

Sussex Archaeology Round-up (June-August 2007)

East Sussex

East Sussex Aggregates Resource Project. Grant applications to EH and ALS have been successful for assessing the historic environment of the E. Sussex aggregate resource project. Areas targeted are the river terrace gravels in the Ouse and Cuckmere Valleys, the Folkestone Beds around Ditchling and the foreshores of Pevensey and Rye. (ESCC).

***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).

***Ashburnham: Kitchenham farm (north of Castle Croft/Castle Croft).** Finds handed over by the farmer have been identified and recorded. Dates arrived at for the coins and pottery range between 80 -350 AD. Fieldwalking has also recovered a large quantity of Roman building material (over 200kg), some of which may bear the markings of the *Classis Britannica*. Of the pottery retrieved, some may be black *Samian*, according to Andrew Woodcock. Further metal detecting recovered 14 more coins. The resistivity survey is being processed but the initial results look interesting. The topographic survey of lower eastern field is now completed. Nearby Castle Croft is to be excavated, hopefully in the autumn once the cattle are removed. Further details from Kevin and Lynn Cornwell: 01424 224405. e-mail haarg@hotmail.co.uk (HAARG).

Barcombe, Pond Field, Culver Farm. An open area excavation revealed a further stretch of the Roman road as well as evidence of pits and post-holes lying adjacent it. A range of finds were recovered including pottery and tile. (Rob Wallace/CCE).

Barcombe Roman Villa. The 2007 season included looking at another segment of the BA barrow ditch discovered in 2001 and the excavation of a flint-lined well and surrounding construction pit to a depth of 3m. The western boundary wall of the villa has been traced up to the area revealed in 2001 and a number of additional pits and post-holes revealed and surveyed. Excavations in the adjacent Church Field are planned next year.. (CCE/MSFAT).

Bexhill – Hastings link road. Work still being undertaken on the geoarchaeological survey and the recent lidar survey has produced interesting topographical results. (OA).

Bexhill: St. Peter and St. Paul Junior School, 'The Mound' Linkwell Field. Bexhill Museum Group is interested in looking at the 'Mound' in the grounds. Although the earthwork was originally surveyed by Gabor Thomas and Gwen Jones, further work is needed to establish formation/function. HAARG plans to be involved with practical work at the site next summer alongside pupils from the school. (HAARG).

***Bishopstone Tidemills.** Fieldwork has now shifted from the coalyard/stable area, where the last recording is taking place, to Trench 4. This was situated to investigate the original profile of the creek before 'William Catt's' wharf was constructed. This showed a complex series of deposits resting on top of the natural creek bank. A hitherto unknown creek revetting wall was uncovered which is likely to be C18th, or very early 19th century. A series of dump deposits had been used to infill behind this wall and a brick lintol drain, presumably from the millhouse, constructed. The wall's brick facing had been robbed and then the timber quay built some 5m further out into the creek. A complex series of dumped infill layers had then been dumped behind the new timber quay burying the old masonry wall. Later repairs to the timber quay had further damaged the earlier wall as had the laying of early C20th- century drains. The base of the creek was not reached due to its depth and flooding. Volunteers are still welcome, please contact Luke Barber on research@sussexpast.co.uk (SAS).

Brighton: Hollingdean. A watching brief revealed a huge mound of Victorian glass vessels, stoneware and ceramics. Photographs were taken and a large collection of items recovered. The area had restrictions for access and has since been removed. (BHAS).

Brighton: Lansdown Road, Hove. The Brighton raised beach was traced and looked at in more detail than before. This has revealed evidence of previously known but unconfirmed geology for the area i.e. peat deposits (first mentioned during Victorian sewer pipe-laying). (Boxgrove Project/Matt Pope).

***Brighton: Rocky Clump.** (NGR TQ 328 101). Excavations have revealed more of the ditches known from previous seasons, but with an incredible depth of soil suggesting that there may be a large ploughed out lynchet north of the rural complex. Some interesting finds of pottery, including a small Roman cup handle and decorated Samian. Box flue tile has also been recovered in the deeper sections. (BHAS).

Brighton: Piddingworth Manor. (n. of Stanmer). (NGR TQ 327 105). A geophysical survey is planned. Permit now granted. (BHAS).

Brighton: Old Boat Corner. (NGR TQ 3245 0965). Following earlier geophysics permission has now been granted for some trial trenching. (BHAS).

South Crowborough Water Pipeline scheme. A RB ditch and interesting prehistoric flint has been revealed during monitoring (Network Archaeology).

Darwell – Beauport Park Water pipeline. Monitoring is planned. (Reported by ESCC).

Eastbourne: Shinewater site at Willingdon Levels. Funding has been established for the re-appraisal of the environmental information relating to the site. So far the site seems relatively stable (according to ground water monitoring since 2000) and plans are afoot to raise the sites profile again at a local level, through a series of visual and written methods to stimulate interest from the wider public. (ESCC).

Groombridge to Langton Water pipe scheme. (with Kent CC). Aerial assessments and geophysical survey has been undertaken (Reported by ESCC).

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).

Hastings: Water Supply Pipeline. (NGR TQ 723 214 to TQ 791 133). Magnetometry survey revealed a number of linear features spread along the entire route with some obvious concentrations. Discrete features also noted. These are likely to relate to former field systems, but settlement activity may also be represented - to be tested by intrusive investigations in due course. (ASE).

Hazards Green - Boreham St. Water pipeline. An archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey have been carried out. (reported by ESCC).

Lewes: Baxters Printworks. (NGR TQ 416 101). Final phase of open area excavation currently underway, with some subsequent watching brief phases in due course. More medieval pits - pot, shell and bone assemblages. 2 x medieval keys and a possible bread oven/kiln have been found together with part of the probable Saxon burgh ditch (currently under investigation). (ASE).

Newhaven: Bridge Street. (NGR 544667 101441). At least 1m of made ground was observed within trial pits during a watching brief, with finds of 19th century date recovered relating to a series of roads/tracks. Further work due on site to take place. (ASE).

Newhaven: Meeching Road. Martin Bell's finds of in-situ flint work from the site have been reviewed. It is now sure that it is possible to reject its original classification as Upper Palaeolithic and instead suggest that the refitting debitage relates to biface manufacture of either Neanderthal or Archaic Homo Sapien origin. It is therefore now considered essential that some attempt at sediment dating/characterisation is made during any redevelopment of the site or its environs. (Matt Pope/UCL).

Ouse Valley Transfer Scheme - South East Water pipelines. Prehistoric archaeology was revealed in several areas along the pipeline route including BA occupation evidence at South Heighton and IA-RB complexes at Ringmer. (Network Archaeology).

Patching: New Barn. (NGR 508242 109056). Evidence for a degree of terracing around the existing barn was located during a watching brief. No archaeological features have been located so far. (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).

Ringmer: Clay Hill reservoir. Further work is planned (Reported by ESCC).

Rye Primary School. (TQ 918 207). A Victorian rubbish pit and (late?) post-medieval drainage dyke located during a watching brief. Work still ongoing. (ASE).

Sedlescombe: Bulmer Lodge, land to the rear of. A watching brief located nothing of archaeological interest. (HAARG).

Uckfield: crossing the River Uck. Monitoring is planned for this pipeline scheme (Reported by ESCC).

***Udimore: Road End Fm.** The earthworks here have been interpreted by EH's Sarah Newsome, as possibly medieval in date and may be cultivation related. Further plans here include a full survey of the hillside. Further details from Kevin and Lynn Cornwell: 01424 224405. e-mail haarg@hotmail.co.uk (HAARG).

Winchelsea: Mariteau Court. (TQ 902 171). Engineer's methodology for creating a small cellar beneath existing building hampered recording, but no features predating the existing late post-medieval house were located. (ASE).

West Sussex

Aldingbourne: Lidsey Landfill Site Extension. (NGR centred SU 92700 03934). Current excavations, following trial trench investigation in 2005, during the first phase of the landfill extension works, have now revealed three Bronze Age enclosures, adjoining the Aldingbourne Rife, and two ditched trackways belonging to a Romano-British field system. On-site archaeological work in Phase 1 is now complete. Project continuing. (TVAS).

Balcombe: Balcombe Wastewater Treatment Works, London Road. (NGR TQ 31383 28475). A watching brief on ground excavations for new structures and an access road at the Balcombe WTW, on ground partly overlying alluvial deposits of a tributary of the River Ouse, revealed no ancient deposits or features. (ASE).

Beedings. The large excavation followed up a BHAS geophysical survey of two areas east and west of the castle, completed some years ago. Parallel fissures showed up clearly in the area to the west but in the east the sub-surface anomalies were not discernable. On further inspection of the fissures in the west not a lot of archaeology was revealed and that which was recovered dated from the Mesolithic. On re-examination and appraisal of the geophysical data for the East field, a ditch-like feature was interpreted and during fieldwork that followed, Palaeolithic flintwork was recovered from the upper part of the ditch. When comparing the tools with a sample recovered from earlier fieldwork near the site and now stored at the British Museum, obvious differences were observed leading to the interpretation that this new site may be that of a Neanderthal hunting camp on

Beedings Hill. Further fieldwork is planned to locate further similar sites in the area. (Matt Pope/UCL with WAS).

Bersted: Land at North of. (NGR SU 9169 0146 – 9327 0124). Archaeological monitoring of geotechnical boreholes and test pits has taken place, following trial trench excavation on this large proposed housing and relief road site in 2005, when a number of areas of archaeological features of Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman date were revealed. In the recent geotechnical investigation, calcareous deposits have been revealed below brickearth, possibly comparable with similar deposits at the related proposed relief road/ housing site at Felpham, to the east. These deposits, of Pleistocene date, belong to the Merston raised beach (running from Brighton - Pagham). One of the tributaries of the Aldingbourne Rife was also located - this has revealed the importance played by Rifes in the last ice-age. may belong to a series of periglacial freshwater lakes, associated with one of the younger Sussex raised beaches. Further work on site may be carried out in due course. (ASE/Matt Pope/UCL).

Binsted: Church Farm, Revell Hill earthwork and tile kiln. The archaeological investigations at these sites has now been written up in the Worthing Archaeological Society Journal: Vol 3, No. 7. (WAS).

Bognor Regis: Bognor Regis Community College, Westloats Lane. (NGR SU 92369 00173). Archaeological investigation have been undertaken in advance of the Community College revitalization scheme, adjoining the 1998 excavations of a RB field system. Geophysical survey (magnetometry) on this brickearth site by Archaeological Surveys revealed some linear magnetic anomalies. In subsequent trial trench investigation, a number of these were found to relate to late post-medieval field boundaries. However, small areas of ancient archaeological linear and discrete features (Bronze Age, Romano-British, and medieval) were revealed. Test pit excavation (DAS) revealed calcareous deposits below brickearth, overlying and underlying marine sands; possibly comparable with the calcareous deposits recently revealed at Bersted and Felpham. Further work on site may be carried out in due course. (Archaeological Surveys Ltd, ASE and DAS).

Boxgrove. A new witness section at the Boxgrove site itself is being prepared to replace the now backfilled area previously used to show students a section through the stratigraphy of the raised beach, cliff and land surfaces. This is being funded through English Nature and although not exactly the same as the previous section, it will also show basic stratigraphy and land surfaces. (Matt Pope/UCL/English Nature).

Burgess Hill: Folders Farm, Folders Lane. (TQ 329 182). An ongoing open area being expanded around evaluation trenches. Possible prehistoric features revealed including a ditch and a scatter of pits. (ASE).

Chichester: New Park Centre (just outside the East Gate of the city walls). Trial trenching is expected to necessitate further fieldwork which will complement previous fieldwork at the nearby Shiphams site. (CDC).

Climping School. The last known 50-person WW2 school air-raid shelter in West Sussex was demolished. A drawn and photographic survey was carried out before/during its destruction. (SAS).

Crawley: 1A-3A High Street. (NGR TQ 26802 36417). A single trial trench revealed only C19th/ C20th- features, with no surviving evidence of medieval occupation. (ASE).

Crawley: 12 Springfield Road. (former Ball's Yard). (NGR TQ 26670 36352). A single trial trench, in advance of redevelopment, at the southern edge of the medieval historic centre of Crawley (just south of the railway), and adjoining the former stables of the site of a late C19/ early C20th- brewery, revealed no medieval features, only part of the cobbled yard of the former brewery. No further work intended. (Sutton Archaeological Services).

Crawley: Garden and car park of Edgeworth House and Wing House, Buckingham Gate, Gatwick Airport. (NGR TQ 29305 41336). Trial trench excavation in advance of hotel redevelopment revealed no datable ancient features contemporary with the 16th-century timber-framed buildings on the site. (Framework Archaeology).

Graffham: Graffham First School. (NGR SU 92916 16774). A watching brief on access improvement works to the school, opposite St Giles' parish church, has so far revealed no archaeological features. Work continues. (ASE).

Hassocks: Land west of Mackie Avenue. (NGR centred TQ 3100 1630). During trial trench excavations in 2005, in connection with proposed house building, archaeological features of Middle and late Bronze Age and Romano-British date were identified. Five areas of this Lower Greensand site have been identified for strip-map-assess-recording. The first and largest area (2.26 hectares) has now been stripped of topsoil, showing a field system, pits and other features of Roman date, probably belonging to a farmstead. There is also a scatter of archaeological features of probable later prehistoric date (pits and post-holes). Further work is anticipated. (OA).

North Horsham: Langhurstwood Quarry, Langhurstwood Road. (NGR TQ 17716 34905). Fieldwalking prior to clay extraction revealed no concentrations of artefacts. (Berkshire Archaeological Services).

Hurstpierpoint: Land west of Orchard Way and north of Albourne Road. (NGR TQ 2750 1675). Archaeological recording of a 0.2 ha area around the find-spot, during trial trench excavation in 2004, of a concentration in topsoil of sherds of Middle/ Late Saxon date, revealed no ancient archaeological features. (TVAS).

Iping: Milland, Robin's Hill. (NGR SU 84700 25184). A watching brief on the replacement of a Southern Water main in the roadway, close to the 1908 find-spot of a section of Roman tile paving and probable cremation burial. No finds as yet. Work continues. (ASE for CgMS Consulting).

Lancing: Thornberry Middle School, Freshbrook Road. (NGR TQ 18907 04313). Following recent trial trench and test pit excavation, in advance of building work for a new school extension, a further geoarchaeological test pit has been excavated. Estuarine and probably marine deposits of Pleistocene date were located, at a depth over 2 metres. Some of these may represent deposits, albeit reworked, of the Pagham raised beach. (ASE & DAS).

Lancing: Boundstone Community College, Upper Boundstone Lane. (NGR TQ 517587 105098). Following earlier trial trenching further work has revealed a probable post-medieval hedge-line has been revealed in subsequent work. (ASE).

Littlehampton: Toddington Nurseries, Worthing Road. (NGR TQ 0365 0374). Further excavation in advance of housing development has revealed the bases of possible sunken lanes of Late Bronze Age and Roman date, a LBA ditched trackway, a probable Neolithic ditch containing a complete tranchet axe and part of a polished axe in the ditch terminal, Bronze Age pits, and part of a Roman field system. Work continues. (WA & CgMS Consulting).

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. Trial fieldwork in summer did not reveal much of interest. Next year it is hoped to continue with a two week 'season' of further excavation. (WAS).

Patching: New Barn, Michelgrove. (NGR TQ 08246 09059). A watching brief on ground excavations associated with a barn conversion just to the west of Curwen's New Barn Down LBA settlement site revealed no archaeological features. (ASE).

Shermanbury: The Bull Inn Water Pumping Station. (NGR TQ 21399 17484 to 21078 18122). A watching brief on excavations for Southern Water mains services revealed no archaeological features or finds. (ASE for CgMs Consulting).

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

Sompting: Boundstone Nursery School, Boundstone Lane. (NGR TQ 17587 05098). A watching brief on contractors' access works and initial foundation trenches for a school extension revealed only late post-medieval features. (ASE).

Steining: Land north of The Street, Bramber. (NGR centred TQ 1895 1100). Archaeological monitoring of geotechnical boreholes in the alluvial meadows of the River Adur, in advance of excavation of new Southern Water mains services, has revealed well-preserved organic deposits within the alluvium at a depth of about 4 metres. Project continuing. (ASE).

Upper Beeding: Church Lane. (NGR 519331 110807 to 518604 111985). Boreholes and test pits were observed along the route of a proposed pipeline crossing the Adur floodplain and in close proximity to scheduled medieval salterns. Peat deposits, sealed beneath alluvium, at c. 6m below existing ground level were located. One heavily rolled possible scraper recovered from one of the boreholes. (ASE).

***Warbleton: Blacksmiths Corner.** A second season of excavation has just been finished. An apsoidal end and possible plunge pools are suspected and although sparse, the finds range in date from 1-2nd century- pottery and 3rd-4th century- coins. Further fieldwork here is expected next year. (WAS).

West Tarring Boys' Club, High Street, West Tarring. (NGR TQ 13204 04099). Observation of a builders' small trenches to the rear of the medieval High Street of West Tarring revealed no archaeological deposits, features or finds. (WSCC).

Worthing: Durrington Middle School, Salvington Road. (NGR TQ 12411 05059). Trenches and a watching brief, carried out in connection with creation of new hard play areas and building work within the school, revealed no ancient archaeological features. (DAS).

Worthing: Our Lady of Sion RC Junior School, Richmond Road. (NGR TQ 1450 0278). A watching brief on foundation trenches and other works for a new building on the site revealed no archaeological features. (DAS).