

9 SHIP STREET, BRIGHTON, EAST SUSSEX

(Centred on NGR TQ 3095 0403)

Results of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

Brighton and Hove City Council Planning Permission
Reference: BH2017/01080 (Condition 4)

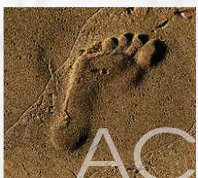
East Sussex HER Search Reference Number 366/17

Prepared by:
Paul Rainbird

On behalf of:
Ethos Property Ltd

Report No: ACD1669/2/2

Date: November 2017



archaeology

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NGR TQ 3095 0403

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Acknowledgements

The archaeological work was commissioned by Chris Hickey, Director of Ethos Property Ltd. The fieldwork was carried out by Chris Blatchford with the illustrations for this report prepared by Sarnia Blackmore. Thanks to Chris Greatorex, Archaeological Officer, Environment Advice, Communities, Economy and Transport, East Sussex County Council, who provided advice during the course of the work and comments to improve this report.

The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of AC archaeology and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

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Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording at 9 Ship Street, Brighton, East Sussex (NGR TQ 3095 0403) was undertaken by AC archaeology during October 2017. The work comprised the monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of a new two storey rear extension to the building. The site is located within the historic core of Brighton.

The monitoring found that development of the site dating to the middle of the 20th century had removed the evidence for any previous use of the site, with no features, deposits or finds of post-medieval or earlier date observed.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of archaeological monitoring and recording associated with the construction of a two storey extension to the rear of 9 Ship Street, Brighton, East Sussex (NGR TQ 3095 0403; Fig. 1). The work was required as condition 4 of planning permission (reference: BH2017/01080) granted by Brighton and Hove Council, following consultation with the East Sussex Environment Advice Team.
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Ethos Property Ltd and was carried out by AC archaeology in October 2017.
- 1.3 The site lies in the city centre and close to the seafront in a block bounded by King's Road to the south and Duke Street to the north. It comprises a rectangular plot on the west side of Ship Street with a courtyard to the rear that spans both Nos. 8 and 9. It lies on flat ground at approximately 15m aOD (above Ordnance Datum), with the underlying solid geology comprised of chalk of the Newhaven Chalk Formation beneath a head deposit of clay, silt, sand and gravel (www.bgs.ac.uk).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Ship Street lies within the historic core of Brighton (East Sussex Historic Environment Record ref. MES22238), an area that covers the southern portion of the city adjacent to sea front. Initially a modest town dating from around the 12th century and grown from a landing place probably associated with trading fish, the establishment of a priory (dedicated to St Bartholomew) and the subsequent granting of a market and annual fair from 1312, are thought to demonstrate its expansion from manorial estates listed in the Domesday Book (Harris 2007). The nearby site of St Bartholomew's Priory, which was first recorded in c.1185, lies to the east of Ship Street (MES178). Part of the Cluniac Order and forming a minor house controlled by Lewes Priory, the priory was thought to have been largely destroyed prior to the dissolution during French raids in 1514.
- 2.2 Only limited archaeological site work has been carried out in the vicinity of the site. Monitoring of construction work at 6 Ship Street exposed a well of possible medieval date (EES13910), while recording to the west of the site at 67 Middle Street recovered 17th century finds from a refuse deposit (EES14835). Evidence for potentially earlier activity to the east of the site has been suggested from a series of finds spots including Bronze Age palstave axes (MES195), a spearhead (MES190) and an Iron Age coin (MES183).

- 2.3** Ship Street is lined by a number of Grade II-listed buildings, the majority of which date from the 19th century; a period of growth associated with the adaption of the town to a seaside resort. The next door properties: No. 8 and No.10, the Smugglers Public House, are both listed (Heritage List for England Nos. 1380907 and 1380908) and date from this period.
- 2.4** The First-Edition Ordnance Survey 1:500 map of 1876 depicts the courtyard to the rear of Nos. 8 and 9 as divided. In the yard of No. 9 a building is depicted against the rear of the plot and small outbuilding in the position of the proposed extension. The buildings on the plot, including No. 9 are labelled 'Brighton and Hove Gas Co Offices'. The area of the yard is shown as in-filled by a larger structure by the 25" second edition map of 1911.

3. AIM

- 3.1** The aim of the archaeological monitoring and recording is to preserve by record any archaeological features or deposits exposed during groundworks associated with the scheme. This is with particular reference for the potential for medieval and post-medieval activity to be on the site.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1** The monitoring and recording was carried out in accordance with a project design prepared by AC archaeology (Hughes 2017) and with reference to the Sussex Archaeology Standards and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014). Groundworks were carried out under the control and direction of the site archaeologist.
- 4.2** All features and deposits revealed were recorded using the standard AC archaeology *pro forma* recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and in accordance with AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 2* (revised August 2012). Detailed sections and plans were produced at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Introduction (Plan Fig. 1; Plate 1)

An area for the extension measuring 5.5 sq m was stripped of a modern car park tarmac surfacing revealing a mixed made ground and concrete levelling deposit across the whole area. Three trenches (1-3) for the footings of the extension were excavated through the made ground deposit and these are described below. No pre-modern finds were observed.

5.2 Trench 1 (Section Fig. 2a; Plate 2)

This was located in the north of the stripped area and was aligned approximately east-west. It measured 5.5m long and 0.9m wide and was excavated to a depth of 1.5m. No archaeological features or finds were observed and the deposit sequence is presented in Table 1.

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
100	Tarmac	0-0.13m	Car park surface
101	Dark greyish-brown silty sand with abundant sub-angular pebbles and brick and mortar rubble	0.13-0.5m	Made ground
102	Mid to light yellowish-brown silty clay loam	0.5m+	Natural subsoil

Table 1: Trench 1 deposit sequence

5.3 Trench 2 (Section Fig. 2b; Plate 3)

This was located in the west of the stripped area and was aligned approximately north-south and formed a linked between trenches 1 and 3. It measured 2.5m long and 0.6m wide and was excavated to a depth of 1.4m. No archaeological features or finds were observed and the deposit sequence is presented in Table 2.

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
200	Tarmac	0-0.15m	Car park surface
201	Dark greyish-brown silty sand with abundant sub-angular pebbles and brick and mortar rubble	0.15-0.6m	Made ground
202	Mid to light yellowish-brown silty clay loam	0.6m+	Natural subsoil

Table 2: Trench 2 deposit sequence

5.4 Trench 3 (Section Figs 2c-d; Plates 4-5)

This was located in the south of the stripped area and was aligned approximately east-west. It measured 5.5m long and 0.9m wide and was excavated to a depth of 1.3m. The deposit sequence comprised 0.15m of car park tarmac (300) overlying a concrete levelling deposit (301) above the made ground found elsewhere which was up to 0.25m thick in the west end of the trench. Close to its centre the trench was crossed by a brick wall (S305), which was revealed 2.6m from the rear of No. 9. Wall S305 was constructed of a single skin of modern bricks (measuring 200mm x 110mm x 60mm), one brick wide, bonded with cement in stretcher bond. It was set within a construction trench (F306) which was revealed on its west side and to the east was in-filled with modern demolition rubble (304). The base of the wall was not reached but as revealed was up to 12 courses high.

6. COMMENTS

6.1 The archaeological monitoring at 9 Ship Lane, Brighton failed to identify features or finds of pre-modern date. A review of historic mapping shows that the former buildings on the site shown at the beginning of the 20th century were demolished and replaced with the current building at some point between 1931 and 1952. The 1952 map shows that the current building formerly had an extension to the rear and this presumably relates to brick wall S305 which formed the west wall of a basement belonging to the extension and the current building. This extension was subsequently demolished and the basement filled with demolition rubble.

6.2 In summary, development of the site dating to the middle of the 20th century has removed the evidence for any previous use of the site, with no features, deposits or finds of post-medieval or earlier date observed.

7. ARCHIVE AND OASIS

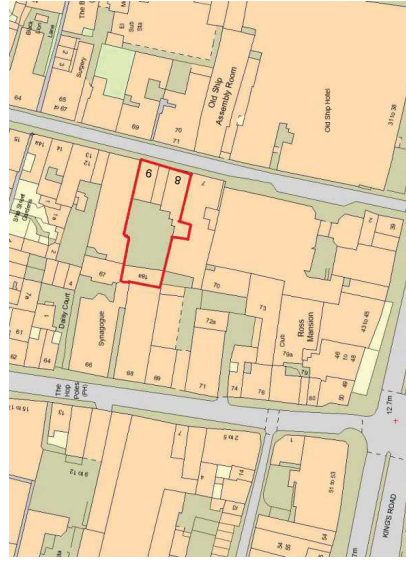
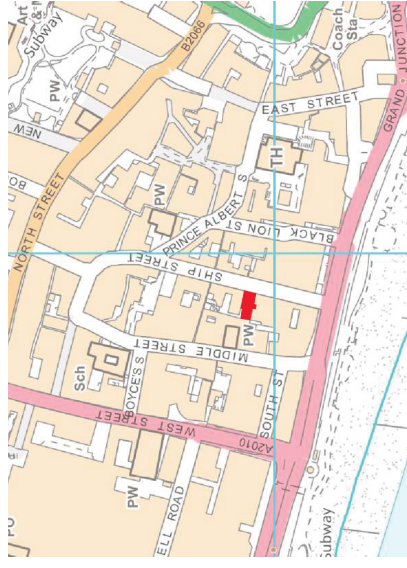
- 7.1 The paper and digital archive is currently held at the offices of AC archaeology Ltd, at 4 Halthaies Workshops, Bradninch, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ under the unique project code of **ACD1669**. It will be held until a county-wide repository is established.
- 7.2 An online OASIS entry has been completed, using the unique identifier **298746**, which includes a digital copy of this report.

8. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey Online Viewer, www.bgs.ac.uk.

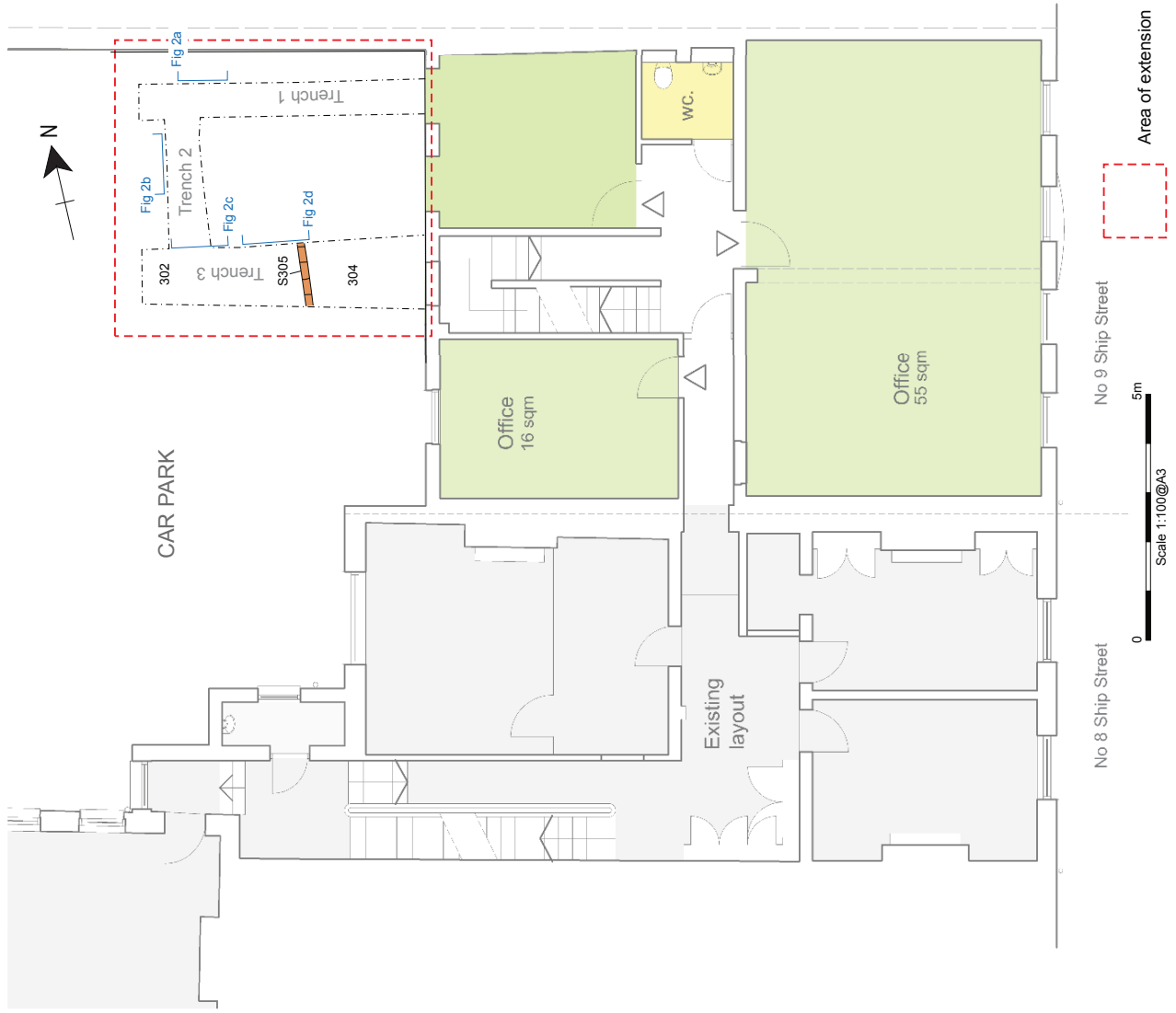
Harris, R.B., 2007, *Brighton and Hove Historic Character Assessment Report: Sussex Extensive Urban Survey*. East Sussex County Council

Hughes. S., 2017. *9 Ship Street, Brighton, East Sussex: Project Design for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*. Unpublished AC archaeology document no. **ACD1669/1/2**.

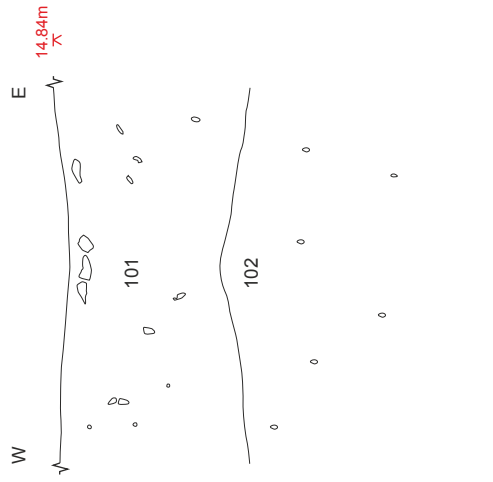


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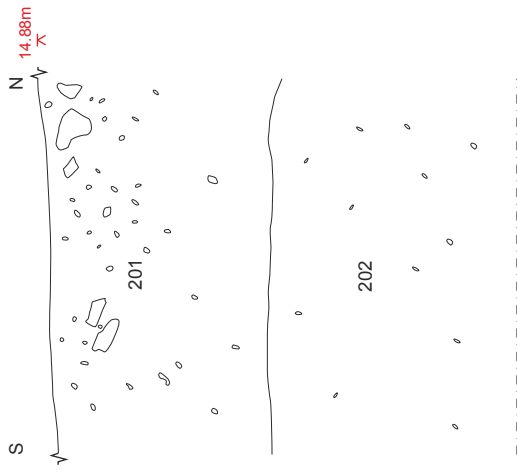
Fig. 1: Location of site and monitored area



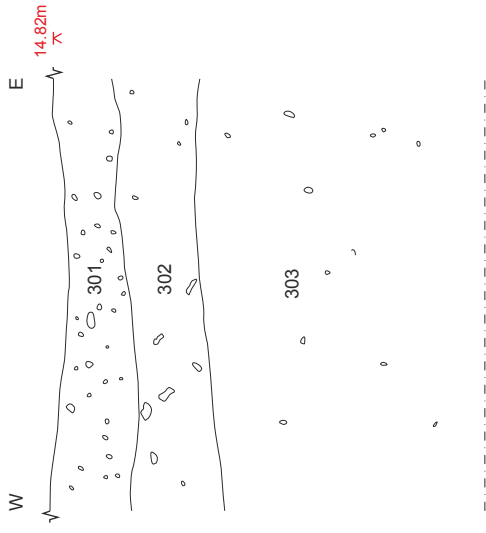
a) Trench 1, representative section



b) Trench 2, representative section



c) Trench 3, representative section



d) Trench 3, section of wall S305

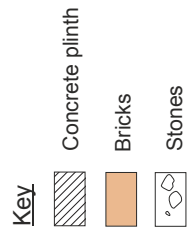
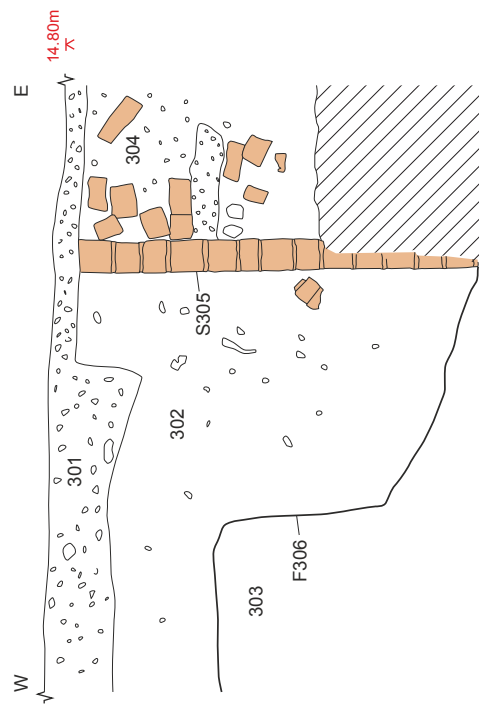




Plate 1: General view of site, looking northeast



Plate 2: Trench 1, looking west (scale 1m) Plate 3: Trench 2, looking north (scale 1m)



Plate 4: Trench 3 wall S305, looking north (scale 1m)



Plate 5: Trench 3 wall S305, looking east (scale 1m)

Appendix 1

Sussex HER Summary Sheet

Sussex HER summary sheet

HER enquiry number	366/17					
Site code						
Project code	AC archaeology ACD1669					
Planning reference	BH2017/01080					
Site address	9 Ship Street, Brighton					
District/Borough	Brighton and Hove City Council					
NGR (12 figures)	530945, 104035					
Geology	Chalk of the Newhaven Chalk Formation beneath a head deposit of clay, silt, sand and gravel					
Fieldwork type	Eval	Excav	WB* X	HBR*	Survey	Other
Date of fieldwork	9th – 10th October 2017					
Sponsor/client	Ethos Property Ltd					
Project manager	Simon Hughes					
Project supervisor	Chris Blatchford					
Period summary	Palaeolithic	Mesolithic	Neolithic	Bronze Age	Iron Age	
	Roman	Anglo-Saxon	Medieval	Post-Medieval	Other X	
Project summary (100 word max)	<p><i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 9 Ship Street, Brighton, East Sussex (NGR TQ 3095 0403) was undertaken by AC archaeology during October 2017. The work comprised the monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of a new two storey rear extension to the building. The site is located within the historic core of Brighton. The monitoring found that development of the site dating to the middle of the 20th century had removed the evidence for any previous use of the site, with no features, deposits or finds of post-medieval or earlier date observed.</i></p>					
Museum/Accession No.						

*WB – Watching brief; HBR – historic building recording

Finds summary

Find type	Material	Period	Quantity

Devon Office

AC archaeology Ltd
Unit 4, Halthaies Workshops
Bradninch
Nr Exeter
Devon
EX5 4LQ

Telephone/Fax: 01392 882410

Wiltshire Office

AC archaeology Ltd
Manor Farm Stables
Chicklade
Hindon
Nr Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP3 5SU

Telephone: 01747 820581

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www.acarchaeology.co.uk