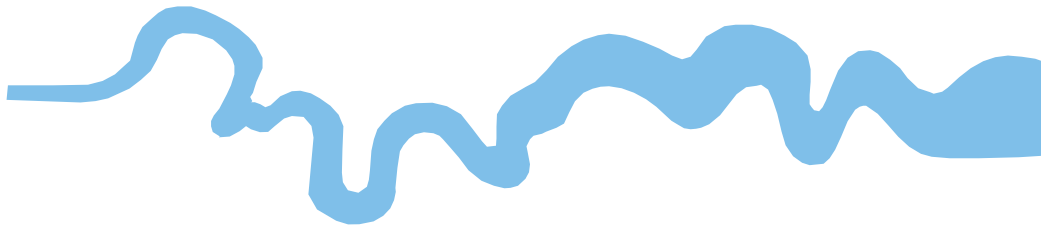


T V A S



SOUTH

**Land to the rear of 308 Dyke Road,
Brighton, East Sussex**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Sean Wallis

Site Code: DRB18/51

(TQ 2972 0655)

**Land to the rear of 308 Dyke Road,
Brighton, East Sussex**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr Jonathan Stern

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code DRB18/51

June 2018

Summary

Site name: Land to the rear of 308 Dyke Road, Brighton, East Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 2972 0655

Planning reference: BH2017/02733

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 29th May 2018

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Sean Wallis

Site code: DRB 18/51

Summary of results: The watching brief successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of a new house. An area which had previously been occupied by a row of garages, and largely covered by Tarmac, was stripped down to the top of the natural geology. The only features observed were a very large late 19th- or 20th-century truncation, which was recorded in the central part of the site, and a similarly dated brick-built silt trap and service run.

Location and reference of archive: The preferred depository for the site archive is Brighton Museum. Unfortunately the museum is not accepting new material, so the archive will be held at TVAS Brighton until a suitable repository can be found.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 29.06.18 Steve Preston✓ 29.06.18

Land to the rear of 308 Dyke Road, Brighton, East Sussex An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Sean Wallis

Report 18/51

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out to the rear of 308 Dyke Road, Brighton, East Sussex (TQ 2972 0655) (Figs. 1 and 2). The project was commissioned by the property's owner, Mr Jonathan Stern.

Planning permission (BH2017/02733) has been gained from Brighton and Hove City Council for the construction of a new house on the site, following the demolition of an existing garage block. The permission was subject to a standard planning condition (11) relating to archaeology and the historic environment. This was in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF, 2012) and the City Council's policies on archaeology and the historic environment. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on site which may be damaged or destroyed by the planned building work, it was proposed to carry out a watching brief. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer (Mr Greg Chuter), who advises the City Council on archaeological matters. Where appropriate and relevant, the recommendations in *Sussex Archaeological Standards* (ESCC 2017) were to be followed.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Sean Wallis on 29th May 2018, and the site code is DRB 18/51. The archive is currently held at TVAS Brighton and will be deposited with a suitable depository in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the east side of Dyke Road, approximately 2.5km north-west of the historic core of Brighton, East Sussex (Fig. 1). The new house will be situated to the rear of 308 Dyke Road, in an area which was previously occupied by a row of garages (Fig. 2). Although the area generally slopes down towards the east, the site itself was relatively flat, and lies at a height of approximately 89m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of the Culver Chalk Formation, although it is very close to a small area where the overlying Woolwich and Reading Beds have been observed (BGS 2006). The latter geology was recorded across the site as a mid orange brown sand clay, with varying amounts of flint gravel inclusions.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been gleaned from a recent search of the East Sussex Historic Environment Record. In summary, the site lies within an Archaeological Notification Area (Dyke Road South) which has been designated due to the underlying Woolwich Beds geology, which is thought to have been a preferred location for prehistoric activity. Although no archaeological finds are recorded from the Archaeological Notification Area itself, numerous finds and features dating from the prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and medieval periods have been noted slightly further afield. These include possible Neolithic barrows and the medieval settlement of Preston with its associated manor house and parish church. Despite the fact that several archaeological fieldwork projects have been carried out in the area, very little has been found in the way of features. Many of the HER entries seems to relate to stray finds of items such as prehistoric flintwork and Roman coins.

Objectives and methodology

The primary aim of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. Where archaeological deposits which may warrant preservation *in-situ* were encountered, their treatment was to be discussed in consultation with the client and the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer. Where it was not possible or practicable to preserve archaeological remains *in-situ* the features were to be excavated by hand and fully recorded, to ensure their preservation by record. The watching brief was to be carried out in accordance with the relevant sections of *Sussex Archaeological Standards* (ESCC 2017).

Results

Prior to the commencement of the project, the existing row of garages was demolished and much of the surrounding Tarmac hardstanding removed to expose its underlying bedding layer. The development plans required that the entire footprint of the new house, and the immediate surrounding area, be reduced by approximately 1m to expose the natural chalk geology. It was therefore decided that archaeological monitoring of the ground reduction would take place to expose the top of the natural geology or relevant archaeological level, if higher, so that any archaeological features could be appropriately dealt with. Further ground reduction could then take place without an archaeologist being present.

Due to the logistics of producing a great deal of spoil, the site was stripped in two parts. The southern and eastern parts of the site were stripped first (Pls 1 and 2) and then, once they had been cleared, the western part

(previously under the garages) was stripped (Pl. 3) with the resulting spoil being placed on the eastern area. As a result a large area was stripped (Fig. 3) down to the top of the natural geology, which consisted of mid orange brown sandy clay, with varying amounts of flint gravel inclusions (Pls 2 and 4). Taking into account the Tarmac and concrete base of the garages, the natural geology was generally encountered about 0.5m below the original ground surface (Fig. 4) . The only area left un-stripped was a small section in the south-east corner of the site where there was a portable toilet (Pls 2 and 5).

It was clear that the site had been slightly truncated in the past, probably when the row of garages was constructed in the 20th century. Although traces of a buried soil horizon were recorded along the southern and western margins of the site (Fig. 4), this was not present within the central area, where the natural geology was encountered immediately below made ground deposits. A large, irregular-shaped, pit was noted within the stripped area (Fig. 3), although it is possible that it may represent more than one episode of truncation. Part of the pit was exposed beneath the row of garages, where it was filled with late 19th- or 20th-century demolition rubble. The southern part of the pit was backfilled with re-deposited natural chalk and sandy clay.

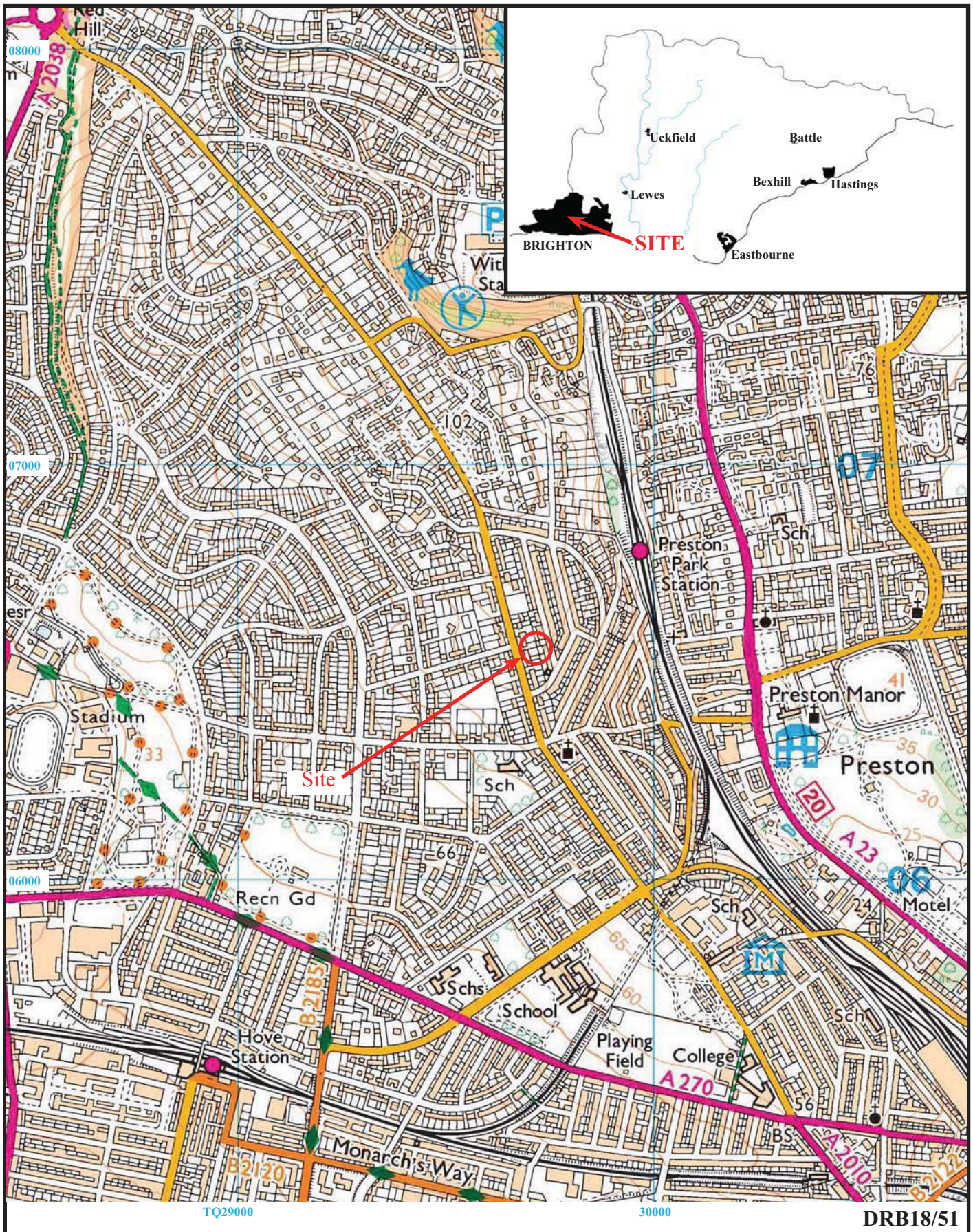
The only other features recorded were a modern service run, and the partial remains of a brick-built silt trap which was clearly later than the large pit. No archaeological finds were recovered from the site.

Conclusion

The watching brief successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of a new house. An area which had previously been occupied by a row of garages, and largely covered by Tarmac, was stripped down to the top of the natural geology. The only features observed were a very large, late 19th- or 20th-century truncation, which was recorded in the central part of the site, and a similarly dated brick-built silt trap and service run.

References

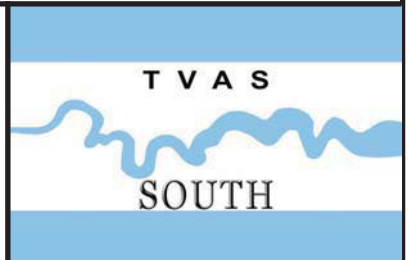
- BGS, 2006, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet **318/333**, Bedrock and Superficial Deposits Edition, Keyworth
- ESCC, 2017, *Sussex Archaeological Standards*, East Sussex County Council, Lewes
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London

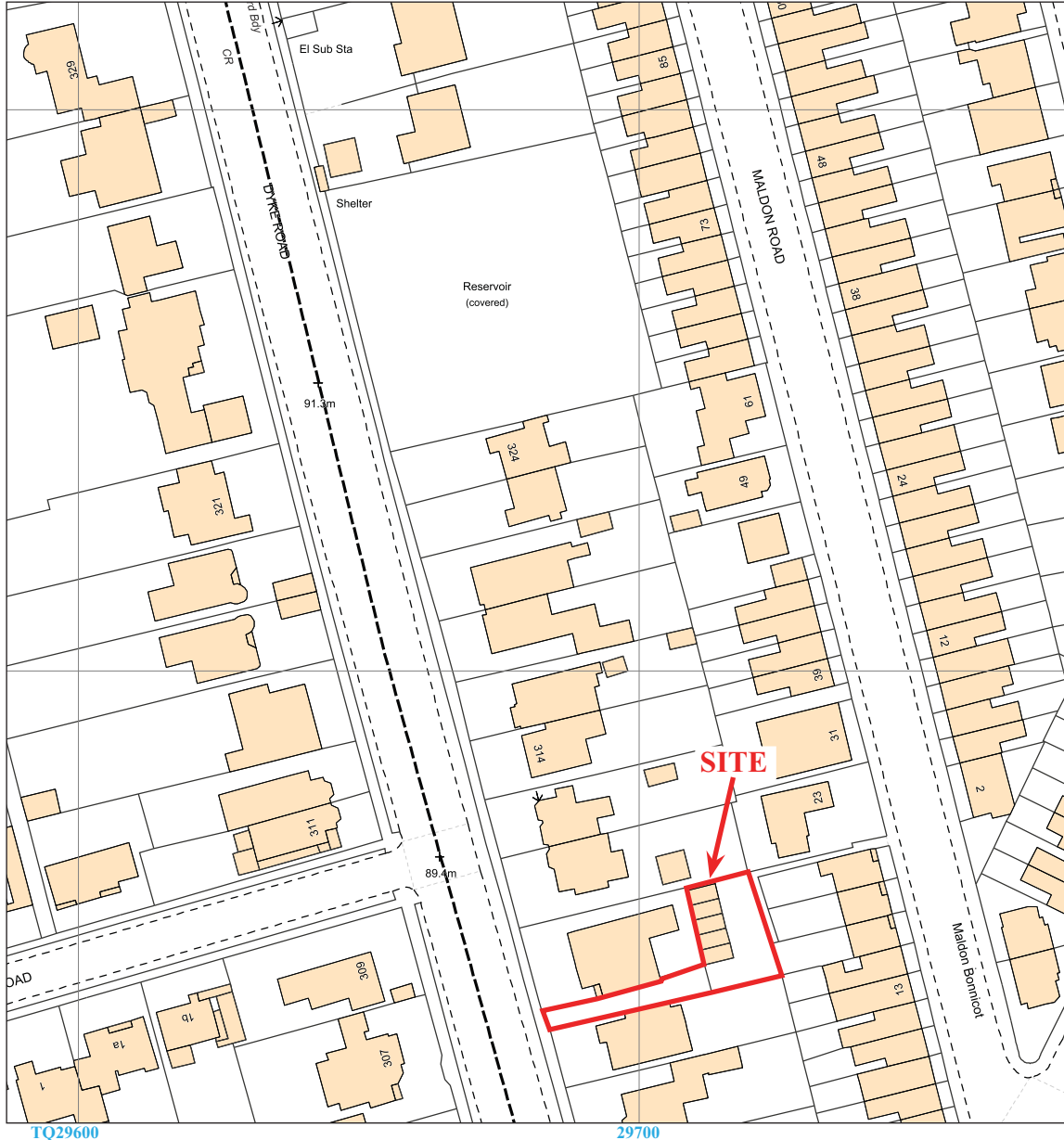


**Land to the rear of 308 Dyke Road, Brighton,
East Sussex, 2018
Archaeological Watching Brief**

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

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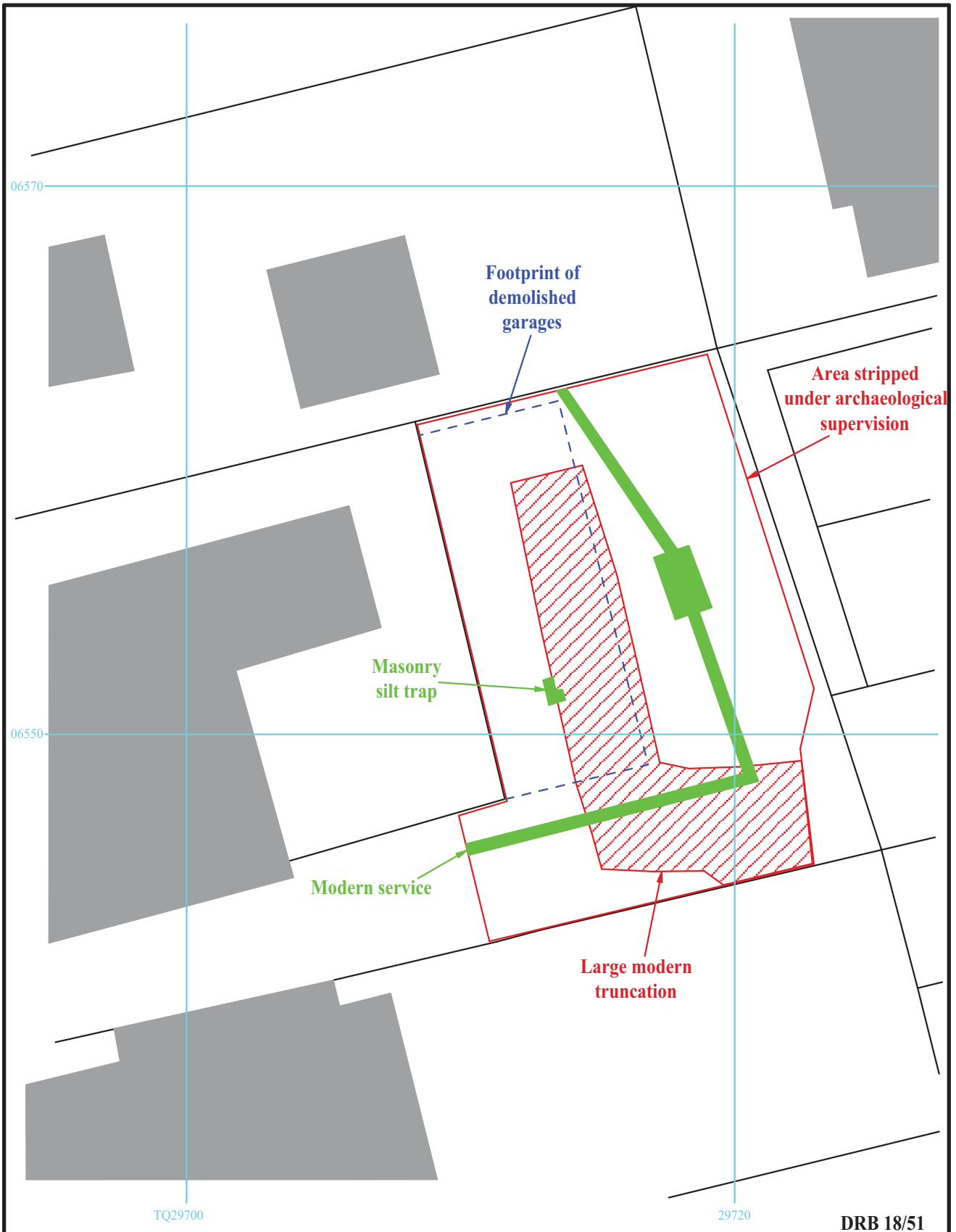
DRB 18/51



**Land to the rear of 308 Dyke Road,
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Archaeological Watching Brief**
Figure 2. Detailed site location.

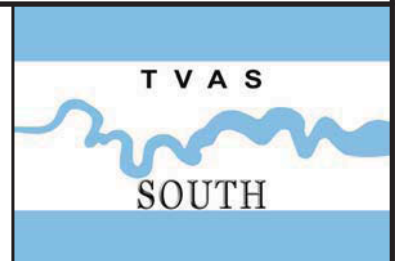
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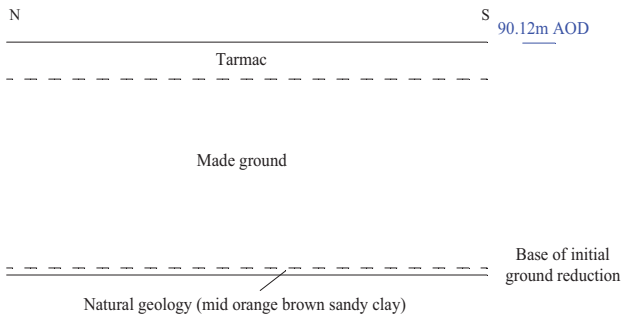


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Brighton, East Sussex, 2018
Archaeological Watching Brief**

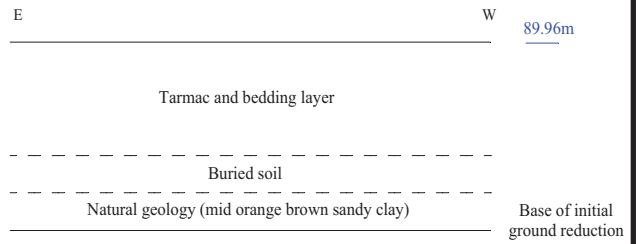
Figure 3. Site plan showing area monitored.



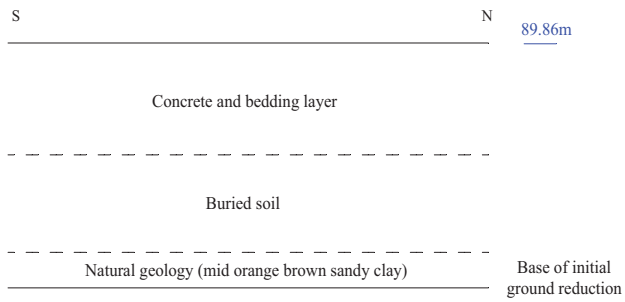
Eastern boundary



Southern boundary



Western boundary



DRB 18/51

**Land to the rear of 308 Dyke Road,
Brighton, East Sussex, 2018
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 4. Representative sections.

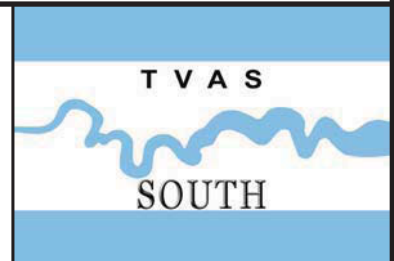




Plate 1. General view of eastern part of site, looking North. Scale: 1m.



Plate 2. General view of eastern part of site, looking South. Scale: 1m.



Plate 3. General view of western part of site, looking South. Scale: 1m.



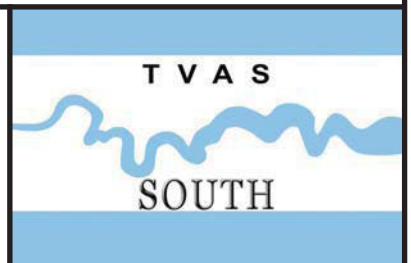
Plate 4. General view of western part of site, looking North. Scale: 1m.



Plate 5. General view of southern part of site, looking East. Scale: 1m.

DRB 18/51

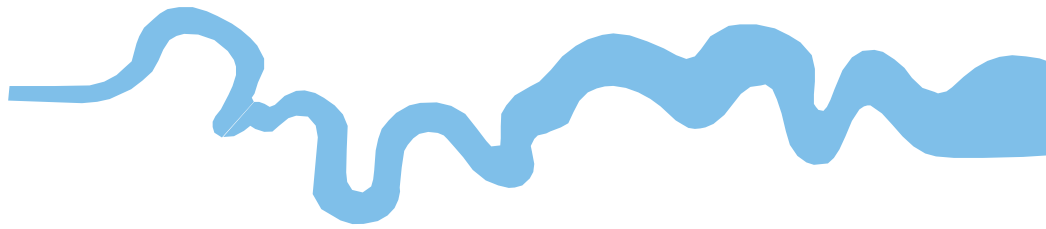
**Land to the rear of 308 Dyke Road,
Brighton, East Sussex, 2018
Archaeological Watching Brief
Plates 1 - 5.**



TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	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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