

A Geoarchaeological Watching Brief at  
8 Black Lion Street, Brighton  
East Sussex, BN1 1ND

Planning condition reference number  
BH2007/01485

NGR 53108 10434

Project No. 3272  
Site Code: BLS 08

ASE Report No. 2008052  
OASIS id: archaeol6-47682

Prepared Matt Pope PhD  
With contributions by  
Maggie Henderson

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**May 2008**

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit (UCLFAU), have been commissioned by J Cheesmur and Sons Ltd to undertake a geoarchaeological watching brief at 8 Black Lion Street, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 1ND, (NGR 53108 10434), during basement ground reduction works associated with the conversion of the building from its current status as A1 retail, to mixed use. As well as the property at 8 Black Lion Street, the development also includes properties at 11 Black Lion Street and the adjacent office block, Moore House, however, here no archaeological monitoring is required. 8 Black Lion Street is hitherto referred to as 'the site' (Fig. 1). Architect's plans are reproduced within this document and illustrate the extent of the ground works that require monitoring (Figs 2 and 3).
- 1.2 ASE had consulted with Casper Johnson, (County Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council) who stipulated that as the site lay within an archaeologically sensitive area, and although the depth of the existing basement is such that its construction will most likely have removed all but the deepest potential archaeological remains, an archaeological watching brief should be maintained during construction groundworks to record any such archaeological deposits and/or quaternary deposits that may exist. This recommendation forms condition 19 of the planning consent notice (Brighton and Hove City Council
- 1.3 ASE was asked by Cheesemurs LTD to undertake a geo-archaeological investigation/watching brief of deep excavations being undertaken in the basement. This involved mounting the standard archaeological watching brief for two days while removal of a concrete floor was undertaken within the basement. This report presents the results of these investigations.
- 1.4 While the geo-archaeological monitoring work was in progress the archaeologist noted that the cellar structure included historic building fabric of an earlier date than the structure *in situ* above ground level. After consultation with Casper Johnson, (ESCC) and the Client, it was agreed that a record should be made of the cellar structure prior to re-fitting. The work was carried out by Maggie Henderson (ASE, Senior Archaeologist, Historic Buildings) and the results are appended to this report (Appendix 1).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** The site lies close to the modern coastline at the intersection of the narrow, pre-Georgian Black Lion Street with the contemporary east-west A259 coastal route.
- 2.2** The site was flagged as sitting within a previously defined ASA based on the assumed presence of Pleistocene sediments relating to the Brighton-Norton Raised Beach (Bates et-al 1998). Therefore potential existed for palaeoarchaeological remains to be preserved at depth at the site. It was possible that, underlying the Head Gravels, a marine sequence comprising raised beach deposits and possible associated terrestrial facies may have been present. Borehole data in the wider area has revealed that a preserved horizon may be encountered that might include organic and faunal remains.
- 2.3** The site is located at NGR 53108 10434, immediately to the north of the coastal road. The ground level of the site is some 8.9m above sea level and covers approximately 300m<sup>2</sup>. The local topography forms part of the West Sussex Coastal Plain and is therefore low-lying, flat, with a gentle incline dipping seawards to the south. The Coastal Plain is exceedingly narrow at this point being only 200m wide from north to south. The site is situated approximately 0.4km to the south of the inferred cliffline of the Brighton-Norton Raised Beach (see below). Given the altitude of the site it was considered highly likely that deposits forming part of the terrestrial and marine facies of the Norton Formation (Bates *et al* 1998) would be present under the site. The rapid narrowing of the Coastal Plain at this point is of interest as it is suspected that structural elements in the Chalk Anticline led to the formation of a headland, or partially enclosed marine bay in this area some 250,000 years B.P. The 'St Anne's Well Headland' hypothesis suggest that a minor embayment would have formed as sea action differentially eroded softer Tertiary Bed Rock remnants in a superficial synclinal structure in preference to higher and more resistant topography of the Chalk anticline. The Grand Avenue investigation offers an opportunity to investigate this possibility further.
- 2.4** The BGS Sheet 318 (1984) shows the site to be underlain by Cretaceous Chalk and Quaternary Head deposits. The latter can be readily seen in the Black Rock raised beach section, 3 km to the east, and form a series of bedded colluvial deposits comprising red to pinkish silts supporting consolidated beds of sub-angular chalk and flint gravel. Some of these beds are orientated in relation to the remnant chalk cliff of the Brighton Raised Beach and will have bedding angles of up to 45 degrees orientated on a ne-sw axis. Others are of dry valley origin and will have generally horizontal bedding angles and form the fill of north-south oriented valley profiles.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND TO THE WIDER PLEISTOCENE RESOURCE**

#### **3.1 Overview**

- 3.1.1 The sediments mapped in the Brighton and Hove area form part of a wider sequence of deposits spread across 30km of the Coastal Plain of Sussex (Fig. 4) and eastern Hampshire. Together they provide a detailed record of environmental change and the activities of extinct human species during alternating periods of warm and cold climate. In West Sussex these deposits are currently being mapped and investigated through Mapping Surveys, funded directly by English Heritage.





Figure 1: Site Location Plan (Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map with permission from the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 503 10 A)







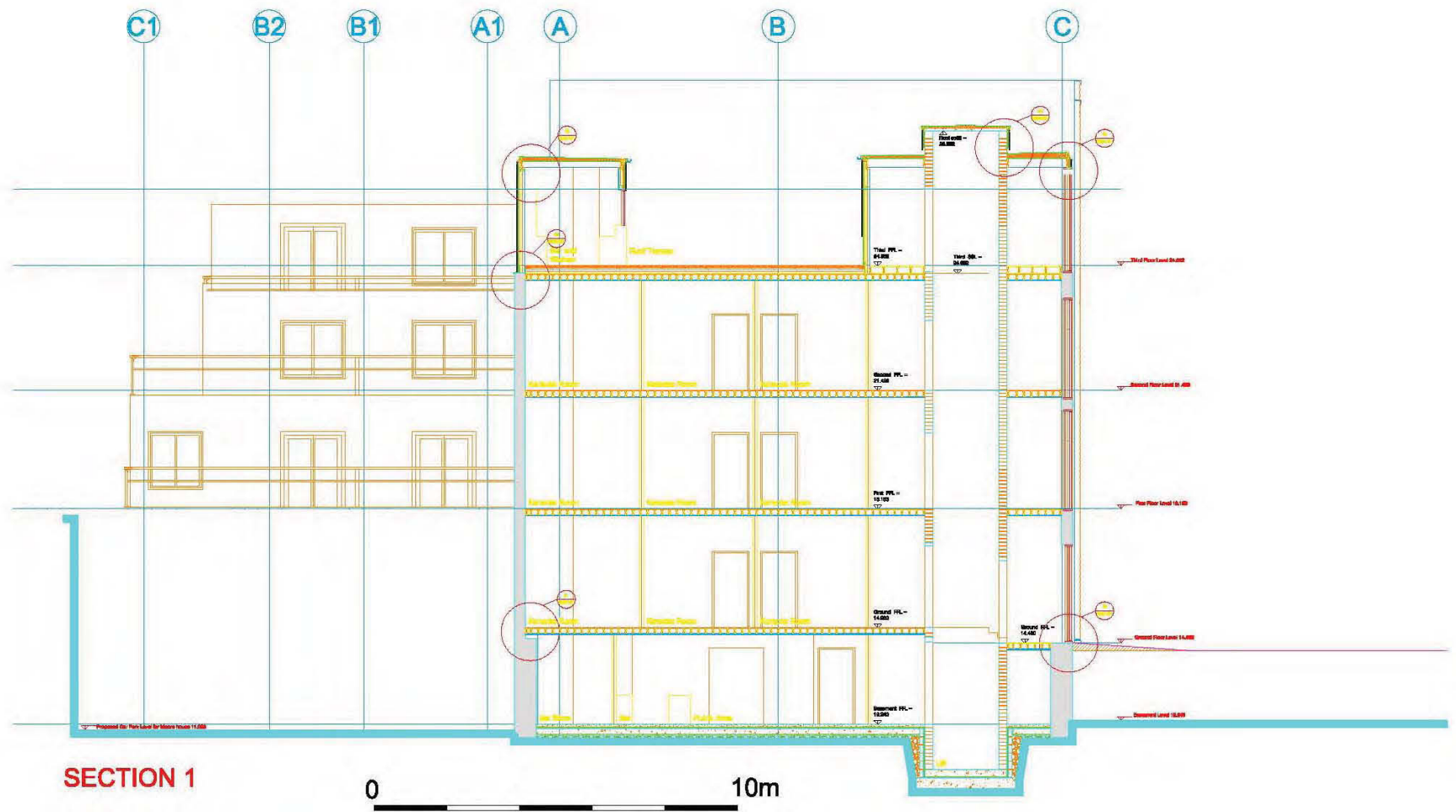


Figure 3: Section (based on the originals prepared by Alan Phillips Architects)

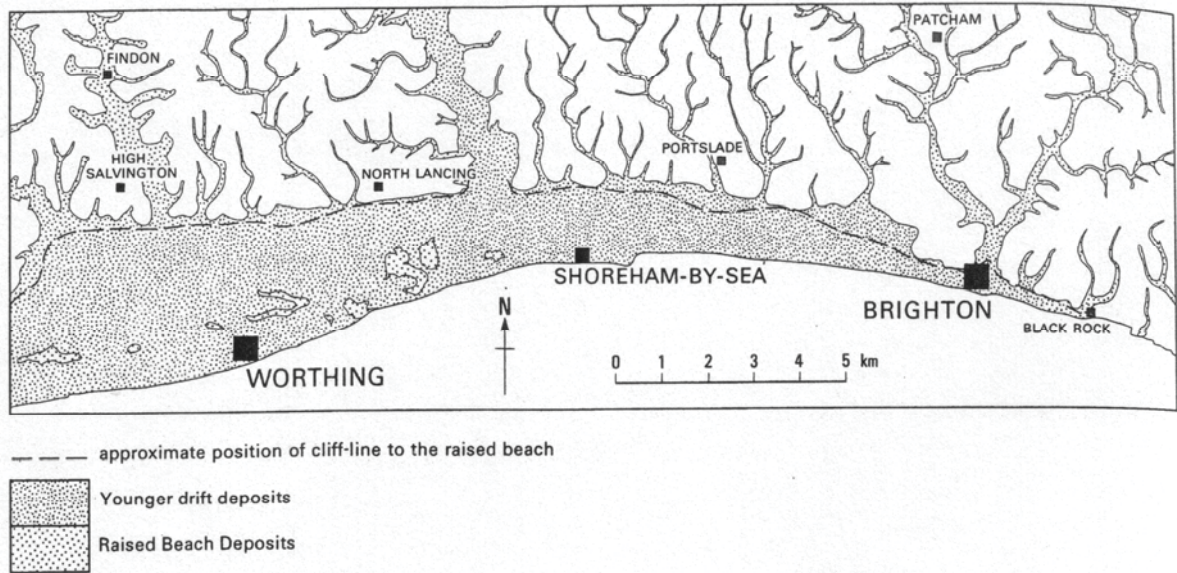


Figure 4: Distribution of the Brighton Raised Beach

### 3.2 Nature and extent of the resource

3.2.1 Brighton and Hove is situated on a low-lying coastal plain. This plain is an area of low relief, rising from sea level at the current channel coast to 50m OD. where it meets the foot of the South Downs. The plain narrows substantially to the east, being less than 1km wide at Hove and terminates at the Black Rock cliffs behind the Brighton Marina. The plain is underlain by Upper Chalk and Tertiary bedrock, which forms a continuous platform covered by sediments deposited during the past 0.5 million years. These overlying deposits include sands and gravels relating to a series of raised beaches which formed during warm intervals between longer periods of sub-arctic conditions (glacial).

3.2.2 The Brighton Raised Beach has been documented at a number of localities within West Sussex, being represented by sands, silts and beach deposits overlying a platform at between c.8-12m above sea-level. The beach itself has been traced along the foot of the Downs at Sussex Pad, north of Shoreham (Bates *et al* 1998), through Worthing close to the north of the railway line (Young and Lake 1988). New dating methods utilizing amino-acid ratios from shells preserved within the sediments have dated the Brighton-Norton formation to 0.2 million years ago (Davies 1985). Archaeological finds are admittedly rare from the Brighton-Norton formation, although flint tools have been found occasionally from these deposits in West Sussex and the Brighton and Hove area attesting to human (Neanderthal) occupation at this time.

### 3.3 Distribution in City Council area

3.3.1 Within the Brighton and Hove area are a number of known localities demonstrated to preserve archaeologically sensitive deposits. Of these, the most important is the established SSSI at Black Rock, where the Brighton Raised

Beach and overlying cold-stage deposits are preserved in an exposed section. This site is one of recognised national importance, being the best preserved natural exposure of a raised beach in the UK and preserving a sequence rich in faunal remains, environmental evidence and archaeology. The remaining section of cliff is now all that remains of an more extensive 4km section, originally stretching east to Rottingdean and west towards the Brighton Pier, where it has been built over as part of the esplanade (Ulllyott *et al* 2000). The site is today protected as a SSSI, overseen on behalf of English Nature by John Cooper of Brighton and Hove City Council. The section, which can be seen in Figure 5, preserves a flint

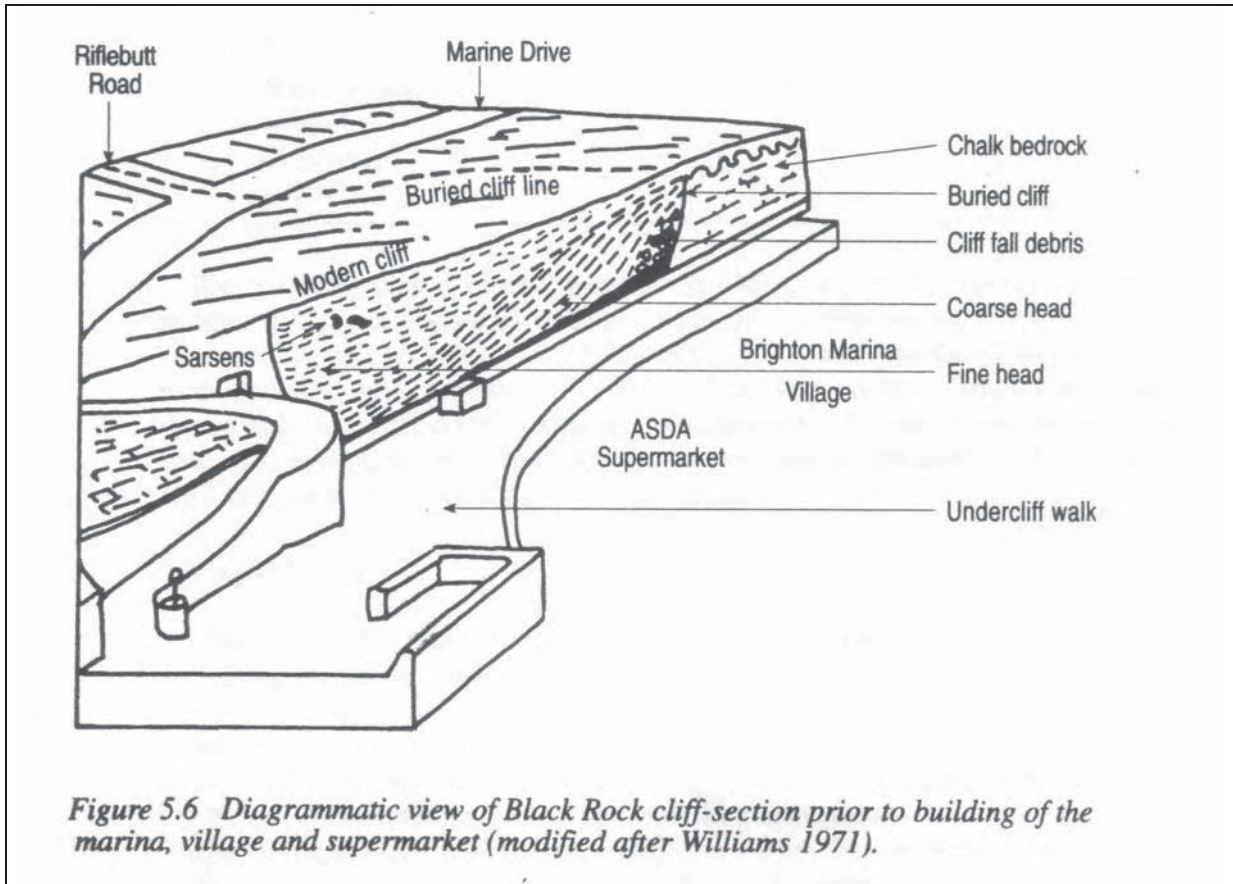


Figure 5: Black Rock Section

cobble beach overlying a chalk platform at 8m above sea level. The beach deposits are overlain by 'coombe-rock' lain down in subsequent cold stages, this being a marly chalk rubble eroded from the Downs by thawing ice. These overlying deposits appear to preserve a rich assemblage of faunal remains including mammoth, horse and rhinoceros, yet they still await systematic scientific study.

3.3.2 Another important exposure has been documented at Portslade (Prestwich 1859), where chalk and flint rubble was recorded overlying raised beach deposits at 4.5m above sea level. Exposures were also made during the laying of the main Brighton-Hove sewer in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, where organic remains

underlying cold-stage deposits (Prestwich 1859). While at West Street deposits were exposed suggesting the cliffline ran approximately along the line of the modern Western Road. During the nineteenth century this beach line could still be traced as a 'low-cliff' through Portslade to Southwick and today presumably follows a line close to the Old Shoreham Road in the west of the City Council area.

- 3.3.4 The map in Figure 4 shows the likely extent of archaeologically sensitive Quaternary deposits in the City area. To the north, the chalk Downlands mapped as being devoid of Quaternary deposits form a clear limit to the distribution of these deposits. South of this line the whole area must be considered sensitive.

### **3.4 Threats to the resource**

- 3.4.1 The Quaternary heritage of the Brighton and Hove area is under threat from two prime agents: development and weathering. The effects of weathering have been mitigated in the short term by remedial works at the Black Rock site. The effects of development can be easily mitigated by the application of archaeological conditions set-out and enforced through the implementation of PPG16.
- 3.4.2 Experience of management and planning strategies employed by West Sussex County Council suggests that the starting point for mitigation is the assuring the presence of a trained Geoarchaeologist during the initial Geotechnical ground investigations. Witnessing of trial trenching and borehole surveys will usually be sufficient to characterise the sediments, allow the taking of basic samples and to provide suggestions for further work should it be required. In reality it is often the case that sensitive deposits are at sufficient depth to avoid destruction from foundation laying but this must be demonstrated in each individual case, not assumed. The geo-technical investigation alone often provides valuable scientific data in its own right, even where it simply allows the absence of sensitive geology to be mapped. Access to the site during geotechnical investigations is therefore often all that is required to assess the archaeological/scientific potential of the underlying geology. While simple desktop assessments can be employed to anticipate the need for further work.

### **3.5 Development Control**

- 3.5.1 Currently planning policy on mitigation likely to impact upon Palaeolithic archaeology is under review, but draft planning policy has been drawn up. In the case of large redevelopment schemes and infrastructural projects affecting Pleistocene deposits, the following condition is attached to planning permissions:-

*“Provision shall be made for the presence of a qualified Geoarchaeologist, with experience of Quaternary raised beach sediments, to be present during geotechnical site investigations. The Geoarchaeologist shall be allowed access to log both boreholes and tests pit undertaken at the site, have access to the results of previous geotechnical investigations where these results are public domain and witness the excavation of foundation trenches. The Geoarchaeologist shall produce detailed geoarchaeological logs of witnessed*



*excavations, take bulk samples of fine grained and marine sediments encountered and provide an assessment report with suggestions for further mitigation should it be deemed necessary. Geoarchaeologists employed shall liaise with active research Quaternary research teams including Dr Martin Bates (Lampeter) and the Boxgrove Project (UCL)", Draft Planning Conditions 2006.*

#### **4.0 RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION**

- 4.1** From the 1st to the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2008 the contractors began work on removing a concrete raft from the basement of No. 8 Black Lion Street. This basement covered an area of approximately 4 x 8m in extent and concrete and hardcore removal lowered the basement level by between 0.4 and 0.8m in depth. The extent of the hole was approximately 4x4m in plan and was excavated to an eventual depth in excess of 12m. During these works the hole was monitored by Matthew Pope of ASE. The stratigraphic sequence shown in Table 1 was recorded.
- 4.2** The recorded sequence was identical across the whole extent of the basement and simply comprised decalcified Head Gravel. The rounded nature of these gravels did however suggest the possibility of some fluvial reworking of the gravels at this location. It was noted that a small percentage of the gravels were heavily rolled but not to the extent that would suggest inclusion in a beach gravel. The conclusion was reached that a component of the gravels within the Head Deposits were introduced through high-energy flow, perhaps as part of the bed-load of braided channels forming on the flanks of the Steyne valley during the quaternary. These fluvial deposits were then reworked through solifluction to cover the coastal plain in this locale.
- 4.3** No sampling was undertaken given the shallow, decalcified and high-energy nature of the exposed Head Deposits. On the basis of conversations with ground workers at the site it was established that decalcified gravels exists at a depth OD 2m below the basement surface. These were encountered during the excavation of a drainage sump during an earlier stage of the work.

Depth (m)	Stratigraphy	Colour (Munsell)	Lithology	Clast Component	Notes
0	Made Ground				Concrete raft
0.2	Mortar sub-base	10YR 5/8 yellowish brown	Stiff Clay	40% sub	
0.35	Decalcified Head	10YR 6/8 brownish yellow	Sandy-Clay	80% sub-rounded flint gravel with both sub-angular and rounded components.	15% 2.5Y 6/3 light yellowish brown clay mottles
0.55	Decalcified Head	10YR 6/6 brownish yellow	Clay with Sand	As above	No bedding noted.
2m?	Calcareous Head				As observed by ground workers.

Table 1: Observed stratigraphic Sequence at Grand Avenue, Hove.

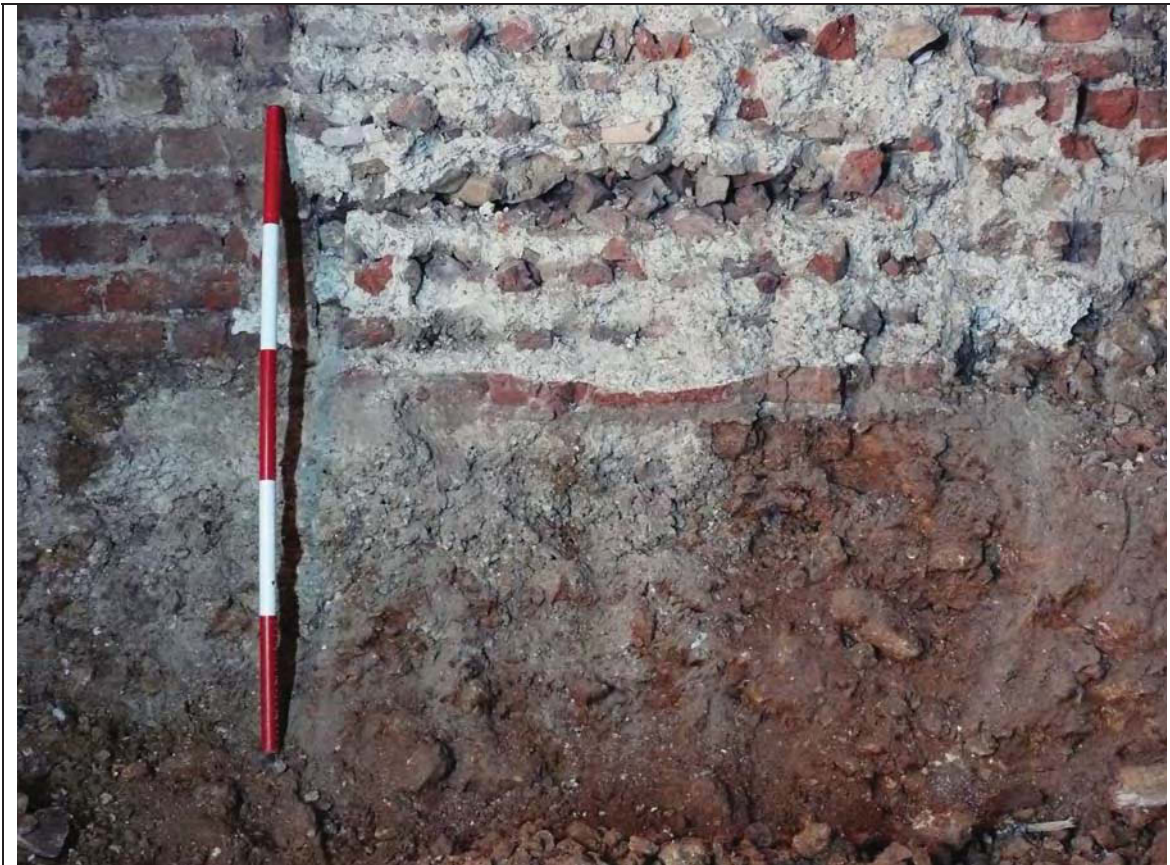


Figure 6: Exposed section in lower basement of the site. Photograph shows base of original floor level (at base of brick course) and underlying decalcified Head Gravels.

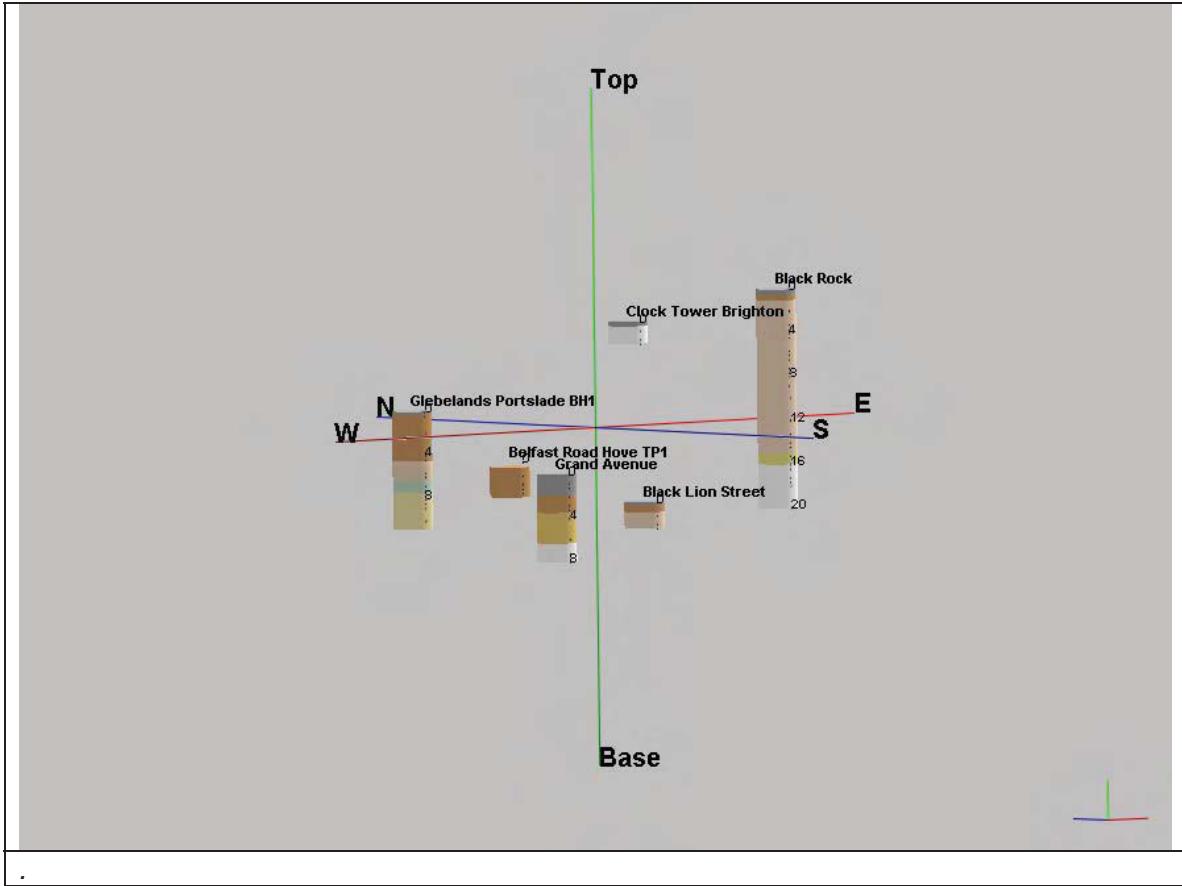


Figure 7: Preliminary Modeling of Pleistocene Geology in Hove



**5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK AND FORWARD RESEARCH STRATEGY**

- 5.1** No further recommendations are made for further developer funded work at this site. Adequate provision was made for access to the site and for a detailed record of the sequence to be made and for samples to be take, The shallow depth and decalcified nature of the recorded sequence renders scope for further elucidation of this sequence limited.
- 5.2** However decalcification and Head cover has been shown to be variable across the coastal plain associated with Brighton-Norton raised Beach and so further opportunities should betaken to assess Pleistocene deposits in this general region, the excellent preservation of Pleistocene deposits at the nearby Thistle Hotel (Bates in prep) indicate the local potential of the immediate area of the site.
- 5.3** The details of the site investigation will be added to the Brighton and Hove Quaternary GIS Database which is currently being developed by the Boxgrove Project to provide a comprehensive and up-to-date record of the distribution and nature of Quaternary Deposits in the City. This database is being used to directly guide planning decisions and to formulate strategies to manage this unique resource.
- 5.4** It is envisaged that, once a reasonable body of similar site investigations have been completed in the Brighton and Hove area, the results will be collated into a single published account of the Quaternary archaeology and geology of the area.

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**OASIS ID: archaeo16-47682**

### Project details

Project name 8 Black Lion St Brighton

Short description of the project Archaeology South-East have completed a Geo-Archaeological investigation during the refurbishment of a basement at 8 Black Lion St, Brighton. This investigation required the monitoring of a 4m x 4m X 12m deep excavation. The recorded sequence was identical across the whole extent of the basement and comprised decalcified Head Gravel. It was noted that a small percentage of the gravels were heavily rolled but not to the extent that would suggest inclusion in a beach gravel. The conclusion was reached that a component of the gravels within the Head Deposits were introduced through high-energy flow perhaps as part of the bed-load of braided channels forming on the flanks of the Steyne valley during the quaternary. Archaeology South-East have also undertaken Historic Buildings Recording during the works. An inspection of the cellar after the almost total stripping out of the structure, including most of the intervening floors, revealed several areas of walling constructed in a material known locally as 'Bungaroosh'. The cellar walls incorporated several brick features and showed evidence of extensive modifications to the structure over time. All but the east wall were predominantly constructed in Bungaroosh at cellar level, with a continuation of this type of fabric visible in parts of the upper floors. The adjacent Old Shop Assembly Rooms building of 1767 abuts the property to the west and externally, the fabric of the north wall of the Assembly rooms was of the same type as that in situ within the cellar indicating a possible contemporary origin for construction. The south wall of the cellar is shared by the Old Ship Hotel to the south of the site and there are a series of arched features incorporated in the construction of the wall. The east wall of the cellar is in brick.

Project dates Start: 01-04-2008 End: 01-04-2008

Type of project Recording project

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

### Project location

Country England



Site location EAST SUSSEX BRIGHTON AND HOVE HOVE 8 Black Lion St  
Brighton

Site coordinates TQ 531080 104340 50.8725170403 0.176329813456 50 52 21 N  
000 10 34 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South East

Project brief originator Private Client

Project design originator East Sussex County Council

Project director/manager Neil Griffin

Project supervisor Matt Pope

Type of sponsor/funding body Client

Entered by Jim Stevenson (Jim.Stevenson@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 2 September 2008

### OASIS:

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February 2006

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## SMR Summary Form

Site Code	BLS08					
Identification Name and Address	8 Black Lion St, Brighton					
County, District &/or Borough	East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 53108 10434					
Geology	Cretaceous Chalk					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3272					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure ✓	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban ✓	Deep Urban	Other Geo-Arch		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. March-April 2008	Other		
Sponsor/Client	J Cheesmur and Sons Ltd					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Matt Pope / Maggie Henderson					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB ✓
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other Modern		
<p>Archaeology South-East have completed a Geo-Archaeological investigation during the refurbishment of a basement at 8 Black Lion St, Brighton. This investigation required the monitoring of a 4m x 4m X 12m deep excavation. The recorded sequence was identical across the whole extent of the basement and comprised decalcified Head Gravel. It was noted that a small percentage of the gravels were heavily rolled but not to the extent that would suggest inclusion in a beach gravel. The conclusion was reached that a component of the gravels within the Head Deposits were introduced through high-energy flow perhaps as part of the bed-load of braided channels forming on the flanks of the Steyne valley during the quaternary.</p> <p>Archaeology South-East have also undertaken Historic Buildings Recording during the works. An inspection of the cellar after the almost total stripping out of the structure, including most of the intervening floors, revealed several areas of walling constructed in a material known locally as 'Bungaroosh'.</p> <p>The cellar walls incorporated several brick features and showed evidence of extensive modifications to the structure over time. All but the east wall were predominantly constructed in Bungaroosh at cellar level, with a continuation of this type of fabric visible in parts of the upper floors.</p> <p>The adjacent Old Shop Assembly Rooms building of 1767 abuts the property to the west and externally, the fabric of the north wall of the Assembly rooms was of the same type as that in situ within the cellar indicating a possible contemporary origin for construction. The south wall of the cellar is shared by the Old Ship Hotel to the south of the site and there are a series of arched features incorporated in the construction of the wall. The east wall of the cellar is in brick.</p>						

## APPENDIX 1

**A Historic Building Record of the Cellar at  
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**Prepared by  
Maggie Henderson**

**May 2008**

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### **FIGURES**

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Block Plan showing the location of the cellar (based on that created by Alan Phillips Architects, April 2007)

Figure 3: The site in relation to T. Budgen's 'A New and Correct Plan of Brixthelmstone' 1788

Figure 4: The site block plan (reproduced from that created by Alan Phillips Architects, April 2007)

### **Plates**

Plate 1 The west end of the north wall

Plate 2 Section through the north wall created for modern access

Plate 3 The exposed ground floor fabric of the west end of the north wall

Plate 4 The north wall to the east of the modern entrance showing the timbers and the truncated red brick features

Plate 5 The flush brick tie or stitching at the eastern end of the north elevation with timber plates

Plate 6 The continuation of the brick pier to ground floor fabric in the east end of the north wall

Plate 7 The junction of the north and east elevations

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- Plate 10 The flush brick tie or stitching at the eastern end of the north elevation with timber plates
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## **ABSTRACT**

An inspection of the cellar at 8 Black Lion Street, Brighton after the almost total stripping out of the structure, including most of the intervening floors, revealed several areas of walling constructed in a material known locally as 'Bungaroosh'. This comprises substantial walls of mortar with intermittent brick and flint, sometimes coursed, created in a similar manner to modern shuttered concrete. Horizontal timbers and brick piers are often added to tie in the areas of bungaroosh as can be seen within the cellar. The use of bungaroosh spans several centuries but was much utilised in the Regency and Victorian periods in this location.

The cellar walls incorporated several brick features and showed evidence of extensive modifications to the structure over time. All but the east wall were predominantly constructed in Bungaroosh at cellar level, with a continuation of this type of fabric visible in parts of the upper floors.

The adjacent Old Shop Assembly Rooms building of 1767 abuts the property to the west and externally, the fabric of the north wall of the Assembly rooms was of the same type as that in situ within the cellar indicating a possible contemporary origin for construction. The south wall of the cellar is shared by the Old Ship Hotel to the south of the site and there are a series of arched features incorporated in the construction of the wall. It is however, unclear whether the arches had been open between the two properties and later in-filled, or if they had been relieving arches from the outset to support the several floors of construction above the cellar. The east wall of the cellar is in brick and this may be due to its location fronting onto Black Lion Street, a position which would be susceptible to changes in use and fashion over time.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1** Archaeology South-East (a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, UCL) was commissioned by Cheesemurs LTD to undertake a Geoarchaeological investigation/watching brief of deep excavations being undertaken in the basement as discussed above in the main report. In addition to the watching brief the opportunity arose to create an historic building record of the cellar which had been noted during the watching brief to include some historic building fabric. After consultation with Casper Johnson (ESCC) and the Client, it was agreed that a brief inspection and record should be made of the cellar structure prior to re-fitting. The work was carried out by Maggie Henderson, (Senior Archaeologist, Historic Buildings, ASE) the results of which are presented here as an appendix to the main report.

## **2.0 SCOPE & METHODOLOGY**

**2.1** The aim of a historic building survey is to provide an overview of the date, sequence of construction and principal architectural features of a building or structure. It should not be regarded as a detailed archaeological record, nor should it be taken as definitive.

**2.2** An historic building survey involves a visual inspection of the fabric, both internally and externally. No intrusive techniques are carried out, as this would be inappropriate and potentially damaging to the property. Interpretation of the fabric and fittings therefore relies principally upon inspection of the visible evidence.

## **3.0 LOCATION**

**3.1** The property is situated to the west side of Black Lion Street (NGR 53108 10434), between the Black Lion to the north end and the Old Ship hotel to the south (Fig. 1). The cellar is located to the south of the property (Fig. 2), abutting The Old Ship Assembly Room, to the west and the Old Ship Hotel to the south.

## **4.0 HISTORIC BACKGROUND (Fig. 3)**

**4.1** The earliest available map evidence consulted for the area was the 1788 Budgen Map of Brighthelmstone. Buildings are shown to occupy the site at this date with extensive gardens to the rear between the Black Lion Street and Ship Street Frontages.

## **5.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE CELLAR AS EXISTING (March 2008)**

The interior had been stripped almost in its entirety encompassing the removal of most of the upper floors, leaving the shell of the former building. The floor of the cellar had been a concrete screed but this too had been removed by the time the survey was carried out. Each of the four cellar walls displayed differences in construction or individual features and as such are described here separately.

The basement measures 14.14 m east to west and 4.87 m north -south, with an approximate height of 2.25 m (no floor or *in situ* ceiling levels, only scars left by removal).

### **5.1 The North Wall**

- 5.1.1 The fabric of the west end of the north wall (Plate 1), at 500 - 530 mm thick, has a 1.46 m wide area of cobble and brick set within a substantial matrix of mortar (known locally as bungaroosh, henceforth Type 1 fabric). The cobbles are rounded and the deep red bricks fragmentary and infrequent: there is no visible coursing. The wall is bedded on a layer of whitish mortar up to 500 mm thick.
- 5.1.2 The remnants of a brick feature had extended out from the north wall; this had been cut back flush with the wall face leaving a 580 mm wide red brick scar (Plate 1). The bricks measure 218 by 107 by 60 mm on average.
- 5.1.3 The brick feature appears to have formed the eastern side of a former doorway opening at 1.04 m wide. The opening had been reduced in the past by in-filling the bottom c. 650 mm with layers of cobble and brick in mortar (Plate 1). The upper part of the reduced opening was then in-filled wholly in a roughcast style cementitious mortar: the lower coursed in-fill utilised the same type of mortar but with the CBM and cobble inclusions in bedded over 40 mm thick layers of mortar. The base of the original opening had a layer of 20 mm thick tile, across the width of the feature and above the base layer of mortar, that the entire wall was situated upon (Plate 1). The eastern side of the opening did not have a brick return, but the junction between in-fill and opening showed a rendered finish to the reveal (Plate 1). The remainder of the fabric up to the modern entrance measured 530 mm wide and comprised a greater quantity of roughly coursed brickwork within the mortar. A series of timber plates had been built into the fabric of the wall, three of which could be seen in section in the truncation caused by the modern doorway (Plate 2). The plates had an average 140 mm square section and the upper two were situated 230 mm apart, the upper plate and lower plates were embedded into the fabric while the central one was set in a recess and lay flush with the fabric of the wall. The timber members acted as lacing courses within the fabric of the wall, tying the materials together and creating levelling layers for the stability of the structure.
- 5.1.4 At the western end of the north wall, all upper floor fabric visible from the cellar was rendered apart from a small section adjacent to the west wall. The exposed area comprised a variation of the Type 1 fabric, too distant to examine closely, but clearly constructed of mortar rich fabric with bricks and cobbles at intervals. A

narrow band of brickwork extended, an average one stretcher wide wound its way up the wall face, stitched into the mortar (Plate 3).

- 5.1.5 The west wall resumed to the east of the modern opening and the construction was entirely carried out in a Type 1 fabric. The fabric comprised rounded cobble courses with five visible timber plates within the ubiquitous abundance of mortar (Plate 4). There were two brick features, flush with the wall as a result of cutting back to create a flush finish as indicated by the condition of the surviving brickwork. The brick feature to the west at 1.95 m from the modern concrete in-fill situated adjacent to the current entrance into the basement, measured c. 340 mm wide and comprised very red bricks at 55-60 mm thick. The mortar bedding joints were 10-15 mm thick and of a mid brown sandy character. The feature incorporated some darker bricks, with a colour derived from over-firing rather than glazing: these bricks were 50 mm thick. The feature was visible to a height of seventeen courses and was capped with a stone slab at 420 mm wide by 40 mm thick.
- 5.1.6 The eastern brick feature was 330 mm wide, situated some 1.76 m away from its western counterpart (Plate 4). The construction of the eastern feature was the same as the first, with brick starting at 50 mm thick.
- 5.1.7 A substantial timber, 140 mm thick, extended between the two brick features with the western end abutting the west 'pier' above the stone slab and surrounded by several mixed brick courses, comprising various sizes of brick and fragments of Ceramic Building Material (CBM). The eastern end of the timber extended beyond the east pier (Plate 4). The fabric between the two piers (Plate 4) comprised type 1 fabric with very large irregular cobbles studding the mortar with no visible attempts at coursing. The fabric also included some timber plates: in addition there was red brick added to the fabric close to the east pier, located below the *in situ* ground floor chimney stack.
- 5.1.8 The visible remainder of the west wall was also in type 1 style fabric with one final brick pier at 580 mm wide situated some 700 mm from the east pier, extending upwards into the ground floor of the building (Plate 5). The brickwork is flush with the type 1 fabric and has not been cut back. The feature comprises varied red and yellow bricks between 55 and 60 mm thick and there are several timber plates between the courses, extending into the type 1 fabric to each side of the brickwork. The yellow, thicker bricks are situated above and below the timber plates (Plate 5). The pier continues upwards into the ground floor with type 1 fabric to the east (incorporating visible courses of brickwork (Plate 6) and construction to the west of the pier is of coursed brickwork.

## 5.2 The East Wall

- 5.2.1 The east wall is of brick throughout in a variation of English bond. The wall is tied into the north elevation, visible at cellar level only and the junction between the two (unpainted in contrast to the rest of the elevation) revealed red brickwork (Plate 7) at 60 mm thick uniformly. A rolled steel joist (RSJ) was embedded in the wall at the junction between cellar and ground floors and another at the



junction between ground and first floors, situated to carry the former floor construction.

### **5.3 The South Wall**

- 5.3.1 The south wall (Plate 8) is under a coat of white paint which served to inhibit a detailed analysis of the fabric. However, the predominant building material is in a variation of the Type 1 style with bricks inserted diagonally and there are series of four brick arched features incorporated in the construction (Plates 8 & 9). The features have rounded arched soffits and brick quoins to the edges (Plate 10) where the quoins of one arch joined that of the neighbouring, the brick stitching (pier) measured c 500 mm wide and continued up from the junction of the arch quoins to terminate at the top of the cellar wall (Plate 10).
- 5.3.2 The arched features are c. 2.54 m wide and greater than 1.93 m deep (continuing down below the level of the former concrete floor surface by c. 400 mm). The bricks utilised in the arch construction measured c. 210 to 230 mm in length by 100 mm wide, no thicknesses were exposed in the arch construction. Brick dimensions such as this were in use from at least the mid-18th century but more detail required such as the actual brick fabric, colour and inclusions and nature of any frog marks would be necessary to allow closer dating of the fabric. The interior of the arched features have Type 1 in-fill with occasional diagonally set bricks: there is a clear break line between the arches and the interior fabric. Above the arches there is a scarcement or ledge which had supported the ceiling and as such, the floor structure of the rooms above. There is a series of brick in-filled sockets which indicate the locations of the joists (Plates 9 & 10). A series of what appears to be stone corbels are situated above the arches, at intervals along the elevation. The corbels appear to have been trimmed back creating an irregular finish. The function of the corbels has been lost in the development of the cellar but may have supported the original ceiling construction.
- 5.3.3 The western end of the south wall does not have a brick arch. This area appears to correspond with the light well to the west within the adjacent Ship Hotel as shown on Figure 4.

### **5.4 The West Wall**

- 5.4.1 The west wall is constructed of brick for as far as is visible with sockets and scarcement for the floor above. Once again, the wall had been painted and details were obscured. The single cellar feature is an un-painted brick pier at the northern side of the elevation. The feature is 500 mm wide and the bricks are 230 by 100 by 60 mm in size (Plate 11).
- 5.4.2 Above the cellar, the wall bears a scar at ground floor level for the location of a former staircase (north side of the elevation; Plate 12) and there is a centrally situated chimney stack with *in situ* fireplace under a brick arched soffit. To the south of the stack and staircase the wall comprises Type 1 fabric similar to that visible for the south wall but with visible courses of brickwork and cobble within the mortar matrix. Above the remains of the mortar rich fabric there are visible brickwork courses incorporating two rectangular window openings under timber

lintels: the windows have been brick blocked and the fabric has been truncated with a later large window (Plate 12). The later window has a rolled steel joist (RSJ) extending north- south in front of it, to carry floor joists, some of which were still *in situ* at the date of survey.

## **5.5 The remnants of the ceiling between ground and first floors, visible from the cellar**

- 5.5.1 The ceiling (Plate 13) retained three, possibly four, large section beams (B1) socketed into the fabric of the walls. In addition, there were three rectangular section timber beams supported on ashlar posts adjacent to the north and south walls (B2). The posts were supported upon a corbel protruding from the walls and also supporting a straight brace which extended between corbel and the underside of the beams (Plate 14).
- 5.5.2 A series of fifteen east - west orientated joists within each bay, were tenoned into the B1 beams (Plates 13 & 15) and supported over the B2 type of beam (Plate 15).

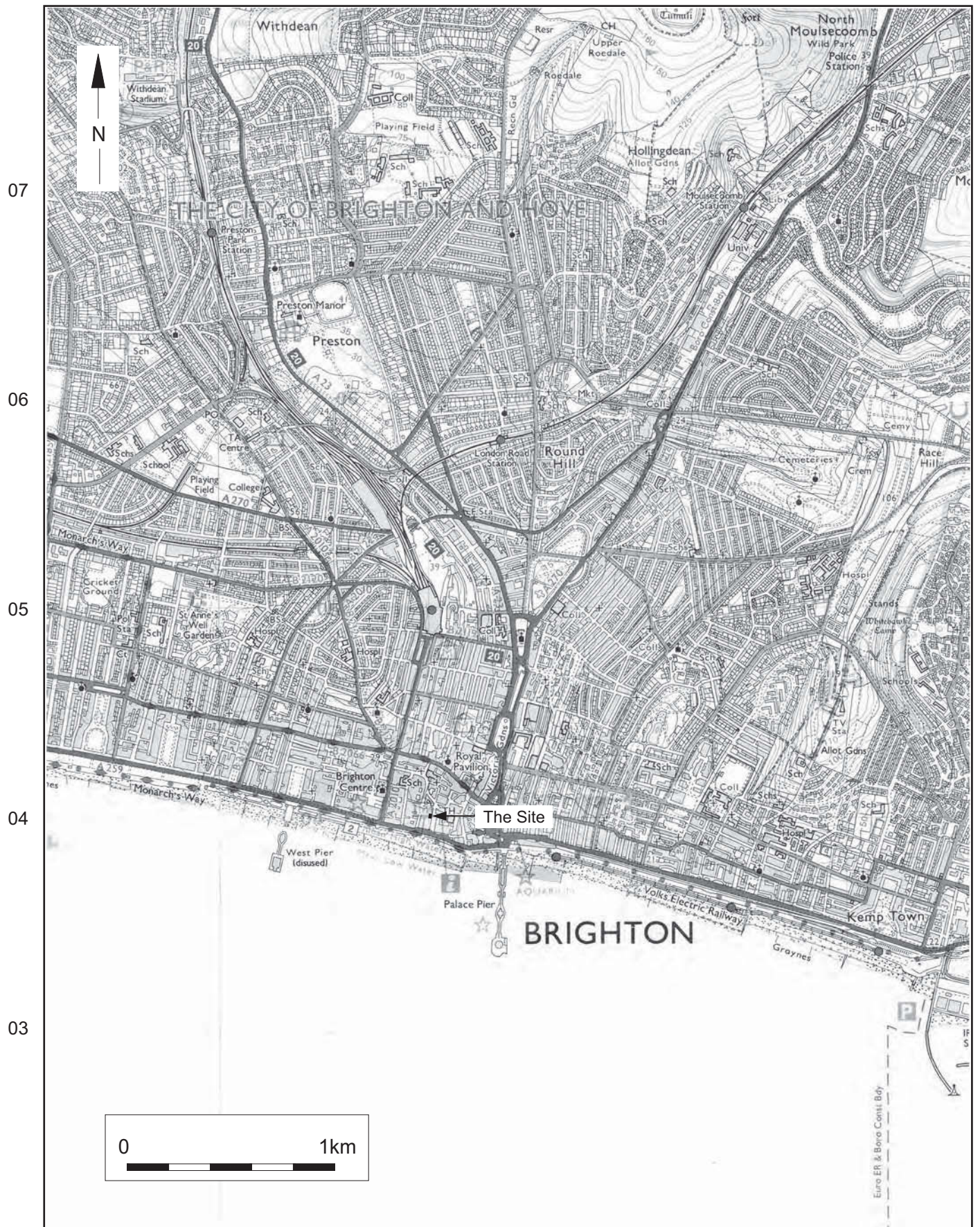
## **5.6 The cellar in its setting**

- 5.6.1 Access to the cellar is from the current car park to the rear of the property as a whole, that is, the western side of the building that fronts onto Black Lion Street (Figure 2). A general inspection of the fabric of the perimeter walling of the car park was also undertaken as part of the current survey. The results of the brief investigation revealed that the mortar rich fabric visible within the cellar, particularly the northern elevation, continued to the southwestern corner of the car park. The western perimeter wall of the car park also comprised similar building fabric with clear features covering a series of construction phases, such as blocked windows and scars where walls have been removed (Plate 16).

## **6.0 INTERPRETATION AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HISTORIC PHASING OF THE CELLAR**

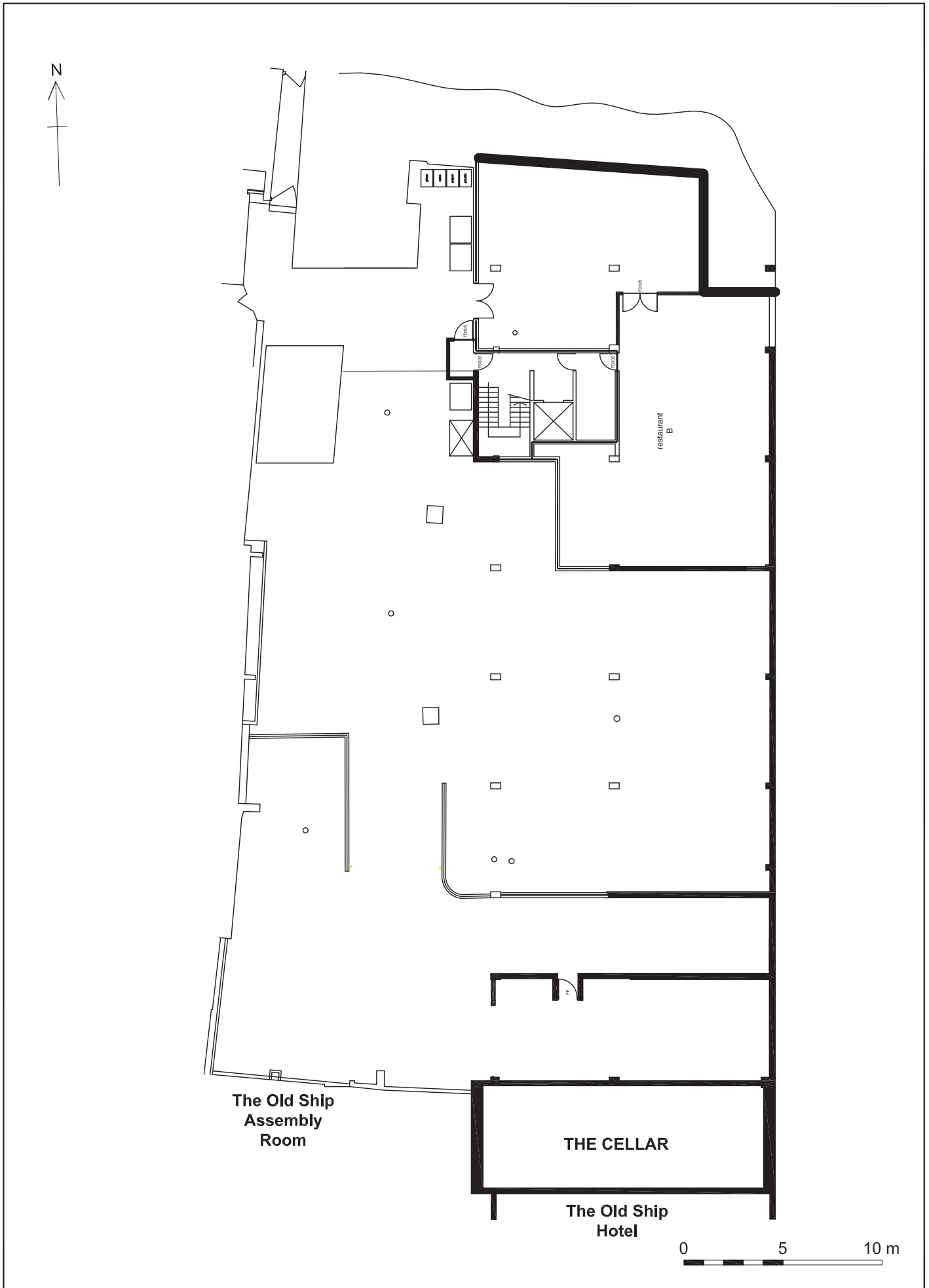
- 6.1** It is clear that the wall remains within the cellar comprise historic fabric particularly that of the northern wall and the upper parts of the western end wall. The fabric of the north wall continues out beyond the limit of the cellar to form the south wall of the car park. The wall in this location is the northern limit of the Old Ship Assembly rooms which was built in 1767 by Robert Goulden. The west wall of the cellar is the eastern limit of the Assembly Rooms. It is not known whether Goulden utilised pre-existing property boundary walls or started anew. However, it is clear that the north and west walls are by association, at least of mid-18th century origin. Wall construction of the type known locally as Bungaroosh is known to have been widespread during the 18th and 19th centuries for all but the façade of a building. The use of horizontal timber members within the masonry wall construction is also common in the 18th and 19th centuries.
- 6.3** The western wall of the car park also utilises fabric of type 1 characteristics, albeit of a more regular coursed nature (cobbled flint). The wall is shown on the 1788 map (Figure 3) as a property boundary between the structures fronting Ship Street, and those fronting Black Lion Street. The windows that had been blocked in the wall may indicate the location of structures that had been removed prior to the issue of the 1788 map, or indeed inserted or added to the existing perimeter wall and removed prior to the current phase of development.
- 6.4** Within the cellar, the north wall comprises a pair of brick features which may have been the base of a chimney stack. The brickwork is of a fabric and size that may indicate a comparatively early date of construction which without further information could be anytime after the 17th century.
- 6.5** The south wall forms the junction with the adjacent Ship Hotel. The arched features situated along the length of the wall may have been openings between the two buildings, later in-filled when the properties changed hands or use. The fabric below that of the arches is however, of a type consistent with the bungaroosh Type 1 wall construction seen elsewhere in the cellar. Although there is a clear break line between the soffit of the arch and the fabric below, it is uncertain whether the fill is contemporary to the construction of the arch - as a series of relieving arches - or a later modification.
- 6.6** The painted finish to the wall in addition to the usual difficulties of visibility and access within a working construction site obscured detailed analysis.
- 6.7** The east wall is built entirely in brick of uniform fabric and thickness which may indicate a later date of construction. A different style and/or date of construction of the east wall is not surprising. The very visible location fronting onto Black Lion Street made the elevation more susceptible to modifications in line with redevelopment of the site over time





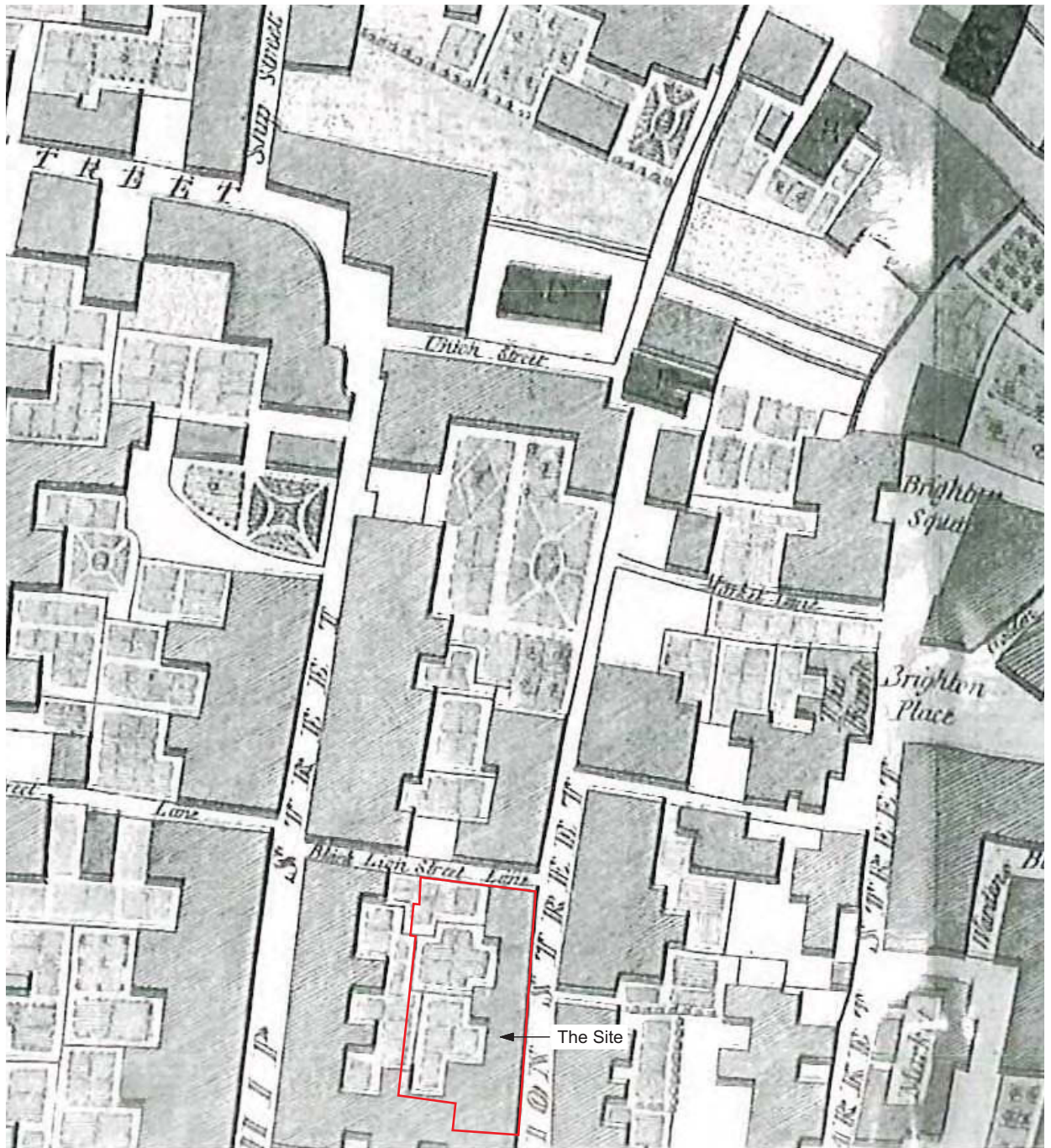
© Archaeology South-East		Black Lion Street, Brighton	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3272	Jan 2008	Site Location	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		

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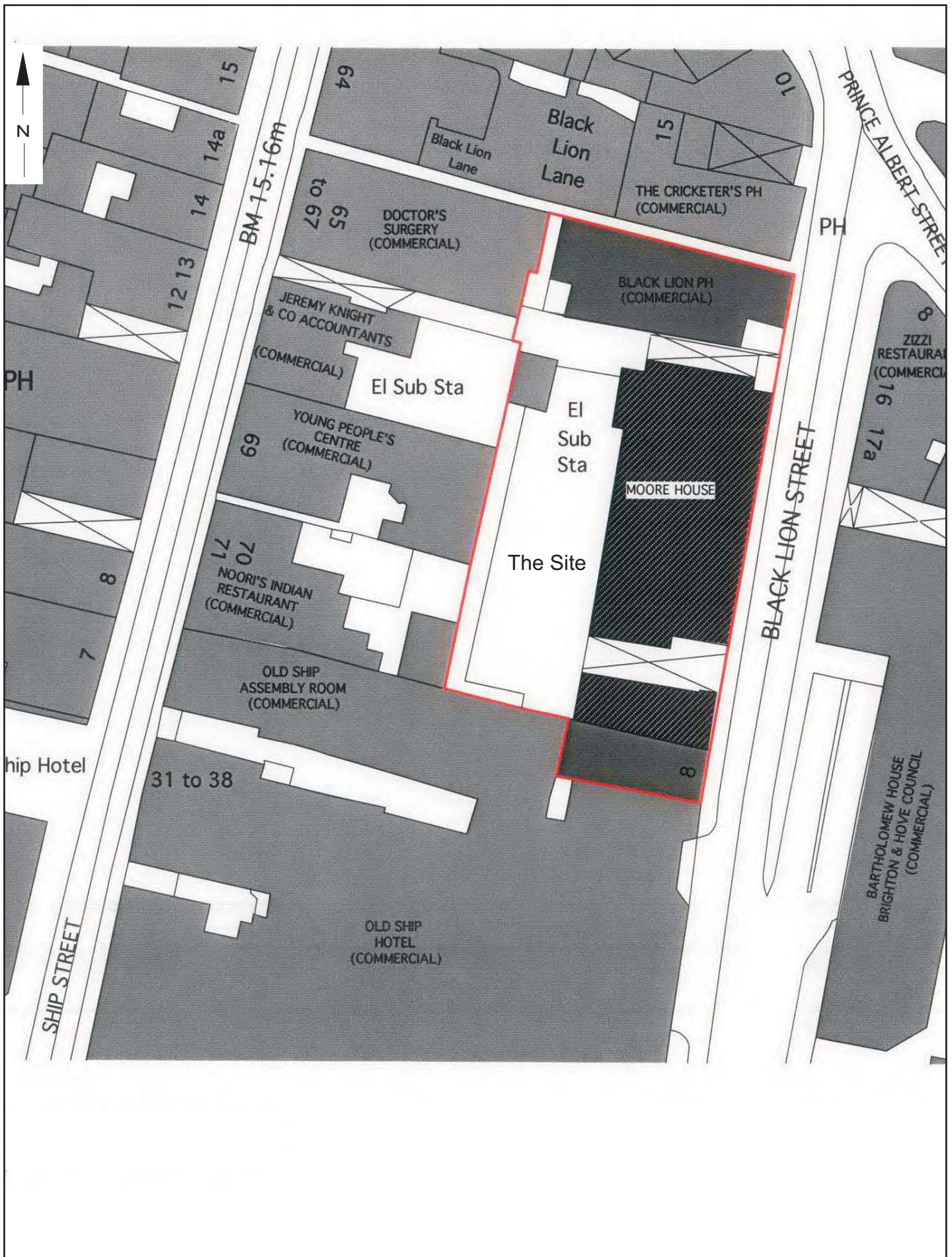
© Archaeology South-East		8 Black Lion Street, Brighton	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 3272	May 2008	Block Plan Showing the Location of the Cellar (Based on those prepared by Alan Phillips Architects, 2007)	
Report Ref: 2008052	Drawn by: mh		





© Archaeology South-East		8 & 11-13 (Moore House) Black Lion Street, Brighton		Fig. 3
Ref: 3272	April 2008	Drawn by MH	The site in relation to T. Budgen's 'A New and Correct Plan of Brightelmstone, 1788	





© Archaeology South-East		8 & 11-13 (Moore House) Black Lion Street, Brighton		Fig. 4
Ref: 3272	April 2008	Drawn by MH	The site block plan (reproduced from that created by Alan Phillips Architects, April 2007)	





Plate 1: The west end of the north wall



Timber Plate

Plate 2: Section through the north wall created for modern access



Plate 3: The exposed ground floor fabric of the west end of the north wall



Plate 4: The north wall to the east of the modern entrance showing the timbers and the truncated red brick features





ellow bricks

Plate 6 : The flush brick tie or stitching at the eastern end of the north elevation with timber plates



Plate 7 : The continuation of the brick pier to ground floor fabric in the east end of the north wall



Plate 7: The junction of the north and east elevations



Plate 8: The painted south elevation



Plate 9: Detail of an arch in the south wall



Arch junction with brickwork extending up to former ceiling level

Plate 10: The flush brick tie or stitching at the eastern end of the north elevation with timber plates



Plate 11: The west wall with unpainted brick feature to the north

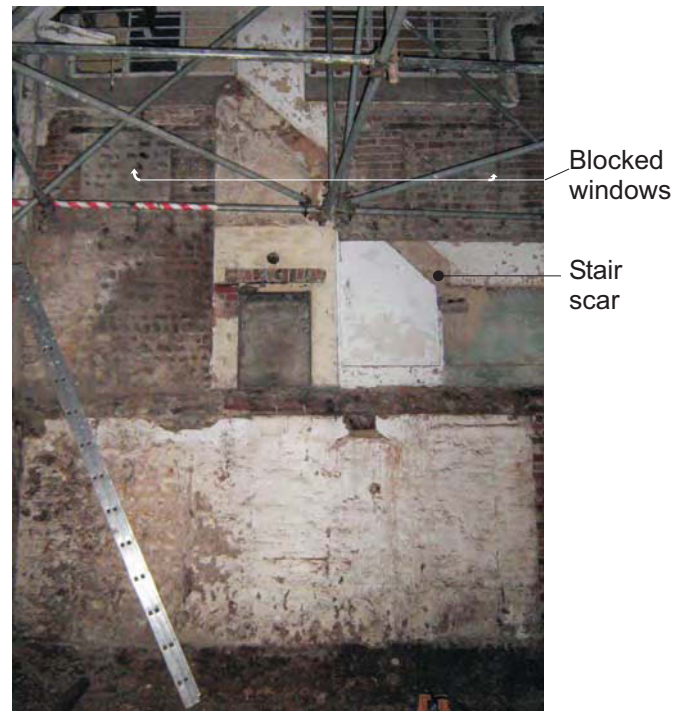


Plate 12: The west wall with upper floor features visible





Plate 13: Remnant ceiling construction at First Floor

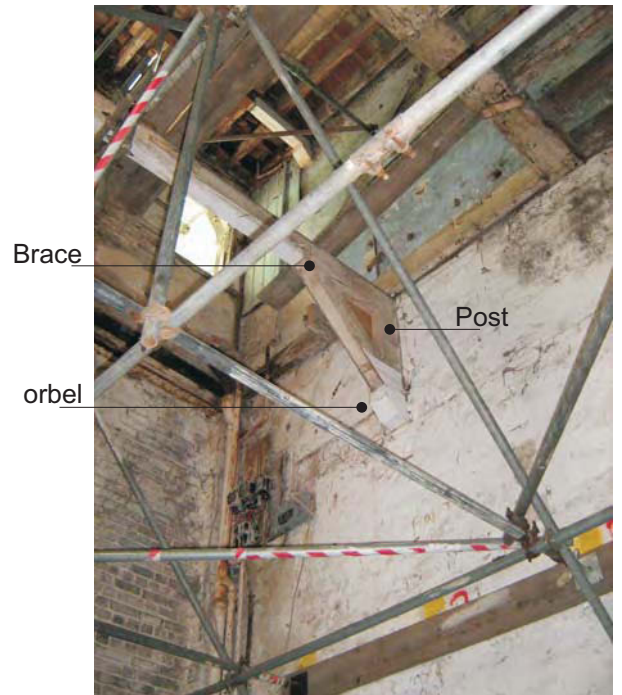


Plate 14: Beam, brace and ashlar post



Plate 15 : Ceiling construction detail  
(beams orientated east - west)



Plate 16 : The west perimeter wall in the car park

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