

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at  
Balcombe Road, Horley, West Sussex**

**NGR: 529851 140704**

**Project No: 3604  
Site Code: BRH08**

**ASE Report No: 2008182  
OASIS ID: archaeol6-51800**



**By  
Teresa Hawtin BA MSc AIFA  
and Liane Peyre MSc**

**November 2008**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East (ASE) undertook an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the replacement of a section of existing sewer pipe to the east of Balcombe Road, Horley, West Sussex, between 24<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2008.*

*The clay natural was cut by a series of modern field drains, aligned northwest-southeast, and a trench that was thought to contain a pipe relating to the former sewer system. The topsoil across the field contained modern finds and plough marks were visible, running parallel to the adjacent road, confirming the field's cultivation in more recent years. No archaeological features or deposits earlier than modern were observed.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, was commissioned by Thames Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the replacement of a section of existing sewer pipe to the east of Balcombe Road, Horley, West Sussex (hereafter referred to as 'the site') (NGR: 529851 140704; Figs. 1 & 2).
- 1.1.2 The site is bound by Balcombe Road and residential dwellings to the west; Antland Lane and an electricity sub-station to the south; Rivington Farm to the east and a ditched field boundary to the north.
- 1.1.3 The groundworks undertaken involved the topsoil stripping of several areas, including a compound area towards the south of the site, an access road from the entrance on Balcombe Road and an easement along the route of the pipe. Deeper machine stripping to the clay natural was undertaken along the route of the proposed pipe trench (Fig. 2).

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

- 1.2.1 The site is situated on a pasture field to the south-east of Horley and west of Shipley Bridge. It is relatively flat land, lying at c.60m AOD.
- 1.2.2 The British Geological Survey (1:50000 series, Sheet 302) illustrates that the underlying geology of the site is comprised of Weald Clay with River Mole 1<sup>st</sup> Terrace Gravels at its north-eastern extent.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

- 1.3.1 Planning permission for these works was not required from Crawley Borough Council Planning Authority, although Thames Water sought the advice of Senior Archaeologist Mark Taylor (West Sussex County Council), who recommended that an archaeological watching brief should be conducted during groundworks.
- 1.3.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlining the requirements of the Archaeological Watching Brief was prepared by ASE (ASE 2008) and submitted and duly approved by the Local Planning Authority.

### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

- 1.4.1 The aim of the archaeological monitoring was to ensure that any features,

deposits, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest that were encountered during intrusive groundworks at the site were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.

- 1.4.2 The fieldwork was undertaken by Teresa Hawtin and Liane Peyre, between 24<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2008. The project was managed by Giles Dawkes and Louise Rayner (post-excavation).

## **1.5 Scope of Report**

- 1.5.1 The aim of this report is to present the results of the archaeological monitoring undertaken at Balcombe Road, Horley and to put these results into a local, regional or national context as appropriate.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 There are no known sites or finds of archaeological interest within the area affected by the works. However, Roman pottery and a coin dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century were recovered c.500m to the west of the site during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 2.2 The eastern part of the field that the pipeline crosses also lies on Mole River terrace deposits, which are potentially of geoarchaeological interest.

## **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 All ground reduction was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Machine excavation was undertaken using a tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. Where archaeological features or deposits were revealed, machining was stopped and excavation was continued by hand. The spoil from the machine excavations was scanned for the presence of any artefacts, both visually and using a metal detector.
- 3.2 A photographic record of the work was kept and forms part of the site archive. The archive (quantified in Table 1), is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade, and will in due course be offered to a suitable local museum.

Number of Contexts	4
No. of files/paper record	1 File
Plan and sections sheets	0
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	15 digital colour photographs
Bulk finds	0

Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Figure 2 shows a plan of the areas that were monitored during this project and Table 2 details the contexts that were encountered.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Depth below ground level
(001)	Layer	Friable, mid-dark, orange-brown, clay silt with occasional small, angular stone inclusions and occasional modern debris, including frogged brick and glazed ceramic fragments. Plough soil in compound area.	n/a	n/a	0.25m	n/a
(002)	Layer	Firm, pale-mid brown-orange silty clay with pale creamy lenses and frequent iron panning. Frequent plough marks visible running parallel to Balcombe Road. Natural stratum in compound area.	n/a	n/a	unknown	0.25m
(003)	Layer	Friable, mid grey-brown, silty clay with fine rooting visible. Plough soil in easement area.	n/a	n/a	0.30m	n/a
(004)	Layer	Firm, slightly malleable, mottled mid brown-yellow 10YR 5/8 and light green-grey GLEY 1 7/1 clay, with very frequent lenses of iron panning. Natural stratum in easement area.	n/a	n/a	unknown	0.30m

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

## 4.2 Access Road and Compound

4.2.1 An area of c.30m x 50m was stripped of topsoil to create a site compound, and a 6 metre-wide road was stripped between the compound and the access point from Balcombe Road (Fig. 2). The ground reduction reached depths of between 0.20m and 0.25m below ground level.

4.2.2 The topsoil (001) was friable, mid-dark orange-brown clay silt, containing

occasional modern inclusions of frogged brick, tile, glass and fragments of modern glazed ceramic.

4.2.3 The topsoil was seen to directly overlie the natural (002) firm, pale-mid brown-orange silty clay with pale creamy lenses and frequent iron panning. Plough marks were visible in this layer, aligned north-northwest to south-southeast and apparently running parallel to the adjacent Balcombe Road.

4.2.4 No finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed in this area.

### **4.3 Pipeline Easement and Trench**

4.3.1 The route of the proposed pipe trench was stripped of topsoil to create a working easement, measuring c.125m in length and c.25m in width (Fig. 2). The ground reduction for the easement reached between 0.25m and 0.30m in depth.

4.3.2 Further ground reduction was undertaken along the line of the proposed pipe trench, with a width of 2.2m and reaching depths of up to 0.5m below ground level (Figs. 2 & 3). This trench reached the natural along its entire length, so it was not necessary to monitor further excavations of the pipe trench below this depth.

4.3.3 The topsoil in this area (003) consisted of a friable, mid grey-brown silty clay with frequent fine rooting and was seen to reach a thickness of c.0.30m.

4.3.4 Directly underlying the topsoil, the natural stratum (004) was revealed. This was recorded as a firm, slightly malleable, mottled mid brown-yellow and light green-grey silty clay with very frequent patches of dense iron panning containing large particles of ferrous material.

4.3.5 At the south-western end of the easement, a modern trench aligned northwest-southeast was observed (Figs. 2 & 4). This lined up with an existing inspection chamber, illustrated on the client's plan as MH8702.

4.3.6 Three modern field drains were also visible within the deeper strip along the pipe route (Fig. 2), which were also aligned northwest-southeast.

4.3.7 No finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified in this area.

4.3.8 The topsoil stripping across the site was not consistently deep enough to expose the underlying geological deposits. Where natural strata were encountered, no archaeological features or deposits were identified and no finds of archaeological interest were recovered, either *in-situ* or from the spoil heaps.



## **5.0 THE FINDS**

5.1 No archaeological finds were recovered during this project.

## **6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES**

6.1 No deposits of archaeological interest were encountered on site.

## **7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

7.1 The groundworks associated with the replacement of a section of existing sewer east of Balcombe Road, Horley, were monitored for the presence of finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest.

7.2 The topsoil across the field contained modern inclusions and plough marks were seen cutting into the natural, running parallel to the adjacent road, confirming the field's cultivation in more recent years.

7.3 The only other features seen to disturb the natural were a series of modern field drains, aligned northwest-southeast, and a trench related to the former sewer pipe.

7.4 The natural geology of the site was relatively consistent, with some changes in the inclusions present. The river terrace gravels expected at the eastern extent of the field were not encountered.

7.5 No archaeological features or deposits earlier than modern were observed. A high confidence rating is attached to these results.

7.6 It is recommended that the results of this project do not warrant any further analysis or investigation.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Archaeology South-East, 2008. *Thames Water Engineering, Balcombe Road, Horley West Sussex: Archaeological Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The authors are grateful to Thames Water for commissioning this fieldwork and to Mark Taylor, West Sussex County Council's Senior Archaeologist, for his advice. Thanks are also due to Andrew Marshall, Chris Franklin, and the groundworks staff on site for their help and co-operation during the watching brief.

**SMR Summary Form**

Site Code	BRH 08					
Identification Name and Address	Thames Water Engineering, Balcombe Road, Horley, West Sussex, RH6 9SN					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex, Crawley					
OS Grid Refs.	529851 140704					
Geology	Weald Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3604					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	<b>Watching Brief</b>	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	<b>Green Field</b>	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	<b>WB.</b> 24-29/9/08	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Thames Water					
Project Manager	Giles Dawkes					
Project Supervisor	Teresa Hawtin, Liane Peyre					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	<b>Other Modern</b>		
100 Word Summary.						
<p><i>Archaeology South-East (ASE) undertook an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the replacement of a section of existing sewer pipe to the east of Balcombe Road, Horley, West Sussex, between 24<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2008.</i></p> <p><i>The clay natural was cut by a series of modern field drains, aligned northwest-southeast, and a trench that was thought to contain a pipe relating to the former sewer system. The topsoil across the field contained modern finds and plough marks were visible, running parallel to the adjacent road, confirming the field's cultivation in more recent years. No archaeological features or deposits earlier than modern were observed.</i></p>						

## OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-51800**

### Project details

Project name                      An Archaeological Watching Brief at Balcombe Road, Horley

Short description of the project      *Archaeology South-East (ASE) undertook an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the replacement of a section of existing sewer pipe to the east of Balcombe Road, Horley, West Sussex, between 24<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2008.*

*The clay natural was cut by a series of modern field drains, aligned northwest-southeast, and a trench that was thought to contain a pipe relating to the former sewer system. The topsoil across the field contained modern finds and plough marks were visible, running parallel to the adjacent road, confirming the field's cultivation in more recent years. No archaeological features or deposits earlier than modern were observed.*

Project dates                      Start: 24-09-2008 End: 29-09-2008

Previous/future work      Not known / Not known

Any associated project reference codes      BRH08 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes      3604 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project                      Recording project

Site status                              None

Current Land use                      Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined

Investigation type                      'Watching Brief'

Prompt                      Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice

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**Project location**

Country                      England  
Site location                WEST SUSSEX CRAWLEY CRAWLEY Thames Water  
Engineering, Balcombe Road  
  
Postcode                    RH6 9SN  
  
Study area                  6000.00 Square metres  
  
Site coordinates            TQ 529851 140704 50.9052297627 0.176107041212 50 54 18 N  
000 10 33 E Point  
  
Height OD / Depth        Min: 58.00m Max: 62.00m

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**Project creators**

Name of Organisation      Archaeology South-East  
  
Project brief originator    West Sussex County Council  
  
Project design originator    Archaeology South-East  
  
Project director/manager    Giles Dawkes  
  
Project supervisor          Teresa Hawtin  
  
Project supervisor          Liane Peyre  
  
Type of sponsor/funding body    Water Authority/Company

Name of sponsor/funding body      Thames Water

**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?      No

Physical Archive recipient      Local Museum

Digital Archive recipient      Local Museum

Digital Media available      'Images raster / digital photography', 'Text'

Paper Archive recipient      Local Museum

Paper Media available      'Context sheet', 'Report'

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**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type      Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title      An Archaeological Watching Brief at Balcombe Road, Horley, West Sussex

Author(s)/Editor(s)      Hawtin, T.

Author(s)/Editor(s)      Peyre, L.

Other bibliographic details      2008182

Date      2008

Issuer or publisher      Archaeology South-East

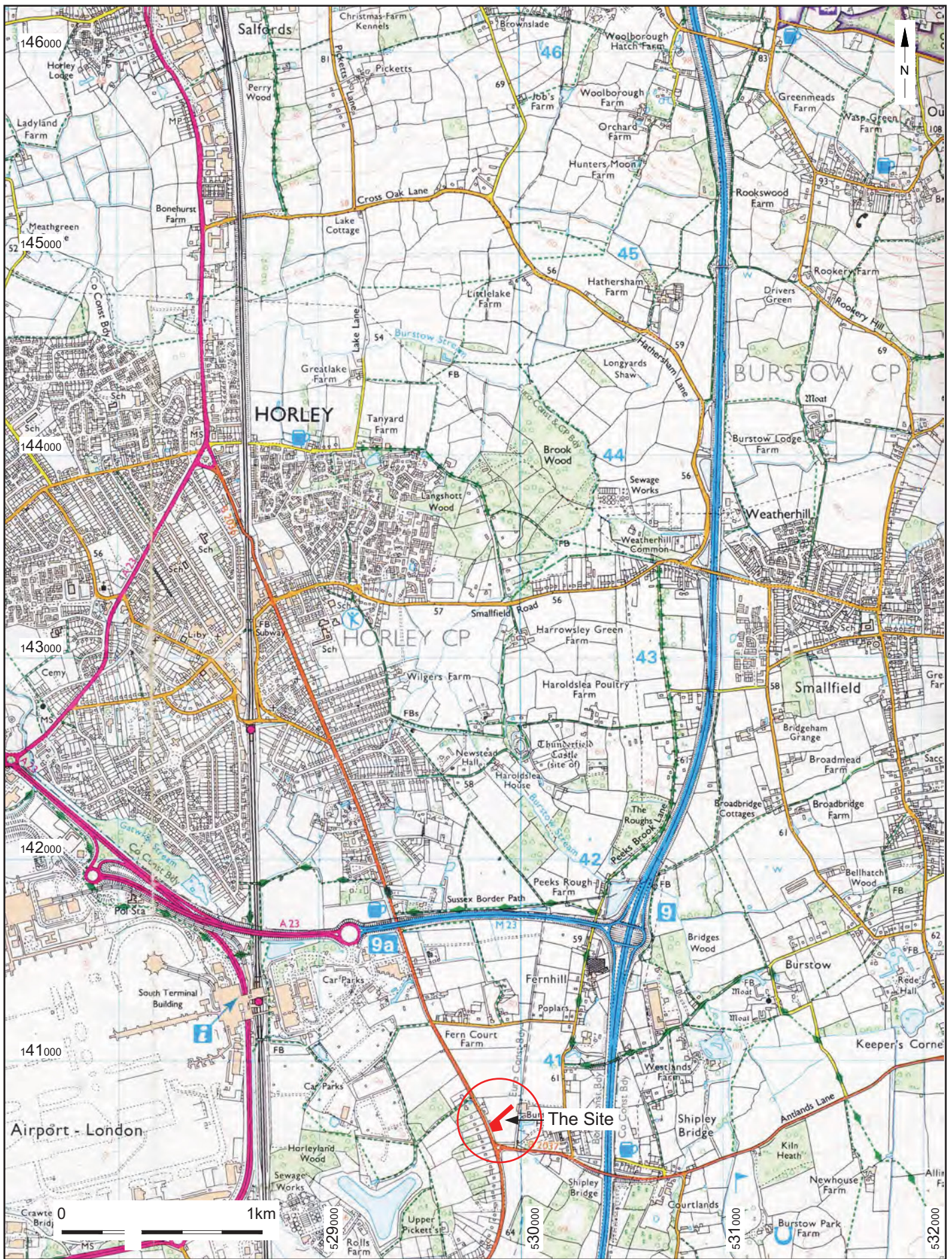
Place of issue or  
publication      Portslade

Description      A4 bound report

Entered by      Teresa Hawtin (t.hawtin@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on      21 November 2008





© Archaeology South-East		Balcombe Road, Horley	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3604	Nov 2008	Site Location	
Report Ref: 2008182	Drawn by: DJH		

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© Archaeology South-East		Balcombe Road, Horley		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 3604	November 2008	Site Plan		
Report Ref: 2008182	Drawn by: DJH			



Fig. 3: East-facing shot of trench along route of pipe



Fig. 4: North-west facing shot showing modern trench in foreground, with manhole MH8702 in background

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