

## Sussex Archaeology Round-up (September-December 2008)

### East Sussex

**\*Arlington:** Roman 'Small Town' (NGR TQ 541 068 and TQ 5409 0679). Excavation on the main settlement area finished in September and the team moved to the cemetery / mausoleum site. A spell of adverse weather forced us to close the site and it is planned to reopen again in the Spring. A little work was achievable and there are indications that the 'mausoleum' structure contains a central pit (ESCC with BHAS, ENHAS and MSFAT). Contact Greg Chuter ([Gregory.Chuter@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Gregory.Chuter@eastsussex.gov.uk)).

**Ashburnham: Kitchenham farm (north of Castle Croft/Castle Croft).** Further excavation took place on 17-19 and 25<sup>th</sup> October to look at the main pit discovered in August and the slope of the Roman land level due south of the pit. A lions head from a samian mortarium bowl type 45 was recovered from the pit dating c.170-200AD along with two more stamped tiles including our first stamped Imbrex. Field walking in the upper east field took place on 16 November and approx. 20 bucket of material was recovered. This included at least another three stamped tiles, six pieces of RB glass and a nice collection of worked flint. (HAARG).

**Ashcombe Windmill.** Archaeological work is being carried out on the remains of the old mill. (C. Butler Archaeological Services).

**\*Barcombe, Pond Field/Culver Mead, Culver Farm.** Rob has conducted further geophysical survey at the site and the open trenches are now fully recorded. Fieldwork for 2009 will target three fields with open-area excavation beginning in August (10<sup>th</sup>) and continuing for 6 weeks. (Rob Wallace/Uni of Sussex).

**\*Barcombe Roman Villa.** The 2009 season will hopefully finish the excavation of the bath house/s. (CCE/MSFAT).

**Beddingham** (exact location withheld) In September metal detectorists Bob White and Cliffe Smith report the discovery of metal artifacts and human remains. Emergency rescue excavation was carried out by BHAS under the direction of Greg Chuter. Three graves were excavated, containing two females and a male along with a range of grave goods including a bronze bucket, brooches, buckles, a spear and a shield. The burials have been provisionally dated to the late 5<sup>th</sup> – mid 6<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. The site has now been scheduled and funding is being sought for the post excavation analysis and display (ESCC/BHAS).

**Beddingham, Itford Farm.** (TQ 433 055). Evaluation and follow on full excavation recorded an unusual Bronze Age ring gully sealed by flints along with a series of deep pits. (Chris Butler Archaeological Services – CBAS).

**Bexhill: Holden House.** (TQ 744 077). An evaluation in advance of construction recorded no archaeological deposits. (CBAS).

**Bexhill: Park Road.** (NGR 573846 107074 to 573871 107126 and 573930 107092 to 573919 107141). Continuation of monitoring east of the alluvial channel reported on at the last meeting has not revealed any deposits of archaeological significance. (ASE).

**Bexhill: High School, Gunters Lane.** (NGR 573155 109163). Watching brief maintained during an unexploded ordnance survey. 116 targets were investigated but nothing of archaeological significance located. (ASE)

**Bexhill to Hastings Link Road.** Monitoring of geotechnical investigations. Planning decision still awaited . (OA).

**\*Bishopstone Tidemills.** 2009 Fieldwork will target two large agricultural buildings at the north-east corner of the village as well as a probable WW2 air-raid shelter. Volunteers are still welcome; please contact Luke Barber on [research@sussexpast.co.uk](mailto:research@sussexpast.co.uk) (SAS).

**\*Brighton: Rocky Clump.** (NGR TQ 3273 1015). Excavations continue extending the 'bones' trench northwards and the east trench southwards. Very little to report as still working on the upper levels. Very few finds tend to suggest rapid back filling, but depth is interesting with the lower levels looking very encouraging. In the east trench one of the sections made by Clive Skeggs in the 1960's had been found. This will be placed onto the site plan giving a more accurate record than the previous estimated location Work will continue in 2009. (BHAS).

**Brightling: Forge Wood.** (NGR TQ 6508 2101). A bloomery iron smelting furnace site. A trial trench was dug in September 2008. Fragments of furnace wall found, together with six contiguous sherds of an everted rim cooking pot of East Sussex ware, dated to the late pre-Roman or early-Roman Iron Age; 1st century AD (WIRG).

**Falmer Stadium site.** (NGR TQ 535060 108440). Exciting Mesolithic and Bronze Age features have been found, including evidence of at least three 'round houses', one of which is defined by ring ditch 18 metres in diameter. Fieldwork has included: Fieldwalking, Evaluation and fuller excavation. (ASE with BHAS).

**Hailsham: Woodham Farm.** (TQ 578 110). Archaeological fieldwork in advance of construction: A geophysical survey by Stratascan recorded a low number of potential features. Subsequent evaluation of the Phase 1 build area recorded a single post med ditch. (OA).

**Herstmonceux Castle Estate Survey: a medieval moated site Mota Piece.** (TQ 655 086). Geophysics revealed possible structural remains. An evaluation trench and test-pitting recovered evidence of domestic activity (pottery dated predominantly to 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century). **Beech Tree Field** (TQ 652 104) to the south and east of The Science Centre),

revealed sub surface anomalies during the geophysical survey that on investigation turned out to be (in the southern part) land drainage, a metal fence post and evidence of hedge planting and in the east a ditch feature containing East Sussex Ware and possible RB building material (Philippa Whitehill & HCAG).

**Lewes: Lewes House.** (TQ 4173 1008). Some geoarchaeological work was undertaken and rediscovered the first terrace of the River Ouse. Dates for samples taken were between 80-100 thousand years ago and suggests an interesting and very different Lewes to today's Lewes (Matt Pope/ASE).

**Lewes: Lewes Castle.** Ongoing watching brief during Lottery work. Some test pits were excavated in the Gun Garden on the footprint of the proposed pavilion building. These revealed late post-medieval demolition/levelling layers (SAS).

**Lewes: St John the Baptist Church, Southover.** (NGR 541258 109635). Ongoing works ahead of extension to the church is underway. Some structural remains have been located which may relate to the former Priory building. In addition several tombs and a number of burials and been excavated. (ASE).

**Mayfield Church.** (TQ 586 270) A watching brief recorded further remains of the early church destroyed by fire in the 14<sup>th</sup> century (CG Archaeology).

**Northeye, Pevensey Levels.** (TQ 676 070) Borehole survey carried out by Carl Champness of Oxford Archaeology funded by High Level Stewardship grant recorded an interesting profile across this section of the levels and identified peat layers and the true edge of the 'eye'. The results will inform land management and ditch clearance (OA).

**\*Ovingdean.** (TQ3575 0300). Field walking and geophysics of an enclosure noted on Google earth had to be cancelled as the window proved too small between crop removal and re-sowing. The project is now planned for the spring/early summer 2009 (BHAS).

**Polegate: Dittons Road.** (NGR 560050 104720). A watching brief during the construction of a new water pipeline and pumping station revealed nothing of archaeological significance. (ASE).

**Rye: Royal Military Canal, Walland Marsh.** (NGR TQ 936245 and TQ 939248). A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of a trench to connect the flow gauge to a power supply as part of flood defence improvements adjacent to the Scheduled Monument. No archaeological features were observed, but some ceramic building material dating to the construction period of the canal was retrieved. Some twisted iron thought to date from WWII was also recovered from the works. (ASE).

**Rye: Tower House.** (TQ 922 206). An evaluation recorded archaeological deposits and has provided a better understanding of the profile and depths of archaeology on this site (CBAS).

**Rye: Conduit Hill** (the former Austin Friars Chapel). (TQ921 204) Evaluation excavation recorded archaeological deposits. This work will inform further mitigation. (Thanet Archaeology).

**Sedlescombe: ‘Tudor Rose’**. A watching brief in advance of a 2 storey extension found nothing despite the current dwelling (c. mid C20<sup>th</sup>) being constructed over the site of possible 16<sup>th</sup>- century Wayside cottage plots. (HAARG).

**Wivelsfield: Wivelsfield Primary School**. (TQ 326 205). A watching brief recorded only 19<sup>th</sup>- / 20<sup>th</sup>- century features (CBAS).

### West Sussex

**Bersted: Land at North Bersted**. (NGR SU 9169 0146 – 9327 0124). Future housing development. The final phase of excavations on the site has revealed a complex of Romano-British post-holes and ditches adjoining the tributary palaeochannel of the Aldingbourne Rife. (TVAS).

**Bognor Regis Community College, Westloats Lane**. (NGR SZ 92226 99972 & SU 92084 00190). Construction of new Primary and Secondary Schools. Two trenches dug in multi-use games area revealed no surviving trace of the Roman ditched “trackway” found to the north in 1998. (ASE).

**Bosham Hoe Water Pipeline** (NGR 48145 10185). Topsoil stripping and pipe trenching has so far not revealed anything of archaeological significance. (ASE).

**Chichester: Cathedral Close**. Geophysical survey and small-scale excavations were carried out in connection with a teaching day, “Chichester Cathedral Archaeology Day”, in the Bishop’s Palace Garden, NGR SU 85849 04749, and Deanery Garden, SU 85881 04633, have revealed Roman and medieval structural remains. In the Bishop’s Palace Garden, the rear masonry wall foundation of the probable 13<sup>th</sup>-century Great Hall was revealed, with a large pit containing Saxo-Norman pottery. Wall foundations on a very similar alignment, traced by geophysics, were found to be foundations of part of a Roman flint-and-greensand masonry building with apsidal end, just below the lawn, and abutted by and partly cut by medieval foundations. In the Deanery garden, wall foundations, probably associated with the medieval Deanery, overlay a cobbled surface, thought to be the medieval internal perimeter road. These deposits overlay a dark soil which in turn overlay part of a Roman wall foundation, associated with 1<sup>st</sup>-century pottery. Finds included a small copper alloy phallic amulet of Roman date. (CDC, Chichester Cathedral, CDAS and WSCC).

**Chichester: Chichester Boy’s Club, Little London**. The alignment of the Roman street first found during the recent Shippam’s Factory excavations has been located on this site (DAS).

**Crawley: Gatwick Airport, North-West Zone.** (NGR centred TQ 25990 41170). Additional trial trench excavation in advance of proposals for new aircraft stands took place, supplementing evaluation in 2001. Relict stream channels were found, with natural drainage gullies, but no archaeological features. Apart from the Late Bronze Age enclosure site revealed in 2001, on higher ground, the picture of the site as an essentially wet area of the River Mole lower terraces, unattractive to ancient settlement, is confirmed. (Framework Archaeology).

**Coldwaltham: land at Hardham Park Farm.** (TQ 84532 16825 – 03573 17485). A proposed Southern Water pipeline. Trial trench excavation close to the River Arun and close to the projected alignment of the Sussex Greensand Way, and possible crop mark enclosures, revealed no significant alluvial deposits and no surviving ancient archaeological features. (ASE for Atkins Heritage).

**Emsworth/Havant.** A geophysical survey has been undertaken on the Roman ‘villa’ near the Emsworth/Havant road (which itself is believed to have Roman origins). The existence of this villa and its location was first recorded in the 1920s. Its location was again recorded in the 1960s. The survey confirmed the location, and indicated that the villa had five rooms. It is possible that the location so close to the road that the structure may not be a villa, but some other facility designed to support travellers. (CDAS).

**Felpham: St Mary’s Church.** (SZ 949 998). During construction of a new extension several *in situ* burial and brick-built tombs were located. (ASE).

**Fittleworth, Horncroft Warren.** (NGR 499930 117000). Sixty trial trenches were excavated across three areas of the site. A series of linear features were recorded, one of which was dated to the Roman period. No other archaeological features were found. Work has also investigated the river terraces and relocated the river terrace sequence described by Rice in the mid C20<sup>th</sup>. Samples taken are awaiting dating of this 5<sup>th</sup> terrace of the Rother (ASE/Matt Pope).

**Handcross: Nymans Gardens.** (NGR 527000 129000). WB: Ground reduction, foundations and soakaway within an area of c. 100m<sup>2</sup> revealed nothing of archaeological significance. (ASE)

**Haywards Heath: Lucastes Avenue.** (TQ 3224 4502). A watching brief on sewer upsizing works, across the projected alignment of the London-Portslade Roman road, revealed no trace of the road. (ASE).

**Highdown.** Bore-holing with Martin Bates has located the raised beach under rubble at the bottom of Highdown Hill (Matt Pope/ASE).

**Horsham: Bourne Hill House, Kerves Lane.** (NGR 517478 128419). A programme of fieldwalking and test pitting revealed a scatter of Mesolithic worked flint and a slight concentration which may represent a hunting camp. (ASE)

**Hurstpierpoint: Holy Trinity Church, High Street.** (NGR centred TQ 27954 16498). A watching brief on service works within the churchyard has so far revealed no significant archaeological remains. (CG Archaeology).

**Lavant: Land at Lavant Quarry.** (NGR SU 83971 07564). Extensive trial trench excavation has revealed, close to and within the enclosure of a “kink” in the alignment of one of the Devil’s Ditch “territorial oppidum” Late Iron Age earthworks, linear ditches of probable Late Iron Age date, a small quarry feature and pit containing Romano-British pottery. Over much of the rest of the site, there is a scatter of small scoops, probably prehistoric in date, and containing thin lenses of charcoal at the base. Further evaluation work anticipated. (Cotswold Archaeology and GSB Prospection).

**Lavant: Land west of Meadow Cottage.** (NGR SU 85646 08289). Archaeological evaluation in advance of housing development has found a small number of archaeological features of medieval date near the main road frontage. These may relate to the medieval centre of Mid Lavant (Archaeological Solutions).

**Lyminster: St Mary’s Church.** (NGR 523117 115000). 41 *in-situ* burials have been revealed in a c. 12m<sup>2</sup> footprint of the new extension. A new opening created through a previously blocked entrance revealed an earlier floor of the tower. (ASE).

**Pease Pottage Pipeline.** (NGR 526208 132294 to 526265 134459). Topsoil stripping and trenching has not yet revealed anything of archaeological significance. (ASE).

**Selhurst Park.** Further excavations during September and October were undertaken on these early Romano British settlements/enclosures. One round house erected on a levelled platform contained two infant burials. The ditched enclosures indicated several phases of occupation over a long period. The most spectacular find was the cheek piece of a Roman army helmet. (CDC/CDAS).

**Worthing: Land at Lower Northbrook Farm, Titnore Lane.** (NGR 10482 04016). During the final phases of excavation, several phases of Bronze Age settlement, each comprising one or more (up to five) round houses, were revealed, with parts of field systems and a ditched trackway. Further linear ditches, probably parts of field systems, and a number of pits, of Iron Age and Roman date, were recorded, and a pond or sump, used to drain the site. Part of a medieval ditched enclosure, adjoining Titnore Lane, has been recorded, and will be investigated further. (AOC Archaeology & WAS).

**Worthing: Willowbrook Way, Worthing.** (NGR TQ 16201 03885). In advance of construction of a new bridge across the Teville Stream: Excavation of a borehole within the buried deposits of the Teville Stream/ Broad Water has revealed good Holocene alluvial deposits, which may provide palaeoenvironmental information on the stream, and possibly an earlier palaeochannel beneath the alluvium. Post excavation processing is in train (ASE/Matt Pope).