

## SUSSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL ROUND-UP (30<sup>th</sup> October 2013 to 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014)

### *East Sussex*

**Bexhill Hastings Link Road.** (centred NGR TQ 756 104: Bexhill, Crowhurst and Hastings). (Director Mike Donnelly). Archaeological excavations and recording in advance and during development. The present work started in May 2013 and is due to continue throughout 2014 and to date has identified evidence for probable Upper Palaeolithic activity, extensive Mesolithic occupation, Neolithic and Bronze settlement and field systems, Late Iron Age/Early Roman iron working and occupation. (Oxford Archaeology reported by ESCC).

**\*Chailey Romany Ridge Common.** (centred NGR TQ 374 208: Chailey parish). (Director Greg Chuter). Proposed community project as part of the WW1 centenary, clearing vegetation from WW1 / WW2 training trenches, followed by surveying and targeted excavation to inform information panel and interpretation (ESCC).

**Eastbourne: Land off Hampden Park Drive.** (NGR: 560272 101759). (Site Code n/a. Director Chris Russell & Kristina Krawiec. OASIS ID: archaeol6-167293). A detailed fluxgate gradiometer survey and hand auger survey was undertaken on land off Hampden Park. The survey took place on the 17th and 18th of December 2013. The area investigated was a former firing range which is now short grass pasture bounded by hedges and the back wall of the firing range. The geophysical survey revealed several anomalies, although these related to either buried services or to activity linked to the site's use as a firing range. The auger survey demonstrated a thin layer of alluvial clay overlying oxidized orange clay which in turn sealed the underlying geology (Gault formation). The alluvium was confined to the south-eastern half of the site thinning out to the west. No organic deposits were recorded which may have the potential to preserve wooden archaeological remains (ASE).

**Etchingham: Underwoods Farm Cottage, Borders lane.** (NGR TQ 7041 2565: Etchingham parish). (Site Code UFC 13/168. Director Genni Elliot). Underwoods Farm Cottage dates from the mid 19th century. The current owners plan to demolish the cottage and replace it with a new residential building. A Level 3 building recording was carried out in January 2014 (TVAS).

**Exceat: Seven Sisters Country Park, Exceat Deserted medieval village site.** (NGR TV 523 989: Cuckmere valley parish). (Site Code SSCP1. Director Greg Chuter). A second phase of geophysical survey now completed by Arrow Geophysics. This has identified the probably remains of the village street, houses and tenement boundaries of the 'lost' village (ESCC).

**\*Falmer: Newmarket Hill, Newmarket Farm.** (TQ363071). (Site Code not notified. Director David Cuthbertson). Excavations continue revealing walls, floors and artefacts related to the occupation of the farm house built in the 1820's. Excavations have continued into January (D Cuthbertson/BHAS).

**Fletching: Water Treatment Works.** (NGR: TQ 542571 123356). (Site Code FWT 13. Director Gary Webster. Oasis ID: archaeol6-161715). A watching brief was intermittently maintained between 19<sup>th</sup> July and 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013 during ground works associated with an upgrade of

Fletching Water Treatment Works. Fletching Road, Fletching. The results of the watching brief were negative. No archaeology was encountered on site. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the overburden which was post-medieval in date (ASE).

**Hailsham: Land at Marshfoot Lane.** (NGR TQ 6010 0950: Hailsham parish). (Site Code MLH 13/162. Director James McNichol-Norbury). An archaeological evaluation was carried out in November 2013 in advance of a proposed housing development. Thirteen 20m long trenches were excavated across the site. The only feature of note was a ditch which contained a single sherd of Roman pottery (TVAS).

**Hailsham: Upper Horsebridge Road.** (NGR TQ 558519 111551). (Site Code UHR 13. Director Hayley Nicholls. OASIS ID: archaeol6-168035). An archaeological evaluation in advance of residential development was undertaken between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December 2013. A total of 47 trenches were excavated. Undisturbed topsoil and subsoil horizons were recorded in 37 of the 47 trenches. 31 of the 47 trenches investigated were devoid of archaeological features. Thirty possible archaeological features were identified within the remaining trenches, comprising of one curvilinear ditch, 12 linear ditches, a ditch terminus, six isolated postholes, two pits, and three gullies.

Other than one linear ditch which was of late post-medieval or modern date, all other features were lacking in artefacts and remained undated. However, all but two of the features were sealed by a subsoil horizon and are therefore unlikely to be of very recent date. All ditches are likely to represent previously removed internal field divisions. Furthermore, all pits, gullies and postholes are also likely to be a result of agricultural activity. The very limited presence of finds in topsoil and subsoil horizons, along with the limited scatter of finds across the ploughed surface of two of the three fields within the site area, make settlement activity within the site highly unlikely (ASE).

**Hove: 56 Woodland Avenue** (NGR TQ 2850 0715: West Blatchington Parish) (Director: John Funnell) An archaeological watching brief was conducted 27 November to 2 December during excavation of footings for an extension to a residential property. No archaeological strata were noted and no finds other than a small amount of residual flint (one flake, one small core, 2 fire cracked) (BHAS).

**Hove: Cardinal Newman School.** (NGR TQ 2990 0580: Hove parish). (Site Code CNB 13/164. Director Felicity Howell). An archaeological watching brief was carried out in October 2013 during ground works in respect of a new sixth form building. No archaeological finds or features were recorded, and the entire footprint of the new building had been heavily truncated in the past (TVAS).

**Mayfield: Coach House Cottage, High Street.** (NGR TQ 558555 126992: Mayfield parish). (Site Code CHC 13. Director Gary Webster. OASIS ID: 165841). An intermittent watching brief was maintained at the site between 30<sup>th</sup> January and 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2013 during an extension to the existing property. With the exception of an early 19<sup>th</sup> century rubbish pit and a modern garden wall, no archaeological features or deposits were encountered (ASE).

**Northiam: Land at the Paddock.** (NGR TQ 8271 2511: Northiam parish). (Site Code PNS 13/181. Director Tim Dawson). A geophysical survey (magnetic) was carried out in September 2013 on a c. 1 ha parcel of land near Northiam. A housing development is proposed for the site. Three linear features were identified, of which two are almost certainly modern services (TVAS).

\***Ovingdean:** (NGR TQ 354036) (Director John Funnell). From 2003 to 2009 BHAS conducted a number of investigations into the field north of Ovingdean church. The field has a complex of earthworks which have proved to be the site of a large 13<sup>th</sup> century medieval house, with other timber framed buildings found within an enclosure. BHAS are hoping to return to the field in 2014 to excavate test pits to answer some outstanding questions prior to the site being scheduled. It is hoped to commence the excavations in April (BHAS).

**Peacehaven: land off Arundel Road.** (NGR: TQ 541886 101069). (Site Code ARN 13. Director Chris Russell. OASIS ID: archaeol6-166708). A Stage 1 magnetometer survey and a Stage 2 trial trench evaluation was undertaken on land north of Arundel Road. Six archaeological evaluation trenches were excavated between 25<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November 2013. The magnetometer survey identified quantities of modern disturbance and failed to detect any potential buried archaeology. As a result the evaluation trenches were not targeted on any geophysical anomalies but were spread as evenly across the site as possible.

Undisturbed subsoil was recorded across the site and this yielded a good quantity of worked flint and one sherd of prehistoric pottery. A finely made Neolithic polished axe was also recovered. Some prehistoric pottery dating to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age or Late Iron Age/Roman and Middle/Late Iron Age period was also recovered from within two pits. The flintwork and pottery is consistent with that across the Peacehaven area. Several probable field boundary ditches of likely prehistoric date were also encountered across the site. The alignment of some of these ditches suggests they may form part of small scale Middle Iron Age field systems identified to the east and west of the site during previous excavations.

The finds recovered suggest that the site was in use in the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age and again in the Middle to Late Iron Age. Possible Mesolithic and Middle Neolithic activity is also probable, as is occupation in the Late Iron Age or Roman period. The activity is difficult to classify but may include both agricultural activity as well as activity peripheral to occupation. The site will be subject to open area excavation in near future (ASE).

**Plumpton: Sixty Acres Field, south of Agricultural College.** (centred NGR TQ 3600 1470 ) A resistivity survey over the villa site (80m x 40m) was carried out on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013 by volunteers and college students organized by David Millum, following on from magnetometer survey of much larger area by CBAS. The results clearly showed the position of the villa which appeared to have 9 rooms in a wing corridor layout on E-W axis. The results were much clearer than those undertaken in the 1980s and also than the magnetometer results and showed that some remains of the villa still exist (Sussex School of Archaeology).

**Portslade: The Police Station, St Andrew's Road.** (NGR 526056 105140). (Site Code n/a. Directors Katya Harrow and Rachel Cruse. OASIS ID: archaeol6-166329). In November 2013 Archaeology South-East carried out a programme of historic building recording at the former Police Station, St Andrew's Road, prior to its conversion of the building to a dwelling. The police station dates to the early 20th century. The main building formed part of a planned police station complex, which incorporated purpose-built police housing. Documentary sources have shown that the main police station and housing were originally interlinked; the housing now forms self-

contained dwellings. During the Second World War, a gas decontamination centre was added to the rear of the police station, which required the alteration of the original building to allow access whilst maintaining the security of the police station cells (ASE).

**Robertsbridge and Salehurst furnaces/forges.** The woodland around these are being investigated to see whether a connection can be made which directly links the mine pits, quarries, trackways, hollow ways and charcoal platforms to the nearby furnaces/forges. The work consists of both field surveys and historical research. A report was found hidden in the depths of the Sussex Archaeological Collections on work carried out by the Robertsbridge Archaeological group in 1980 under the direction of a young archaeologist called Peter Drewett. The group had come across a number of charcoal platforms, excavated one and carried out some C14 dating which strongly suggested that there was possibly a link between the charcoal platform and the late operation of the nearby Robertsbridge Furnace and Forge during the 16th -17<sup>th</sup> century (WIRG).

**Seaford: Seaford Head Sixth Form Centre.** (NGR 548625 988120). (Site Code n/a. Director Dr Michael Shapland. OASIS ID: archaeol6-166329). In December 2013 Archaeology South-East carried out a historic buildings record at Seaford Head Sixth Form Centre. This survey was undertaken in relation to the demolition of the existing caretakers accommodation and the renovation and extension of the existing school buildings to create a new sixth form centre for Seaford Head Academy. The school was established before 1874 with a pair of large classrooms and adjoining master's house. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century it had grown to encompass a hall and other facilities, together with detached buildings which were developed into classrooms from the 1960s onwards. Operating as the sixth form for Seaford Head School, it closed for redevelopment in 2009 (ASE).

**\*Stanmer: Rocky Clump** (NGR TQ 328101: Stanmer Parish) (Site Code 500300. Director: John Funnell). The 2013 season of excavations continued until late December when digging finished. The provisional conclusion is that the site represents agricultural activity in the form of an enclosure existing from the late Iron Age through to a Romano-British phase with some evidence of medieval activity. As well as the enclosure ditches there is evidence of pits and working hollows though there is no definitive evidence of what activities were taking place. There is evidence of a presumed agricultural building represented by a compacted chalk floor and possible flint wall foundations. A second baby burial was discovered differing from a previous one in that a small pit appears to have been deliberately cut for the burial with the body being placed semi-recumbent facing East. It is hoped that DNA and radio-carbon analyses will be made of these remains. After final recording the site was back filled. The new season of excavations will begin in late March/early April 2014 when we hope to determine the full extent of the building and investigate the Eastern side of the enclosure which may contain an entrance (BHAS).

**Streat: Marchants Farm.** David Millum is attempting to write a retrospective report on this 1980-4 Con Ainsworth excavation from brief site notes, sketch plans, some artefact drawings, volunteer's photographs and personal recollections. He is urgently seeking any of the fabled large amounts of artefacts from the dig as well as any further original data. If you have any information please contact David on [davidmillum@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:davidmillum@mypostoffice.co.uk) or telephone 01273 890854.

**Wellingham, Nr. Barcombe Mills: Bridge Farm.** (Site Code BRF13. Directors Rob Wallace & David Millum). The specialist artefact reports are now in from the summer's excavation. The pottery report confirms the longevity of the settlement with dates from mid/late 1<sup>st</sup> to late 4<sup>rd</sup> century. An interesting find consisted of 7 sherds from a reeded-rim bowl of Fishbourne 89 type dating to AD50-80 found in the SW corner of trench 1. Features from trench 1, which was inside

the enclosure ditches, were generally dated to the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD including the roadside ditches. The enclosure ditches were given a late 2<sup>nd</sup> century – AD200 date from pottery from their primary fills. Features in Trench 3, the industrial area adjacent to the river, seem to be generally from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century with the tile lined pit being in use in late 3<sup>rd</sup>. Other finds include a range of Roman CBM, quern stone fragments (and 90% whole quern), spindle whorl, Kimmeridge shale bracelet fragment, key, stylus, nails, lead weights, 73 pieces of glass, and slag from both smithing and smelting. Some animal bone suggested domestic activity with the only human remains being a single adult cremation in a 3<sup>rd</sup> century urn in trench 4. Water logged wood from T3 comprised birch, alder and hazel roundwood and oak timber offcuts. Of the 728 prehistoric flints collected most were Mesolithic to early Neolithic, but all were considered to be derived.

It would appear from the small area of the main site excavated in Trench 1 that the open settlement was founded in the late 1<sup>st</sup> century and developed its formal infrastructure during the late 1<sup>st</sup> to early 2<sup>nd</sup>. Late in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century the settlement was enclosed by a double ditch that appears to indicate a change in relationship with the wider environment, with a perceived threat and less traffic arriving from the north and the Weald iron workings and an increase in communication to the east, to Arlington and Anderida (Pevensey). The industrial area uncovered in Trench 3 seems to date mainly from the early 3<sup>rd</sup> century and continue through to the mid-4<sup>th</sup>. No further resolution has been possible on the use of the large circular burning pit with some form of rustic tile kiln still being a favoured interpretation. Whilst we have an indication that our tile-lined pit was in use after AD270 what that use was still remains a mystery. Many theories abound and one can imagine that such a structure could have a variety of uses, practical or ritual. Some of the materials analysed have indicated potential activities in the settlement as well as possible trading and even administrative connections. This includes possible links to the iron industry with some onsite smelting and smithing, albeit probably only on a local scale. Not unexpectedly processing of agricultural products has been indicated by the fragments of quern stones although the absence of cereal remains in the environmental samples suggests that processing was not occurring in the areas investigated. The pivotal location of the site is strengthened by its possible connections with Fishbourne, the Weald, Pevensey and its access by coastal trade to areas like Dorset (Culver Archaeological Project: Rob Wallace & David Millum).

## *West Sussex*

**Bognor Regis: Edward Bryant Primary School, London Road.** (NGR SZ 9370 9955: Bognor Regis parish). (Site Code EBS 13/197. Director Andy Taylor). An archaeological watching brief was carried out in December 2013 during ground works in respect of a new extension to the existing school. No archaeological finds or features were recorded (TVAS).

**Chichester: Graylingwell Hospital Phase 5.** (SU 486540 106169). (Site code GRA 08. Director Hayley Nicholls. OASIS ID: archaeol6-164297). An (ongoing) archaeological evaluation was undertaken on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2013 consisting of three trenches. No archaeological features of interest were identified. This phase of work was focused within the grounds of the hospitals' Medical Superintendent's House. Extensive late post-medieval landscaping was evident across the site area. The east edge of the middle of three terraces appeared to have been cut into the natural slope whilst the west edge had been built up with made-ground creating a level platform. A possible subsoil horizon was evident in Trench 52 but had been truncated in Trenches 50 and all but the very east end of Trench 51. The undisturbed natural geology comprised of mid brown-

yellow silt clay with abundant mid yellow-grey gravel and was encountered at depths of between 27.43m and 27.99m AOD. Recent and modern disturbance was encountered in the form of a circular pit in Trench 50 and a large linear cut in Trench 51. Extensive root disturbance was evident in Trench 52 (ASE).

**Chichester: The Heritage, Winden Avenue.** (NGR SU 8687 0475: Chichester parish). (Site Code THC 13/179. Director Aiji Castle). An evaluation in January 2014 successfully investigated the site of a proposed housing development. Eight 12m long trenches were excavated across the site, but no archaeological finds or features were recorded (TVAS).

**Crawley – Land north of Radford Road, Tinsley Green.** (TQ 28943 39840). (Site code and director not notified). A watching brief during excavation of the alleviation basin continues (see previous reports) (Network Archaeology reported by WSCC).

**Crawley Down: Woodlands Close.** (TQ 535142 137390). (Site code WCC 13. Director Hayley Nicholls. OASIS ID: archaeol6-164974). An archaeological evaluation on land was undertaken at the end of October 2013. This was in advance of the development of the site and the construction of residential housing with associated infrastructure. Eleven evaluation trenches were excavated. Natural geological deposits comprising of moderately firm sandy clay with manganese inclusions were encountered at a height of between 113.40m AOD at the north end of the site and 120.31m AOD at the south end of the site. Four ditches and eight pits and or small pits/postholes were recorded across the site but all are undated. Finds recovered from the topsoil and subsoil hint at some Mesolithic or Early Neolithic and medieval activity but apart from some 17th- to 18th-century CBM the finds were largely of a 19th- to early/mid 20th-century date (ASE).

**Handcross: Pookchurch Wood, Nymans.** (TQ 527000 129000: Slaugham parish). (Director Matt Pope and Pippa Stephenson). Archaeology South East undertook an archaeological evaluation comprising auger survey and 2 hand excavated trial trenches at the foot of the sandstone outcrop known as Pook's Pulpit in Pookchurch Wood to the north-east of Nymans, within the National Trust property. Fieldwork took place between 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> November and was intended as an Outreach and Community project, but unfortunately poor weather affected the delivery of aspects of this programme. The survey and excavation failed to confirm the presence of significant Mesolithic activity in the area targeted for study and its immediate vicinity. Although seven pieces of flint were retrieved from within the immediate study area, three from trenches and four from animal up-cast, the low density of finds indicates either low density occupation or a failure to pin-point any more significant activity in the area. The scale of work required to identify and localize possible significant occupation is such that it is not considered worthwhile to pursue this study. Prioritization of other known sites within the area is considered more likely to yield significant results (M. Pope/ASE/NT/HDAG).

**Haywards Heath, Land at Penland Farm, Hanlye Lane.** (TQ 3238 2547). (Site Code – not notified. Director Jake Streatfield-James). Geophysical survey and targeted trial trench excavation have identified a small sub circular enclosure of late prehistoric or Roman date, Late Iron Age/early Roman ditch and pit (Headland Archaeology reported by WSCC).

**Horsham: Land east of the A24** (TQ 515667 129917). (Site code LWH 09. Director Hayley Nicholls. OASIS ID: archaeol6-165315). Fifteen evaluation trenches were excavated ahead of the development of land adjacent to Windrum Close during October and November 2013. Ditches and postholes pertaining to an earlier field system were recorded. This roughly corresponds to the alignment of the existing field boundaries and occasional findings of medieval pottery suggest that it represents the outline of smaller, defunct medieval field boundaries. Fragments of residual

Roman to post-medieval ceramic building material and Mesolithic or Neolithic worked flint were also recovered. No further archaeological features or finds were observed within the site which is therefore considered to have low archaeological potential (ASE).

**Horsham: Land west of Broadbridge Heath** (NGR TQ 1516 3060). Additional trial trenches were excavated at the northern end of the new A24 junction footprint. Report awaited. (CgMs/ASE)

**Littlehampton: Courtwick Lane.** (NGR TQ 0180 0360: Wick parish). (Site Code CLL 10/85. Director Sean Wallis). A large archaeological excavation continued in advance of a residential development. The site had previously been subject to an evaluation in 2010, and fieldwork was carried out earlier in 2013 in respect of the new access roads and a proposed commercial site to the south of the current excavation area. Numerous features such as pits, post-holes and ditches, dating from the prehistoric and Roman periods, have been recorded. The work is currently ongoing (TVAS).

**Littlehampton: A259 New Road.** (TQ 505350 103320). (Site Code SEB 13. Director Giles Dawkes). Excavations were undertaken between 29<sup>th</sup> October and 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2013 on land south of the A259 New Road in advance of proposed commercial re-development. The total area excavated was approximately 1 hectare in size. In Area 1 a Middle Bronze Age enclosure with artefactual evidence of domestic occupation was located and in Area 2 a Bronze Age burnt mound with associated trough, hearth and waterhole was uncovered adjacent to a nearby stream. The latest activity on site was a series of Roman field boundary ditches, probably associated with Angmering Roman Villa located some 2kms to the north (ASE).

**Midhurst: St Margaret's School, Petersfield Road.** (SU 8846 2152: Midhurst parish). (Site Code MSM 13/95. Director Genni Elliot). A watching brief was carried out in advance of a new housing development between October and December 2013. The area had been severely disturbed and truncated by previous buildings on the site, and no archaeological finds or features were recorded (TVAS).

**Petworth: Petworth House.** (NGR 497525 121904: Petworth parish) (Site Code n/a. Director Tom Dommett). The resistivity survey undertaken in April 2013 over the 6<sup>th</sup> Duke's stables was extended again in January 2014. This has identified the layout of the stables, adjacent Porter's Lodges with the principal 18<sup>th</sup> century avenue entrances into the Park, and the former route of the 'Court Ditch Lane' c. 1712 (before being moved to the current route of the A272) (NT/CDAS).

**Shipley: Knepp Castle, Buck Barn Field.** (NGR TQ 1632 2151). (Site Code not notified. Director George Anelay). Excavation of trial trenches, in advance of land raising, has shown Late Iron Age/ Roman ditches, early and late post-medieval ditches, and a sunken track to a small 19<sup>th</sup>-century clay pit (West Sussex Archaeology Ltd reported by WSCC).

**Storrington: Meadow Cottage, Fryern Road.** (NGR TQ 0869 1590: Storrington & Sullington parish). (Site code not notified. Director George Anelay). Small-scale excavation of trial trenches near a previous find spot of Roman pottery revealed no ancient archaeological finds or features (West Sussex Archaeology Ltd reported by WSCC).

**West Hoathly: Philpots Quarry (extension site)** (NGR TQ 35394 32204). (Site Code and Director not notified). Post-medieval ditches and tree-throws have been found. (Cotswold Archaeology reported by WSCC).

**Woolbeding: Pound Commons.** (SU 872 226: Woolbeding with Redford parish). (Director Tom Dommett). Geophysical survey was undertaken in November over a pair of possible barrows identified on Pound Common, visible as low mounds up to c. 0.3m tall. The survey confirmed the presence of the two barrows, and identified a further possible barrow, which may all lie within an encircling enclosure. Further investigation through expansion of the geophysical survey area and excavation will be required to appropriately characterize the features (NT).

**NB. Nothing to report from:**

David Staveley  
Philippa Whitehill/CG Arch  
HDAG

**NB: No fieldwork reports for this period received from:**

HAARG  
Winchelsea Archaeological Society  
Eastbourne Museums service  
Chris Butler Archaeological Services  
Archaeological Services Lewes  
Sussex Industrial Archaeological Society  
Worthing Archaeological Society  
West Sussex Archaeology  
Chichester District Council  
Development Archaeological Services