

## Archaeology Round-up (to March 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.** Excavation works will continue at the site alongside public training courses. Work will be concentrating in the farmyard area where early work is suggesting the presence of another building (CCE/MSFAT).

**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. (ASE).

**Bexhill-Hastings Link Road.** Geotechnical test-pits will be monitored as a preliminary measure. (ASE).

**Brede Steam Engine.** The engines at the pumping station have been re-installed. (SIAS).

**Brighton: Hollingbury Camp.** Matt Pope organized a geophysical survey of the interior of the hillfort. Features were revealed. (with BHAS).

**Brighton: Falmer Stadium site.** Field-walking recovered small quantities of prehistoric flintwork and fire-cracked flint but generally not much else. Further survey is planned in another area of the site. (BHAS)

**Brighton: Kings Road Arches.** During a watching brief during Southern Water flood scheme a an undated flint and chalk mortared structure was located under the floor of one of the arches. (ASE).

**Brighton: Old Mill Works, Highcroft Villas.** Ongoing monitoring work has so far produced no archaeology. (ASE).

**Brighton: Ovingdean.** Field-walking and survey work will continue in 2006. (BHAS).

**\*Brighton: Rocky Clump.** The 2005 season recovered limited finds, but fieldwork has revealed intercutting pits, a raised platform of chalk debris, pits, ditches and post hole in the 'Shrine' area, and a large north/south ditch that meets the east/west ditch in the northeast. Excavations will continue in 2006. (BHAS).

**Brighton: Stafford Road.** A watching brief found no archaeology. (BHAS).

**Brighton: Woodingdean cemetery.** Fieldwalking to the south of the cemetery under difficult conditions revealed some flint but no pottery as yet. Further investigation planned. Geophysics to the west of the cemetery indicated anomalies to be looked at in 2006. (BHAS).

**Buxted: Queenstock Furnace site.** Survey work has been carried out to locate extensions to the site. This has resulted in the discovery of ore-workings. (WIRG).

**Charleston: A27 road improvements.** A watching brief revealed a possible C18th- coach road surface above a possible section of the Lewes to Pevensey Roman road. Dating evidence from the lower road surface included one small abraded piece of East Sussex ware. (ESCC).

**Cooden: Friar's Charm (near Cooden Moat).** A watching brief recovered a little C19th-century material only. (HAARG).

**Eastbourne: Willingdon Wastewater Treatment Works. Seven Sisters Road.** Watching brief revealed no archaeology. (ASE)

**Firle: Firle Place.** The estate buildings, including stables, riding school, gas house, granary, dairy, forge and dovecote are to be surveyed this year (the ice house was surveyed about 10 years ago) (SIAS).

**\*Firle: Roman building.** Greg Chuter plans to excavate a large area of 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)

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

**Hastings: Beckley, Glossam's Place.** The final season of excavation work is planned to run for 9 days from 13<sup>th</sup> May on this medieval manor site. (HAARG).

**Hastings: Dicken's Cottage, High Street.** Small-scale excavations are continuing at this site. A drainage ditch has been located to the rear of the building. Most finds so far have dated from the C17th onward, though a sherd of medieval pottery has also been recovered. (HAARG).

**Hastings: Arlington House, Rye Hill.** A watching brief did not find any archaeological deposits. (HAARG)

**Hastings: West Hill lift.** The engine house, built at the end of the C19th-, was surveyed prior to a new disabled access being installed. (ASE with Ron Martin/SIAS)

**Hastings: 4 Winding Street.** Smoke rooms (uncertain use) within a late C19th- warehouse to the rear of 54 High Street were surveyed prior to residential conversion. The warehouse is probably one mentioned in the 1880s as being a grocer's. The smoke rooms are thought to be a later addition. (SIAS).

**Lewes: North Street car park.** An evaluation has revealed a number of medieval pits dating from the C11th/12<sup>th</sup> to C14th. (TVAS).

**Maresfield: Wastewater treatment works.** A geophysical survey revealed indistinct features along the alignment of the London to Lewes Roman road. (ASE).

**Mayfield: Little Furnace Wood.** Exploration of sub-surface features via keyhole excavation (due to conditions) has revealed a possible 2<sup>nd</sup> furnace. Dated C2nd AD: further work is due in the spring. (WIRG/MSFAT).

**Mayfield (parish).** Following up C13th- documentation of smiths in the area two possible bloomery sites have been identified but are as yet undated. (WIRG).

**Peacehaven.** A resistivity survey, possibly followed by excavation is planned for a barrow in danger of being lost to coastal erosion. (BHAS/MSFAT).

**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. (ASE)

**Udimore (close to Flat Farm).** A resistivity survey has been undertaken of an area opposite Winchelsea, to confirm suggestions the site may have been a ferry point or small harbour. Results so far point to geological anomalies but metal detectorists have located Roman coins and medieval finds in the locale. (HAARG).

**Windmill Hill.** The windmill has had its sweeps replaced and the winding system modified. (reported by SIAS).

**Withyham (parish): Blackham.** Trial trenching revealed an area of hard-standing made from slag and has disproved this site as a bloomery. (WIRG).

### 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 Goblestubbs. Some small excavation work may take place this year. (WAS)

**Portsmouth and Arundel Canal.** Further investigation along the canal's route has revealed more evidence of original canal structures. (SIAS)

**Bignor: Bignor Roman Villa.** A watching brief was undertaken during drainage works designed to protect the mosaics. An early 20<sup>th</sup> century soak-away was investigated as part of this process. (WSA).

**Billingshurst: Alex Hill Hall.** Excavations revealed an undated (possibly post-med.) boundary ditch and undated pit (a watching brief of the construction trench also revealed a post-med (?) pit/ditch) (ASE).

**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. (WAS).

**Boxgrove Project: Valdoe Assessment Survey:** (NGR SU 4875 1085) In 2006 a new project, funded by DEFRA through the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund, was established. This project aims to determine the full extent of the Boxgrove palaeolandsurfaces within the vicinity of the Val doe Quarry, to determine the degree to which the Quarry has impacted upon these deposits and to develop a plan for the future management of this unique and precious scientific resource. The Project is also looking at the wider distribution of the Boxgrove palaeolandsurface across the Goodwood Estate and into the Lavant Valley. This part of the county has produced a large quantity of Palaeolithic surface finds which we feel may be largely derived from subcrops of the Slindon Formation. (Matt Pope/UCL).

**Bracklesham Bay.** Fieldwork suggests coastal erosion may have erased pre-historic and Roman archaeology.

**Chichester: Drayton gravel pits (north and south).** Excavations have now finished and have revealed a Roman field system which had been expanded three times in C2nd/3<sup>rd</sup>. The later ditches contained more pottery suggesting the settlement was closer by at this time. There was also a pit, possibly originally containing a burial and iron-bound box. There have also been Neolithic features and Late Bronze Age gullies and cremations found in the northern pit with a ?canalised silt-filled channel. All areas had been badly plough-damaged. (Northampton).

**Chichester: Chichester harbour project.** continues with field-walking and shore-walking. ie in Birdham, Appledraum etc. Potential DMVs are being targeted for identification and survey and 'condition surveys' on eroding harbour structures will also be carried out. (CDAS)

**Chichester: St. Johns St. Chichester:** A group of C19th- buildings, which became a print-works in 1902 has been surveyed prior to demolition. Excavation work may take place during/after demolition. (SIAS).

**Chichester: Shipham's Factory Site.** Excavation work is ongoing but an area on the east side has been completed. Wells, cesspits, evidence of a Roman street, (probably early) planked lined sewers have been located as well as extensive medieval and post-medieval deposits (mainly pits). Interesting stratigraphy present suggests quality Roman archaeology might be on the cards. (PCA).

**Chichester: City Walls.** A new conservation management plan for the walls of Chichester will include trial trenching in selected areas to further understand them. (CDAS)

**Chichester: Bow Hill, Kingley Vale. (Western end of the Chichester Entrenchments)** Earthwork survey work, in conjunction with Dave McOmish of English Heritage, is to be undertaken. (CDAS)

**Coultershaw Beam Pump.** Lottery funding for a planning grant is awaited regarding the pump and some clearance of the lock of the waterway has been implemented. Some survey work may be undertaken (SIAS).

**Crawley: Ifield Road.** Work revealed post-medieval ditches and an undated pit containing iron slag. : Survey in and around this area (centre of West Green hamlet) has attempted to substantiate the theory that this had been the site of the pre-urban centre of Crawley. Negative evidence from the collected fieldwork appears to refute the theory. (ASE)

**Crawley: Rathlin Road.** On the site of John Gibson-Hill's 1970s excavations of the early Roman domestic and iron working settlement at Broadfield, trial trenching has revealed some of JGH's features still remaining, despite levelling for a car park and pavilion construction. This will greatly help in tying in the finds with the features of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century fieldwork. (TVAS).

**\*Eartham: Selhurstpark.** Chichester District Council will be running a second season of work on a Middle Iron Age settlement site at Selhurstpark, Eartham, West Sussex. The excavation will be for four weeks from Tuesday 1st August until Saturday 26th August, with no work being undertaken on Sundays and Mondays. It is aimed to have approximately 35 volunteers/day. People interested in taking part should contact George Anelay (Heritage Officer) on 01243 534515, or e-mail [ganelay@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:ganelay@chichester.gov.uk). *It should be noted* that preference for places will be given to those living within Chichester District. The site will only be open to the public on two designated **Open Days**, which will take place on Saturday 19th August and Saturday 26th August.

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

**Lavington: Seaford College.** Future survey work is planned for the pumping station. (SIAS)

**Littlehampton: Land adjacent Littlehampton Hospital.** Excavations have revealed a LBA/EIA enclosure with entrances. (ASE)

**Littlehampton: Toddington Nurseries.** Work has been revealing archaeology from the Neolithic through to Saxon periods, including Late Bronze Age pits/wells. (WA).

**Lower Beeding: Old Bucks Head.** Dr. Annabelle Hughes examined the timber frame core of a C19<sup>th</sup> century building. The results concluded the timber present to be of poor quality and probably belonged to an outbuilding shown on an C18<sup>th</sup> map.

**Loxwood: Onslow Arms (land adjacent).** An auger survey and watching brief revealed an unexpected 5 metres of alluvium in the flood plain of the River Lox, with organic deposits below. (WA)

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

**Patching: Site of Patching farmhouse.** A parch-mark and resistivity survey were carried out on the site of the post-medieval farmhouse. Evaluation trenches revealed the well-preserved remains of the building showing a number of phases of construction up until at least the late C19<sup>th</sup>. Other features included a cellar and soakaway/cess-pit. Most finds are of C19<sup>th</sup>- century date (WAS).

**Pulborough: Spiro-Gills factory site.** Trial trenching of a buried river/stream channel (a tributary of the Arun) has revealed medieval and possibly earlier deposits below c. 3m of post-medieval deposits. Environmental samples will be taken to confirm dates. (?)

**Sele Priory.** A resistivity survey has been carried out around the building. (WAS).

**Slindon Estate.** Archaeological survey work in conjunction with the National Trust has been undertaken on prehistoric fields at Nore Wood and work is planned to excavate some ploughed out Bronze Age barrows this year. (WAS)

**Southwick: Manor Cottage.** A community archaeology project begun last year will continue in spring/early summer. (ASE with the Southwick society).

**Trotton (parish).** Field-walking was undertaken following up earlier work looking for tapping furnaces but only possible medieval mine pits were noted. (WIRG).

**Walberton church.** Survey work on the surrounding earthworks is hoped to take place in 2006. (WAS).

**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. (WAS & SU).

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

**Worth: Stone Court.** An evaluation has revealed a series of pits (one producing microliths), evidence for sandstone quarry pits, an ancient boundary (lynchet) and some undated ditches. More work is planned. (ASE).

**Worthing: Montague street.** A watching brief revealed 2 Victorian pits and a truncated ditch. (ASE).

**Worthing: Yeoman Way.** Small excavation/evaluation has revealed Late Bronze Age deposits/finds, including a ditched trackway and well preserved raised beach deposits (WA).