

**SUSSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL ROUND-UP**  
**(March to June 2012)**

**East Sussex**

**Alfriston, Rathfinny Estate**, (NGR 5040 0190) (REA12. OASIS ID: archaeol6-124297): An archaeological evaluation and watching brief noted evidence of a defunct, undated field system or systems and excavations in and around the derelict farm buildings. The foundations of a ruined barn were found to be very shallow and had been built using a variety of materials and techniques. It appeared that there had once been internal divisions within the structure prior to the floor level being raised by approximately 0.60m. Excavations in the east of the barn complex revealed the probable western wall of a now demolished dairy and associated drainage features. Test pits along the southern yard wall showed that the foundations of this structure were significantly deeper than those of the nearby barn (ASE).

**Barcombe Roman Villa**, (NGR TQ 417 142): The field containing the Barcombe Roman villa was surveyed to find any associated settlement, but apart from a small number of ditches missed, the excavations have covered the majority of what there is to find (David Staveley).

**Battle Abbey, Walled Garden**, (NGR 574900 115700) (BAW12. OASIS ID: 120348): An archaeological evaluation was undertaken within two separate areas within the Battle Abbey complex; in the Walled Garden, and adjacent to Battle Abbey School's tennis courts. Two trenches were mechanically excavated in order to establish the alignment of the buried western wall of Battle Abbey precinct as it passed to the south of the existing Battle Abbey School tennis courts. Sandstone masonry forming a 1.2m wide wall was encountered. In the Walled Garden several post-medieval garden features were exposed and a possible medieval or early post-medieval pond (ASE).

**Battle, St Mary's Church** (NGR 7503015815) (BCH11): A watching Brief was maintained during the construction of an extension to the 1950s vestry block, on the north side of the church. The c. 75m sq footprint intruded into the graveyard with metre deep foundations that revealed a number of grave cuts and two 18<sup>th</sup>- century brick and stone vaults. Associated drainage trenches also revealed a brick culvert and several mysterious features probably associated with access into the churchyard in antiquity (CG Archaeology).

**Battle, St Mary's Church**: A watching brief was maintained during the unblocking of the rood stairwell in 2010 and 2012. The rubble fill blocking the stairwell comprised architectural stone fragments of 13<sup>th</sup>- century date, medieval painted plaster fragments and 19<sup>th</sup>- century ceramic building material and iron nails. Documentary evidence revealed the gallery leading from the stairwell to the rood itself was of stone construction and supported on one or more stone arches. The rood stairwell and gallery have been dated to the 15<sup>th</sup> century due to their presence within the north east end of the north aisle – extended in the 15<sup>th</sup> century (CG Archaeology).

**Battle, 85 – 86 High Street**, (NGR 74895 15870) (BHS12): A watching brief was maintained on ground-works for two dwellings, located on land to the rear of Battle High Street. Deep foundations, c. 2 to 3m (due to nearby willow and eucalyptus), through topsoil, archaeological sub-soil and natural geology. The finds from the subsoil ranged between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. An oval shaped 'kiln/oven' was partially revealed cutting into the natural and contained a large amount of charcoal (mixed species (Mike Allen, pers. com)) and two pot sherds of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>- century date. A nearby pit also contained slag and 13<sup>th</sup>- century pottery (CG Archaeology).

**Beddingham to Firl A27 Cycleway**, (NGR 545077 107959) (BFC12. OASIS ID: archaeol6-123446): A single archaeological feature was encountered comprising a shallow gully-like feature which contained a residual struck flint and a heavily abraded sherd of medieval pottery. The feature corresponds quite closely with a path marked on the OS mapping and it may be that the feature is in fact the in-filled depression of the path at its southernmost extent. No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered (ASE).

**Bishopstone Tidemills**: Excavation resumed in May 2012 with work currently on Meadow Cottages, two detached houses of some standing. An animal trough with a decorative brick floor pattern was posing questions. . If you wish to volunteer please contact Luke Barber: [research@sussexpast.co.uk](mailto:research@sussexpast.co.uk) (SAS).

**Brighton, 11 Stanford Road**: A watching brief located no finds or features (BHAS).

**Brighton, 21 Nanson Road, Coldean**: A watching brief revealed no finds or features (BHAS).

**Brighton, The Royal Pavilion**: A watching brief revealed the top of the tunnel that runs from the Royal Pavilion to Brighton Museum, including a glass topped light shaft. Finds included prehistoric flintwork and masses of cartridge cases and clay pigeon fragments (BHAS).

**East Chiltington, Homewoodgate Farmhouse**, (NGR 537350 117120) (HEC12. OASIS ID: 123734): No significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered. An assemblage of late post-medieval material was recovered from the overburden (ASE).

**Friston to Folkington Water Pipeline**: A programme of archaeological work for SE Water has revealed elements of possible medieval settlement to the west of Folkington on the lower slope of the Downs and significant evidence for Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement at Friston Hill. The site offers us the opportunity to better understand the relationship between 'settlement' and funerary monuments (there are two recorded barrows close by) - but we may need to follow this development project with purely research-led geophysical surveys to address that issue (Kent Archaeological Projects: KAP reported by ESCC).

**Hailsham, Cuckoo Trail – Northern Area**, (NGR 558983 107983 to 559164 108286) (CTH 12. OASIS ID: 118843): A Metal Detector Survey (MDS) and Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample (SMS) were undertaken on part of the route of the Lyndholm Road Pumping Station to Hailsham South Water Treatment Works Rising Main Replacement Scheme. The MDS resulted in the recovery of a range of objects, mostly post-medieval or modern in date. A small assemblage of finds was recovered from the overburden during the SMS, and one undated feature, a possible hearth was recorded towards the northern end of the monitored area (ASE).

**High Hurstwood, Buxted Hermitage Farm**, (NGR TQ 4935 2489) (HFR 12. OASIS id: archaeol6-125607): An archaeological evaluation comprising three trenches was undertaken in the field adjacent to the existing properties; they revealed no archaeological features or finds (ASE).

**Peacehaven 31 Bridle Way**: A watching brief found no finds or features (BHAS).

**Peacehaven, 270 Arundel Road**, (NGR 540511 101494) (PAR 12. OASIS ID: 120158): An archaeological evaluation comprising one L-shaped archaeological trial-trench was excavated in

the rear garden of a demolished bungalow. The archaeological trial-trench was found to be negative of archaeological features and finds (ASE).

**Peacehaven, Land between 25 and 27 Dorothy Avenue, (NGR: 541129 101061) (DAP 12):** Despite known archaeological activity in the vicinity, only a few worked flints were recovered (ASE).

**Pett Level, Royal Military Canal, (NGR 8886513360) (PLRMC 11):** A watching brief was maintained on ground-works associated with two dwellings, located at the surviving west end of the Royal Military canal (Cliff End). A section of the RMC bank was revealed on the east side of the development but the far west end of the bank had been truncated during the mid - 20<sup>th</sup> century due to development. Drainage features were revealed in the area of 1950's development and are probably contemporary. A probably 19<sup>th</sup>- century cobbled surface was partially revealed in the tow-path area. Blue grey clay alluvium was located directly below the RMC bank remnant (i.e. remaining lower levels) and topsoil at c. 0.20 – 0.30m depth across the site (CG Archaeology).

**Pevensey, Coastal Outfalls, Pevensey and Normans Bay, (NGR: Pevensey West- 566120 104380 NGR: Pevensey Central- 566170 104440 NGR: Pevensey East- 566380 104300 NGR: Norman's Bay- 568860 105780 NGR: East Stream- 569947 105945) (PCO 11. OASIS ID: archaeol6-124982):** A watching brief was maintained during refurbishment of the existing outfalls along the Pevensey coast. The watching brief was implemented in addition to a historic buildings survey report for upstanding remains affected by the works. No archaeological deposits associated with the Martello Tower at East Stream outfall were encountered although deposits related to the construction of the existing 19<sup>th</sup>- century structure were recorded. The location of the saw pit at Norman's Bay outfall was noted. No artefacts were recovered from either area (ASE).

**Ringmer, Upper Broyle Farm, Little Norlington, (NGR TQ459142):** Working with the Ringmer History Group, the site of Dunstalls Manor was revealed, showing what looked like a number of brick enclosures (David Staveley).

**Ringmer, Bridge Farm:** Culver Archaeological Project have formulated a Project Design for the first year (2012-13) of activities at this important Roman site and have applied for a substantial Heritage Lottery Fund grant in order to undertake a comprehensive community project. The first proposed field work will be a systematic metal detecting survey in the autumn of 2012. PAS FLO (Stephanie) and County Archaeologist (Casper) are being kept advised but the project must **still be under wraps until the m/d survey has been completed** (Rob Wallace/David Millum – CAP).

**Sedlescombe, Park View the Street, (SMM 12).** Archaeological excavation was undertaken once the site was stripped and approximately 40 tannery tanks (some obviously wood-lined) in addition to a number of ditches, discrete features and structural remains were exposed. Archaeology South-East's client is looking into options to preserve the central area encompassing the tanks *in situ* so the main phase of fieldwork is yet to commence (ASE).

**Selmeston, (NGR TQ510 069):** A small excavation at the side of the track to the south of Selmeston church, hoping to reveal the course of the Roman road, revealed only modern material (David Staveley).

**Stanmer House, The Ice House:** This was probably originally some sort of reservoir for the kitchens, 10' below ground and originally lined with lead. The car park has been redesigned to avoid damage to the structure but access will still be possible by manhole (ASE).

**Stanmer, Rocky Clump Roman Farmstead,** (NGR TQ 328 101): Working with BHAS, a geophysics survey in the field south of Rocky Clump revealed several field boundaries and a settlement enclosure, part of which is currently under excavation (David Staveley).

**\*Stanmer, Rocky Clump,** (TQ 328 101): A magnetometry survey was carried out in March 2012 which revealed a whole series of new features in the south field. A trench was opened using a machine digger and subsequent hand excavation has revealed the continuation of the ditches running east/west and north/south. Other ditches running parallel east/west have also been uncovered including a number of possible pits. Excavations have produced significant quantities of pottery, animal bone, and a coin, possibly a barbarous radiate 275-285AD. A 'silver' finger ring was recovered in June 2012. Excavations planned to continue until the end of October. Contact John Funnell at [john.funnell@brightonarch.org.uk](mailto:john.funnell@brightonarch.org.uk) or call 01273 607127 or use the BHAS website at [www.brightonarch.org.uk](http://www.brightonarch.org.uk) (BHAS).

**Udimore, Billingham Farm,** (NGR TQ 586501 119535) (OASIS ID: archaeol6-118169): A fluxgate gradiometer survey, despite disturbance from modern activity, identified several anomalies which have the potential to represent buried archaeology (ASE).

### West Sussex

**Alfoldean, Roman Posting Station,** (NGR TQ 116 330): A small dig was undertaken where a deep plough had unearthed a pit/ditch feature. A trench of 1 sq m and to a depth of 45cm was dug. Substantial amounts of large sherds Roman pottery were found within it, and some Roman glass. Work is currently being carried out to identify the pieces, and piece back together those sherds that are from the same pots/vessels (HADAG).

**Amberley, Drewitts Farm, Church Street,** (TQ 03053 13114): Trial trench investigation were undertaken but no results reported (Development Archaeology Services).

**Arundel, Mill Road, south side,** (TQ 02006 07069): Excavation and a watching brief a short distance to the east of the standing remains of the former Arundel Blackfriars, bordering the River Arun, revealed two curving flint wall footings, possibly relating to a former structure associated with the Blackfriars, cut by a rectilinear stone slab-covered drain, which may date to the 1790s restoration work at Arundel Castle (Wessex Archaeology).

**Bignor Roman Villa:** A watching brief on drainage improvements has exposed the tile base of a flue arch to a hypocaust (ASE).

**Bignor, The Holy Cross,** (NGR 498257 114662) (HCB 11. OASIS ID: archaeol6-127158): During groundwork for the construction of an extension to the church building and associated services a number of graves were encountered. Thirteen of the fifteen graves contained partially articulated skeletal remains. A red-brick vault revealed during the excavations was recorded and then preserved in-situ (ASE).

**Billingshurst, Marringdean Road, Billingshurst**, (NGR 508450 124581) (MBL 11. OASIS ID: archaeol6-125664): The evaluation succeeded in identifying archaeological remains within the site. These comprised a post-medieval ditch that probably represents an original field boundary before the railway was built. In addition a large clay oven of unknown date and function was encountered (ASE).

**Billingshurst, Hammonds Farm**, (NGR 509080 125980) (HFB 10. OASIS id: archaeol6-125454): A post-medieval ditch orientated on an east to west alignment was observed, which is thought to correspond to the alignment of a field boundary depicted on the 1876 Ordnance Survey map of the area. Fragments of domestic pottery recovered from the topsoil of the site spans a later 18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>- century date range (ASE).

**Bramber, land to north of The Street**, (TQ 18864 10749): A watching brief on new sewer pipeline (current) (ASE).

**Broadbridge Heath, Land south of Broadbridge Heath**: a watching brief on topsoil stripping for a contractor's compound, and for access roads, on the beginning of a large housing development on the Weald Clay, has revealed a small concentration of prehistoric flintwork and several rectilinear ditches, some of which apparently pre-date the historic field system (ASE).

**Burgess Hill, land east of Burgess Hill**, (TQ 32938 118730): A geophysical survey (current) (Wessex Archaeology).

**Chichester, Graylingwell Hospital**, (NGR 486348 106435) (GRA 08. OASIS ID: archaeol6-93534): Activity within five periods was identified:

Period 1, Late Neolithic: A large pit cut by a centrally placed smaller pit produced a small quantity of possible Grooved Ware pottery. Several nearby small pits were perhaps associated.

Period 2, Bronze Age (BA): A pit produced Late Bronze Age (LBA) and possible Middle Bronze Age (MBA)/LBA pottery that may represent structured deposition. A deposit of apparent 'burnt mound' material was also recorded. A pit containing a structured deposit of burnt saddle quern has been dated to the Early to Middle Bronze Age (EBA/MBA) and a posthole containing a quern fragment may be associated with it. Additional post-holes and a pit have been assigned to this phase.

Period 3, LBA/Early Iron Age (EIA) transition: This period brings evidence for perhaps more permanent and widespread activity. A curving arrangement of five pits and several possibly associated pits were perhaps related to settlement. A rectangular arrangement of four postholes may represent the site of a structure. Further probably prehistoric features included a possible pyre deposit and up to six postholes.

Period 4, Late Iron Age: The cut of the probable LIA Chichester Entrenchment ditch was observed during the watching brief.

Period 5, Late medieval/post-medieval: Activity of this date was primarily represented by field ditches and made ground deposits. A significant number of features remained unphased, many of which were probably the result of bioturbation and surface run off (ASE).

**Crawley, Sussex House Car Park, High Street**, (NGR 526758 136836) (SHC 12. OASIS ID: 120569). Generally speaking, although there was sometimes high truncation, the evaluation corroborates that good potential for archaeological survival of cut features exists across much of the site. Late- 13<sup>th</sup> to mid- 15<sup>th</sup> century industrial/settlement evidence occurs along the east and is divided by a possible drain/property boundary that follows a low topographic contour from east to west with field-boundary/property ditches exist along the west side. The evidence supports the image of later medieval domestic and/or industrial ribbon development along the High Street with

gardens/paddocks/ enclosures to the rear. From the late-18th century, there is good indication that renewed occupation of the area occurred (ASE).

**Crawley, Three Bridges, Geoarchaeological Borehole Survey Report Former Railway Sidings**, (NGR: TQ 286 363) (FRS 11. Oasis ID: archaeol6-124577): Two boreholes were undertaken and one revealed the presence of up to a metre of organic alluvium overlying fluvial gravels. The alluvium was truncated and mixed but displayed potential to preserve palaeoenvironmental remains. Pollen analysis showed a largely open environment with few trees and shrubs in the local area. Pollen of oak, hazel and possibly birch are from farther distances. There is evidence for grassland, probably pasture but also with cereal cultivation. Cereal pollen is in evidence and may come directly from cultivation or indirectly from crop processing releasing pollen. The depositional habitat was probably a floodplain habitat with grasses sedges and other taxa of such habitats. Alder was growing along the fringe and drier zones of the wetland area (ASE).

**Cuckfield, Holy Trinity Church**, TQ 30359 24473. During a watching brief on underfloor heating works, several vaults were exposed and a former wall foundation. More information awaited (West Sussex Archaeology Ltd).

**Dial Post, Water Treatment Works Bentons Lane**, (NGR 515044 19492) (DPW 12. OASIS ID: archaeol6-120069): No archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the work (ASE).

**East Worthing, Teville Stream Floodplain**, (NGR 516062 104197) (BBL 12. OASIS id: archaeol6-123635): The monitored test pits revealed varied stratigraphic layers corresponding to: a possible raised beach deposit between two probable alluvial layers overlying chalk; a probable head deposit; probable drift geology over probable alluvium (ASE).

**Felpham, Site 6 development and Bognor Northern Relief Road**, (SU 95347 01466): Excavation and continuing watching brief has revealed a small number of later prehistoric (probably Later Bronze Age) features (L-P Archaeology).

**Hassocks, Weald Lawn Tennis Club**, (TQ 30205 15315): Trial trenching revealed a single gully containing Mesolithic/ Neolithic flintwork. Other parts of the site had been part of a large sand pit (ASE).

**Hassocks, Lawn Tennis Club**: The evaluation revealed large amounts of truncation and disturbance due to previous use of the site as a sand pit with an associated railway; only a small area displayed an intact and undisturbed sequence. The trenches excavated in this part of the site produced large amounts of prehistoric flint-work together with one ditch (ASE).

**Horsham, Land south of Tanbridge House School sports pitches**, (TQ 15522 30673): A watching brief on topsoil stripping for a new sports pitch has shown a number of rectilinear ditches of Late Iron Age/ Roman date, likely to be part of a field system (ASE).

**Littlehampton, Fire Station**, (NGR 503101 101961) (LFS 11. OASIS ID: 119955): No significant archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded in the monitored areas, all of which had been heavily truncated by services (ASE).

**Pagham, Church Farm Holiday Village**, (NGR: 488483 097349) (PHP 10. OASIS ID: archaeol6-124218): A single evaluation trench revealed made ground in three layers with a total

thickness of 1.55m although these may represent the infilling of a broad channel known to exist in this approximate area (ASE).

**Parham Park:** excavations have revealed medieval foundations and a cellar, possibly buildings of Westminster Abbey's monastic grange (WAS).

**Pulborough, Brindsbury:** work has continued at this site, recovering yet more barbed and tanged arrowheads (WAS).

**Selsey, flood alleviation (Medmerry)** (NGR: 483469 095339). (SEL 10): continued large-scale archaeological works on a multi-period site (ASE).

**Shoreham, Land to rear of 32-34, High Street,** (NGR 521515 105031) (HSW 11. OASIS ID: archaeol6-124144): Two trenches were machine excavated across the site. The earliest activity identified dated to the late medieval period and represented activity to the rear of properties fronting the High Street, including a number of pits, a well and two hearths as well as an associated buried soil horizon. Post-medieval activity on the site included two phases of buildings on the western half of the site, with associated external features to the east, including rubbish pits and a masonry lined cess pit (ASE).

**Shoreham, Shoreham Old Fort,** (NGR 523345 104547) (Scheduled Monument No. WS 390. OASIS NO: archaeol6-122069): A watching brief on the removal of a 20<sup>th</sup>- century coastguard tower on top of the No. 2 magazine did not locate anything of archaeological significance (ASE).

**Slinfold, Random Hall Hotel, Stane Street,** (NGR 511155 131692) (RAN 12. OASIS ID: 125214): No significant archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered (ASE).

**Southwater, Millfield,** (NGR 516256 125440) (SOU 11): A total of twenty-four trial trenches of varying lengths were mechanically excavated to target both geophysical anomalies identified during a magnetometry survey, and to test some of the apparently 'blank' areas. The results show a clear concentration of Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval features at the northern end of the examined area. Most correspond to geophysical anomalies and suggest the presence of enclosures/field systems, ponds and other features (ASE).

**Walberton, Walberton Place,** (SU 97617 05656). Trial trenching took place but no results reported (Development Archaeology Services).

**Worthing, Northbrook College, West Durrington,** (TQ 10641 03854): Trial trench excavation to the east of the College buildings and former villa and bath house has shown archaeological features of Later Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman date (Thames Valley Archaeological Services).