

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at Beeding Court,
Upper Beeding, West Sussex**

(Planning Ref: DC/09/2350 & 2351)

**NGR 51949 11013
(TQ 1949 1013)**

**Project No: 4291
Site Code: BCU 10**

**ASE Report No. 2010157
OASIS id: archaeol6-83214**

Nick Garland MA

**With contributions by
Gemma Ayton, Luke Barber, Sarah Porteus
Elke Raemen and Justin Russell**

September 2010

**Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk**

Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE) the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at University College London was commissioned by Mr Jon Bunning to undertake a watching brief during groundworks at Beeding Court, Upper Beeding West Sussex. The work was undertaken between the 4th May 2009 and 11th June 2010.

The work uncovered internally the foundations of the western wall of the main range, as well as a mid 20th century fireplace. The external works uncovered levelling deposits associated with the early 19th century construction of Outbuilding 1 and a backfilled well of approximately similar date.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Archaeological Background
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology
- 4.0 Results
- 5.0 The Finds
- 6.0 Discussion

Bibliography

Acknowledgements

SMR Summary Sheet OASIS Form

FIGURES

- Figure 1: Site location
- Figure 2: Plan of monitored works
- Figure 3: Plan and photos of internal works
- Figure 4: Plan and photos of external works

TABLES

- Table 1: Quantification of site archive
- Table 2: Internal Works - List of recorded contexts
- Table 3: External Works - List of recorded contexts
- Table 4: Quantification of the finds
- Table 5: Summary of the registered finds

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at University College London, were commissioned by Mr Jon Bunning on behalf of their client to undertake a watching brief at Beeding Court, Upper Beeding, West Sussex, here after referred to as the 'site' (NGR TQ 1949 1013; Fig 1)

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site lies is located to the south of Upper Beeding, approximately 50 metres to the east of the River Adur. It is located on relatively flat terrain immediately to the north of farmyard buildings and is bounded by open fields to the north and residential properties to the east.

1.2.2 The British Geological Survey (Sheet 318/333 Brighton & Worthing, Bedrock and Superficial deposits Edition) shows the underlying geology of the site is Zig Zag Chalk Formation.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The work will be carried out to satisfy a condition placed on planning consent by Horsham District Council (planning reference DC/09/2350 & 2351). The proposed development is situated within the Sussex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and will lie within the boundaries of the proposed Sussex Downs National Park. Due to the archaeological significance of the site, John Mills, the Archaeologist for West Sussex County Council has recommended that a programme of archaeological works be implemented. Condition 7 of the planning permission states that:

'The Developer shall arrange for an archaeological organisation or appropriately qualified archaeologists to observe the excavations and the building alterations and record archaeological evidence that may be uncovered as a result of the development in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to the commencement of demolition and building works'.

1.3.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological watching brief was prepared by ASE (2010) and approved by John Mills, County Archaeologist for West Sussex County Council prior to commencement of works.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the findings of the watching brief undertaken by Simon Stevens, between the 4th May and 11th June of June 2010. The project was managed by Ron Humphrey and Jim Stevenson.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** A detailed examination of the historical and archaeological background of the property and its surroundings has been included in the Archaeological Interpretative survey of the site, of which this report forms a technical appendix.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and Objectives

- 3.1.1** The Aims and Objectives of the evaluation were laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2010) and are reproduced below with due acknowledgement.
- 3.1.2** The general aim of the archaeological work is to ensure that any historic fabric revealed during the course of alterations to the building and any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest that will be affected by the proposed groundworks are recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.

3.4 Methodology

- 3.4.1** Work monitored on site included the reduction of an internal floor, the excavation of two pads and the reduction of floors in buildings to the east of the site.
- 3.4.2** Where excavations carried out by contractors revealed archaeological features, hand excavation ceased at the monitoring archaeologists discretion. The features were then hand cleaned and recorded to archaeological standards by the archaeologist(s) in attendance. Exposures were hand cleaned by archaeologists as necessary to clarify the presence/absence and nature of any features. Adequate time was made available for appropriate archaeological excavation by hand to identify and record the remains as far as possible within the limits of the works in order to extract archaeological and environmental information.
- 3.4.3** The County Archaeologist was notified in the event that any significant archaeological remains were encountered during the excavation. Any decision regarding the best way to proceed in this instance remained with the County Archaeologist.
- 3.4.4** All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the approved ASE Written Scheme of Investigation using pro-forma context record sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:20 and sections generally drawn at a scale of 1:10. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart. All spoil from the excavations was inspected by archaeologists visually and with a metal detector to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.

- 3.4.5 A photographic record of the trenches and associated deposits and features was kept and will form part of the site archive which is presently held at Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade, East Sussex, and will in due course be offered to a suitable local museum.
- 3.4.6 The spoil from the excavations was inspected by archaeologists to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest. Spoil deposits were also scanned with a metal detector.

Number of Contexts	12 contexts
No. of files/paper record	1 folder
Photographs	5 Colour slide, 5 B+W, 17 Digital
Bulk finds	3 bags

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS (Figs 2, 3 and 4)

4.1 Two areas of excavations were monitored during the works; an internal reduction of the floor level and the excavation for two concrete pads and an external reduction of the area surrounding the out building.

4.2 Internal Works (Fig 3)

4.2.1

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness
001	Layer	Made Ground	As Room	As Room	0.65 m
002	Layer	Made Ground	As TP	As TP	0.5m
003	Layer	Concrete Floor	As Room	As Room	0.1 m
004	Masonry	Wall	2 m	0.2 m	0.12 m
005	Masonry	Wall	4.5 m	0.2 m	0.3 m
006	Masonry	Wall	3.5 m	0.2 m	0.3 m

Table 2: Internal Works - List of recorded contexts

4.2.2 Summary

Excavations within the south-western room of the main house revealed a concrete floor [003] approximately 0.1 metres in thickness, underneath which a layer of made ground was excavated to a depth of 0.75 m. The foundations of three lines of walling were visible after these excavations. Wall [004] formed the foundations for the existing NE-SW walling. It was constructed of red brick and only two courses were visible to a depth of 0.12 m. It measured 2 metres in length. This wall may have formed part of the corner fireplace.

Walls [005] and [006] formed the two parallel east-west foundations of the room. Wall [005] measured 4.5 metres in length and was constructed of roughly shaped flint cobbles, while wall [006] measured 3.5 metres in length and was constructed of red brick and mortar.

Two further areas, Pad A and B, were excavated in order to facilitate the placement of two concrete pads. Both Pad A and B measured 0.9 in length and width. Pad A was excavated a further 0.35 metres revealing only made ground [002] throughout. Pad B was excavated to a depth of 0.5 metres and a deposit of made ground, a mid greyish brown silty clay, [002] was visible throughout the test pit. The underlying natural deposit was not reached in either pad excavation.

4.3 External Works (Fig 4)

4.3.1

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness
501	Layer	Hardstanding	As Area	As Area	0.03 m
502	Layer	Made ground	As Area	As Area	0.2 m
503	Layer	Chalk Rubble	As Area	As Area	N/A
504	Cut	Well cut	1.52 m	1.52 m	N/A
505	Masonry	Well	1.52 m	1.52 m	N/A
506	Fill	Well Backfill	1.52 m	1.52 m	N/A

Table 3: External Works - List of recorded contexts

4.3.2 Summary

External excavations removed an area of hardstanding [501] measuring 0.03 metres in depth, which overlaid a layer of made ground, a mid greyish brown silty clay [502]. The made ground measured 0.2 metres in thickness and overlaid a levelling deposit of redeposited chalk rubble [503] which was excavated to a depth of 0.49 metres below ground surface.

A well [505] was uncovered to the north of the excavations. The well measured 1.52 m in diameter, with an internal diameter of 1.04 metres. It was constructed of red brick with a large amount of mortar visible on the remaining courses. The width of the masonry measured 0.24 metres. The construction cut of the well [504] was not visible from the surface. It was backfilled by a chalky rubble backfill [506], probably contemporary with the levelling deposit [503]. The well was not excavated due to its position beneath the construction level and was preserved in situ.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the archaeological work. Objects were all washed and dried or, in the case of metalwork, air dried. Finds were all counted and weighed by context and material. They were packed according to IFA guidelines. Two objects were assigned unique Registered Finds numbers (RF <00>). Overviews can be found in tables 4 and 5. Given the small number, registered finds have been discussed by material rather than functional type.

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Shell	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)
us	47	378	8	2402	1	48	1	34	2	6	2	26	2	66	3	8
1			2	4260	1	100	1	48					3	232		

Table 4. Quantification of the bulk finds.

CONTEXT	RF No	OBJECT	CERA	PERIOD	DATE	Wt (g)	Comments
1	1	PIPE	CERA	PMED	c. 1740-1800	12	IC
1	2	BUCK	IRON	PMED	C18th-C19th	60	

Table 5. Overview of the Registered Finds.

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The archaeological work recovered a small assemblage of pottery from the external excavations. Despite the unstratified nature of the material all is of a similar period and can be placed as a group somewhere between 1780 and 1810. The only sherds which may be of earlier date consist of two body fragments (20g) from the same well fired green glazed earthenware jar which could be dated anywhere between 1550 and 1800. The remaining local earthenwares consist of a metallic-glazed bodysherd (39g) from a large jar and a range of finer glazed redware bowl and platter sherds (7/93g) more typical of the mid/late 18th- to early 19th- century date. Stoneware is represented by a single late English bottle fragment (5g) and the foot-ring base from a bowl in Nottingham stoneware (42g). A single sherd from the rim of a preserve jar in yellow ware (2g) is also present. Table and teawares are split between late creamware vessels (23/155g: mainly dinner and side plates) and early pearlware (11/24g). The latter includes two rim fragments from rococo-style blue shell-edged dinner plates although the majority consists of teawares decorated with blue transfer-print in floral and landscape patterns.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

5.3.1 Ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered from context [1] and unstratified. Context [1] contained 2 complete bricks of broad 17th to 19th century date. One brick in provisional fabric type 1, an orange sandy fabric

with abundant medium to coarse quartz and sparse black iron rich inclusions, measured 220 by 105 by 42mm and had an abraded upper surface and had most likely been used as a paving brick. The second complete brick was in a pale orange fabric with moderate cream and red silt inclusions with sparse fine quartz, provisional fabric 2, the brick is unfrosted and of standard 230 by 110 by 62mm dimensions. Brick fragments in fabric 1 and 2 were also recovered unstratified from the external excavations. Fragments of brick, peg tile and possible pipe were also identified unstratified and were all in fabric 3, a fine orange sandy fabric with occasional iron rich inclusions, items in fabric 3 are all of probable 17th to 19th century date.

5.4 The Glass by Elke Raemen

- 5.4.1 The assemblage includes five pieces, the earliest of which consists of a green glass body fragment from a panelled/prismatic liquor bottle e.g. gin. Other fragments include a clear glass jar rim fragment (late 19th to mid 20th century), two green glass wine bottle body sherds (mid 19th to early 20th century) and a small, complete clear glass bottle which would have contained e.g. medicine or toiletries (mid 19th to early 20th century). None of the pieces are stratified.

5.5 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen

- 5.5.1 A small assemblage of three unstratified, plain stem fragments (dated c. 1750-1910) was recovered. In addition, made ground [1] contained a bowl (RF <1>) with forward pointing spur of type AO26, dated to c. 1740-1800 (Atkinson and Oswald 1969). The spur contains maker's initials "IC" moulded in relief. No maker is known for this area and in this period.

5.6 The Ironwork by Elke Raemen

- 5.6.1 Two iron, general purpose nail fragments were recovered, both with adhering coal and chalk. Both are unstratified. An iron rectangular horse harness buckle with pin in situ (RF <2>) was recovered from made ground [01]. The object is of 18th- to 19th-century date.

5.7 The Animal Bone by Gemma Ayton

- 5.7.1 One fragment of animal bone was recovered from context [01] and has been identified as the shaft of a pig humerus. An unstratified fragment of butchered cattle-sized rib has also been recovered.

Due to the size of the assemblage, it holds no potential for further analysis.

5.8 Marine Shell by Elke Raemen

- 5.8.1 Two oyster valves were recovered. An unstratified upper valve was unstratified. The topsoil contained the lower valve of an oyster retaining evidence for overcrowding and parasitic activity.

5.9 The Geological Material by Elke Raemen

- 5.9.1 A single Welsh slate fragment was found during the archaeological work. The

piece is unstratified.

6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1** The monitoring of excavations at Beeding Court revealed features that were predominantly post-medieval in date. The depths of the excavations did not reach the natural chalk in any part of the site.
- 6.2** The internal excavations revealed the foundations of the main range on the western end, [005] and [006], which were rebuilt in the early to mid 18th century. All finds from inside the building formed part of the layer of made ground [001] that was used as a levelling deposit. Wall [004] forms part of fireplace which was a mid to late 20th century addition to the room.
- 6.2** The external excavations took place within 'Outbuilding 1', as referred to in the Archaeological Interpretative Survey, the construction of which has been dated to the early 19th century. The levelling deposits, [502] and [503], presumably relate to this period of construction, while the well [505] relates to an external structure which has since been levelled.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE. 2010. *Beeding Court, Upper Beeding, West Sussex: Archaeological Watching Brief: Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished ASE report

Atkinson D R and Oswald A 1969 London clay tobacco pipes, *J British Archaeol Assoc* 32, 171–227.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Mr Jon Bunning for commissioning the work and John Mills of WSCC for his guidance throughout the project.

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	BCU 10					
Identification Name and Address	Beedings Court, Upper Beeding, West Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	51949, 11013					
Geology	Chalk (BGS sheet 318/333)					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4291					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief X	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field X	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 4/5/10 to 11/6/10	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Jon Bunning					
Project Manager	Ron Humphrey					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East (ASE) the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at University College London was commissioned by Mr Jon Bunning to undertake a watching brief during groundworks at Beeding Court, Upper Beeding West Sussex. The work was undertaken between the 4th May 2009 and 11th June 2010.</i></p> <p><i>The work uncovered internally the foundations of the western wall of the Main range, as well as a mid 20th century fireplace. The external works uncovered levelling deposits associated with the early 19th century construction of Outbuilding 1 and a backfilled well of approximately similar date.</i></p>						

OASIS ID: archaeol6-83214

Project details

Project name Beeding Court

Short description of the project Archaeology South-East (ASE) the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at University College London was commissioned by Mr Jon Bunning to undertake a watching brief during groundworks at Beeding Court, Upper Beeding West Sussex. The work was undertaken between the 4th May 2009 and 11th June 2010. The work uncovered internally the foundations of the western wall of the Main range, as well as a mid 20th century fireplace. The external works uncovered levelling deposits associated with the early 19th century construction of Outbuilding 1 and a backfilled well of approximately similar date.

Project dates Start: 04-05-2010 End: 11-06-2010

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated project reference codes BCU09 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status Listed Building

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location WEST SUSSEX HORSHAM UPPER BEEDING Beeding Court, Upper Beeding, West Sussex

Postcode BN44 3TN

Study area 740.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 1949 1013 50.8777311186 -0.301371683328 50 52 39 N
000 18 04 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 Ron Humphrey

Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Glass','Metal','other'
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	'Ceramics','Glass','Metal','Survey','other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'Ceramics','Glass','Metal','Survey','other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Report'
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Beeding Court, Upper Beeding, West Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Garland, N
Other bibliographic details	2010157
Date	2010
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Entered by	Nick Garland (n.garland@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	24 September 2010