

East Sussex

Ashburnham, Brays Hill. Fieldwalking has produced an assemblage of flintwork despite the field being heavily ploughed. Andrew Woodcock has identified the assemblage as early Mesolithic with possible Paleolithic examples (HAARG).

Ashburnham, Kitchenham Farm. Fieldwork is planned for April to investigate further the ditch-like feature revealed in previous seasons and a geophysical feature in the upper east field (HAARG).

Barcombe, 'The Wilderness'. As part of the geoarchaeological and hydrology study of the Barcombe environs, Mike Allen and volunteers intrusively evaluated this former tributary valley in late 2010. A small hand-dug test-pit located at the valley bottom revealed deposits of alluvium and peat and a relatively high water-table. The finds retrieved included a structural timber (stake), worked and fire-damaged flint and a deposit of hazelnut shells at the water-table level, above gravels (c. 1m depth). These point to Mesolithic and later pre-historic activity and further investigation is hoped this year (USAS).

Barcombe, Culver Mead Project. West Kent MD group recently recovered a late Roman silver coin from the Roman road site, dating to c. 402AD. The resistivity survey of the area has been completed and an aerial survey was completed in 2010. A mystery metal object recovered from excavations in 2010 has now been identified as a possible oil lamp holder. In 2011 work will concentrate on writing up the results of the project so far and a fuller magnetometer survey will be done in Pond Field. (Rob Wallace).

***Barcombe Villa.** Recent metal detecting survey at the villa site has recovered a number of interesting finds, admittedly predominantly from the spoil heap. From now there will be a more increased effort to metal detect the site as the project continues. Fieldwork is planned for summer 2011 as well as training courses. Further details about subjects and dates are available from www.sussex.ac.uk/cce or call 01273 678300 (USAS/CCE, MSFAT).

Battle Abbey School (NGR 574900 115700) BAS10 OASIS ID: archaeol6-90188

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during the manual excavation of a trench for the installation of a replacement gas pipe at Battle Abbey School. The trench closely followed the alignment of the previous gas pipe trench and hence no significant archaeological deposits were encountered. A small assemblage of artefacts which had become incorporated into the backfill of this trench was recovered (ASE).

***Bishopstone Tidemills.**

The 2011 season will be starting in May. Volunteers still welcome. Contact Luke Barber on research@sussexpast.co.uk (SAS).

Brede High Woods. Looking at possible slag found within the north-east corner of the woods. It turned out to be material that had probably come off the road running past the there (WIRG).

***Brighton, Rocky Clump.** (TQ 328 101) A Romano-British Farmstead? – The new excavations in the south field at Rocky Clump will begin on Saturday 16th April 2011. The excavation will continue until late October. No experience required contact John Funnell on john.funnell@brightonarch for more details or call on 01273 607127 (BHAS).

Brighton, Beacon Hill. Further geophysical survey is planned on this prehistoric landscape in the early summer. (BHAS).

Brighton, Varley Halls. (TQ 331 090). It is possible that BHAS will return to Varley Halls in August to cut some test trenches, exact dates to be confirmed. (BHAS).

Brighton, No 1 and 61 Exeter Street. Watching briefs on these sites discovered nothing of significance. (BHAS).

Brighton, Whitehawk Hill. Brighton Rangers have been clearing lands to the south of the monument and have uncovered another bank on the east side of the hill which could be part of the Neolithic monument. As it is not in the scheduled area it may be possible to have some investigation there. (reported by ESCC).

Boreham Street, Castle Croft. The site is to be further investigated with a magnetometer survey. This earthwork site has already produced coins and ceramic building material from the Roman period (HAARG).

Crowborough, Proposed new Tesco Stores Car Park, Sybron Way. (NGR 553823 129771) SWC10. OASIS id: archaeol6-84767

Two evaluation trenches were excavated and demonstrated a deep sequence of modern made ground deposits. Trench 1 contained an undated buried soil horizon 3.70m below the current ground level. Trench 2 contained made ground to the limit of excavation at 5.10m below the current ground level. No archaeological finds or features were observed. The works took place on the 14th and 15th October 2010 (ASE).

Ditchling, Underhill Lane. (TQ320 137). A large South East water pipe line installation. Geophysics and strip / map / sample by KAP, has identified a flint metalled road of probable Roman date running east - west along the scarp foot of the downs. Work in the 1990s by MSFAT identified Roman and Saxon settlement in this area, as well as a Saxon inhumation cemetery (KAP, reported by ESCC).

Ditchling, Jointure Estate, 17a/b South Street. (NGR TQ 32550 15114) DJE 10. OASIS ID: archaeol6-90225

An archaeological evaluation was conducted in the grounds between 7th and 9th December 2010. A total of four trenches were investigated (three measuring 5 metres by 1.80 metres and one hand excavated test pit measuring 2 metres by 2 metres) to assess the archaeological potential of the site. The site lies on the Folkestone Formation (sandstone, fine to medium grained), indicated on British Geological Survey Sheet 318/333).

The evaluation trenches encountered the natural geology at a height of 57.83 mAOD in the north of the site and 56.99 mAOD in the south of the site. The only archaeological features observed were two late post-medieval cut features, a squared pit and a square posthole. An area to the south-east of the site showed a stratigraphic sequence that suggested an area of localized ground levelling sometime between the 13th to 15th centuries (ASE).

Eastbourne, 200 Willingdon Road. A watching brief was undertaken during the construction of an extension located adjacent to a Saxon cemetery discovered in the 19th century. No features or artefacts were found suggesting this site is situated outside the limits of the cemetery (CBAS).

Etchingam, Cottenden Enclosure site. Further work is planned for 2011 (Independent Historical Research Group).

Exceat Farm to Chyngton Farm AONB. (NGR 555670 97657 to 557155 96788). A watching brief took place on 2km of underground cable for EDF Energy between October 18th 2010 and January 5th 2011. Four archaeological cut features, seen only in section, were recorded during excavation in an area of visible earthworks, west of the Golden Galleon public house. These consisted of a 5m wide, shallow feature containing a small amount of domestic material, probably dating to the Mid-Saxon period and three undated features; a 1.5m wide, 1.2m deep U-shaped pit or ditch, containing a charcoal rich fill at the base, a large cut feature measuring 3.5m wide and at least 1.2m deep and a smaller U-shaped cut feature measuring 1m wide, 0.7m deep.

Evidence for more general prehistoric activity, taking the form of a small collection of burnt and worked flint was recorded during topsoil stripping on the higher slopes and from excavation spoil whilst trenching colluvial deposits on the lower slopes. A single, undated, fragment of daub was recovered from colluvial deposits in Chyngton Farm. A further phase of work at Exceat Farm is planned for 2011 (MoLA. Ref: ES-CXF10)

Hastings , The Land South of Collier Road (NGR 582279 109822) HCR10. OASIS id: archaeol6-85921

A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of a pipe trench for the laying of a new sewer main. The watching brief was carried out between 19th and 27th October 2010. Two large and undated features were uncovered, as well as the possible impact scar and associated projectile of a cannon, and a previously unrecorded smugglers tunnel measuring over 30m, running east-west at a depth of c.4m below the modern surface. All features were found at the northern end of the site, on the plateau at the top of the slope that rose upwards towards Collier Road. The archaeological horizon was sealed by up to 0.5m of topsoil and subsoil (ASE).

Hastings, 2 Roebuck Street. A watching brief revealed remains of a late post-medieval building and retrieved similarly dated artefacts (CBAS).

Hastings, 59 High Street. Three evaluation trenches were excavated on this site, which is thought to have the remains of Hastings town wall running diagonally across it. In the course of these excavations the original HAARG trench was re-located, but the remains of the town wall were not seen. Post-medieval activity is suggested by the recovery of sherds of pottery and clay tobacco pipe in deposits preserved below the existing concrete floor, whilst a deposit, possibly the fill of the town ditch or a pit, dating to the 17th century, was also found (CBAS).

Hastings, Old Hastings House, High Street. A watching brief on an extension to *Old Hastings House*, formerly *The Mansion* and home to John Collier Esq and family/ descendants/ relatives from 1706 to 1945 was undertaken. The area chosen for the proposed extension once formed the rear garden of Torfield House, neighbouring the garden of Old Hastings House and is located on the lower slope of the West Hill, Bourne Valley. A number of 18th and 19th century rubbish pits were revealed along with the brick footings of a small shed-like building. Although some 14th – 16th century pottery was recovered, no structural features relating to those periods were evident (CGA).

Hailsham, Battle Road. (TQ 591 100). A large housing development is being subjected to evaluation and geophysical survey of the new access road by SWAT. So far a large amount of residual medieval material has been recorded. It would appear that a medieval settlement /

activity area is close by. Further evaluation to be carried out on the main housing development areas (reported by ESCC)

Hartfield parish, Ashdown Forest. (TQ 4440 3230). An undiscovered bloomery site, revealed by LiDar, north of Table Gill, close to another site already recorded along the same valley is being looked at by WIRG.

Hartfield, Whitepost Wood. A bloomery site which has produced an Anglo Saxon C14 date and Roman pottery! Excavations are planned for 22 May, 19 June & 10 July (WIRG).

Hurstmonceaux Castle Estate Project. Magnetometer survey with HAARG of the field intrusively evaluated in 2010 was undertaken recently and produced a really clear image of rectangular, linear and arcing features. Excavation has already retrieved prehistoric flintwork, early Roman pottery (0-70AD) with residual Neolithic and possible Bronze Age pottery too. Fieldwork this year will focus on the wood further north where there is a WW2 RAF site and an interesting looking (possible) boundary bank (Philippa Whitehill & HCAG).

Lewes Priory, Lewes. (NGR 541367 109530) LPR10. OASIS ID: archaeol6-91252

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during ground works associated with the restoration work at the site undertaken in order to re-open the Priory to the public Ground works for new pathways, steps, information boards and benches for visitors, a rabbit fence and general landscaping were monitored and recorded. Test-pits were also excavated at a number of locations to facilitate the accurate laying out of buried archaeological features.

Masonry and tile remains of some of the Priory buildings were encountered and recorded, and a range of finds were recovered from the topsoil and layers of rubble encountered, mostly during monitoring of the excavations for the laying of the new footpaths (ASE).

Lewes, The Meridian, Western Road. Excavations just completed at the site of the Meridian public house in Western Road, Lewes have uncovered important remains dating to the later Medieval period. The excavations revealed evidence for two possible houses fronting onto Western Road, one of which contained a hearth, whilst to the rear of these properties were two large pits, one of which contained a brick wall structure. A large assemblage of pottery, animal bone and other artefacts were recovered, the pottery covering a date range of 1275-1550AD (CBAS).

Ore, Old St Helens Church. A watching brief during work to stabilize the Nave wall was undertaken. Three test pits were also excavated in the Nave, Chancel and South Aisle to ascertain floor levels. These found remains of a 19th century concrete floor, above made ground. In the NE part of the chancel a brick built vaulted tomb was discovered (CBAS).

Ovingdean. (TQ 3575 0330). A geophysical survey is planned at Ovingdean in late March or April to investigate the enclosure noted on Google Earth, believed to be the site of a possible Roman coastal trading station. (BHAS).

Polegate, Dittons Road. (ongoing) (NGR 559820 104967) DRP 09

An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Dittons Road, Polegate in August 2010. Twenty-seven trenches measuring up to 60m in length were excavated. Small quantities of residual worked flint were recovered from a number of features, and also from the overburden across the site. Evidence of a Late Iron Age or early Roman phase of activity, represented by ditches, pits and hearths was identified and included finds of briquetage indicating salt-production. Medieval

activity was represented the deposition of a 12th century vessel within a field boundary ditch. This evaluation has been followed by c.2.5ha of excavation across the site which is still ongoing and is revealing further evidence of Roman settlement and prehistoric activity (ASE).

Robertsbridge Abbey. It is hoped that a geophysical survey will be carried out at the site this year. (HAARG and ESCC).

Rye Library. A watching brief revealed walls from a later post-medieval building. Artefacts of medieval and a post-medieval date were recovered; the earliest being seven sherds of High Medieval pottery (CBAS).

Seaford, Abundant Grace. A number of evaluation trenches recorded residual prehistoric and later post-medieval artefacts but no features. The existing 1905 building, which was used as a school, was also recorded before its demolition (CBAS).

Southerham, The Granary, Southerham Lane (NGR TQ 4273 0929) GSL 10.

An archaeological watching brief during the redevelopment groundworks at the Granary, Southerham on the 2nd November 2010 was undertaken. The ground works involved the machine stripping of topsoil across an area measuring 15m by 5m. A deposit of modern rubble associated with a garage demolished in the 1970s was encountered below 0.3m of topsoil. Numerous services truncated the north and west of the site. No archaeological features were observed and the natural chalk was not seen (ASE).

Willington, 2 Sackville Road. A hand excavated evaluation trench was dug within the area of the Deserted Medieval Village and port known as the Hydneye. The topsoil was littered with late 20th century building rubble that overlay layers of calcareous material and clays and peat. Within the water-logged peat layer a few off-cuts of tanned leather were discovered, which although undateable represent a potentially significant archaeological discovery (CBAS).

West Sussex

Billingshurst, Land at Hammonds Farm, East Street. RH14. (TQ 0908 2598). HFB10.

The excavation of five 20 metre by 1.8 metre trenches on the 12th and 14th of October 2010 revealed a scatter of Mesolithic or early Neolithic worked flint. Later medieval and early post-medieval activity was confirmed by the identification of a south-west to north-east running ditch in Trench 1 and an assemblage of later medieval pottery. Evidence to confirm the location of post-medieval field boundaries visible on the 1795 Gardner and Gream map and 1897 Ordnance survey maps was found in the form of a lynchet in the northern end of Trench 1 and an east to west running ditch in Trench 2 (ASE).

Billingshurst, Townland, Coombe Hill, RH14 9NU (NGR TQ 08810 26250) COO 10. OASIS ID: archaeo16-89831

An archaeological evaluation was conducted in the grounds of the former sheltered housing 'Townland', Coombe Hill. The work was carried out between 22nd and 23rd November 2010. A total of three trenches measuring 20 metres in length were excavated to assess the archaeological potential of the site.

The site lies on the Weald Clay Formation and lies adjacent to the High Street which is the probable centre line of the alignment of the Stane Street Roman road connecting London and Chichester. The evaluation trenches encountered the natural geology at a height of 31.90 mAOD

in the north of the site and 31.01 mAOD in the south of the site. A number of archaeological features were identified including a curved alignment of postholes, a beam-slot, a shallow linear cut and a group of stake-holes; no overall interpretation of these features has been possible and dating evidence suggests a post-medieval date at the earliest (ASE).

Bognor Regis, Butlins Hotel A. Trial trench excavation identified peat deposits at the edge of the Aldingbourne Rife watercourse. Some further palaeoenvironmental work may be taking place in due course (Headland Archaeology, reported by WSCC).

Burgess Hill Folders Meadow, Folders Lane. (NGR 532007 118214) FOL 10. OASIS id: 90356

December 2010. The evaluation succeeded in its general aim of confirming the presence of archaeological features within the site. These included two pits (one of which displayed signs of *in-situ* burning) as well as four linear features. None of the archaeological features produced datable finds and similarly, there was a lack of unstratified artefacts across the site (ASE).

Chichester, Tower Street. Work has begun on the re-exposure of the previously excavated Roman Bath house which will be displayed beneath the floor of the new museum to be built on the site. More details to follow as the work progresses (ASE).

Copsale, Nuthurst parish, Long Wood (privately owned, ASNW). An inspection of the site showed what appears to be an important fragment of a N-S routeway from the Downs to the High Weald. Once in the Sedgewick Estate. (SEWAF).

Cuckfield, Bigges Farm. Hammerhill Wood (privately owned, ASNW). This is 2ha of established hazel and ash understorey, but covered with excavation pits for Cuckfield Stone. (SEWAF).

Cuckfield, Chatfield Road. A watching brief during housing development revealed no surviving ancient archaeological features. (TVAS)

Ferring, 3/11 The Street. A rescue watching brief showed a probable 13th-century plot boundary gully, within the medieval village centre. (WSCC)

Haywards Heath, Bolnore Village Phase 4. (ongoing) (NGR TQ 324 234)

Work being undertaken for Crest Nicholson. There is clear evidence of a droveway/trackway leading into the farmstead from the adjacent bridleway (Kings Highway). Several pits and postholes have been identified with pottery indicating a 12th- to 13th- century date. At least one, possibly two, timber structures (post-holes, beam-slots and post-pads) are present, one of which may be a barn. Several enclosure and drainage ditches (feeding into former stream) identified. Northern enclosure/droveway ditch appears to be just starting to turn to the south to form an eastern farmstead boundary. Apart from medieval pottery, other finds of note include at least two whetstones (one of which is a broken rotary grindstone) (ASE).

Henfield, Parsonage Farm. Trial trench excavation near the River Adur and known scatters of prehistoric flintwork showed only re-worked river terrace deposits but no significant archaeology. (Foundations Archaeology).

Horsham, The Farthings, Guildford Road. (NGR: TQ 157 312) (FH10 OASIS ID: 90872).

An archaeological evaluation was carried out between the 15th and 16th December 2010. Four trial-trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 85m. Although the trenches showed little

sign of disturbance to the natural horizon no archaeological features were encountered during the evaluation. Natural geology comprising mid yellowish-orange Weald Clay was encountered at 35.99m AOD in the south-west and 34.10m AOD in the north-east (ASE).

Littlehampton, Littlehampton Academy, Hill Road, BN17 6DQ (NGR: 503301 102762). LAL10. OASIS ID: archaeol6-86394

An archaeological evaluation was conducted in the grounds of Littlehampton Academy between 11th October and 6th November 2010. Twenty eight trenches measuring a total of 540 metres in length were excavated in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site. According to the British Geological Survey the site lies on Aeolian deposits of Brickearth which overlie upper chalk; this was identified within the school playing fields at between 7.05m AOD and 5.99m AOD and generally sloped gradually down from the south to the north. The natural was also located to the south of the school where the proposed access road is located at between 7.59m AOD in the north of this area and 4.91m AOD in the southern part close to East Street.

In the southern part of the school playing fields site three late post-medieval field ditches were identified and a fourth, undated ditch was identified to the north of these. An area of localised truncation was observed in the middle of the current Academy buildings. No significant archaeological features were encountered; however a number of residual struck flint flakes and fragments of pottery were recovered.

In the approach road area of the site a number of ditches were identified that may form a single property or field boundary with adjacent early post-medieval pits (ASE).

Littlehampton, former Wickbourne Swan Public House, Clun Road.

Above several undated pits and ditches, a remnant ancient ploughsoil contained part of a tranchet axe and the apparently *in situ* base of a pottery vessel of Bronze Age date. A former hollow-way, leading to the River Arun had been filled in c. 20th century (TVAS).

Milland, Iping Road. (NGR 484259 126285 to 484460 125953). IRM08.

A watching brief was carried out on a 400m length of pipe trench being excavated to a maximum depth of 1.4m for the laying of a new sewer main. This trenching was done in the roadway itself or in the verge on the eastern side of the road. This area was of particular archaeological interest because it ran on the suspected line of a Roman road and through a scheduled monument, a Romano-British Mansio (Roman Posting Station) at Westons Farm (SM 29242). During the course of the trenching, it was discovered that the majority of the trenched area was previously disturbed by services already laid in the road. A fragment of amphora was found in the backfill of one of these service trenches. In the undisturbed areas, three undated linear features and an undated pit were seen in the section of the trench. Two buried road surfaces were also identified, one of post-medieval or early modern date and one of possible Roman date (ASE).

Pagham, Becket's Barn, Church Farm Holiday Village. (NGR SZ 88422 97396). PHP10.

The site was located on the edge of the brickearth and the alluvium (tidal flat deposits) at the northern boundary of Pagham Harbour. Two evaluation trenches were excavated down to the top of the alluvium at between 1.63m – 1.93m AOD. In the western trench, two ditches or channels were revealed at the base, running broadly N-S and a fragment of probably medieval floor tile was recovered from one of the fills. These features almost certainly represented the edges of a c. 10m wide and 60m long linear depression; this was an element of extensive earthworks on the site which have been variously interpreted as fish ponds or sluices related to a suggested tide-mill immediately to the south. In the eastern trench, a pattern of fine cracking in the alluvium and the

presence of a thin overlying deposit of humified peat was evidence for the relatively rapid drying out of this area of the site (ASE).

Yapton, Bilsham Lane. Trial trenching to the south of the Roman occupation site recorded in 2009 showed parts of a field system or field systems of Bronze Age date. (DAS)