

## Sussex Archaeology Round-up (December 2008 – February 2009)

### East Sussex

\* **Arlington: Roman ‘Small Town’** (NGR TQ 541 068 and TQ 5409 0679). A further season of fieldwork is planned in the spring, probably for a 1 week ‘final’ excavation to finish the mausoleum and cemetery site. ([Gregory.Chuter@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Gregory.Chuter@eastsussex.gov.uk)).

\***Barcombe: Pond Field/Culver Mead, Culver Farm.** Fieldwork for 2009 on this Roman site 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. Week/weekend training courses and volunteering opportunities. Monday 13th July to August 14th. (CCE/MSFAT).

**Beddingham** (exact location withheld) grave excavations. The burials have been provisionally dated to the late 5<sup>th</sup> – mid 6<sup>th</sup> centuries AD and the site has now been scheduled, conservation of the artifacts is ongoing and funding is being sought for further post excavation analysis and display, with potential for community based outreach projects too (ESCC).

**Beddingham: Itford Farm** (TQ 433 055). Evaluation excavation followed by full excavation and watching brief. A horseshoe shaped gully, of 4m diameter, was associated with numerous post and stakeholes. Overlying this was an oval area of flint nodules with a crushed BA pot and flintwork. A nearby service trench cut through the top of a feature that on excavation appeared to be three intercutting pits, the deepest of which had disarticulated pig bones and below this a barbed-and-tanged arrowhead. Smaller scale example of Itford Hill BA ritual site (CBAS).

**Berwick.** Two watching briefs on a domestic gas pipe trench and electricity cable trench for new speed limit signs. Both produced a range of post medieval artefacts, but were too small and shallow to reveal any features (CBAS).

**Bexhill: Hollenden House.** Evaluation excavation. Two large trenches recovered a few abraded pot sherds of 11/12<sup>th</sup> century date, some 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery and CBM, and a 20<sup>th</sup> century rubbish pit and drains (CBAS).

**Bexhill: Bexhill High School, Gunters Lane.** (NGR 573155 109163). A full strip of the site has revealed a number of undated concentrations of pits containing charcoal and ash, possibly prehistoric or Saxon in date (ASE).

**Bexhill to Hastings Link Road.** Monitoring of geotechnical investigations. Planning permission granted subject to Secretary of State decision on whether to hold a Public Inquiry (OA).

\***Bishopstone Tidemills.** 2009 Fieldwork will target two large agricultural buildings as well as general recording in the agricultural area of the settlement as well as a probable WW2 air-raid shelter. Fieldwork due to start May. Volunteers are still welcome; please contact Luke Barber on [research@sussexpast.co.uk](mailto:research@sussexpast.co.uk) (SAS).

**\*Brighton: Rocky Clump.** (TQ 3273 1015). Excavations will begin at the Roman settlement or farm on Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup>. (BHAS). Refer to the BHAS web site for more details or contact John Funnell on [john.funnell@brightonarch.org.uk](mailto:john.funnell@brightonarch.org.uk)

**\*Brighton: Piddingworth medieval manor.** A geophysical survey is planned. Refer to the BHAS web site for more details or contact John Funnell on [john.funnell@brightonarch.org.uk](mailto:john.funnell@brightonarch.org.uk) (BHAS).

**Brighton: Coldean, 50 Wolseley Road.** A watching brief noted a possible ditch in a trench cut for a soakaway. The house owner allowed the Society to excavate a section (2 metre X 1 metre) in the garden to record the feature which proved to be a v-shaped Roman ditch possibly linking with another recorded on plans from the 1950s's. The finds from the feature included flint flakes, fire-cracked flint, a cattle vertebrae, East Sussex ware pottery and a dozen sherds of Wickham Barn wares. The finds will form part of the Brighton museum display being organised at Coldean library (BHAS).

**Brighton: Community Stadium, Falmer.** (NGR 535060 108440). This project is now finished and post excavation work is about to start. The excavation revealed very little across most of the site, but on the sandy geology (Tertiary Reading Beds) a large ring ditch was fully excavated. A large assemblage of Mesolithic flintwork was collected from this and surrounding features and only a few sherds of Bronze Age pottery were recovered. There was evidence of a number of similar, smaller ring ditches adjacent to this, although these were preserved *in situ* rather than excavated. Just downslope from the circular feature a large steep sided sub-circular feature was partially excavated, and this has been tentatively interpreted as a flint mine. Further dating is required, to help confirm this. The function of the large ring ditch is also still undecided, but the scale seems too large for a roundhouse with the outer ditch being up to a metre in depth. The post excavation work over the coming months will hopefully reveal more about this fascinating site. Archaeology South-East worked with BHAS for the duration of this project and we would like to thank them once again for all their help. (ASE).

**Chailey Common.** A new phase of survey work in conjunction with clearance of trees and bracken at various locations has revealed a number of new sites similar in character to those recorded in the previous surveys (CBAS).

**Eastbourne: Decoy Drive.** A watching brief at Decoy Drive produced nothing of interest (Patricia Stevens/ENHAS).

**Fairwarp: Oldlands.** A watching brief for the Freedom Group was undertaken during replacement of a below ground live electricity cable. A single sherd 19<sup>th</sup>- century pot and land drain were recovered (CBAS).

**Hastings Area Archaeological Research Group (HAARG)** are conducting ongoing field work including field walking, surveying, excavation and post excavation work. Meetings are held at Hastings History House on Wednesday mornings 10.30 – Noon and the second Wednesday evening of each month from 7.30pm. Further details may be obtained from Field Officers Kevin and Lynn Cornwell on 01424 224405 or via e-mail to [haarg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:haarg@hotmail.co.uk). General information about the society can be found on our website [www.haarg.org.uk](http://www.haarg.org.uk)

**\*Herstmonceux Castle Estate Survey: Mota Piece.** (TQ 655 086). Fieldwork is planned at the medieval moated site in April to sample the island and the dry moat ditch (Philippa Whitehill & HCAG).

**Lewes Castle.** An ongoing watching brief during improvement works. Some foundation holes dug beneath the ERC revealed post-medieval layers and a single brick wall. Parts of the castle tower (between the Barbican Gate and the motte) were revealed under the path and as a consequence the path level is to be raised to preserve the wall *in situ*. (SAS).

**Lewes: St John the Baptist Church, Southover.** (NGR 541258 109635). Ongoing works ahead of an extension to the church is now virtually complete. A wall and associated surface have been fully recorded and would seem to relate to the priory. In addition a number of brick built tombs have been recorded. (ASE).

\***Ovingdean.** (TQ 355 036). Major excavations and geophysical fieldwork are being planned for the 13<sup>th</sup>- century medieval manorial complex and enclosure. The excavation project itself is subject to the receipt of approval from the County Archaeologist and Brighton and Hove City Council. Permit awaited. Refer to the BHAS web site for more details or contact John Funnell on [john.funnell@brightonarch.org.uk](mailto:john.funnell@brightonarch.org.uk) (BHAS).

**Rye: Tower House.** Evaluation excavation. Four trenches revealed a series of layers forming deep stratigraphy. The earliest produced 14<sup>th</sup>- century pottery with good assemblages of 15-16<sup>th</sup>- century pottery also being found. The only major feature was a ditch of mid 16<sup>th</sup>- to early 17<sup>th</sup>- century date. A midden produced a good assemblage of 1850-70 dated pottery and clay pipe (CBAS).

**Seaford: Dovecote Barn, Chyngton.** Evaluation excavation located large post-medieval pond which had been infilled in early 20<sup>th</sup> century. (CBAS).

#### **Seddlescomb**

e. A watching brief for the Freedom Group during the replacement of four electricity poles. No features and few recent artefacts from topsoil (CBAS).

**Udimore.** Limited (due to bad weather) field walking undertaken on a site that has produced Romano-British CBM. (HAARG)

\***Woodingdean: The Bostle.** A geophysical survey is planned to investigate the barrow cemeteries (requested by EH). Refer to the BHAS web site for more details or contact John Funnell on [john.funnell@brightonarch.org.uk](mailto:john.funnell@brightonarch.org.uk) (BHAS).

### **West Sussex**

\***Alfordean:** More fieldwalking is planned on this Roman site. (WAS).

**Angmering: St Margaret's Church, Arundel Road.** (NGR TQ 06715 04357). A watching brief on underfloor heating works has been completed. Monitoring of service works in churchyard continue (reported by WSCC).

**Bosham: Bosham Hoe Water Pipeline.** (NGR centred SU81016 01462). A watching brief on an extensive First Time Sewerage Scheme continues. Few results though a couple of undated features have been located (ASE).

**Boxgrove: St Mary and St Blaise Church, Church Lane.** (SU 90827 07506). A watching brief on underfloor heating works has revealed linear features that may be related to former building foundations, and a W-E burial with the remains of a pot sherd at the foot of the grave, provisionally dated to the Saxo-Norman period. Boxgrove church is mentioned in Domesday Book, and was an 11<sup>th</sup>-century minster, before the foundation on the site of the 12<sup>th</sup>-century Benedictine Priory. A c.1700(?) tiled central aisle has also been revealed. Work continues (DAS: monitored by Vivienne Coad, Chichester Diocesan Advisory Cttee, & James Kenny, Chichester District Council Archaeology Officer)

**Chichester amphitheatre.** A geophysical survey in the area of the Chichester amphitheatre revealed surviving evidence despite WW2 events there (CDAS).

**Chichester: Emsworth Havant Road.** Plans are in hand for a more detailed geophysical review of the Roman structure close to the road. This will include the investigation of other structures identified in the vicinity in a recent aerial photograph (CDAS).

**East Preston: Land north of Manor Road, adj. Nursery Close.** (NGR TQ 07234 01956). Trial archaeological excavation on this proposed housing development revealed no significant surviving ancient archaeological features (TVAS).

**Lavant: Land at Lavant Quarry.** (NGR SU 83971 07564). A trial trench across the Ordnance survey's mapped projected alignment of the Chichester-Silchester Roman road revealed no trace of the road. Ideas of its exact alignment near this point may require revision (Cotswold Archaeology).

**Pagham: Sefter Farm, Pagham Road.** (NGR SZ 89199 99499). Trial archaeological excavation near the reservoir by the farm revealed no surviving archaeological features (West Sussex Archaeology Ltd).

**\*Parham Estate.** So far the original village site next to the church has not been located so this (3<sup>rd</sup>) year's season of work will target other potential areas, one of which was once a HaHa where medieval pottery was recovered during an excavation directed by Con Ainsworth some years ago. The Dove cote is in the process of being recorded though at this stage not thought to be early. (WAS).

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

**\*Pulborough: Brinsbury College/area.** Some 31 barbed and tanged arrow heads were located in a ploughed field. Resistivity survey was undertaken, and resulted in opening two trenches which revealed a possibly earlier field boundary. Work was supported by students from the college and further fieldwork is planned in August. (WAS).

**Slindon Estate (National Trust).** A number of bits of work have been undertaken as an ongoing study. Recording and research into the WW2 decoy airfield at the Gumber Farm site is being made into a full report, with historic information, plus an oral history element to it. There has also

been research and recording of the WW1 Airship station, the Canadian WW1 Lumber camp, WW1/WW2 prisoner of war camps and part of the medieval tower at the entrance to the National Trust base camp at Slindon. (WAS).

**\*Slinfold: Dedisham Manor.** Research and recording of Dedisham Manor, a multi period house, dating from the C13th to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. (WAS).

**Slinfold: Slinfold Manor, Five Oaks Road.** (NGR TQ 11136 29440). A watching brief on the stripping of topsoil for a small building in the garden of the Manor has shown only Victorian garden terracing, no surviving ancient archaeological features (The Historic Environment Consultancy).

**Stoughton: Markswell Wood, South Holt Farm.** (NGR SU 75805 13250). Trial trench excavation on the proposed hydrocarbon drilling site revealed a ditch, possibly of prehistoric date. A watching brief continues (West Sussex Archaeology Ltd).

**Tangmere: Building 116, Tangmere Airfield, City Fields Way.** (NGR SU 90794 06642). Recording of the last surviving wartime airfield barracks block at former RAF Tangmere indicates that this is an 8/84 building (8 NCOs, 84 aircraftmen), built probably late 1939 or very early 1940. The building has recently been Listed (ARP/WSCC).

**\*Walburton Roman villa.** A 3<sup>rd</sup> year of fieldwork will hopefully resume in August/September (WAS).

**Wivelsfield: Wivelsfield School.** A watching brief recorded late 19<sup>th</sup> century rubbish pits (CBAS).

**Worthing: Willowbrook Way.** (NGR TQ 16201 03885). In advance of construction of a new bridge across the Teville Stream (thought to be an original inlet for the Broadwater stream area where the medieval port of Pend is considered to be). Initial analysis of the findings of an archaeological borehole (to be followed with radiocarbon dates if samples are suitable), suggests at least two periods of marine incursion and ensuing freshwater regimes/ drying out of land surfaces. It is suggested that the incursions, and freshwater periods/ dryings-out, may be related to ancient and historical formations and breachings of offshore shingle spits (ASE).

**Worthing: Site of Highdown School, Durrington Lane.** (NGR TQ 11972 04398). Trial archaeological excavation on the site has so far revealed archaeological features (ditch, three post-holes) of probable Later Bronze Age date. Work continues (ASE).

**Worthing: St Mary's Church, Broadwater.** (NGR TQ 14660 04395). A watching brief during underfloor heating works indicates so far that Victorian rebuilding and restoration may have been more extensive than hitherto believed. Part of a medieval column base has been observed, and several vaults, one (three burials) of probable 16<sup>th</sup>-century date and for members of the De La Warr family (West Sussex Archaeology Ltd).