AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION OF LAND AT STEYNING MUSEUM, CHURCH STREET, STEYNING, WEST SUSSEX.

(SUMMARY OF RESULTS)

INTRODUCTION.

C. G. Archaeology was commissioned by Steyning Museum Trust to undertake an archaeological field evaluation of land adjacent Steyning Museum, Church Street, Steyning, West Sussex (N.G. R. TQ 17825 11315).

Steyning Museum has received planning approval for the construction of a 9m. – long and 7m. – wide extension to the south of the existing museum (Area of Interest hachured on Figure 2). However, as the proposed development lies within the historic core of Steyning, John Mills the West Sussex County Council Archaeologist recommended that the site should be the subject of an archaeological trial – excavation prior to the onset of building work.

The investigative methodology employed during the evaluation was based upon a targeted Method Statement prepared by C. G. Archaeology and agreed with John Mills. The fieldwork was carried – out by Christopher Greatorex and Mike Seager Thomas between the 18th and 20th August 2004.

All aspects of the project were commissioned by Steyning Museum Trust, to whom thanks are extended.

FIELDWORK RESULTS.

Under archaeological supervision, a 9m. – long and 2m. – wide trench was dug in the position shown on Figure 2 by a tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

A deposit of very compact dark grey – brown silty clay **(1)** with an average thickness of c.0.70m. was first stripped from the trench. This exercise revealed the immediately underlying natural Upper Greensand **(2)** which was itself dissected by six separate cuts **(3, 5, 8, 10, 12 and 14)** (see Figure 3).

Cut 3 comprised a small oval – shaped feature with a maximum 'diameter' of 0.40m. and depth of 0.20m. The single light grey – brown silty clay fill **(4)** of this possible posthole yielded two sherds of early medieval pottery (precise date/s of pottery assemblage to be presented within final report) and a fragment of oyster shell.

Cut 5 consisted of a c.0.55m. - wide and 0.25m. - deep linear feature running across the trench in an approximate north – south direction. The excavation of its light grey – brown primary fill **(7)** gleaned five sherds of medieval pottery, an oyster shell fragment and the tooth of a sheep / goat. The overlying and uppermost surviving fill of mid grey silty clay **(6)** contained fourteen sherds of medieval pottery and one oyster shell.

The northernmost exposed end of Cut 5 had clearly been dissected by a sub-rectangular intrusion of relatively recent origin **(8)**. In fact, a total of three modern features were identified across the trench **(8, 10 and 12)**. These contexts will be described within the final evaluation report.

Cut 14 was a context of uncertain form and function located in the south – east corner of the trench. Initially, an uppermost surviving horizon of compact mid yellow – brown clay **(16)** was removed from this 0.40m. - deep feature to reveal the primary fill **(15)**. Context 15 comprised a single 'course' of rounded and sub-angular flint nodules set within a silty clay matrix and in effect formed a 'lining' to the sides and base of the cut **(14)**. Although no dating evidence was discovered during the

excavation of Cut 14, a fragment of quernstone ('non – local' stone type awaiting identification) was recovered from Fill 15.

In addition to the six cuts listed above, a box – section was excavated by hand across an area of mid orange – brown silty clay **(17)** located in the south – west corner of the trench. This undated and poorly – defined deposit possessed a maximum thickness of just 80mm. and has proved resistant to current interpretation.

CONCLUSIONS.

The evaluation at Steyning Museum revealed one linear feature and a possible posthole of confirmed medieval origin.

The sharp boundary between the removed overburden **(1)** and natural geology **(2)** and the relatively shallow nature of the investigated cuts may suggest that a degree of truncation has occurred across the site. Nevertheless, it can be concluded that the footprint of the proposed museum extension contains a low density spread of features of some importance to our detailed understanding of Saxo-Norman / Medieval Steyning.

Christopher Greatorex 25 / 8 / 04

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AT STEYNING MUSEUM, STEYNING, WEST SUSSEX (N.G.R. TQ 17825 11315).

A SUMMARY STATEMENT.

From the 25th – 29th July 2005, an archaeological excavation was undertaken across the site of the proposed Steyning Museum extension by C. G. Archaeology and members of Worthing Archaeological Society.

A c.0.70m. – thick layer of overburden was first removed from the area of development by a mechanical digger fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. This procedure revealed a medieval boundary ditch **(Cut 5)** plus nine similarly dated pits **(cuts 22, 26, 30, 32, 34, 40, 42, 44, 46)** six probable post-holes **(cuts 3, 18, 20, 24, 36, 50)** and one large post-hole / small pit **(Cut 28)**. A number of modern features were also documented **(eg. cuts 8, 10, 12, 48)** (please see attached context register and outline site plan).

Each cut of archaeological significance was investigated by hand, with artefactual dating evidence being recovered from all examined contexts. The retained finds assemblage includes pottery, marine shell and a relatively large quantity of animal bone. Soil samples collected from features 5, 22, 30, 40 and 44 will be assessed for the presence of charred botanical material and small faunal remains.

Detailed evaluation, analysis and interpretation of the excavation results is unlikely to be completed in less than two or even three months. Nevertheless, the work carried – out so far would appear to confirm that the area of land under consideration once encompassed significant evidence for Saxo – Norman occupation. As such the project has the potential to add to our understanding of Steyning's early medieval layout and development.

CHRISTOPHER GREATOREX: 10 / 8 / 05

Pottery from Steyning Museum extension

By Mike Seager Thomas

The excavated trench yielded 47 sherds weighing 466 grams. The assemblage can be divided into two interpretative groups, the first from contexts (1) and (11) comprising material of Roman, possible later Saxon, Saxo-Norman, high medieval and early post-medieval date, and the second from contexts (4), (6) and (7) comprising material of possible later Saxon and Saxo-Norman date. The inhomogeneity of the former group indicates that the context has been mixed. Its interpretative importance relates to the taphonomy of the site, rather than the periods represented in it. By contrast the relative homogeneity of the latter group probably indicates that it has not been disturbed, that the features from which it was recovered were filled during or not long after the Saxo-Norman period and that pottery using activities were occurring in the vicinity of the trench around this period – hardly surprising in view of the known Saxo-Norman occupation nearby.

The dating of the assemblage, details of which are given in Table 1, is based upon that of analogous fabrics and forms from Steyning and elsewhere in West Sussex. GW is a generic term for R-B grey wares: the example from Steyning cannot be identified with a specific datable group. Fabrics with codes beginning in D are comparable to Gardiner's Adur Valley Saxo-Norman fabrics and fabrics with codes beginning in CSW to his Central Sussex Weald high medieval fabrics (Gardiner 1997). WSW refers to the green-glazed fabric – but not the form – of West Sussex Ware jugs (Barton 1979). The soot-soaking of fabrics DH and DL may indicate a later Saxon, rather than a Saxo-Norman date for these sherds. R refers to the ubiquitous glazed red earthenwares of the immediately post medieval period. Closely datable forms from the site include the grey ware rim, related to morphologically the early R-B bead-rim jar, and the finger-tip impressed rim which in fabric DH can only be Saxo-Norman.

Table 1. Pottery dating evidence

Pottery group	Context	Fabric	No. of sherds	Form/other chronologically diagnostic traits	Probable date
1	(1)	GW	1	Pointed rim of round-shouldered, closed-mouth jar	R-B (1st-2nd century AD)
		DH	1	Soot-soaked	Possible later Saxon
		DH	15	Flat, externally expanded, very shelly rim	Saxo-Norman
		CSW6	2		High medieval
		R	2		Post-medieval (17th-18th century)
		WSW	1		High medieval
		Fine sandy	1		Undatable
	(11)	DH	1	Finger-tip impressed rim	Saxo-Norman
2	(4)	DH	4	Squared rim; ribbed (tri-form) handle	Saxo-Norman
	(6)	Sandy	1		Undatable
		DH	10		Saxo-Norman
		DL	1	Soot-soaked	Possible later Saxon
	(7)	DH	1	Saggy base	Saxo-Norman
		DH	1	Soot-soaked	Later-Saxon

Steyning Museum

THE POTTERY by Luke Barber

Introduction

The excavations at the site produced 714 sherds of pottery, weighing 4,122g, from 24 individually numbered contexts. With the exception of six residual Romano-British sherds and one intrusive post-medieval sherd, the assemblage is all of the medieval period. Although the medieval assemblage spans the 10th/11th to 14th centuries, the majority is of 12th- to early 13th- century date.

The condition of the assemblage is poor. Most sherds are small (average sherd size for the whole assemblage is only 5.8g) and show signs of abrasion suggesting they have been reworked. There appears to be a moderate degree of residuality in most contexts and in a number there are definite intrusive pieces. Very few feature sherds are present and context groups tend to be small: the largest is from Context 45 which contained 167 sherds (including residual Roman and intrusive 17th- century material) weighing a mere 988g.

A number of other excavations within the town and its environs (Gardiner 1990 and 1993 and Gardiner and Greatorex 1997) have yielded far better assemblages of pottery and the current assemblage does not contain the secure context and diagnostic sherds to advance this study any further. However, it has provided the opportunity to integrate a number of new fabrics into the West Sussex Medieval Fabric Collection. The main aims of the pottery analysis were therefore to characterise the assemblage and to help the dating of the excavated deposits.

All the studied pottery was divided into fabric groups based on a visual examination, using a hand-lens were necessary, of tempering, inclusions and manufacturing technique. Context groups were then spot dated and the assemblages from each context fully quantified by fabric for the archive. No sherd groups suitable for illustration are present.

The Fabric Groups

Despite the small size of the overall assemblage, the fabrics are fully listed below as this is the first assemblage from the town to be incorporated into the West Sussex Medieval Fabric Reference Collection. The earlier fabric series established for the Adur valley (Gardiner 1990 and 1997) will be incorporated into the new county-wide series, though the lack of, or small size of, Adur Valley sample sherds will make complete integration impossible. Isolating fabric groups in the current assemblage was sometimes difficult due to the mixed nature of the tempering agents, presumably as a result of alluvial deposits of flint/chalk/shell and sand being used. All fabrics are probably local unless otherwise stated. Codes in brackets refer to the West Sussex Fabric Reference Collection (always prefixed WS). Quantities of each fabric are also given for the assemblage as a whole (no./weight in grams)

Fabric 1: Moderate flint (black, grey, white) and rare chalk to 1.5mm. (WS: F+c/AS1). Low fired. Oxidised/reduced throughout. Cooking pots only. 10th – 11th century. (19/79g)

Fabric 2: Moderate shell with rare rounded quartz to 1.5mm. (WS: S/M2). Low/medium fired. Reduced. Cooking pots only. 11th – 12th century. (7/35g)

Fabric 3: Moderate flint (white, grey, brown) and rare chalk to 1mm. (WS: F+c/M3). Low/medium fired. Mainly oxidized but with some reduction. Cooking pots only, some with pie-crusted flaring rims and stamped decoration. 11th – 12th century. (73/383g)

Fabric 4: Sparse fine sand with sparse/common rounded quartz inclusions to 1mm and rare shell to 0.5mm. (WS: Q+s/M3). Low fired. Reduced. Cooking pots only. Early/mid 11th – 12th century. (2/5g)

Fabric 5: Moderate chalk to 1.5mm with rare flint and shell inclusions to 1mm. (WS: C/M3). Low/medium fired. Usually oxidised. Cooking pots only. This is the old Adur Valley Fabric DA (Gardiner 1990). Late 10th – 12th century. (35/180g)

Fabric 6: Moderate/abundant flint (white, grey, black, red, brown) to 1mm with rare shell inclusions to 0.5mm. (WS: F/M2). Medium fired. Usually oxidised. Cooking pots with flaring rims (some pie-crusted) and stamped decoration mainly but some crude unglazed jugs too. 12th to early 13th century. Probably develops into Fabric 9. (163/850g)

Fabric 7: Moderate/abundant flint (white, grey, black, red, brown) to 3mm (most to 1mm) with sparse sand and rare shell inclusions to 0.5mm. (WS: F/M6). Medium fired. Usually oxidised. Cooking pots only. 12th to early 13th century. A variation of Fabric 6. (14/73g).

Fabric 8: Sparse/moderate chalk to 1mm with rare/sparse flint (white, grey, black, red, brown) to 0.5mm with very rare shell inclusions to 0.5mm. (WS: C+f/M4). Medium fired. Usually oxidised. Cooking pots with flaring, sometimes slightly developed, club rims. Occasional scratched line decoration. 12th to early 13th century. (215/1,301g).

Fabric 9: Moderate/abundant medium sand with sparse shell and flint inclusions to 1mm. (WS: Q+s/M1). Medium fired. Usually oxidised. Cooking pots mainly but occasional unglazed jugs too. mid/late 12th to early/mid 13th century. (130/738g).

Fabric 10: Moderate fine/medium sand with sparse chalk inclusions to 0.5mm. (WS: Q+c/M3). Medium fired. Usually oxidised. Cooking pots only. mid/late 12th to early 13th century. (14/65g).

Fabric 11: Moderate medium sand with sparse larger rounded quartz inclusions to 1.5mm. (WS: Q/M1a). Medium fired. Usually oxidised. Cooking pots only. Probably from the Steyning kilns (Gardiner 1997). Late 12th – 13th century. (6/109g).

Fabric 12: Moderate fine/medium sand, occasionally with quartz/flint inclusions to 1mm. (WS: Q/M16). Medium fired. Usually oxidised. Cooking pots and sparse glazed jugs noted. 13th to early 14th. (18/192g).

Fabric 13: Moderate fine/medium sand. (WS: Q(f)/M25). Medium/hard fired. Usually oxidised. Jugs with white painted decoration and sparse clear glaze noted. Also found at Shoreham (Barber forthcoming) Late 13th – 14th. (1/14g).

Fabric 14: Moderate fine/medium sand. (WS: Q/M19). Medium fired. Usually reduced light grey. Jugs with thick green glaze over incised line decoration. Also found at Shoreham (Barber forthcoming) Late 13th – 14th. (1/5g).

Fabric 15: Sparse fine sand. (WS: Q(f)/M1a). Medium fired. Usually oxidised. Cooking pots noted only. Mid 13th – 14th. (1/19g).

Fabric 16: Moderate fine sand. (WS: Q(f)/M2). Medium fired. Usually oxidised. Jugs with good green glaze. West Sussex Ware (Barton 1979). Mid/late 13th – 14th. (7/22g).

Fabric 17:French whiteware (UWW/M2)
Sparse fine sand. Jugs with light green glaze. Mid 13th – 14th century. (1/9g)

The Assemblage

Tha Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman assemblage is by far the largest from the site (672 sherds, weighing 3,709g). The earliest material consists of a few residual sherds of coarse flint and shell tempered cooking pots of probable late 9th- to early 11th- century date. No feature sherds are present, and all the material is residual in later Saxo-Norman contexts, however, these sherds do indicate at least some Late Saxon activity in the vicinity.

The majority of the assemblage can be placed between the later 11th and early 13th centuries, though most is probably of 12th- century date. Cooking pots with sharply everted flaring rims totally dominate and a number show 'pie-crust' decoration on the rim and occasionally stamped or incised decoration on the shoulder. These vessels appear in a range of generally oxidised fabrics utilising chalk (earlier in the period) and, more commonly, alluvial grits containing flint, chalk/shell and sand. The alluvial grit tempering appears to become finer, and sparser, toward the later 12th to early 13th centuries and at this point it is likely the first true sand-tempered wares, such as those produced in Steyning itself (Gardiner 1997), begin to replace the earlier tempering agents. By the middle of the 13th century it is probable that the last of the alluvial gritted wares were supplanted by the 'High Medieval' sand tempered wares. However, sand tempered wares, with occasional flint/chalk/shell inclusions appear to have been made at some production sites in the area into the 14th century (Barber forthcoming) but are usually easily distinguished by the sparse nature of the inclusions and harder fired nature of the pottery.

The assemblage contains only 35 sherds (370g) which can be confidently places in an early/mid 13th to mid 14th century bracket, though none need post-date the 13th century. Of these 17% by weight come from the topsoil and a good deal more may be intrusive into late Saxo-Norman deposits. This small assemblage is dominated by sand tempered wares (probably made in the town) coinciding with the appearance of glazed jugs from a number of local/regional sources. Only one imported sherd was recovered: a French jug from Context 6/31, but this may be a result of the small assemblage size. The low quantity of 'High Medieval' pottery strongly suggests that little refuse disposal was occurring from the early 13th to mid 14th centuries. Although a number of the pits contain material of this date it is usually in such small quantities, and often with larger quantities of late Saxo-Norman sherds, that it is difficult to ascertain whether the pits are of this date or whether the 13th/14th- century material is intrusive, perhaps as a result of cultivation of the area. The only sherd post-dating the mid 14th century consists of a single 17th- century earthenware sherd.

References

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Steyning Museum (SLE 05)

FABRIC NO.	2	1	5	7	6	8	3	5	10	9	3	4			11	12			14	15	13	16	16	17	R-B	PM
Context	S/M2	F+c/AS1	C/M3	F/M6	F/M2	C+S/M4	F+c/M3	C/M3	Q+c/M3	Q+s/M1	F+c/M3	Q+s/M3			Q/M1a	Q/M16			Q/M19	Q(s) M1a	Q(s) M25	Q(f) M2	Q(f) M2	UWW/M2	R-B	C17th GRE
1	1/18g			4/24g	8/42g					2/14g		1/4g			2/13g	1/8g				1/19g	1/14g	1/2g	1/7g			
4	1/4g				1/36g																					
6	4/8g		3/8g	2/6g	27/76g					22/96g						4/82g							1/2g			
6/25		1/1g	6/19g		7/30g	2/24g			1/9g	36/156g					1/40g	5/55g										
5/31			3/9g	1/4g	13/112g	4/21g	3/16g		2/12g	20/99g		1/1g				2/12g								1/9g	1/8g stoneware	
7	1/5g		1/3g	1/3g	12/68g		2/10g	1/3g		3/52g						1/4g			1/5g							
11					1/20g																					
19							4/96g															1/4g				
21										1/1g						4/22g							1/4g			
23		4/15g	1/2g		10/71g		1/5g		2/7g	16/89g																
25							2/8g																			
27					3/10g	2/31g																				
29				1/1g		2/8g																				
31		2/3g	10/52g	4/31g	24/131g	10/58g	8/38g		1/5g	16/108g						1/11g						1/2g			1/5g oxid sandy	
33				1/4g	23/60g	3/18g	8/30g			10/61g	7/28g											1/1g				
35		1/6g			2/4g																					
37							1/5g																			
41			1/5g		8/44g	26/181g	2/9g	3/30g	4/18g		5/21g				3/56g											
43					3/17g	4/26g				4/18g																
45 (Largest group)		11/44g			15/108g	112/679g	6/30g	4/33g			14/64g														4/25g	1/5g
47			1/12g		1/4g	40/188g	1/3g	1/3g	1/7g	6/25g	1/3g															
49						1/6g																				
51					3/10g	2/8g																				
52					2/7g	8/52g	3/17g		3/7g	2/10g																
	7/35g	19/79g	36/108g	14/73g	163/850g	215/1,301g	46/267g	9/72g	14/65g	130/738g	37/116g	2/5g			6/109g	18/192g			1/5g	1/19g	1/14g	4/9g	3/13g	1/4g	6/38g	1/5g

Fabric 5 (both columns): 35/180g
Fabric 3 (both columns): 73/383g
Fabric 16 (both columns): 7/22g

Totals:
R-B 6/38g
Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman – 672/3,709g 5.5g ave sherd
High Med (post e/m 13th) – 35/370g 10.6g ave sherd (of which 7/63g 17% by weight came from ①)
PM – 1/5g

Grand Total. 714/4,122g 5.8g ave sherd from 24 contexts.
(45) Largest group 167 sherds 988g incl. resid R-B + intr. C17th x1.

Steyning Museum

The Metalwork by Luke Barber

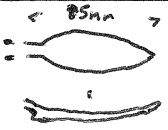
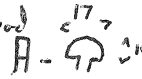
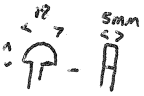
The excavations recovered 15 pieces of metalwork from seven individually numbered contexts. All but one consist of heavily corroded ironwork. A full list by context forms part of the archive. The assemblage is all from contexts dated to the 12th to 13th centuries with the exception of an iron grip from a set of post-medieval ?tongs (unstratified). The medieval assemblage consists of nail fragments on the whole. Most are of general purpose types though a headless example was recovered from Context 6 and a total of three dome-headed horse-shoe nails were recovered from Contexts 31 and 45. The only other item consists of part of a copper alloy buckle with heavy iron corrosion products (probably from the pin) in Context 31.

ARCHIVE **FAU/SEAS**

METALWORK RECORD FORM

Ferrous ☑ **Non-Ferrous** ☑

Site: Steyning Museum **Site Code:** SLE 05 **Sheet** 1 **of** 1

Context No. (incl. date)	No.	Weight (gms)	Description incl. object type, date, dimensions, sketch, corrosion etc.	Dis/Ret/ Con/ Pub
(1) u/s	1	32g	x1 Fe  Possibly the grip from a set of tongs	Ret.
(6)	2	21g	x2 Fe Headless nail frags. □ section shanks. x1 71mm long	Ret.
C13th	1	11g	x1 Fe Strip frag. with expanded end	
(6)/(25)	1	2g	x1 Fe Nail frag.	Ret.
C13th				
(6)/(31)	1	2g	x1 Fe Nail frag. Small rectangular head	Ret.
mid C12th-e 13th				
(23)	2	6g	x2 Fe Nail frags. General purpose round head x1	Ret.
mid C12th-e 13th				
(31)	1	3g	x1 Cu. Al. + Fe double looped buckle? frag.	Ret.
	1	3g	x1 Fe Farrier's nail with domed head 	
mid C12th-e/m 13th				
(45)	3	12g	x3 Fe General purpose nail frags	Ret.
	2	13g	x2 Fe Farrier's nails with domed heads 	
C12th - e 13th				
+ (33)	1	3.9g	x1 possible iron slag	
(47)	3	24.4g 3.6g 1.7g	x3 possible iron slag	

Steyning Museum

Worked Bone by Luke Barber

A single piece (13g) of unstratified worked bone was recovered during the excavation of the soakaway behind the museum. The item consists of a gently curving solid bone handle with oval cross-section (13 x 9mm). It is broken at the point where the handle tapers for the neck. On the upper and lower surfaces there are two longitudinal incised lines either side of the central axis bordered by short oblique incised lines. Although no exact parallel has been located for this handle it appears to be similar to those from bone toothbrushes of the late 18th to 19th centuries (Butlet 2003).

Ref

Butler, C. 2003. *The Excavation of a late 19th century pit at the Magazine, Castle Street, Winchelsea, East Sussex.* Chris Butler Archaeological Services. (privately published)

ARCHIVE

GEOLOGICAL MATERIAL

Site: Skipping Museum Extension Site Code: SLE05 Sheet 1 of 1

Context No.	Stone type	No.	Weight	Comments
(43)	Ferruginous Sandstone	1	c.200g	/

THE ANIMAL REMAINS

FROM

STEYNING MUSEUM EXTENSION

PROJECT: 05/05

SITE: SLE05

The animal remains from the Steyning Museum extension excavations were recovered from sixteen contexts within the area to be disturbed.

The bones fragments were examined from within each of the 16 features listed below (Table 1)

FEATURE	BONES PRESENT	
1	3	
6	66	(fill of Ditch 5)
7	29	
23	54	
25	47	
27	1	
29	1	
31	142	
33	31	
41	35	
43	13	
45	106	
47	53	
49	1	
51	8	
52	14	
Features 16	604	

Table 1

From the above information it can be seen that the largest numbers of bones were recovered from features 31 and 45.

This total of 604 bones and fragments were examined and from these, eight species were identified with confidence, namely Equus sp. (horse) Bos sp. (cattle), Ovicaprid (sheep/goat), Sus sp. (pig), Canis sp. (dog), Felis sp. (cat), Gallus sp. (dom. fowl), Salmon/Trout sp. and probable Cod fragments. Fragments were sorted to large (Lar) and small (Sar) fragments and unidentifiable bird fragments (see Table 2, below).

SPECIES LIST

	No.	%
HORSE	3	<1
CATTLE	37	6.0
SHEEP/GOAT	82	13.5
PIG	23	4.0
DOG	3	<1
CAT	2	<1
Dom. FOWL	6	1.0
SALMON/TROUT size	2	<1
COD size	2	<1
LAR	129	22.0
SAR	307	51.0
UNIDENTIFIABLE BIRD	8	1.0
TOTAL	604	99.0

Table 2.

The bones were also examined for gnawing, erosion, butchery, ageing and any pathological evidence. Throughout the site gnawing by dogs is fairly common and mainly on fragments from features 6, 7, 25, 45 and 52. A number of fragments show some erosion which together with the gnawing evidence would appear to show that the remains were left lying around for some time before

they became buried. Butchery evidence is very slight with only five fragments showing signs of having been chopped, together with a sheep horn core having cut marks around its base which might indicate that the horn was still in place when the skin of the sheep was removed. There is no obvious evidence for pathology on any of the fragments, but a genetic trait, which seems to be a fairly common occurrence in cattle was observed on the lower third molar from feature 47. This is shown by the lack of the third cusp of the tooth which then shows abnormal wear on the end of the tooth which is caused by the overgrown upper corresponding molar showing abnormal growth rather than wear.

In general it would seem that the major species present were fully adult but not aged, that is probably not more that five years of age, but no real estimates of size or age could be made from the bones present. The fish bones would represent both local river and sea fishing but again numbers are too small to gain any positive information.

Marine Molluscs by David Dunkin

The excavation at the Steyning Museum Extension (SLE 05) produced 18 contexts which contained marine molluscs (for summary see **Table 1**. below). The five species represented in the assemblage are the Common Oyster (*Ostrea edulis*), the Carpet Shell (*Venerupis decussata*), the Common Cockle (*Cerastoderma edule*), the Common Mussel (*Mytilus edulis*), and the Periwinkle (*Littorina littorae*). Oyster remains were present in all 18 contexts and account for *c.* 97% of the total weight of the assemblage which is 1.902 kg.

Table 1. Quantification and Identification of Marine Molluscs from Excavation (SLE 05)

Context Number	**Context Type**	**Species**	**Quantity/Age**	**Evidence of Encrustation** (*Ostrea edulis* only)
4	Post-hole	*Ostrea edulis*	Oyster : 1 x fragment	-
6	Ditch	*Ostrea edulis* *Venerupis decussata*	Oyster : 2 x left umbones (Lower) c. 3 years; 7 x fragments; Carpet Shell : 1 x fragment	2 x frags + 1 x umbone has evidence for polychaete worm infestation; Distortion in umbone
6/25	Ditch	*Ostrea edulis* *Venerupis decussata* *Littorina littorae*	Oyster : 1 x left valve c. 8 years ; 7 x fragments; Carpet Shell : 4 x fragments; Periwinkle : 1 x adult + 1 x fragment	Distortion noted
6/31	Ditch	*Ostrea edulis* *Littorina littorae*	Oyster : 1 x right valve (upper) c. 7/8 years; 10 x fragments; Periwinkle : 1 x fragment	Polychaete worm infestation in 1 x frag.
7	Ditch	*Ostrea edulis* *Venerupis decussata* *Littorina littorae*	Oyster : 1 x umbone c. 4 years; 5 x fragments; Carpet Shell : 1 x fragment; Periwinkle : 2 x fragments	-
19	Post-hole	*Ostrea edulis*	Oyster : 1 x right valve c. 8 years	Polychaete worm infestation noted
23	Pit	*Ostrea edulis* *Mytilus edulis* *Littorina littorae*	Oyster : 1 x right valve c. 6/8 years; 3 x umbones c. 3/5 years; 4 x fragments; Mussel : 1 x fragment; Periwinkle : 1 x fragment	-
25	Post-hole?	*Ostrea edulis*	Oyster : 1 x fragment	-
29	Post-hole/Pit	*Ostrea edulis*	Oyster : 1 x fragment	-
31	Pit	*Ostrea edulis* *Littorina littorae* *Cerastoderma edule* *Veneupis decussata*	Oyster : 3 x left valves c. 3/7 years; 1 x right valve c. 3/4 years; 7 x left umbones; 12 x fragments; Periwinkles : 5 x adults; Cockles : 1 x juvenile 2 x	Polychaete worm infestation in 2 x umbones and some frags. Distortion noted

			adults; 1 x fragment Carpet Shell : 1 x juvenile; 3 x fragments	
33	Pit	*Ostrea edulis* *Mytilus edulis*	Oyster : 5 x left valves c. 6/10 years; 3 x right valves c. 5 years; 1 x left umbone 3/5 years; 9 x fragments; Mussel : 4 x fragments	Polychaete worm infestation and distortion noted in umbone and valves
41	Pit	*Ostrea edulis* *Mytilus edulis* *Venerupis decussata*	Oyster : 3 x right valves c. 6/9 years; 2 x left umbones c. 4/6 years; 1 x right umbone c. 3/4 years; 5 x fragments; Mussel : 5 x fragments Carpet Shell : 2 x fragments	Polychaete worm infestation in 1 x frag. Some distortion noted in 1 x left umbone
43	Pit	*Ostrea edulis* *Littorina littorae*	Oyster : 4 x fragments Periwinkle : 1 x fragment	-
45	Pit	*Ostrea edulis* *Cerastoderma edule* *Venerupis decussata* *Littorina littorae* *Mytilus edulis*	Oyster : 6 x left valves c. 4/10 years; 9 x right valves c. 3/10 years; 5 x umbones; 49 x fragments; Cockle : 1 x fragment; Carpet Shell : 4 x fragments; Periwinkle : 8x adults; Mussel : 7 x fragments	Polychaete worm infestation in 4 x left valves and younger right valves; Distortion noted in some left valves and umbones
47	Pit	*Ostrea edulis* *Littorina littorae*	Oyster : 2 x right valves c. 3/5 years; 1 x right umbone c. 8 years; 7 x fragments; Periwinkle : 1 x fragment	Burrowing sponge noted in right umbone
49	Mod. feature	*Ostrea edulis*	Oyster : 1 x fragment	-
51	Post-hole?	*Ostrea edulis* *Littorina littorae*	Oyster : 2 x left valves c 2/4 years; Periwinkle : 1 x adult	Valves show evidence of polychaete worm infestation and distortion
52	Pit	*Ostrea edulis* *Venerupis decussata*	Oyster : 2 x left valves c. 9 years+; 1 x right valve c. 3 years; 2 x umbones; 1 x fragment; Carpet Shell : 1 x umbone (juvenile)	Polychaete worm infestation in 1 x left valve; 1 x umbone v. distorted

Table 1 indicates that the number of marine molluscs in each of the 18 contexts is very small. Context 45 (a pit) is the largest assemblage, with the greatest diversity (all 5 species represented) and this contains just 15 oyster individuals where the valves are complete (6 x left lower valves; 9 x right upper valves). Apart from the modern feature (49 in Table 1.), all the other contexts have been tentatively dated to the 12th-14th century.

Given the small size of the total assemblage it is of note that nine of the 18 contexts contain oyster individuals that have suffered polychaete worm infestation (*Polydora ciliata/P. Hoplura)* and eight show some evidence for distortion (see Table 1). One context (47) has evidence for burrowing sponge infestation (*Cliona celata*). The high level of worm infestation and the fact that 4 contexts (25, 29, 43, 49) contain such small amounts that distortion and infestation would be unobserveable, suggests that the oyster

has been harvested from unhealthy wild colonies. This might be contrasted with the fact that nearby Shoreham and the Adur Estuary was an important resource area for oyster production from the 13th-19th centuries, with large oyster stations developing by the later Post-medieval period. Many of the larger early Medieval oyster assemblages recently examined from the Shoreham area (eg The Ropetackle and Marlipins Shoreham sites) show relatively low levels of infestation and distortion. Therefore the oyster from the Steyning site must be regarded as an inferior secondary food resource. The majority of the complete shells from Steyning are however, of an edible size (most falling within a 4-10 year age range).

Similarly, the other four species present are also edible, but their presence is in such low numbers (Table 1) that they must be regarded as an insignificant food resource at the Steyning site.