

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Whitehawk Camp, Whitehawk, Brighton

Scheduled Ancient Monument No. 20176

**NGR 533001 104756
(TQ 33001 04756)**

**Project No: 4267
Site Code: WCB 10**

**ASE Report No. 2010035
OASIS id: archaeol6-75544**

Nick Garland MA

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April 2010

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at University College London, was commissioned by Brighton and Hove City Council to undertake a archaeological watching brief at Whitehawk Camp, Whitehawk, Brighton, (NGR 533001 104756). The work was undertaken between the 23rd and 26th March 2010.

Excavations included the removal of an unauthorised earth bund, the removal of 57 oak posts, the erection of 107 new bollards and the relocation of a gateway.

No archaeological finds, deposits or features were uncovered during these works. The areas monitored during the watching brief had all been disturbed by the construction of Manor Hill in the 1930's.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at University College London, was commissioned by Brighton and Hove City Council to undertake a programme of archaeological works at Whitehawk Camp, Whitehawk, Brighton (NGR TQ 3302 0408; Fig. 1) hereafter referred to as 'the site'.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site comprises an area of Whitehawk Camp Causewayed Enclosure namely two large grassed areas on either side of Manor Hill, a road which runs east to west across the centre of the monument (Fig. 2). The site is located on a south-east facing hill which overlooks the sea.

1.2.2 The British Geological Survey (Sheet 318/333 Brighton and Worthing, Solid & Drift Edition) shows the underlying geology of the site is Upper and Middle Chalk.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The site lies within a Scheduled Ancient Monument, Whitehawk Neolithic Causewayed enclosure (SAM 20176). As such Scheduled Ancient Monument consent was applied for by Brighton and Hove City Council and granted by Paul Roberts, Ancient Monuments Inspector, English Heritage.

1.3.2 Scheduled Monument Consent was granted with the condition that an archaeological watching brief was conducted during proposed groundworks (Fig. 3) which consisted of:

- the removal of an earthen bund running parallel to Manor Hill on north side of Manor Hill
- the removal of remaining timber bollards and any concrete around their bases along both sides of Manor Hill
- the erection of 51 bollards on north side of Manor Hill
- the erection of 57 bollards on south side of Manor Hill
- the removal of gateposts on the north side of Manor Hill and relocation closer to pavement in line with new bollards (BHCC 2010).

1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the watching brief was prepared by ASE and approved by Paul Roberts in advance of groundworks taking place.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the findings of the watching brief which was undertaken by Nick Garland and Liane Peyre between the 23rd and 26th March 2010. The project was managed by Dan Swift (Project Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Summary

2.1.1 The site lies within the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Whitehawk Camp, a c. 5500 year old Neolithic causewayed enclosure and one of the earliest examples of ritual monumental construction in Northern Europe. It is also one of the largest (6ha) and most complex of such monuments (Whittle et al in prep). It has been the subject of many different archaeological investigations from the 19th century to the present day (see 2.2).

2.1.2 The monument (Fig. 2) comprises of four circuits of interrupted banks and ditches. The most recent examination of Whitehawk suggests a 3-phase development, with the earliest phase of enclosure comprising the construction of the inner two circuits. The second phase saw the addition of two further lines of banks and ditches. A possible third phase is represented by a tangential ditch that appears to have been added to the southern point of the 4th circuit at a later date, cutting through the silts of the earlier enclosure.

2.2 Previous Work

2.2.1 There have been a series of investigations, surveys and excavations which have taken place at the monument since the 19th century. The major investigations are shown on Figure 2 and briefly outlined below (Whittle et al in prep).

- C19th – Early C20th. A series of surveys and minor investigations, culminating in the scheduling of the monument the late 1920's. Four (D1-DIV) circuits of ditches were identified by this time.
- 1929. An excavation by the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Club which investigated parts of the northern circuits of Ditches DI and DII and cut a single trench across Ditch DIII.
- 1932-1933. The excavation of parts of the south circuits of Ditches DIII and DIV. A post-built structure was identified in an entranceway in Ditch DIII. Articulated skeletons were also found in Ditch DIII.
- 1935. The excavation of a transect across the monument identifying internal pits and postholes and the further investigation ditches DI-DIV.
- 1991. Field Archaeology Unit of UCL rescue excavations and watching briefs
- 1993. RCHME earthwork survey which identified elements of two further ditch circuits in the west, abutting the west side of Ditch DII and south, abutting the south-west of Ditch DIII. A row of circular depressions, running north-south roughly along the centre line of the racecourse was also identified. This survey clearly identifies the ditch circuits D1 to DIV which are shown on Fig.4.
- 1997. ASE watching brief on erection of posts for timber bollards adjacent to Manor Hill

- 2009. ASE Topographic survey of the monument as part of a baseline survey for the future management plan of the monument. (Davidson 2009)

2.3 Earthworks visible today

2.3.1 Three concentric lines of curvilinear earthworks are still visible on the hill top today, despite truncation by the Brighton race course and Manor Hill road. The traces of some linear depressions, following the line of previously excavated ditches, are also visible in the south eastern portion of the monument as well as what is believed to be two diverging north-south lynchets.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and Objectives

3.1.1 The aims and objectives of the evaluation were laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2010):

3.1.2 The general aim of the archaeological work was to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest affected by the proposed groundworks were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.

3.2 The specific research aims for the watching brief included:

- To understand the development of the monument
- To understand the use and development of the landscape
- Identifying the line of banks and ditches
- Identifying the level of survival of archaeological remains both within banks/ditches and in the areas between banks/ditches

3.2 Methodology

3.2.1 For the complete adopted methodology, the reader is referred to the WSI (ASE 2010); what is listed here is précis of the detail contained within that report.

3.2.2 Excavations were monitored at all times by an archaeologist until it became clear beyond reasonable doubt that no archaeological remains are present (e.g. once excavation reached undisturbed natural subsoils, below which there will be no archaeological remains present). The works monitored included the removal of the bund, inspecting the holes left by removal of existing bollards, signposts and gateposts and inspecting any pits for new bollards, signposts and gateposts.

Number of Contexts	3 contexts
No. of files/paper record	1 folder
Photographs	5 Colour slide, 5 B+W, 67 Digital

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS (Fig. 4)

4.1 The works monitored associated with the development were the removal of an areas of bund, the removal of existing oak posts, the excavations of postholes for new bollards and the excavation of postholes for a new gateway.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD North of Road	Height m.AOD South of Road
1000	Deposit	Bund material	57 m	2 m	1.2 m	118.391	N/A
1001	Deposit	Topsoil	As Ex.	As Ex.	0.1 m	118.391	117.199
1002	Deposit	Made Ground	As Ex.	As Ex.	0.45 m	117.941	117.099
1003	Deposit	Chalk Natural	As Ex.	As Ex.	N/A	N/A	116.649

Table 2: Stratigraphy across site

4.2 Bund Removal (Fig 4)

4.2.1 The removal of approximately 57 metres of earthen bund was monitored by archaeologists. The material removed was a mixed deposit of dark brown sandy silt and pieces of chalk. This material was excavated down to the level of the surrounding topsoil and therefore did not impact on the existing archaeological remains. No archaeological material was recovered from this excavation and the bund is known to be of recent origin.

4.3 Removal of Oak Posts

4.3.1 Fifty-seven oak posts were removed from the northern and southern sides of Manor Hill. These post holes had been set within concrete to hold them in place and as such obscured the sides of the excavated holes and thus revealed little stratigraphy. These holes were then reused for the placement of some of the new bollards by widening them and removing some of the attached concrete. The results of these excavations are given below.

4.4 Postholes for Bollards (Fig 4)

4.4.1 One-hundred and seven postholes were excavated in order to install new bollards along the northern and southern sides of Manor Hill. Of these postholes 57 were placed within the locations of the previous oak posts. A similar stratigraphy was observed for both sides of the road.

The excavations of these postholes on the northern side of the road revealed a thin layer of topsoil, measuring 0.1 metres in depth overlying made ground down to base of the posthole excavations, approximately 0.75 metres in

depth.

The excavations on the southern side of the road revealed a similar stratigraphy. The postholes revealed a thin layer of topsoil, approximately 0.1 to 0.15 metres in depth overlaying a layer of made ground, measuring 0.4 to 0.6 metres in depth. Unlike the northern side of the road, natural chalk was encountered underneath the made ground down to the base of the excavations approximately 0.75 metres in depth.

4.5 Gateway (Fig 4)

4.5.1 Two postholes measuring 0.4 metres in length and width were excavated in order to replace an existing gateway to the western edge of the site on the north side of the Manor Hill. These postholes revealed made ground reaching a depth of 0.5 metres over natural chalk down to base of the posthole excavations, approximately 0.75 metres in depth.

5.0 DISCUSSION

5.1 No archaeological deposits, remains or features were encountered during the excavations monitored at Whitehawk Camp, Brighton.

5.2 The excavations north of Manor Hill were excavated into made ground only, not reaching the natural chalk. The postholes were excavated within a bank on the northern side of the road which slopes down towards the level of the monument. This bank represents levelling of the area in preparation for the construction of Manor Hill in the 1930's.

5.3 Natural chalk was encountered in excavations to the south of Manor Hill, however, the lack of any buried soils overlying the chalk and the presence of made ground instead suggests that this area was truncated during the construction of the Manor Hill in the 1930's.

5.4 No archaeological evidence was recovered during the watching brief and therefore no further details pertaining to the development, function or use of the monument have been uncovered. However, the work has given us further detail about the survival of the enclosure, notably the location of areas truncated by modern development through the construction of Manor Hill.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology South-East would like to thank Matt Hewes of Brighton and Hove City Council for commissioning the work and Paul Roberts of English Heritage for his guidance throughout the project.

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	WCB 10					
Identification Name and Address	Whitehawk Camp, Whitehawk, Brighton					
County, District &/or Borough	Brighton, East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	533001, 104756					
Geology	Upper and Middle Chalk					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4267					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief X	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field X	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 23/3/10 to 26/3/10	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Brighton and Hove City Council					
Project Manager	Dan Swift					
Project Supervisor	Nick Garland					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other None		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p>Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at University College London, was commissioned by Brighton and Hove City Council to undertake a archaeological watching brief at Whitehawk Camp, Whitehawk, Brighton, (NGR 533001 104756). The work was undertaken between the 23rd and 26th March 2010.</p> <p>Excavations included the removal of a unauthorised bund, the removal of 57 oak posts and the erection of 107 new bollards and the relocation of a gateway. No archaeological finds, deposits or features were uncovered during these works. The areas had all been disturbed by the construction of Manor Hill in the 1930's.</p>						

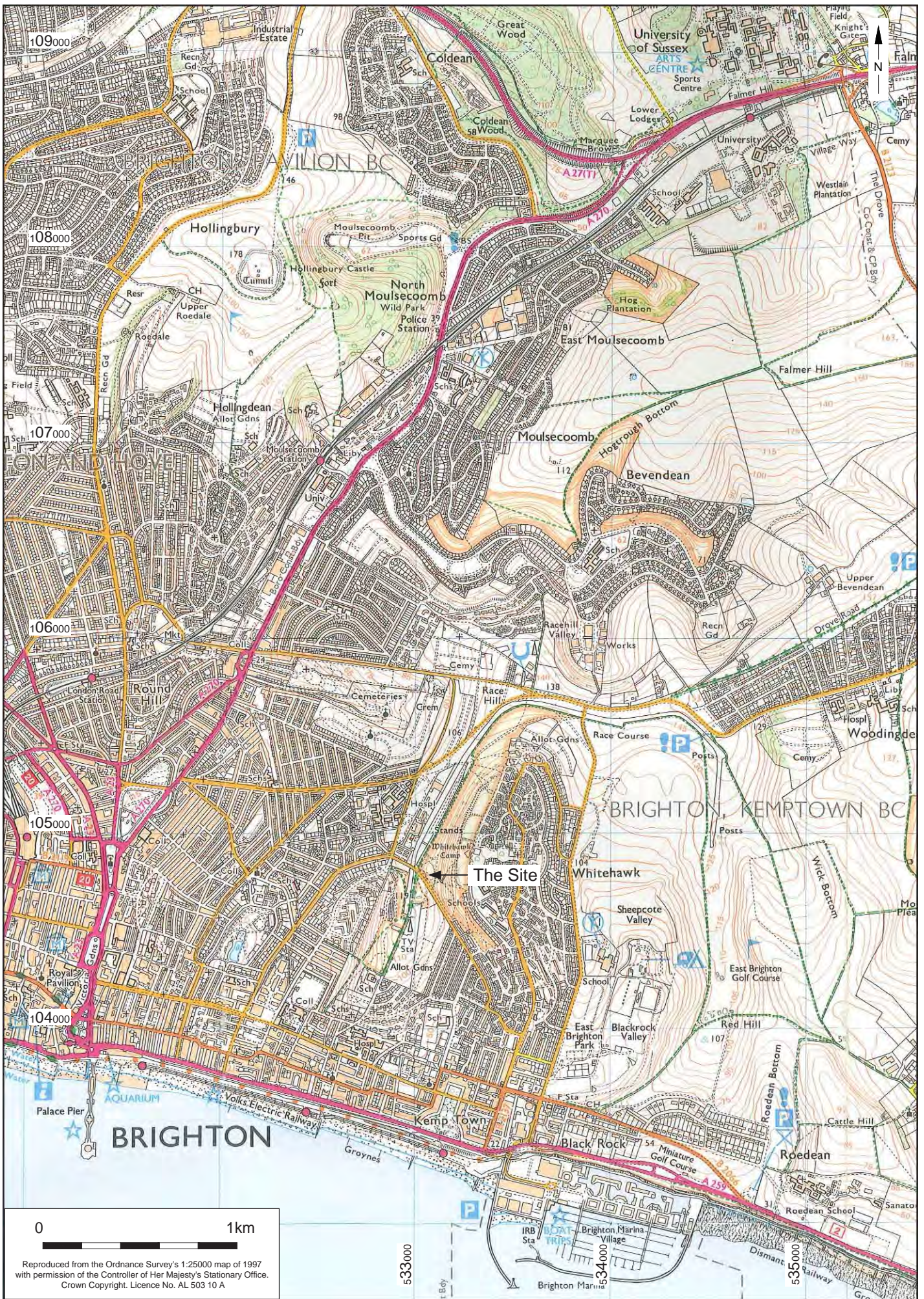
OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-75544

Project details

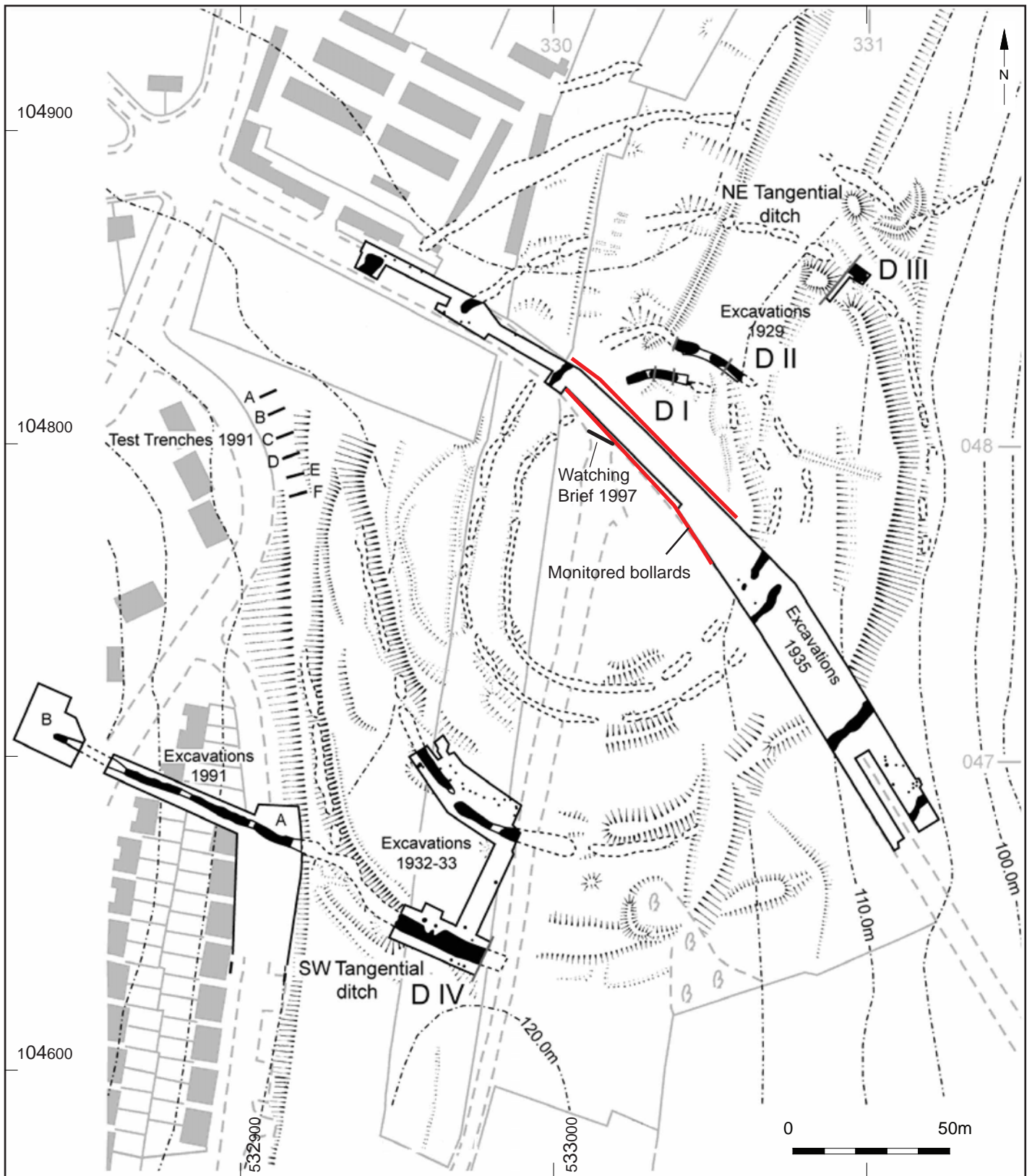
Project name	Whitehawk Camp, Brighton
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at University College London, was commissioned by Brighton and Hove City Council to undertake a archaeological watching brief at Whitehawk Camp, Whitehawk, Brighton, (NGR 533001 104756). The work was undertaken between the 23rd and 26th March 2010. Excavations included the removal of an unauthorised bund, the removal of 57 oak posts and the erection of 107 new bollards and the relocation of a gateway. No archaeological finds, deposits or features were uncovered during these works. The areas had all been disturbed by the construction of Manor Hill in the 1930's.
Project dates	Start: 23-03-2010 End: 26-03-2010
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	WCB10 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 5 - Character undetermined
Monument type	CAUSEWAYED ENCLOSURE Early Neolithic
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX BRIGHTON AND HOVE BRIGHTON Whitehawk Camp
Postcode	BN2 5
Study area	1485.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 33001 04756 50.8264690427 -0.111362291666 50 49 35 N 000 06 40 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 116.64m Max: 116.64m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Brighton and Hove City Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East

Project director/manager	Dan Swift
Project supervisor	Nick Garland
Type of sponsor/funding body	County Council
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report'
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Whitehawk Camp, Whitehawk, Brighton
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Other bibliographic details	2010035
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Place of issue or publication	Portslade
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Entered on	13 April 2010

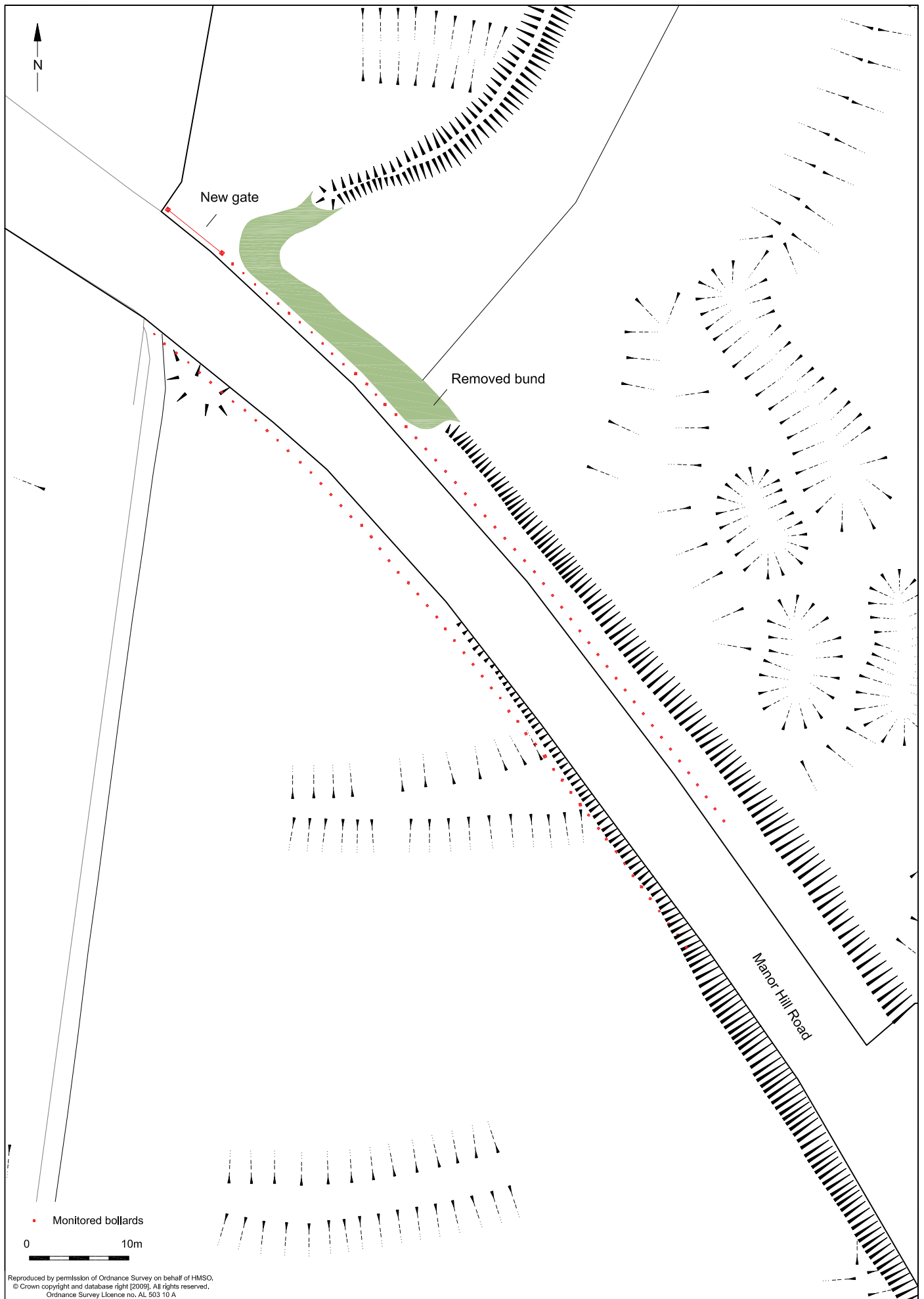


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© Archaeology South-East		Whitehawk Camp	
Project Ref: 4267	April 2010	Site location	
Report Ref: 2010035	Drawn by: JLR	Fig. 1	



© Archaeology South-East		Whitehawk Camp	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4267	April 2010	Composite plan showing area of RCHME survey, previous excavations and the area monitored in the watching brief	
Report Ref: 2010035	Drawn by: LD		



© Archaeology South-East		Whitehawk Camp	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 4267	November 2009	Site plan showing monitored works	
Report Ref: 2010035	Drawn by: LD/JR		



Fig. 4.1: Section through removed bund



Fig. 4.2: South facing section through excavated posthole south of Manor Hill Road



Fig. 4.3: Installation of new bollards, facing west

© Archaeology South-East		Whitehawk Camp	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 4267	April 2010		
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