

**T V A S**



**SOUTH**

**45 The Cliff, Brighton,  
East Sussex**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Sean Wallis**

**Site Code TCB18/193**

**(TQ 3407 0348)**

**45 The Cliff, Brighton,  
East Sussex**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Mr Luke Bennett**

**Planning Reference : BH2018/02625**

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code TCB 18/193

**July 2019**

## Summary

**Site name:** 45 The Cliff, Brighton, East Sussex

**Grid reference:** TQ 3407 0348

**Planning reference:** BH2018/02625

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 29th May - 5th June 2019

**Project manager:** Sean Wallis

**Site supervisor:** Sean Wallis

**Site code:** TCB 18/193

**Summary of results:** The watching brief at 45 The Cliff, Brighton, successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by planned construction work. It was clear that the areas where the side and front extensions were to be built had been heavily disturbed in the past and, as a result, the groundworks in these areas were not fully monitored. In contrast, the rear garden followed the original slope of the hill, and had not been truncated previously. The area where the new rear extension was to be built was stripped down to the natural chalk geology under archaeological supervision, but no finds or features of archaeological interest were recorded.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at TVAS South, Brighton, and will be deposited with a suitable depository in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 04.07.19 Steve Preston ✓ 04.07.19
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# 45 The Cliff, Brighton, East Sussex An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Sean Wallis

Report 18/193

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 45 The Cliff, Brighton, East Sussex (TQ 3407 0348) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by the property's owner, Mr Luke Bennett.

Planning permission (BH2018/02625) has been gained from Brighton and Hove City Council to construct new extensions to the rear, side and front of the existing house. The consent is subject to standard planning conditions (3 and 4) relating to archaeology and historic environment, which required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), and the City Council's policies on the historic environment. It was determined that this programme should take the form of a watching brief during groundworks.

The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by the local planning authority, following consultation with the East Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Sean Wallis between 29th May and 5th June 2019, and the site code is TCB 18/193. The archive is currently held at TVAS South, Brighton, and will be deposited with a suitable depository in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the north side of The Cliff, approximately 3km east of the historic core of Brighton, East Sussex (Fig. 1). It is occupied by a detached house and garage, with a garden area to the rear which backs onto Roedean Road (Fig. 2). The area generally slopes down towards the south, although the area occupied by the house and garage has obviously been terraced in the past. The rear garden lies at a height of approximately 55m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of the Newhaven Chalk Formation (BGS 2006), and this was confirmed during the watching brief.

## Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within an Archaeological Notification Area. In summary the County Historic Environment Record notes that the site is located in an area containing

prehistoric and Roman burial sites. Several archaeological investigations have been carried out at nearby properties, and prehistoric and Roman pottery has been found. In addition, an Iron Age coin was found when the foundations of the adjacent house were dug in 1932. Further afield, a Bronze Age crouched burial and an Iron Age ditch were found during an archaeological watching brief at East Brighton Golf Course. Further prehistoric and Roman burials have been discovered nearby. Historic maps indicate that the area was farmland until the 1930s, so it is likely that any archaeological remains will have survived, unless destroyed by house building.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The primary aim of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the proposed 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.

All significant ground reduction was to be carried out using a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision.

## **Results**

An area in the rear garden, measuring 9.85m by 6.10m, was stripped with a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision (Fig. 3, Pls 1–3). The garden sloped down towards the south which might explain why the overburden above the natural chalk geology was deeper nearest to the house. In the south-east corner of the stripped area, the natural chalk was encountered beneath 0.31m of topsoil (50) and 0.34m of subsoil (51) (Fig. 4). No archaeological finds or features were recorded. The area immediately north of the house had clearly been truncated in the past when a concrete patio and retaining wall were constructed. As a result, the ground reduction in this area was not monitored.

The area where the front extension was to be built had been heavily truncated when the existing double garage was built. The northern construction cut for the garage was observed close to the existing house. As a result, it was clear that any archaeology which may have existed in this area would have been destroyed, and the groundworks in respect of this extension were not monitored.

Some ground reduction in respect of the side extension was observed, with approximately 0.70m of soil being removed (Pl. 4). Due to the presence of several buried services in this area, along with the footings for the existing house and adjacent property, it was clear that any archaeological deposits which may have been present in this part of the site would have been destroyed.

## **Finds**

No archaeological finds were recovered during the watching brief.

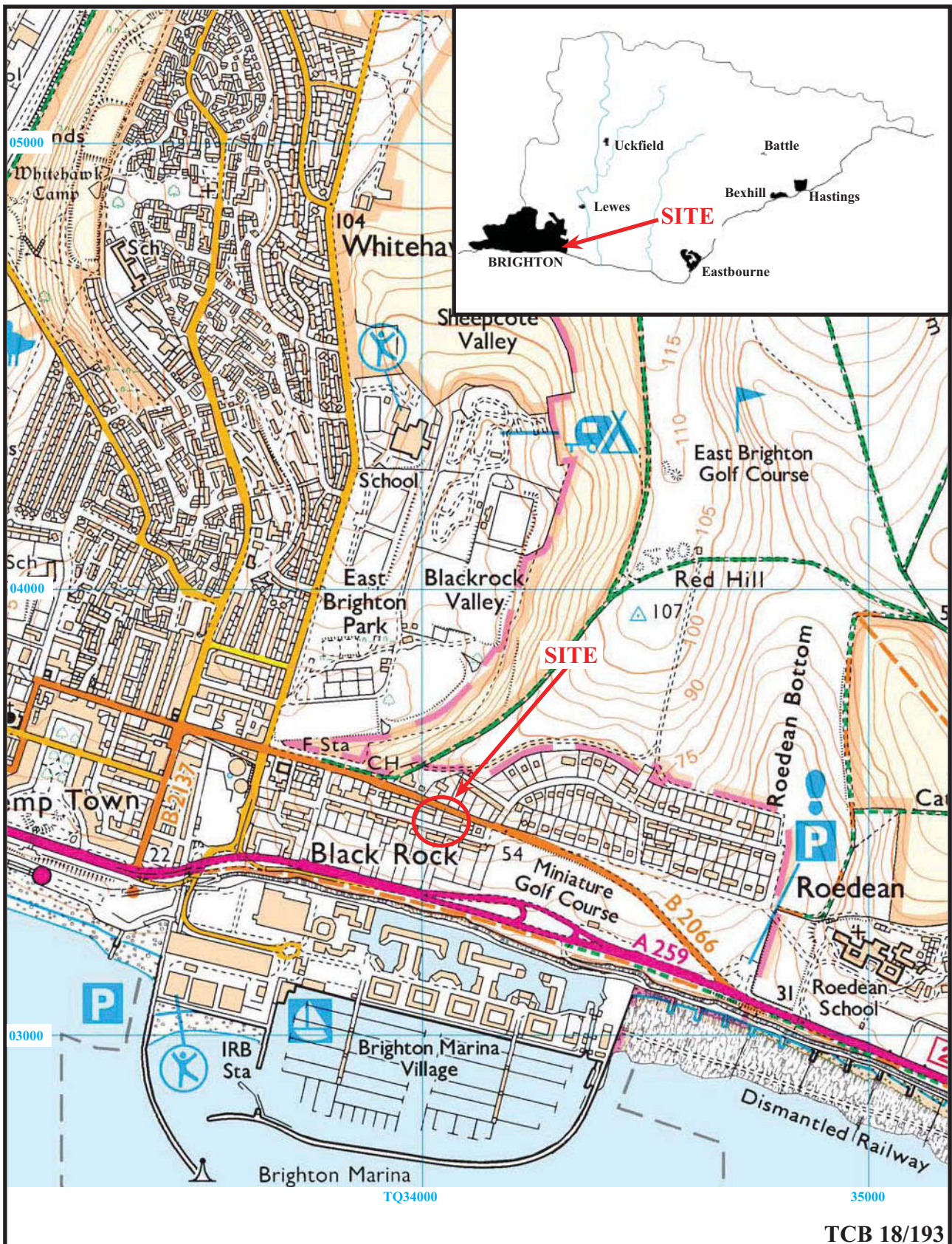
## **Conclusion**

The watching brief at 45 The Cliff, Brighton, successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by planned construction work. It was clear that the areas where the side and front extensions were to be built had been heavily disturbed in the past and, as a result, the groundworks in these areas were not fully monitored. In contrast, the rear garden followed the original slope of the hill, and had not been truncated in any way. The area where the new rear extension was to be built was stripped down to the natural chalk geology under archaeological supervision, but no finds or features were recorded.

## **References**

BGS, 2006, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet **318/333**, Bedrock and Superficial Deposits Edition, Keyworth.  
NPPF, 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework* (revised), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London.





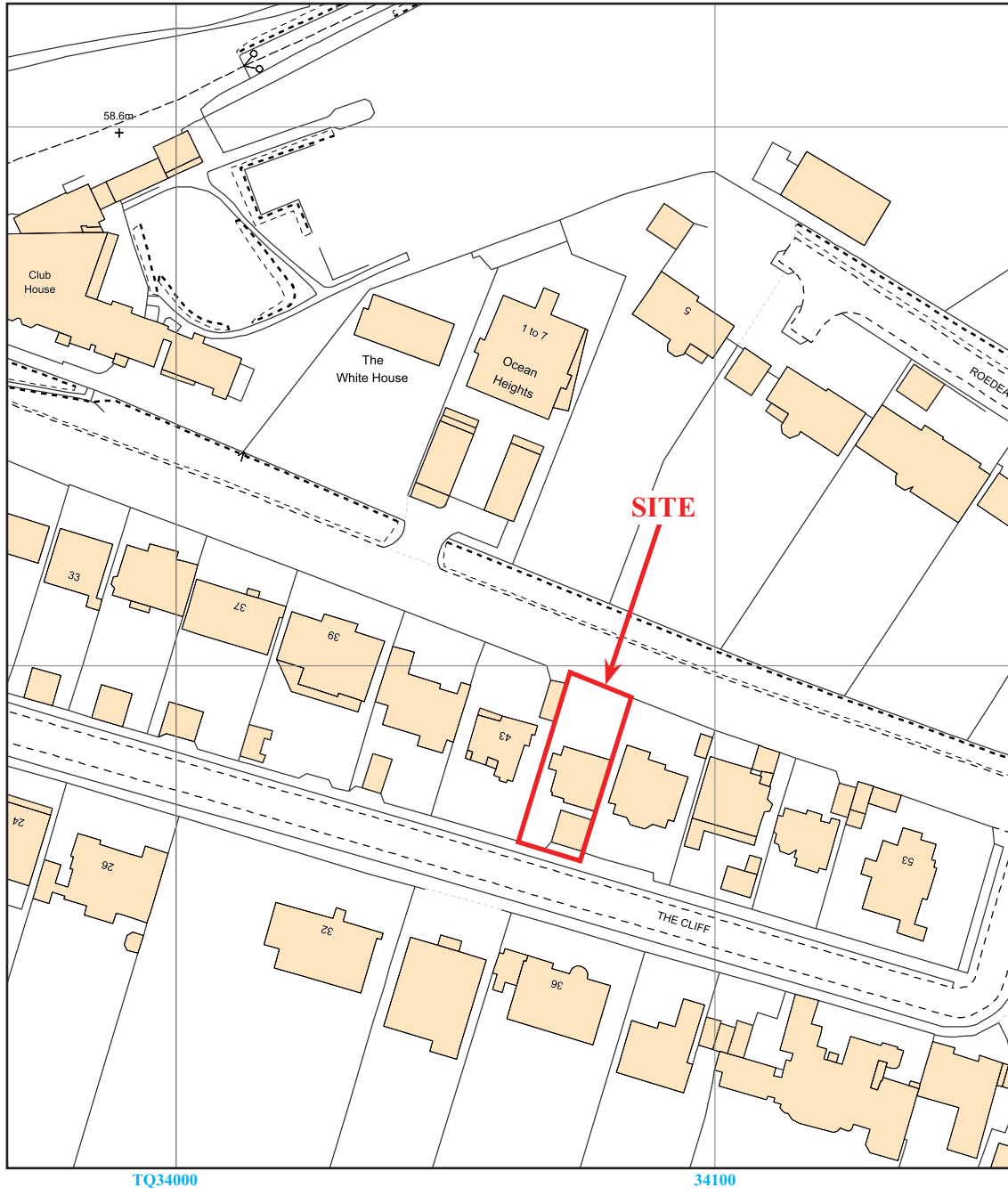
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Figure 1. Location of site within Brighton and East Sussex.

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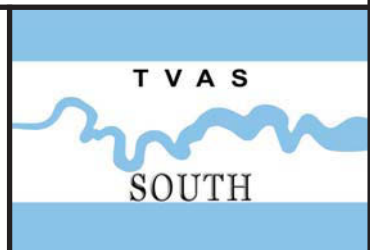




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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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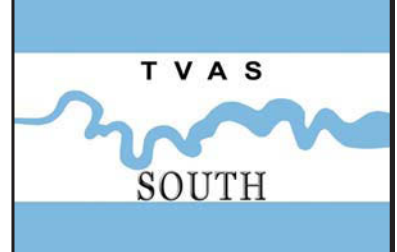




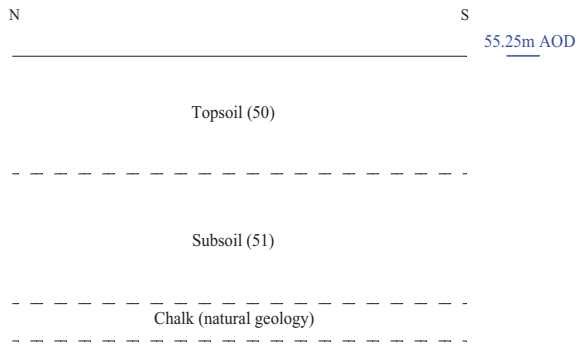


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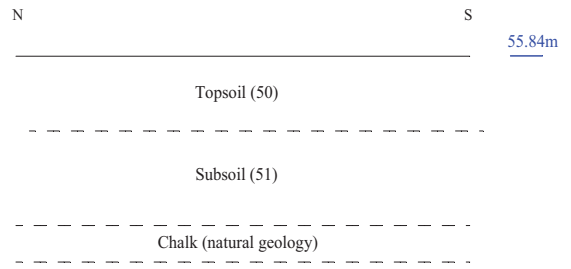
Figure 3. Site plan showing area monitored.



*Rear garden (South-east corner)*



*Rear garden (North-east corner)*



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Figure 4. Representative sections.

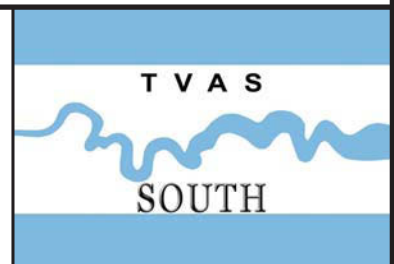




Plate 1. Area stripped in rear garden, looking North-East.  
Scales: 1m and 0.20m.



Plate 2. Area stripped in rear garden, looking North-west.  
Scales: 1m and 0.20m.



Plate 3. Area stripped in rear garden, looking South.  
Scales: 1m and 0.20m.



Plate 4. Area of proposed side extension, looking North.

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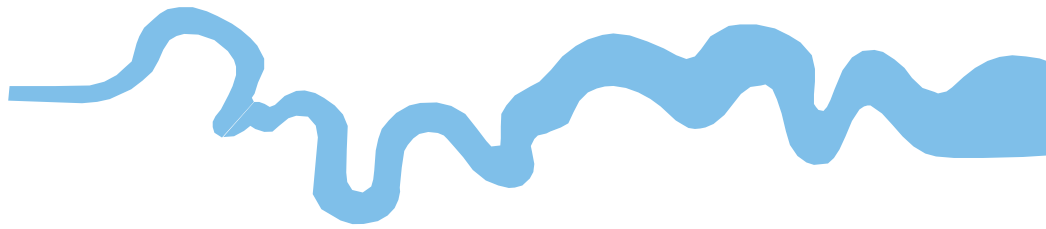
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Plates 1 to 4.**

**T V A S**  
  
**SOUTH**

## 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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