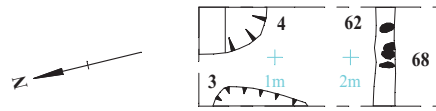
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Archaeological Evaluation

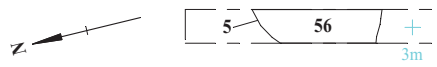
Figure 4. Plan of trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4.



Trench 5



Trench 6



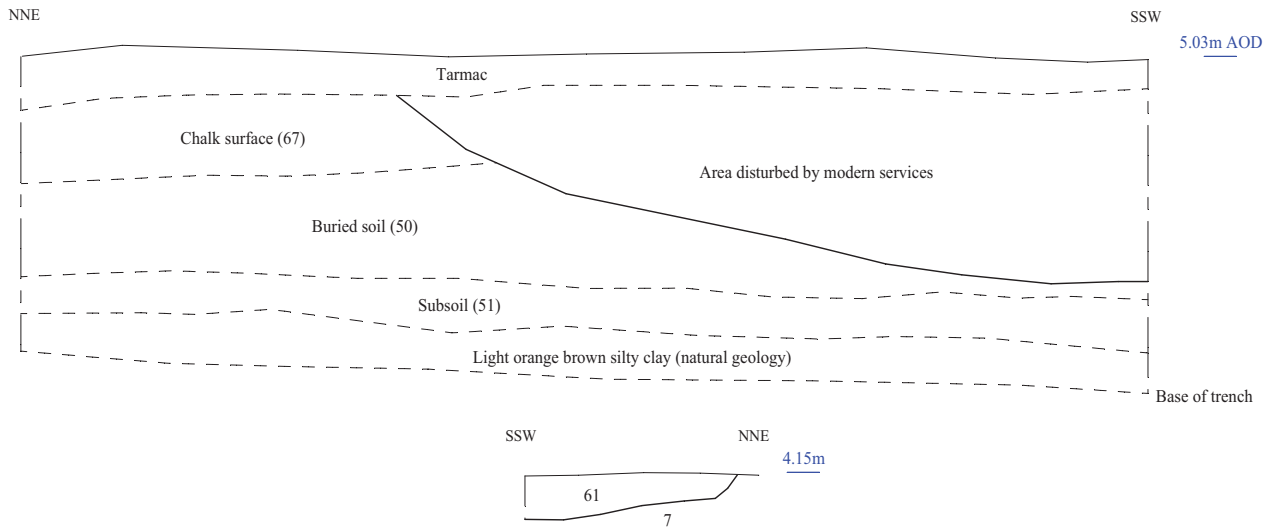
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**10 John Street, Shoreham-by-Sea,
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Archaeological Evaluation**

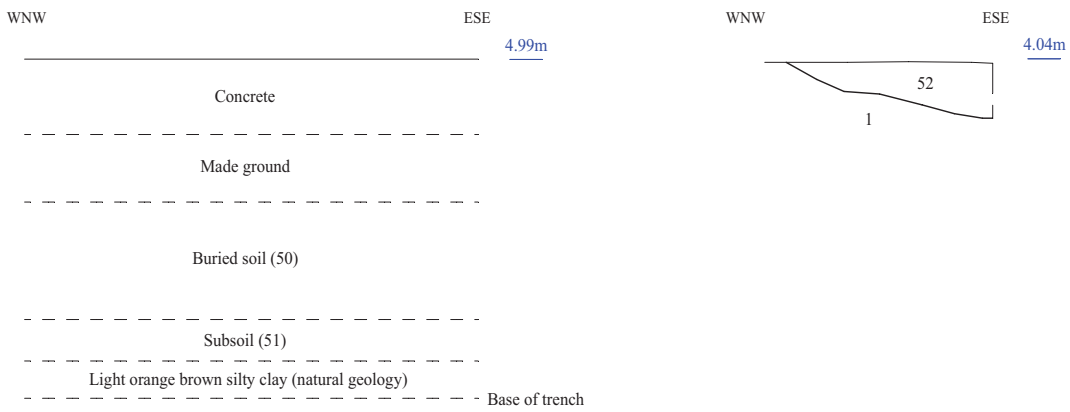
Figure 5. Plan of trenches 5 and 6.



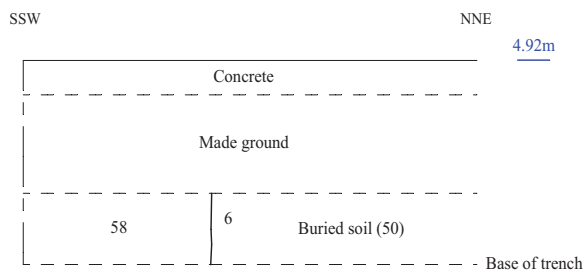
Trench 1



Trench 2



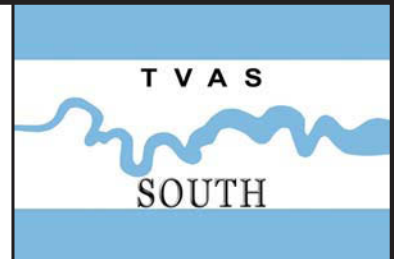
Trench 3



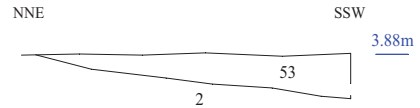
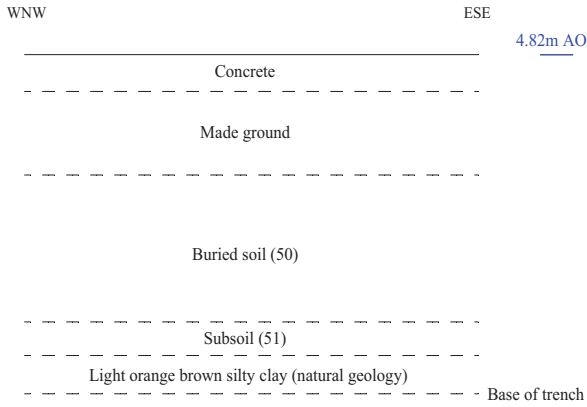
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Archaeological Evaluation

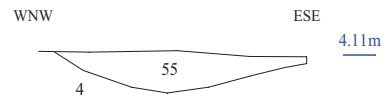
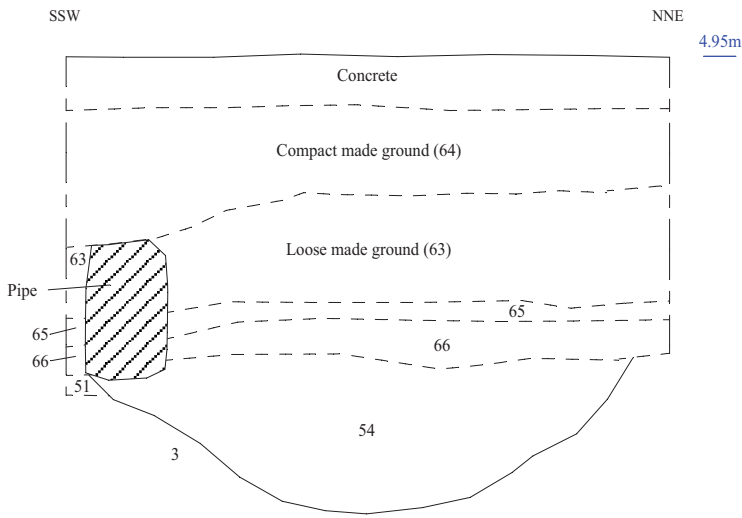
Figure 5. Sections.



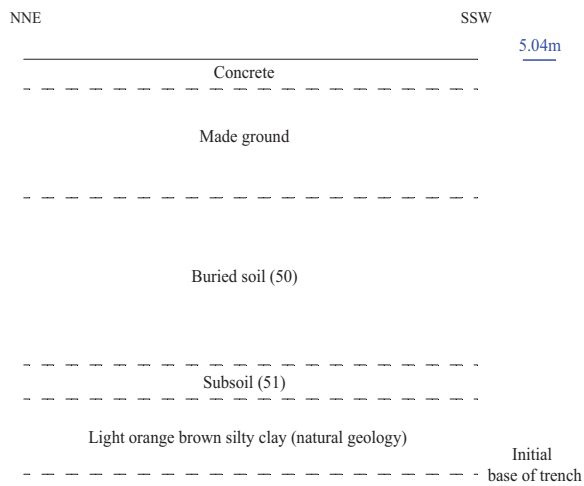
Trench 4



Trench 5



Trench 6



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Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 7. Sections.

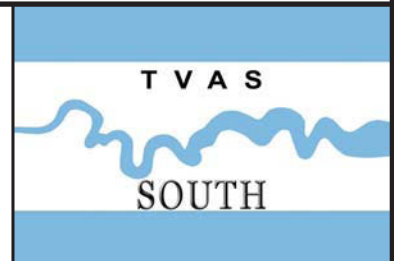




Plate 1. Trench 1, looking North.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 2. Trench 1, well 59, looking North.
Scales: 0.50m and 0.30m.



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



Plate 4. Trench 2, pit 1, looking North.
Scales: 0.50m and 0.30m.



Plate 5. Trench 3, wall footings 57, looking South.
Scales: 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 6. Trench 4, looking East.
Scales: 1m and 0.50m

JSS 20/34

10 John Street, Shoreham-by-Sea,
West Sussex, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 to 6.

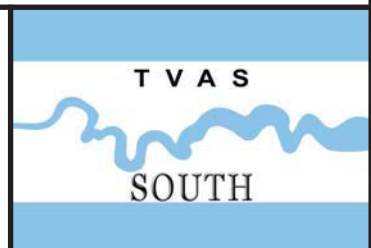




Plate 7. Trench 5, looking South.
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 8. Trench 5, pit 3, looking West.
Scales: 1m and 0.30m.



Plate 9. Trench 6, looking South.
Scale: 2m.

JSS 20/34

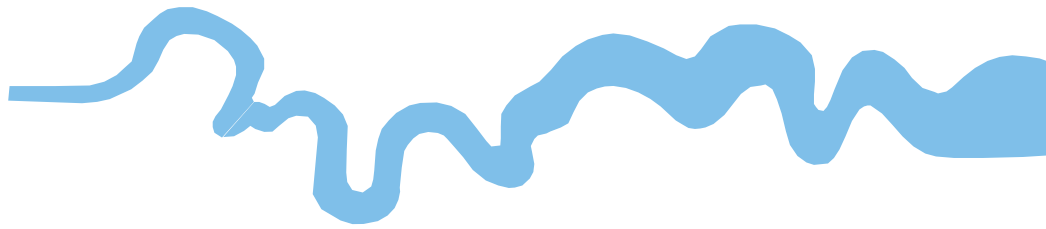
10 John Street, Shoreham-by-Sea,
West Sussex, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 7 to 9.



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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