

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at Uppark House, South
Harting, West Sussex**

**NGR 478020 117610
(SU78020 17610)**

**Project No:4078
Site Code: USL09**

**ASE Report No. 2009189
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DRAFT

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East were commissioned by the National Trust to undertake a watching brief during the excavation of trenching associated with the insertion of new heating pipes across the south lawn at Uppark House, West Sussex. The excavations revealed garden features cut into chalk may relate to an earlier phase of building, perhaps from pre 1750 when two buildings stood on the south lawn or perhaps functioning as flower beds or foundations for structures which have since been removed. A cobbled surface and corresponding wall flank a probable turning circle associated with the main east approach road). Illustrated on maps between 1750 and 1870 one of the main approaches to the mansion came from the east with the turning circle identified on each. The turning circle appears to have gone out of use following the design of the new north gate around 1810.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East were commissioned by the National Trust to undertake a watching brief during the excavation of trenching associated with the insertion of new heating pipes across the south lawn at Uppark House, West Sussex (NGR: 478020 117610, fig.1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The house stands on an area of levelled high ground overlooking a valley to the north. The underlying geology of the site is chalk.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 No planning condition was imposed on the present works, however a watching brief was advised by the National Trust archaeological adviser, Caroline Thackray.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The objective of the work (National Trust 2009) is to:

..to obtain an adequate record of any archaeological deposits or artefacts or structural elements exposed by work associated with alterations and refurbishment.

1.4.2 The specific aims of the archaeological work and the method by which they will be achieved are as follows (National Trust 2009):

Through archaeological analysis and recording, the proposed works may provide the opportunity to document change to the building and its immediate context and might permit a clearer understanding of the historic phasing, use and occupation of the site.

The salvage of potential artefactual remains might contribute to a more complete understanding of the building use at different stages of its occupation or of earlier or later landuse on this site, now obscured by turf.

The discovery and recording of any revealed structures might display evidence of change of use and adaption of former elements of the building and its setting and site.

Analysis and interpretation of the archaeological record will be important, and may inform future interpretation and understanding of this downland site and possibly the historic building, park and garden.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report represents the findings of the archaeological watching brief

undertaken by Sarah Porteus, Kathryn Grant, Nick Garland (archaeologists) and Dylan Hopkinson (senior archaeologist) between the 13th of October and the 6th of November 2009. The project was managed by Neil Griffin (field work) and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation).

2.0 SUMMARY DBA AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Uppark is dominated by the post-medieval grade 1 listed building and surrounding grade 2 listed park and gardens, now largely in the care of the National Trust. An historic environment record search revealed limited earlier archaeological features within a 1km radius search with post-medieval development of the site assessed through the use of historic maps and engravings.
- 2.2** Prehistoric activity within the area is represented by ring ditches (HER CD300) of possible Bronze Age date with an 18metre diameter circular mound. The three ring ditches are visible on aerial photographs taken in 2007 with a smaller fourth ring ditch also identified.
- 2.3** A number of Bronze Age or Neolithic flint waste flakes (HER CD2947) were found during preparation of a flowerbed within the grounds of Uppark House suggesting a possible flint working site. The post-medieval Vandalian Tower ruins (HER CD294) stand on a mound which is thought to be a Bronze Age barrow (HER CD295) though this is unconfirmed archaeologically.
- 2.4** Limited Roman activity has been identified at Round Down, Harting represented by a find spot of Roman pottery (HER CD315) uncovered in the 1930's.
- 2.5** A deer park (HER CD289) associate with the house is referred to prior to 1274 and stocked with deer in 1332 (VCH 1953). The deer park and formal gardens are grade 2 listed (HER CD290). The present gardens were planned and laid out by Humphrey Repton though earlier formal gardens were described by Celia Fiennes in around 1695.
- 2.6** Uppark house (HER CD288) is a grade 1 listed building built between 1685 and 1690 by Ford Lord Grey of Warke with design attributed to William Talman. Part of the north wing may be part of an earlier Elizabethan house which stood on the site (Nairn and Pevsner 1965). Humphrey Repton is believed to have added a colonnade to the north entrance around 1810.
- 2.7** A full park and garden survey was undertaken by Marigold Webb in 1990. A landscape study and an archaeological walkover study have been undertaken focussing on the north of the house (ACTA 2008).
- 2.8** The area of the south lawn affected by the present works has not previously been the subject of detailed study however a number of developments can be observed through the study of historic maps, paintings and engravings. An engraving by Kip from 1703s shows an approach track from the east with two sizeable out buildings flanking the approach. The outbuildings are believed to have been replaced in the 1747 to 1756 period and are probably stables or offices with unattended horses depicted in the enclosed area. The approach track proceeds through two gates before crossing a lawn area to the main house. The two buildings are still visible in a painting by Tillemann of 1730. A map of 1750 attributed to 'Capability' Brown no longer depicts the two separate buildings to the east suggesting a demolition date for the buildings of between 1730 and 1750. Also depicted on the Brown map is the 'greenhouse

and laundry' which appears to be the building currently known as the pavilion. This new building is the laundry and kitchen block (HER CD6678) given a 1770 date in the HER but may have been constructed as early as the 1740s or 1750s. The brown map shows a large turning circle outside the main east entrance, possibly as a suggested location for construction of the turning circle. A main approach road from the east is the likely reason for the construction of the feature. The turning circle is still depicted on the 1808-1813 OSD map but no longer in existence by the 1870's OS map. The construction in 1810 of the main north entrance gates by Repton signals a change in main approach from the east to the north, leading to the southern turning circle becoming obsolete.

- 2.9** Located on the south lawn is a grade 2 listed gothic garden seat (HER CD6795) designed by Humphrey Repton as part of the 1810 works. Additional structures of post-medieval date are also listed within a 1km radius of the site and are detailed in table 1.
- 2.10** A field system of uncertain date (HER CD4649) visible between the lawn bottom and 16 acre plain possibly relate to lynchets recorded to the north of the south lodge.
- 2.11** The house has been in the care of the National Trust since 1954. A fire on the 30th of August 1989 destroyed much of the furniture and 19th century décor and a programme of restoration works has since been undertaken.

HER number	Feature	Date	Details	Location
CD309	Lime kiln	Post - medieval	On OS map 1859-1875	Brooker Down Rough, Harting
CD1696	Ice House	Post-medieval	Type 1 ice house	Uppark, Harting
CD2443	Lower Ice House	Post-medieval	Type 1 ice house	Up Park, Harting
CD2945 + CD2946	Mounds	Post-medieval	18 th century landscape features	Uppark, Harting
CD6682	Stable block	Post-medieval	Built 1770	Uppark Harting
CD6683	Dairy	Post-medieval	Built around 1810	Uppark Harting
CD6679	Game larder	Post-medieval	Built around 1810	Uppark Harting
CD7289	Entrance Gates, walls and piers	Post-medieval	Built around 1810	Uppark, Harting
CD294	Vandalian Tower	Post-medieval	Built around 1770	Uppark, Harting

Table 1: Post-medieval features from HER within 1km radius of site.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 All intrusive ground works across the south lawn (fig.2) were excavated using a machine fitted with a flat bladed bucket and monitored at all times by an appropriately qualified archaeologist until undisturbed 'natural' substrate was encountered.
- 3.3 Where features of archaeological interest were encountered excavation by machine ceased and sufficient time was allowed for archaeological recording of features.
- 3.4 All features were planned and sectioned at an appropriate scale on plastic draughting film.
- 3.5 A full digital, colour slide and black and white film record was kept during the archaeological works.
- 3.6 All contexts were recorded on pro forma context recording forms.
- 3.7 The National Trust archaeologist was kept informed of the progress of the works.
- 3.8 Where significant remains were found, a mitigation strategy was agreed with the National Trust archaeologist.
- 3.9 Any artefacts recovered were bagged by context and taken for analysis by Archaeology South-East Specialists.
- 3.10 All excavation was undertaken according to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*.

Number of Contexts	32
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	3
Bulk Samples	1
Photographs	1 digital CD, 1 colour slide, 1 black and white film
Bulk finds	1 box
Registered finds	1
Environmental flots/residue	1

Table 2: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

- 4.1** The remains of a courtyard boundary encountered in the service trench were photographed, planned and recorded then covered with plastic sheeting and backfilled to preserve *in situ*. The trench was relocated to avoid damaging the remains.
- 4.2** The service trench was divided into three sections, Trenches 1, 2 and 3 (fig 2) for ease of describing feature locations.
- 4.2** The natural chalk [002] geology was encountered at a minimum depth of 171.60mAOD. The chalk was overlain in places by subsoil [017] of 0.40m thickness comprised of a brownish orange clay with occasional chalk inclusions and flint nodules.
- 4.3** In Trench 2 (fig.4) a buried soil [006] an orangish brown slightly clayey silt of 0.15m thickness overlay the chalk [002] and was in turn overlain by a redeposited chalk rubble deposit in a dark brown soil matrix [005] of 26m thickness, the deposit possibly relates to the construction of the pavilion.
- 4.4** Cut into the natural subsoil were linear garden features [012] and [015]. North-west to south-east aligned linear [012] had vertical sides and flat base of 0.60m width and 0.10m depth and was filled by a loose dark brown slightly clayey silt with occasional chalk inclusions [013]. Linear [015] had an east to west orientation with vertical sides and flat base of 0.90m width and 0.40m depth and was filled by a loose dark brown slightly sandy silt [016].
- 4.5** A linear feature [003] in Trench 2 (same as [007], Trench 3, fig. 4) of west-north west to east-south east alignment with vertical sides and flat base of 2.50m width and 0.42m depth and filled by friable dark orangish brown clayey silt [004] (same as [008]) is most likely the location of an old yew hedgeline.
- 4.6** A brick culvert [009] and [010] was identified running in a north-south direction cutting through [004] and within cut [011] and [014] of 0.40m width by 0.35m depth and 0.60m+ length. The culvert consisted of a base, top and side of single brick thickness of 0.30m square external dimension and ran through trenches 2 and 3 (figs 4,5). An arched brick culvert [027] running north to south in Trench 1 (fig. 3) was truncated by modern service trench [025] filled by dark brown slightly sandy silt [026]. The site was sealed by a friable dark brown humic silt topsoil with occasional flint nodules [001]
- 4.4** Features possibly related to the development of the house encountered in Trench 1 (fig 3) included a linear cut [029] for the insertion of wall foundation [030] cut into chalk immediately to the north of the main house. The foundation was roughly finished comprising four visible courses of brick with a width of 0.70m mortared with fine white lime mortar. The foundation was overlain by a 0.30m thick made ground deposit of mixed dark brown and light orange silt. Also cut [023] into the natural chalk was a courtyard boundary brick wall [019] of 14m+ length with a width of 0.47m of two

courses depth found to extend towards the house and curve round the edge of the existing gravelled area. The wall is of probable 17th to 18th century date and likely to be contemporary with the main House. To the north the wall cut was filled by a dark orangish brown clayey silt [024].

- 4.5** A flint cobbled courtyard surface [018] composed of rounded nodules up to 0.15m diameter abutted courtyard wall [019] to the south and had a north to south slope appearing to level off to the south. Cutting through the [019] and [018] was a modern service trench of 0.50m width, the trench was not excavated further. The exposed patch of cobbles extended across a 1.90 by 0.50m area. The courtyard and brick had been covered by blue plastic and covered with a dark brown slightly sandy silt modern deposit [020] from the previous exposure.

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
001	Dep	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15	172.00
002	Dep	Natural Chalk	N/A	N/A	N/A	171.60
003	Cut	Cut of ditch	0.60+	2.50	0.42	171.62
004	Fill	Fill of ditch	0.60+	2.50	0.42	171.62
005	Dep	Redeposited Natural	Tr.	Tr.	0.26	171.88
006	Dep	Buried soil	2.60	0.40+	0.15	171.83
007	Cut	Cut of garden feature	0.60+	2.30	0.20	171.74
008	Fill	Fill of garden feature	0.60+	2.30	0.20	171.74
009	Mas	Brick Culvert	0.40+	0.30	0.30	171.85
010	Mas	Brick culvert	0.40+	0.30	0.30	171.67
011	Cut	Cut of culvert	0.60+	0.40	0.35	171.67
012	Cut	Cut of garden feature	0.60+	0.60	0.10	171.97
013	Fill	Fill of wall cut	0.60+	0.60	0.10	171.97
014	Cut	Cut of culvert	0.60+	0.40	0.35	171.67
015	Cut	Cut of ditch	0.60+	0.90	0.40	171.21
016	Fill	Fill of ditch	0.60+	0.90	0.40	171.21
017	Dep	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.40	171.31
018	Dep	Flint cobbling	1.90m+	0.50+	n/a	170.28
019	Mas	Wall of courtyard	14.00+	0.46	0.20+	170.58
020	Dep	Backfill over wall	14.00+	0.46+	0.20	170.78
021	Cut	Cut for modern services	0.60+	0.50	n/a	170.58
022	Fill	Fill of modern service trench	0.60+	0.50	n/a	170.58
023	Cut	Cut of courtyard wall	0.70	0.09	0.20	170.58
024	Fill	Backfill of wall cut	0.70	0.09	0.20	170.58
025	Cut	Cut of modern service	0.60+	0.50	n/a	170.98
026	Fill	Fill of modern service	0.60+	0.50	n/a	170.98
027	Mas	Brick culvert			n/a	
028	Dep	Same as [001]				
029	Dep	Made ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.30	170.82
030	Mas	Boundary wall	Tr.	0.70	0.30	171.25
031	Cut	Cut of boundary wall	Tr.	0.40	0.20+	171.25

032	Fill	Backfill of boundary wall	Tr.	0.40	0.20+	171.25
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5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 A small assemblage of finds, mainly consisting of ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered during the archaeological work. An overview can be found in Tables 3 and 4.

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)
1	2	16	11	542	1	26								
4			2	240										
6					11	174								
8	3	14	1	16							1	4		
10			2	5314										
16			1	4										
18			2	76			1	26	1	8	1	6	1	4
28			2	910										
30			2	5108										

Table 3. Quantification of the finds from the watching brief at Uppark House, South Harting.

5.2 The Pottery by Elke Raemen

5.2.1 Only five pieces of pottery were recovered, two of which were found in the topsoil. All of them consist of unglazed red earthenware flowerpot sherds, including one rim. Pieces date to the 19th- to mid 20th-century.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

5.3.1 A small assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered. Fragments of brown brick with abundant medium to coarse quartz and sparse very coarse black iron rich inclusions with remains of vitrified headers from [001] are of probable 18th century date, two tone brick work is present in the pavilion building and these fragments probably originate from the construction phase of around 1770. Brick samples from brick culvert [010] consisted of unfrosted fine sanded brick with sharp arises in a orange sandy fabric with abundant moderate quartz and fine micaceous scatter with occasional very coarse red iron rich inclusions. The brick culvert is probably of 18th or 19th century date and is most likely contemporary with the use of the pavilion as a laundry and kitchen. A brick sample taken from wall [030] contained two unfrosted bricks covered in fine white lime mortar which are most likely handmade. Each brick was made of an orange sandy fabric with sparse quartz and sparse coarse cream silt inclusions and are of probable 18th or 19th century date. Peg tile was represented by four fabric types the earliest is a yellow and orange cream silt marbled fabric with fine micaceous speckles of probable 16th to 18th century date from context [018]. The majority of the peg tile is in a fine fabric with sparse fine quartz and cream silt marbling of 17th to

19th century date which was recovered from contexts [001], [004], [016], [008], [018]. The third peg tile type was in a sandy fabric with moderate medium sized quartz of broad 17th to 20th century date. Fragments of pantile from context [001] are of broad 17th to 20th century date.

5.4 The Registered Finds

5.4.1 Two finds were assigned unique numbers (Table 4).

CONTEXT	RF NO	OBJECT	MATERIAL	PERIOD	WT (g)
18	1	RING	IRON	PMED	<2
1	2	HAND	BONE	MED/PME D	26

Table 4. Summary of the Registered Finds from Uppark House, South Harting

5.4.2 Included is a circular-sectioned, hollow iron ring (RF <1>), formed from sheet metal and recovered from [18]. Its function cannot be established. A piece of sheep tibia (RF <2>) may represent an unfinished handle with drilled socket for a whittle-tanged knife or tool. The end has been sawn off and is slightly rounded. No clear tool marks are visible, as the end is fairly abraded. The object cannot be closely dated.

5.5 The Animal Bone by Gemma Ayton

5.6.1 The animal bone assemblage contains three fragments from two contexts. The bone is in a good condition with a majority of the surface intact. Context [6] produced an unfused, proximal end of a cattle tibia and the lateral side of a cattle phalanx. The shaft of the tibia fragment has been sawn off and small, transverse chop marks have been recorded on the bone. Context [1] contains the proximal end of a right sheep tibia. The tibia shaft has been sawn off approximately 5cm below the articulation and appears to have been worked. There is no evidence of gnawing or pathology on the bone.

5.6.2 The assemblage may represent primary butchery waste that has undergone further processing to produce secondary products. Due to the size of the assemblage, there is no potential for statistical analysis.

5.7 Other Finds by Elke Raemen

5.7.1 Both contexts [8] and [18] contained a wine bottle body sherd. Both fragments are fairly small and can therefore not be dated closely. The fragment from [8] dates to the 18th- to 19th-century, whereas the piece from [18] is of mid 17th- to early 19th-century date. Context [18] contained in addition a mid 17th-century clay tobacco pipe (CTP) plain stem fragment, a West Country slate fragment as well as an iron general purpose nail of uncertain date.

5.8 Potential

- 5.8.1 The assemblage as it stands is too small to be of any potential for further analysis. No further work is required and it is recommended to discard the finds.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Lucy Allott

6.1 A single bulk sample was taken from context [006] a possible buried soil deposit thought to be of post-medieval date during archaeological work at Uppark South Lawn. The sample was taken to establish evidence for environmental remains such as fauna, charred macrobotanicals and wood charcoal and to recover remains that could assist in providing a date for the deposit.

6.2 The sample was processed in its entirety in a flotation tank, the residue and flot were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes respectively and were air dried prior to sorting. The residue was passed through 4mm and 2mm geological sieves and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains. The flot was scanned under a stereozoom microscope at magnifications of x7-45.

6.3 Results

6.3.1 A very small quantity of highly comminuted charcoal, occasional land snail shells and a single fragment of cbm were present in this sample. Although three bone fragments were hand collected from the same context while on site, no further faunal remains were evident.

6.4 Potential

6.4.1 Environmental remains present in this sample provide no potential for further analytical work and the charcoal fragments are too small for identification and dating.

7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The archaeological watching brief revealed, recorded and interpreted features relating to the development of Uppark House.
- 7.1 The garden features [012], [007], [015] cut into chalk may relate to an earlier phase of building, perhaps from the time when two buildings stood on the south lawn (pre 1750). Perhaps functioning as flower beds or foundations for structures which have since been removed, no direct correlation could be found with features on earlier maps or paintings. The garden features are cut by brick culverts which are related to the post-medieval laundry and kitchen of possible late 18th century date.
- 7.3 The cobbled surface [018] and corresponding wall flank a probable turning circle associated with the main east approach road). Illustrated on maps between 1750 and 1870 one of the main approaches to the mansion came from the east with the turning circle identified on each. Finds from the surface including wine bottle fragments of mid 17th to 19th and clay pipe of mid 17th century date support the date range inferred from maps and illustrations. The turning circle appears to have gone out of use following the design of the new north gate around 1810.
- 7.4 No evidence of activity pre-dating the mansion was uncovered during the works.

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L Knyff and J Kip, *Britannia Illustrata* (1707)

Plan attributed to Lancelot Brown, around 1750 (Fetherston Deposit, West Sussex Record Office) (also at Uppark archive reference: 502 Copy of the 1750 'Brown Plan')

OS surveyor's drawing, surveyed 1808-13 1 inch

OS 25" to 1 mile: 1st edition surveyed 1873; 2nd edition published 1910

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The co-operation and assistance of Caroline Thackray and Tom Nisbet of the National Trust and Waqas Khawaja are greatly acknowledged. The careful excavation of the groundworkers is also much appreciated.

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	USL09					
Identification Name and Address	Uppark House, South Harting					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	478020 117610					
Geology	Chalk					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4078					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 13.10.09- 6.11.09	Other		
Sponsor/Client	National Trust					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Sarah Porteus					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of service trenches across the south lawn. Post-medieval brick culverts and garden features were identified along with the brick boundary of the courtyard and associated cobbled courtyard.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-68215

Project details

Project name	An archaeological watching brief at Uppark House, South Harting
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of service trenches across the south lawn. Post-medieval brick culverts and garden features were identified along with the brick boundary of the courtyard and associated cobbled courtyard.
Project dates	Start: 13-10-2009 End: 06-11-2009
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Site status	National Trust land
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	COURTYARD Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX CHICHESTER HARTING Uppark House
Postcode	GU31 5
Study area	40.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 478020 117610 50.9027892124 -1.320115911830 50 54 10 N 001 19 12 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	National Trust
Project design originator	National Trust
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Sarah Porteus
Type of sponsor/funding	National Trust

body

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	National Trust
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','Metal'
Digital Archive recipient	National Trust
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	National Trust
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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