



**Report on Archaeological Works at 47 & 49
Warblington Road, Emsworth, Hampshire**

June 2013

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This document sets out the results from archaeological works carried out by West Sussex Archaeology Ltd. on behalf of the owners of No.47 & No.49 Warblington Road, Emsworth, Hampshire, during the construction of extensions to each property. The extensions lie within the vicinity of a ditch found to contain Iron Age and Roman pottery, slag and briquetage during works to the rear of no. 49 Warblington Road in c.1970. The results of this watching brief were to reveal three approximately north-south running ditches containing pottery dating to the early Roman period.

BACKGROUND

Topographical Background

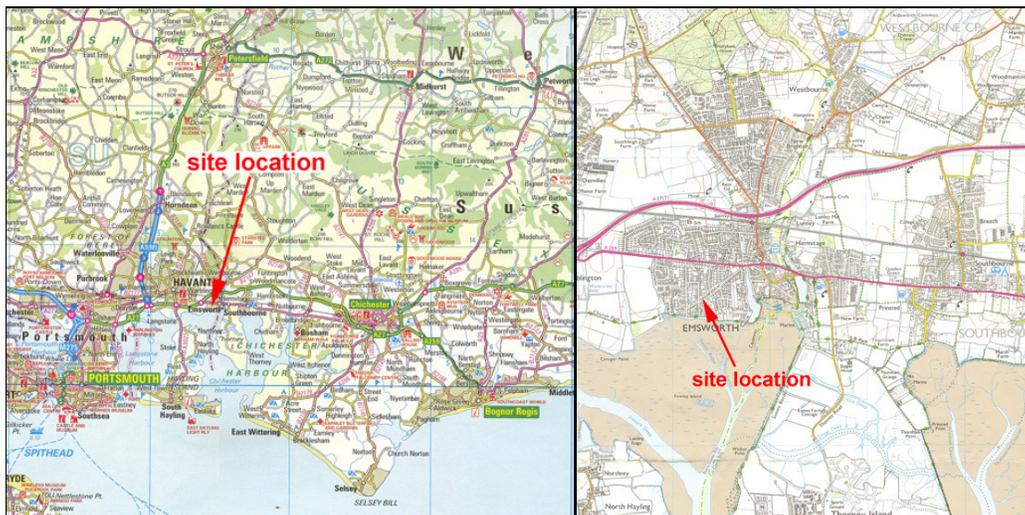


Figure 1 Site location. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. License number: AL100036068

1. Nos. 47 & 49 Warblington Road lie in the south-western part of the small town of Emsworth, which overlooks Chichester Harbour in West Sussex (see Fig.1). The properties lie at c. 6m aOD and are centred at OS grid reference SU 7429 0554. The underlying geology of the site is Reading Beds clays and sands capped with brickearth.

Planning Background

1. In 2012 the owner of 47 Warblington Road obtained planning permission (APP/12/00145) from Havant Borough Council for the demolition of an existing single storey garage, rear conservatory and front porch and the construction of new single storey attached garage, rear extension, front porch and front boundary wall. Condition 5 of that planning permission states that: “No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.”
2. Later in the same year the owner of 49 Warblington Road also obtained planning permission (APP/12/00738) from Havant Borough Council for a two storey side extension incorporating an integral garage. Condition 3 of that planning permission states that: “No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification that has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.”

3. West Sussex Archaeology Ltd. (WSA) was appointed by the owners of both 47 & 49 Warblington Road to carry out the archaeological works required to meet these conditions. Two Method Statements drawn up by WSA set out the methodology used in order to fulfil the terms of both these conditions (WSA 2012 & WSA 2013).
4. This report details the results of that archaeological work, which was carried out at no.47 as a watching brief on the 7th, 13th & 14th November 2012 and at no.49 as an excavation on the 13th & 18th February 2013 by George Anelay of West Sussex Archaeology Ltd. The project archive will be deposited with Hampshire Museums Service.

Historical Background

1. Warblington Road first appears on the Yeakell & Gardner map of 1778-83, however it was not until sometime between 1912 and 1932 that historic Ordnance Survey mapping shows that housing has been built along it, including the plots of nos.47 & 49.
2. During the 1970s work to the rear of no.49 Warblington Road uncovered a ditch which contained Iron Age and Roman pottery, slag and briquetage. These finds were felt to be indicative of occupation and manufacturing activity on site, and within the wider area.

RESULTS

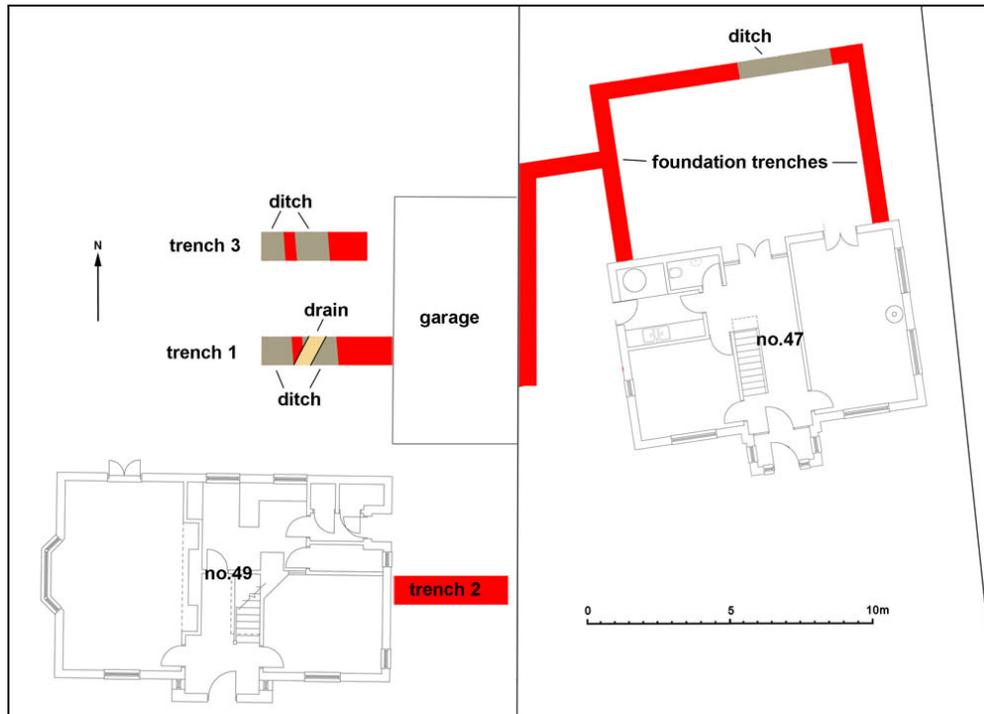


Figure 2 Plan of the trenches, indicating the position of the ditches in grey.

No.47 Warblington Road

1. The foundation trench for the extension to no.47 was 0.6m wide and 1.2m deep. The base of the trench penetrated into the underlying brickearth. Above this were two layers of soil, the lower, c0.35m deep in the western trench and c.0.5m in the eastern, consisted of a friable mid-light orange/grey/brown clay silt, containing occasional flint and one visible brick fragment. The upper layer, c0.35 - 4m deep throughout, was a friable light grey/brown clay silt with very occasional flint and brick fragments.



Figure 3 The ditch in the north face of the foundation trench. The scale is 2m.

2. In the eastern half of the northern foundation trench the brickearth had been dug into for the width of the trench and a distance of 3.2m. The material filling this feature was a friable/compact mid orange/grey/brown clay silt with very occasional flint. Only the upper 0.2m of this fill material had been removed by the foundation trench, since it was overlain by both the soil layers above. This feature is probably a ditch running approximately north-south, although the limited area of it that was exposed makes this identification uncertain. The ditch fill produced an assemblage of five pottery sherds dating to the early Roman period (see Appendix 1).

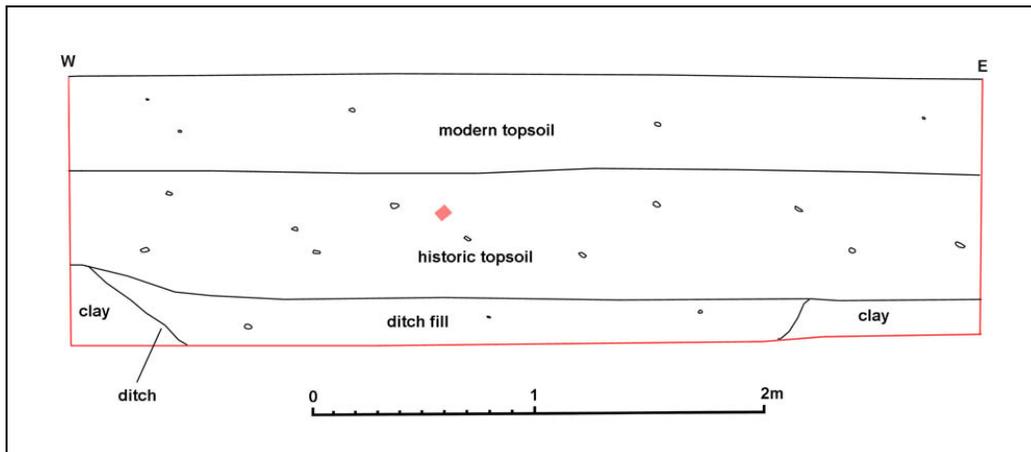


Figure 4 South facing section across ditch at no.47.

3. The foundation trench for the garage was also 0.6m wide and 1.2m deep. Again the brickearth was encountered at the base of the trench, with the same two layers above, although against the western boundary of the site the lower layer of clay silt had thinned to c0.2m deep.
4. The unusual depth of the soil layers above the clay suggests that the upper layer maybe a modern imported topsoil, perhaps introduced when the current houses were built in the early 20th century. The lower layer, which is probably an historic ploughsoil, thickens from west to east, following a slope in the underlying clay. This may suggest that the land lying to the east of no.47 once formed part of a tidal inlet or watercourse.
5. A single small pottery rim-sherd was recovered from the spoil-heap. This is in a plain sandy ware and appears to be from an everted rim jar/ cooking pot typical of the medieval period.

No.49 Warblington Road

1. Three trenches were excavated at no.49 Warblington Road in advance of building works (see Fig.2). Trenches 1 (4.5m x 1m) & 2 (4m x 1m) were positioned in order to pick up the line of any north-south ditch running through the area of the proposed extension. In the event two ditches were revealed in Trench 1, while in Trench 2 undisturbed brickearth was present throughout. Trench 3 (3.5m x 1m) was then opened in order to further investigate the ditches, in particular to enable a section to be excavated across the smaller ditch, which was overlain by a modern drain in Trench 1.

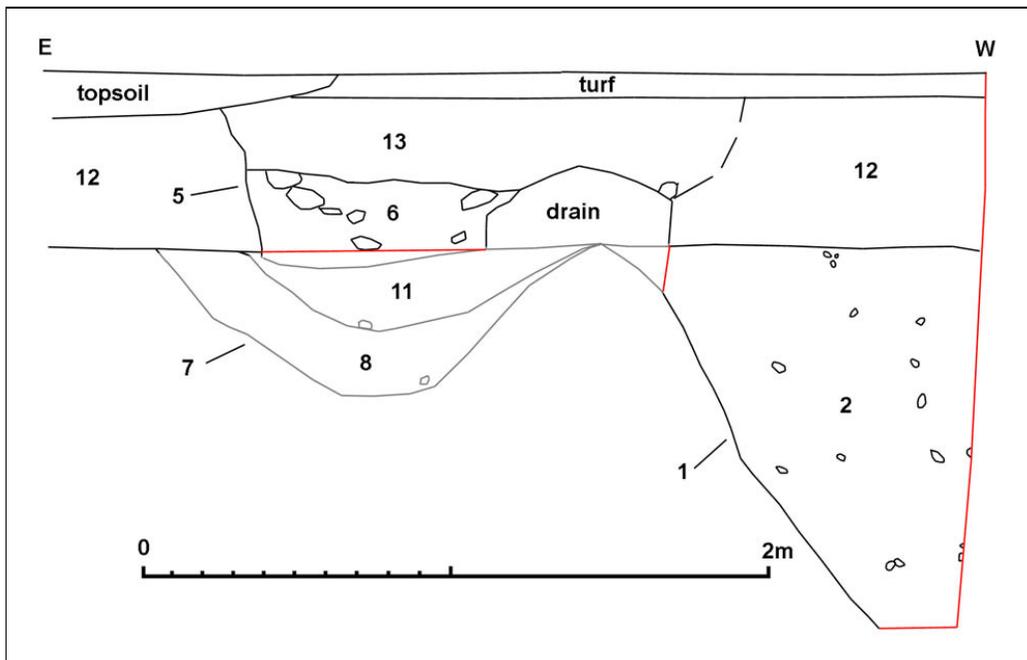


Figure 5 Composite section across the two ditches. The south face of Trench 1 is shown in bold, while the smaller ditch in the north face of Trench 3 is shown as faded.

2. In the western half of both Trenches 1 & 3 two broadly parallel ditches were revealed running approximately north-south. The western of the two was considerably larger than its eastern neighbour, with a depth of 1.2m below the level of the natural brickearth being reached without encountering the base. Its width was likewise not determined, the western edge being beyond the edge of the trench. This ditch was filled with a uniform deposit of friable mid orange/grey/brown clay silt (2 in Fig.5 and 10 in Trench 3) with occasional-frequent flints. Within this fill material were 14 sherds of pottery, three fragments of fired clay and two animal teeth. The pottery assemblage is likely to date to the second half of the 1st century AD. The three fragments of fired clay could be briquetage connected with salt-panning but more featured pieces would be required to confirm this (see Appendix 1 below).



Figure 6 The smaller ditch in Trench 3 (left image) looking north-west and the larger ditch in Trench 1 (right image) looking south-west. The scale is 2m.

3. The eastern ditch in Trenches 1 & 3 was much smaller, with a width of c.1.35m and a depth of only 0.45m below the level of the natural brickearth. It was filled with two deposits, the lower being a compact/friable orange/grey silty clay (8 in Fig.5) and the upper a friable mid orange/grey/brown clay silt (11 in Fig.5). The lower fill (8) produced a pottery assemblage of 11 sherds, likely to date to the 1st century AD, making it broadly contemporary with that from the larger ditch (see Appendix 1) and a single animal bone.
4. A soil sample was taken from each of the two ditches to attempt to determine whether they had flowed with salt water or fresh water, however neither were able to answer this question (see Appendix 2).
5. Overlying these ditches in both trenches was a layer of friable darker orange/grey/brown clay silt with a thickness of between 0.5–0.6m (12 in Fig.5), below the modern turf and topsoil. This is likely to be an historic ploughsoil, as found in the foundation trenches at no.47, but here with a much thinner layer of overlying topsoil. In Trench 1 a large fragment (2.9kg) from the upper stone of a Lower Greensand (Lodsworth type) quernstone was recovered. It is probable that this has been dragged by ploughing from its originally location, which may have been from the upper fill of one of the ditches or from another archaeological feature in the vicinity.
6. In both Trenches 1 and 3 a trench (5 in Fig.5), c. 1.65m wide and filled with loose darker soil and large flints (6 & 13 in Fig.5), was visible. This would appear to have been dug down to the level of the surface of the brickearth and to follow the line of the two ditches. It is possible that this trench is related to the archaeological discoveries made in the 1970's, possibly prompted by the laying of the drain that runs through Trench 1.

CONCLUSION

1. The result of these archaeological investigations at Nos. 47 & 49 Warblington Road has been to confirm the report from the 1970's of the presence of Iron Age and Romano-British activity within the area. Indeed the number of north-south running ditches has increased from one to three. However it is still very unclear as to the exact nature of the occupation on the site.
2. The edges of the two larger ditches lie only 17m apart, with the smaller ditch positioned close up against the western one, with no evidence being found for any occupation between the ditches. The ditches would appear to be too close together to be two sides to an enclosure, but too far apart and too large to be defining a trackway. The most likely explanation is that they either define boundaries or provide drainage, or possibly both.
3. The briquetage, found in the 1970's and during these excavations, might suggest some link with the salt industry, which is attested in other parts of the coastline around Chichester and Langstone harbours. Indeed it is possible that the large ditches may have channelled water to and from salt pans located further in land. In addition the presence of significant quantities of domestic rubbish, such as pottery, animal bone and a quernstone, would suggest that a settlement is not too far distant. It is hoped that future archaeological investigations will help to clarify the picture.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

West Sussex Archaeology. 2012. ***Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at 47 Warblington Road, Emsworth, Hampshire.*** Unpublished.

West Sussex Archaeology. 2013. ***Written Specification for Archaeological Works at 49 Warblington Road, Emsworth, Hampshire.*** Unpublished.

APPENDIX 1 POTTERY REPORTS

No. 47 Warblington Road

Summary

The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of six sherds of pottery weighing 129 g. Five sherds came from a ditch feature and appear to be of early Roman date; the sixth came from the spoil-heap and is probably from a medieval jar/ cooking pot.

Ditch

The ditch produced five bodysherds. Four of these are handmade grey sandy wares typical of the products made at the nearby Rowland's Castle kiln site. The sherds are in moderately fresh condition and all come from closed forms, probably jars. The Rowland's Castle industry appears to have started around the mid 1st century AD continuing through to the 3rd century (Dicks 2009) but without diagnostic sherds such as rims individual sherds are thus difficult to date closely. The fifth sherd is a thick-walled oxidised piece, possibly a basesherd. The sandy fabric shows a scatter of iron grains (less than 0.5 mm) and sparse calcined flint temper (up to 3 mm in size). Calcined flint was also used for some of the Rowland's Castle products (ibid. 55) so this may come from the same source. The tradition of using calcined flint is however, typical of the later prehistoric period so this may suggest the group is earlier rather than of mid-Roman date.

Unstratified

A small rim-sherd was recovered from the spoil-heap. This is in a plain sandy ware and appears to be from an everted rim jar/ cooking pot typical of the medieval period.

Reference

Dicks, J, 2007, The Rowland's Castle Romano-British pottery industry, *J Roman Pottery Stud* **14**, 51-66

49 Warblington Road

Summary

The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of 25 sherds of pottery weighing 495 g. The sherds came from two ditch features and appear to be of early Roman date. In addition three fragments of fired clay were recovered. The pottery is summarised in Table 1.

Description

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WEST SUSSEX ARCHÆOLOGY

The large ditch feature running parallel to that investigated at 47 Warblington Road produced 14 sherds from contexts (2) and (10) and three fragments of fired clay. Eight of the sherds are from handmade grey sandy wares typical of the products made at the nearby Rowland's Castle kilns. The sherds are in moderately fresh condition with sharp edges and are probably from closed jar forms. The two sherds from context (10) are particularly thick-walled suggesting probable storage jar. The Rowland's Castle industry appears to have started around the mid 1st century AD continuing through to the 3rd century (Dicks 2009). Accompanying these sherds are four bodysherds from handmade fine calcined flint-tempered wares; one sandy micaceous, wheel-made, bodysherd and one quartz sand and calcareous-tempered bodysherd. The flint-tempered wares are typical of the later prehistoric period so this may suggest the group is likely to date to the second half of the 1st century AD and thus the earlier phase of production.

The three fragments of accompanying fired clay, weighing 125 g, have a dense organic-tempered fabric. One piece has a right-angle; whilst another shows part of a concave surface. It is possible that these are briquetage connected with salt-panning but more featured pieces would be required to confirm this.

The small ditch produced 11 sherds from context (8). Ten of these are Rowland's Castle ware with three rimsherds from jars. These seem to conform to Dicks (2007) form D2 with simple out-curved rims broadly dated to the mid 1st to late 2nd century. Accompanying these is a single handmade jar in a black ware tempered with fine calcined flint. This vessel would suggest the deposit is more likely to date to the 1st century making the ditch broadly contemporary with the other features investigated on the site.

The group is too small to warrant any further work.

Reference

Dicks, J, 2007, The Rowland's Castle Romano-British pottery industry, *J Roman Pottery Stud* **14**, 51-66

APPENDIX 1 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES REPORT

Diatom assessment

Two sub-samples were extracted for analysis of the diatoms. The diatom extraction involved the following procedures (Battarbee *et al.*, 2001):

1. Treatment of the sub-sample (0.2g) with Hydrogen peroxide (30%) to remove organic material and Hydrochloric acid (50%) to remove remaining carbonates
2. Centrifuging the sub-sample at 1200 for 5 minutes and washing with distilled water (4 washes)
3. Removal of clay from the sub-samples in the last wash by adding a few drops of Ammonia (1%)
4. Two slides prepared, each of a different concentration of the cleaned solution, were fixed in mounting medium of suitable refractive index for diatoms (Naphrax)

Duplicate slides each having two coverslips were made from each sample and fixed in Naphrax for diatom microscopy. The coverslip with the most suitable concentration of the sample preparation was selected for diatom evaluation. A large area of this coverslip was scanned for diatoms at magnifications of x400 and x1000 under phase contrast illumination using a Leica microscope.

This procedure revealed that both samples were unsuitable for further analysis due to the absence of diatom preservation. The reason for this is unknown but may be due to the geochemical characteristics of the sediment sequence, or physical destruction during deposition.

Battarbee, R.W., Jones, V.J., Flower, R.J., Cameron, N.G., Bennion, H.B., Carvalho, L. & Juggins, S. (2001) *Diatoms*. In (J.P. Smol and H.J.B. Birks eds.), *Tracking Environmental Change Using Lake Sediments Volume 3: Terrestrial, Algal, and Siliceous Indicators*, 155-202. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers.