

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

S O U T H

**3 Colbourne Avenue,
Brighton, East Sussex**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Sean Wallis

Site Code: CAB14/118

(TQ 3289 0686)

**3 Colbourne Avenue, Brighton,
East Sussex**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
For MTM Property Services Ltd**

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CAB
14/118

July 2014

Summary

Site name: 3 Colbourne Avenue, Brighton, East Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 3289 0686

Planning reference: BH2014/00792

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 23rd – 24th June 2014

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Sean Wallis

Site code: CAB 14/118

Area of site: c. 25 sq m observed in a site of c. 275 sq m

Summary of results: The foundations for the new extension were monitored during the watching brief. Garden soil deposits were recorded directly above the natural geology, although these were buried beneath a patio area close to the house. Despite the fact that the site had not been significantly disturbed in the past, no archaeological finds or features were observed.

Location and reference of archive: The preferred repository is Brighton Museum, which is not currently accepting material. The archive will be retained at Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd, 47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading, RG1 5NR, for a period of 4 years.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 16.07.14 Steve Preston ✓ 16.07.14

3 Colbourne Avenue, Brighton, East Sussex An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Sean Wallis

Report 14/118

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 3 Colbourne Avenue, Brighton, East Sussex (TQ 3289 0686) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Gavin Kerruish of MTM Property Services, 108A Lewes Road, Brighton, BN2 4AF.

Planning permission (BH2014/00792) has been gained from Brighton and Hove City Council to construct two new single-storey extensions to the rear of the property. The consent was subject to a standard condition (4) relating to archaeology, which required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. The East Sussex County Archaeological Officer (Mr Greg Chuter), as adviser to the City Council on archaeological matters, has stipulated that this should consist of a watching brief to be carried out during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF, 2012), and the City Council's policies on archaeology. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by the East Sussex Archaeological Officer, Mr Greg Chuter. Where appropriate and relevant, the recommendations in the 'Standards for archaeological fieldwork, recording, and post-excavation work in East Sussex (2008)' were followed.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Felicity Howell and Sean Wallis between 23rd and 24th June 2014, and the site code is CAB 14/118. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at a suitable repository when available.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the west side of Colbourne Avenue, Brighton, East Sussex (TQ 3289 0686) (Fig. 2). According to the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology consists of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, although Head deposits have been recorded immediately to the west (BGS 2006). The natural geology observed during the watching brief consisted of degraded chalk.

The site is currently occupied by a house and its rear garden. There was a patio situated immediately behind the house. The area generally slopes down towards the west, and the rear of the building lies at a height of approximately 34m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the South Downs, which is known to be archaeologically rich for most periods (Rudling 2003). A search of the East Sussex Historic Environment Record (ESHER ref. 198/14) was carried out in July 2014 to provide further information on the archaeological background of the site. A number of stray finds dating from the Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods have been found in the surrounding area. Several human burials have also been recorded, including a Saxon cremation burial about 100m north of the site. The Iron Age hillfort at Hollingbury is situated to the north-west of the site, and it is likely that archaeological features associated with prehistoric settlement may have been destroyed when the area around the site was developed in the late 19th and 20th centuries. Indeed, the remains of prehistoric field systems have survived to the east of the site at Upper Beviden.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the watching brief were to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was to include the monitoring of the footing trenches for the new extensions and any associated service runs. Sufficient time was to be allowed within the developer's and groundworkers' schedules to record any archaeological features revealed.

Results

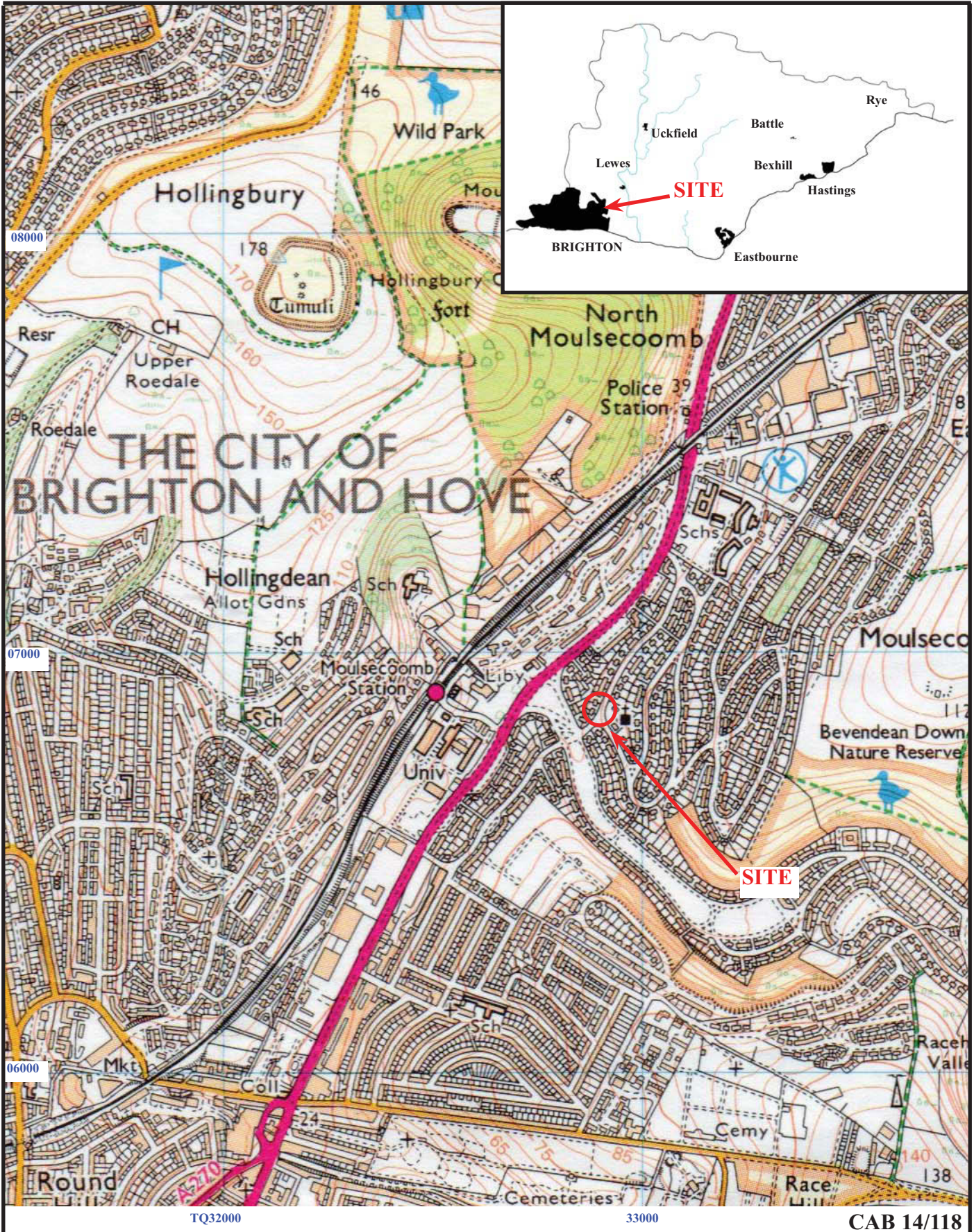
The excavation of footings for the new extension was monitored (Figs. 3 and 4). All the footing trenches were 0.7m wide and varied between 1.00 and 1.60m in depth, generally being deeper towards the house where they were dug through the former patio. The stratigraphy in the western footing trench consisted of 0.30m of garden soil, which was removed to reveal a deposit of orange brown silty clay subsoil, which was up to 0.50m thick. The natural geology was encountered immediately beneath the subsoil, and consisted of degraded chalk. The stratigraphy in the north and south footing trenches was similar, although the garden soil had been buried beneath the former patio. A modern soakaway was observed in the north-west corner of the footing trenches, whilst the areas immediately adjacent to the house had been disturbed by earlier services. Despite the fact that most of the site had clearly not been significantly truncated in the past, no archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Conclusion

The watching brief at 3 Colbourne Avenue successfully examined those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of the new extension. No archaeological finds or features were recorded, despite the fact that the area does not appear to have been significantly disturbed in the past.

References

BGS, 2006, British Geological Survey, Sheet 318/333, Solid and Drift Edition, 1:50000
ESHER, 2014, East Sussex Historic Environment Record search, reference 198/14
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dep Communities and Local Government, London (TSO)
Rudling, D, (ed) 2003, *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, King's Lynn



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Figure 1. Location of site within Brighton and East Sussex.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site on Colbourne Avenue.

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Figure 3. Location of areas monitored.



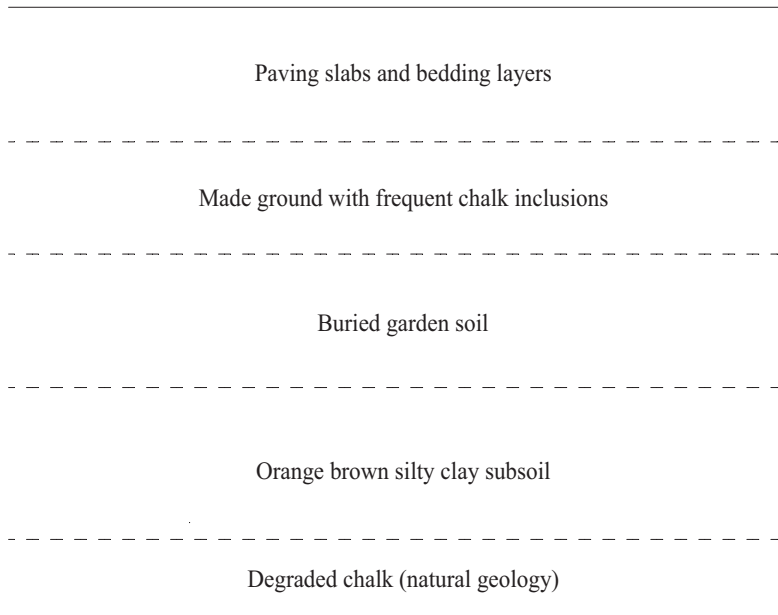
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Southern footing trench

ESE

WNW

34m AOD

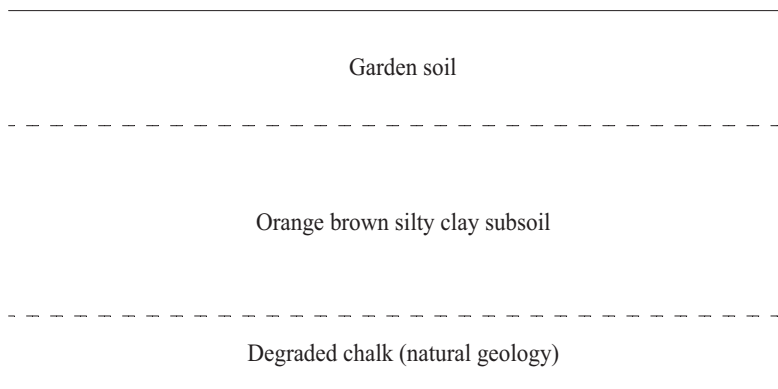


Western footing trench

SSW

NNE

33.50m AOD



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Figure 4. Representative sections.



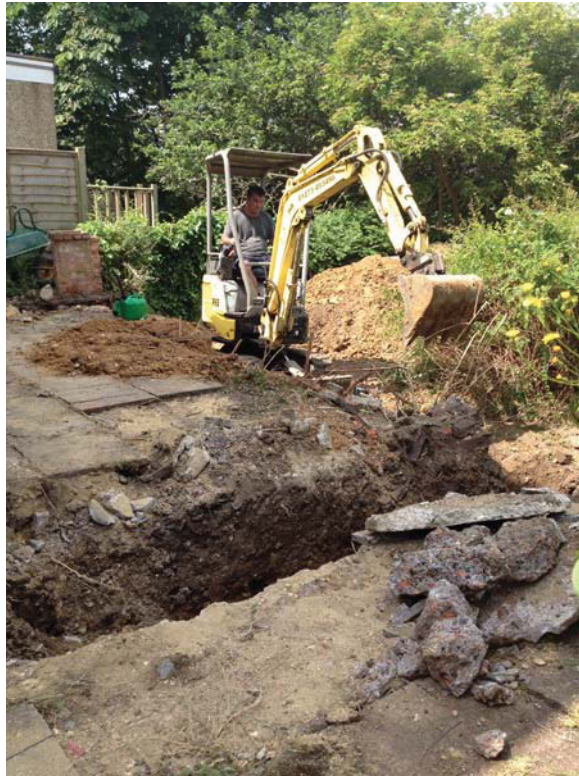


Plate 1. General view of site looking south west



Plate 2. North west corner of site looking north,
Scale: 0.5m

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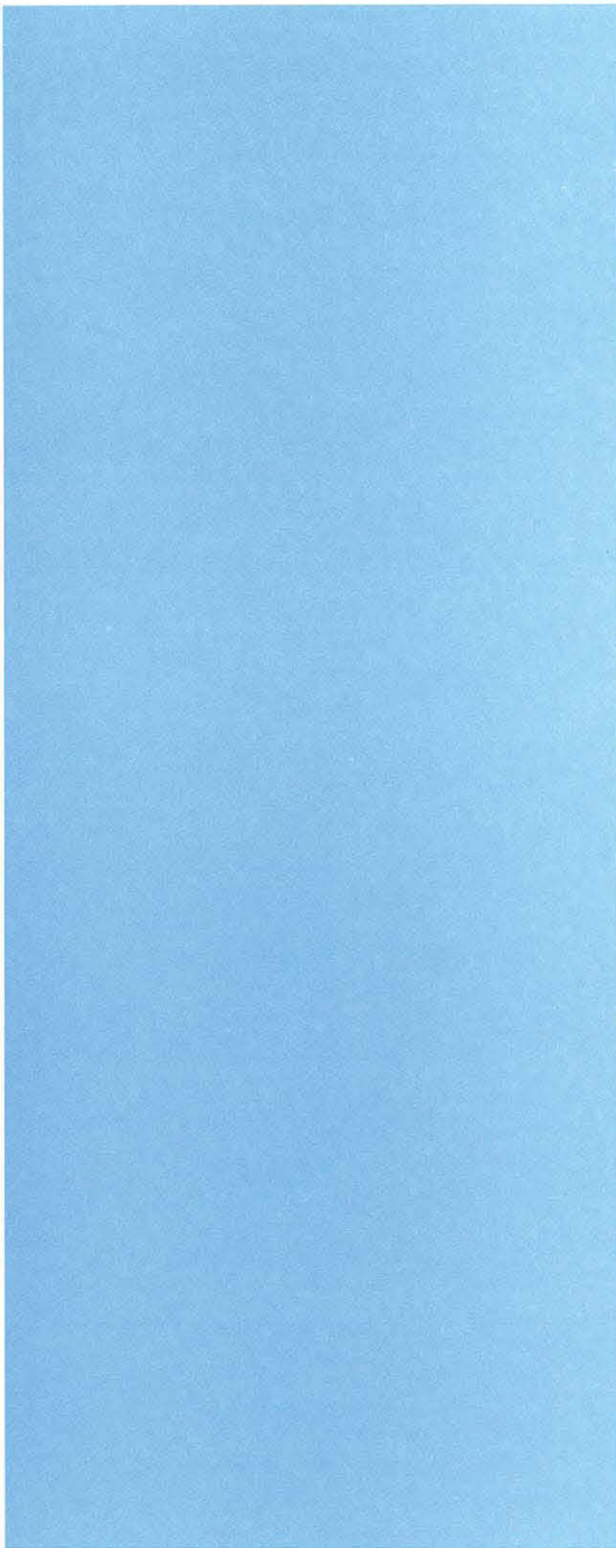
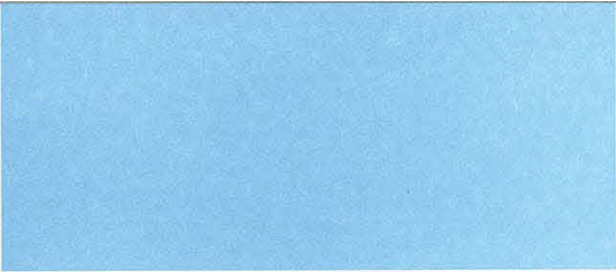
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Plates

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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late -----	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle -----	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early -----	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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