

Sussex Archaeology Forum
Meeting 11th March 2025, (Virtual)
Minutes

1. Apologies were received from Elizabeth Lane (WAS), David Millham (CAP), James Sainsbury (Worthing Museum), John Mills, Matt Pope, Stuart Angell, James Kenny and Chloe Hunnysett (WSCC).
2. Minutes from the previous meeting were raised and accepted.
3. Events and Fieldwork Round Up (Both previous and existing events).
 - Elizabeth Rice, **Horsham District Archaeological Group** – HDAG has been working with Justin Russell at Buchan Country Park – Victorian Rifle Range, there has also been monitoring on the downs with the National Trust and Gary Webster. On the 22nd February was a walk on Tufa, a little known Sussex Building stone, by David Bone. On upcoming events, further digging on the Roman Road at Woodsmancote has been postponed as the ground is too wet, but will likely take place in the summer. There will be digging with UCL in June in Alfoldean. There was a talk on the Sussex Rifle Volunteers in January. Upcoming events include a talk next week on Wealden Glass Houses by Steven Draper, the AGM in May, and Luke Barber talking about Tidemills in June. There will be talks on the River Mole and its Archaeology in September, in October on Smallhythe by Nathalie Cohen and November on Cooden Camp by Simon Stevens.
 - Luke Barber **Sussex Archaeological Society** – Work has included emptying out the chamber at the Bodiam Ice House, as well as continuing finds work.
 - Daryl Holter **Sussex Police** – There have been 16 reports of heritage crime so far this year, including graffiti at the redoubt in Eastbourne, and there have been 4 reports of illegal metal detecting in West Sussex. There have been several other reports of damage including the automatic barriers at Nymans, Shoreham Fort, and several churches (Barton St Mary's East Grinstead, Holy Trinity Church Worth Crawley, All Saint's church Sidley, St Andrew's Church Steyning). There have been opportunities for engagement and prevention work – a talk today at Battle Abbey about heritage crime, and a talk with Brighton YAC at the end of last year. As a reminder, please report any crime to make sure it can be looked at.
 - Neil Griffin, **East Sussex County Council Archaeology Team** – Notable sites include at Bishops Lane Ringmer (TVAS), where at least 3 kilns have been found. Hopeful that archaeomagnetic dating will provide a refined date for these. Nothing remains of the old medieval kiln which was comprehensively excavated in the 1980s. Other finds include preserved timber and scattered pottery seemingly relating to occupation rather than kiln waste: a reassessment of previous interpretations may be required. At Cooden Camp 50% of the site has been stripped, the rest preserved in situ. There will be an outreach programme, likely a display in Bexhill, with details to follow. Bexhill Museum have grant funding and through the Section 106 process for storing artefacts from several sites: an extension will be built as an education and storage area. The county Archaeology team has been working on several planning enforcement cases. There are many active sites either active or going through planning. On the

project of devolution and local government reorganisation, no further information is available at this stage but further detail is expected in September.

- Darryl Palmer, **Archaeology South-East** – Sites at Uckfield, Chichester and Ford are all underway. Also, to note that the ASE 50 anniversary event is coming up on Saturday 5th April.
- Chris Greatorex, **East Sussex County Council Archaeology Team** – New planning legislation has been produced by central government today – we await further details on any implications. The County Archaeology Team has also been dealing with the aftermath of the disbanding of Heritage Eastbourne, with ongoing discussions on their archive.
- Nick Truckle, **Surrey Historical Advice Team** – the team is still giving advice to Horsham, with approximately 30 consultations this quarter, and fieldwork has been advised on 6 sites. The only fieldwork to report on was at the Old Clayton Kennels by ASE, which came back with no archaeological results. Surrey County Archaeology Unit is no longer under threat, due to the local government reorganisation.
- Paul Samuel Armour **Isle Heritage** – As part of National Trust work in Winchelsea. Ongoing watching brief on scheduled areas in Winchelsea as part of National Trust work, including small scale post holes or trenches for pipework. Finds have been fewer than anticipated, presumably due to overcultivation. An evaluation near Icklesham found a small medieval settlement and possible Roman material, while at Higham Hill, Castle fields, remains of stone buildings/foundations have been encountered.
- David Rudling, **CBA South-East** and **Sussex School of Archaeology** – BHAS there is a lecture for the Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society by Martin Bell on Friday 14th March on an Anglo-Saxon settlement site, 7.30 at the Unitarian Church, New Road, Brighton. There is a lecture is Wednesday 19th March, by Charlotte Burr, Gold Bratigates 5th – 6th century. The University of Sussex Archaeological Society has a talk on the 25th March. Also upcoming is the CBA SE AGM with additional lecture. The CBA SE 2026 conference will be a memorial conference for Ivan Margary as it is the 50th anniversary of his death. On April 16th will be the Jane Clark lecture ‘With this ring’ – about rings of all periods from the perspective of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. There is an exhibition on Thames Mudlarking on the 22nd March Lewes Kings Church between 11am and 4.30pm. On Saturday 8th June – There will be a conference at Kings church, Lewes, on Roman roadside settlement in the southeast of England, including sites at Icklesham, Bridge Farm, and Hassocks. On the 11th Oct will be the next Sussex History Conference – the theme is Changes in Victorian and Edwardian Sussex – again this will be held at Kings Church, Lewes.
- Kevin Cornwell – A reminder that the Hastings AGM is tomorrow.
- Jane Clark, **Finds Liaison for Sussex** – The Portable Antiquities Scheme has been very busy of late. There are finds days on the first Saturday of every Month in Lewes Castle. The first one this month was with students from Kings College London and University College London, and was very successful. There have been approximately 16 Treasure cases so far this year, though no in situ-hoards (yet). In other news the website for PAS will be redeveloped, and work is ongoing on this, with completion expected by the new year. It is hoped that the website

will allow finders to upload finds themselves for triage by the Finds Liaison Officer, to increase the amount recorded.

- Rachel Salter, **West Sussex Historic Environment Record** – On the subject of ongoing/upcoming archaeological events in Sussex, the A29 realignment at Eastergate, where Neolithic and Bronze Age pits were encountered, along with linear features and a field system. At Staplefield Industrial activity has been evidenced with Hammerbridge Forge just outside site boundary. The decision on Grampian 2 has been delayed till April, but Chloe H. is currently advising on the initial GI works. The HER has sought for the A27 Arundel Bypass reports to be released, with non-intrusive reports largely added to the HER, though Post-excavation reports are still awaited. The Countryside Stewardship programme has also restarted with a rolling window.
- David Stavley - invited to do some geophysics at Icklesham, on the site of a Roman Road and Ironworking site approximately 3-4 hectares in size. This will undergo excavation in May. Parts of these investigations are on National Trust Land and partly not. Reports will go to the National Trust and hence to the HERs.
- Sophie Unger, **East Sussex Historic Environment Record** – The HER has moved to its new system, Portico. Which will eventually go live to public in approximately 1 – 2 years. Project K, with the Forestry Commission (using SHINE data to help advisors working out woodland priorities) will conclude at the end of the financial year. The HER has also bid for a 2 year project with Historic England to update our records with their NHRE data as part of a national project.

AOB

- Darryl Holter – noted that if anyone has any finds that could be used for handling, it would be greatly appreciated for use when talking about heritage crime.
- The next meeting in person at Lewes Castle ERC – the date will be publicised nearer the time.
- Thank you very much for coming!

Thomas Davies 11/03/2024