

## Sussex Archaeology Round-up (September - December 2007)

### East Sussex

**The Historic Landscape Characterisation Project.** This is a 2 year EH funded project hoping to accomplish a GIS version of the changes and alterations to the historic landscape over time, using modern and historic maps etc. as a starting block. A possible format to present the information produced may take a similar form to the Atlas of Sussex book. Buckinghamshire County Council's website, regarding their HLC project, will clarify what the Sussex project is all about and is well worth a look at: [www.buckscc.gov.uk](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk) or Google *Buckinghamshire County Council Historic Landscape Characterisation Project*. (Nicola Bannister/consultant).

**East Sussex Aggregates Resource Project.** Grant applications to EH and ALS have been successful for assessing the historic environment of the E. Sussex aggregate resource project. Areas targeted are the river terrace gravels in the Ouse and Cuckmere Valleys, the Folkestone Beds around Ditchling and the foreshores of Pevensey and Rye. Work on the desk-based assessments is underway (ESCC).

**\*Arlington: Roman 'Small Town'** (NGR TQ 541068). Continuing excavation at this roadside settlement has revealed a masonry building. Further work is planned for 2008. (ESCC with BHAS, ENHAS and MSFAT). Contact Greg Chuter ([Gregory.Chuter@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Gregory.Chuter@eastsussex.gov.uk)).

**Ashburnham Leat.** A survey of various surviving portions of this early C18<sup>th</sup>- water channel has been undertaken and it is hoped to study rate of flow etc. (WIRG).

**\*Ashburnham: Kitchenham farm (north of Castle Croft/Castle Croft).** Resistivity survey of the upper east field was completed in October and the results processed. A number of features have been revealed and will need to be looked at further. Upper west field has been field walked and most of the finds have been processed. The CLBR stamped tiles have been confirmed and are made of both fabrics as reported by Peacock in 1977 – Boulogne (type 1) and Southern England – Fairlight Clay (type 2). Samian ware from all three regions of Gaul (Southern, Central and Eastern) is also present. The earliest piece is Flavian, from Southern Gaul and dates to c.69-96AD. The 1<sup>st</sup> interim report is being written for the winter journal and should be published late January. Further details from Kevin and Lynn Cornwell: 01424 224405. e-mail [haarg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:haarg@hotmail.co.uk) (HAARG).

**Ashdown Forrest.** The desk-based and walkover survey have revealed numerous new sites/earthworks of a number of periods. Work ongoing. (C. Butler).

**\*Barcombe, Pond Field/Culver Mead, Culver Farm.** Further excavations are planned for summer 2008 on this Roman roadside settlement. (Rob Wallace/Uni of Sussex).

**\*Barcombe Roman Villa.** The 2008 season is due for July/August and hopes to examine the possible bath house in Church Field. Training courses and volunteer positions available. (CCE/MSFAT).

**Barcombe churchyard.** A watching brief is planned in 2008. (MSFAT).

**Barcombe Mills.** Two Type 24 pillboxes, due to be sealed up, were recorded and geophysical survey between two other examples failed to reveal evidence of a mythical connecting tunnel. (C. Bulter).

**Battle: Stiles Garage.** A watching brief during the installation of a new fuel pipeline and tank located nothing predating the C19th. (HAARG).

**\*Bishopstone Tidemills.** The coal yard, stables and original creek bank have been surveyed and work has shifted to the Stationmaster's cottage. This building and its associated yard are being cleared of vegetation, with targeted excavation in places. It is clear now that the primary function of the building was a gate-lodge into the village which then became a station master's cottage after the building had been substantially extended when the land was taken over by the railway in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Fieldwork due to resume in May 2008. Volunteers are still welcome, please contact Luke Barber on [research@sussexpast.co.uk](mailto:research@sussexpast.co.uk) (SAS).

**Brede Steam Engine.** Refitting the recently dismantled valve gear in the Worthington Simpson engine is underway (SIAS).

**\*Brighton: Rocky Clump.** (NGR TQ 328 101). Excavations finished for the year in November. More of the known ditches running east/west and probably part of a field system were revealed. A study has been made of the bone deposition in the large north/south ditch, which produced large cattle bones including leg and scapula. The cemetery area failed to reveal any new burials. The most enigmatic feature is a very large pit on the east side of the site, which is producing both Roman pottery and fairly modern ceramics, but is cut by an 18<sup>th</sup> century ditch? More work planned for 2008. (BHAS).

**Brighton: Varley Halls.** (NGR TQ332 088). Work is planned in 2008 around the site of the Late Bronze Age settlement. (L. Fisher/Uni of Sussex/BHAS).

**Camber water-treatment works.** A watching brief revealed nothing of archaeological interest. (ASE).

**Chailey Common.** Anomalies following bracken clearance include numerous earthworks including ridge and furrow. (C. Butler).

**South Crowborough Water Pipeline scheme.** Work is ongoing. (Network Archaeology).

**Darwell – Beauport Park Water pipeline.** Work is ongoing. (Reported by ESCC).

**Ditchling, Lodge Hill.** An earthwork survey and geophysical surveys were undertaken on the site of a possible barrow and a windmill mound as part of Sussex University MA training. The possible barrow on Lodge Hill may in fact be a windmill mound as well – the hollow in the middle appeared too large for a robber trench and the presence of a lot of iron in it suggests the hollow may be of military origin. (University of Sussex).

**Eastbourne: Pockocks Field.** This is due to be developed in the near future, so Wessex Archaeology. will be doing some hand-dug test pitting in order to realise and reveal the full survival and preservation of archaeology considered to remain at the site. A successful geophysical survey has already been undertaken by ASE.

**Eastbourne: Sea View Ave.** A geophysical survey has revealed anomalies which will be subject to further investigation. (ASE).

**Exceat chapel.** Further work was undertaken to locate the north wall. More work is planned for Spring 2008. (MSFAT).

**Firle Place Dairy.** Ongoing survey work has shown the dairy to be a *cottage orne* style building with a thatched roof and redundant king post roof truss. (Ron Martin/SIAS).

**\*Fletching, Sheffield Forest.** Fieldwalking (Dec. 2006) located three undated bloomery sites as well as 25 charcoal platforms, a saw pit and a pond bay. Further walkover surveys are planned for Ann Wood in 2008 as part of the Ouse Valley Project. (WIRG with Univ of Sussex).

**Groombridge to Langton Water pipe scheme.** (with Kent CC). Work is ongoing (Reported by ESCC).

**Hartfield: Cullinghurst Wood.** (Jan/Nov 2007). (TQ 4807 3946). Trial trenching of a bloomery site (where earlier exploration had revealed a site with a C14 date possibly as early as 5th cent. BC) produced little. Also small bloomery site was discovered at TQ 4807 3937. Further walkover survey is planned for 2008. (WIRG).

**Hastings: St Mary's Terrace.** A watching brief located nothing of archaeological interest. (ASE).

**Hastings: St. Peter and St. Paul Junior School.** A watching brief found little of archaeological interest. (HAARG).

**Hastings: 7, St. Helens Park Road.** An Anderson shelter found in the rear garden of the property has been surveyed. (HAARG).

**Hastings: Water Supply Pipeline.** (NGR TQ 723 214 to TQ 791 133). Work is ongoing. (ASE).

**Hazards Green - Boreham St.** The watching brief has revealed Roman or medieval iron working related finds. Work is ongoing. (ASE).

**Heathfield: Dudsland Farm.** Walkover survey is planned for 2008. (WIRG).

**Mayfield: Stile House Farm.** (TQ 5940 3075). Fieldwalking close to the farm located isolated slag but no bloomery sites. A pond bay at TQ 5940 3075 is probably a pen pond for Coushopley furnace. (WIRG).

**Mayfield: Little Furnace Wood.** The furnace excavated last Spring is to be archaeomagnetically dated. (WIRG).

**Ninfield: Castle Croft.** A resistivity survey is planned for this site. (HAARG).

**Nutley: Funnells Wood and Hollybush Wood.** Walkover surveys are planned for 2008 as part of the Ouse Valley Project (WIRG).

**Ouse Valley Transfer Scheme - South East Water pipelines.** Work is ongoing. (Network Archaeology).

**Ovingdean.** (NGR TQ 354036). Work is planned at the site in 2008. (C. White/Uni of Sussex/ BHAS).

**Peacehaven.** (NGR TQ 4305 0025). The continued excavation of a barrow threatened by coastal erosion is to be undertaken in 2008. There will also be surveying and investigations into the surrounding landscape. The 2007 excavations revealed layers of flintwork within the structure but have as yet to locate a surrounding ditch or other features. Two WW2 slit trenches present on the barrow were also excavated. (S. Birks/Uni of Sussex with MSFAT & BHAS).

**Ringmer: Clay Hill reservoir.** A 39 trench evaluation has revealed Roman pits and medieval features. (ASE).

**Rottingdean: Grand Crescent.** A watching brief produced only four flint flakes and no features. (BHAS).

**Sedlescombe: Catkins.** A watching brief located nothing predating the C19th. (HAARG).

**Uckfield: crossing the River Uck.** Work is ongoing (Reported by ESCC).

**Wilmington.** Fieldwork/geophysical survey is planned to look for possible Bronze Age activity. (David Yates/BHAS).

**Wilmington: The Glebe.** A watching brief has recovered some 19/20<sup>th</sup> century midden debris and prehistoric burnt flint were revealed. (C. Butler).

**Winchelsea: Greyfriars.** A watching brief revealed nothing of archaeological interest. (ASE).

### West Sussex

**Portsmouth & Arundel Canal.** Various bridges along the canal have been investigated and some ground clearance has been undertaken. The Parapet of St Giles Bridge, Merston, has been rebuilt and two swing bridge cast iron girders have been recovered from a nearby farm. (Reported by Ron Martin).

**Aldingbourne: Lidsey Landfill Site Extension.** (NGR centred SU 92700 03934). Further excavations, to the east of land investigated and recorded in summer 2007, have revealed further elements of a Romano-British field system, part of a small Later Bronze Age enclosure, and a Late Bronze Age pit, which cuts very truncated shallow gullies, probably of a still earlier field system. Project continuing. (TVAS).

**Amberley Working Museum.** The railway line is being extended to a new station. (Reported by Ron Martin).

**Beedings.** The site (described in the last round-up) is about to become a vineyard, but prior to this EH have agreed to fund some further surveying there. Fieldwalking and excavation is expected to commence in the first half of 2008. EH are also keen to fund a resource assessment of the potential of similar sites (where fissures are revealed or known of) within the Weald. (Matt Pope/UCL with WAS).

**Bersted: Land at North of.** (NGR SU 9169 0146 – 9327 0124). The first stage of archaeological excavation, following earlier trial trench excavation and geoarchaeological investigation and monitoring (Archaeology South-East, 2005, 2007), has begun on this large proposed housing and relief road site. Work continuing. (TVAS).

**Billingshurst: Bromeliad Nursery, Marringdean Road.** (NGR TQ 08842 22996). Monitoring of topsoil stripping for a small new greenhouse, close to known Mesolithic finds, revealed one flint core fragment only. Further work is planned on another part of the site. (WSCC).

**Bolney: Chapel Road and The Street.** (NGR 525638 122004 – 526170 123208). Monitoring of excavations for a foul sewer, in connection with a flood relief scheme, has so far not revealed any archaeological features or finds. At the far (northern) end of the foul sewer route, waterlogged timbers of a 10<sup>th</sup>-century causeway across a stream were reported in 1948. Work continues. (CgMs Consulting & ASE).

**Boxgrove Project: Valdoe Pit.** The fieldwork aspect of the assessment survey has ended and the reports are almost completed. The results are good, with definite *in-situ* archaeology, identical to that revealed at Boxgrove.. A determination of what was lost to quarrying during the close of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was also achieved. (Matt Pope/UCL).

**Bramber: Steyning to Beeding electric cable.** (NGR TQ 1950 0905 – TQ 1891 1103). Archaeological monitoring of cable trenching, parallel to the line of cable trench excavations monitored by Archaeology South East in 1996, has so far revealed backfilled features excavated by ASE but not yet any new features. Work to be continued. (MoLAS).

**Chichester Harbour Survey.** Monitoring the condition of recorded monuments within the Chichester Harbour AONB continues. Some degradation is apparent particularly of Second World War sites, and flint working sites. There is a portfolio of 40 sites that are visited at least annually. There is also a programme of field walking within the AONB to priorities agreed with the Chichester Harbour Conservancy. Field-walking in the Manhood peninsula near Street End is also on the agenda. Fieldwork near Dell Quay, organized by Chichester District Council to complement a previous magnetometer survey, revealed 3<sup>rd</sup>-century tile kilns. It is thought the tiles manufactured here were for the civilian market and not used for Fishbourne Palace. (CDAS).

**Chichester: Bishop's Garden, Canons Lane.** (NGR centred SU 85862 04752). Geophysical survey, with trial archaeological trenches excavated within the Bishop's Garden, revealed the substantial masonry walls of a large rectangular building, thought possibly to be the Bishop's Great Hall that burnt down in the Great Chichester Fire of 1187. (Chichester District Council/WSCC/Chichester Cathedral/CDAS).

**Chichester: Greyling.** A watching brief revealed a prehistoric pit. (ASE).

**Chichester: Spitalfield Lane.** A watching brief revealed nothing of archaeological interest. (Reported by CDC).

**Chichester: Eastgate/ New Park Road site.** Following the demolition of buildings there is due to be a full scale excavation. (Reported by CDC).

**Coultershaw Mill Heritage site.** Having completed the development plans for the an HLF application is now being made. This will help provide an education room with facilities, repair the sluices and restore the pump and engine houses. (SIAS).

**Crawley: Barley House.** A watching brief revealed nothing of archaeological interest. (ASE).

**Duncton Mill, Duncton.** The survey report of this watermill is now complete. (Ron Martin/SIAS).

**East Preston: Former Martlets Care Home, Sea Road.** (NGR TQ 07038 02228). Trial trench excavation, in advance of the demolition and rebuilding of the 1932 Workhouse Infirmary Nurses' Residence (later care home for the elderly), revealed only an 18<sup>th</sup>-/19<sup>th</sup>-century plot boundary. The World War 2 nurses' air raid shelter was fully recorded before demolition. (AOC Archaeology).

**Emsworth.** A project has been started to record the Emsworth Oyster industry – using both historical research and fieldwork to record the oyster beds before they are destroyed by the shifting mud in the harbour. (CDAS with Emsworth Maritime and Historical Trust (EMHT)).

**Ferring.** (TQ 0887 0238). A geophysical survey close to the stream at next to the location of a Bronze Age hoard was undertaken with a view to finding possible associated settlement evidence. Nothing of interest was revealed. (David Yates/BHAS).

**Hassocks: Land west of Mackie Avenue.** (NGR centred TQ 3100 1630). Archaeological excavation, prior to housing development, on this site on the Lower Greensand has now been completed. Parts of later Bronze Age and Romano-British field systems have been revealed. The remains of a probable Later Bronze Age round house have been excavated on the northern edge of the site; previous trial trenches suggest that there is further evidence of LBA and R-B occupation to the north, in land intended to be Open Space. A subrectangular post-hole structure, with a shallow sunken base, appears to be part of a building of Roman date, perhaps originally with suspended timber floor. Within a pit of Roman date, in the sunken cavity, was a complete horse skeleton, the skull placed within the rib cage. This may have been a founding deposit. N-S and returning E-W alignments of deep post-holes mark the location of another Roman timber structure, fitting closely within a small enclosure. To the south, near a stream, concentrations of burnt flint in the base of the topsoil suggest other later prehistoric activity. (OA).

**Haywards Heath: Great Haywards.** Archaeological survey has revealed 27 WW2 anti-tank cylinders that appear to be forming a wall around part of the property. (C. Butler).

**Haslingbourne.** The diesel pump has been restored and is now operating. (SIAS).

**Highdown Hill.** More resistivity work is planned for 2008. (WAS).

**Ifield Mill, Crawley.** Heritage Lottery Funding has been obtained for the rebuilding of the wheel. (SIAS).

**Iping: Milland, Robin's Hill.** (NGR SU 84700 25184): A watching brief on the replacement of a Southern Water main in the roadway, close to the 1908 find-spot of a section of Roman tile paving and probable cremation burial, has now been concluded. There were no archaeological finds or features. (ASE for CgMs Consulting).

**Lancing: Coombs Church.** A watching brief revealed nothing of archaeological interest. (ASE).

**Lancing: New Monks Farm.** (NGR TQ 195 055).The watching brief is still ongoing. (ASE).

**Littlehampton: Toddington Nurseries, Worthing Road.** (NGR TQ 0365 0374). Excavation in advance of housing development has now been completed. In the final excavation area, part of a Romano-British field system was revealed, and most of a probable Later Bronze Age round house. (WA & CgMS Consulting).

**Parham House, Parham Park.** A 5 year project has been started which hopes to reveal and research the deserted medieval village. Trial fieldwork in summer 2007 did not reveal much of interest. It is possible that the site of the village has now been located and further fieldwork is planned for 2008. Unfortunately an early 18<sup>th</sup> century estate map, thought to show remains of the village and loaned out during the 1960s, has been mislaid and WAS would like to hear from anyone who might know where it is. What has been useful are the myriad of boxes of ceramics found stored within the clock tower on the estate, covering periods upwards of the IA. (WAS).

**Poynings: Devil's Dyke camp.** (NGR TQ 25962 11063). Field observation during a Field Inspection Reassessment exercise noted the presence of a series of lynchets to the north-east of the camp, within the promontory. (EH).

**Selhurst Park Estate.** A geophysical survey was carried out on one of the fields. The results, when overlaid on the aerial photographs, show some sub surface anomalies in more detail. (CDAS).

**Shoreham: St Mary's Church.** A watching brief during the laying of new electricity cables in the churchyard located the buried remains of the south porch and a late post-medieval brick burial vault. (ASE).

**Slaugham: Orange Gill, East Park and Holmstead Wood.** (Mar 2007). Fieldwalking as part of the Ouse Valley Project was negative. (WIRG).

**Slindon Estate.** Further survey work is planned together with the excavation of a saw-pit. (WAS).

**Wakehurst (area of).** Mesolithic rock shelters in the Wakehurst area are to be investigated. (University of Sussex).

**\*Warbleton: Blacksmiths Corner.** A second season (2007) of excavation been finished which revealed part of the Roman bath house. Work will continue in 2008 (WAS).

**West Dean Scout Camp.** A watching brief located nothing of archaeological interest. (Reported by CDC).

**Westhampnett Airfield.** A site inspection has allowed the recording of a number of military remains including two unique circular pillboxes, a quadrant tower and a number of other buildings. A report has been submitted to Goodwood Estate and WSCC HER. (C. Butler).