

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Church Lane, Upper Beeding, West Sussex**

NGR 519331 110807 to 518850 110660

Scheduled Monument Consent No. HSD 9/2/9584

**Project No: 5371
Site Code: CLB12**

**ASE Report No: 2012153
OASIS ID: archaeol6-130499**

**by
Simon Stevens BA MIFA**

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Clancy Docwra to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of a new raising main between Church Lane Water Pumping Station, Upper Beeding and an existing main at Bramber, West Sussex.

Unfortunately, owing to a a breakdown in communication, the majority of the groundworks were not archaeologically monitored, and therefore no significant archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Clancy Docwra to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of a raising main between the Church Lane Water Pumping Station, Upper Beeding and the location of an existing main on the opposite side of the River Adur (NGR 519331 110807 to 518850 110660; Fig. 1)

1.2 Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The new main (part of a larger scheme of works) ran under the present course of the River Adur to the west of Upper Beeding, and continued to a junction with an existing main close to the footbridge that links Upper Beeding and Bramber, a distance of c.400m. Given the proximity of a major watercourse, the local topography consists of low-lying pasture fields and artificial levees on either side of the river.

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying bedrock consists of the West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation. The superficial geology consists of Alluvium, with River Terrace Gravels immediately to the east (BGS 2012).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The scheme falls outside the usual planning framework, but part of the route of the new pipe trench was set to pass through a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM 29251), an area known to contain remains of medieval salt-working. Therefore, Clancy Docwra consulted John Mills, Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council and Richard Massey of English Heritage in order to ascertain the archaeological potential of the site and to establish what mitigation measures might be appropriate in order to safeguard any archaeological remains encountered during the scheme.

1.3.2 Scheduled Monument Consent was granted by English Heritage for this element of the scheme (No. HSD 9/2/9584). In accordance with the terms of this consent, a *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)* was produced by ASE outlining the techniques to be used in the field, and in the production of a report and an archive (ASE 2012a).

1.3.3 The second element of the scheme involved the installation of another rising main entirely to the west of the River Adur. Archaeological monitoring of this work is the subject of a separate report (ASE 2012b).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The general objective of the archaeological work stated in the WSI (ASE 2012a) was:

'to monitor the excavation of the groundworks in order to ensure that any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed are recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.

Site specific aims include:

- Are there any deposits of palaeoenvironmental significance?*

- Is there any evidence of salt-working on the floodplain?*

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 The current report provides results of the archaeological monitoring of the groundworks at the site between May and June 2012. The on-site work was undertaken by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist) and by Ben Sharp (Archaeologist). The project was managed by Andy Leonard (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Extensive evidence of medieval salt manufacture, in the form of mounds of waste known as salterns have been located in at least nine known distinct groupings on the floodplain of the River Adur between New Monks Farm near Shoreham Airport and Upper Beeding (Holden and Hudson 1981). A number of salterns located in the valley of the River Adur have been the subject of archaeological investigation (Gardiner 1992; James 2002; Ridgeway 2000) and all those investigated were found to be medieval in date.
- 2.2 Although no known salterns of prehistoric or Roman date have been identified in the Adur valley, it is assumed that salt manufacture had previously been undertaken in the area, albeit on a smaller scale. Limited evidence of Romano-British salt-working was located on the opposite bank of the Adur to New Monks Farm, during excavations at the Ropetackle development in 2003 (Stevens 2011)
- 2.3 Three distinct groupings of salterns which lie in close proximity to the proposed rising main replacement scheme are designated as Scheduled Monuments (SM): SM 29251 (Saltings Field, 220m north of Beeding Bridge); SM 29252 (group of salterns north of St Peter's Church); and SM 29253 (group of salterns and a possible moat 250m east of Bramber Castle). The pipe trench passed through the former. This element required Scheduled Monument Consent (No. HSD 9/2/9584).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Groundworks consisted of the mechanical and manual excavation of the pipe trench and other groundworks. All sections were examined for the occurrence of archaeological features, and all spoil was scanned for the presence of archaeological artefacts.
- 3.2 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded to accepted professional standards 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 A full photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive. The site archive is currently held by Archaeology South-East at the offices in Portslade. The archive has been accepted for deposition at Steyning Museum. It consists of the following material:

Number of Contexts	4
No. of files/paper record	1
Photograph	3

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS (Fig. 2)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Owing to a owing to a breakdown in communication, the majority of the groundworks at the site were undertaken without archaeological supervision.

4.2 Monitoring of Groundworks

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
100	Deposit	Topsoil	230mm
101	Deposit	Alluvium	910mm
102	Deposit	Peaty Clay	310mm
103	Deposit	Marly Chalk	>3m

Table 2: Recorded contexts

4.2.1 The only monitored groundworks for the scheme consisted of the mechanical excavation of trial holes to locate the position of existing services, and the examination of a short length of pipe trench. Much of the new pipeline was located over existing services and there was therefore no impact on undisturbed deposits.

4.2.2 All of the monitoring was undertaken in poor weather, and all of the trial holes were backfilled almost immediately owing to the danger of section collapse. However, it was possible to record the simple stratigraphic sequence encountered in one of the trial holes. It consisted of a humic mid-brown topsoil, context [100], which overlay a deposit of orangey brown alluvial clay, context [101]. This in turn overlay a lens of peaty material [102], which overlay context [103], a creamy marly chalk containing laminar mudstone, which extended to the base of the 5m deep trial hole.

4.2.3 Given the site conditions, it proved impossible to make a more detailed record of the deposits (i.e. no detailed section could be drawn safely), or to take any samples of the encountered deposits.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.

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ASE 2012b *Archaeological Watching Brief Report Car Park, The Street, Bramber.* Unpub. ASE Report No. 2012154

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Clancy Docwra for commissioning the work. Gratitude is also due to John Mills, Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council and to Richard Massey English Heritage for their input at all stages. The hospitality of the on-site contractors is also gratefully acknowledged.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	CLB12					
Identification Name and Address	Church Lane, Upper Beeding, West Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Horsham District, West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 519331 110807 to 518850 110660					
Geology	Alluvium					
ASE Project Number	5371					
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. May - June 2012	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Clancy Docwra					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard/Jim Stevenson					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other		
<p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Clancy Docwra to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of a new raising main between Church Lane Water Pumping Station, Upper Beeding and an existing main at Bramber, West Sussex.</i></p> <p><i>Unfortunately, owing to a breakdown in communication, the majority of the groundworks were not archaeologically monitored. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered in the monitored areas.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-130499

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Church Lane, Upper Beeding, West Sussex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned Clancy Docwra to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of a new raising main between Church Lane Water Pumping Station and an existing main at Bramber, West Sussex. No significant archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 23-04-2012 End: 01-06-2012
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	5371 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	CLB12 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	29253 - SM No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

Project location

Country	England
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Site location	WEST SUSSEX HORSHAM UPPER BEEDING Church Lane, Upper Beeding
Postcode	BN44 3HP
Study area	10.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 19331 10807 50 0 50 53 01 N 000 18 12 W Line
Site coordinates	TQ 18850 10680 50 0 50 52 58 N 000 18 37 W Line
Height OD / Depth	Min: 6.00m Max: 10.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South-East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Clancy Docwra

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Steypning Museum
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive	Steypning Museum

recipient

Paper Contents "other"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Miscellaneous Material", "Notebook - Excavation", ' Research', ' General Notes', "Report", "Unpublished Text"

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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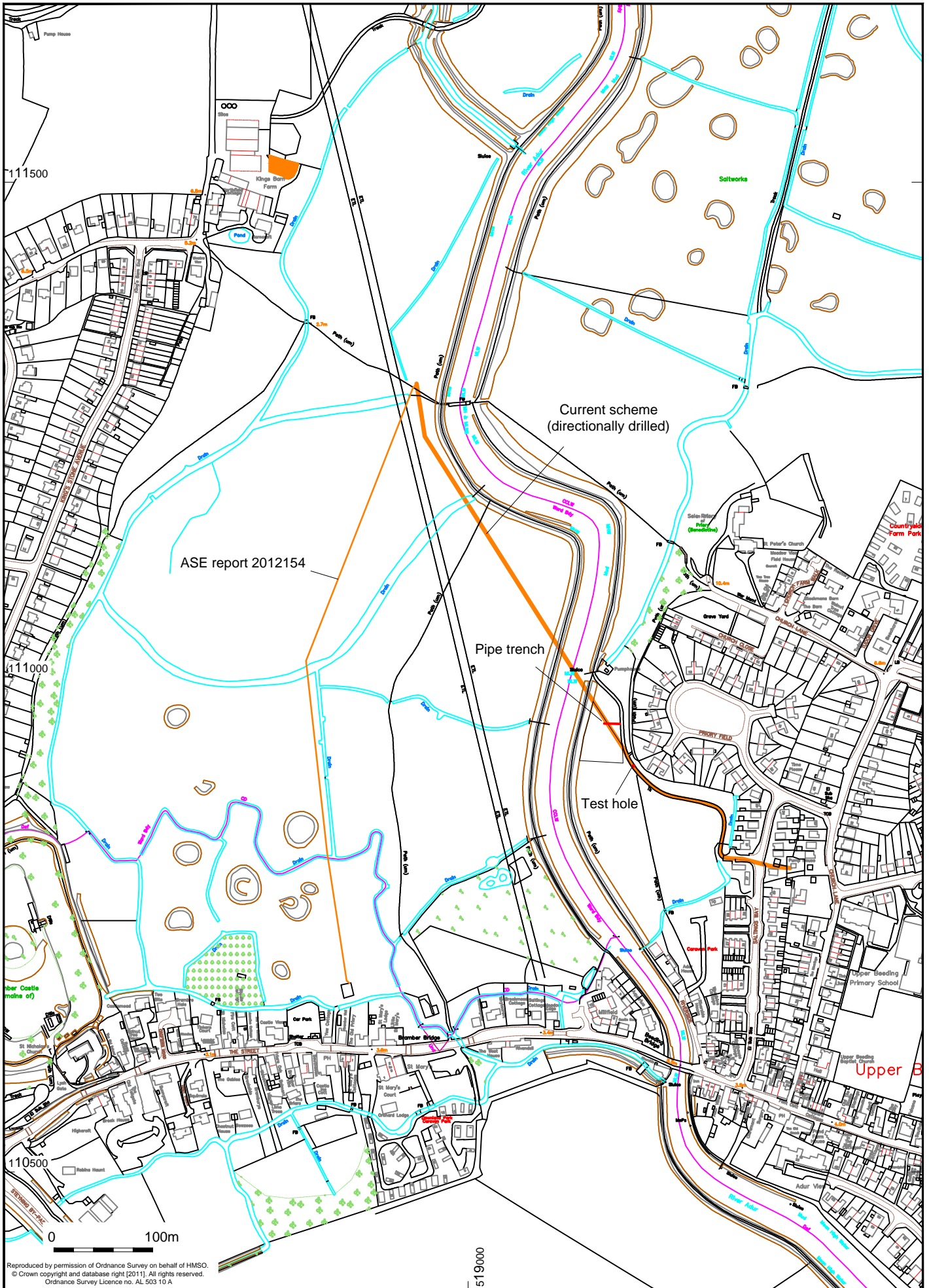
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Entered on 17 July 2012



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© Archaeology South-East		Church Lane, Upper Beeding	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5371	July 2012	Site location	
Report Ref: 2012153	Drawn by: JLR		



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© Archaeology South-East		Church Lane, Upper Beeding	Fig. 2
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Report Ref: 2012153	Drawn by: JLR		

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