

**11 Hawkhurst Road, Coldean, Brighton,
East Sussex, BN1 9GF.**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Planning Reference: BH2006/02753

NGR 532983 108703

Site Code: HRC 06

Oasis ID -: archaeol6-31517

Project no. 2753

October 2007

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Abstract

Archaeology South East was commissioned to undertake a watching brief during the construction of a pair of semi detached houses at 11 Hawkhurst Road, Coldean, Brighton, East Sussex (NGR 532983 108703) Groundworks involved the excavation of a previously levelled area approximately 18 metres by 8 metres, approximately 140 metres of footings, 30 metres of service trenching and a soakaway. A modern linear feature was revealed. No features of archaeological significance were encountered.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA), were commissioned by Boulter Mossman on behalf of Downland Housing Association to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a pair of semi detached houses at 11 Hawkhurst Road, Coldean, Brighton, East Sussex (NGR 532983 108703) (Figs 1 and 2).
- 1.2 The site lies within an *Archaeology Sensitive Area* (ASA), designated as such due to the presence of an Iron Age and Romano-British occupation site discovered during the construction of the housing estate in the 1950s (see Figs 1 and 2 below - East Sussex Historic Environment Record Ref. MES322).
- 1.3 Planning permission for the demolition of an existing dwelling and the erection of a pair of semi detached houses has been granted by Brighton and Hove City Council (Planning Ref: BH2006/02753).
- 1.4 The County Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council was consulted by Brighton and Hove City Council and in light of the known archaeological potential of the site has recommended that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during all intrusive ground works in line with advice given in PPG16 (the Government's advice on *Archaeology and Planning*). Condition 12 of the planning permission therefore states that:

No development shall take place within the application site until the applicant has secured the maintenance of an on-site watching brief by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist during construction work in accordance with written details which have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. In the event of important archaeological features or remains being discovered which are beyond the scope of a watching brief to excavate and record and which require fuller rescue excavation, then construction work shall cease until the applicant has secured the implementation of a further programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

- 1.5 In response, an Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the works was produced by ASE (Griffin 2006) and duly approved.
- 1.6 According to the British Geological Survey (Sheet 318/333) the underlying geology at the site is undivided Upper and Middle Chalk.
- 1.7 The site was attended by Deon Whittaker (Archaeologist) and Paul

Riccoboni and Diccon Hart (Senior Archaeologists) between 12th June and 4th July 2007.

2.0 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Selected data held on the Historic Environment Record (HER) for East Sussex relating to archaeological sites recorded within a 500m radius of the current site is summarised in Table 1.

HER No.	Grid Reference (TQ)	Description
MES258	3244 0985	Middle Bronze Age Bowl Barrow
MES259	3230 0897	Bronze Age and Saxon burials recovered from burial mound
MES260	3243 0928	Possible site of Iron Age and Romano-British settlement
MES261	3241 0918	Bronze Age burial and artefacts revealed during road widening in 1921
MES269	3270 0950	Iron Age cross-ridge dyke
MES322	3280 0850	Complexity of habitation sites, ditch systems and a cremation relating to Iron Age and Romano-British occupation revealed in the 1950s
MES328	3272 0915	Bronze Age pit located at 133 Hawkhurst Road
MES409	3310 0880	Undated well
MES467	3315 0890	Middle-Late Bronze Age farmstead excavated by ASE in 1992
TQ 30NW 110	3370 0870	Probable early Anglo-Saxon burial found in 1956
MES7153	32744 09308	Middle and Late Bronze Age settlement revealed and excavated by ASE during construction of the Brighton Bypass in 1990

Table 1: Selected HER Data

2.2 This area of downland contains important archaeological remains dating from the Bronze Age onwards. The site itself falls within an area of known settlement of Iron Age and Romano-British date; although a number of burial mounds of Bronze Age date possibly re-used in the Saxon period, are present in the wider area.

2.3 There was therefore a moderate to high chance of finding archaeological features from a number of archaeological periods during

the course of the redevelopment of the site.

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, 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 further archaeological remains were present (e.g. once excavation reached undisturbed natural subsoils).
- 3.3 All excavation was undertaken by machine equipped with a 2 metre grading bucket where appropriate, resorting to a 600mm toothed bucket where necessary for the excavation of natural chalk deposits.
- 3.4 An Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) form has been 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.
- 3.5 The written and drawn archive will be offered to Brighton Museum and Art Gallery (Site code HRC06). 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 Portslade.
- 3.8 All excavations were monitored until undisturbed natural deposits were exposed. Throughout the works the contractor made all the excavations fully accessible to the archaeologist and assisted the archaeologist where necessary. All archaeological layers were fully explored and recorded to appropriate archaeological standards.
- 3.9 The following works were undertaken:
 - Due to the underlying chalk natural, the modern overlaying soils were stripped prior to deeper excavation, in order to better expose any surviving features.
 - The west bank adjacent to property no.13 was reduced below natural

level to accept a retaining wall.

- A 2.5sq metre by 4.2 metre deep soakaway was excavated to the south of the site (see figure 2); monitored down to a depth of 250mm at which clean natural was observed.
- An area 18 metres by 8 metres at the far western end of the site was reduced by up to 400mm. The edges of this reduced area produced a linear in section.
- Approximately 140 metres of 600mm wide footings monitored initially to ensure that upper surface was natural chalk as appeared.
- Approximately 30 metres of service trenching running from south face of new building to soakaway (see figure 2)

4.0 RESULTS (see Figure 2)

4.1 Despite being located on a east facing slope there was no significant slope to the site, suggesting that the site had previously been reduced to level c 52.68 metres AOD. To the west, the adjacent property was some 450mm higher at ground level.

4.2 The site generally consisted of a thin c. 100mm deposit of subsoil deposited onto a weathered chalk surface. In the south and on the west edge of the site, topsoil remained. In the north of the site patches of modern ceramic building material (cbm) were located directly on the surface of the natural.

4.3 The west bank consisted of the following deposits:

- **Context (01)** Topsoil 200mm – Dark brown, loose - friable with occasional modern cbm fragments.
- **Context (02)** Subsoil Deposit 250mm – mid brown slightly clayey friable silt, with occasional sub-angular flint fragments and flecks of chalk near the horizon with **Context (03)** below. This appears to be modern in origin, having an abrupt horizon with the natural.
- **Context (03)** Natural Chalk – Slightly weathered but compact/indurated. Excavated up to 100mm at limit of excavation.

4.4 The soakaway located on the south of the site exposed the following deposits:

- **Context (04)** Subsoil Deposit 250mm – mid brown slightly clayey friable silt, with occasional sub-angular flint fragments and flecks of

chalk near the horizon with **Context (05)** below. This appears to be modern in origin, having an abrupt horizon with the natural and is indistinguishable from **Context (02)**.

- **Context (05)** Natural Chalk – Slightly weathered but compact/indurate. Monitored up to 250mm. Same as **Context (03)**.

4.5 The area 18 metres by 8 metres at the far western end of the site produced a linear:

- **Context [06]** Cut - north-east to south-west orientated and located on the north-east facing section– 500mm wide and up to 450mm deep. Abrupt break to steep 80 -90 deg. straight sides, breaking abruptly to a flat base. Cut is slightly asymmetric but modern in appearance. Filled by:
 - **Context (07)** Deposit 450mm – mid brown slightly clayey loose - friable silt, with very common (up to 40%) chalk flecks and occasional sub-angular flint fragments. Sealed by:
 - **Context (10)** – 500mm wide by 50mm thick chalk rubble layer.
 - **Context [08]** Cut - north-east to south-west orientated and located on the south-west facing section– 400mm wide and up to 250mm deep. Abrupt break to 70 deg concave, north west side, breaking imperceptibly to a concave base. Abrupt break to 60 deg slightly concave, south east side, breaking imperceptibly to the concave base. Cut is slightly asymmetric. Filled by:
 - **Context (09)** Deposit 250mm – mid brown slightly clayey loose - friable silt, with very common (up to 40%) chalk flecks and occasional sub-angular flint fragments. Indistinguishable from **Context (07)**.

4.6 The continuation of this linear was located further to the north - east during foundation trench excavation, with a plastic pipe running the length. Backfill was indistinguishable from contexts **(07 & 09)**.

4.4 The service trenches to the soakaway produced as follows:

- **Context (11)** Subsoil 100mm – Light grey brown with frequent inclusions of modern cbm.
- **Context (12)** Natural Chalk – Slightly weathered but compact/indurate.

- 4.5 The excavated footing revealed a continuation of the linear [06] - [08].
- **Context [14]** with a fill **(13)** indistinguishable from contexts **(07) & (09)**, with the exception of a piece of corrugated waste plastic and a plastic drain pipe.

5.0 INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION

- 5.1 The site generally consisted of a thin c. 100mm deposit of subsoil deposited onto a weathered chalk surface. In the south and on the west edge of the site topsoil remained. Although a levelled site might be expected to produced relatively un-weathered chalk surfaces, the amount of modern cbm on the surface of the chalk indicated that the chalk had been exposed for some time during which it was a working surface, probably during the original construction phase.
- 5.2 The cut of the ditch **[06, 08 & 14]** proved itself to be of modern origins. Although the cuts differ in section, the alignment of the ditch and the indistinguishable nature of the fills **(07, 09 & 13)** confirm their association.
- 5.3 The archaeology is modern and is found in situ, undisturbed. Later soil deposits seal 20th century cbm deposits on the surface of the natural.
- 5.4 The levelling of the site can be expected to have truncated all but the deepest of archaeological features, none of which were observed. No archaeological remains were recovered from the subsoil.

6.0 REFERENCES

Griffin, N. 2006. 11 Hawkhurst Road, Coldean Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 9GF. Archaeological Watching Brief, Written Scheme of Investigation. Unpublished. Archaeology South East, Ditchling. December 2006.

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	HRC07					
Identification Name and Address	11 Hawkhurst Road, Coldean, Brighton, East Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Coldean, Brighton					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 532983 108703					
Geology	Upper Cretaceous Chalk					
Arch. South-East Project Number	2753					
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. 12 th June 07 - 4 th July 07	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Kent County Council					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Deon Whittaker					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern ✓		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>Archaeology South East was commissioned to undertake a watching brief during the construction of a pair of semi detached houses at 11 Hawkhurst Road, Coldean, Brighton, East Sussex (NGR 532983 108703) Groundworks involved the excavation of a previously levelled area approximately 18 metres by 8 metres, approximately 140 metres of footings, 30 metres of service trenching and a soakaway. A modern linear feature was revealed. No features of archaeological significance were encountered.</i></p>						

Appendix - Oasis Summary Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-31517

Project details

Project name	Hawkhurst Lane Coldean
Short description of the project	Archaeology South East was commissioned to undertake a watching brief during the construction of a pair of semi detached houses at 11 Hawkhurst Road, Coldean, Brighton, East Sussex (NGR 532983 108703) Groundworks involved the excavation of a previously levelled area approximately 18 metres by 8 metres, approximately 140 metres of footings, 30 metres of service trenching and a soakaway. A modern linear feature was revealed. No features of archaeological significance were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 12-06-2007 End: 04-07-2007
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX BRIGHTON AND HOVE BRIGHTON Archaeology South East was commissioned to undertake a watching brief during the construction of a pair of semi detached houses at 11 Hawkhurst Road, Coldean, Brighton, East Sussex (NGR 532983 108703)
Postcode	BN1 9GF
Study area	1200.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 532983 108703 50.8763874593 0.179215650165 50 52 34 N
000 10 45 E Point

Height OD Min: 52.68m Max: 52.68m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South East

Project brief originator Archaeology South East

Project design originator Archaeology South-East

Project director/manager Diccon Hart

Project supervisor Deon Whittaker

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body Downland Housing Association

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Local Museum

Digital Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography'

Paper Archive Local Museum

recipient

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Notebook - Excavation', 'Research', 'General Notes', 'Report'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 11 Hawkhurst Road, Coldean, Brighton Archaeological Watching Brief

Author(s)/Editor(s) Whittaker, D.

Date 2007

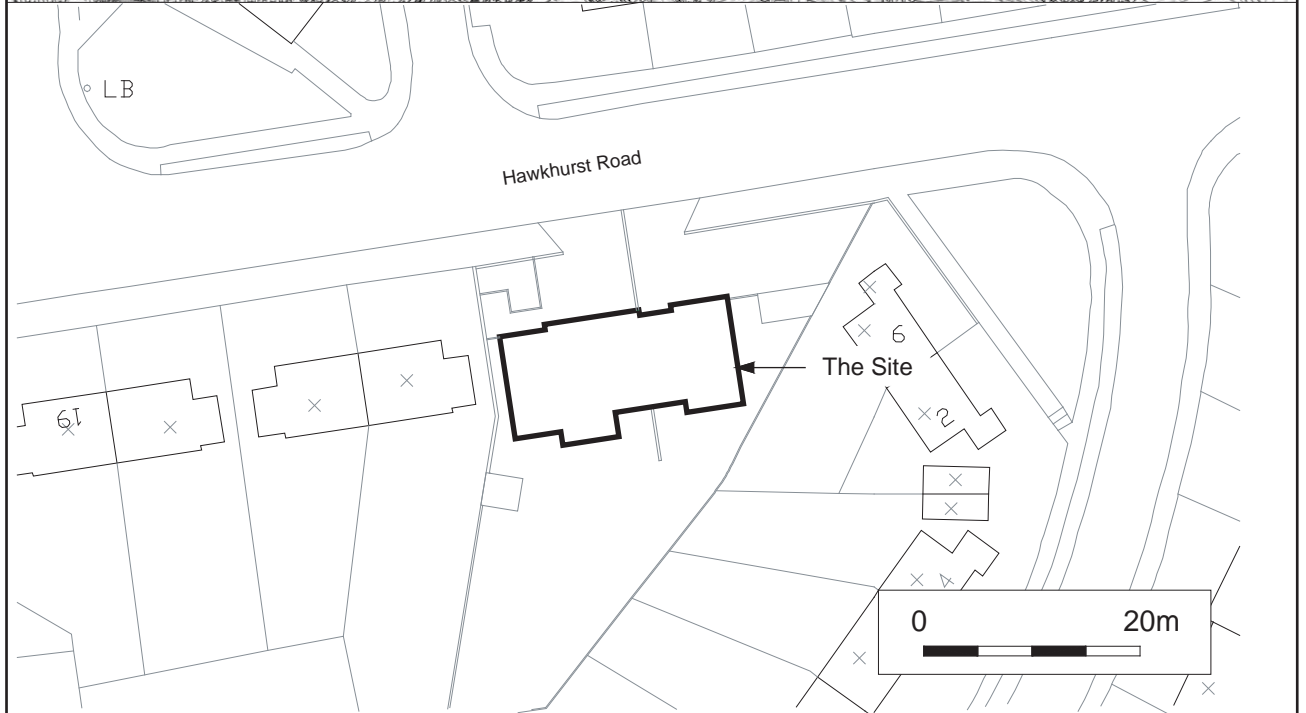
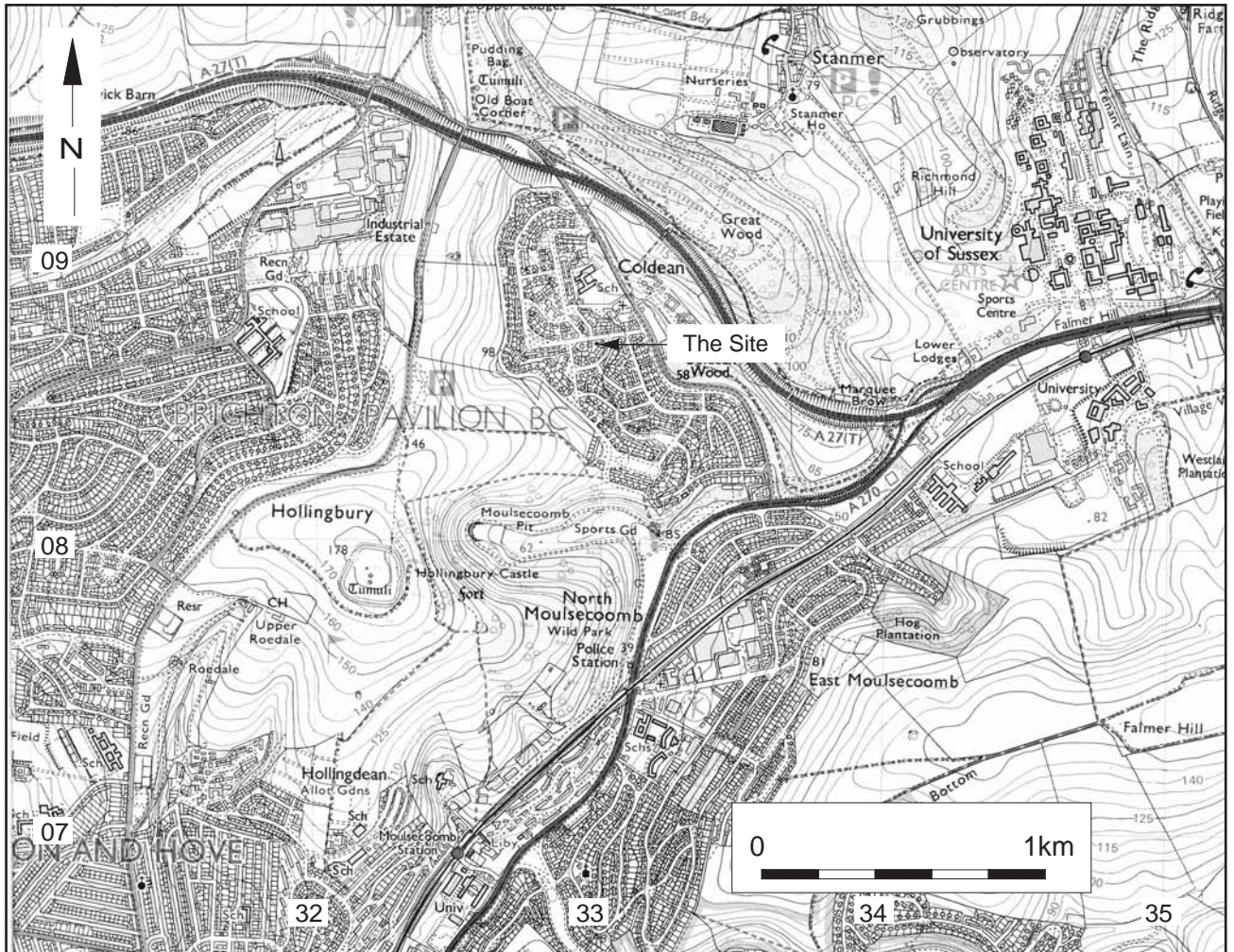
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© Archaeology South-East			11 Hawkhurst Road, Coldean, Brighton	Fig. 1
Ref: 2753	Oct 2007	Drawn by: SM	Site Location Plan	

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