

## Sussex Archaeology Round-up (December 2006-March 2007)

### East Sussex

#### **\*Arlington: Roman 'Small Town' TQ 541068**

Post excavation on Arlington finds is recording the site as mid 1<sup>st</sup> to late 2<sup>nd</sup> / early 3<sup>rd</sup> century. There is evidence of at least two timber structures and a series of property boundaries. One of the timber structures appears to have burnt down. Dating evidence from the primary fill of the road ditches also shows a mid 1<sup>st</sup> century date, therefore dispelling the theory that this road was constructed at the same time as the fortress at Pevensey. This suggests that an early port existed in the Pevensey / Westham area. Approximately 30% of the pottery assemblage is imported, including Samian, Eastern Gaulish and Trier wares, which is unusual in this area of Sussex. Large quantities of CBM suggest a masonry building is (or was) located nearby, possibly the one sampled by Holmes in the late 60s which was unfortunately not recorded. There is also evidence of industrial activity on the site, including kiln or furnace linings, and large quantities of bloomery slag. Further geophysical survey is planned this year to assess the full extent of this site and negotiations with the farmer will hopefully get this field reverted from arable to pasture, thus protecting the site for the future. Greg is very grateful to the BHAS for all the hard work they have put into excavation and post ex assessment. Continuing excavation at this roadside 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)).

**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 to be undertaken in 2007/8 (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 resume 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).

**Beddingham: A27 Southerham road work.** (NGR TQ444 081) Jacobs are carrying out an ongoing watching brief, as yet no significant features recorded. (reported by ESCC).

**Bexhill-Hastings Link Road.** A three week long fieldwalking project is underway. (Oxford Archaeology).

**\*Bishopstone Tidemills.** Survey/fieldwork will restart in May. Work will continue on the Stationmaster's cottage, allotment area, coal-yard/stables, seaplane base, with further excavation

at the creek edge to find the last piece of wharf and original creek-bank profile. Volunteers are still welcome, please contact Luke Barber on [research@sussexpast.co.uk](mailto:research@sussexpast.co.uk) (SAS).

**Bodiam Castle.** (NGR TQ 7856 2563). Drainage trenching through an alluvial sequence revealed one Roman imbrex tile at a level just above peat deposits which are known to be of Bronze Age date. Observations on the north and west sides of the moat, where trees had blown over, indicated nothing of archaeological interest as the moat had been terraced into the natural slope at these points. A further watching brief was undertaken within the Great Hall of the castle during the replacement of the turf with gravel. Lowering of the ground level by c.120mm revealed a probable offset foundation of the north, possibly indicating the presence of a cellar below. The remains of a post-medieval fireplace/chimney were also revealed butting the north wall of the hall. The rest of the associated building remains were not observed and probably lie at a lower level. (ASE).

**Brighton: Castle Square.** (NGR TQ 531238 104078). A watching brief found nothing of archaeological interest. (ASE).

**\*Brighton: Rocky Clump.** Excavations will resume in April. (BHAS).

**Brighton: Stanmer Great Wood.** Fieldwork and clearance are being undertaken on the site of a late Bronze age Scheduled Ancient Monument. New finds include hard-hammer struck and fire-cracked flint. (BHAS/EH).

**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).

**Cooden Beach Cliff Face** (NGR TQ 715 066). A Mesolithic bladelet, a late Neolithic/early Bronze Age hollow scraper made from a beach pebble, five pieces of fire-cracked flint and two 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherds were recovered. (HAARG).

**\*Eastbourne: Pockocks Field.** A 4<sup>th</sup> excavation season is scheduled for the site this year. It is hoped to survey the earthworks and structural anomaly within the building. (ENHAS).

**Fletching: Sheffield Forest.** (TQ 4196 2636, TQ 4212 2663 and TQ 4218 2671). Three bloomery furnace sites have been located as part of the Ouse valley project. These are currently undated (WIRG).

**Hastings: Cooden Beach cliff-face.** Mesolithic, Neolithic/ EBA flintwork was recovered along with two 13<sup>th</sup> c. pot sherds. (HAARG).

**Hastings: Dicken's Cottage.** It is planned to return to the site for some further excavations this summer after the 19<sup>th</sup>- century exterior toilet is removed. (HAARG).

**Hastings: East Hill.** Survey work has been undertaken of extant earthworks. So far the work has not revealed anything significant over what the previous survey, carried out recently by ASE, found. The large bank of the Promontory fort is to be cleared of vegetation and surveyed. (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).

**Hastings: Glossams Place.** It is hoped the excavations on this medieval manor will be backfilled this summer. (HAARG/Andrew Woodcock).

**Hastings: White Rock Gardens.** (NGR TQ 812 094). Some medieval pottery wasters, thought to be from the nearby Bohemia Kiln, were noted in the flower beds. (HAARG).

**Icklesham: Icklesham Manor.** The owners of Icklesham Manor are willing to allow the group access to their land. They advise that they have a moat and believe they have a jetty on the south shore of the Brede estuary. The site is near the area HAARG excavated in the late 1970's/early 1980's. A Roman Road was discovered and recorded. (HAARG).

**Hove: Grande Avenue and Belfast Road.** Geoarchaeological investigations have recorded deposits of the Brighton-Norton Raised Beach which were impacted upon by sewer remediation work. (Matt Pope/UCL).

**Lewes: New Road.** (NGR 541308 110118). A watching brief was maintained during the cutting back of the bank. This revealed further post-medieval deposits and suggested that the terrace may be part of an early post-medieval chalk-pit. (ASE).

**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. (WIRG/MSFAT).

**Mayfield: Mayfield Fm, Mayfield Lane, Hollington.** A watching brief will monitor the construction of 3-4 new houses close to this Grade II listed building. (HAARG).

**Netherfield Place Fm.** Small excavation work is scheduled for this moated site in April – weather permitting. (HAARG).

**Ninfield: Castle croft.** A geophysical survey was undertaken and some East Sussex Ware, tile and some Roman coins recovered. (HAARG).

**Ouse Valley Transfer Scheme - South East Water pipelines.** Geophysics and walkover surveys are planned in advance of easement strip (ESCC).

**Peacehaven: Dorothy Avenue.** A small-scale watching brief has located Mesolithic and Neolithic flintwork, some of it fire-cracked, but no features. (BHAS).

**Peacehaven: Land at Seaview and Keymer Avenues.** (TQ 41880 01070). **Open area excavation on this** 2 ha site has revealed BA and IA landscape features (drove-ways and enclosures) and a very interesting Mesolithic site. A large number of worked flints were revealed in an interesting context and following some geological test pits, by Matt Pope, the probable source of flint material was located within the area. (ASE).

**Playden: New England Lane, Shellfield.** A watching brief located little of interest. A few clay pipe stems were recovered, probably from the occupants of the Napoleonic camp on the opposite side of the road. (HAARG).

**Ringmer: Clay Hill reservoir.** The initial stages of this project is underway with an agreed 'enhanced' desk based assessment. There will be an extensive and long term project of archaeological investigation. (ESCC).

**Rushlake Green.** Fieldwalking located nothing of interest (WIRG).

**Rye: Leper Hospital.** It is possible some resistivity survey/excavations will be undertaken at this site this year to locate the leper hospital. (HAARG/Rye History Group).

**Saltdean: Grand Ocean Hotel.** (NGR 538476 102129). An evaluation suggested that the site had been significantly terraced during earlier phases of construction at the site. Nothing of archaeological interest was found. (ASE).

**Stanmer Great Wood.** Invited by English Heritage, a BMX cycle track and ramps that had used material from the Scheduled Ancient monument in the wood, which is a cross ridge dyke and dated to the Late Bronze Age, was removed by BHAS in 2000. The new investigations produced a few hard hammer struck flint flakes and some fire-cracked flint. (BHAS).

**Tunbridge Wells: Broadwater Warren.** Archaeological survey is planned for this 200ha site near Tunbridge Wells. This woodland area has recently been acquired by the RSPB with a view to restoring to heathland. This will necessitate an environmental impact assessment which will hopefully incorporate a full archaeological baseline survey in order to assess the restoration impact. (ESCC).

**Udimore: Road End Farm.** It is hoped the lynchets/terraces here will be subjected to some survey work. (HAARG/EH).

**Wadhurst: High Street.** Excavation of this Victorian midden is still planned but no dates yet set. (Wadhurst Historical Society).

**\*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).

**Wartling: lynchet** (NGR TQ 656 094). The excavation of an earthwork bank, on land behind the present buildings that are Wartling Place and Tremayne House (nee The Old Vicarage) within the village of Wartling, was undertaken as part of an on-going research excavation started in the autumn of 2003. The work was done as part of a project associated with the MA in Field Archaeology at University of Sussex. An 8m by 1m hand-dug trench was excavated at right angles to the bank. This revealed a sequence of successive layers of topsoil above the natural land surface (geology is Tunbridge Wells Sand) and dateable material (in this case specifically pottery). The pottery suggests ploughing and manuring from the 11-12<sup>th</sup> century onward into the 17<sup>th</sup> century, though the intensity decreased through time. The bank appears to be a field boundary lynchet of medieval origin. (Philippa Whitehill).

**Wartling: Rocklands Fm.** Some footpath field-walking recovered a little medieval pottery. (HAARG).

**Weald Forest Ridge Project** – HLF bid submitted and recommended to National Board for support. Potential to see LiDAR survey across northern part of West and East Sussex woodland areas to form baseline for further assessment, evaluation and management

**Winchelsea: Greyfriars.** (NGR 590467 116949). An evaluation established the alignment of the

medieval street layout and demolition deposits associated with roadside tenements encountered. No intrusive excavations into the archaeological horizons was undertaken at this stage. Further work likely in the coming months. (ASE).

**Woodingdean cemetery project.** More flintwork, including a barbed and tanged arrowhead, fire-cracked flint, oyster shells and pottery has been recovered. (BHAS).

### West Sussex

**Arundel Castle, Kitchen Garden.** A trial trench excavation has been undertaken in the now disused Arundel Castle Kitchen garden car park prior to reversion to garden use. This is on the site of the medieval Maison Dieu hospital. An upstanding wall and architectural features relating to the medieval building survive, built in to the churchyard wall of the adjoining St Nicholas' church. However during the work, some stone foundations have been revealed and suspected to be remains of the medieval hospital. Further investigation is being conducted. (WA).

**Arundel Estate/Park Earthworks.** Work with EH at Goblestubbs continues on the non-scheduled earthworks dated to the late I.A/ early RB. Work nearing completion. (WAS).

**Beedings.** It is planned to return to the Upper Palaeolithic site area of Pulborough, a very important site, probably the 2<sup>nd</sup> most important, next to Boxgrove, in the South East of England. (Matt Pope/UCL).

**Billingshurst: Forge Way.** (NGR 50821 12574). A watching brief recorded some possible ditches from a late medieval field system, including a droveway. (ASE).

**Bognor Relief Road (Felpham).** Trial excavations revealed three areas of BA archaeology and a scattering of Roman finds. More fieldwork is planned here. (?)

**Boxgrove Project: Valdoe Pit.** Since December the Boxgrove Project has overseen the completion of fieldwork at the Valdoe Quarry, West Sussex. This project has undertaken the characterization of surviving Boxgrove-age sediments which once extended right across the Valdoe Quarry as part of the Westbourne-Arundel Raised Beach. On-going assessment of recovered samples has demonstrated good potential for detailed environmental work to be undertaken as part of a proposed post-ex programme. Through this, and the analysis of modest artefactual signatures, it will be possible to develop a behavioural and ecological profile for this specific new locale of the Boxgrove palaeolandscape. The rescue assessment phase has now concluded and reports are being written up. The results show *in situ* archaeology continuing from Boxgrove (6km distant) to the Valdoe pit (same nature, buried fossil soil horizon). Preservation of pollen, micro-fauna and land molluscs is good, better than at Boxgrove, allowing a detailed environmental profile that suggests Boxgrove isn't just a site but a landscape that was constantly changing. (Matt Pope/UCL).

**Coultershaw:** The project directors are hoping to obtain a grant for regeneration of the site. Ron Martin has been surveying aspects of the site as part of an industrial archaeological evaluation. The floor beneath a corrugated barn that was suspected of being that of a dye house has been looked at. Unfortunately no evidence survives to confirm a dye house (vats), so Ron has concluded that it is indeed a floor but whether it was a dye house floor is still conjectural. The report has now been completed and includes the mills, rivers, navigation, toll roads and railways. (SIAS).

**Cowdray: Cowdray House Ruins.** A very exciting discovery has been made within the medieval Scheduled Monument: a service company dug a trench up the middle of the great hall and revealed stone foundations of an earlier building and part of a courtyard. This was recorded and future geophysical work may be implemented to reveal the extent of remains beneath the ruins. The site is opening to the public this spring following a huge restoration project (OA).

**Duncton Mill.** Recording is underway but the site is complicated and proving a challenge. (SIAS).

**Findon: 4 Elm Rise.** (NGR 512352 108962). An evaluation found nothing of archaeological interest. (ASE).

**Funtington: Ratham Mill.** A further geophysical survey (GPR), aided by a Margary Grant from The Sussex Archaeological Society, is planned for the site. It is hoped it will help assess the degree of preservation of the Romano-British temple as well as shed light on the strange circular anomaly found during the earlier survey work. (Sally Mountstephen/CCE).

**Highdown Hill.** As part of an EH detailed survey of the NT area at Highdown a resistivity survey of the enclosure will be undertaken in 2007. (WAS).

**Horsham: The Causeway.** (NGR TQ 517110 130292). A watching brief was maintained after the Stage 2 excavation was completed. Some grave stones were located in addition to Victorian deposits and some medieval pottery. (ASE).

**Nutbourne Sewer, Chichester District** (Between NGR 478715 106895 to 477827 1055494)  
Ongoing watching brief. Possibly very ephemeral traces of a Roman road identified on the A259 and some prehistoric flintwork in fields to the north. (ASE).

**Rackham.** More woodland clearance around two separate barrow groups by the RSPB (to replace with heathland) has revealed views across Amberley Wild Brooks towards Bury Hill (reported by Caroline Wells).

**Handcross/Slaugham.** Fieldwalking did not find anything of archaeological interest (part of Ouse Valley project) (WIRG).

**Slindon Estate.** In conjunction with the NT, scrub has been cleared from the park pale. Together with the lack of foliage common in winter, it can now be seen in its entirety. (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.  
(WAS).

**Warminghurst.** A 1707 map by Francis Hill refers to a building in the northwest corner of a field in Warminghurst, adjacent to the parish church (TQ 117 168). This land was owned in the 17th century, by William Penn, who founded Pennsylvania. In March 2006 a series of sample trenches were excavated in this field by three Sussex University MA Students. This followed a geophysical survey of the area conducted by Worthing Archaeological Society which took place



in February 2006. Three of the 2m by 1m trenches were hand dug in the northwest corner of the field. The fourth 2m by 1m trench was excavated further down the slope to capture sequential evidence from hill drift. This report outlines the results from two of the trenches: Trench B and D. Both trenches yielded a wide range of 16<sup>th</sup>- and 17<sup>th</sup>- century pottery. Trench D also contained evidence of a platform cut into the natural geology which could possibly be the foundations of the house documented in the 1707 map. (Donna Angel/CCE)

**Westergate: Land to the rear of 23-27 Ivy Lane.** (NGR 494077 105271). A Stage 2 excavation opened up a small area around the focus of activity identified in trial trenches. Further activity of the 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> centuries, but continuing into the 14<sup>th</sup> century, was located in the area of the trial trenches.

**Wiggonholt Common.** In order to increase public use of the area the **RSPB** are clearing a scheduled barrow site of woodland (to re-establish heathland). This will reveal the superb views from the site (above the 40m contour), westwards across the Arun Valley (report by Caroline Wells).