

East Sussex

***Arlington.** (NGR TQ 5409 0679). Post exc. progressing slowly. John Holmes' field notebook has now been tracked down and contains useful information relating to his excavation of a masonry building on the site in 1969. Small evaluation planned for the summer targeting the Roman road and a possible (?prehistoric) treble ditched enclosure identified by geophysical survey west of the River Ouse. Trial trenching on new anomalies is hoped for May (Greg Chuter).

***Barcombe Roman Villa.** Archaeology training courses between June and August. Includes excavation, on-site conservation, site photography, geoarchaeology and planning/ section drawing. Further details from CCE 01273 678300 or www.sussex.ac.uk/cce/archaeology.

Battle: Great Wood. Forestry Commission. A re-visit with an ex-TA man in an attempt to ascertain the use of some earthworks which appeared to have a military significance. Many issues still unresolved (SEWAF).

***Bishopstone Tidemills:** post-excavation work over the winter has concentrated on recording the backlog of finds. Fieldwork will be re-starting early May. The aim is to finish the farmyard area and allotment, including the possible Anderson shelter, as well as working on Meadow cottage (SAS).

Bodiam. A geophysics survey of Doakes Field (next to Sandhurst Road and NW of car park) planned to take place on 19/20 March. This is part of a multigroup project which includes Southampton University (HAARG).

Brighton: plans for development at the former Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital in Dyke Road, are ongoing following the Inspector's refusal to allow demolition of the old buildings (SIAS).

***Brighton: Rocky Clump.** (TQ328101). The 2010 season will be March to December. New trenches are being opened in the south field and north to examine the new anomalies. The east trench will be extended and a large mound examined within the trees.

***Brighton: Varley Halls, Coldean Lane.** (TQ331090). There will be further excavations at this Bronze Age site. This year we aim to look at some interesting geophysics survey results which may show further evidence for at least one more hut platform and a potential barrow. The dig dates are likely to be Monday 12th July until the end of August from 10am - 4.30pm Monday - Saturday. Anyone is welcome to dig, insurance will be provided but this is not necessarily a training dig. No charge to dig, please contact in advance, lisa.fisher@sussexdowns.ac.uk or call 01273 400174 (SUAS).

Brighton: Whitehawk Hill. Watching briefs have been negative. (ASE).

Brighton: Whitehawk Hill. Evaluation within the racecourse has recorded made ground adjacent to the enclosure and archaeological features at the northern end of the development site including racecourse features and possible prehistoric features (CBAS).

Chiddingly: Lower Dernwood Farm. Survey of the woodland on the farm. Extensive minepit area, charcoal burners' platforms and sawpits. Survey on-going (SEWAF).

Eastbourne: Bullock Down Farm, Beachy Head, East Sussex (NGR 545912 102108 to 547233 100389). A watching brief was undertaken along a 730m stretch of cable trench between 1st and 23rd February 2010. Two features and several stray finds were recorded during this work. The first at 83m west of the N-S field boundary at Bullock Down Farm was a 4m long undated stone layer below the ploughsoil, running east-west, providing evidence of a lynchet and the second, at 157m east of the N-S field boundary at Bullock Down Farm was an undated cut feature, possibly a small pit, containing some flint nodule packing on the eastern side and a single piece of burnt flint in the base. An abraded base sherd of probable early Roman or Late Iron Age date was recovered from ploughsoil above the feature. In addition fourteen pieces of worked flint, probably dating to the Late Bronze Age, were recovered from stripped topsoil along the E-W route. Three sherds of Roman pottery, three pieces of Roman tile and a sherd of Medieval pottery were recovered from stripped topsoil 5m south of the main E-W track close to Bullock Down Farm (MoLAS).

Eastbourne: Ratton Road. Evaluation has recorded a series of prehistoric features including ditches and pits. Full excavation of development area to follow (CG Archaeology)

Eastbourne: Shinewater. ESCC have held initial talks with Eastbourne Borough Council and English Heritage regarding scheduling the Bronze Age trackway and platform. This will now be followed by closer definition of the known and potential remains with Lawrence Stephens, Chris Greatorex and others involved in the site.

East Grinstead: Ashplats Wood. Survey being carried out for the owners, East Grinstead War Memorial Ltd. The survey is being used as a training opportunity for those interested in improving their woodland archaeology skills. On-going with future dates in 2010 (SEWAF).

Etchingam Playground. Monitoring adjacent the church recorded 20th- century made ground with the works not being deep enough to reach lower deposits (ESCC).

Folkington Place. Watching brief on work for a ménage revealed evidence for the 17th century formal gardens in the form of pathways, beds and tree pits along with a large assemblage of high status post medieval pottery (ESCC/Greg Chuter).

Frant: Glebe Field. Geophysical survey and evaluation has shown low archaeological potential (ASE)

Great Dixter. Monitoring by David Martin on works to north façade is revealing interesting insights into original medieval structure. The works are being overseen by Edwin Lutyens (ASE).

Hadlow Down: Stockland Wood, part of Stockland Farm. A quick walkover with a student using it as a study area for a course at Plumpton College was undertaken (SEWAF).

Hailsham: Welbury Farm. Evaluation for CgMs has recorded a series of Roman ditches (OA)

Hailsham: Hempstead Lane. Geophysical survey for CgMs has recorded a series of enclosures and anomalies, possible medieval in date. Evaluation phase to follow (ASE).

Hailsham: Battle Road. Evaluation for CgMs was negative (PCA)

Hastings: Osborne House, The Ridge. Evaluation for CgMs was negative (PCA).

Hastings: All Saints Church. Watching brief recorded human remains but no clear archaeological features (CG Archaeology).

Hastings: Silverhill ASDA. Despite no formal involvement in this application, Casper is arranging an enhanced watching brief to be carried out by HAARG and is liaising with ASDA (ESCC).

Hastings: old St Helens Church, Ore. Was visited on 24 January and the badgers have been 'throwing out bones' from their burrows. There was a complete adult femur at one hole, the best part of a skull at another. There were other bits of skull laying about and foot bones close to the femur. Other holes had boney fragments in their entrances. This has been reported to the Rector's wife so they can collect up and re-bury. County informed and have consulted with Paul Roberts. Alan Stevens commented on the importance of the church structure, whose tower appeared to share similar architectural features to that at Bosham & Deerhurst (HAARG).

Hollington: Churchwood School. Watching brief was negative (CBAS).

Hartfield: Whitepost Wood. (TQ 4718 3922). A C14 date has been received on charcoal sample from bloomery site (from trial trenching in February 2009 - reported at an earlier Forum meeting). Silesian University of Technology, Gliwice, Poland: 1180 BP +/- 100, calibrated to 660 AD - 1020 AD at 95% confidence. Further excavation started in December 2009 produced pottery pronounced as Late IA / RB. To be continued (WIRG).

Hove. Appeals against the refusal of planning application for penthouse flats at the Old Market in have been upheld (SIAS).

Hove: County Cricket Ground. The redevelopment has now started and the Gilligan Stand was recorded just before it was demolished. Further recording will be carried out later this year (SIAS).

Hove: Medina House. The owners of the original Hove swimming pool for ladies have submitted a new application for demolition (SIAS).

Lewes: East Street. An excavation recorded a series of medieval and post-med features, including pits and structural remains (CBAS).

Lewes: Lewes North Street. (NGR TQ 41601022). Following the excavation, continued monitoring of groundworks has revealed further evidence of the former prison buildings, medieval pits and a well (TVAS).

Lewes: the former Phoenix Ironworks site. The owners have now gone into liquidation and access in the future may be denied. (SIAS).

Mayfield; Atherden. Evaluation identified archaeological features. Follow on watching brief has recorded a low density of features, including some medieval (CBAS).

Northfield: University of Sussex, Falmer. Geophysical survey and evaluation suggests low archaeological potential (WA).

Ovingdean. (TQ35750330). Field Walking in February has produced finds of prehistoric flint work, fire-cracked flint, large amounts of oyster shell and both Roman and medieval pottery. Dot density diagrams are now being worked on. There are plans this season to examine a large rectangular enclosure noted on Google earth in the coast field. We will conduct geophysics and then some trial trenching, and some trial trenching on earthworks on Cattle Hill where large amounts of pottery has been found in past seasons, subject to permission being granted (BHAS).

Peacehaven barrow. (TQ4310 0018). More of the cliff has eroded away and the barrow is likely to disappear within the next year or so. (Dig dates September 4th - 18th). (Susan Butler with BHAS).

Peasmarsh: Millwood. Privately owned. Part of a larger area of woodland where traditional charcoal burning had taken place until recently by the Paine brothers locally. Numerous old trackways and woodbanks. Survey on-going (SEWAF).

Polegate: Dittons Road. Geophysical survey for CgMs was relatively quiet but evaluation phase to follow (ASE).

Brighton: Rocky Clump. (TQ328101). Work continued until the middle of December, extending the cobbled floor/possible well in both north and east directions. The north side of the feature has been found. New geophysics suggests that there is another rectangular feature further north of the existing north field trench (BHAS).

Rottingdean: Woodlands Drive and Our Lady of Lourdes School. Negative watching briefs (BHAS).

Rye: Mint House. A watching brief has recorded a number of archaeological features, including medieval industrial deposits (CBAS).

Rye: Woman's Tower. Museum Association Ltd. is planning repair work at the Women's Tower built in 1837. This will involve investigation of rainwater drainage from the Women's Tower downpipe and the anticipated excavation of a soakaway in the exercise yard (now a garden). These below-ground works will need Scheduled Monument Consent. HAARG is to be included with the watching brief (HAARG).

Rye: New England, Saltcote Lane. A watching brief yielded some Roman fragments including combed box flue, medieval pottery and Victorian clay pipe and china fragments from the soil heap. Unfortunately some of the extension to the property did not require planning permission and the Roman was on the spoil heap from this area of the site. The trenches had already been concreted. No archaeological features identified in the open trenches. Other Roman artefacts and building material has been found in the area. This site was the position of a medieval hall house with the present later Victorian house replacing it (HAARG).

Seaford: Seaford Head School, Seaford. Evaluation trenches recorded useful geoarchaeological and palaeoenvironmental information associated with the former river channel. i.e. revealed a sequence suggesting one of open water conditions with marine influence, followed by a storm event that appears to have cut it off significantly enough to cut off the port, resulting in brackish, shallow water conditions (ASE)

Seaford: Elm Brewery. Recording of an undercroft at the former Elm Brewery in has been carried out (SIAS).

Sedlescombe; Holmes House. Monitoring on standing building (CBAS).

Sedlescombe: Manorside. A watching brief had negative results (HAARG).

Southeast: Swing Bridge. This is the subject of a Planning Application for its restoration, which will involve rebuilding the abutments, lifting the swinging section for refurbishment and redecking (SIAS).

Slinfold (near): Spear Wood. Part of Roman Wood now privately owned. Mixed past management (originally part of the Cowdray Estate) with few archaeological features extant. Some small-scale quarrying, probably of Cyrena limestone possibly for Dedisham Furnace. (SEWAF).

Uckfield: Views Wood. (Woodland Trust). Originally part of Buxted Manor. Survey to complement one previously undertaken by ASE (SEWAF).

West Sussex

Angmering: Lansdowne, Willowood Close. (NGR TQ 07053 03545). Small-scale trial trench investigation, close to previously recorded prehistoric ditches, revealed a small amount of prehistoric worked flint, but no ancient features (ASE).

Beedings. Dating results now demonstrate the fissure system containing EUP and an early Middle Palaeolithic assemblage were both sealed by the 31,000 years B.P. This project is now about to enter its analysis phase. One product to emerge from this will be a series of guidance notes on the identification and management of structural fissure systems likely to preserve Palaeolithic archaeology in Southern Britain. A further review of Neanderthal archaeology, including excavations leading to the relocation of the Oldbury 'rock shelter' site, was also undertaken across south east England. This identified at least two new Neanderthal find localities and confirmed the circumstances surrounding the finding of the Golden Cross leaf point in East Sussex (Matt Pope/ASE).

Bognor Regis: former Glade School, Westloats Road (NGR SU 92268 00034). Excavations adjacent to a previously recorded Late Bronze Age site helped to define the limits of the LBA activity (ASE).

Chichester Canal: There is some doubt about the ownership of the former Poyntz Bridge and this is currently being looked into. It is understood that the Canal Society is willing to assume this responsibility. Work on rebuilding the parapet of St. Giles Bridge at Merston is proceeding. Removal of undergrowth at Park Lane Bridge in Merston and reconstruction of the Stewart Bridge at Barnham is being carried out (SIAS).

Colgate: Agate's Yard (Faygate Sawmills) site, Faygate Lane, Faygate. (NGR TQ 21683 34462). A small number of buildings, including sheds and an air raid shelter, originally belonging to the former wartime RAF 49 Air Maintenance Unit, are currently being recorded in advance of redevelopment (CgMs Consulting).

Crawley: 29-35 High Street. (NGR TQ 26790 36508). Excavations in advance of redevelopment, following trial trench investigation, have shown a number of pits containing ironworking slag and later medieval pottery, and a hearth or small furnace, but no surviving burgage plot boundaries (the site lies in an area of Crawley, thought to be a southward extension of the medieval settlement) (ASE).

Crawley: rear of 94 High Street. (NGR TQ 26750 36767). A trial trench behind the High Street frontage found no ancient archaeological features (TVAS).

Chichester: The Treasury, Chichester Cathedral. (NGR SU 85927 04747 approx). Monitoring of the excavation of a new service run across the yard of the Chichester Cathedral Treasury revealed a greensand stone wall footing - probably part of the medieval Treasury. (DAS).

Chichester: The Oxmarket Centre of Arts, St Andrew's Court, East Street. (NGR SU 85936 04753). The removal of post-medieval and modern render from the exterior of the former church of St Andrew in the Oxmarket, Chichester, has exposed features indicating Norman origins. A rectified photographic record is being produced (WA).

Crawley: St Wilfrid's School, Old Horsham Road. (NGR TQ 25801 35981). Trial trench investigation near a previous find-spot of Iron Age pottery revealed no surviving ancient features: the former School garden had been heavily landscaped and terraced in the 1950s (WSCC).

East Grinstead: Ashplats Wood. Further training opportunities in woodland survey (continued from 28 Nov 09). Anyone welcome. Contact david@sewaf.org.uk (SEWAF).

Hassocks: Baldwins, Keymer Road. (NGR TQ 31435 15187). A watching brief on ground excavations, not far from a recorded Late Bronze Age ditch, revealed no ancient archaeological features (CBAS).

Haywards Heath: Scaynes Hill flood alleviation scheme, east of Haylind Road to America Lane. (NGR TQ 34612 24381). A watching brief upon excavations for a new sewer, adjoining a watercourse, revealed deep landfill, with alluvial deposits expected to be deeper than trench depth (ASE).

Horsham: The Oaks, 84 Forest Road. (NGR TQ 20107 31996). Excavation of a trial trench, near a known mesolithic flint scatter site, revealed only one possible (doubtful) primary flint flake (CBAS).

Horsted Keynes: former Crown Garage, The Green. (NGR TQ 38494 28186). Recording of this building, of (?)18th-century date, and thought once to have been the stables for the adjacent Crown Inn, is continuing. Following its demolition trial trenches are intended (CBAS).

Horsted Keynes: Freshfield Lane Brickworks, Lower Pit, Freshfield Lane. (NGR centred TQ 38364 26819). Further work on this site, involving a watching brief on topsoil stripping, associated with clay extraction, has revealed several a small number of features, including pits containing mesolithic flintwork, gullies and pits containing Mid-Late Iron Age and Late Iron Age pottery, and a ditch containing later medieval pottery. (SLR Consulting).

Hurstpierpoint: Danny House. The two ice-houses have been investigated at the invitation of the owner who has had both pumped out of water which previously filled them. The older of the two appears to have been abandoned as an ice House and converted into a reservoir and the newer one built to replace it. (SIAS).

Lindfield: Newton Road. (NGR TQ 35104 25429). Excavations, following trial trench excavation, revealed two pits containing prehistoric pottery, the contents of one of which, including worked flint, could be dated to the Early Bronze Age by sherds of parts of at least three "domestic Beaker style" vessels. There was also a wide, shallow ditch apparently draining the drier sandstone outcrops of the top of the local ridge to the small valley below. The only dating evidence for this ditch comprises two sherds of Saxon pottery, one with a lug, and provisionally dated to the late 6th-7th century AD. Only a farmyard boundary wall foundation and some drains survived of the (?)late 18th-century Luxford's Farm farmyard, shown on historical maps from c. 1792, and named after a c. 1700 local lawyer, George Luxford: there was no indication that there had ever been a farmhouse there. The Early

Bronze Age and Early/Mid-Saxon remains are very rare in this part of the Weald, and of considerable interest (WA).

Lavant: Lavant Quarry. (NGR SX 8400 0750). A total of 174 evaluation trenches were excavated at the proposed quarry site which lies immediately inside the Chichester dykes. An area of Late Iron Age and Early Roman activity was identified in the north-western part of the site, and an area of possible Roman activity to the west of this. Two concentrations of undated pits containing charcoal-rich primary fills were found (Cotswold Archaeology).

Parham Estate project. Starts again in May and has extended the area by looking at WW2 archaeology and possibly a nuclear bunker (WAS).

Portsmouth & Arundel. Work is being carried out on the Manhood Lock lower gates, Barnham Ct Fm, at Merston Bridge and Casher Bridge. A mag. Survey at the last of those proved fruitless but despite that the ownership of Poyntz Bridge is being discussed by interested parties (SIAS).

Shoreham-by-Sea: Former Ballamy's showroom, north of Ropetackle Centre. (NGR TQ 21291 05153). Excavations adjacent to the Ropetackle Centre revealed numerous pits of medieval date, and several wells, surviving in between the piled foundations of the showroom. Post-excavation assessment continues (TVAS).

Slaugham: Land adjoining the River Ouse and A23 Trunk Road. (NGR TQ 26376 27854). Window sample cores of alluvial deposits of the River Ouse, taken in May 2009, have now been assessed. The stratigraphic evidence shows a change from a relatively open floodplain, in which overbank deposits were forming, to a valley undergoing the beginnings of deposition of colluvium, possibly arising from early agriculture-related soil erosion. The presence of both Elm and Lime, and absence of any indications of the Elm Decline of c. 3000 BC and Lime Decline of c.1700 BC, locally, may suggest a date for the beginning of the pollen sequence between these dates, but scientific dating has not yet been undertaken. High levels of Alder and Hazel throughout the samples may suggest an Alder carr vegetation in the later prehistoric period (ASE/Matt Pope).

Slaugham: Land west of the A23 Trunk Road. (NGR TQ 26358 27927 approx). A wartime Type 28 pillbox is currently being recorded (Jacobs).

Slindon Estate. Fieldwork begins in March at a couple of enigmatic sites (WAS).

Steyning: Steyning Grammar School, (NGR TQ 17833 11266). Trial trenches and following excavations in advance of the building of a new Boarding House, in the centre of Steyning, have revealed surviving medieval pits and ditches. The site lies in a part of Steyning where the focus of settlement moved, during the medieval period (ASE).

Worthing: Former LEMO site, 12 North Street. (NGR TQ 14896 02956). Further analysis of the findings of investigation at this small site has revealed Late Bronze Age and Late Iron Age –Early Roman ditch systems, on very similar alignments, with Late Iron Age/ Early Roman crucible fragment with copper alloy residue, and a probable kiln bar, suggesting hitherto unknown industrial activity in the vicinity. Pottery of 11th- or early 12th-century date, from the upper silts of a prehistoric ditch, may suggest that this ditch remained a visible landscape feature, long after its original excavation.

The first evidence in West Sussex, east of the River Arun, for marine sands dating to the last Interglacial, came to light, dated by OSL (Optically-Stimulated Luminescence) very broadly to around 120, 000 BC. Over these deposits of the last glaciation, suggesting widespread permafrost with shallow, cold pools. Finally, brickearth formed above all these deposits, dated by OSL to about 50,000 BC, a later date than expected for the coastal plain brickearth. At

about the same time a natural channel cut through the earlier deposits. Its infill contained a single well-stratified worked flint flake, in channel fills overlying a series of temporary land surfaces. These findings suggest that in the vicinity there may be a number of deeply buried layers that could contain archaeological material of an age associated with Neanderthal humans (ASE/Matt Pope).