

Sussex Archaeology Round-up (June-September 2006)

East Sussex

Alciston: Black Patch. Dick Tapper has been excavating at Blackpatch, adjacent to an area previously surveyed by Peter Drewett. The resulting evidence of three roundhouses in sequence heading down the slope on terraces is very impressive and there is hope that C14 dates will offer confirmation of long-term occupation here.

(Dick Tapper/CCE)

***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 last season. 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. Fieldwork is to start from 7th October and members of all local societies are welcome to assist. (ESCC with BHAS, ENHAS and MSFAT). Contact Greg Chuter (Gregory.Chuter@eastsussex.gov.uk).

Barcombe: Barcombe Roman Villa. Work this season concentrated on the front part of the courtyard and coming back up towards the villa. A new building was found, just to the west of the farmyard wall. This could be agricultural or domestic but appears to have had a façade facing the main approach road to the complex. A few pits, possibly Saxon, enormous postholes within a line of smaller postholes and a possible SFB (to be confirmed) were also recorded.

On the opposite hill to where the church is, geophysics confirmed anomalies that on further investigation have turned out to be a Roman ditch and a metallated area. Further work is also intended here. (CCE/MSFAT).

Barcombe, Culver Mead. Trial excavations by Rob Wallace (CCE MA student) have been looking at an area at Culvers Mead, on the line of the N/S London – Lewes Rd (not Margary's). So far he has revealed a possible ditch that has produced Roman pottery and some timber (three in possible sequence) in a possible Roman watercourse. Rob hopes to continue work there in 2008. (Rob Wallace/CCE).

Barcombe Church - Watching Brief. (NGR 541865 114291). A Roman ditch was located in advance of the installation of a septic tank. This ditch was a minimum of c. 2.5m in width and contained Roman pottery and tile. (ASE).

Barcombe to Horsted mains renewal. (NGR 541255 123780). A watching brief has just started. Nothing to report yet. (ASE).

Battle: Battle Abbey visitor centre. (NGR TQ 7480 1570). A watching brief has revealed a late medieval/early post-medieval gully, a post-medieval well and WW2 Canadian slit trench and refuse. (ASE).

Bexhill-Hastings Link Road. Forthcoming possible evaluation of a large area along the link road route to test areas to be disturbed by landscaping.

Bexhill Old Town: Bridge Cottage. A watching brief revealed nothing of archaeological interest during monitoring of foundation trenches for a conservatory. (HAARG).

***Bishopstone Tidemills.** Survey/fieldwork continues. The creek section behind the timber wharf has been cleaned up and recorded. It shows a complex sequence of dump deposits making up the ground behind the wharf, into which are cut a number of features, including tie-back repairs for the timber wharf. The eroded timbers of the wharf have been identified as pine and finds revealed in the infill behind the wharf suggests a date for the feature as 19th century. This means it is not part of the original 1760s mill, but an addition by Catt. Volunteers are still welcome, please contact Luke Barber on research@sussexpast.co.uk (SAS).

Brede Pumping Station. The Haslingbourne pump is now installed at Brede. The Brede Steam Engines is temporarily closed due to an asbestos removal programme but hopefully it will be re-opening in October. (SIAS).

***Brighton: Rocky Clump.** Excavations have investigated the interior or the 'Shrine' area and have found a few small pieces of dressed stone, very little pottery and nothing to suggest ritual activity. A previously untouched section of the cemetery area sadly produced no new graves. A trench to the east has a large rectangular vertical sided pit, and the trench to the north has produced ½ complete Roman pot, some samian and a coin.
(BHAS).

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

Ditchling: Beacon Hill. Geophysics has produced lots of interesting features including a possible building? The survey will be extended northwards to confirm. (BHAS).

Ewhurst: Ockham Farm. Further investigation is planned in the autumn. This is an area where previous investigation in the 1960s and 70s adjacent the scheduled area, revealed Romano-British archaeology.

Ewhurst: Ockham House. A watching brief found post medieval finds in the upper soil layers
(HAARG).

Hastings: Beckley, Glossam's Place. A final return to Glossams Place, Beckley, concluded excavations and recording. The site has now been backfilled and the report will be written by Andrew Woodcock. (A. Woodcock/HAARG).

Hastings: 17/18 High St. (Old Town). A watching brief during the lowering of the floor by 300mm revealed a packed layer of medieval tiles and high quality carved (probably re-used) Caen stone beneath the modern floor in an area some 2 x 3m. (HAARG).

Hastings Castle. (NGR TQ 82050 09460). Complete detailed topographical survey of Castle, which followed on from previously completed topographical survey of West Hill Lift Environs and building. (ASE).

Hastings: Great Ridge Farm. The trenches from the late 1970's excavations (by John Bell) of the 16th- century pottery kiln are still open. The site is scheduled and EH will visit shortly. Thankfully the landowner has given permission for work to continue in order to finish the excavations and report in the near future. (HAARG).

Lewes: 3a St Martin's Lane. Work at the site has revealed a probable lost lane (depicted on old maps). It runs parallel to Lewes High Street through Station St, behind the White Hart. (LAG)

Lewes: Juggs Road. Future work is planned in the area where Ashcombe mill stood until 1916 prior to development. It is planned to build a replica mill and archaeological work will be undertaken prior to this. (LAG).

Lewes: Priory Street. (NGR TQ 41508 09734). A watching brief located three probable rubbish pits, containing what appeared to be domestic refuse, dated to the 12th and 13th centuries. These may relate to the 11th- century Priory the ruins of which lie directly to the south. Some post-medieval features and structures were also recorded within the footprint of the recently demolished building. (ASE).

Lewes: New Road. (NGR TQ 541308 110118). An evaluation revealed successive dump deposits of post medieval material, most probably resulting from dumping of construction or demolition material against the hill slope. No earlier archaeological features or finds were identified. (ASE).

Lewes: Baxter's Printworks. (NGR TQ 416 101). Survey and excavation on the west side of St. Nicholas's Lane, has revealed medieval pits and layers including a late Saxon feature and dateable finds. Fieldwork continues.

Maresfield: Waste water treatment works. (NGR TQ 545 123). A resistivity survey attempted to locate the Roman Road in relation to the site but the results were inconclusive. (ASE).

Mayfield: Little Furnace Wood. Work on the possible 2nd furnace and a 2nd ore roasting pit is planned in September/October. (WIRG/MSFAT).

Netherfield Farm. Future work is planned at this site (a medieval moated site) between 9th-16th September. (HAARG).

Ninfield: Castle Croft. Survey work planned for autumn. (HAARG).

Peacehaven: Land at Seaview and Keymer Avenues. (NGR TQ 41880 01070). A Fluxgate Gradiometer (magnetometer) survey of approx 5 h.a of farmland has been undertaken. The survey has revealed some possible Late Prehistoric enclosures and trackways to be investigated by evaluation trenching. (ASE).

Pett: Gatehurst Farm. Investigation of Samian pottery finds is planned in the autumn. (HAARG).

Pett: Ashes Farm, Elms Farm and Carter's Farm. Some limited fieldwalking is planned in the ploughed areas. Worked flint, Roman tile and slag has been noted in the past. (HAARG).

Pevensy: Church Field. A geophysical survey is planned for the autumn. (HAARG with ESCC/ENHAS).

Polegate: land west of. There is a proposed development of a new road, housing and related infrastructure. This will require much archaeological survey and watching briefs etc if the proposals are passed.

Ringmer pipeline: Lewes Road. (NGR TQ 447 125). A watching brief of a sewer replacement pipe up the main road revealed nothing of archaeological interest. (ASE).

Ringmer: Clay Hill reservoir. This is likely to be quite large and will impinge on the earthworks and area of excavation undertaken by SAS some years ago: the results of which suggested Roman archaeology may be in the vicinity. Forthcoming.

Rye: Mill Place, Saltcote Lane. A watching brief during a garage extension showed a disturbed layer to a depth of 1m. Some 19th/20th century pottery was recovered. (HAARG).

Rye: 28 Mill Rd. A watching brief revealed nothing of archaeological interest. (HAARG).

Seaford: St Leonard's Church. (NGR 548265 099030). A watching brief recording burials in the crypt below the central aisle during floor repair work has been undertaken. (ASE).

Sedlescombe Church. (NGR 577713 11880). A watching brief revealed four burials dating c. 1800 were recorded and removed prior to the installation of a septic tank. (ASE).

Udimore (Road End Farm). The terraces on the hillside have been surveyed and recorded. (HAARG).

Udimore, Western Court Lodge. (NGR TQ 586305 118920). A watching brief close to the site of medieval Court Lodge revealed nothing of interest. (ASE).

Wadhurst College. This Victorian building is about to be converted into flats. As such a survey is underway which hopes to produce a photographic and pictorial record of the college, particularly of all the molded decorative brickwork. (Wadhurst History Society).

Wadhurst: High Street. A Victorian midden (noticeable as a raised mound) behind Wadhurst High Street is to be excavated. This will be a great opportunity to discover more about Victorian life in Wadhurst. (Wadhurst History Society).

***Wartling** (NGR TQ 657 093). Excavations are continuing on this well-preserved 'house' platform/terrace. Traces of possible walls have now been located but the exact lay-out of the building is still proving illusive. A well preserved brick-lined well, sealed under a capping stone, has also been revealed. Any volunteers interested in helping out please contact the director on philippawhitehill@tiscali.co.uk. (Philippa Whitehill).

Woodingdean. Field-walking about to begin in the east section of the large field. (BHAS).

West Sussex

Arundel Estate/Park. Earthwork. Work with EH at Gobble Stubbs continues on the non-scheduled earthworks dated to the late I.A/ early RB. The deep ditch surrounding the above was thought to be an animal enclosure ditch but its depth of 1.8m suggests otherwise and interpretation of the internal earthworks is ongoing. (WAS)

Binsted. Excavations have been undertaken on a newly discovered Roman building of apparently high status. Finds have includes much pottery, including Samian, coins and jewellery. Excavations are planned for next year, when investigation of the site should reveal the complex as a whole. (WAS).

Boxgrove Project. This has been carrying out an assessment of the Valdoe quarry since January. The initial phase identified, within the quarry area, palaeo land surface deposits identical to Boxgrove. Within those deposits were recovered archaeological evidence (human struck flintwork) and a new suite of environmental evidence. As a result of this and prior to gravel extraction, the project will continue for a further 6 months. (UCL).

Chichester: Chichester harbour Subtidal and Palaeoenvironmental Project. Various locations are being worked on - a programme of borehole drilling on sites of potential palaeoenvironmental interest around the Harbour has revealed evidence for coastal change and marine incursions in the post-glacial period. Work continues. (WA/CDAS).

Chichester Wastewater Treatment Works, Apuldram Lane, Fishbourne. (NGR SU 84203 03850). Archaeological monitoring and geoarchaeological monitoring of harbour edge deposits is currently taking place. (DAS).

Chichester: Shippams Factory, East Street. (NGR SU 86378 04868) The major excavations (the largest ever undertaken in Chichester so far) at Shippams factory site have now finished. Below the factory site was revealed large areas of Roman, medieval and later Chichester. The information gleaned will enable a better/ clearer understanding of settlement and industry throughout these periods. (PCA).

Chichester: Former Shippams Social Club site, East Walls/ New Park Road. (NGR SU 86405 04925). Redevelopment plans for New Park Road, Eastgate, have necessitated an evaluation of the archaeological potential of the site. The west side trenches have located and surveyed the outer earthwork defenses of the Roman and medieval city walls and evaluation trenches on the east side, situated above areas of the Litten cemetery (c. 1120 to c.1860), have located burials. (PCA).

Crawley: St Wilfrid's RC School. (NGR TQ 25872 36228). Geophysical survey undertaken by PC-G in advance of a replacement school development, close to the find-spot of prehistoric pottery, has revealed a few anomalies that may be linear and pit features. The geology is Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand/ clay. (Pre-Construct Geophysics).

Crawley: Public car park, Haslett Avenue East. (NGR TQ 27394 36508). A watching brief on geotechnical test pits and boreholes revealed no sign of a small stream that existed in the 19th century. (DAS).

Eartham: Selhurstpark. The District Council's public archaeology excavations (2nd year), at Selhurst Park, Eartham, have exposed an enclosure ditch, containing (so far) middle I.A. pottery. Within the interior, pits and postholes were revealed, suggesting a roundhouse and associated features. Excavations around the site have revealed further enclosure and Roman settlement evidence. (CDC).

Ford: Ford Aerodrome. (NGR SU 99606 02720). Excavation work following previous evaluation, in advance of construction of a Materials Recycling Facility, has revealed several phases of field system, probably Iron Age and Roman, and at least two prehistoric urn burials together with a Mid Bronze Age axe fragment. Post excavation work is ongoing. (ASE).

Horsham, The Vicarage Garden, The Causeway. (NGR TQ 17110 30292). An evaluation and subsequent excavation in advance of house building have revealed pits and ditches (plot boundaries?) of medieval date in the former Glebe, close to St Mary's church, and part of the foundations of the pre-1840s Vicarage. (ASE).

Horsham (North): Langhurstwood Quarry, Langhurstwood Road. (NGR TQ 1782 3508). A watching brief on the first small phase of woodland clearance, preparatory to extension of the clay pit, revealed no archaeological features. (Berkshire Archaeology Services).

Lancing: New Monks Farm. (NGR TQ 195 055). An ongoing watching brief during golfcourse construction in area of known medieval salterns. Results so far blank. (ASE).

Lancing: Unit 2, Chartwell Industrial Estate. (NGR TQ 17380 03928). Monitoring of test pits in advance of construction of an Energy Recovery Facility, has revealed alluvial deposits of the Teville Stream, of palaeoenvironmental potential. (DAS/ASE).

Lancing: Unit 17, Chartwell Road, Lancing. (NGR TQ 17513 03993). Drilling of geoarchaeological boreholes in advance of construction of a Waste Recycling Facility has revealed alluvial silts of a tributary of the Teville Stream. Palaeoenvironmental assessment of the samples is currently taking place. (DAS/ASE).

Loxwood: Devil's Hole Field, Headfoldswood Farm. (NGR TQ 03255 31355). A watching brief, during to stripping of topsoil and deposition of silt spoil from lock restoration on the Wey & Arun Canal, revealed no archaeological features or finds. (ASE).

Midhurst, King Edward VII hospital. The building survey continues. However the architectural complexity of the building is causing a few headaches when attempting to record and describe features like brickwork etc. Report should be completed soon. (SIAS)

Pulborough: Water Treatment Works, Wiggonholt. (NGR TQ 06221 17996). A watching brief on construction works for new tanks and other structures revealed the base of a pit or scoop containing Roman pottery. The site lies close to the River Arun and the Roman finds may be related to the known nearby bath house and industrial complex. (ASE)

Shoreham: 94-96 High Street, (NGR TQ 21318 05103). A small excavation in advance of redevelopment in the medieval centre of Shoreham, on the High Street frontage, revealed pits containing medieval pottery. (ASE)

Shoreham: medieval church of St Mary de Haura. Work has recovered what is thought to be the earliest known paint palette: an oyster shell with yellow ochre paint marks on its surface.

Sidlesham: Water Treatment Works, Selsey Road. (NGR SZ 84837 95756). A watching brief and geoarchaeological desk-based assessment of deposits of potential raised beach interest: work continuing. (Boxgrove Project/ UCL)

***Sompting: Park Brow.** Fieldwalking is scheduled for November and highlighted hotspots may lead to further work. However the area to be walked is quite large so volunteers would be welcome. Please contact Joe Barrow at Worthing Arch. Soc. if you are interested in participating.

South Stoke Bridge, South Stoke, nr Arundel. (NGR TQ 02701 10163). An industrial archaeological record of the single-span steel truss bridge is being carried out by Jacobs Babbie in

advance of replacement of the bridge by a new structure. Private documentary research (J Mills, WSCC) has revealed that the bridge was built in 1863, designed by Charles Henry Gough (c.1831-1907), a Civil Engineer working in Sussex in the early 1860s (Arundel). The iron bridge, known as the Sewers Bridge or White Bridge, replaced an earlier timber bridge built in 1839 to cross a new cut across a horseshoe meander of the River Arun. The 1863 bridge's ironwork was constructed by Thomas Dunn & Co of Manchester; the timberwork and stone abutments by James Sturt, carpenter and builder, of Arundel. Geoarchaeological assessment of borehole cores, taken preparatory to drilling of new abutment piles in the alluvial silts of the River Arun, will be undertaken by Archaeoscape. (Jacobs Bابتie and Archaeoscape, and J Mills (West Sussex County Council))

Steynning: Steynning Grammar School, Shooting Field. (NGR TQ 17833 11266). A watching brief on construction works for a new artificial turf pitch revealed no archaeological features. (ASE).

Warbleton: Blacksmiths Corner Excavations have recovered Roman artefactual material and revealed evidence of a previously unknown, modest sized, aisled villa of the 1st C. AD onward. (WAS)

Worthing: Forest Farm Barn, Arundel Road, West Durrington. (NGR TQ 10707 05335). The archaeological evaluation proved that there were some 19th to early 20th century features. These were likely to be the remains of farmyard buildings that are shown on 1875 OS map onwards. (ASE).