

**SUSSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL ROUND-UP**  
**(6<sup>th</sup> October 2018 to 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019)**

\* volunteer opportunities

*East Sussex*

**Alfriston: Farthings, River Lane** (TQ 5210 0311). (Site code: FAS 18/18. Director: Sean Wallis). Watching brief: the natural geology was not encountered, and no archaeological finds or features were recorded. A 16m long section of garden wall, which was to be demolished and replaced, was recorded following a building recording (TVAS).

**Archaeology on the Edge Project.** Archaeology on the Edge is a project formulated by the Sussex Heritage Coast Group to assess the current risk to archaeological sites through coastal erosion along the chalk cliff from Seaford to Eastbourne (the Sussex Heritage Coast). Phase 1 is a desk based assessment comparing known archaeological sites against a detailed analysis of coastal erosion rates along the coast, to identify the most significant sites at the most risk. Phase 1 is currently being carried out by Oxford Archaeology, with a report due in April 2019. The plan is to then use this report to secure funding for archaeological fieldwork to record the identified priority sites before they are lost (reported by ESCC).

**Battle: Beech Estate, North Trade Road** (TQ 7283 1593). (Site code: BEB 18/210. Director: Odile Rouard). Evaluation: archaeological features were encountered in nine of the ten trenches excavated. Most of the features identified were linears, although three shallow spreads were also recorded in the northern part of the site. The linears in the western part of the site remained undated but the numerous features in trench 10 suggest there may have been a concentration of activity nearby: two features in this trench may date from the Roman period, and further pottery from this period appeared as residual material in later features. Five linear features in the eastern half of the site (trenches 8 and 10) appear to date from the medieval period (TVAS).

**Bexhill: Preston Hall Farm** (NGR: 573757 109844) (Site code: BXP 18. Director: Jake Wilson). Thirty three trenches were excavated during an evaluation. Although most of the archaeological features recorded contained no dating evidence, the evaluation suggests the presence of medieval and other pre- 19<sup>th</sup>- century archaeological activity, as well as sparse post-medieval activity. The activity was mostly recorded in the south and north fields and is most likely of an agricultural type, and is predominated by ditches, a holloway, a possible posthole and a small pit. The holloway and associated ditch produced the only finds, some 13<sup>th</sup>- to 14<sup>th</sup>- century pottery, and most likely relate to Sidley Green medieval hamlet or Woods Farm (medieval farmstead) (ASE).

**Bishopstone Tidemills.** (Centred NGR TQ 460 003). (Site code: TM 18. Director: Luke Barber). Excavation of the mill office and kiln were completed and backfilled. Work on the adjacent cottages was all but finished though some backfilling and recording will be completed in 2019. A further trench located the junction of the mill and mill house. This showed both were of one phase and the mill house basement walls had been extensively robbed out (SAS).

**Brighton: 3 Wanderdown Road, Garden Room** (NGR: 535832 104036). (Site code: WRO 18. Director: Sophie Austin). The watching brief comprised the monitoring of ground works associated with the construction of a garden house to the rear of the property. The ground reduction did not reveal any archaeological features, deposits or finds (ASE).

**Brighton: 110 The Highway** (NGR: 533096 107250). (Site code: HGY 18, Director: Tom Munnery). Machine excavation of the footprint and foundations of a proposed extension were monitored. No archaeological features were encountered during the development. Small quantities of unstratified worked flint dating to the late prehistoric period were recovered from the subsoil (ASE).

**Brighton: 24 North Road, Preston** (TQ 3019 0648). (Site code: MNB 17/46. Director: Sean Wallis). Watching Brief: only modern made ground was recorded during the excavations, and the natural Head geology was not exposed. No archaeological finds or features were recorded. A building survey was also undertaken: although the building was listed as a former barn dating from at least the 19th century, this is clearly not the case as the historic maps show that it was constructed between 1898 and 1911, following the demolition of the previous buildings on the site. The maps also suggest that the small extension in the north-west corner of the building was altered between 1950 and 1977. The building was traditionally used for commercial purposes, and it is possible that some original loading bays on the first floor were later converted into windows. It also seems possible that three original 'openings' with brick arches visible on the western side of the building were later bricked up with windows and a door inserted. Significant changes took place inside the building in the early 21st century, when the property was converted into two flats. As a result, there is very little remaining of the historic fabric of the building internally (TVAS).

**Crowborough: Sussex Police Training Centre, Kingstanding** (NGR TQ 47628 29140). (Site code: KSRP/SMR 18. Directors: Stewart Angell and Peter Hibbs). An excavation and survey has been carried out on a WW2 round pillbox positioned within the Kingstanding complex at Crowborough. Organised by Daryl Holter (Sussex Police Heritage Crime Advisor) and Sussex Military Research. Excavation was undertaken to remove soil and an old tree stump off its roof. The survey updated the pillbox dimensions along with more accurate measurements of certain aspects, particularly the loopholes. This closer inspection revealed the original remains of three colours used for camouflage; dark red, green and brown. A full photographic record was taken inside and outside the structure (SMR).

**Crowborough: Pine Grove** (NGR: 551300 130929). (Site code: CPI 18. Director: Tom Munnery). Eight trenches were excavated, five of which revealed archaeological finds, features and deposits. The main activity on site appeared to be in the south and west of the site, whilst the majority of the northern half of site contained limited archaeological features. The site comprised mainly of late post-medieval structural remains which relate to the 18<sup>th</sup>- century Crowborough Mill in the southern edge of the site and Mill House situated along the western edge of the site. A small number of post-medieval ditches and pits were also recorded. A small section of the windmill was visible in one trench, probably the remains of the track for the tailpole of the mill. It appears that the windmill was built on top of a mound made up of multiple deposits. Further west, a number of brick floor surfaces and brick and sandstone wall foundations were found relating to Mill House, some of which have the potential to be multiple phases of the building. A small number of brick surfaces, all roughly laid, were found around the edges of the northern half of site where the tarmac was not laid. These are probably basic yard surfaces relating to the mill and the surrounding buildings. A small number of pits remain undated (ASE).

**Hastings: Queensway** (NGR: 578521 112394). (Site code: QWH 18. Director: Chris Russel). A total of eight trenches were excavated at the site. Trenches in the east of the site contained an apparently undisturbed sequence whilst those in the south and west contained only loose topsoil over natural geology possibly as a result of modern disturbance. Two trenches in the north of the site contained a colluvial deposit (0.50-1.50m in thickness). Although this deposit contained small flecks of charcoal and undateable CBM, no other significant artefacts were recovered from it and it is considered to have built-up largely in the post-medieval period, possibly accelerated by post medieval ploughing. No other archaeological finds or features were revealed by the evaluation (ASE).

**Heathfield: Heatherlea, Newick Lane** (NGR: 559239 122011). (Site code: HNL 18. Director: Lucy May). Of the 11 trenches excavated on the site, only one provided potential archaeological evidence in the form of a gully and a ditch. These remain undated but are considered to either be post-medieval or modern in date (ASE).

**Hove: 39, Clarke Avenue** (TQ 2766 0701). (Site code: CAH 18/192. Director: Odile Rouard). Watching brief: the area at the back of the house had been largely disturbed by an older patio and there were no archaeological finds or features visible (TVAS).

**Mayfield: Kitchen Studios** (NGR: 556575 125727 (TQ565257)). (Site code: MKS 18. Director: Chris Russel). A single evaluation trench was excavated in an area of waste ground in the north of the site. Yellow clay geology was noted at between 114.59m and 115.08m AOD. This was overlain by subsoil and a topsoil containing a large amount of modern material. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were seen in the trench (ASE).

**Moulescoomb: Former Housing Office, Selsfield Drive** (TQ 3280 0700). (Site code: SDM 16/76. Director: Sean Wallis). Evaluation: the site may have been truncated to some extent previously, as the buried soil horizon observed in the trenches was quite dark in colour and contained 20<sup>th</sup>- century material. A thick deposit of hillwash (colluvium) was recorded in all the trenches, beneath the buried soil. This deposit was quite sterile in nature, and no archaeological finds were visible within it (TVAS).

**Ringmer: Land at Sunnymede, Norlington Lane** (TQ 4465 1298). (Site code: SNL 15/208. Director: Sean Wallis). Excavation: following the 2015 evaluation, a small area was opened to investigate a possible medieval roadside settlement. Several features were investigated, comprising gullies, pits and postholes as well as compacted surfaces made of flint pebbles and crushed pottery fragments. Most features were dated to the medieval period, although they were very shallow and suggest some truncation may have taken place across the site (TVAS).

**Rodmell: Stile Cottages** (NGR: 542074 106307). (Site code: STL 18. Director: Lucy May). The monitored groundworks were all within the footprint of the proposed garden building and had no impact on any archaeological remains. The stratigraphic sequence for the area consisted of a topsoil deposit, which provided predominantly 19<sup>th</sup>- to 20<sup>th</sup>- century pottery, CBM, glass, clay tobacco pipe, animal bone and oyster shell (ASE).

**Rottingdean: Beacon Hill** (TQ 3645 0265). (Director: Pete Tolhurst). Five test pits were excavated in an area between the two scheduled long barrows on Beacon Hill. The site was to be used for a beacon bonfire, and the object was to determine possible damage to buried archaeological remains. The test pits measured 1 metre square and produced numerous finds. The finds included Iron Age and possible Saxo-Norman wares, flint flakes, fire-cracked and marine shells. Other finds included modern metal work, clay pipes and contemporary ceramics. The pits reached a maximum depth of 60 cm and two of the trenches suggested ancient cut edges disappearing into the baulks (BHAS).

**Rottingdean: Beacon Hill** (TQ366 024). (Director: John Funnell). A watching brief was conducted on Beacon Hill in December on a small patch of green to the east of the tea shop and car park. A total of six holes were being dug to provide legs for picnic tables. The area is close to the site of Saxon burials. The holes dug measured only 60 cm square and reached chalk at a depth of 30 cm. No features were revealed. The finds included flint flakes (6), a single piece of fire-cracked flint and some Victorian ceramics.

**Rye: Rye Harbour Nature Reserve** (NGR TQ 94861 18156). (Site code: RPC/SMR 18. Directors: Stewart Angell and Peter Hibbs). Sussex Military Research organised the clearance of beach shingle and sand from a WW2 pillbox positioned near the entrance to Rye harbour, using only hand tools. A combination of volunteers from the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve and Sussex Military History Society (SMHS) assisted throughout. The concrete floor to this pillbox was revealed during the shingle and sand clearance, unfortunately no graffiti was encountered within the concrete surface. The main objective of the clearance was to make access inside the structure more achievable, especially for wheelchair users (SMR).

**Sedlescombe: Land adjacent to Brickwall Hotel, Brede Lane** (TQ 7816 1806). (Site code: BHS 18/223. Director: Sean Wallis). Evaluation: a number of post-medieval features were recorded, including a possible pit or ditch which may be 18th century in date. Three parallel footings were found in the western part of the site, which could potentially date from the early 19th century, although they are more likely to relate to a much later 'garden feature' of some kind (TVAS).

**\*Stanmer (Brighton): Rocky Clump** (TQ 328 101. Stanmer parish). (Site code: 500300. Director: Pete Tolhurst). The excavation is of a Late Iron Age/early Romano-British enclosure possibly being the site of a peasant farm. The enclosure is defined by ditches, some of which are over 2 metres wide and almost 1.5 metres in depth. The excavations in 2018 uncovered the north/east and south edges of the enclosure and possibly its entranceway. Five separate ditches were revealed. A number of pits were excavated with the largest being a grain storage pit which was found under one of the north/south ditches. There were four very large post holes, among the number that were found, and these have been interpreted as supporting an above ground grain store. The finds included six Roman coins, with an exceptional Sestersius and Barbarous Radiate and a copper alloy bangle. There have also been large quantities of animal bone and pottery. One of the highlights has been the discovery of two baby burials in the upper east/west ditch.

This year's excavation has a start date of the 6<sup>th</sup> April when we will be concentrating on the eastern and southern areas to try and determine what activities were carried out in this complex series of features. The County Archaeologist granted permission for the excavation to be continued this year. We have also had the agreement of the tenant farmer, Mr David Robinson. There are always opportunities for non-members who, by appointment, can join us for any of our activities throughout the winter months and into the 2019 season. Details can be obtained by visiting our website (<http://www.brightonarch.org.uk>)

**Wadhurst: Wadhurst Methodist Church, High Street** (TQ 6418 3173). (Site code: WMC 18/07. Director: Sean Wallis). Building Survey: most of the building clearly dates to the 1870s, although major alterations and additions took place in 1920. Unfortunately, much of the historic fabric of the building, such as its timber wall panelling, had been removed prior to the building survey taking place. As a result, the structure which was recorded was largely an empty shell containing very few clues to its former function (TVAS).

**\*Wellingham, Nr. Barcombe Mills: Bridge Farm.** (NGR TQ 4313 1444: OD 6.5m: Ringmer Parish). (Site code: BF 19. Directors: Rob Wallace & David Millum). We are returning to Trench 7 to continue to uncover the various features revealed last year and to proceed down into earlier layers in this pottery rich central area of the settlement. The dates of 2019 dig are **3rd June to 12th July**. Dig fees are: £25 for 7 days, £40 for 14 days and £60 for the whole dig. Alternatively if camping then the fee is £50 per week is inclusive of dig, use of showers, toilets, kitchen, laundry etc. A 2 week comprehensive, under-graduate level, training course (including camping) is available from 3rd to 14th June at £500 per person. Full details will be on our website which is undergoing a redesign and should be back on line from March, alternatively email [david@culverproject.co.uk](mailto:david@culverproject.co.uk). (CAP) [www.culverproject.co.uk](http://www.culverproject.co.uk)

## *West Sussex*

**Binsted Woods.** During October the surveying team undertook 2 days work on the major earthworks in Binsted Woods, just near the proposed route for the A27 Arundel bypass. For further details contact Liz Lane ([liz.13lane@gmail.com](mailto:liz.13lane@gmail.com)) (WAS).

**Burgess Hill: Keymer Tiles, Nye Road.** (NGR: 532500 119295). (Site code: not notified. Director: not notified). Retrospective report. An archaeological evaluation and targeted mitigative excavation was undertaken in 2015 at the former site of Keymer Tiles. Ten archaeological evaluation trenches in total were excavated, with one trench being split into two sections. Three of these trenches were expanded into mitigative excavation areas wherein a 'strip, map and sample' methodology was employed. No significant remains pre-dating the occupation of the site by Keymer were revealed, but the brick structures uncovered did relate to the development of the brick and tile works from the late-19th to the late-20th century. The earliest structures identified were a chalk road bedding, the road being depicted on the 1899 Ordnance Survey map, and the base of a round (beehive) kiln structure, one of two depicted on the 1899 Ordnance Survey map. Contemporary or near contemporary with this round kiln was the base of a somewhat larger circular structure, perhaps another kiln, nearby to the north in a position later occupied by an elliptical Hoffman kiln. Remains of this Hoffman kiln were also revealed with mid-20th century modifications enlarging and altering the shape of the kiln. Located to the south-west of the Hoffman kiln, an arrangement of subterranean flues indicate the presence there of another kiln or drying oven. Brick floors, wall bases, brick and concrete platforms and machine or equipment bases of the former Works No. 2 building were recorded in the south-eastern part of the site (MOLA. Ref: WX-KBT14).

**Chichester, Westhampnett, Tangmere: Southern Water 2020 expansion scheme.** (Linear scheme between NGR 491745 106499 and 484308 105391 (all Chichester District). (Site code: not notified. Director: not notified). During archaeological and geoarchaeological evaluation in 2017-2018, thirteen excavation areas were opened up. Notable discoveries include a relocation northwards of the Brighton-Norton raised beach cliff line; a well-preserved land surface of probable Devensian last cold phase (Allerod) date, without artefacts but with good ecofact preservation; a Late Neolithic segmented ring ditch, containing an antler pick, with a subsequent Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age continuous ring ditch; a Middle Bronze Age ring ditch, the ditch containing cremation burials; part of a Bronze Age field system; Iron Age round house gullies and other settlement and field system-related features; a crouched inhumation with a probable Mid Iron Age brooch; a probable southward continuation of the Brandyhole Copse Chichester Entrenchment, the main fill containing Roman pottery; surviving metal areas of Roman Stane Street with a southern roadside ditch; Saxo-Norman ditches near Easthampnett hamlet; and part of a Saxo-Norman to mid-14<sup>th</sup>-century probable settlement, previously unknown. Post-excavation work is in progress (ASE, reported by WSCC).

**Clapham: Long Furlong Farm** (NGR: 509435 108575). (Site code: LLF 18 Director: Sophie Austin). The watching brief identified no archaeological deposits, features or finds. A substantial part of the area had been truncated significantly during previous works on the site c. 20 years ago. The area not affected by this truncation proved to be archaeologically negative (ASE).

**Copthorne: Land West Of** (NGR: 530625 139097). (Site code: CPT 17. Director: Lucy May). A total of 67 trenches was excavated, 28 of which revealed archaeological finds and features. These appeared to be spread across the site and comprised mainly of ditches and pits. Unfortunately, the majority of the features produced no finds and these therefore remain undated. Only four trenches produced dating material. Given their stratigraphic location beneath subsoil and the fact that they do not largely correlate to features shown on maps dating from the mid- 19th century it is likely that many of these undated features are in fact of some antiquity and could be prehistoric, Roman, medieval or early post-medieval; or a combination of these. The earliest dating from the evaluation came from ditches found within three trenches which produced a small assemblage of struck flint

dating to the Mesolithic or Neolithic period and provides further evidence to back up the presence of Mesolithic or Neolithic activity found within a geoarchaeological test pit. The geoarchaeological test pits provided little evidence for alluvial sediments extending far from Copthorne Brook itself, and to the north of the stream no deposits of any geoarchaeological potential were encountered. To the south of the stream, however, there was evidence of a buried land surface with Mesolithic or early Neolithic lithic artefacts possibly recovered from a primary context. This artefact bearing horizon may extend further across the site to the east and west; the previous hand-excavated test pits being too shallow to encounter it, and it may relate directly to Mesolithic material recovered by McKerrow. Two trenches produced a small amount of pottery which was dated to the Late Iron Age/Roman period. This would appear in keeping with the results from an evaluation of the Balcombe Road site revealing evidence for land division between the same period. Four sherds of 13<sup>th</sup>- century medieval pottery were also recovered from a ditch and a single fragment of glass recovered from an environmental sample from a trench appears to be post-medieval (ASE).

**Fernhurst: Water Treatment Works** (NGR: 489532 127450). (Site code: FWW 18. Director: Lucy May). The three trial trenches encountered no archaeological finds, features or deposits within the area monitored (ASE).

**Fontwell: Fontwell Avenue** (NGR 495151 106812). (Site code: not notified. Director: not notified). Following work in 2015 and 2016 by Archaeology South-East (FFA 15) and Cotswold Archaeology (LFA 16) a 23 trench evaluation was carried out by MOLA during October 2018. Six geotechnical pits were also excavated and results from these suggested a potential for Palaeolithic remains to survive within the organic horizons. Archaeological deposits seen during the evaluation were located mainly in the southern parts of the site and comprised ditches, pits, postholes and several pseudo-cremations – vessels buried in the manner of a cremation but lacking any discernible human remains. These pseudo-cremations are generally of Bronze Age date although one, left *in situ* on site may be from the Iron Age/ early Roman period. Where the other features on site could be dated these were broadly Bronze Age too. Environmental samples taken from the site demonstrated the presence of oak and non oak charcoal, raspberries or blackberries and cereal remains of spelt and barley (MOLA. Ref: WX-FOW18).

**Hunston: Kingsham Quarry, off Hunston Road.** (NGR 486185 103274). (Site code: not notified. Director: not notified). Continuing Phase 2 trial trench evaluation and geoarchaeological test pit excavation found further evidence of the later post-medieval fieldscape. W/c (Development Archaeology Services, reported by WSCC).

**Lancing: North Barn Farm** (NGR: 519303 104784). (Site code: NBA 18. Director: Susan Chandler). In November 2018 an historic buildings record of a barn and associated buildings at North Barn Farm was undertaken. The barn forms part of a farmyard which includes a cattle shed and other buildings, typical of the format used in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Due to modern farming practices, these arrangements have fallen from favour and thus such buildings often fall into disuse. The farmyard at North Barn is an example of this; however, elements of its past layout and use remain legible. (ASE)

**Pease Pottage: Hardriding Farm** (NGR: 526540 133318). (Site code: HRF 17. Director: Greg Priestley-Bell). The evaluation comprised forty-four trial trenches. A single piece of probably late prehistoric worked flint was recovered from the topsoil. Four post-medieval linear features were recorded that corresponded with field boundaries shown on the 1840 Worth Tithe Map, while an undated post-hole broadly corresponded with the location of another post-medieval field boundary. Four undated, isolated features distributed over four trenches comprised two pits and two gullies. (ASE)

**Sompting: Malthouse Field** (TQ 164 054). Resistivity surveys are planned around the excavation area in March. For further details contact Liz Lane [liz.13lane@gmail.com](mailto:liz.13lane@gmail.com) (WAS).

**West Hoathly: West Hoathly Brickworks.** (NGR 537630 132860). (Site code: not notified. Director: not notified). Continuing watching brief during clay extraction. Further mine pits were recorded in 2018. Although without dating, they are likely to relate to known medieval iron ore and probable clay extraction on the site (Cotswold Archaeology, reported by WSCC).

**Worthing: Church House, Church Road, West Tarring.** (Site code: not notified. Director: not notified). Trial trench excavation in 2019 on the site of the former Church Farm found no surviving ancient archaeological features. A well-preserved late Victorian coach house with stables has been recorded before conversion. A watching brief in 1966 (Worthing Archaeological Society), during construction of the recently demolished small block of flats, had found brick and flint wall footings and a substantial medieval ditch; the site had evidently been substantially disturbed during the 1960s building works. W/c (Development Archaeology Services, reported by WSCC).

### Sources of fieldwork information

Colour code: **report of fieldwork received**; **contacted to say no fieldwork to report**; **no contact or report received**

(NB. Reports on fieldwork by organisations that do not regularly work in Sussex are usually provided by the District or County archaeological service or their archaeological advisors)

Abbreviation	Organisation
ASE	Archaeology South-East (UCL)
ASL	Archaeological Services Lewes
BHAS	Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society
CAP	Culver Archaeological Project
CBAS	Chris Butler Archaeological Services
CDAS	Chichester & District Archaeological Society
CDC	Chichester District Council (inc SDNP in Chichester District)
CITiZAN	Coastal & Inter-Tidal Zone Archaeological Network
CAG	Cuckmere Archaeology Group
DAS	Development Archaeological Services
EMS	Eastbourne Museum Service
ENHAS	Eastbourne Natural History and Archaeological Society
ESCC	East Sussex County Council
HBAC	HB Archaeology and Conservation Ltd
HCC	Hampshire County Council (for SDNP in W Sussex)
HDAG	Horsham & District Archaeological Group
HAARG	Hastings & Area Archaeological Research Group
IHRG	Independent Historical Research Group
IOA	Institute of Archaeology (UCL) (M. Roberts)
LAG	Lewes Archaeological Group
LISS	Liss Archaeology
NT (TD)	National Trust West Sussex & SDNP region (T. Dommett)
NT (NC)	National Trust East & Kent region (N. Cohen)
SAS	Sussex Archaeological Society
SCC	Surrey County Council (for Crawley Borough & Mid Sussex)
SIAS	Sussex Industrial Archaeological Society
SSA	Sussex School of Archaeology
SMR	Sussex Military Research
D. Staveley	David Staveley (Independent)
TVAS	Thames Valley Archaeological Services

WAS	Worthing Archaeological Society
P. Whitehill	Philipa Whitehill (Independent/CG Archaeology)
WAG	Wealden Archaeology Group
WIRG	Wealden Iron Research Group
WSA	West Sussex Archaeology Ltd
WSCC	West Sussex County Council