

## Sussex Archaeology Round-up (April-June 2006)

### East Sussex

**\*Alciston: Black Patch.** Excavations on this Bronze Age site will continue between 19<sup>th</sup> June and 18<sup>th</sup> August. Contact Dick Tapper on [R.Q.Tapper@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:R.Q.Tapper@sussex.ac.uk) (CCE/SAS)

**\*Arlington.** Excavations have been in progress at the RB roadside settlement which straddles the Lewes to Pevensey Roman road. A well preserved 10m wide section of the road has been uncovered. Within the vicinity was archaeological evidence of a timber beam-slot building fronting the road and adjacent to this a possible property boundary ditch. Substantial quantities of Roman ceramics, glass and forge waste were also recovered. Further fieldwork is set for the autumn and members of all local societies are welcome to assist. (ESCC with BHAS, ENHAS and MSFAT).

**\*Barcombe: Barcombe Roman Villa.** MSFAT resume work at Barcombe, paying particular interest to evidence in the courtyard of a small structure on the west side that appears to match up with the building on the east side. (CCE/MSFAT).

**Barcombe, Culver Mead.** Trial excavations will take place to investigate an area of possible Roman settlement indicated by geophysics and field-walking. (Rob Wallace/CCE).

**Barcombe and Hamsey Project.** Fieldwork has now finished. The finds from the last phase of field-walking range from prehistoric flintwork and Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery. These show a number of concentrations suggesting settlement activity in several locations. (SAS)

**Battle: Battle Abbey visitor centre.** A watching brief has revealed a late medieval/early post-medieval gully, a post-medieval well and WW2 Canadian slit trench. Ongoing. (ASE).

**Battle, Beech Mill.** A watching brief located only Victorian and later finds and building debris. (HAARG).

**Bexhill-Hastings Link Road.** Survey work is being carried out and has to date consisted of a geophysical survey of the route corridor but had negative results. Undeterred, trial trenching will commence in the autumn. (Oxford Archaeology).

**Bexhill, Terminus Avenue.** Excavations at the site have been completed with LBA/EIA pottery and flint debitage being found. (HAARG).

**Bexhill, Old Town: 103 Belle Hill.** A watching brief located a small ditch with a few pieces of animal bone and was probably contemporaneous with the current dwelling. No indication of the King's German Legion's Barracks remains at this site. Further visit carried out to investigate the area of pond excavation were also negative. (HAARG).

**\*Bishopstone Tidemills.** Survey/fieldwork started in late April and is ongoing: areas so far surveyed include the creek area and adjacent timber quay (tide allowing) and the sea plane base. Volunteers are still welcome, please contact Luke Barber on [research@sussexpast.co.uk](mailto:research@sussexpast.co.uk) (SAS).

**Brede Pumping Station.** Planning approval for the power house at Brede means the electric compressors can replace the diesel ones. However delays are probable due to the removal of all asbestos. (SIAS).

**Brighton: Ovingdean.** It is planned to return to Ovingdean to locate the Dovecote which has yet to be found. Some robbed foundation trenches have already been discovered as well as a possible detached kitchen feature. Parallel ditches were revealed running east-west through the enclosure and a number of pits. Another wall located (east west aligned) and enclosure wall confirmed as being constructed of chalk rubble. (BHAS).

**\*Brighton: Rocky Clump.** The 2006 season hopes to re-locate the shrine (first revealed in an excavation of the 1950s). Huge 'post' holes have so far been found: well cut circular holes in the ground with no dating material in situ (following the earlier excavation). An area not excavated yet is to the north and will also be targeted. (BHAS).

**Brighton, Patchway school field, Stanmer.** A geophysical survey is planned for the summer. (BHAS).

**Brighton, Stanmer House.** An ongoing project, currently monitoring new fence line around south side of house. Evidence of the probable 18<sup>th</sup>- century terracing of the dry valley slopes/floor was located. (ASE).

**Brighton, Coldborne Ave, Moulscombe.** A watching brief is planned during development. (BHAS).

**Burwash (TQ 643 242).** Field-walking (not systematic) recovered prehistoric flintwork including two Mesolithic blades. (HAARG).

**Catsfield/Crowhurst. (NE of Forewood Cottages, Peppering Eye Lane).** (TQ 743 132). Field-walking revealed two possible ploughed out Romano-British iron furnaces on the banks of Powdermill Stream as well as several pieces of worked flint. (HAARG).

**Ditchling Beacon.** The lime kiln at the bottom of Ditchling Beacon has been inspected at the request of the current owners and the consensus is that stabilising the vault is needed to make it safe. (SIAS).

**Ditchling, Five Field Way.** A watching brief located nothing of archaeological interest with the exception of 2 sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery. (MSFAT).

**\*Firle: Roman building.** Greg Chuter plans to excavate more trenches on this potential Roman villa site. Dates are from 29<sup>th</sup> May to 11<sup>th</sup> June 2006 and if any society members would like to volunteer their time he would be grateful for their help ([Gregory.chuter@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Gregory.chuter@eastsussex.gov.uk)). (ESCC)

**Furners Green, Sheffield Mill Farm.** A watching brief is planned during an extension to the existing farmhouse/mill, which lies adjacent to site of 16<sup>th</sup> century water mill, in July. (ASE).

**Hailsham, Market Street.** An evaluation is planned in June within the medieval core of the town. (ASE or DAS).

**Hartfield: Wastewater Treatment Works (nr. castle).** Watching brief revealed no archaeology. Ongoing. (ASE)

**Hastings: Beckley, Glossam's Place.** Following comments from David Martin, excavations were reconvened at Beckley. The robbed out foundations of one of the screens and the front door, with threshold stone, were revealed. (A. Woodcock/HAARG).

**Lewes, The Dripping Pan.** A watching brief monitoring the excavations into the southern bank of the 'Dripping Pan' for a new stand for the football club have revealed post medieval tile (possibly of 17<sup>th</sup>- to mid 18<sup>th</sup>- century date) and residual medieval material, indicating this earthwork is probably of late 17<sup>th</sup>- to 18<sup>th</sup>- century date. (ASE).

**Mayfield: Little Furnace Wood.** Work on the possible 2<sup>nd</sup> furnace and a 2<sup>nd</sup> ore roasting pit is planned. In view of the possible 2<sup>nd</sup> furnace theory there will be another season at the site. (WIRG/MSFAT).

**Netherfield Farm.** Future work is planned at this site (a medieval moated site) between 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> September. (HAARG).

**Norman's Bay: Wreck of the *Resolution*.** Further survey work on the wreck of the *Resolution*, sunk off the coast at Normans Bay in 1703, has been undertaken. This protected site has some 47 cannon, timbers and brick from the kitchen area. Plans for further work are set for 2007. (Wessex Archaeology).

**Peacehaven.** A possible barrow at Peacehaven was geophysically surveyed and found to be just that. Unfortunately its proximity to the edge of the cliff (5m from the edge of the cliff) means it will probably be destroyed by erosion soon, so phase two will be to excavate as much as possible on the landward side, in the autumn. (BHAS/MSFAT).

**Pett (Pannel Farm).** (TQ886 148). Field-walking conducted across a known pre-historic site retrieved worked flint, much of which was plough damaged. (HAARG).

**Polegate Windmill.** The sweeps are about to be taken down and the shutters put on. Hopefully it will soon be able to turn a pair of stones again. (ENHAS).

**Ringmer pipeline.** A watching brief of a sewer replacement pipe up the main road is ongoing, though to dates has not revealed any archaeological features/finds. The underlying clay appears to be truncated and thick layers of road make-up laid down on it (ASE).

**Rotherfield.** Three early bloomery sites have been located during walk-over surveys but as yet there are no dates for them (TQ 5768 3053, TQ 5766 3049 and TQ 5758 2993). (WIRG).

**Seaford: Corsica Hall.** An ongoing watching brief. Nothing found to date. (ASE).

**Seaford: South Street Mews.** Chalk walls and a possible cess-pit were located during a watching brief. Most deposits are C19th but some medieval features/material too. Ongoing. (ASE)

**Sedlescombe Post office.** A watching brief revealed no pre-Victorian finds. (HAARG).

**Sedlescombe, Homestead.** A watching brief concluded that previous work by the developers, removing the topsoil/subsoil to a depth of 2m in places, prior to the onset of monitoring, had destroyed any archaeological deposits. (HAARG).

**Udimore (close to Flat Farm).** David McOmish (EH) has been asked to survey the hillside terraces here following the retrieval from a rabbit hole of a large sherd of E.Sussex ware. (HAARG).

**Udimore, Western Court Lodge.** A watching brief close to the site of medieval Court Lodge is due in June. (ASE).

**\*Wartling** (TQ 657 093). Excavations are continuing on this well-preserved 'house' platform/terrace. No building yet found, as documented in 1683, but interesting features being recovered none-the-less. A recent lynchet excavation on a neighbouring earthwork (within the same field) recovered abraded pot sherds from 10<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> century to the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, indicative of manuring. The finds suggest that this area of the field was probably subjected to agricultural activity (ploughing) between those periods. Any volunteers interested in helping out please contact me on [philippawhitehill@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:philippawhitehill@tiscali.co.uk). (Philippa Whitehill).

**Westfield, (High Lankhurst Farm),** (TQ 81781366). A resistivity survey of Margary's Rochester to Hastings Roman road at the site revealed nothing. Further test-pitting confirmed that the road was not at this location. (HAARG).

#### West Sussex

**Arundel Estate/Park. Earthwork** survey work has been carried out with Dave McOmish of English Heritage in various locations such as Rewells Wood, Dale's Down and Goblestubsbs. Some small excavation work is due at the latter. These non-scheduled earthworks on the Downs are thought to be early in date. (WAS)

**Benfield Barn,** TQ 263071- (west of Hangleton). This building is being considered for conversion into a clubhouse (including lowering the internal floor level by 600mm) and as a result a rapid survey was made of it. The external evidence suggests more than one period of flint construction with a section of the south end of the west side probably being that of an earlier structure. Architectural and brick features suggest an C18th- date. Internally a timber frame sits on a metre high flint base and has a roof with staggered butt purlins, queenstruts and a possible windbraces. Areas of timber work are probably oak. It was considered that some of the architectural proposals may not be viable and more intense archaeological survey is essential before the building is destroyed through conversion or falls apart due to the instability of the tie beams (coming apart from the wall plates!). The cottages to the south of the barn were too dangerous to survey, despite there being rumours of a medieval cellar underneath, so plans are in place to return with appropriate safety equipment to complete the job (A. Stevens with BHAS).

**Binsted.** The well-preserved late medieval tile kiln excavated last year will be re-exposed for dating and areas around the kiln investigated this summer (August/ September). Geophysical survey is also planned. (WAS).

**Burgess Hill, York Way.** An evaluation revealed no archaeological features/finds. (ASE).

**Chichester: Chichester harbour project** Chichester Harbour Conservancy project will assess and survey SMR sites around the harbour and although some have been lost, there is still much work to be done. (CDAS)

**Chichester: St. Johns St. Chichester:** A group of C19th- buildings, which became a print-works in 1902 has been surveyed prior to demolition. Demolition is still awaited. (SIAS).

**Chichester: Shippams Factory, East Street.** (SU 86378 04868) (January 2006, continuing). Work is proceeding particularly in the NW corner of the site. Better preserved remains of a Roman street with side ditches found on the western side of the site to match up with earlier find on the eastern side. Robbed-out walls of a Roman building with possible associated courtyard and well. Relative lack of Roman remains and lack of re-surfacing on Roman street tends to confirm the hypothesis that this area of the city remained relatively undeveloped. Tentative evidence for middle saxon occupation with a single small (but otherwise fairly typical) SFB has been found, though no associated finds despite middle saxon pottery being recovered nearby. There has been less truncation by medieval and post-medieval features in this part of the site than in others closer to East Street. (PCA).

**Chichester: Former Shippams Social Club site, East Walls/ New Park Road.** (SU 86405 04925). (April). An evaluation trench was dug through a tunnel in city wall for potential services access. The trench shows that the full thickness of the Roman city wall at this point is 2.4m in advance of the current wall. Wall seen as mortared flints on a looser flint foundation. There are possible hints of an earlier feature below the wall. (PCA).

**Chichester: Bow Hill, Kingley Vale. (Western end of the Chichester Entrenchments)** Earthwork survey work, in conjunction with Dave McOmish of English Heritage. The survey has identified an earlier cross dyke that was used as part of the boundaries for the Roman Camp there. (CDAS).

**Chichester, Roman Roads.** It is planned to undertake some investigations on the Roman roads from Chichester to Selsey (Street end) and to Fishbourne. (CDAS).

**Coultershaw Beam Pump.** A Lottery Grant has now been given for the project planning. (SIAS).

**\*Eartham: Selhurstpark.** Chichester District Council will be running a second season of work in August on a Middle Iron Age settlement site at Selhurstpark, Eartham, West Sussex.

**Flansham, Worms Lane.** (SU 96449 01005). (April). A field evaluation, before housing development, has revealed a small area of archaeological features of Bronze Age date. (Cotswold Archaeology).

**Ford, Airfield.** An excavation is planned in June/July. (ASE).

**Horsham, The Vicarage Garden, The Causeway.** An evaluation of the garden, sandwiched between The Vicarage and the churchyard boundary, is planned for June. It is likely to detect remains associated with the former Vicarage that is potentially of early post-medieval or earlier origin. (ASE).

**Lancing: New Monks Farm.** An ongoing watching brief during golfcourse construction in area of known medieval salterns. Results so far blank. (ASE).

**Lancing Waste Transfer Station, Chartwell Road.** Geoarchaeological investigations (ongoing project). Evidence of peat deposits with single piece of burnt flint c.3m down have been found. Further boreholes to be undertaken to define this deposit. (ASE).

**Lavington: Seaford College.** Drawings of the pumping station are now complete though some finishing off of the machinery illustrations still needed. It started as a pump house with a diesel engine, dry well and battery house but had more buildings added. It continued in use into the 1920s. (SIAS).

**Midhurst, King Edward VII hospital.** This is to be turned into apartments which may secure the future of the building. In the meantime the hospital has been surveyed and a photographic record made. (SIAS)

**North Stoke Church.** A resistivity survey has been carried out around the building but the results were negative. (WAS).

**Petworth, Haslingbourne Pumping Station.** This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> pumping system to Petworth House. Hopes are high for taking possession of the diesel pump from the Haslingbourne pump system, south of Petworth, as soon as it can be dismantled. (SIAS).

**Pulborough, 18 London Road: Former Spiro-Gills factory site.** (TQ 04763 18989) (March). Phase 2 trial archaeological work has revealed surviving alluvial deposits from a small stream, a tributary of the River Arun, below Factory construction make-up layers. Further investigation to follow. (AOC Archaeology).

**Pulborough, Coppice Hanger, Church Hill.** (TQ 04645 18678). (March). Field evaluation just to the south of the find-spot of Roman tiles and pottery in Pulborough churchyard, in connection with proposed housing development, revealed no surviving ancient archaeological deposits. The site had been landscaped when the existing Edwardian house had been built. (Development Archaeology Services).

**Sele Priory.** A resistivity survey has revealed the possible water mill documented on the SMR (WAS).

**Steyning, High Street.** (TQ 17838 11052). (January to February 2006). A watching brief, commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on a Southern Water sewer replacement and storm overflow, revealed alluvial deposits of the Bradbourne Stream. The earliest datable layers contained pottery of the 12<sup>th</sup>/ 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, and two wooden stakes. In the later medieval/ early post-medieval period, animal bones, principally of cattle, with horn cores, may be related to tanning or horn working in the area. Recording complete. (Wessex Archaeology)

**Tortington Priory, Walberton.** (TQ 00644 05957). A watching brief (following small-scale evaluation) on building works for a small house extension has revealed a buttress to the west front of the Augustinian Priory church, the external face of the west front doorway, a wall, possibly of the cloister, Reformation-period demolition debris and a small hearth, cut into the demolition debris. The exposed masonry is to be conserved and displayed as part of development proposal. (ASE).

**Warminghurst: William Penn's house.** A resistivity survey has been carried out over the house site (demolished in the C18th) and Sussex University MA students have undertaken small 'test-pit' excavations. Results are still awaited. (WAS & SU).

**Westhampnett: Copse Farm.** Possible Roman building. Geophysical survey with follow-on work still planned subject to permissions. (CDAS).

**West Hoathly, Ibstock Brickworks, Sharpthorne.** (TQ 37598 32577). (May 2006). A continuing watching brief on clay extraction has revealed in plan a closely-spaced group of over 40 mine pits, very shallow remains of a post-built rectangular building, and shallow scoops containing ironworking slag. Previous discoveries suggest that these features may be of medieval date. Recording continues. (Cotswold Archaeology).

**Worth: Stone Court.** (TQ 29931 36417). (April). Stage 2 excavations re-found the Mesolithic features identified during the Stage 1 evaluation at the site undertaken at the end of last year but little else. (ASE).

**Worthing, 12-15 Offington Lane.** TQ 13315 04748. (May) An evaluation, followed by a small-scale excavation, found a group of Roman vessels in excellent condition prior to residential development. 18 early Roman vessels were revealed in total arranged in five groups, assumed to represent five discrete cremation deposits within a small, possible family cemetery. (ASE).