



**Report on a Programme of Archaeological Works at
Arundel Castle Cricket Club, Arundel, West Sussex**

April 2019

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This document sets out the results from a programme of archaeological works carried out by West Sussex Archaeology Ltd on behalf the Friends of Arundel Castle Cricket Club Ltd at the Club ground, Arundel Park, Arundel, West Sussex. The works were carried out in January 2019 during the laying of a new water pipe. The only archaeological feature exposed during the works was the upper fill of a pit or ditch of unknown date.

BACKGROUND

1. Arundel Castle Cricket Club lies within Castle Park, immediately to the north-west of Arundel Castle, Arundel, West Sussex. It sits at c.40m aOD and is centred at OS grid reference TQ 0160 0755. The cricket pitch itself has been terraced into the south facing slope of the Downland spur upon which it sits. The underlying geology is the Spetisbury Chalk Member overlain by chalk with flints.

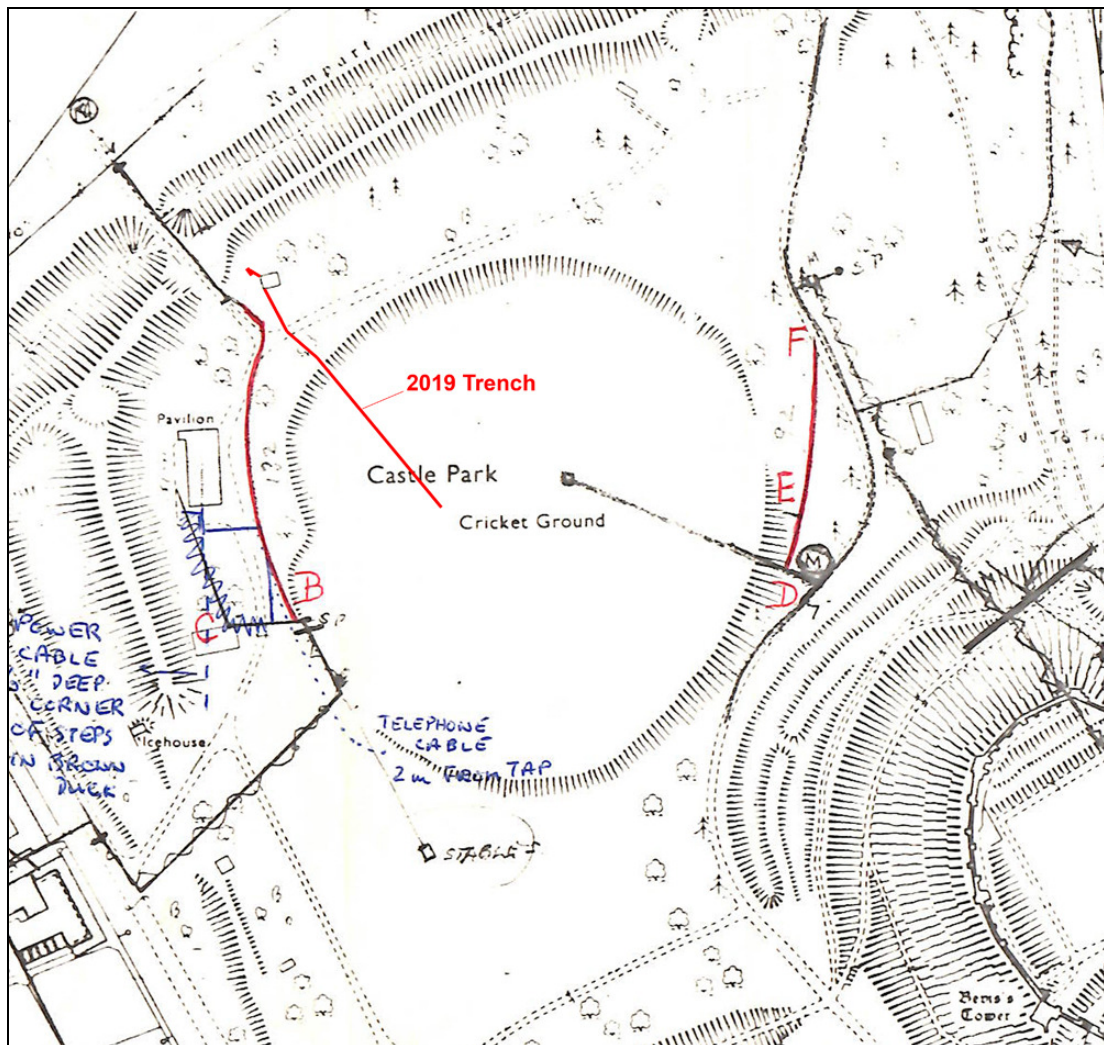


Figure 1 Plan showing the Cricket Ground, with the 2019 water pipe trench marked in red

2. The Friends of Arundel Castle Cricket Club Ltd obtained Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC No.S00207702) for the installation of a new water pipe running from the north side of the cricket pitch, to the central square. The consent included a condition (e) that an archaeologist be present to monitor any ground disturbance and report on the results. West Sussex Archaeology Ltd was appointed by the Friends to undertake such monitoring, which took place on the 10th January 2019, and write the ensuing report, which is this document.

3. The cricket pitch at Arundel Castle was constructed in 1895, between the castle and town to the south, and the earthworks of the outer bailey to the north. In order to create a flat playing surface the natural slope of the ground, running down from north to south, was terraced using cut-and-fill, leaving a steep bank around the northern limit of the cricket pitch boundary.

RESULTS

1. The trench throughout was c.0.3m wide and varied from c.0.25 – 0.4m deep, except at its northern end, where a larger trench, c.2.5 x 1.5m, was excavated in order to locate the existing water pipe and enable the connection of the new. For much of its southern part, from just below the top of the current terraced slope around the cricket boundary, any deposits overlying the chalk had been removed by the construction of the cricket pitch in the late 19th century, and no archaeological features were noted.



Figure 2 South end of the new water pipe trench, looking south

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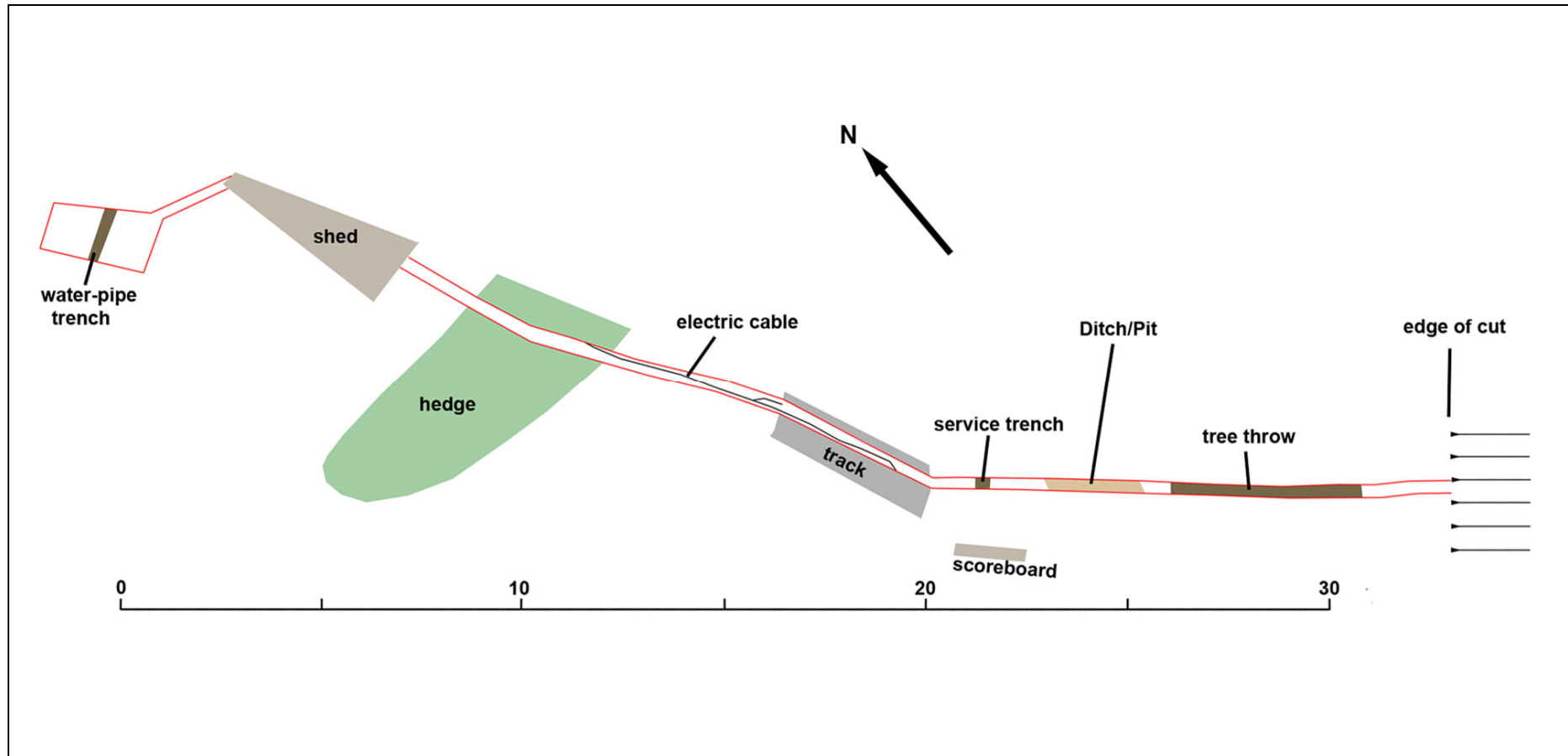


Figure 3 Plan of the northern part of the water pipe trench showing all features revealed. The beginning of the cut to the terraced slope is shown to the right

2. To the north of the terraced slope, the overlying soil deposits were preserved. These consisted of up to c.0.4m of modern topsoil, overlying the natural orange/brown clay with flints, which in turn sits upon the chalk. Aside from modern electric cables, three features were observed, cut into the clay with flints. Close to the terraced slope was a spread of disturbed topsoil and clay, c.4.75m across, which marks the position of a tree throw of recent memory. To the north of this, at a distance of just over 1m, was a patch of smooth brown silt, containing occasional chalk fragments, peg-tile and oyster shell, c.2m wide. It would appear to be orientated roughly north-south, but in such a limited trench it was not possible to ascertain whether it was a pit or a ditch. It was not excavated. The remaining feature within the water pipe trench was a c.0.35m wide cut, c.1.5m to the north of the ditch/pit, which is likely to be a modern service trench.



Figure 4 The water pipe trench north of the terraced slope, the pit/ditch lies just behind the 1m scale



Figure 5 The pit/ditch within the water pipe trench, looking south-west. The 1m scale lies over



Figure 6 The larger trench to the north-west of the shed, looking north-west

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3. To the north of the current track, the trench remained within the thickness of the current topsoil until it reached the existing shed on the other side of the hedge. To the north-west of this shed, a larger trench was excavated to locate the existing water supply. Aside from this modern pipe, it did not reveal any archaeological features, the soil deposits in this location consisting of c.0.2m of mid-dark brown silty topsoil, containing frequent unworked flints, overlying a light-mid brown silty subsoil, again with frequent flints. Below this was the natural clay with flints, cut into which to a depth of c.0.4m, was the existing water pipe trench. Overlying all these layers was a spread of dumped soil, up to c.0.45m thick, formed from the spoil generated during the construction of the neighbouring shed.

CONCLUSION

1. The excavation of the water pipe trench revealed only one archaeological feature, a ditch or pit lying c.8m to the north of the northern edge of the terraced slope to the current cricket pitch. The date and nature of this feature are uncertain, since it was not excavated, lying, as it did, below the level to which the trench was dug. All deposits to the south of the terraced slope have been destroyed when the cricket pitch was created in 1895.