

Chris Butler MfA
Archaeological Services Ltd

Written Scheme of Investigation
for an
Archaeological Watching Brief
at
2A Beach Road,
Eastbourne, East Sussex

(131069)

Project No. CBAS0510

by
Chris Butler MfA

June 2014

Chris Butler
Archaeological Services Ltd

Rosedale
Berwick, Polegate,
East Sussex
BN26 6TB

Tel & fax: 01323 811785

e mail: chris@cbasltd.co.uk

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd has been commissioned by Ivy Group Ltd (The Client) to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the demolition of existing warehouse and offices (Use Class B1), and proposed 5 no. two-storey three bedroom terraced houses and 2 no. one bedroom flats, at 2A Beach Road, Eastbourne East Sussex.

1.2 As a result of the site's location, and the archaeological potential of the area, the local planning authority have put a condition on the planning consent for the development (131069), requiring a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken:

5)a No development shall take place until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework

5)b The development hereby permitted shall not be brought into use until the archaeological site investigation and post investigation assessment (including provision for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition) has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition [1] to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority, in consultation with the County Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded to comply with the National Planning Policy

1.3 The site of the proposed development is located in Eastbourne town centre TQ 6226 0013 (Fig. 1). It is a four sided plot bounded by the rear gardens of terraced houses on Seaside, Eshton Road, Latimer Road and Beach Road, from which access to the site is gained. The site is occupied by a large derelict commercial building which can only be accessed on two sides. The site is flat and lies at just above sea level.

1.4 The geology of the site, according to the British Geological Survey, could be a mix of Gault Formation mudstone and Upper Greensand formation siltstone overlain by a superficial storm beach deposits¹. Gault formation is a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 100 to 112 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. Upper Greensand is a sedimentary bedrock formed 94 to 112 million years ago in

¹ <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>, viewed 7/5/2014

the cretaceous period. The superficial deposit of storm beach deposits formed about 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period.

- 1.5** The appropriate programme of archaeological work specified by the Archaeology Team at ESCC comprises an archaeological watching brief. This written scheme of investigation covers the watching brief, and has been prepared for submission to the local planning authority for approval.

- 1.6** The watching brief is required to monitor all groundworks connected with the removal of the existing concrete slab, and the construction of the new houses (Fig. 2). The objective of the watching brief is to record any archaeological remains which may be damaged or destroyed by the development, and to establish whether there is any evidence for the Napoleonic Barracks or earlier activity on the site.

2.0 Archaeological & Historical background

- 2.1** A desk based assessment report has demonstrated that for most periods there is a low possibility of archaeological remains being found at the site². The first evidence for activity at the site comes in the early 19th century when map evidence shows a barracks occupying an extensive area south-east of Seaside. Map regression suggests that the site was at the north end of the barracks, although its northern perimeter is unclear.
- 2.2** The barracks seems to have been dismantled within a few years of the end of the Napoleonic Wars, and it is likely that any buildings were sold off and removed from the site. The more recent early 20th century development may have caused some damage to any surviving remains, but as a whole below ground impact appears to have been limited to the foundations and drainage. It is therefore likely that earlier remains may still survive.
- 2.3** It was therefore recommended that a programme of archaeological works, in the form of a watching brief, be carried out during any groundworks. This will enable any surviving remains of the barracks that are affected by the new development to be identified, excavated and recorded.

² Cruse, R. 2014 *Desk-based Assessment for 2A Beach Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex*. CBAS0493

3.0 Method Statement

- 3.1** The archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with ESCC's *Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording and Post-Excavation in East Sussex* dated April 2008 (Recommended Standards).
- 3.2** The Client shall give Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd at least seven days notice of any groundworks that require an archaeological presence. A suitably qualified archaeologist will be present on site during the groundworks specified in Section 1.6 above. If it becomes clear that the area has been disturbed and archaeological deposits are unlikely to be encountered, then with the prior agreement of the County Archaeologist, monitoring may cease.
- 3.3** The existing building can be demolished to ground level without any archaeological monitoring. The removal of the concrete slab, groundworks for the footings and any other ground reduction will be excavated in spits by machine using a flat-bladed bucket under archaeological supervision. If any archaeological deposits are encountered which will be disturbed or destroyed by the groundworks, they will be archaeologically excavated and recorded in accordance with Section 4 below. Reasonable time will be provided by the Client and site contractors, to permit the adequate recording of any such archaeological deposits.
- 3.4** In accordance with the Recommended Standards, in the event that important archaeological remains come to light during the course of the watching brief, which require more than a brief record (i.e. more than 2-4 hours continuous recording for one person in that area) provision should be made, as a contingency, for up to two days archaeological investigation and recording, in addition to the basic monitoring, and free of disturbance from building works (as far as is reasonably practicable).
- 3.5** The spoil from the excavations will be inspected by archaeologists to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest. A metal detector will be used at regular intervals to scan spoil derived from the excavations. A record will be kept of which deposits/features are detected and the areas in which objects were found. The make and model of the metal detector will be noted in the final report
- 3.6** Archaeological deposits or features of local or national significance will be reported to the County Archaeologist at the earliest opportunity. All finds that fall under the definition of the Treasure Act will be reported to the Coroner's Office and to the Sussex Portable Antiquities Liaison Officer.

- 3.7** In the event of human burials being discovered, a Licence will be required from the Ministry of Justice (in accordance with Section 25 of the *Burial Act* 1857) before the remains can be lifted. The need for a Licence applies to both inhumation and cremated remains. Inhumations and cremations will be excavated completely within 24 hours of their exposure. The Archaeological Contractor will submit details of the procedures for the excavation and recording of burials if these are encountered. The County Archaeologist will be notified immediately.
- 3.8** All artefacts recovered during the excavations on the site are the property of the Client. They are to be suitably bagged, boxed and marked in accordance with the *United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Conservation Guidelines No 2* and on completion of the archaeological post-excavation programme the Client/ Developer will arrange with CBAS for them to be deposited in Eastbourne Museum or similar repository agreed with the County Archaeologist. An Accession Number has been requested.

4.0 Recording Systems and Scales, and Finds Collection Policy

- 4.1** Obviously modern features will only be recorded cursorily or not at all, unless of unusual intrinsic significance, except where it is necessary to do so to indicate their impact on features of archaeological interest. All other revealed features will be cleaned, planned, excavated and recorded in accordance with the Recommended Standards.
- 4.2** Palaeoenvironmental sampling will be undertaken in accordance with the Recommended Standards.
- 4.3** Archaeological features will be recorded at the scale of at least 1:100 in relationship to a fixed point, or temporary base lines, and related to the Ordnance Survey national grid. Further plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10 will be drawn as necessary. All plans and sections will be drawn on plastic tracing film.
- 4.4** All features will be photographed in colour transparency and digitally.
- 4.5** All significant archaeological remains will be levelled to the Ordnance datum, or from a Temporary Bench mark derived from the Ordnance Survey Bench mark where practicable. The position of plans will be planned on a copy of the Ordnance Survey base map of 1:2500 scale or greater.
- 4.6** All archaeological features and deposits will be recorded using a standard Context record sheet. Soil colours will be recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour Chart.
- 4.7** All artefacts pre-dating 1900AD, except as detailed below, will be collected and retained, unless their size and number makes this impracticable.

The following artefact types will be identified and recorded (counted and weighed) and discarded on site or during post excavation work:

Burnt flint, Building material (except where worked), Burnt clay

Any iron slag will be identified and recorded (counted and weighed) and discarded on site or during post excavation work, except that a sample will be retained for potential future analysis.

- 4.8** All retained finds will be washed and marked prior to deposition in the chosen museum. Suitable conservation measures (e.g. packaging with silica gel or with water) will be used to ensure the stabilisation of finds where relevant.

5.0 Post-excavation Analysis and Report

- 5.1** The Post-excavation analysis will follow the requirements of the Recommended Standards.
- 5.2** The report will be completed within 60 working days of the completion of the monitoring. A pdf copy of the report and a selection of photographs will be supplied to the East Sussex Historic Environment Record (ESHER) on a labelled CD.
- 5.3** In the event of complex archaeological features being encountered during the groundwork, then a programme of post-excavation analysis will be agreed and a final publication report will be prepared for submission in a suitable journal.
- 5.4** The site archive will be created in accordance with the requirements of the Recommended Standards, and will be deposited at Eastbourne Museum or other repository as agreed with the County Archaeologist within five years from the date of completion of the investigation

6.0 Health & Safety

- 6.1** Adherence to standard health and safety requirements, together with any constraints imposed by the contractor's health and safety practices, will be paramount. Recording of deeply cut trenches, including any which exceed 1.2m in depth or which are judged to be unsafe, shall only be undertaken from the ground level.

7.0 Monitoring and Standards

7.1 The project will be monitored by ESCC. The archaeological contractor is to allow the site records to be inspected and examined at any reasonable time, during or after the excavation work, by the County Archaeologist, or any designated representative of Eastbourne Borough Council.

7.2 The project will be managed by Chris Butler, who will be responsible for ensuring that the works are implemented correctly in accordance with the following:

- a. all statutory provisions and by-laws relating to the work in question, especially the Health and Safety at Work *etc* Act 1974;
- b. the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Code of Conduct*; and
- c. the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.

8.0 Insurance

8.1 Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd is insured for public liability to the sum of £5,000,000 for any one occurrence.



Fig. 1: 2A Beach Road, Eastbourne: Site location Map
Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100037471

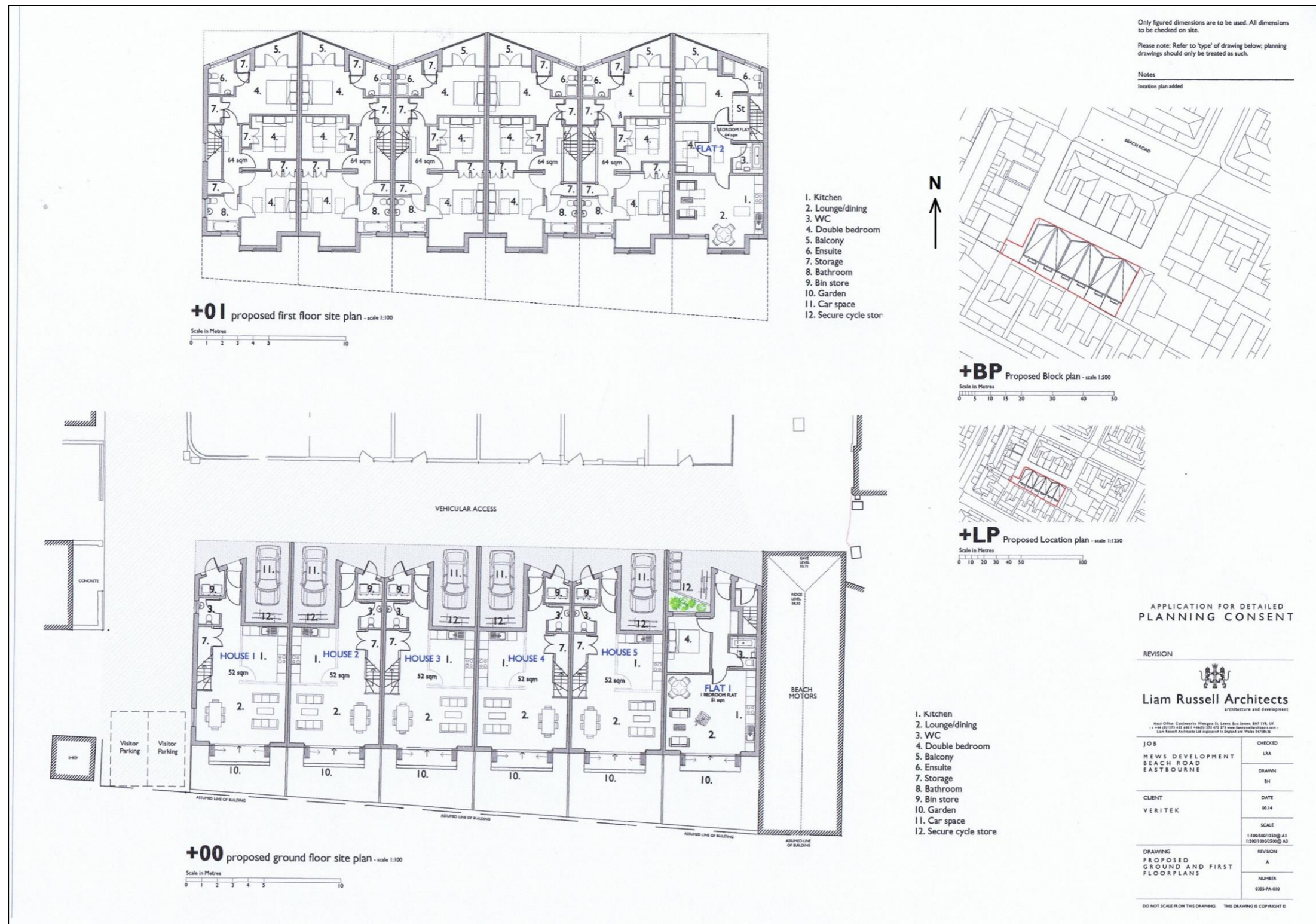


Fig. 2: 2A Beach Road, Eastbourne: Site Development Plan

Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd

Chris Butler has been an archaeologist since 1985, and formed the Mid Sussex Field Archaeological Team in 1987, since when it has carried out numerous fieldwork projects, and was runner up in the Pitt-Rivers Award at the British Archaeological Awards in 1996. Having previously worked as a Pensions Technical Manager and Administration Director in the financial services industry, Chris formed **Chris Butler Archaeological Services** at the beginning of 2002.

Chris is a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. He was a part time lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Sussex, and until recently taught A-Level Archaeology at Bexhill 6th Form College having qualified (Cert. Ed.) as a teacher in 2006. He has recently set up the Sussex School of Archaeology.

Chris specialises in prehistoric flintwork analysis, but has directed excavations, landscape surveys and watching briefs, including the excavation of a Beaker Bowl Barrow, a Saxon cemetery and settlement, Roman pottery kilns, and a Mesolithic hunting camp. He has recently undertaken large landscape surveys of Ashdown Forest and Broadwater Warren and is Co-Director of the Barcombe Roman Villa excavation project.

His publications include *Prehistoric Flintwork, East Sussex Under Attack* and *West Sussex Under Attack*, all of which are published by Tempus Publishing Ltd.

Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd is available for Flintwork Analysis, Project Management, Military Archaeology, Desktop Assessments, Field Evaluations, Excavation work, Watching Briefs, Landscape and Woodland Surveys & Fieldwalking, Post Excavation Services and Report Writing.

Chris Butler MfA

Archaeological Services Ltd

Prehistoric Flintwork Specialist

Rosedale
Berwick
Polegate
East Sussex
BN26 6TB

Tel & fax: 01323 811785

e mail: chris@cbsaltd.co.uk