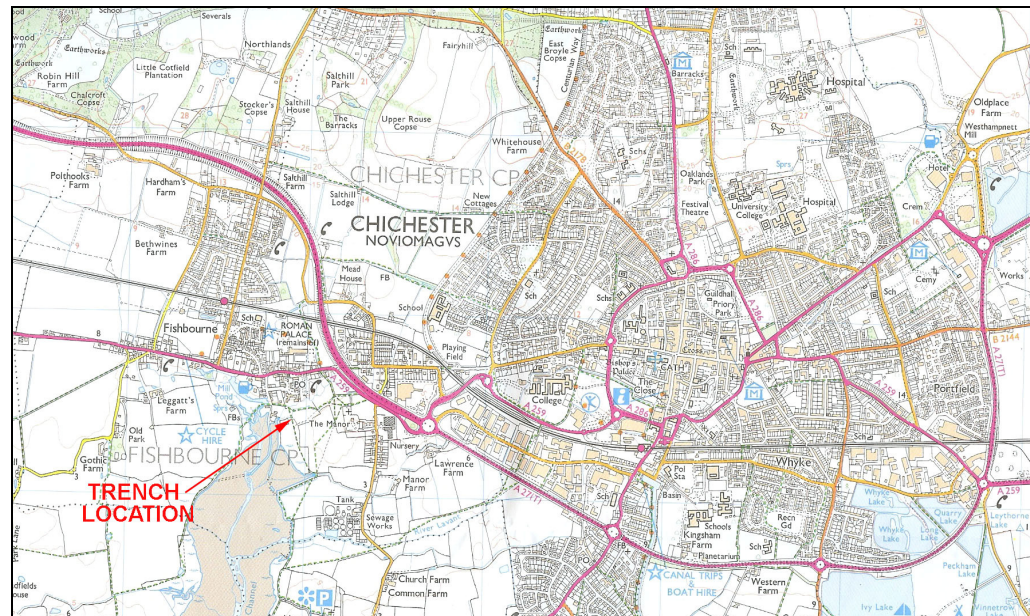


## Report On An Archaeological Watching Brief to the East of Mill Lane, Fishbourne, West Sussex.

### Background

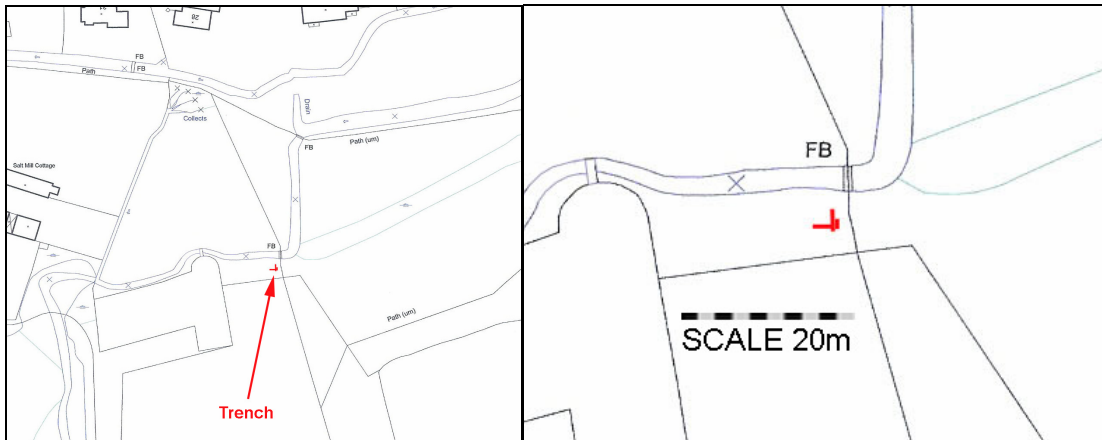
Following the bursting of the sewer main which runs from the village of Fishbourne to the Apuldram Sewage Works, West Sussex Archaeology Limited was contacted to monitor the ground works associated with its repair, carried out by Southern Water. The point at which the sewer had burst lay within the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Fishbourne Roman Palace (SAM No: 233), in area where the formal gardens of the Palace, and associated buildings, were thought to lie. The monitoring took place from 4:30pm until 8:30pm on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007. The results of this work are set out below.



**Figure 1** Map showing the location of the sewer main repair trenches. © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL100036068.

### Nature and Location of Works

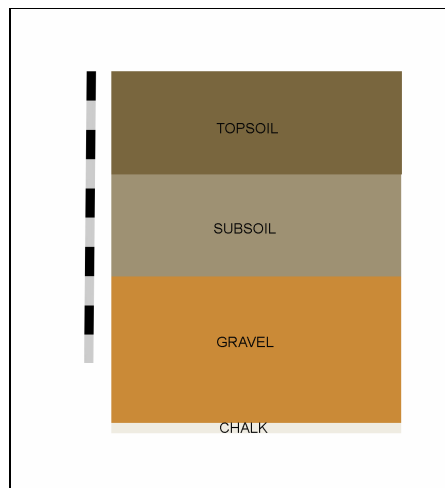
The sewer main had burst immediately to the south of a footbridge crossing a small stream approximately 100m to the east of Salt Mill Cottage, which is located at the south end of Mill Lane, Fishbourne, West Sussex. In order to locate the old break in the main a 3m long trench running east-west was initially excavated, followed by another, again 3m long, running north-south. Both trenches were located close to the western edge of the footpath leading south from the footbridge and were each approximately 0.5m wide. The monitoring was done under artificial light.



**Figure 2** Maps showing the location of the trenches excavated to locate the break in the sewer main. Salt Mill Cottage can be seen on the far left of the map on the left. © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL100036068.

## Results

No archaeological features were observed in the trenches. Four deposits were visible in both trenches. The upper was the modern topsoil (0.35m thick), below that was a subsoil of smooth dark grey silt (0.35m thick). The subsoil lay above a layer of gravel (0.5m thick), which sat upon what is assumed to be the natural undisturbed chalk. A small quantity of Roman tile fragments was seen scattered through all the layers in the trench above the chalk, and part of the base of a 1<sup>st</sup> century Samian ware bowl was recovered from the subsoil. The presence of tile in the gravel layer suggests that it is a Roman or post-Roman deposit, possibly filling in an old stream channel. No photographs were taken of the trenches, since no camera was available due to the short notice given for the call-out.



**Figure 3** Drawing of the layers in a 1m sample section in the south face of the east-west trench. The scale is 1m.