

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at the
East Street Pedestrianisation Scheme, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex**

**NGR 521630 105050
(TQ21630 05050)**

**Project No. 4805
Site Code: XES11**

**ASE Report No. 2011151
OASIS ID: archaeol6-103668**

**by
Simon Stevens BA MIFA**

**With contributions by
Luke Barber, Sarah Porteus, Elke Raemen
and Lucy Sibun**

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during two visits to East Street, Shoreham-By-Sea during pedestrianisation of the road. No significant archaeological deposits were recorded, although a small assemblage of artefacts (mostly late post-medieval in date) was recovered from the made ground observed below the old road surface and associated levelling deposits.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of UCL Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) was commissioned by West Sussex County Council (Highways) to carry out a limited watching brief during the pedestrianisation of East Street, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex (NGR 521630 105050) (Fig. 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 East Street runs north from the town's High Street at an average height of c.5m AOD, curving to the east to circumnavigate the wall of the churchyard of the medieval church of St. Mary de Haura, before its junction with St. Mary's Road. It is bounded on both sides by shops and offices close to the High Street and, for approximately half of its length, by the churchyard.

1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2011) the site lies on superficial Head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel which overlie bedrock geology of the Newhaven Chalk formation. Beach and tidal deposits of the River Adur lie immediately to the south.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The pedestrianisation scheme falls outside of the usual planning process, and therefore no condition requiring archaeological work could be attached to any permission.

1.3.2 Following discussions between John Mills, Senior Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council, and the Project Manager for the scheme (Sylvie Hardcastle) it was agreed that limited archaeological monitoring of groundworks was appropriate.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The general objective of the archaeological work was to monitor ground reduction associated with the laying of a cobbled pedestrianised surface in order to properly record and report on the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains exposed during groundworks.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 The current report provides results of the archaeological monitoring of groundworks at the site carried out in two site visits in May and June 2011. The work was undertaken by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist), The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Fieldwork) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 East Street is located in an area of archaeological sensitivity within the core of the historic town centre of Shoreham as set out in the Shoreham Historic Character Assessment Report prepared in connection with the Sussex Extensive Urban Survey (Harris 2009).

2.2 Prehistoric and Roman

2.2.1 Until recently, there had only been occasional finds of prehistoric, and Romano-British artefacts in the general area (listed in the West Sussex County Council Historic Environment Record), and the exact find spots are often unclear. However, a Romano-British well discovered at the junction of Southdown Road and Mill Lane to the north of the site is of significance, as it contained tesserae suggesting that a substantial Romano-British building (?villa) lies undiscovered in the vicinity (Witten 1978).

2.3 Medieval

2.3.1 New Shoreham was founded at the mouth of the River Adur shortly after the Norman Conquest to replace the port of Old Shoreham further upstream (Aldsworth & Freke 1976, 60-61). The name *scora ham* is of Anglo-Saxon origin and *scora* appears to be a reference to the local steep slope of the downland (Mawer and Stenton 1929-30, 246-7). The first documentary reference to New Shoreham is in 1151, and by 1235 the settlement is known as *Noua Sorham*, and by 1288 as *Nywe Shorham (ibid.)*.

2.3.2 Much of the grid-pattern layout of the streets of the Norman planned town has survived, including the alignment of East Street. From documentary sources, it appears that the medieval port enjoyed great prosperity through the 12th century, although it seems to have gone into decline in the 13th or 14th century, and a large part of the town was apparently ruinous by 1368, although the cause of this remains obscure (Elrington 1980, 142). It is possible that the decline was purely economic, the result of a French or Spanish raid, or due to silting of the harbour entrance, or more likely a combination of factors. It has also been suggested that the sea destroyed the southern part of the port in 1401 (Aldsworth & Freke *op. cit.*), although it has also been proposed that the damage was confined to the eastern part of the settlement (Elrington 1980, 146).

2.3.3 Documentary sources show that the town was the site of a Carmelite Priory (founded in 1316) and at least two medieval Hospitals (Cheal 1921). The surviving above-ground remains of the medieval town are the impressive church of St. Mary de Haura and the 13th-century building known as The Marlipins (which now houses a museum) which fronts onto the High Street.

2.3.4 Material of medieval date has been recovered from the town along the axis of the High Street, including significant medieval artefacts unearthed in 1968 during the digging of a service trench in the High Street. They consisted of a cresset stone (used for lighting) and a fine imported jug manufactured in Saintonge, France, both dating from the 14th century (Evans 1969).

2.4 Recent Archaeological Work in Shoreham

- 2.4.1 Watching briefs and evaluations have recovered evidence of medieval activity in John Street (ASE 1997, 1998 and 1999), and Middle Street (ASE 1994). A recent small-scale excavation carried out at the rear of Marlipins produced medieval and post-medieval material (Thomas 2005), and a site of similar size produced a group of medieval pits and a cesspit at No. 5 John Street (Stevens 2009a). A small group of medieval pits has recently been recorded at 94-96 High Street (Stevens 2009b).
- 2.4.2 The largest archaeological project to be undertaken in the town was that carried out by ASE at Ropetackle between 2000 and 2003 (Stevens forthcoming). A range of archaeological features were recorded, dating from the Late Iron Age to the post-medieval period, although the majority of features represented medieval activity.
- 2.4.3 The medieval remains consisted predominately of pits, including cess pits, and wells which produced substantial assemblages of artefacts and environmental evidence, dating to the 13th-14th centuries. Significant assemblages of local and imported pottery including a near-complete aquamanile were recovered, alongside ceramic building material, stone, metalwork and plant remains, animal and fish bone. Large assemblages of post-medieval finds were also recovered, including significant groups of 17th to 19th century pottery from cesspits in former back yards

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Excavation

3.1.1 Mechanical and manual groundworks were monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist from ASE. All sections were examined for the occurrence of archaeological features, and all spoil was scanned for the presence of archaeological artefacts, both visually and with a metal detector.

3.2 Recording and Archive

3.2.1 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded to accepted professional standards (IfA 2008) using standard Archaeology South-East context record forms. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.

3.2.2 A full photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive.

3.2.3 ASE informed Marlipins Museum prior to the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Marlipins museum in due course. The museum does not give out archive accession numbers in advance of deposition. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	3
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	-
Bulk Samples	-
Photograph	6 digital images
Bulk finds	1 small box
Environmental flots/residue	-

Table 1: Quantification of Site Archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 It was agreed with all parties that a suitable qualified archaeologist from ASE would visit the site to record any archaeological deposits, as a continuous watching brief during all groundworks was considered inappropriate.

4.2 The Monitoring Visits (Fig. 2)

4.2.1 Two half-day long visits were made to the site in May and June 2011, while groundworks were being undertaken immediately to the south of the town's War Memorial. A straightforward sequence of deposits was observed and recorded,

4.2.2 The earliest deposit was context [003], a layer of made ground consisting of materials such as sand, clay, crushed stone and concrete, flint cobbles and mid-greyish brown topsoil. This layer had been heavily truncated by various services, and was seen to be at least 650mm thick in one of the excavations to redirect those services. A substantial assemblage of finds, including fresh sherds of pottery as well as CBM, glass, metal objects, clay tobacco pipe, animal bone and oyster shell was recovered from this highly mixed deposit. The finds are generally of early to mid 18th century date, although two fragments of 19th century glass were also present.

4.2.3 The made ground was overlain by context [002], a c.100mm thick layer of crushed stone and concrete forming the base/levelling for the road surface, [001], a c.200mm thick layer of tarmac.

4.2.4 Following discussions between all interested parties it was decided that given no obvious undisturbed archaeological deposits had been observed on either of the visits, further monitoring was unnecessary.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Made ground deposit [003] contained a small assemblage, which is summarized in Table 2. Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were counted, weighed and bagged by context and by material. In addition to these bulk finds, two finds were assigned unique registered finds numbers (RF <00>; Table 3). Registered finds were packed and recorded individually. None of the finds require further conservation.

Cxt	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Shell	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Iron	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)
3	12	26 4	23	81 0	6	18 6	12	57 4	4	134 4	1	56	2	8	2	32

Table 2: Quantification of the Finds

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 A small assemblage of 12 sherds was recovered from made ground [3]. The sherds show some signs of abrasion but this is not extensive and quite large sherds (to 90mm) are present. As such the material does not appear to have been subjected to repeated reworking.

5.2.2 The chronological range of the pottery spans at least the mid/late 17th to mid 18th centuries, but most can be placed between c. 1725 and 1760 with a deposition date at the end of this range. The earliest material consists of two sherds (86g) from a large (360mm di) dish in yellow glazed border ware. This was quite possibly an old vessel still in use in the 18th century. The four sherds (109g) of local glazed red earthenware represent four different vessels, only jars being recognised. All appear to be of the first half of the 18th century. In addition there is a crudely made redware bodysherd with common coarse quartz inclusions to 1mm that appears to be from a North Devon gravel tempered vessel. Three sherds from mid 18th- century cylindrical London stoneware tankards are present (37g, from at least two vessels). These include a bodysherd with part of an applied pad with stamped inn sign – possibly a mermaid or dragon’s tail with S stamped to one side.

5.2.3 The remaining two sherds consist of a 6g base fragment from a white salt-glazed stoneware vessel and part of a slightly dished rim from a creamware plate. The latter piece represents the latest diagnostic sherd suggesting a deposition date of around c. 1760.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

5.3.1 An assemblage of abraded brick and peg tile was recovered from context [03]. Four different peg tile fabrics were identified along with a single brick fabric suggesting a variety of sources for the assemblage. The earliest peg tile fragment was in a brown, fine sandy fabric with moderate rounded very coarse quartz of possible 15th to 17th century date. A fragment of brick in a

coarse sandy orange fabric with moderate quartz and fine calcareous inclusions is possibly of 16th to 18th century date. The remainder of the fragments are likely to be of 17th to 19th century date in a variety of cream and orange silt fabrics with iron rich inclusions.

5.4 The Glass by Elke Raemen

- 5.4.1 A small assemblage of two green glass wine bottle fragments was recovered from [003]. They represent two individual vessels, both of 19th-century date.

5.5 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen

- 5.5.1 Made ground [003] contained two plain clay tobacco pipe (CTP) stem fragments dating to the 18th century. In addition, a complete bowl (RF <1>; smoked) dating to c. 1730-1780 was found with maker's initials "JH" moulded in relief on either side of the heel. A number of Sussex makers with these initials were working in this period, including John Harman (I) and (II), both working in Lewes, John Holmes (Hastings) and Joshua Hutchings (Worthing).

5.6 The Metalwork by Elke Raemen

- 5.6.1 An iron heavy duty nail (L94mm) was found in context [003]. The head is incomplete and therefore undiagnostic of form. The piece is not intrinsically dateable. The same context also contained a complete iron key of 16th- to 18th-century date (RF <2>; Table 3). The piece measures 160mm in length and consists of an oval bow with solid stem and applied, simple bit.

RF no	Cxt No	Object	Material	Period	Wt (g)
1	3	CPIP	CERA	PMED	18
2	3	KEY	IRON	PMED	106

Table 3: Summary of the Registered Finds

5.7 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

- 5.7.1 Context [003] produced four well rounded flint beach cobbles (1,345g). These represent the local beach material that would have been readily available for all forms of construction work.

5.8 The Animal Bone by Lucy Sibun

- 5.8.1 The five fragments of bone recovered included both cattle and sheep longbone fragments, all of which were from mature animals. No additional information was recorded and no butchery or pathology was present.

5.9 The Marine Shell by Elke Raemen

- 5.9.1 Made ground [003] contained 12 oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) valves and fragments, representing a minimum of five different individuals. Included are five right valves, three of which are mature, and three left valves, two of which are mature. A further four fragments are undiagnostic of valve. Occasional to moderate infestation is apparent in one right and one left valve, as well as in some of the fragments.

6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1 Summary

6.1.1 No significant archaeological deposits or features were encountered during the archaeological monitoring undertaken during the two visits to the site. However, the finds do add some data to the corpus of post-medieval material recovered during recent archaeological work in Shoreham.

6.2 Made Ground Deposit [003]

6.2.1 The dating of the layer of made ground, context [003], is slightly uncertain; the pottery suggests a deposition date of around 1760 and most of the other finds are broadly consistent with having been in use up to the mid 18th century, the exception being two fragments of 19th century glass. Considering the mixed nature of this deposit it is possible that the earlier material is redeposited, but equally, given the unabraded character of the pottery, the glass may be considered intrusive, especially as truncation of this layer was observed in places.

6.2.2 The deposit appears to be the result of late post-medieval dumping of material to raise the level of the road surface, perhaps to alleviate the danger of flooding from the River Adur. Domestic refuse and elements of the previous cobbled road surface probably became incorporated into this deposit.

6.3 Significance of Results

6.3.1 The deposits encountered and recorded during the archaeological monitoring hold little significance. Therefore it can be stated with some confidence that, based on currently available evidence, it is clear that the groundworks associated with the pedestrianisation of East Street immediately to the south of the War Memorial did not result in damage to significant buried archaeological deposits.

7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The implementation of an archaeological watching brief at the site was prudent given the potential archaeological sensitivity of the area, and would have resulted in the identification and recording of archaeological deposits, if they had been disturbed during the groundworks.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The input of John Mills, Senior Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council at all stages of the project is also gratefully acknowledged. Thanks are also due for the co-operation and hospitality of the on-site contractors.

HER Summary Form

Site Codes	XES11					
Identification Name and Address	East Street, Shoreham-By-Sea					
County, District &/or Borough	Adur District, West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	521630 105050					
Geology	Head Deposits					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4805					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Evals.	Excavs.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	West Sussex County Council (Highways)					
Project Managers	Neil Griffin/Jim Stevenson					
Project Supervisors	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological watching brief was maintained during two visits to East Street, Shoreham-By-Sea during pedestrianisation of the road. No significant archaeological deposits were recorded, although a small assemblage of artefacts (mostly late post-medieval in date) was recovered from the made ground observed below the old road surface and associated levelling deposits.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-103668

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at East Street, Shoreham-By-Sea, West Sussex
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was maintained during two visits to East Street, Shoreham-By-Sea during pedestrianisation of the road. No significant archaeological deposits were recorded, although a small assemblage of artefacts (mostly post-medieval in date) was recovered from the made ground observed below the old road surface and associated levelling deposits.
Project dates	Start: 27-05-2011 End: 20-06-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	4805 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	XES11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 11 - Thoroughfare
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post-Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX ADUR SHOREHAM BY SEA East Street Pedestrianisation
Postcode	BN43 5ZE
Study area	100.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 21630 05050 50.8316177138 -0.272652996902 50 49 53 N 000 16 21 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 4.00m Max: 6.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	West Sussex County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	West Sussex Highways

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Marlipins Museum
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	Marlipins Museum
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Marlipins Museum
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Miscellaneous Material','Report','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at East Street, Shoreham-By-Sea, West Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Stevens, S.
Other bibliographic	ASE Report No. 2011151

details

Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade, East Sussex
Description	A4 client report.



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© Archaeology South-East		East Street, Shoreham		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4805	July 2011	Site location		
Report Ref: 2011151	Drawn by: JLR			



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© Archaeology South-East		East Street, Shoreham	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4805	July 2011	Location of monitored area	
Report Ref: 2011151	Drawn by: JLR		

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