

**An Archaeological Evaluation at
Lower Hoddern Farm,
Peacehaven, East Sussex**

Planning Ref: LW/09/0640

**NGR: TQ 4175 0219
NGR: 541750 102191**

**Project No: 4059
Site Code: LHF 09**

**ASE Report No: 2010010
OASIS ID: archaeol6-71419**

Written by Dylan Hopkinson MA

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was conducted on land at Lower Hoddern Farm, Peacehaven, East Sussex (NGR: 541750 102191) between the 18th and 19th January 2010. The work was commissioned by the landowner, Mr Colin Appleton, to assess the archaeological potential of the site in advance of the replacement of three industrial buildings at the site and associated infrastructure including road modifications.

The site lies to the east of Pelham Rise on former agricultural land that had been converted for light industrial use. Six trenches were excavated with a cumulative length of 60 metres. Four trenches consisted of a simple sequence of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural brickearth, while the remaining two had a similar sequence but were sealed by made ground dumping deposits. In one of these cases the made ground was associated with the construction of a flat area of land retained by a wall forming a platform for a windmill in use during the 1960's.

No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts were recovered.

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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 at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, was commissioned by the landowner Mr Colin Appleton to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land to the east of Pelham Rise, Peacehaven, East Sussex (NGR 541750 102191; Figure 1).

1.2 Planning background

1.2.1 The proposed development involves the replacement of three industrial buildings at the site and construction of associated infrastructure including a new access road.

1.2.2 Planning permission has been granted by Lewes District Council (Planning Reference: LW/09/0640).

1.2.3 Due to the archaeological potential of the site (section 2.0) the East Sussex County Council (ESCC) archaeological consultant and archaeological advisor to Rother District Council, Greg Chuter, proposed an archaeological mitigation strategy in the form of an archaeological evaluation. This specification required the excavation of six trenches each 10 metres in length.

1.2.4 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* was then prepared (ASE 2009) after further discussion between the architects (Pumphouse Designs), ASE and ESCC. This document was submitted to and approved by Greg Chuter prior to archaeological works commencing on site.

1.2.5 The *Written Scheme of Investigation* complies with the *Standards and Guidance* of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2001) and the ESCC *Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording, and Post-Excavation Work in East Sussex* (ESCC 2008).

1.3 Scope of the report

1.3.1 This report details the results of archaeological evaluation works on the site. The work was undertaken between 18th and 19th January 2010 by Dylan Hopkinson (Archaeologist), and Liane Peyre (Assistant Archaeologist).

1.3.2 The fieldwork was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and the post-excavation analysis was managed by Jim Stevenson (Project Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and geology

- 2.1.1 The site is situated to the northeast of Peacehaven on the eastern side of Pelham Rise in light industrial land and fields (Figures 1 and 2).
- 2.1.2 The British Geographical Survey Map for the area (Sheet 334) shows the underlying solid geology to be undivided Upper and Middle Chalk overlain by Head deposits.

2.2 Archaeological and historical potential

- 2.2.1 A number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken by ASE in the immediate environs of the site covered by this report, these are summarized below.
- 2.2.2 An archaeological evaluation in advance of the Brighton & Hove Water Treatment Works comprising 22 trial trenches was carried in Spring 2004, on land at Lower Hoddern Farm to the south east of the current Site (ASE 2004). Geophysical survey results highlighted areas of archaeological potential that were subsequently targeted by trial trenches. The hub of archaeological activity was concentrated in the south-western corner of the site, where several pits and a double ditched enclosure was revealed. Pottery recovered from the features dated the enclosure to the Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age, although the paucity of artefacts suggests the enclosure may have been associated with livestock, rather than a settlement. Elsewhere across the site, trenches revealed several other small linear features, of a similar period, and the remains of a strip lynchet.
- 2.2.3 In 2006 ASE was commissioned by Bovis Homes Ltd to undertake archaeological investigations on land to the north of Keymer Avenue (centred: NGR 541740 101210) and Seaview Avenue (centred: 542052 101045). Geophysical survey indicated the presence of a variety of landscape features (ASE 2006a), which were confirmed as archaeological in nature and predominately Iron Age in date during the subsequent archaeological evaluation (ASE 2006b). Further open area excavations enabled detailed investigation of these features and recovered artefacts dating from the Early Mesolithic through to the Mid Iron Age period. The most substantial remains relate to a series of ditched enclosures with associated pits and postholes dating to the Middle Iron Age. Substantial worked flint assemblages of Mesolithic and Neolithic date were also recovered, along with smaller quantities of Neolithic pottery and a scatter of associated features.
- 2.2.4 ASE has recently undertaken an extensive programme of archaeological works at the Brighton & Hove Waste Water Treatment Works at Hoyle Road, Peacehaven. This work is providing an opportunity to examine features detected by earlier geophysical survey although many more archaeological remains have come to light. The key elements relate to a number of enclosures and field systems linked by trackways with associated

ences for managing stock movement. A number of ring ditches and round houses have been located. Preliminary spot dating of finds recovered from these features indicates that the focus of settlement activity spans the Bronze Age and Iron Age with further evidence for settlement activity in the Neolithic and Roman Periods. Earlier prehistoric activity in the surrounding area is evidenced by significant quantities of worked flint.

- 2.2.5 In addition to these more recent investigations a number of Roman cremations were found in the area of Glynn Road to the east in the 1920s and a series of Bronze Age burial mounds are recorded to the north and west of Meridian School to the northwest of the site (Greg Chuter, *pers. comm.*).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Methodology

- 3.1.1 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ASE 2009) and complies with the *Standards and Guidance* of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2001) and the *ESCC Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording, and Post-Excavation Work in East Sussex* (ESCC 2008). For reference to the complete adopted methodology the reader is referred to the WSI (ASE 2009), what is stated here is only a summary.
- 3.1.2 The methodology comprised the mechanical excavation, under archaeological supervision, of 6 evaluation trenches each 10 metres in length (Figure 2).
- 3.1.3 Trenches were excavated using a machine fitted with a flat-bladed 1.8m wide ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken in spits of no more than 0.20m to the top of the underlying natural substrate, or to the top of archaeological deposits, whichever was higher. The clean excavated surface was then left open overnight before final inspection and recording.
- 3.1.4 All deposits were recorded using ASE standard context sheets, with colours recorded by visual inspection.
- 3.1.5 A full photographic record was made.
- 3.1.6 All features were drawn in plan at a scale of 1:20 on multi-context trench drawings and section drawings of the excavated profiles were drawn at a scale of 1:10, sample section drawings of the overlying deposits were also drawn at 1:10 scale.
- 3.1.7 After completion of all excavation and recording, the trenches were mechanically backfilled and compacted.

3.2 Excavation aims and objectives

- 3.2.1 The aims and objectives of the excavation were outlined in the *Written*

Scheme of Investigation.

- 3.2.2 The overall aim of the excavation was to establish the extent and condition of any archaeological deposits on the site and to ascertain their depth below ground surface, form, date, character and significance, and to estimate the impact of the proposed development on any such remains.
- 3.2.3 A specific research objective was to understand how the potential ancient land use on the site related to the prehistoric landscape recently excavated to the south-east (2.2.4 above).

3.4 Status of site archive

- 3.4.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at the local museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts / Context Sheets	22
Context Register Sheets	1
Photographic Record Sheets	1
Levels Record Sheets	1
Trial Trench Record Sheets	6
No. of files/paper record	1
Photographs	21

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Natural Geology and Overburden

- 4.1.1 The natural geology across the site comprised soft mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions. This brickearth was encountered at 53.12m AOD in the north of the site (Trench 2) and gradually sloped down to 51.74m AOD in the south of the site (Trench 5).
- 4.1.2 The overburden observed in all trenches consisted of a layer of soft mid orangey brown silty clay with common flecks of chalk less than 5mm in diameter. This layer of subsoil was between 0.15 and 0.55 metres thick with and was thinnest in the two eastern trenches.
- 4.1.3 The subsoil was in turn overlain by a layer of friable mid brown sandy silt with a high humic content. This topsoil ranged between 0.18 and 0.23 metres thick and was also thinnest in the two eastern trenches.
- 4.1.4 The only exception to this sequence was in trenches 2 and 6 where an earlier surface level had become buried under made ground and dumping.

4.2 Trench 1 (Figure 4)

4.2.1 Length: 10.00m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.94m Orientation: North - South

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28m
1/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
1/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 2: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 1

4.2.2 Summary

The natural brickearth (1/003) was encountered between 52.38m and 52.78m AOD. This was overlain by the subsoil (1/002) and topsoil (1/001) of the site. No archaeological features were recorded and a single land drain was observed.

4.3 Trench 2 (Figure 3)

4.3.1 Length: 10.00m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.93m Orientation: East - West

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth
2/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.23m
2/002	Deposit	Made Ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
2/003	Deposit	Made Ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.14m
2/004	Deposit	Buried Soil	Tr.	Tr.	0.24m
2/005	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
2/006	Masonry	Concrete	4.35m	4.35m	0.62m

Table 3: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 2

4.3.2 Summary

The natural brickearth (2/005) was encountered between 52.79m and 53.12m AOD. This was overlain by a buried soil layer (2/004), which comprised a friable mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional flecks of chalk which is analogous to the subsoil/topsoil layers observed elsewhere on the site.

The buried soil layer was overlain by a layer of mid yellowy brown fine sand (2/003), this made ground was observed across the trench 0.14m deep,

was very clean and appeared to have been deposited as a single levelling dump.

A second deposit of made ground sealed this sand, this was mid brown sandy silt which contained pieces of tarmac and rubble (2/002), and was up to 0.30m in depth.

Layers 2/003 and 2/002 appear to have been levelling deposits retained behind a 0.80m high breezeblock wall.

The deposit sequence was sealed by a 0.23m deep layer of friable mid brown sandy silt topsoil.

At the western end of the trench are four concrete foundation pads with inserted iron bolt fixture plates. Each concrete pad measured 1.25m x 1.25m and was 0.62m in depth, they were spaced 1.80m apart internally with overall planned dimensions of 4.35m by 4.35m. These pads formed the foundations of a windmill which had been erected on the site during the period in the 1960's when the land was a MAFF farm (Colin Appleton *pers. comm.*). The superstructure of the windmill had been removed from site after it had blown over in high winds, and possible evidence of this event survives as the north-eastern iron fixing plate is missing.

4.4 Trench 3 (Figure 5)

4.4.1 Length: 10.00m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.60m Orientation: Northeast - Southwest

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth
3/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.18m
3/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m
3/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 4: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 3

4.4.2 Summary

The natural brickearth (3/003) was encountered between 51.85m and 51.90m AOD. This was overlain by the subsoil (3/002) and topsoil (3/001) of the site.

No archaeological features were encountered.

4.5 Trench 4 (Figure 6)

4.5.1 Length: 10.00m Width: 1.60m Depth: 1.00m Orientation: Northwest - Southeast

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth
4/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
4/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.55m
4/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 5: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 4

4.5.2 Summary

The natural brickearth (4/003) was encountered between 51.91m and 51.74m AOD. The natural was overlain by the subsoil (4/002) and topsoil (4/001) of the site. A single modern service cut was observed cutting the sequence obliquely across the site and is likely to have been connected to the former greenhouses that are known to have been previously located in the vicinity of this trench. There were no potential archaeological features that warranted investigation.

4.6 Trench 5 (Figure 7)

4.6.1 Length: 10.00m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.78m Orientation: East - West

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth
5/001	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
5/002	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.42m
5/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 6: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 5

4.6.2 Summary

The natural brickearth (5/003) was encountered between 51.71m and 51.74m AOD. The natural was overlain by the subsoil (5/002) and topsoil (5/001) of the site and no archaeology was observed.

4.7 Trench 6 (Figure 8)

4.7.1 Length: 10.00m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.94m Orientation: North - South

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth
6/001	Deposit	Dump	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m+
6/002	Deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.42m
6/003	Deposit	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.16m
6/004	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 7: List of Recorded Contexts – Trench 6

4.7.2 Summary

The natural brickearth (6/004) was encountered between 52.37m and 52.37m AOD. The natural was overlain by the subsoil (6/003) and topsoil (6/002) of the site. Overlying the location of this trench was a large mound of dark brown silty clay with a high organic content and large amount of refuse which had been deposited with lenses of tipped dumping, no archaeology was observed in this trench.

5.0 DISCUSSION

5.0.1 There were no archaeological materials or features identified on the site and the development is highly unlikely to have a significant impact on the historical fabric of the area.

5.0.2 The archaeological evaluation strategy was successful in characterising the nature of the archaeological preservation across the site.

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ESCC 2008. *East Sussex County Council Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording, and Post-Excavation Work in East Sussex*. East Sussex County Council

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to the landowner Colin Appleton for commissioning the work and for his insight and information regarding the windmill foundations, and to Greg Chuter (ESCC) for his guidance throughout the project.

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	LHF 09					
Identification Name and Address	Lower Hoddern Farm, Glynn Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Lewes District					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR: 541750 102191					
Geology	Undivided Upper and Middle Chalk overlain by Head deposits.					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4059					
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. ✓ 18-01-10 to 19-01-10	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Colin Appleton					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Dylan Hopkinson					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other -Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological evaluation was conducted on land at Lower Hoddern Farm, Peacehaven, East Sussex (NGR: 541750 102191) between the 18th and 19th January 2010. The work was commissioned by the landowner, Mr Colin Appleton, to assess the archaeological potential of the site in advance of the replacement of three industrial buildings at the site and associated infrastructure including road modifications.</i></p> <p><i>The site lies to the east of Pelham Rise on former agricultural land that had been converted for light industrial use. Six trenches were excavated with a cumulative length of 60 metres. Four trenches consisted of a simple sequence of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural brickearth, while the remaining two had a similar sequence but were sealed by made ground dumping deposits. In one of these cases the made ground was associated with the construction of a flat area of land retained by a wall forming a platform for a windmill in use during the 1960's.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts were recovered.</i></p>						

OASIS ID: archaeo16-71419

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at Lower Hoddern Farm, Peacehaven, East Sussex
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was conducted on land at Lower Hoddern Farm, Peacehaven, East Sussex (NGR: 541750 102191) between the 18th and 19th January 2010. The work was commissioned by the landowner, Mr Colin Appleton, to assess the archaeological potential of the site in advance of the replacement of three industrial buildings at the site and associated infrastructure including road modifications. The site lies to the east of Pelham Rise on former agricultural land that had been converted for light industrial use. Six trenches were excavated with a cumulative length of 60 metres. Four trenches consisted of a simple sequence of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural brickearth, while the remaining two had a similar sequence but were sealed by made ground dumping deposits. In one of these cases the made ground was associated with the construction of a flat area of land retained by a wall forming a platform for a windmill in use during the 1960's. No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts were recovered.
Project dates	Start: 18-01-2010 End: 19-01-2010
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	LW/09/0640 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	LHF 09 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Measured Survey', 'Photographic Survey', 'Targeted Trenches', 'Visual Inspection'
Development type	Estate management (i.e. maintenance of existing structures and landscape by capital works and on-going maintenance)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX LEWES PEACEHAVEN Lower Hoddern Farm
Postcode	BN10 8AP
Study area	10235.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 4175 0219 50.8013251318 0.011804409475 50 48 04 N 000 00 42 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 51.74m Max: 53.12m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief	East Sussex County Council

originator

Project design originator Archaeology South-East

Project director/manager Neil Griffin

Project supervisor Dylan Hopkinson

Type of sponsor/funding body Landowner

Name of sponsor/funding body Colin Appleton

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Physical Archive recipient n/a

Digital Archive recipient Local Museum

Digital Contents 'Survey'

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

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Contents 'Survey'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

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© Archaeology South-East		Lower Hoddern Farm, Peacehaven	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4059	Jan 2010	Site location	
Report Ref: 2010010	Drawn by: JLR		

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Project Ref: 4059	Jan 2010	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2010010	Drawn by: JLR		



Trench 2, facing west



Windmill base, facing north-east





Fig. 4: Trench 1, facing east



Fig. 5: Trench 3, facing north



Fig. 6: Trench 4, facing south-east

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Fig. 7: Trench 5, facing east



Fig. 8: Trench 6, facing south

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