

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
New Rising Main between Wivelsfield
Wastewater Treatment Works and
St. George's Retreat
Ditchling, East Sussex**

NGR 533800 119900

**Project No: 4906
Site Code: SGR11**

**ASE Report No: 2011152
OASIS ID: archaeol6-105640**

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Clancy Docwra Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during intrusive groundworks associated with the installation of a rising main pipeline between Wivelsfield Wastewater Treatment Works and St. George's Retreat in the parishes of Ditchling and Wivelsfield, East Sussex.

The archaeological watching brief did not record any significant archaeological features or finds.

The watching brief failed to observe the works in the area nearing the parish border at the southern end of the field. Unfortunately, this work went ahead without any archaeological presence from ASE.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of the University College London (UCL) Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) was commissioned by Clancy Docwra Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during intrusive groundworks associated with the installation of a rising main pipeline between Wivelsfield Wastewater Treatment Works and St. George's Retreat, Ditchling and Wivelsfield parishes, East Sussex (NGR 533800 119900; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The new main was laid across an area of relatively level ground which varied in height between c.35m AOD and c.39m AOD. The northernmost element ran southwards from the Wastewater Treatment Works at Wivelsfield across an arable field. It then crossed a ditch, hedgeline (which forms the boundary between the parishes of Wivelsfield and Ditchling) and lane, before turning eastwards along a lane providing access to the local Methodist Chapel. At the junction with the B2112, it turned southwards and followed the carriageway before turning into an area of park surrounding St. George's Retreat, and on towards buildings.

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey the superficial geology of the site is head deposits and the underlying bedrock is the Weald Clay formation (BGS 2011).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Although the work is not subject to standard planning regulations, Clancy Docwra and ASE consulted Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council (ESCC) regarding the impact of the proposed works. Due to the potential for archaeological remains to exist upon the site the monitoring of the intrusive works by a suitably qualified archaeologist was considered appropriate.

1.3.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2011a) for the watching brief was produced and approved by Greg Chuter before work commenced.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The objectives and aims in the Written Scheme of Investigation (*ibid*) were to:

'record, interpret and report on any archaeological remains exposed during the groundworks (including artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest) to appropriate archaeological standards.

The watching brief will also assess the past impacts on the site and pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.

Specific aims include:

Is there any evidence of prehistoric activity?

Is there any evidence of Late Iron Age /Roman settlement, such as boundary ditches or finds?

Are there any finds or features associated with post-Roman activity?

Is there any evidence for the Wivelsfield and Ditchling parish boundary? If so what form does this take?

Are there any finds or features associated with the nearby post-medieval group of buildings?'

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 The current report provides results of the archaeological monitoring of groundworks at the site carried out between early June and early August 2011. The fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist). The project was managed by Andy Leonard (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The East Sussex County Council Historic Environment Record was consulted and the following sites and findspots are listed within a 1km radius of the site:

Figure no.	ESCC HER No.	OS Co-ordinates (TQ)	Brief Description
1	MES1301	334 187	Bronze age axe find spot
2	MES2085	3259 2063	Medieval moated site
3	MES2086	3415 2077	Medieval moated homestead
4	MES2087	3311 2027	16 th century hall
5	MES2089	340 206	House platforms
6	MES4599	3838 2703	Trackway
7	MES7327	34375 20067	Roman coin find spot
8	MES7326	33809 20702	Roman finds spot
9	MES7384	32868 20580	Earthwork
10	MES7328	34655 19943	Roman brooch find spot
11	MES7386	32779 20503	Earthwork
12	MES7385	32684 20687	Sunken lane
13	MES10272	34400 19800	Post-medieval pottery find spot
14	MES7506	34150 20648	Roman settlement
15	MES11448	34900 19100	Medieval lead weight find spot
16	MES11390	34900 19100	16 th century coin find spot
17	MES12880	34100 18700	Copper alloy working debris find spots
18	MES12389	34900 19700	Roman brooch find spot
19	MES16601	3260 2055	Iron Age/Roman settlement
20	MES13987	34200 19700	Post-medieval spoon find spot

Table 1: Summary of ESCC HER records (plotted on Figure 1)

- 2.2 It is clear from the HER search, and from general archaeological and historical knowledge of the locale, that the area has high archaeological potential.
- 2.3 Additionally, the proposed pipeline crosses the Ditchling and Wivelsfield parish boundary providing a potential opportunity to investigate and record a longstanding landscape feature. The course of the new pipeline also passed close to a Methodist Chapel opened in the 18th century (*Bethel Cottage*).
- 2.4 A recent archaeological evaluation by Wessex Archaeology in Wivelsfield Green uncovered no features or finds of archaeological significance (ASE 2011b).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 At first, the mechanical and manual groundworks were continuously monitored by an ASE archaeologist, however, after a couple of days with no significant findings it was agreed to make monitoring visits more intermittent.
- 3.2 Sections were examined for archaeological features, and spoil was scanned for artefacts, both visually and with a metal detector.
- 3.3 All deposits and finds were recorded to accepted professional standards using standard ASE *pro forma* recording sheets. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.4 A photographic record of the work was kept and forms part of the site archive which is currently held at ASE offices in Portslade and has been accepted for deposition at the Burgess Hill Museum. The museum does not at present issue accession numbers. The archive consists of the following:

Number of Contexts	8
No. of files/paper record	1
Photographs	digital
Bulk finds	Small box

Table 2: Quantification of Site Archive

4.0 RESULTS

(Figure 2)

4.1 *The Compound*

4.1.1 The works compound, located close to Wivelsfield Wastewater Treatment Works in the corner of an arable field, was the first part of the site to be mechanically stripped. However, much of the area was not reduced to a sufficient depth to reveal the surface of the underlying 'natural', or to expose potential archaeological features. The limited areas which were stripped a little deeper revealed the following stratigraphic sequence:

4.1.2 Natural yellow and grey Wadhurst Clay was overlain by orangey-brown silty-clay subsoil [02] which was a maximum of 150mm in thickness. The surface deposit [01] was mid-orangey brown silty-clay ploughsoil with a maximum thickness of 250mm. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from [01].

4.2 *The Pipe Trench (Northern Field)*

4.2.1 The original intention was to follow the previously laid pipe across the field, however, on the discovery that the original pipe contained asbestos it was decided that the new pipe should be inserted slightly to the east of this.

4.2.2 Initial stripping of the 20m wide easement for the pipe trench was monitored; however, it became apparent that ground reduction was again not of a consistently sufficient depth to reveal potential archaeological deposits as only topsoil [01] was removed in most places. Therefore the decision was taken, in consultation with ESCC, to discontinue the watching brief on the easement strip and to return when the pipe trench was excavated.

4.2.3 Monitoring of the excavation of the 1.2m wide pipe trench revealed the same sequence as that in the compound. However, given the depth of the trench (>3m in places), a further geological deposit was observed. A layer of mid-grey heavily compacted silt [08] was seen at a minimum depth of 1.6m below ground level and continued to the base of the trench. The deposit appeared to be alluvium probably deposited by a former alignment of the adjacent stream. Given the depth of the trench it could not be examined in detail, but available spoil from the layer was examined and no archaeological evidence was noted.

4.2.4 After monitoring of the initial stretch of the pipeline proved fruitless it was agreed with all interested parties that the watching brief should be suspended until the works were nearing the parish border at the southern end of the field. Unfortunately, this work went ahead without any archaeological presence from ASE.

4.3 *The Pipe Trench (Carriageway Works)*

4.3.1 The watching brief was also undertaken during groundworks within the carriageway of the B2112. A 600mm wide trench was mechanically excavated to a maximum depth of 2m below the current carriageway surface.

4.3.2 The observed stratigraphic sequence was not complex and consisted of natural greyish-yellow clay [06] overlain by a layer of reinforced concrete [05] which varied in thickness between 200mm and 350mm overlain by the tarmac road surface [04], which was a minimum of 150mm and a maximum of 260mm in thickness.

4.3.3 Given the absence of archaeological deposits the decision was taken (after due consultation with all interested parties) to halt the watching brief during the carriageway works after monitoring of mechanical excavation the initial stretch leading from the driveway to Bethel Cottage towards The Royal Oak Public House.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

5.1.1 A small collection of four struck flints weighing 23g were recovered from [01]. The flint is in a moderate to poor condition probably caused by post-depositional disturbance. Although one piece displays relatively sharp edges, the remaining three artefacts exhibit edge modification and three flints are broken. Flints are made on light grey to dark grey flint and the small assemblage consists of three pieces of flint debitage (a blade-like flake fragment and two shattered pieces) as well as a miscellaneous retouched piece. None of the artefacts are closely datable; however, the flake scar removals present on the dorsal face of the broken blade-like flake could indicate a Late Mesolithic or Neolithic date.

5.2 Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The archaeological work recovered a single small sherd of pottery from [01]. This consists of a slightly abraded medium sand tempered bodysherd from an oxidised vessel of uncertain form. The piece can be placed between the late 13th- to early 15th- centuries but a more diagnostic sherd would be needed to refine this dating.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

5.3.1 Five fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) with a combined weight of 120g were recovered from [01]. The assemblage was highly abraded. The assemblage has been recorded on a pro-forma recording form for archive and a provisional fabric series has been drawn up.

5.3.2 Two fragments of machine-made peg tile with smooth machine made faces in a chunky silt fabric with occasional iron rich inclusions of probable late 19th to 20th century date were recovered. Also present was a fragment of brick in a dense orange red chunky silt fabric similar to those produced at Warnham brick works, and is of probable later 19th or 20th century date and a large fragment of yellow coarse sandy lime mortar, which appears to be later post-medieval in date and an undated flake of fine sandy red brick.

5.3.3 The assemblage is later post-medieval and highly abraded and holds no further value for future research and has been discarded.

5.4 The Slag by Luke Barber

5.4.1 A single small fragment (1g) of aerated grey clinker was recovered from [01]. It is likely this relates to coal burning waste of 18th- to 19th- century date.

Context	Pottery	wt (g)	CBM	wt (g)	Flint	wt (g)	Clinker	wt (g)
01	1	6	5	114	4	23	1	<2

Table 3: The finds

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The archaeological watching brief did not record any significant archaeological features or finds.
- 6.2 The watching brief failed to observe the works in the area nearing the parish border at the southern end of the field. Unfortunately, this work went ahead without any archaeological presence from ASE.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE. 2011a. *St George's Retreat, Ditchling and Wivelsfield, East Sussex Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Unpub. ASE document.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Clancy Docwra Ltd. for commissioning the work and Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council for his guidance throughout the project.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	SGR11					
Identification Name and Address	Wivelsfield Wastewater Treatment Works to St. George's Retreat					
County, District &/or Borough	Lewes District, East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	533800 119900					
Geology	Wadhurst Clay					
ASE Project No.	4906					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 7.06.11 – 5.08.11	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Clancy Docwra Ltd.					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard/Jim Stevenson					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.? ✓	Neo. ? ✓	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other		
<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Clancy Docwra Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during intrusive groundworks associated with the installation of a rising main pipeline between Wivelsfield Wastewater Treatment Works and St. George's Retreat in the parishes of Ditchling and Wivelsfield, East Sussex.</p> <p>The archaeological watching brief did not record any significant archaeological features or finds.</p> <p>The watching brief failed to observe the works in the area nearing the parish border at the southern end of the field. Unfortunately, this work went ahead without any archaeological presence from ASE.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-105640

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief on a New Rising Main between Wivelsfield Wastewater Treatment Works and St. George's Re
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Clancy Docwra Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during intrusive groundworks associated with the installation of a rising main pipeline between Wivelsfield Wastewater Treatment Works and St. George's Retreat in the parishes of Ditchling and Wivelsfield, East Sussex. The archaeological watching brief did not record any significant archaeological features or finds. The watching brief failed to observe the works in the area nearing the parish border at the southern end of the field. Unfortunately, this work went ahead without any archaeological presence from ASE.
Project dates	Start: 07-06-2011 End: 05-08-2011
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	4906 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	SGR11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 1 - Highways and road transport
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	FLINTWORK Late Prehistoric
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice

Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX LEWES DITCHLING Wivelsfield WTW to St. George's, Ditchling
Postcode	RH15 0SF
Study area	1.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 3380 1990 50.9624057879 -0.09447440341740 50 57 44 N 000 05 40 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	East Sussex County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Clancy Docwra

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Burgess Hill Museum
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Burgess Hill Museum
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'

Paper Archive recipient	Burgess Hill Museum
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Miscellaneous Material','Report','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

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