

## Sussex Archaeology Round-up (April - June 2007)

### East Sussex

**\*Arlington: Roman 'Small Town'** (NGR TQ 541068). Continuing excavation at this roadside settlement is planned for later in the year. (ESCC with BHAS, ENHAS and MSFAT). Contact Greg Chuter ([Gregory.Chuter@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Gregory.Chuter@eastsussex.gov.uk)).

**Alciston: Black Patch.** Survey over the winter has extended the area of the field system as well as possibly identifying further hut platforms or enclosures. We have also identified a series of East-West aligned double lynchets which may throw some light on prehistoric land division at the site. The results of the winter's field walking are now being analysed for comparison to the survey results. Over the summer a small number of test pits will be excavated to look at the nature and hopefully date of the newly discovered lynchets. These will mostly be at weekends during early June and late August/September. (Dick Tapper/Uni of Sussex).

**Ashburnham: Bray's Hill.** Following an interim report on the prehistoric assemblage further fieldwork is planned. (HAARG).

**Ashburnham: Kitchenham farm (north of Castle Croft).** Recent Roman finds (coins and pottery) number over 1000, and came from a drainage ditch and surrounding fields. A large quantity of building related material was also collected. The area has been recorded before as probably being connected to the Roman iron industry (Tebbutt, 1976, SAC 114), following the discovery of *in situ* timber, interpreted as a Roman jetty or landing stage (the sea flowed much further inland than at present). (HAARG).

**Ashdown Forest.** Conservators in the area have in place a ten year agreement with Natural England for a stewardship scheme to restore lowland heathland, with a built-in agreement for archaeological survey and interpretation over a period of years. Archaeological survey project has started to review the forest's historic environment. This desk-based study will be followed by field survey to assess what exactly is there. The initial Historic Environment Records suggest 78 sites, but to date, treble the amount of known archaeology, ranging in date from prehistory to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, has been identified. (C. Butler).

**Forest Ridge Survey.** The HLF bid has been successful and the £2.2 million award will fund various forms of survey along an area that includes the whole of Sussex and West Kent. Survey work using Lidar technology will 'kick-start a series of surveys for archaeological purposes. (ESCC)

**\*Barcombe, Pond Field, Culver Farm.** As part of an ongoing programme of research Open area excavations are planned in 2007 to investigate a Roman Road and possible roadside settlement. It is hoped the orientation of the road and the extent of the settlement will be traced. The excavation will run from Saturday 4th August 2007 to Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September. The project will provide volunteers with opportunities in excavation, recording, survey, geophysics and finds processing. Experience is not necessary as training/help will be given where needed. There will be a one off charge of £30 per person for however long they are on site for. (If they are weekend end volunteers £15). These charges are there to try and cover cost. Campsite/washing/cooking facilities will be available. Please contact Rob Wallace on 07958971453 or [WallaRh@aol.com](mailto:WallaRh@aol.com) (Culver Farm, Church Road, Barcombe, East Sussex BN8 5TR) (Rob Wallace/CCE).

**\*Barcombe Roman Villa.** Excavations resumed in May (weekends only), and then for four weeks from mid July to mid August, with training courses incorporated. The 2007 season will hopefully complete the excavation of the farmyard. (CCE/MSFAT).

**Barcombe: east of Uckfield Road.** A future project for a proposed new reservoir is being planned with the 1<sup>st</sup> stage of archaeological work consisting of an enhanced desk based assessment. (Jacobs project managers).

**Beddingham: A27 Southerham road work.** (NGR TQ 444 081) A continued watching brief has yet to reveal any significant archaeology. (ASE).

**Bexhill.** WW2 anti-tank road blocks in Bexhill have been recorded, prior to removal. It is quite rare to have these still surviving in towns, but permission has been given to remove them. (C. Butler).

**\*Bishopstone Tidemills.** Survey/fieldwork restarted in May. This has finished clearing the area of the coal-yard and stables and shown what a complex series of buildings there were there. It is now almost certain that the latest phases relate to military activity during WW2. Recording of the area is well under way. Volunteers are still welcome, please contact Luke Barber on [research@sussexpast.co.uk](mailto:research@sussexpast.co.uk) (SAS).

**Bodiam: Chitcombe.** A possible Romano-British thoroughfare has been revealed, running south to Chitcombe, away from Bodiam. Permission has been given by the landowner for further work. (HAARG).

**\*Brighton: Rocky Clump.** (NGR TQ 328 101). The new season began in April and new pits, post holes and ditches are already appearing. The YAC will be visiting the site this Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June. (BHAS).

**Brighton: Piddingworth Manor.** (NGR TQ 327 105). A geophysical survey is planned. (BHAS).

**Brighton: Old Boat Corner.** (NGR TQ 3245 0965). A resistivity survey of the field north east of Old Boat Corner was conducted in April. The large survey on the location of a possible new cemetery site found a number of anomalies, but very little to suggest prehistoric activity. The field lies between the Eastwick Barn Iron Age settlement and the late Neolithic earthworks inside Pudding Bag Wood. The field had been ploughed for many years. A brief has been compiled to conduct a number of small excavations to see whether there is any residual trace of ancient activity left in the ploughed soil. (BHAS).

**Brighton: Old Boat Corner south east field.** (NGR TQ 325 091). A geophysical survey is planned. (BHAS).

**Brighton: Bray Pool, Patcham.** A watching brief revealed no archaeological features or finds. (BHAS).

**Broadwater Warren (nr Tunbridge Wells).** The RSPB have purchased this site and aim to recreate heathland. This proposal will go through EIA regulations – so a baseline archaeological survey will be undertaken. (Reported by ESCC).

**Chailey Common.** Bracken scraping has revealed anomalies on the site which will be subjected to archaeological survey. (C. Butler).

**Crowhurst: Forewood.** A large flint hammer-stone has recently been recovered from the R-B iron-working site. (HAARG).

**\*Eastbourne: Pcocks Field.** A 4<sup>th</sup> excavation season is scheduled for the site this year in September. It is hoped to survey the earthworks and structural anomaly within the possible late medieval/post-medieval building. (ENHAS).

**Exceat.** Further trial excavations at the possible chapel site are planned. It is hoped to reveal more of a possible apsidal end to the building. (MSFAT).

**Hartfield.** A possible series of medieval building platforms opposite Church House were investigated by topographic and geophysical survey as well as trial trenching. The work produced no features but did reveal abraded medieval pottery suggesting some activity. (MSFAT).

**Hastings: East Hill.** Survey work has been undertaken of extant earthworks. Report now being written up. (EH).

**Hastings: Gap Site.** (NGR TQ 581543 109485). Ongoing. Up to 4m of made ground above alluvial deposits have been noted during a watching brief. (ASE).

**Lewes: Baxters Printworks.** (NGR TQ 416 101). The final phase of the work on site is due soon after which post-excavation work can then proceed. (ASE).

**Lewes: Lewes House Site.** Large-scale archaeological works are likely to be undertaken in the near future prior to the development of this site. (reported by ESCC).

**Lewes: Gun Garden, Lewes Castle.** A resistivity survey produced negative results with no signs of the castle ditch. This is likely the result of the ditch being buried below in excess of 0.5-1m of overburden and thus out of range. (SAS).

**Lewes: Earwig Corner.** A geophysical survey has been looking at the Anglo-Saxon site at Earwig Corner using new GPR equipment (high precision, shallow GPR), to locate cut features like graves within the top 40cm of the top soil. Results are not in yet. (Arrow Geophysics).

**Mayfield: Little Furnace Wood.** Work on this Roman possible 2<sup>nd</sup> furnace and a 2<sup>nd</sup> ore roasting pit will hopefully be concluded this year. Archaeomagnetic dates are being sort. (WIRG/MSFAT).

**Netherfield Place Fm.** Small excavation works were undertaken on areas showing sub-surface geophysical anomalies. No man-made features were located but 11-12<sup>th</sup> century ceramic was recovered from all three excavated trenches. (HAARG).

**Ninfield: Castle Croft.** Work continues and is encompassing a wider area around the site. (HAARG).

**Ouse Valley Transfer Scheme - South East Water pipelines.** The pipeline is under way and is being subjected to a watching brief (Network Archaeology).

**Peacehaven: Land at Seaview and Keymer Avenues.** (NGR TQ 41880 01070). Excavation is now complete and post-excavation works underway. The main periods of activity appear to have been in the Mesolithic and late Bronze Age through to mid-late Iron Age. (ASE).

**Peacehaven.** (NGR TQ 4305 0025). The excavation of a barrow threatened by coastal erosion is to be undertaken. There will also be surveying and investigations into the surrounding landscape. The excavation, directed by Sue Birks from Sussex University, will commence once the documentation is completed. (with MSFAT & BHAS).

**Pett: Rosemary lane.** A watching brief revealed nothing of archaeological interest. (HAARG).

**Ringmer: Clay Hill reservoir.** Fieldwalking of large areas of the site revealed relatively little material though there was a background scatter of Roman tile. (ASE).

**Ringmer: The Broyle.** The glider club were to extend the runway on the Broyle. Following a superficial reconnaissance of the site by Greg Chuter and the identification of archaeological features of IA and Roman date, further work has recovered iron working features, and finds from the Romano-British period. Some artefacts may be of an earlier date and investigations continue (ESCC/BHAS).

**Rottingdean: Beacon Hill.** (NGR TQ 364 027). A geophysical survey is planned. (BHAS).

**Rye: Fair Meadow.** A watching brief revealed nothing of archaeological interest. (HAARG).

**Upper Dicker: Michelham Priory.** It is planned to undertake a resistivity survey of part of the south lawn in an attempt to locate the Priory kitchen. The survey, which will also be used as part of a children's teaching day, will be carried out in June/July. (SAS).

**\*Wartling: house platform** (NGR TQ 657 093). Excavations are continuing on this well-preserved 'house' platform/terrace. Traces of possible walls have now been located and the plan of the building is finally taking shape. Any volunteers interested in helping out please contact the director on [philippawhitehill@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:philippawhitehill@tiscali.co.uk). (Philippa Whitehill).

**Westham (nr Pevensey): 24 Rattle Road.** (NGR 563517 104551). An ongoing watching brief has recovered Romano-British pottery from the topsoil. (ASE).

**Wittersham Manor (formerly Bates Farm).** Metal detecting and resistivity surveys were followed by trial trenching. Some 20 coins and 50 sherds of pottery, all Roman, were recovered. A large amount of slag was also recovered from the small trench. (HAARG).

**Woodingdean.** (NGR TQ 350 055). Finds from the field walking have been processed and included interesting amounts of flint work, including tools and especially cores. The quantity of worked and fire-cracked flint, accompanied by amounts of marine molluscs suggest the possible location of a prehistoric site nestling in the secluded valley in this part of Woodingdean. A small number of sherds of Roman pottery were also found. The field walking will begin once the crop has been recovered and the field ploughed again. (BHAS).

## West Sussex

**Aldingbourne: Lidsey Landfill Site Extension.** (NGR centred SU 926 040). Current excavations, following trial trench investigation in 2005, have revealed two small sub-rectangular ditched enclosures, of later prehistoric date, adjoining the Aldingbourne Rife, ditches probably belonging to a Romano-British field system, and a number of small pits containing charcoal. Geoarchaeological test pits have revealed surviving marine sands, perhaps of the Norton Raised Beach, but perhaps of a later, as yet undefined beach; however no former land surfaces had survived. Work continues. (TVAS).

**Arundel: Kitchen Garden, Arundel Castle.** (NGR centred TQ 01574 07240). Following trial trench excavation earlier this year, which revealed foundations of the medieval Maison Dieu (Holy Trinity) Hospital, a watching brief on limited ground excavations for construction of the new ornamental garden revealed further chalk wall foundations, probably belonging to a 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>-century cottage. (WA).

**Arundel Estate/Park Earthworks.** Work with EH at Goblestubbs continues on the non-scheduled earthworks dated to the late I.A/ early RB as the site is proving quite complex. (WAS).

**Beedings.** Excavations were undertaken and Palaeolithic flintwork was located. No further details. (Matt Pope/UCL).

**Bognor Regis: Upper Bognor Road.** (NGR SZ 93872 99725). Trial trench excavation close to a previous discovery of a Saxon SFB revealed no ancient archaeological features. Within a test pit, deposits relating to an early prehistoric raised beach were observed, containing marine foraminifera. (WA and Mark Roberts/UCL).

**Burgess Hill: Folders Farm, Folders Lane.** (TQ 329 182). An ongoing open area being expanded around evaluation trenches. Possible prehistoric features revealed. (ASE).

**Chichester Harbour.** Continued work surveying sites around the harbour, including Roman tile works at Dell Quay. (CDAS).

**Chithurst.** A medieval house and its environs are to be surveyed. (WAS).

**Crawley: 60 High Street.** (NGR TQ 26749 36642). The excavation of a trial trench in April 2007, to the rear of the High Street (west side), within the medieval core of the town, revealed no medieval features. (ASE).

**Ferring: 14, Grange Park.** (NGR TQ 0950 0245). Trial trench excavation in March 2007 revealed a small number of postholes, and pits containing flint flakes and burnt flint, probably of Bronze Age date, cut into alluvial deposits, and subsequently filled by alluvium. No substantive evidence of later prehistoric occupation was revealed, despite extending the excavation area. (ASE).

**Findon: Cissbury Ring.** A magnetometry and topographic survey has been undertaken adjacent to the western entrance. Early results suggest at least one possible new barrow, but data is still in the processing stage. (ASE).

**Gatwick Airport: Perimeter Road South.** (NGR TQ 26770 40070). A watching brief, following trial trench excavation in January-February 2007, adjoining the site of a former 18<sup>th</sup>-century cottage on the edge of the Lowfield Heath, revealed much ground disturbance from modern services, and no surviving ancient archaeological features. (Framework Archaeology).

**Highdown Hill.** The EH detailed survey of the NT area at Highdown is now being written up. (EH).

**Lancing: Thornbury School.** (NGR 518907 104313). Two small irregular pits were identified during an evaluation. A small quantity of struck flint was recovered from one of these features but is not considered to be diagnostic of period. A geoarchaeological test pit succeeded in identifying a Raised Beach deposit on the site, thought to represent a continuation of the Pagham formation. (ASE).

**Lancing: Oakfield School.** (NGR 518005 105068). An evaluation revealed no archaeological features. One small piece of prehistoric pot was recovered from the subsoil. (ASE).

**Lancing:** Boundstone Community College, Upper Boundstone Lane. (NGR TQ 17678 05375). In advance of building work for a new extension, trial trench excavation in May 2007 has revealed ditches of late post-medieval date, with residual later prehistoric pottery and worked flint within the fills and topsoil. Hand-dug test pits are also being excavated on the site as part of a training excavation for the College's AS Level students. (ASE/C. Pine).

**Parham House, Parham Park.** A 5 year project has been started which hopes to reveal and research the deserted medieval village. This is a collaboration with Sussex County History, Sussex University and MoLAS. Geophysical survey has already begun and trial excavation is scheduled this year. Next year it is hoped to continue with a two week 'season' of further excavation. (WAS).

**Saddlescombe Farm.** Farm buildings are to be recorded on this NT property. (WAS).

**Shoreham-By-Sea: Kings Manor Community College.** (NGR 523634 105620). An evaluation revealed no features but mid-late Saxon, Saxo-Norman and 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century pottery, plus undiagnostic flintwork. (ASE).

**Shoreham-By-Sea: New Monks Farm.** (NGR TQ 195 055). Ongoing watching brief – still nothing of archaeological significance found. (ASE).

**Slindon Estate.** In conjunction with the NT, a post-medieval saw pit in the estate yard is to be excavated. (WAS).

**\*Warbleton: Blacksmiths Corner** Excavations at this newly discovered roman villa will continue in the summer The main summer excavation will be a continuation of last years work. The dates are: .Saturday August 25th, till Sunday 9th of September. Start times each day are from 9.30am till 5pm each day. The middle weekend 1st – 2nd September are public participation open days. Finds have suggested a C1st date for the onset of the site though it is not yet clear if the main building has been located (WAS).

**West Hoathly clay pit, Sharpthorne.** (NGR centred TQ 37605 32666). The continuing watching brief on clay extraction has revealed further minepits, to the east of a group of about 40 minepits

observed in 2006, and a small hearth, probably of medieval date, and related to iron working. (Cotswold Archaeology).

**Worthing: Cross Street.** (NGR TQ 14399 03337). A watching brief on the site of a former windmill revealed no surviving archaeological features. (DAS).