

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Car Park, The Street, Bramber, West Sussex**

NGR 519331 110807 to 518850 110660

Scheduled Monument Consent No. S00032400

**Project No: 5372
Site Code: CPB12**

**ASE Report No: 2012154
OASIS ID: archaeol6-130522**

**by
Simon Stevens BA MIFA**

July 2012

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**Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk**

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 the Water Pumping Station close the car park in The Street, Bramber, and an existing main to the north.

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.

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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 Water Pumping Station, close to the car park in The Street, Bramber and the location of an existing main to the north (NGR 518920 110700 to 518850 110660; Fig. 1)

1.2 Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The new main (part of a larger scheme of works) ran north from close to the The Street, Bramber and continued northwards to a junction with an existing main close to the footbridge that links Upper Beeding and Bramber, a distance of c.600m. Given the proximity of a major watercourse, the local topography consists of low-lying pasture fields and the 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 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 29253), an area known to contain remains of medieval salt-working, and a possible medieval moated site. 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.S00032400). 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 which ran under 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 April and June 2012. The on-site work was undertaken by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist) and by Kathy Grant (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 last of these three groups. This element required Scheduled Monument Consent (No. S00032400).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Monitored 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. In the event, only one test pit was monitored.
- 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	1
No. of files/paper record	1
Photograph	9

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS (Fig. 2)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Owing to a breakdown in communication, the vast majority of the groundworks at the site (including the entire new pipe trench) were undertaken without any archaeological supervision.

4.2 Monitoring of Groundworks

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
100	Deposit	Trench Backfill	c.1m

4.2.1 The only monitored groundworks for the scheme consisted of the mechanical excavation of a trial pit to locate the position of existing services adjacent to the existing pumping station. It was 600mm wide, 2m long and c.1m deep, and was discontinued on the discovery of the existing service. The only encountered deposit, context [100] was made ground consisting of the backfill of the service trench for the existing pipe. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 No significant archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered in the test pit.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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ASE 2012b *Archaeological Watching Brief Report Church Lane, Upper Beeding, West Sussex*. Unpub. ASE Report No. 2012153

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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	Car Park, The Street, Bramber, West Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Horsham District, West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 519331 110807 to 518850 110660					
Geology	Alluvium					
ASE Project Number	5372					
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. April 2012 - 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 the Water Pumping Station close the car park in The Street, Bramber, and an existing main to the north.</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: archaeol6-130522

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at The Car Park, The Street, Bramber
Short description of the project	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 the Water Pumping Station close the car park in The Street, Bramber, and an existing main to the north. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered in the monitored areas.
Project dates	Start: 16-04-2012 End: 07-06-2012
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	5372 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	CPB12 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	29251 - 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 BRAMBER Car Park, High Street
Postcode	BN44 3WE
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 10660 50 0 50 52 57 N 000 18 37 W Line
Height OD / Depth	Min: 3.00m Max: 5.00m

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	Steining Museum
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Steining Museum

Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Correspondence", "Miscellaneous Material", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Report", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography

1

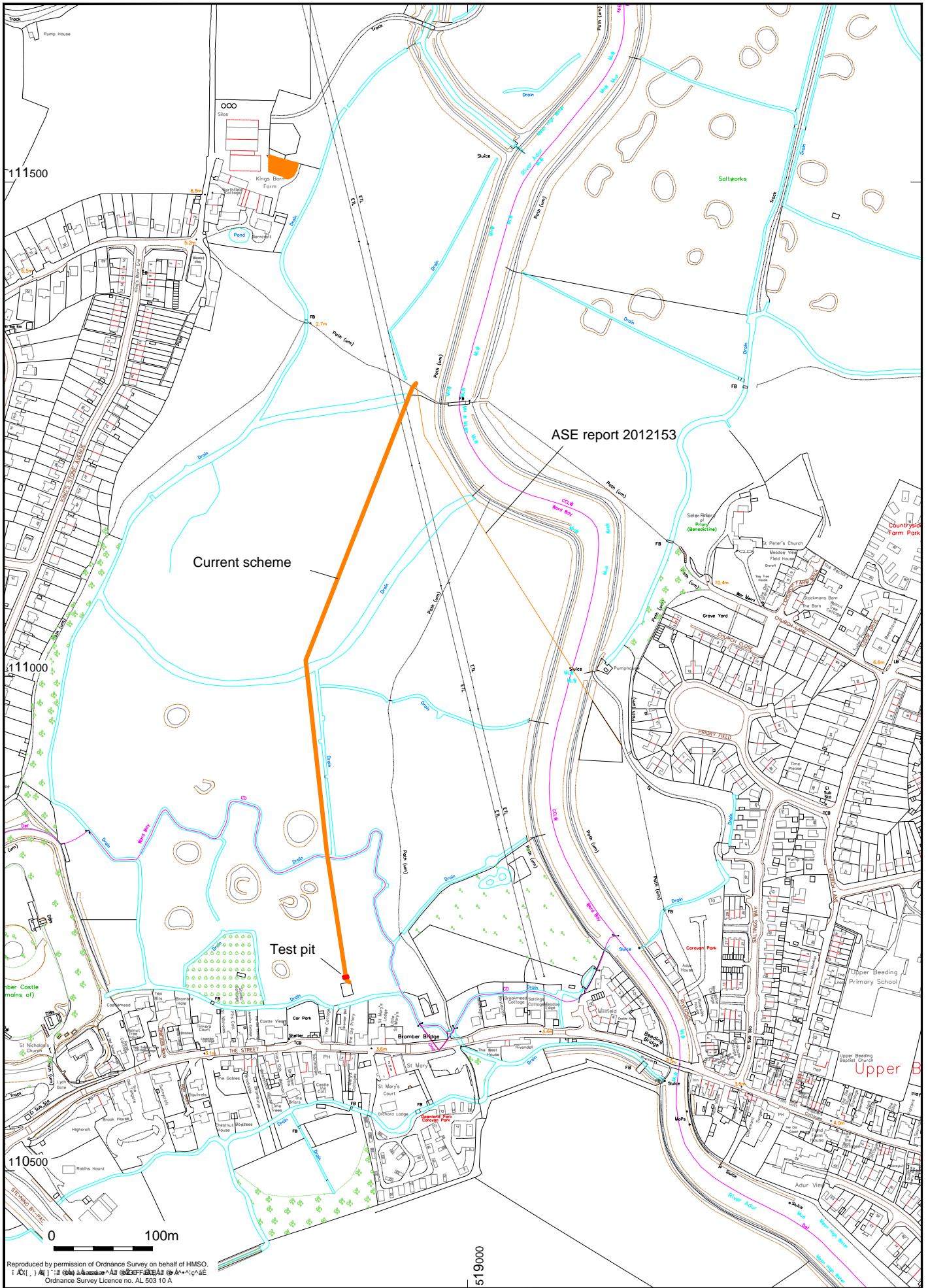
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© Archaeology South-East		Car Park, Upper Beeding		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5371	July 2012	Site location		
Report Ref: 2012154	Drawn by: JLR			



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Archaeology South-East		Car Park, Upper Beeding		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5371	July 2012	Site plan		
Report Ref: 2012154	Drawn by: JLR			

Head Office
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
Tel: +44(0)1273 426830 Fax:+44(0)1273 420866
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
Web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk



London Office
Centre for Applied Archaeology
Institute of Archaeology
University College London
31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1 0PY
Tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
Fax:+44(0)20 7383 2572
Web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

The contracts division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London 

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