

## Sussex Archaeology Round-up (April – June 2008)

### East Sussex

**\*Arlington: Roman ‘Small Town’** (NGR TQ 541 068 and TQ 5409 0679). Following last years exciting discoveries, which included further evidence of buildings alongside the Roman road and a series of boundary ditches containing a large quantity of Roman pottery, further investigation will be continuing to investigate a probable bloomery furnace and a mysterious wall feature in the roadside ditch. This season’s excavations will be starting on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June and running through the week to the 6<sup>th</sup> July. (ESCC with BHAS, ENHAS and MSFAT). Contact Greg Chuter ([Gregory.Chuter@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Gregory.Chuter@eastsussex.gov.uk)).

**\*Ashburnham: Kitchenham farm (north of Castle Croft/Castle Croft)**. A drainage ditch was investigated which showed the presence of the Roman layer in the exposed stratigraphy. In addition a test-pit was excavated through an opposing bank edge to locate and reveal a continuation of this layer. The TP did locate the RB layer almost 1m below the present ground surface and the date was confirmed by the presence of a sherd of East Sussex ware. In addition fieldwalking across an area of Kitchenham Farm recovered approx. 200 kilos of CBM, along with pottery and glass. Included in the CBM assemblage were 8 fragments ‘CLBR’ stamped tiles, one of which was quite ornate and another had a clear ‘CL’ present. An **excavation** is planned at the Farm. for the summer (20<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> August) and HAARG are interested in hearing from anyone who would like to help. For further details contact Kevin or Lynn Cornwell on 01424 224405 or via email at [haarg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:haarg@hotmail.co.uk) and [www.1066.net/HAARG](http://www.1066.net/HAARG). All are welcome but you will have to take out membership of HAARG for insurance purposes, if you would like to participate. (HAARG).

**Ashdown Forest Excavations**. Fieldwork at three military sites has been undertaken to coincide with an event at the Ashdown Forest Centre on the military use of the forest. The sites included a 1793 field kitchen mound (although badly disturbed what was revealed turned out to be totally different to a description given in SAC but is comparable to field kitchen sites in Ireland), a WW1 practice trench and a WW2 slit trench. (MSFAT/CCE).

**Ashdown Forest Survey**. The survey is in its final stages and the total of newly discovered sites numbers approximately 480. These range from BA barrows to 20<sup>th</sup> century military related. (C. Butler).

**\*Barcombe, Pond Field/Culver Mead, Culver Farm**. Further excavations are planned for summer 2008 on this Roman roadside settlement. Due to adverse weather conditions delaying the crops the excavations have been put back a week so they will now start Saturday 9th August, finishing on the 13th Sept. 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 c. £30 per person for however long they are on site for. (If they are weekend end volunteers c. £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/Uni of Sussex).

**\*Barcombe Roman Villa.** The 2008 season is due to run from 14<sup>th</sup> July to 8<sup>th</sup> August and will examine the possible bath house in Church Field. Weekly/weekend training courses and volunteer positions available. (CCE/MSFAT). (Enquiries to: [si-enquiries@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:si-enquiries@sussex.ac.uk))

**Bexhill: Maple Walk, Old Harrier Kennels, Cooden.** An evaluation east of the scheduled moated site found nothing. (WA)

**Bexhill to Hastings Link Road.** Pre-application survey reporting is now complete including: geo-archaeological, LiDAR and fieldwalking surveys. (OA).

**\*Bishopstone Tidemills.** The 2008 fieldwork season began in May with work continuing on the stationmaster's cottage. The building is proving more complex than originally thought but it is hoped to finish work here by late summer. A probable WW2 air-raid shelter in the old allotment area is also scheduled for investigation. Volunteers are still welcome, please contact Luke Barber on [research@sussexpast.co.uk](mailto:research@sussexpast.co.uk) (SAS).

**\*Brighton: Rocky Clump.** (NGR TQ 328 101). The Bones trench was completed and only the planning of this trench remains. There will be some small scale excavation during the summer and some more geophysics. (BHAS)

**\*Brighton: Varley Halls.** (NGR TQ 332 088). Small-scale excavations are planned on this Bronze Age settlement and a few volunteers are needed. Saturday 12th July until Sunday 3rd August. This is an environmental sampling exercise close to the Bronze Age sites of Downsview and Varley Halls. There will also be some more geophysics. Contact - [Lisa@prehistorygirl.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:Lisa@prehistorygirl.freeserve.co.uk) [Lisa@prehistorygirl.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:Lisa@prehistorygirl.freeserve.co.uk) (L. Gray/CCE with BHAS).

**Brighton: Piddingworth.** A geophysical survey of the Piddingworth Manor site and enclosure is to be undertaken. (BHAS)

**Brighton: 8 The Cliff, Roedean.** A watching brief revealed no features or finds. (BHAS)

**Chailey Common survey.** The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the survey, on Red House Common, is finished. Areas of the landscape were cleared of bracken to encourage heathland regeneration and a total of 26 new sites were identified and added to the 25 identified in phase 1. (C. Butler).

**Chiddingly rock shelters** (not Chidingly Parish). Fieldwork closeby has recovered a quantity of flintwork and some C18th charcoal. More work is expected there. (A. Macted/CCE)

**Ditchling: 52 East End.** Building work went ahead without implementing the archaeological planning condition. Some interesting flintwork was recovered when a site inspection was made after the damage had been done. (ESCC)

**Eastbourne: Lottbridge Drove.** The (probable) medieval boat discovered, but not fully excavated, 44 years ago is to be re-examined. An interesting report by Michael Ryder suggests a medieval date based on samples taken. (reported by ENHAS).

**Eastbourne: Pockocks Field.** A test-pit evaluation in the southern part has been undertaken which revealed colluvium above chalk and a field boundary in the southern half of the site. The results of which have been submitted with the planning application. (WA)

**Eastbourne: South Downs College.** An evaluation and watching brief revealed a BA ditch which may be related to the field system revealed at Pockocks. (WA)

**East Hoathley: South Street.** An extensive evaluation located nothing of archaeological significance. (Sutton Archaeological Services)

**Etchingam.** A watching brief undertaken on a Southeast Water borehole revealed no archaeological remains although palaeoenvironmental evidence was present. (TVAS)

**Exceat.** The chapel/hospital has seen further fieldwork including evaluating the walls revealed last year. Two phases of construction have been identified but there is no evidence of floors or doors yet. Material recovered includes 12/13<sup>th</sup> century and later medieval pottery and a C15<sup>th</sup> copper-alloy purse frame. (MSFAT).

**Falmer: Woollards Field.** (ahead of The Keep). (NGR TQ 533887 108125). A series of archaeological and geo-archaeological trial trenches were excavated across the site. No later archaeological features were recorded but a probable Bronze Age, or earlier, buried soil was recorded in the north of the site along with other geo-archaeological processes. Evidence for a full valley sequence, c.5m in depth, was recovered with soft hammer flint flakes in the solifluction gravels, loess and buried Holocene soil horizon. (ASE).

**Friston Forest and Lullington Heath pipeline trench** (Friston Forest Grazing Project). A watching brief during groundworks showed the trench to cut through prehistoric field lynchets and almost 500 pieces of worked flint were recovered (Neolithic – BA), a sherd of mid-late BA pottery and evidence for WW2 training including mortar bombs. (C. Butler)

**Groombridge to Langton Green Pipeline.** Evaluation trenching along the route has revealed evidence for a post-medieval farm complex. There will be further excavation and/or preservation in situ. (Network Archaeology)

**Hartfield: Upper Parrock Farm.** An evaluation located nothing of interest. (RPS/ASE)

**Hastings: Beauport Park Hotel.** A watching brief was undertaken where an extension is being constructed and revealed evidence to suggest the original Georgian building had been pushed in on itself into the cellars and then partly built over. This enabled an entire plan of the original building to be recorded. (CG Archaeology).

**Hazards Green Transfer Pipeline.** (NGR TQ 651 119 to 683 124). The last stage of the watching brief revealed 3 timbers, possibly related to a waterside feature. During the

Roman period this area is believed to have been a sea inlet, however it is not certain whether these timbers date to that period. (ASE).

**Lewes: Lewes House residential excavation.** The 1<sup>st</sup> excavation area of this huge site is now open and medieval and post-medieval material is being recovered, most notably from a number of deep medieval pits. There is a programme of outreach activities related to this excavation. The programme includes open days, on selected Saturdays, for local and county archaeological societies to view the site and handle some of the finds from the excavations, four open days during Nat. Archaeology Week (17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> July), where the site will be open to the public who'll be offered guided site tours and handling sessions with artefact and environmental specialists available to explain some of the finds and general public/ family visits during August (11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>), again as above. All of the open days are free and you are advised to pre-book, especially society group open days. Please contact Sam Emery for further details on 01273 426830 or email [s.emery@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:s.emery@ucl.ac.uk). (ASE).

**Lewes: Phoenix Ironworks.** Recording work will take place on this site. (SIAS).

**Lewes: St Nicholas Centre, Spital Road.** (NGR TQ 540591 110078). A watching brief in advance of controlled excavation immediately adjacent to ASE excavations undertaken in 1994 (which revealed extensive burials and deposits associated with the former medieval hospital) has so far revealed nothing but extensive modern services. (ASE).

**Lewes: Circa Fish site, Westgate.** A watching brief found mostly made ground with a C19<sup>th</sup> wall and pottery, one sherd of C14<sup>th</sup> pot and C18<sup>th</sup> pottery and clay tobacco pipe. (C. Butler).

**Lewes: 1 Watergate Lane.** A watching brief during piling located a mid C20<sup>th</sup> telephone from a depth of 2m. (C. Butler)

**Lewes: Reeves photographers, 159 High Street.** A watching brief found C15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> pottery and two rubbish pits of C18/19<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> date. (C. Butler)

**Lewes: Landport Bottom.** The remains of a WW2 air raid shelter revealed during groundworks to extend the allotments has been recorded (BHAS)

**Lewes: Poverty Bottom.** Field-walking by Network Archaeology reported few artefacts. ASE commencing evaluation excavation week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Local metal detecting group involved. (Network Archaeology/ASE)

**Mayfield Church.** A watching brief on internal and external works has been undertaken. Evidence for the pre-14<sup>th</sup> century fire column base and floor structure were revealed. The plans is for them to be preserved and displayed in situ. (CG Archaeology)

**Ovingdean.** (NGR TQ 354 036). Excavations on the 13<sup>th</sup> century manor site looking at the area of a possible 'detached' kitchen and the southwest corner of the manor house. This is part of a project for a student from Sussex University. Current finds include

glazed 13<sup>th</sup>- century pottery, a spindle whorl and a 13<sup>th</sup>- century arrow head. The excavation will continue to the end of June. (C. White/Uni of Sussex/ BHAS).

**Parrock Wood: Parrock Wood Cottage, Coleman's Hatch.** A watching brief revealed nothing of archaeological interest. (C. Butler)

**Peacehaven.** (NGR TQ 4305 0025). Work has continued on the original quadrant opened up last year. Possible pre-barrow features were revealed, but due to a lot of WW2 activity at the site and some antiquarian disturbance interpretations are difficult. Neolithic and Mesolithic flint work, stake holes and pits found but no burials. Work continues. (S. Birks/Uni of Sussex with MSFAT & BHAS).

**Pevensey Levels.** A medieval moated site is to be subjected to excavation. (K. Fromings/ P. Whitehill/ CCE).

**Plumpton College.** Extension work has taken place, without a programme of archaeological work in place, contrary to the planning condition imposed. The site has been visited and an attempt made to salvage as much information as possible. (CG Archaeology)

**Poynings: Devil's Dyke and Hotel.** (NGR TQ 525832 110097). Works associated with improvements to outdoor facilities did not reveal anything of archaeological significance. (ASE)

**Poynings: Devil's Dyke.** (NGR TQ 525825 110954). Geotechnical test pits were monitored in advance of the main scheme to improve coach and car parking facilities revealed nothing of archaeological significance. (ASE)

**Rushlake Green: Little Iwood.** (NGR TQ 6298 1761). A bloomery site has been discovered. (WIRG).

**Rye: 3 Rye Hill.** A watching brief revealed only C19th- and later artifacts. (HAARG).

**Rye: 12 Church Square.** A watching brief revealed only C19th- and later artifacts. (HAARG).

**Rye: Seymore House.** An ongoing watching brief on boreholes and lowering of ground within the building is currently taking place – apart from a sherd of medieval pot everything else is C18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> (C. Butler)

**Sedlescombe: Park View.** An evaluation has revealed the remains of the post-medieval tannery and recorded a standing brick building before demolition. Now pending decision on mitigation. (WA).

**Sedlescombe, Wimbletott's Wood.** (NGR TQ 7653 2133). A bloomery site has been discovered. (WIRG).

**Stone Cross.** Student archaeological project planned. No further details. (D. Rudling/CCE).

**Ticehurst: Bardown.** A watching brief on an EDF Energy underground cable at revealed masonry remains. These were preserved in situ through design and the route changed. (ASE)

**Uckfield: Holy Cross Church center, Belmont Road.** (NGR TQ 547187 121418). An evaluation consisting of five trenches, totaling 75m, revealed late post-med disturbance and masonry remains. (ASE).

**Westham: Spring Cottage, Peelings Lane.** A watching brief identified a single Romano-British pit. (ASE)

**Wilmington, The Glebe.** A watching brief located a C19<sup>th</sup> midden, flint flakes and fire damaged flint. (C. Butler).

**Winchelsea: Ferry Cottage.** A watching brief recovered C17-19<sup>th</sup> pottery and clay tobacco pipes and a metalled surface of possible C17<sup>th</sup> date. (C. Butler)

### West Sussex

**Aldingbourne: Lidsey Landfill Site Extension.** (NGR centred SU 92700 03934). The 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of excavation and recording of this site, in advance of ground works for creation of landfill cells, has begun. Further archaeological features, possibly related to the Romano-British field system to the west, have been revealed. (TVAS)

**Beedings, near Pulborough.** Excavations at Beedings have continued as part of the English Heritage-funded Beedings Survey. In partnership with Worthing Archaeological Society this season's fieldwork, under the direction of Matthew Pope and Caroline Wells, is focussing on fissures identified through geophysics within the Lower Greensand. The excavations have so far produced a large Late Mesolithic assemblage and late Iron Age ceramics, including a reasonably complete amphora. More importantly, the excavations have revealed further Palaeolithic remains including a Mousterian core and, for the first time, Upper Palaeolithic blade and projectile point fragments excavated directly from the fissure fill. Dating and palaeoenvironmental evidence should now allow a more detailed, modern study of this unique site. It remains to be seen if the hunters who left behind the technologically advanced assemblage of blade-tools really are, as suspected, the last of the Neanderthals in Northern Europe. (Matt Pope/UCL with WAS/BHAS).

**Bersted: Land at North Bersted.** (NGR SU 9169 0146 – 9327 0124). Further investigation has revealed Iron Age and Roman field systems, and a series of Iron Age four-post structures. Work continuing. (TVAS).

**Bersted: Oldlands Farm.** (NGR SU 94179 01496). Current trial archaeological excavation is showing up archaeological features of probable Middle Bronze Age and Roman date (ditches and pits). Work continues. (Cotswold Archaeology)

**Billingshurst: Forge Way.** (NGR TQ 08211 25738). A continuing watching brief in advance of development; previous work has revealed elements of a medieval field system. (ASE)

**Chichester: Festival Theatre.** (NGR SU 48610 10545). Monitoring of service trenches associated with the redevelopment have resulted in the identification of a Roman ditch running parallel with Broyle Road at this point that may identify its line as the same as that of the elusive Roman road to Silchester. (ASE)

**Chichester: Tower Street.** Evaluation work here succeeded in identifying the remains of the Roman bath complex, previously excavated in the 1970's and again in 1990. Elements of the hypocaust system associated with Room 1 of the bath complex were uncovered, as was the cistern and the remains of the sewer associated with the bath. (ASE).

**Chichester: Chichester Library.** (NGR SU 85863 04924) - Small-scale trial excavation in advance of construction of an extension to the Library revealed part of a large cut feature containing Romano-British pottery, possibly related to part of a ditch recorded in 1965 by Alec Down, before construction of the Library in 1967. There was also a small medieval pit, and ?19<sup>th</sup>-century soakaway. (Southern Archaeological Services)

**Chichester: Eastgate/New Park Road.** The site of the former swimming pool and the furniture repository and snooker hall have been demolished and their footprints have been evaluated. Extensive foundations beneath the swimming pool will have destroyed all but the very deepest archaeological deposits, while those beneath the furniture repository have left only a small percentage of the area undisturbed. In the latter, Roman and medieval pits are indicative of contemporary occupation alongside Stane Street in the St Pancras suburb. (DAS)

**Crawley: Breezhurst Drive, Bewbush Leisure Centre.** (NGR TQ 24518 34941). A watching brief on ground works carried out in advance of construction of a new Pavilion has so far revealed no surviving ancient archaeological features. Work continues. (Gifford & PCA)

**Crawley: Church Walk.** (NGR TQ 26785 36659). Trial archaeological excavation and a watching brief have revealed medieval and early post-medieval burgrave plot boundaries, a probably medieval pit containing much ironworking slag, and other pits of medieval date. (ASE)

**Fishbourne: rear of 7-21 Salthill Road.** (NGR SU 483478 104816). A watching brief on preparation of a pipeline construction compound, 350-400 metres west of Fishbourne Roman Palace, revealed no archaeological features. (ASE)

**Hassocks: Hassocks Golf Club.** (site centred NGR TQ 30010 16631). A number of archaeological features, some of apparent Romano-British date and some of Saxon date, have been revealed during a watching brief on landscaping works for part of an existing golf course. The Saxon features appear to be associated with the Anglo-Saxon settlement previously investigated in 1994. These include pits and ditches, a possible hearth and the remains of at least two buildings. Arrangements have been made to ensure preservation of these features *in situ*. (ASE)

**Haywards Heath: St Francis' Hospital.** (NGR TQ 3352 2254). Trial trench excavation has revealed extensive 19<sup>th</sup>-century ground disturbance towards the top end of the site, probably from gardening associated with the former Asylum gardens. Analysis of samples taken from a possible large palaeochannel suggest instead that this feature is a geological feature, formed through downslope movement of the Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand bedrock. (ASE).

**Haywards Heath: Great Haywards.** A watching brief revealed nothing of archaeological interest. (C. Butler).

**Lower Beeding: Warley Farm Cottage, Plummers Plain.** (NGR TQ 23676 28756 – 23620 28597). A watching brief on an electricity cable trench, 100 metres distant from the “Money Mound” barrow site, revealed no archaeological features. (ASE)

**Parham.** Last year's (limited) fieldwork and geophysical survey (on the Parham Estate) will continue this year, looking for the deserted medieval/ post-med. village near the church. Some work done there so far has revealed material from the C19<sup>th</sup> and artifacts that have presumably come from the church, dating to the C14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. (WAS)

**Portsmouth and Arundel Canal.** Research work here continues: a recent magnetometer survey has, hopefully, revealed the location of the Cashier Bridge somewhere beneath a car park. (SIAS).

**Slindon Estate.** Work continues and a report on work on the saw pit there is soon to be published. (WAS)

**Southwater: Bourne Hill House, Kerves Lane.** (NGR TQ 17480 28418). Interpretational survey of the ?late 18<sup>th</sup> century Bourne Hill House, prior to alterations, has shown (provisionally) that the rear range of the building is 18<sup>th</sup> century, the central part early 19<sup>th</sup> century. A long stone-built cellar with stone quoins may possibly pre-date the 18<sup>th</sup>-century building and relate to an earlier structure. (ASE)

**Walberton.** Another season of excavation is planned on this Roman villa. (WAS)

**Westbourne: Chantry House.** Evaluation of a development site at Chantry House was negative apart from a small pit that produced significant fragments of a late neolithic Mortlake style pot and sherds from at least two other vessels. (DAS)

**West Dean: White Horse PH, Chilgrove.** Ground-works associated with a small development at the rear of the pub revealed the remains of a human crouched inhumation. In the absence of any evidence to the contrary it is assumed to date from the earlier Bronze Age.

**Worthing: former Northbrook College.** (NGR TQ 514937 102910). The first three of a five trench evaluation have been excavated and no notable features recorded. Works on the site are scheduled to continue later in June. (ASE).

**Worthing: Northbrook College, Broadwater Campus.** (NGR TQ 14553 04114). Wessex Archaeology have been recording two college buildings, originally in use as World War 1 military hospital buildings, subsequently purchased, dismantled, and re-erected on the College site. (WA)

**Worthing: Worthing 6<sup>th</sup> form College.** (NGR TQ 512335, 103290). A series of trial trenches were excavated across the site revealing features dating to the Bronze Age and Roman British periods. (ASE).

**Worthing: 32 Hayling Rise.** (NGR TQ 12462 06158). A watching brief during residential development revealed no surviving ancient archaeological features. (ASE)