

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at  
The Riverside Concrete Works, Pulborough, West Sussex**

**NGR TQ 052 194**

**RCW07**

**Report No.2007264**

**Project No. 2986**

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### **Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the laying of a new pipeline at The Riverside Concrete Works, Pulborough, West Sussex. Two site visits were made during October 2007 to monitor the works. Excavations reached depths of up to 2.5m beneath the current ground surface. No archaeological features or deposits were discovered. This could have been due to previous truncation of the natural horizon.*

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**Fig 1: Site Location**

**Fig 2: Site Plan Showing Monitored Areas**

**SMR Summary Sheet**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1** Archaeology South East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA), was commissioned by Holleran Mouchel Parkman on behalf of Southern Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during works associated with the laying of a new foul sewer at The Riverside Concrete Works, Pulborough, West Sussex (centred NGR TQ 052 194). A pipe trench of c.2m width and c.80m length was excavated to depths of up to 2.5m.
- 1.2** The development site is situated on the junction of Stane Street and London Road, Pulborough as well as a railway embankment and land belonging to the concrete works. John Mills of West Sussex County Council's Historic Environment Team recommended that the applicant carried out an archaeological watching brief during these intrusive groundworks.
- 1.3** The general objective of the archaeological work was to monitor the groundwork in order to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed and affected by the excavations were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards. This was to include artefacts of archaeological interest (e.g. worked flint, burnt flint, pottery, ceramic building material) that may be recovered from within the soil during its removal.
- 1.4** The British and Geological Survey Sheet 317 shows that the site lies on the Sandgate Beds with the Folkestone Beds recorded close by.
- 1.5** The fieldwork was undertaken initially by Clive Meaton on the 12<sup>th</sup> October and subsequently by Deon Whittaker on the 15<sup>th</sup> October. The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and Louise Rayner (Post-excavation Manager).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** The site is located within the village of Pulborough and adjacent to the line of the the Roman Road of Stane Street.
- 2.2** Below is a table of selected Historic Environment Records (HER) deemed most relevant to the site.

<b>No</b>	<b>SMR</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>1</b>	1934 - MWS3303	TQ 06200 19050	A short branch of Stane Street from Codmore Hill to Marehill
<b>2</b>	2365 - MWS3314	TQ 06360 18970	Foundations of two Roman buildings were found during digging in 1859, 1900 and 1910 at

			Homestreet Farm, Pulborough
<b>4</b>	2369 - MWS5398	TQ 06470 17560	A Roman building at Lickfold, Wiggonholt, was excavated in 1937 and 1939 and there is little doubt that it was a bath house.
<b>7</b>	2374 - MWS2944	TQ 06100 18300	During sewage operations in 1958, C1 pottery, including 'terra nigra' and imitation Belgic ware, fragments of wood and bone were found just inside Pulborough at Marehill
<b>13</b>	2424 - MWS4510	TQ 06060 18180	A Roman coin hoard and bronze vessel were found in 1984 by children on a spoil heap, the result of re-cutting a drain by Southern Water Authority in 1983
<b>16</b>	5663 - MWS4459	TQ 06300 17500	Nineteen test pits and five trenches were excavated on Lickfold Farm, centred at TQ 0630 1750. This revealed an extensive area of Romano- British occupation, from the evidence domestic and/or settlement.
<b>22</b>	Scheduled Monument	TQ 06450 18650	Monument: Roman bath house and settlement - Wiggonholt

**Table 1:** Historic Environment Record data obtained from West Sussex County Council

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1** The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to contribute to the knowledge of the area through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks. Particular attention was to be made to the character, height below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.
- 3.2** All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the Specification using standard Archaeology South-East context record sheets. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart. A full photographic record was kept of the work as appropriate.
- 3.3** The groundworks, (monitored intermittently by a suitably qualified archaeologist), comprised the stripping of c.80m of pipe trench to a depth of up to 2.5m with a tracked machine equipped with a toothless

bucket. The site was stripped in piecemeal fashion in order to allow the monitoring archaeologist time to view areas. It was agreed with the developer that any areas that had been stripped would not be tracked over by vehicles until they were observed. This would prevent any destruction of existing archaeological features or artefacts.

- 3.4** The spoil from the excavations was inspected to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.

#### **4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS (Fig. 2)**

- 4.1** The underlying geology revealed during the groundworks comprised of Sandgate Beds.

##### *Trench Section 1*

- 4.2** The deposits encountered during the excavation of Trench section 1 comprised of c.400mm of road surface, bedding and levelling deposits (Context 1). Context 1 consisted of c.300mm of tarmac over 100mm of compact crushed ceramic building materials (CBM). These modern road deposits directly overlay Context 2, a mid brown yellow silty sand that contained occasional inclusions of ragstone (<200mm). This deposit was interpreted as the natural Sandgate Beds.

##### *Trench Section 2*

- 4.3** The deposits encountered during the excavation of Trench section 2 comprised of c.1.2m of made ground (Context 3). Context 3 consisted of mid brown yellow re-deposited Sandgate Beds. This made-ground deposit directly overlays Context 2. Context 2 comprised the natural Sandgate Beds that contained occasional inclusions of ragstone (<200mm).

#### **5.0 The Finds**

- 5.1** No finds of an archaeological nature were recovered from the site.

#### **6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1** During the course of the groundworks no archaeological finds or features were encountered. It seems probable that previous works associated with both the construction and maintenance of the railway and the modern road had served to truncate the natural to varying depths. In conclusion this modern intrusion would have served to destroy any but the most substantial of archaeological remains.

**HER Summary Form**

Site Code	RCW07					
Identification Name and Address	The Riverside Concrete Works, Pulborough, West Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Horsham District Council					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR TQ 052 194					
Geology	Sandgate Beds					
Arch. South-East Project Number	2986					
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. 12- 15 October 2007	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Holleran Mouchel Parkman on behalf of Southern Water					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Deon Whittaker					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
100 Word Summary.						
<p><i>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the laying of a new pipeline at The Riverside Concrete Works, Pulborough, West Sussex. Two site visits were made during October 2007 to monitor the works. Excavations reached depths of up to 2.5m beneath the current ground surface. No archaeological features or deposits were discovered. This could have been due to previous truncation of the natural horizon.</i></p>						

**OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England**

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-35804**

**Project details**

Project name	The Riverside Concrete Works, Pulborough, West Sussex
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the laying of a new pipeline at The Riverside Concrete Works, Pulborough, West Sussex. Two site visits were made during October 2007 to monitor the works. Excavations reached depths of up to 2.5m beneath the current ground surface. No archaeological features or deposits were discovered. This could have been due to previous truncation of the natural horizon.
Project dates	Start: 12-10-2007 End: 15-10-2007
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	RCW07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX HORSHAM PULBOROUGH The Riverside Concrete Works
Postcode	RH20 2XX
Study area	160.00 Square metres



Site coordinates      TQ 052 194 50.9638541757 -0.501759652829 50 57 49 N 000 30  
06 W Point

Height OD              Min: 27.00m Max: 30.00m

### **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

Project supervisor      Deon Whittaker

Type of sponsor/funding body      Southern Water

Name of sponsor/funding body      Southern Water

### **Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?      No

Digital Archive Exists?      No

Paper Archive Exists?      No

### **Project bibliography 1**

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