

**An Archaeological Watching Brief Report
on Emergency Works at Manor Hill,
Whitehawk Camp, Whitehawk,
Brighton, East Sussex**

NGR: TQ 3302 0480

Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent No: 20176/S00005042

**Project No. 4074
Site Code: WHE09**

**ASE Report No. 2009202
OASIS id: archaeol6-69274**



By Dan Swift

December 2009

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during excavations for the replacement of a water-pipe at Whitehawk Camp, Whitehawk, Brighton, East Sussex, NGR TQ 3302 0480. Weathered chalk was observed beneath topsoil in both trenches. A possible feature was identified in Trench 1 to the south of Manor Hill, however, it could not be determined whether this was naturally occurring or archaeological. No archaeological features were observed in Trench 2 to the north of Manor Hill. No archaeological finds were recovered in either trench.

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Front cover: General working shot of Trench 1 looking north

- Figure 1: Site Location
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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 Blockbusters Construction Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Manor Hill, Whitehawk Camp, Whitehawk, Brighton, East Sussex, (TQ 3342 0480; Figure 1) henceforth called the site.
- 1.2** The site is located in middle of Brighton Racecourse on either side of Manor Hill which bisects the racecourse. The racecourse itself sits partly on top of Whitehawk Camp a Neolithic causewayed enclosure a scheduled ancient monument (Scheduled Monument Number: 20176).
- 1.3** The work monitored in the watching brief was two small areas of excavation to the north and south of Manor Hill to enable the replacement of an existing length of leaking water pipe. Scheduled ancient monument consent was required under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 for these works and was granted retrospectively (Consent number: 20176/S00005042).
- 1.4** A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlining the requirements of the fieldwork was prepared by Archaeology South-East in consultation with Paul Roberts, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, English Heritage, South East Region.
- 1.5** The site is situated on a slight southeast facing slope. The British Geological Survey map Sheet 318/333 (Area Brighton and Worthing) Solid and Drift Edition (1:50,000 scale) indicates that the site lies on Upper and Middle Chalk.
- 1.6** The fieldwork was undertaken by Dan Swift on 7/10/09 and 7/12/09 and 8/12/09. The project was managed by Darryl Palmer (Project Manager) and Dan Swift (Post-excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** As The site lies within the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Whitehawk Camp, a Neolithic causewayed enclosure. Whitehawk Camp is a 5,500 year old enclosure covering a prominent area of Downland close to several residential housing estates near the urban centre of Brighton. The site is 500 years older than Stonehenge and one of the earliest examples of ritual monumental construction in Northern Europe. It is unclear whether the people who built Whitehawk Camp were settled farmers, hunter gathers, or somewhere in between, but the construction of monuments such as Whitehawk Camp began the change which lead to the modern landscape we see today.
- 2.2** Three concentric lines of linear earthworks forming the enclosure are still visible on the hilltop to the south and east. Some linear depressions on the line of known ditches are also visible in the south and east of the monument, including one that crosses the southern end of the racecourse.
- 2.3** The monument comprises at least four circuits of interrupted banks and ditches and was subjected to selected archaeological excavations between 1929-35 (Curwen 1936) and the more recently between 1991-93 (Russell and Rudling 1996). ASE has also undertaken a series of watching briefs since 1992 (ASE formerly traded as South Eastern Archaeological Services prior to 1996) within Whitehawk Camp during the course of varies schemes of improvement/ modification within the monument and Brighton Racecourse.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The general aim of the archaeological work was to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest that will be affected by the proposed works are recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.
- 3.2 Specific Research Aims for the watching brief were:
- To understand the development of the monument
 - To understand the use and development of the landscape.
- 3.3 Ground works excavations were undertaken by hand by the contractors and monitored by an archaeologist. The excavations consisted of two narrow north-south trenches c. 0.60m wide situated to the north and south of Manor Hill (Figure 2). Both trenches contained existing water-pipes (to be replaced) so all of the resultant up cast had been recently disturbed. It was therefore impossible that any *in situ* archaeological features could exist in either trench. The pipe was also replaced in the area through the road (Manor Hill) and the pavement as well, but this was not monitored in the watching brief.
- 3.4 The west-facing sections (Figure 3) of both trenches were hand cleaned, inspected and recorded to archaeological standards by the archaeologist in attendance.
- 3.5 The spoil from the excavations was also inspected by the archaeologist in attendance to recover any possible artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

4.2 The trench measured c. 8m long NS x c. 0.60m wide EW x c. 1m deep maximum.

Context	Description	Maximum Thickness in metres
[1]	Topsoil; very dark grey brown peaty clayey silts with occasional chalk flecks and very occasional slate fragments	0.30
[2]	Modern cut	0.95+
[3]	Modern backfill of [2]	0.95+
[4]	Weathered chalk subsoil; angular chalk clasts with rare flint nodules (c. 80%) in a matrix of mid grey-brown clayey silt (c. 20%)	0.40
[5]	Less weathered chalk; chalk clasts (c. 50%) in a chalk powder matrix (c. 50%)	0.50+
[6]	Possible cut or lense between [4] and [5]; rounded shallow bowl-like profile	0.18
[7]	Fill of [6] or lense between [4] and [5]; discoloured pinkish-grey chalk powder (c. 50%) and small chalk fragments and unworked angular flint clasts (C. 50%)	0.18

4.2 Contexts [4] and [5] were weathered chalk stratum.

4.3 Contexts [2] and [3] were a modern intrusion with concrete at the base.

4.4 Context [6] was a shallow bowl-like area of discoloured chalk [7]. It was unclear whether this was an ancient cut feature or just a lense of discoloured chalk sealed beneath the two weathered chalk layers [4] and [5]. The area opposite [6] and [7] in the east-facing section was also cleaned and inspected but neither [6] nor [7] were present. There were no archaeological finds present.

4.5 Trench 2 (Figure 4)

4.6 The trench measured c. 4m long NS x c. 0.60m wide EW x c. 0.70m deep maximum.

Context	Description	Maximum Thickness in metres
[1]	Topsoil; very dark grey brown peaty clayey silts with occasional chalk flecks and very occasional slate fragments	0.20
[4]	Weathered chalk subsoil; angular chalk clasts with rare flint nodules (c. 80%) in a matrix of mid grey-brown clayey silt (c. 20%)	0.30
[5]	Less weathered chalk; chalk clasts (c. 50%) in a chalk powder matrix (c. 50%)	0.20+

4.7 Contexts [4] and [5] were weathered chalk stratum. There were no archaeological finds present.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 It was unclear from the watching brief whether the weathered chalk horizons [4] and [5] viewed in both Trenches 1 and 2 were disturbed or naturally occurring. No finds were found in either stratum.
- 5.2 Within Trench 1 [6] was a shallow bowl-like area of discoloured chalk [7], however it was unclear whether this was a shallow cut feature or a lense of discoloured chalk sealed beneath weathered chalk layers [4] and [5]. No finds were recovered from [7].

References

ASE., 2009, *Whitehawk Emergency Works, Kent; Archaeological Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished ASE document.

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	WHE09					
Identification Name and Address	Manor Hill, Whitehawk Camp, Brighton					
County, District &/or Borough	East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 3302 0480					
Geology	Upper and Middle Chalk					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4074					
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. 7/10/09 and 7/12/09	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Blockbusters Construction Ltd					
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer					
Project Supervisor	Dan Swift					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological watching brief was maintained during excavations for the replacement of a water-pipe at Whitehawk Camp, Whitehawk, Brighton, East Sussex, NGR TQ 3302 0480. Weathered chalk was observed beneath topsoil in both trenches. A possible feature was identified in Trench 1 to the south of Manor Hill, however, it could not be determined whether this was naturally occurring or archaeological. No archaeological features were observed in Trench 2 to the north of Manor Hill. No archaeological finds were recovered in either trench.</i></p>						

OASIS Summary

OASIS ID: archaeo16-69274**Project details**

Project name	Whitehawk Camp Emergency works
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was maintained during excavations for the replacement of a water-pipe at Whitehawk Camp, Whitehawk, Brighton, East Sussex, NGR TQ 3302 0480. Weathered chalk was observed beneath topsoil in both trenches. A possible feature was identified in Trench 1 to the south of Manor Hill, however, it could not be determined whether this was naturally occurring or archaeological. No archaeological features were observed in Trench 2 to the north of Manor Hill. No archaeological finds were recovered in either trench.
Project dates	Start: 07-10-2009 End: 07-12-2009
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WHE09 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	CAUSEWAYED ENCLOSURE Late Mesolithic
Monument type	CAUSEWAYED ENCLOSURE Neolithic
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Test Pits'
Development type	Pipelines/cables (e.g. gas, electric, telephone, TV cable, water, sewage, drainage etc.)
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX BRIGHTON AND HOVE BRIGHTON Whitehawk Camp
Postcode	BN2 2
Study area	6.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 328 052 50.8305062449 -0.114054020780 50 49 49 N 000
06 50 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 0m Max: 0m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator English Heritage/Department of Environment

Project design originator Archaeology South-East

Project director/manager Darryl Palmer

Project supervisor Dan Swift

Type of sponsor/funding body private client

Name of sponsor/funding body Blockbusters Construction Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Local Museum

Digital Archive ID WHE09

Digital Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Digital Media available 'Text'

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Archive ID WHE09

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Correspondence','Drawing','Miscellaneous Material','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

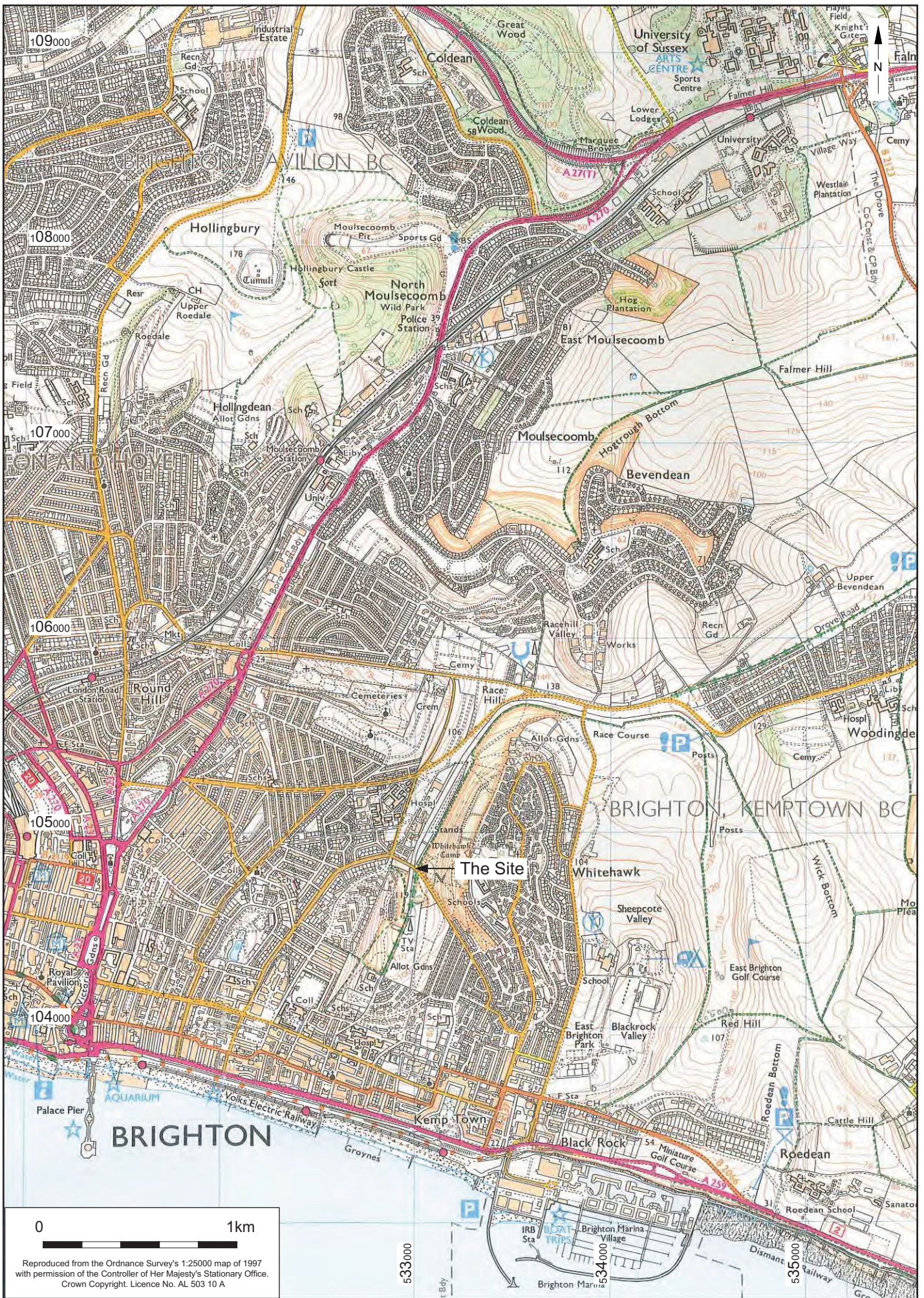
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**Project
bibliography 2**

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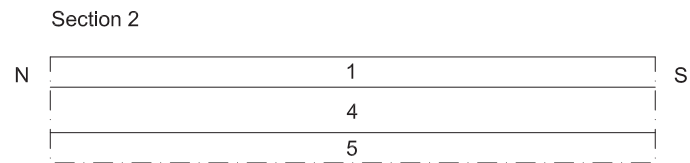
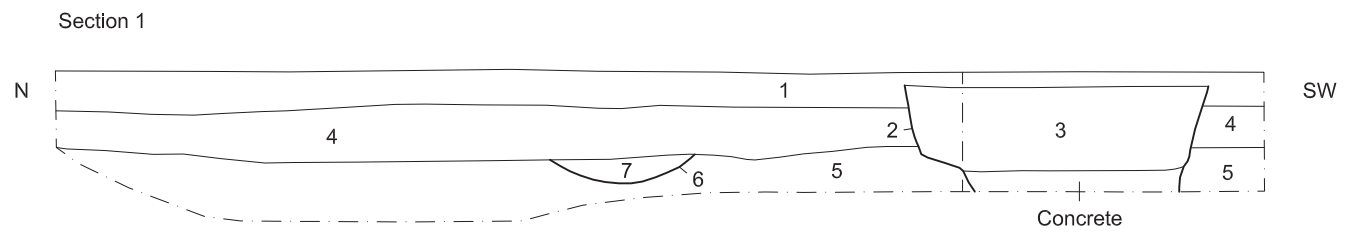


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© Archaeology South-East		Whitehawk Emergency Works		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4074	Dec 2009	Site location		
Report Ref: 2009188	Drawn by: JLR			



© Archaeology South-East		Whitehawk Emergency Works		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4074	Dec 2009	Trench location		
Report Ref: 2009188	Drawn by: JLR			



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