

**Castle Square Sewer Works,
Brighton, East Sussex**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

NGR: 531238 104078

Site Code: BCS 07

Project no. 2786

June 2007

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Archaeology South-East

Archaeology South-East is a division of the University College London Field Archaeology Unit. The Institute of Archaeology at UCL is one of the largest groupings of academic archaeologists in the country. Consequently, Archaeology South-East has access to the conservation, computing and environmental backup of the college, as well as a range of other archaeological services.

The Field Archaeology Unit and South Eastern Archaeological Services (which became Archaeology South-East in 1996) were established in 1974 and 1991 respectively. Although field projects have been conducted worldwide, Archaeology South-East retains a special interest in south-east England with the majority of our contract and consultancy work concentrated in Sussex, Kent, Greater London and Essex.

Drawing on experience of the countryside and towns of the south east of England Archaeology South-East can give advice and carry out surveys at an early stage in the planning process. By working closely with developers and planning authorities it is possible to incorporate archaeological work into developments with little inconvenience.

Archaeology South-East, as part of the Field Archaeology Unit, is a registered organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists and, as such, is required to meet IFA standards.

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief of sewage works in Castle Square, Brighton, East Sussex, (NGR: 531238 104078) took place between 30th January and 6th February 2007. During the monitoring of a 20m trench excavation along Castle Square, made ground was encountered to a depth of 500mm with no further intrusive groundworks required. The majority of the trench exposed existing services and redeposits of modern material. No archaeological deposit or undisturbed geological layers were found. Excavation of a 900mm deep pit for a pumping station, revealed 600mm of concrete and 300mm of undisturbed natural chalk, with no Pleistocene deposits present.

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SMR Summary Sheet

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit (UCLFAU), were commissioned by 4 Delivery Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during sewer works at Castle Square, Brighton East Sussex (NGR 531238 104078) (Fig 1) hereafter referred to as 'the site'. The site lies in the centre of Brighton c. 300m from the present coastline
- 1.2 All of the works are underground and permitted by virtue of the General Permitted Development Order 1995, Part 16, Class A (a), a planning application was therefore not required. However, in view of 4 Delivery's commitment to local heritage and environmental issues Geoff Bennett, Planner, BHCC and Casper Johnson, County Archaeologist East Sussex County Council, were contacted to help recommend best practise regarding archaeological matters.
- 1.3 Casper Johnson recommended that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during the sewer works as the site lies within an archaeologically and paleo-archaeologically sensitive area.
- 1.4 Dr Matthew Pope of the Boxgrove Project was also contacted regarding the potential of palaeo-archaeological remains on the site and was available for site visits if required.
- 1.5 The work involved excavation and construction of a new pumping station in the basement of the Moss Bros and IKOS building and excavation of a trench for a rising main c. 0.6m wide by c. 0.5m deep by c. 20m long.
- 1.6 According to the British Geological Survey (Sheet 318/333) the site lies on Head deposits (silty loams with flint and chalk gravel) on top of Cretaceous Upper and Middle Chalk. The Head deposits are understood to fill a Pleistocene river valley.
- 1.7 The fieldwork was undertaken variously by Deon Whittaker (Assistant Archaeologist) and Clive Meaton (Archaeologist) during January and February 2007. Jon Sygrave (Senior Archaeologist) and Louise Rayner (Post-excavation Manager) managed the project.

2.0 Archaeological Background

- 2.1 Johnson (2001) undertook an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for a site in the vicinity of the Castle Square, Brighton. This work was summarised by Sygrave (2006) and is reproduced here with due acknowledgement. The East Sussex SMR records several findspots within the vicinity of the site relating to prehistoric and Roman activity

including: possible site of stone circle (under the present St Nicholas Church) to the north west of the site (ESSMR TQ30 SW4), Early Bronze Age Beaker Burials c. 500m to the west (ESSMR TQ30 SW8), Roman coins to the north east and north west (ESSMR TQ30 SW37 and TQ30 SW35), a Roman cemetery c. 500m to the north (ESSMR TQ30 SW20) and an Iron Age tumulus and Romano British cemetery (ESSMR TQ30 SW3).

- 2.2 Although no archaeological evidence of settlement dating to the Saxon period has been recorded in the area, the Church of St Nicholas to the west of the site is thought to date from this period, although the present structure was rebuilt in the 14th century.
- 2.3 The first historic reference to a settlement in the area relates to 'Bristelmestun' in the 11th century, thought to be located between St Nicholas's Church and the cliffs to the east.
- 2.4 By the mid 16th century the town was referred to as Brighthelmeston and thought to have a population of c. 2-3,000, mainly dependant on the fishing industry.
- 2.5 From the late 18th century Brighton developed rapidly becoming popular for Dr Russel of Lewes seawater cures. After the Duke of Gloucester, and subsequently his nephew The Prince of Wales, begun to visit, Brighton became in vogue and developed rapidly.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The objective of the archaeological watching brief was to record any archaeological remains exposed as a result of the groundworks. Particular attention was to be made to the character, height below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.
- 3.2 Intrusive groundworks were monitored by an archaeologist until it became clear beyond reasonable doubt that no archaeological remains were present (e.g. once excavation reached undisturbed natural subsoils).
- 3.3 All excavation was undertaken with a machine equipped with a suitably sized (600mm) toothed bucket due to the nature of the road surface and underlying concrete / made ground.
- 3.4 A further digital copy of this report (including plans, illustrations and photographs) is held by East Sussex Historic Environment Record on CD-ROM in a .pdf format.

- 3.5 An Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) form will be completed online at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> following the completion of fieldwork and a printout included as an appendix with this report.
- 3.6 The written and drawn archive will be deposited in an appropriate museum. The archive will be prepared according the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991) and the requirements of the recipient museum.
- 3.7 A full photographic record of the work was kept using digital format and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Ditchling.
- 3.8 All excavations were monitored by examining the surface of each area as it was stripped, first tarmac and then subsequent layers, also by examining the section of the trenches after they had been partially or fully excavated. Throughout the works the contractor made all the excavations fully accessible to the archaeologist and was happy to strip and re-strip according to the archaeologist's requirements until all layers were fully explored and exhausted.

4.0 RESULTS

- 4.1 An initial 20m trench was found to run along a watermain and was immediately backfilled and abandoned. A subsequent trench was dug adjacent to the first, further to the west. This was made to deviate as necessary to avoid extant services (see Figure 2).
- 4.2 The resulting trench was approximately 20m long, 0.6 m wide and 0.5 m deep. Exposing between 100 and 400mm of tarmac (Context 01) and immediately below that between 400 and 100mm of made ground (Context 2), consisting of type1 gravel, mixed reddish brown clayey silt, builders sand and concrete.
- 4.3 At the eastern-most part of the trench depths for contexts (01) and (02) were 400mm and 100mm respectively. At the mid-point along the trench the depths of contexts (01) and (02) were 100mm and 400mm respectively.
- 4.4 The excavations for the pumping station beneath Moss Bros. at 9 Castle Square were carried out without informing ASE. The contractor had monitored the excavation and reports that 600mm of concrete were excavated followed by 300mm of clean undisturbed chalk natural.
- 4.5 Similar excavations at the adjacent IKOS building, monitored by Matt

Pope produced virgin chalk only, with no Pleistocene deposits present.

5.0 SUMMARY

- 5.1 During the monitoring of a 20m trench excavation along Castle Square made ground was encountered to a depth of 500mm with no further intrusive groundworks required. The majority of the trench exposed existing services and redeposits of modern material. No archaeological deposit or undisturbed geological layers were found.
- 5.2 The excavation of a 900mm deep pit for a pumping station revealed 600mm of concrete and 300mm of undisturbed natural chalk, with no Pleistocene deposits present.

REFERENCES

Johnson, C. 2001 *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of the Jubilee Street Site, Brighton, East Sussex*. Unpub. ASE Report 1331

Sygrave, J. 2006 *Castle Square Sewer Works, Brighton, East Sussex. Archaeological Watching Brief -Written Scheme of Investigation*, unpub. ASE Report 2786, January 2006.

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	BCS07					
Identification Name and Address	Castle Square, Brighton					
County, District &/or Borough	East Sussex, Brighton					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR: 531238 104078					
Geology	Cretaceous Chalk					
Arch. South-East Project Number	2786					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban ✓	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 30 Jan – 6 Feb 07	Other		
Sponsor/Client	4D					
Project Manager	Jon Sygrave					
Project Supervisor	Deon Whittaker					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern ✓		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological watching brief of sewage works in Castle Square, Brighton, East Sussex (NGR: 531238 104078), took place between 30th January and 6th February 2007. During the monitoring of a 20m trench excavation along Castle Square made ground was encountered to a depth of 500mm with no further intrusive groundworks required. The majority of the trench exposed existing services and redeposits of modern material. No archaeological deposits or undisturbed geological layers were found. The excavation of a 900mm deep pit for a pumping station revealed 600mm of concrete and 300mm of undisturbed natural chalk, with no Pleistocene deposits present.</i></p>						

OASIS ID: archaeol6-27524

Project details

Project name	Castle Square Sewer Works Brighton
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief of sewage works in Castle Square, Brighton, East Sussex, (NGR: 531238 104078) took place between 30th January and 6th February 2007. During the monitoring of a 20m trench excavation along Castle Square made ground was encountered to a depth of 500mm with no further intrusive groundworks required. The majority of the trench exposed existing services and redeposits of modern material. No archaeological deposit or undisturbed geological layers were found. Excavation of a 900mm deep pit for a pumping station, revealed 600mm of concrete and 300mm of undisturbed natural chalk, with no Pleistocene deposits present
Project dates	Start: 01-02-2007 End: 28-02-2007
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 1 - Highways and road transport
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - Direction 4

Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX BRIGHTON AND HOVE BRIGHTON Castle Square
Postcode	BN1
Study area	40.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3112 0417 50.8216316099 -0.138267233729 50 49 17 N 000 08 17 W Point
Height OD	Min: 0m Max: 0m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	JON SYGRAVE
Project supervisor	Deon Whittaker
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	4D

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	'other'
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images vector'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Unpublished Text'

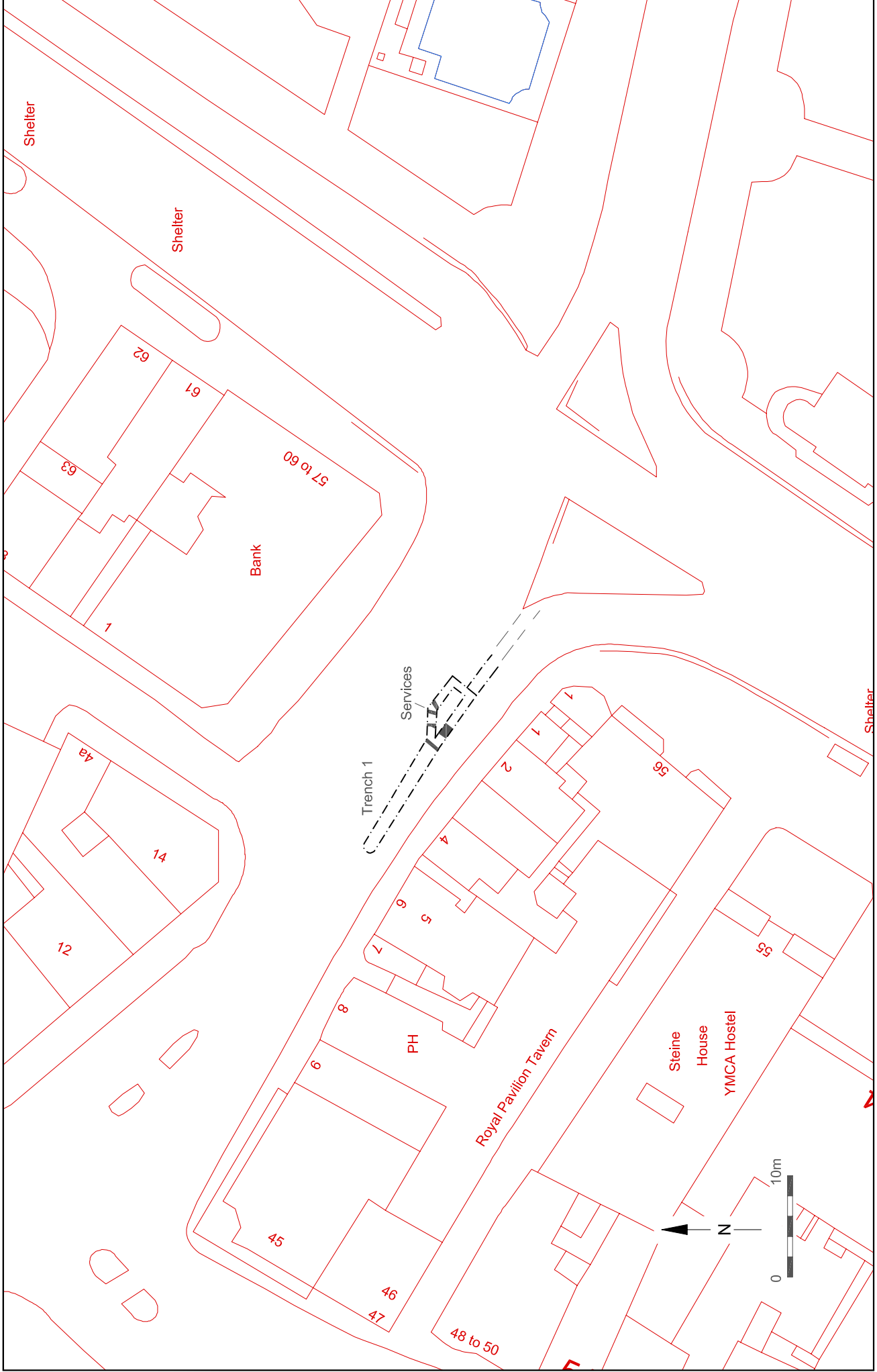
**Project
bibliography 1**

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© Archaeology South-East			Castle Square, Brighton	Fig. 1
Ref: 2786	June 2007	Drawn by: JLR	Site Location Plan	

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© Archaeology South-East		Castle Square, Brighton	Fig. 2
Ref: 2786	June 2007	Trench Location	
Drawn by: JNC			