

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at St Peter's Church,
Slinfold, West Sussex.**

**Planning Ref:DC/04/0475, renewal of unimplemented permission
SF/21/98**

**NGR TQ 511765 131581
(TQ 11765 31581)**

**Project No:2521
Site Code: SLI08**

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeology South-East on behalf of Nicholas Symes Associates at St Peter's Church, Slinfold during works associated with the construction of an extension to the north of the church. The archaeological works uncovered six articulated burials and an in situ external plinth of the original medieval church. The original northern church wall was found to have been further south than that of the present church. The majority of ceramic building material recovered from the site is of Roman-British date and suggestive of a high status building in the vicinity of the site, or significant robbing and reuse of material from high status Romano-British buildings in the area such as the mansio at Alfoldean.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit (UCLFAU), were commissioned by Nicholas Symes Associates to undertake an archaeological watching brief at St Peter's church, The Street, Slinfold, West Sussex (NGR 511765 131581) (fig. 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The underlying geology of the site is Horsham stone (BGS 302). The site occupies a relatively flat area of graveyard with a gentle slope from east to west.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission was granted by Horsham District Council for an extension to include a disabled toilet, storage and tea making facilities (Planning ref: DC/04/0475, renewal of unimplemented permission SF/21/98). On the advice of West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) archaeologist (in the role of WSSCC's advisor to the district council's capacity as advisor on archaeological planning matters), Horsham District Council has attached an archaeological planning condition (Condition 2) which states:

No Development shall take place within the area of the extension until the applicants have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicants and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: The site is of archaeological significance and it is important that it is recorded by excavation before it is destroyed by development in accordance with policy EDC27 of the Horsham District Local Plan 1997.

1.4 Aims

1.4.1 As stated in the written scheme of investigation (ASE 2008) the aim of the work was:

'... to monitor the groundwork in order to ensure that any human remains, features, artefacts, medieval masonry or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed and affected by the excavations are recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.'

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report represents the results of the archaeological watching brief undertaken by Sarah Porteus (archaeologist) Liane Peyre (assistant archaeologist) and Maggie Henderson (historic buildings archaeologist) between the 6th April 2009 and 6th October 2009.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The site is located close to Stane Street Roman road, which runs approximately 800 metres to the west. A Roman mansio at Alfoldean lies approximately 1.4km to the north west of the site near the junction of the present A29 and A281. Also known nearby is the Itchingfield Roman tile works.
- 2.2** The village of Slinfold is typically medieval with many surviving medieval houses in the vicinity of the site.
- 2.3** A church is believed to have stood on the site since c.1100. The present church was constructed in 1861.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 All intrusive groundworks and the removal of a section of the church wall were monitored by an appropriately qualified archaeologist.
- 3.2 Where significant archaeological remains were identified machine excavation ceased and the features were excavated and recorded by hand.
- 3.3 All archaeological features were planned and sections drawn on plastic draughting film, where appropriate, to a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 as required.
- 3.4 A paper record was made of all features to an appropriate archaeological standard. Soil colours were recorded by visual inspection and not with reference to the Munsell Colour Chart.
- 3.5 A full black and white film, colour slide and digital photographic record was kept of the works.
- 3.6 The spoil from the excavations was also inspected to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.
- 3.7 All archaeological features were levelled to height above ordnance datum using the benchmark carved onto the wall of the church as a reference point.
- 3.8 Where human remains were uncovered these were recorded on *proforma* sheets and their location planned before removal and storage in a secure location. Disarticulated human remains (from previously disturbed burials) were noted, removed and stored in a secure location. Only human remains to be affected by the present works were removed, all others were left *in situ*. All human remains are to be re-interred within the graveyard. A home office licence for exhumation was not required as the site is under the jurisdiction of the Church of England and the authority to remove remains has been granted under ecclesiastical faculty.
- 3.9 Where significant archaeological remains were uncovered the West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) archaeological officer was informed.
- 3.10 All retained samples and artefacts were processed and assessed by Archaeology South-East specialists.

Number of Contexts	38
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	3
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	1 digital CD, less than 1 film black and white film and colour slide.
Bulk finds	1 box
Registered finds	9
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

- 4.1 The external excavations included trenching for the foundations of the extension, service trenches and a soakaway (fig. 2)
- 4.2 The natural blue-yellow clay [017] was encountered at a depth of 32.696m. Overlying this deposit was [002], a stiff 1.20m thick brownish yellow silty clay cemetery soil deposit containing burials and a single piece of broken headstone. A total of six articulated human burials were recorded comprising one child and five adults (Sk1 - Sk 6, and Contexts [003] - [014], [018] – [020]). Two unexcavated coffins were also uncovered ([015], [016]). Overlying the cemetery soil was [001] a brown loose, 0.20m thick, sandy humic topsoil.
- 4.3 Dating Christian inhumation burials accurately can be difficult in the absence of grave markers as these burials often contain no grave goods and the dating of coffins can be problematic. Only skeletons sk2 and sk3 had a stratigraphic relationship with a datable feature, burial sk3 continued beneath the 1861 extension and sk2 was in turn truncated by the burial of sk3 (fig.2). Both these burials predate 1861. The other burials are also thought to be of probable post-medieval date.
- 4.4 The internal area excavations were undertaken by hand and included a small area within the northwest corner of the interior of the church (5.80m east – west by 2.60m north – south, 0.70m deep), the removal of the window in the north wall and the creation of the doorway opening to the new extension. A narrow slot was excavated abutting the southern extent of the area. The slot was 0.50m wide and 1.05m deep and was constructed to carry cast beams to support of the new floor. The excavation in this area (Fig. 3) was required in order to lay a new suspended floor to bring the interior of the new extension in line with floor level within the main body of the church.
- 4.5 The base deposit within the slot comprised slightly mottled reddish yellow silty clay [037] subsoil at a maximum 0.30mm thick. The subsoil was overlain by deposit [038] of stiff mottled reddish yellow silty clay with charcoal flecks, occasional fragments of CBM iron objects and pot sherds. The deposit is interpreted as made ground occurring after the construction of the church: no cut was seen in the slot relating to the west wall. The subsoil [037] to west and east was truncated by several cut features. These included the centrally situated soakaway [029] and associated drainage channel to the west [033], which also cut through deposit [038]. Deposit [037] was truncated to the east by the construction cut [026] for a large brick structure [025] situated under the nave.
- 4.6 The cut for the soakaway was not seen during the excavations due to the reworked nature of the site. However, the structure itself [029] measures 1.12m in diameter, and is a minimum of 6.70m in depth. It is lined entirely in modern red brick (230 x 110 x 60mm) with scant traces of lime mortar on the bricks but no clearly defined bonding material or bedding joints. The drainage channel to the west opens into the soakaway at 0.70m below the

nave floor level. The drainage channel sloped back under the nave floor towards the font. The feature was built with sides of modern brick capped by stone rubble slabs creating a channel 160mm wide by 140mm deep. The cut for the channel [032] could be seen to the west of the soakaway for a length of 0.87m before veering off under the nave floor. The base of the cut was flat and the western side visible to a depth of 0.40m was near vertical. The backfill deposit [031] situated over the drain comprised mid brown silty clay with frequent fragments of CBM and stone rubble. A sleeper wall [030] for the suspended floor overlay the soakaway and drain.

- 4.7 On the eastern side of the soakaway, construction cut [026] for brick structure [025] had a flat base situated 0.80m below the tiled floor of the nave. Structure [025] measured 1.50m in length by 0.76m in height, over ten courses of brick in Sussex bond. The brickwork was a pale pinkish red fabric with bricks of a standard 220 by 110 by 60mm. The mortar bedding joints were rough and undulating on the exposed side suggesting that the main body of the structure is to the south of the exposed area of brickwork, with the good finish on the unseen southern side; the mortar pushed through from that face. It is possible that the feature is related to the under - floor heating of the church. The construction cut is filled by deposit [027], which was 0.43m thick and 0.78m wide comprising mid brown silty clay with abundant stone fragments, frequent CBM and occasional pot, pipe stems, glass and metalwork. The deposit is situated directly below the sleeper wall [030]. The floor over the brick structure [025] had been supported on a concrete slab 30 mm thick [024], as the sleeper wall abutted the brickwork in this location. This may indicate that the brick feature had been inserted after the initial floor construction. The floor surface itself comprised a levelling deposit and tiles [023].
- 4.8 There were three identical rubble sleeper walls [030] at 300 mm wide by 260 mm thick, oriented east – west. The sleeper walls were situated with one abutting the north wall, the other abutting the tile floor of the nave and the third in the centre of the area (removed prior to the watching brief).
- 4.9 The remainder of the excavated area comprised a single deposit [034] which is believed to be the same as the made ground deposit [038]. Deposit [034] was excavated to a maximum depth of 400 mm. The deposit was mid brown silty clay with abundant stone fragments, CBM, occasional glass, metal work, bone fragments and pot sherds.
- 4.10 The removal of the north sleeper wall and the reduction of the made ground deposit [034] revealed the remains of masonry in the northeastern corner of the excavated area. The probable Horsham stone masonry was fragmentary but extended c. 1.30m north – south [036] and 0.75m east west [035] (Fig. 3). The east – west extent had a slate damp proof course on top of the masonry and this in turn was directly overlain by the construction of the present north wall of the church. The north – south return bears a clearly defined chamfer to the masonry on the upper west edge, suggestive of an external plinth. Although fragmentary, it is suggested that the masonry remains were part of the earlier church on the site as shown on the 1840 Tithe Map (Fig. 4).

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20	33.916
002	Deposit	Cemetery Soil	Tr.	Tr.	1.20	33.896
003	Cut	Cut for burial of sk1, cut not visible	N/A	N/A	N/A	
004	Fill	Fill of cut 003	N/A	N/A	N/A	
005	Coffin	Coffin of sk1	0.40+	0.20	N/A	33.270
006	Cut	Cut for burial of sk2, cut not visible	N/A	N/A	N/A	
007	Fill	Fill of cut 006	N/A	N/A	N/A	
008	Coffin	Coffin of sk2	0.60+	0.15+	N/A	33.146
009	Cut	Cut for burial of sk3, cut not visible	N/A	N/A	N/A	
010	Fill	Fill of cut 009	N/A	N/A	N/A	
011	Coffin	Coffin of sk3	0.90+	0.45	N/A	32.886
012	Cut	Cut for burial of sk4, cut not visible	N/A	N/A	N/A	
013	Fill	Fill of cut 012	N/A	N/A	N/A	
014	Coffin	Coffin of sk4	1.00+	0.35+	N/A	32.886
015	Coffin	Coffin, not excavated	0.78+	0.08+	N/A	32.884
016	Coffin	Coffin, not excavated	0.95+	0.08+	N/A	32.884
017	Natural	Blueish yellow clay with occasional iron stone inclusions.	Tr.	Tr.	Tr.	32.696
018	Cut	Cut for burial of sk5, cut not visible	0.10+	0.05+	N/A	32.950
019	Fill	Fill of cut 018	N/A	N/A	N/A	
020	Cut	Cut for burial of sk6, cut not visible	0.10+	0.05+	N/A	32.800
021	Fill	Fill of cut 020	N/A	N/A	N/A	
022	Grave stone	White chalk base of gravestone	0.50	0.09	0.20	33.45
023	Deposit	Floor tiles and levelling	Tr.	Tr.	0.06	34.47
024	Deposit	Concrete Slab	Tr.	Tr.	0.03	34.38
025	Masonry	Wall of brick chamber	1.50+	0.20+	0.70	34.28
026	Cut	Cut for 025	2.30+	0.20+	0.70	34.28
027	Deposit	Fill of 026	0.75	0.40	Tr.	34.09
028	Cut	Soakaway – not excavated	N/A	N/A	N/A	
029	Masonry	Soakaway lining	1.12	1.12	Tr.	34.09
030	Masonry	Sleeper wall for suspended floor	5.85	0.30	2.60	34.39
031	Deposit	Backfill of construction cut 032	0.90	Tr.	0.38	34.09
032	Cut	Cut of soakaway	N/A	N/A	N/A	
033	Masonry	Drain channel	2.20	0.20	0.12	33.77
034	Deposit	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.40	
035	Masonry	Medieval church wall remains	0.80	0.30	0.40	33.52
036	Masonry	Medieval church wall remains	1.60	0.20	0.40	33.52
037	Deposit	Natural subsoil	2.30	Tr.	0.30+	33.67
038	Deposit	Made ground	Tr.	1.40	0.40	34.07

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

5.0 THE FINDS

A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the excavations, mainly from made ground. An overview can be found in Appendix 2.

5.1 The Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.1.1 The archaeological work recovered 68 sherds of pottery from four individually numbered contexts. On the whole the material is in good condition with sherds normally being quite fresh though fragment size ranges from small (< 20mm across) to medium (< 50mm across). There is a notable amount of mixing of pottery in the contexts, suggesting that residuality, and possibly intrusiveness, is moderate/high.
- 5.1.2 The earliest pottery from the site consists of a single unabraded shell tempered cooking pot sherd of 12th- century date, residual in the south slot at the east end of [34]. Its presence clearly indicates early activity in the vicinity as the piece, with its low-fired and vulnerable to damage, is quite fresh in appearance. There is notably more pottery that can be placed in a mid 14th- to mid 15th- century date range. Although a small residual sherd of well fired late medieval oxidised fine sandy ware was residual in [2] and a flat-topped hammer-headed cooking pot rim in Coarse Borderware residual in [38], the vast majority of pottery of this period was recovered from the south slot at the east end of [34]. This deposit produced two sherds of the oxidised late medieval fine sandy ware, including a possible pitcher neck with spots of glaze, and five sherds of Coarse Borderware. The latter includes several flat-topped hammer-headed rim fragments, probably from the same cooking pot, as well as the partially glazed body sherds of at least one other vessel.
- 5.1.3 A little early post-medieval material is present in the assemblage. Context [38] produced three sherds (75g) of early green glazed red earthenware, including a jar rim, of mid 16th- to 17th- century type. Context [34] also produced three sherds (20g) of similar type, though lower fired, which may be of the same general period.
- 5.1.4 The early/mid 18th to mid 19th centuries are well represented in the assemblage. There are a number of glazed red earthenwares which can be placed in both the 18th and indeed early/mid 19th centuries from contexts [2] and [34]. Context [2] contains a body sherd from an 18th- century London stoneware tankard and both this deposit and [34] produced small groups of later 18th- century creamware (a bowl from [2] and plates/jug from [34]). Both contexts also contained pearlware, most notably a tankard/measure from [34] and transfer-printed tablewares from [2], of early 19th- century date. Other wares from these two deposits include some English stoneware (including a blacking bottle from [34]), yellow ware, Sunderland-type slipware and a Rockingham teapot lid (all from [2]). A few sherds of unglazed earthenware flower pots are also present ([34] and possibly intrusive in [38]). There is no material that need be later than 1840.

5.2 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

5.2.1 A total of 58 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing a total of 10148g were recovered from five contexts.

5.2.2 Roman

5.2.3 The majority of the material is of Roman date with 43 fragments weighing 6629g. Forms represented included brick, *tegula*, *imbrex* (roofing tiles) and both combed and roller stamped flue tile. All the Roman material was recovered from made ground [034] and [038] (likely to be the same deposit) and the general cemetery soil [002].

Form	Count	Weight
Brick	19	3868
Tegula	5	1987
Imbrex	1	72
Combed Flue tile	4	120
Roller stamped flue	1	256
Tile, form unknown	11	335
Total	43	6629

Table 3: Roman CBM by form, count and weight

5.2.4 Four fabric types were identified within the Roman assemblage: R1, a fine orange fabric with moderate to abundant poorly sorted quartz; R2, pinkish red fabric with moderate coarse black angular iron rich inclusions and moderate pale cream silt inclusions; R3, finer version of R1 with sparse quartz; and R4, fine fabric with sparse micaceous inclusions and sparse fine quartz. Fabrics R1 and R3 are sufficiently similar to be considered as variations in the same fabric type. Four fragments were totally vitrified from the firing process so no fabric identification could be made.

Fabric	Forms represented
R1 and R3	Brick, <i>tegula</i> , <i>imbrex</i> , combed flue tile.
R2	Brick and <i>tegula</i>
R4	Roller stamped flue
Vitrified	Brick and <i>tegula</i>

Table 4: Roman fabric types and forms represented.

5.2.5 Fabric R4 was only represented by the single fragment of Roller stamped flue tile, suggesting this particular fragment is of different origin to the bulk of the Roman building material. The roller stamped flue tile appears to be of the 'w-chevron' type. The other flue tile fragments have combed keying. Flue tiles are used in Roman heating systems in villas or bath houses.

5.2.6 Three fragments of brick retained partial 'signature marks', one of 3 arcs and two fragments displaying 2 large arcs marks.

5.2.7 The Roman material was not highly abraded. It is likely that the material had not been transported a great distance from the point of deposition and some may have originated at the Roman tile kiln at Itchingfield. The presence of such material within the churchyard is highly suggestive of a high status, heated Roman building, probably Alfoldean *mansion*, which once stood in the vicinity of the site.

5.2.8 *Medieval*

5.2.9 Three fragments of probable medieval ceramic building material weighing a total of 86g were recovered from site. A very small fragment of probable floor tile with plain glaze over slip was recovered from made ground [038] within the church and is of probable 15th or 16th century date. A fragment of splash glazed tile, possibly curved tile, and a fragment of peg tile are likely to be of 15th to 17th century date. It is likely these fragments relate to the medieval church suggesting it had a tiled roof and a glazed tiled floor.

5.2.10 *Post-Medieval and Modern*

5.2.11 A small quantity of post-medieval or modern CBM was recovered, nine fragments weighing 3362g. Eight fragments of peg tile from [002] and [034] are of probable 18th to 20th century date. A single unfrogged brick with sharp arises from context [029] is of probable 19th century date and is likely to be contemporary with the rebuild of the church.

5.2.12 *Undated*

5.2.13 A fragment of unidentified CBM from context [010] could not be dated.

5.3 **The Clay Tobacco Pipe** by Elke Raemen

5.3.1 A total of 17 clay tobacco pipe (CTP) fragments was recovered from three different contexts. Deposit [2] contained a mixture of stems, the earliest dating to the mid 17th century. Most however are of mid 18th- to 19th-century date. A mid to later 17th-century stem fragment was recovered from made ground [38]. Stem fragments from made ground [34] are all of mid 18th- to 19th-century date.

5.3.2 In addition, made ground [34] contained a fragment (RF <5>) of bowl type AO27 (Atkinson and Oswald 1969), which dates to c. 1780-1820. Maker's marks "IP" on the spur may refer to James Pitt (1 – m1770 – d1810) or James Pitt (2-b1771 - d1817), both working in Chichester (Oswald 1975).

5.4 **The Glass** by Elke Raemen

5.4.1 A small assemblage of 18 fragments was recovered from made ground [34]. The earliest piece consists of a clear glass beaker rim fragment with applied band and dating to the late 16th to 17th century. A yellow window glass fragment of 16th- to 17th-century date was also recovered.

5.4.2 Two wine bottle fragments were recovered, one of mid 18th- to mid 19th-century date, whilst the second dates to the 19th to early 20th century. A

green rim fragment from a small 19th-century bottle was found as well. All other pieces consist of window glass, mostly pale green and of 18th- to 19th-century date. A few clear fragments of similar date were also present.

5.5 The Ironwork by Elke Raemen

5.5.1 Nail fragments were recovered from two different contexts. Most are from made ground [34], which contained a mixture of types, including general purpose nails, headless “coffin” nails, “floorboard” nails and a heavy duty structural nail. A small wedge was also recovered. Most nails cannot be closely dated, apart from a machine-made general purpose example of 20th-century date. Made ground [38] contained three general purpose nail fragments as well as a heavy duty nail fragment.

5.6 The Registered Finds by Elke Raemen

5.6.1 A number of finds were assigned unique Registered Finds numbers (RF <00>). An overview can be found in Table 5.

SITE CODE	CONTEXT	RF No	OBJECT	MATERIAL	PERIOD	DATE	Wt (g)	COMMENTS
SLI08	34	1	SHOE	IRON	PMED	C19th-E20th	48	heel plate
SLI08	34	2	BUTT	BONE	PMED	C19th-E20th	<2	4-hole
SLI08	34	3	CAME	LEAD	PMED	C19th-E20th	10	x2
SLI08	34	4	UNK	LEAD	PMED	C19th-E20th	6	headless pin; circular-sectioned; pewter
SLI08	34	5	PIPE	CERA	PMED	c.1780-1820	4	maker's mark IP; AO27
SLI08	34	6	SPOO	COPP	PMED	C17th-18th	24	bowl
SLI08	34	7	MOUN	COPP	PMED	C19th-E20th	6	with three fixing holes
SLI08	34 south slot at east end	8	STFT	IRON	PMED	C19th-E20th	24	unknown function; pyramidal head
SLI08	34 south slot at east end	9	WIRE	COPP	PMED	C19th-E20th	<2	twisted in double loop

Table 5. Summary of the Registered Finds from the watching brief at Slinfold Church.

5.8 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

5.8.1 A small assemblage of stone was recovered from the site most of which is of local origin and from late post-medieval/mixed contexts. Context [2] produced a piece of coal shale and three post-medieval architectural fragments in Bath stone (oolitic limestone). Context [34] contained fragments of Welsh slate (x1. 19th century), fire-cracked flint (x1. probably from lime-burning/field dressing), Wealden non-calcareous siltstone (x7) and Horsham stone (x4). The latter is from roofing slabs, a type most common between the 15th and 16th centuries. Context [38] produced two more fragments of Horsham stone as well as a pieces of non-calcareous Wealden siltstone and ferruginous sandstone.

5.9 The Metallurgical Remains by Luke Barber

5.9.1 All of the slag from the site consists of glassy blast furnace waste from post-medieval smelting. The two small pieces from the south slot at the eastern end of [34] are small and could be intrusive.

5.10 The Animal Bone by Gemma Ayton

5.10.1 The animal bone assemblage contains 34 fragments from three contexts ([2], [34] and [38]). Cattle (*Bos Taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra*) and pig (*Sus*) were identified. The assemblage is in a fair condition with a small amount of weathering visible on the bone. The assemblage contains both meat-bearing and non-meat bearing elements. Two small knife marks were recorded on a sheep metatarsal shaft recovered from context [34]. There is no evidence of burning, pathology or gnawing on the bone.

5.11 Other Finds by Elke Raemen

5.11.1 A buff coloured/grey mortar fragment was found in made ground [34]. The piece contains coal inclusions, indicating a 19th- to early 20th-century date. A single flint waste flake fragment was recovered from cemetery soil [2]. Made ground [34] contained two oyster upper valves and a small fragment possibly from the common otter shell.

5.11.2 Modern finds include a pull-tab from a can and a plastic pen lid, both from [34]. A 1919 penny was recovered from [2].

5.12 Charcoal and Wood by Lucy Allott

5.12.1 Four charcoal fragments, weighing 22g, were recovered from made ground context [34]. These have been identified through reference to modern comparative material and literature (Hather 2000). Two of these (including the largest fragment) have been identified as beech wood (*Fagus sylvatica*). These fragments appear to originate from a single large round wood specimen. Two further fragments were identified as oak (*Quercus* sp.) and possible privet (cf. *Ligustrum vulgare*).

5.12.2 Six pieces of dried wood were also collected from made ground [34]. One of the pieces is partially charred and several show evidence of iron staining. No identifications have been obtained for these.

6.0 THE HISTORIC BUILDING REPORT (Figs. 5 and 6)

- 6.1 A watching brief was conducted during the removal of the window in the north wall of the church in order to create through access from the interior to the new extension. The window was a tall lancet with pointed arch over plate tracery incorporating trefoil detail with stained glass. The moulded masonry is all of 13th century style but of 19th century origin, constructed as part of the present church. The interior window details included splayed reveals and sill situated 1.27 m above the masonry sleeper wall [030] of the suspended timber floor. The wall construction from floor to sill was of limestone rubble, some rough – hewn, particularly to create the steep slope of the sill. Fragments of CBM were incorporated in the rubble construction, including bricks at 65 mm thick by 110 mm wide and floor tile fragments, all of post – medieval origin. No moulded masonry relating to the earlier phase of church construction was encountered.
- 6.2 The original church on the site was demolished in 1860. Several photographs of the earlier structure exist showing a tower at the west end and a series of low ranges extending towards the east. No standing fabric relating to the earlier structures is visibly included in the later building.

7.0 DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The quantity of Roman ceramic building material from the site is of interest as no Roman buildings are known to exist in the immediate vicinity of the church though the church is known to lie close to Stane Street Roman road, a Roman *mansio* at Alfoldean (Wessex Archaeology 2006) and a Roman tile kiln at Itchingfield (Chatwin 2000). The relatively unabraded nature of the material suggests that it has not been subject to ploughing or a large amount of movement prior to deposition. The materials are indicative of a high status Roman building with tiled roof and heating system, either a villa or bath house. It is possible that such a building once stood close to, or on the site of, the present church though no *in situ* walls were located. An alternative possibility is that these materials were brought to the site, perhaps robbed from the Alfoldean *Mansio*, located 1.3km across the fields from St Peter's Church, and re-used in the construction of the early church. The absence of Roman pottery from the site would tend to suggest the importing of building materials to the site.
- 7.2 The excavations within the northwest corner of the church carried out after the removal of the suspended floor revealed part of an earlier building. The remains were located at the northeastern extent of the excavated area and comprised an inverted 'L' arrangement of masonry, the north – south oriented arm of the remains had a chamfered leading edge suggestive of external masonry which may relate to one of the buttresses shown on the Tithe map of 1840 (Fig. 4). The drawing dated 1859 by Isabella Vincent (the rector's daughter – reproduced here as Fig. 7 by kind permission of Slinfold Parish Church) shows a buttress in this vicinity but does not account for the un-chamfered part of the remains. It has been suggested that the remains may represent part of the late 12th century Dedisham Chantry Chapel (John Mills pers. comm..) which was situated on the north side of the former chancel, and as such the un-chamfered part of the remains may be the internal face of the buttress. The construction of the late brick feature (described below – Section 7.4) may have caused truncation of these remains.
- 7.3 The excavation of two burials truncated by the wall of the new church confirm that the original north wall was further south than that of the present church.
- 7.3 A very small quantity of ceramic building material relating to the medieval phase of the church suggests that it most likely had a glazed tiled floor and, at least for some of the period, had a tiled roof.
- 7.4 The remainder of the deposits and features encountered in the interior excavation were derived from the construction of the late 19th century church or directly associated with its use. The made ground deposits were related to the preparation of the ground surface on the interior of the building prior to the construction of the three sleeper walls supporting the suspended floor. The floor was situated above a large circular soakaway lined in brick. The soakaway was linked by drainage channels to the font, and the depth of the soakaway may have been due to the nature of the firm clays through which the feature was constructed, in order to allow the contents of the font to

successfully drain away. The brick feature situated at the southeast corner of the excavated area may be related to under-floor heating. It is unclear if this was an integral design feature of the church from the outset or added at a later date, but the brick structure is seen only from the rear in the excavation. The well finished face of the wall must face towards the interior of the nave where the under floor heating is situated, topped with ornate metal grilles, set as a feature within the two-tone tile floor of the nave. It is however possible that the brickwork may represent the remains of the northern outer wall of a brick vault which may have caused truncation and subsequent loss of material associated with the medieval church in this area.

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APPENDIX 1: THE HUMAN REMAINS

A total of six articulated human burials were encountered during the watching brief comprising five adult burials and a single juvenile burial.

The sex of adult individuals was assessed using morphological features of the skull and pelvis (following Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994), where long bones were highly robust or gracile and no other diagnostic elements were available, assessments of probably male and probably female were given. The age of individuals was assessed using epiphyseal fusion for distinction between adult and juvenile, for distinction of the adult age groups general degenerative changes were used. Due to the inaccuracy of these aging techniques age was only divided into: 'adult' where age could not be accurately determined; 'younger adult' 18-25 years, and 'older adult' 45+ years. It is not possible to accurately determine the sex of juvenile or infant remains. Table 1 shows the age and sex of adult remains, where age and sex could not be established these individuals are classed as 'adult'. Preservation of the remains was generally poor prohibiting the identification of pathological conditions in the field.

Skeleton number	Age	Sex	Coffin?	Details
Sk001	2-4 years	?	yes	Supine extended burial orientated west to east with head in the west.
Sk002	Adult	?	yes	Supine extended burial orientated west to east with head in the west. Hands crossed over body. Burial truncated by burial of sk003 and insertion of church buttress in 1861. Left side only remains.
Sk003	Adult	M?	yes	Supine extended, burial orientated west to east with head in west. Partially left in situ. Truncates burial of sk002 and continues below church extension. Pre-dates 1861.
Sk004	Adult	?	yes	Supine extended burial orientated west to east with head to west. Legs only, Extends beyond baulk.
Sk005	Adult?	?	no	Cranium in baulk of trench, left in situ.
Sk006	Adult	?	no	Cranium only removed, rest of skeleton left in situ. Moderate to severe tooth wear on teeth.

Table 1: Burial details

Of the six burials, four had the remains of wooden coffins associated with the remains. The coffins were mostly decayed with only iron coffin furniture, nails and studding remaining. No datable material was recovered in association with the burials and no above ground grave markers remained to indicate identity.

Appendix 2: Quantification of the finds from the watching brief at Slinfold Church.

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Shell	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)	Cu. Al.	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)	Slag	Wt (g)	Concrete	Wt (g)	Wood	Wt (g)	Plastic	Wt (g)	Aluminium	Wt(g)	Charcoal	Wt (g)		
2	27	532	32	4110	14	152			1	6	3	2098			9	28	1	10																
10			2	14																														
29			1	2964																														
34	28	210	4	768	14	108	2	8			15	305	28	276	5	10			17	54	3	138	1	168	6	24	1	<2	1	<2				
34 south slot at east end	8	116	8	678	5	78	1	30					2	4					1	<2	2	6										4	22	
38	7	108	11	1606	4	8					3	410	4	78	1	2																		

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	SLI08					
Identification Name and Address	St Peter's Church, Slinfold					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex, Horsham District					
OS Grid Refs.	511765 131581					
Geology	Wealden Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	2521					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other: Churchyard		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 6.4.09-6.10.09	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Nicholas Symes Associates					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Sarah Porteus					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	AS	MED	PM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeology South-East on behalf of Nicholas Symes Associates at St Peter's Church, Slinfold during works associated with the construction of an extension to the north of the church. The archaeological works uncovered six articulated burials and an in situ external plinth of the original medieval church. The original northern church wall was found to have been further south than that of the present church. The majority of ceramic building material recovered from the site is of Roman-British date and suggestive of a high status building in the vicinity of the site, or significant robbing and reuse of material from high status Romano-British buildings in the area such as the mansio at Alfoldean.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-67203

Project details

Project name An Archaeological Watching Brief at St Peter's Church, Slinfold, West Sussex

Short description of the project An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeology South-East on behalf of Nicholas Symes Associates at St Peter's Church, Slinfold during works associated with the construction of an extension to the north of the church. The archaeological works uncovered six articulated burials and an in situ external plinth of the original medieval church. The original northern church wall was found to have been further south than that of the present church. The majority of ceramic building material recovered from the site is of Roman-British date and suggestive of a high status building in the vicinity of the site, or significant robbing and reuse of material from high status Romano-British buildings in the area such as the mansio at Alfoldean

Project dates Start: 06-04-2009 End: 06-10-2009

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes SLI08 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status Listed Building

Current Land use Other 4 - Churchyard

Monument type CHURCH Medieval

Monument type CHURCH Post Medieval

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location WEST SUSSEX HORSHAM SLINFOLD St Peter's Church, Slinfold

Postcode RH13

Study area 20.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 11765 31581 51.0721203723 -0.404545052850 51 04 19 N 000 24 16 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator Archaeology South-East

Project design originator Archaeology South-East

Project director/manager Neil Griffin

Project supervisor Sarah Porteus

Type of sponsor/funding body Client

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	local museum
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Report','Unpublished Text'
Project bibliography 1	
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