Archaeology South-East

ASE

Archaeological Evaluation Report
Nos. 7 to 27 Albion Street
Southwick, West Sussex

NGR: 523759 105024
(TQ 23759 05024)

Adur District Council
Planning Reference AWDM/0954/18

ASE Project No: 200217
Site Code: ASS20

ASE Report No: 2020133
OASIS id: archaeol6-398115

By Sophie Austin

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Adur and Worthing Councils to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development at Nos 7 to 27 Albion Street, Southwick, West Sussex, between the 29th and the 30th of June 2020. Three trenches were excavated.

No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered however the extent of truncation recorded in most of the evaluated areas remains unknown and given the high archaeological potential of the area it is possible that archaeological remains could survive in untruncated parts of the site.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Adur and Worthing Councils to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Nos. 7 to 27 Albion Street, Southwick, West Sussex (centred on NGR 542795 994550; Figure 1), prior to the redevelopment of the site.

1.1.2 The site lies on the northern side of Albion Street (the A259), close to the junction with Kingston Lane, opposite Shoreham harbour and comprises an area of c. 0.2ha. It is bounded to the north by the main east to west coastal railway line, to the west by properties fronting onto Albion Street and to the east by a garage.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the most recent data available from the British Geological Survey the underlying geology at the site comprises deposits of the chalk of the Tarrant Member Group overlain by head deposits consisting of clays, silts, sand and gravels (BGS 2020).

1.2.2 The site is generally level at approximately 5m AOD, with the underlying geological substrate identified to be gently sloping toward Albion Street and the sea.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted by Adur District Council for the demolition of Nos. 11-27 Albion Street and redevelopment to provide a total of 55 affordable flats within two blocks of 4-6 storeys in height and the refurbishment of Nos. 7-9 Albion Street, with the provision of 31 parking spaces (panning reference AWDM/0954/18). Following consultation between Adur District Council and West Sussex County Council (Adur District Council's advisers on archaeological issue), a condition (No.24) was attached to the permission requiring that:

'An archaeological investigation of the site shall be carried out at the expense of the developer in accordance with a specification (written scheme of investigation) and timetable to be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing. The approved programme of archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To ensure appropriate investigation and recording of archaeological heritage assets on the site in advance of development having regard to Policy 17 of the Adur Local Plan.'

1.3.2 Subsequently, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by ASE (2020) for a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching, and submitted to the WSCC County Archaeologist for approval in line with the requirements of the planning condition.

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1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report summarises the results of the archaeological evaluation of the site by trial trenching carried out between the 29th of June and the 30th of June 2020.

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2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following archaeological and historical background is drawn directly from the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared for the site (ASE 2020) and the West Sussex County Council Historic Environment Record (HER). No known archaeological sites are located within the site boundary. The locations of specific known sites and find spots within a 1km radius of the site are noted in this document.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 The HER records two find spots of prehistoric lithics within 1km of the site, one of which is suggested to be of Neolithic origin.

2.2.2 Pits containing Beakers and bucket urns dated to the Late Bronze Age, and late Iron Age/Romano-British material were found in nearby Kingston, north of the site.

2.3 Roman

2.3.1 A number of known Roman sites and find spots are located within 1km of the site, most notably the site of Southwick Roman Villa c.1km northeast of the study area, and a corn drying kiln located c.800m northwest of the site.

2.3.2 Other Roman finds recorded include a Romano-British ring thimble, and small collections of pottery found within 1km of the study site.

2.4 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

2.4.1 Anglo-Saxon activity is limited to a zoomorphic bucket mount found after road subsidence beside the harbour south of the site.

2.4.2 Bronzes dated as medieval were also found in association with the bucket mount (HER MWS 510, MWS 511).

2.4.3 Extensive medieval evidence is present in the form of Parish churches of St Julian (c.300m northwest) and St Michael and All Angels (c.400m northeast) and Manor Cottage, a late medieval building situated c750m northeast of site. A medieval village site associated with the parish church (HER MWS 5774, DWS 8593) indicates the extent to which medieval occupation occurred within close proximity to the study area.

2.5 Post-Medieval and Modern

2.5.1 The location of the site is in the immediate vicinity of an industrial hub of the South East: Shoreham Harbour. The associated canal in use from the mid-1800s, the Railway Wharf at the harbour and nearby Brickworks in operation in the 1880s point to extensive and far reaching industrial activity in the area.

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2.5.2 Defensive measures in place along the south coast include Shoreham Fort, located c.600m southwest of the site and used from the 1850's until the end of the second World War. Additionally, multiple sites of WWII anti-aircraft and Coastal Defence batteries are present in the immediate area.

2.6 Project Aims and Objectives

2.6.1 The general aim of the archaeological investigation, as set out in the WSI (ASE 2020), was to determine as far as reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains likely to be threatened by the proposed development. These deposits, features, artefacts or ecofacts were to be recorded, interpreted and reported on to the appropriate standard.

2.6.2 Site-specific project aims identified in the WSI (ibid) as having the potential to contribute to South-East Research Framework (SERF; KCC 2020) topics in the local area relating to post-medieval settlements:

- *The specialisation of early post-medieval small towns*
- *The relationship between towns and their hinterland (town/country), especially their changing role in the industrial period*
- *The houses and diet of the professional classes as well as the poorer majority of the urban population.*
- *There is a need to study space within towns as well as buildings*
- *Refining of brick/tile dating by more studies of sizes and fabrics in dated buildings and assemblages from well-dated archaeological features*
- *How did the massive changes in material culture during the period affect society and to what extent are any changes archaeologically detectable?*
- *Study of more post-medieval artefact assemblages from urban/rural settings is needed to address consumption, availability, social habits, social status and the zoning of classes*
- *Comparison of the material culture and diet of the rural and urban poor*
- *Comparison of material culture and diet of lower status households with those of proven high status*
- *Distribution/quantities of post-medieval imports to highlight growing inland trade and potentially immigration*

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3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

(Figure 2)

3.1.1 The archaeological methodology for evaluation trenches was initially set out in the WSI (ASE 2020). All work was carried out in accordance with this document, relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) procedural documents (CIfA 2014a; 2014b; 2019) and the *Sussex Archaeological Standards* (WSCC, ESCC, CDC 2019).

3.1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in a single phase, comprising of the excavation of three 20m x 1.8m trenches.

3.1.3 The trenches were located using GPS equipment and were scanned prior to excavation with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) operated by accredited ASE personnel.

3.1.4 All trenches were positioned in accordance with the approved WSI (ASE 2020). However, it was necessary to shorten all three trenches to varying degrees due to on-site constraints. Trenches 1 and 2 were shortened to avoid tree canopies on the perimeter of the site. Trench 3 was shortened to avoid an underground service.

3.1.5 Trench 1 was stepped outward c. 0.5m along both the eastern and western sides to accommodate the depth at which the underlying geological substrate was encountered.

3.1.6 A mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket was used under archaeological supervision to remove the overburden in spits of c. 100mm, down to the top of the underlying natural substrate.

3.1.7 All trenches were planned using digital survey technology. Hand investigation of any potential features was undertaken, and all deposits were recorded using standard ASE recording sheets. A digital photographic record was maintained of all excavated features and trenches.

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3.3 Archive

3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be assembled, in accordance with the guidelines set out in Historic *England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE, HE 2015), for deposition with a suitable local repository in due course. The contents of the archive area tabulated below in Tables 1 and 2

Context sheets	16
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	12
Context register	0
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	3

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	0
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

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4.0 RESULTS

(Figures 2-4)

4.1 Trenches 1 to 3

4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of three trenches. Site constraints necessitated an adjustment of the length of all three trenches as follows:

- Trench 1: Shortened to 11.7m to avoid the site boundary at the southern end of the trench, and established tree canopies at the northern end.
- Trench 2: Shortened to 16.9m to avoid tree canopies at the western end of the trench.
- Trench 3: shortened to 15.6m to avoid an underground service at the southern end of the trench.

4.1.2 All three trenches were found to be largely truncated and devoid of archaeological finds, features and deposits. All recorded contexts have been tabulated in Appendix 1. Photographs of the trenches are provided in Figure 4.

4.2 Site Overburden and Geology

4.2.1 Topsoil was recorded in all three trenches. It comprised a loose mid brown grey clay silt, and measured between 0.19m and 0.4m in thickness. The topsoil overlay modern made ground.

4.2.2 All three trenches had varying layers of modern made ground. Apart from the north end of Trench 1, this overlay the natural gravel. These layers all contained modern demolition material and measured between 0.22m and 0.95m in thickness.

4.2.3 A possible surviving subsoil horizon was recorded beneath the made ground at the northern end of Trench 1. It comprised a compact mid brown orange silty clay and measured 0.23m in thickness. This deposit was not recorded anywhere else on site. It directly overlay the natural gravel.

4.2.4 The natural geology recorded in all three trenches comprised a light orange yellow silty clay and gravel head deposit. The abundance of gravels varied across site, with more frequent gravel inclusions being present to the south and east of the site. In Trenches 2 and 3, modern truncation was observed cutting into the gravel. The gravel was recorded at between 3.35m AOD and 4.36m AOD sloping from north to south.

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5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

5.1.1 No archaeological finds, deposits or features were exposed in the three evaluation trenches. The recorded sequence was predominantly of truncated natural gravel overlain by modern made ground / demolition material overlain by topsoil. The only exception to this was at the northern end of Trench 1 where, beneath the made ground, a 0.23m thick horizon of subsoil survived overlying the natural gravel. The gravel was recorded at heights of between 3.35m AOD and 4.36m AOD.

5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

5.2.1 Aside from the subsoil recorded at the northern end of Trench 1 the evaluated areas were all found to have been truncated into the natural gravel substrate.

5.3 Potential impact on archaeological remains

(Figure 3)

5.3.1 As the extent of the truncation noted within the evaluation trenches remains unknown and the archaeological potential of the area is high, prospective development impacts are currently difficult to quantify beyond the evaluated areas. If further pockets of subsoil survive such as recorded at the north end of Trench 1 then potentially archaeology may also survive.

5.4 Consideration of research aims

5.4.1 Due to the absence of archaeological remains encountered in the evaluated areas the present fieldwork has no potential to address the local or regional research aims listed in section 2.6.2.

5.5 Conclusions

5.5.1 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered however the extent of truncation recorded in most of the evaluated areas remains unknown and given the high archaeological potential of the area it is possible that archaeological remains could survive in untruncated parts of the site.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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HER Summary

Site code	ASS20					
Project code	200217					
Planning reference	AWDM/0954/18					
Site address	Nos. 7 to 27 Albion Street, Southwick, West Sussex, BN42 4DN					
District/Borough	Adur					
NGR (12 figures)	523759 105024					
Geology	Tarrant chalk overlain by clay/gravel head deposits					
Fieldwork type	Eval					
Date of fieldwork	29th – 30th June 2020					
Sponsor/client	Adur and Worthing Councils					
Project manager	Paul Mason					
Project supervisor	Thomas Simms					
Period summary						
Project summary	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Adur and Worthing Councils to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development at Nos 7 to 27 Albion Street, Southwick, West Sussex, between the 29th and the 30th of June 2020. Three trenches were excavated. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered however the extent of truncation recorded in most of the evaluated areas remains unknown and given the high archaeological potential of the area it is possible that archaeological remains could survive in untruncated parts of the site.					

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OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-398115

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at Nos. 7 to 27 Albion Street, Southwick, West Sussex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Adur and Worthing Councils to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development at Nos 7 to 27 Albion Street, Southwick, West Sussex, between the 29th and the 30th of June 2020. Three trenches were excavated. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered however the extent of truncation recorded in most of the evaluated areas remains unknown and given the high archaeological potential of the area it is possible that archaeological remains could survive in untruncated parts of the site.
Project dates	Start: 29-06-2020 End: 30-06-2020
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ASS20 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	200217 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Research
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX ADUR SHOREHAM BY SEA Nos. 7 to 27 Albion Street, Southwick, West Sussex
Postcode	BN42 4DN
Study area	0.2 Hectares

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Site coordinates	TQ 23759 05024 50.830931858544 -0.242441505698 50 49 51 N 000 14 32 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 3.35m Max: 5.11m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	West Sussex County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Thomas Simms
Type of sponsor/funding body	County Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	Adur and Worthing Councils

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	ASE
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	ASE
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Report","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

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Appendix 1: List of recorded contexts

Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth m	Height m AOD
1	1/001	Layer	Made ground	0.31	5.07
1	1/002	Layer	Made ground	0.95	3.81
1	1/003	Layer	Made ground	0.7	3.46
1	1/004	Layer	Natural gravel	0.16	3.35 - 4.06
1	1/005	Layer	Subsoil	0.23	4.01 - 5.11
1	1/006	Layer	Made ground	0.46	4.74
1	1/007	Layer	Topsoil	0.4	5.11
2	2/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.2	4.94 - 5.2
2	2/002	Layer	Made ground	0.34	4.83 - 5.06
2	2/003	Layer	Made ground	0.29	4.72
2	2/004	Layer	Made ground	0.27	4.43 - 4.54
2	2/005	Layer	Natural gravel	0.12	4.3 - 4.36
3	3/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.19	4.81 - 4.85
3	3/002	Layer	Made ground	0.4	4.68 - 4.75
3	3/003	Layer	Made ground	0.22	4.28 - 4.52
3	3/004	Layer	Natural gravel	0.08	4.2 - 4.33

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© Archaeology South-East		Land at 7 to 27 Albion Street, Southwick, West Sussex	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 200217	July 2020	Site location and HER data	
Report Ref: 2020113	Drawn by: JR		



© Archaeology South-East		7 to 27 Albion Street, Southwick, West Sussex	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 200217	July 2020	Trench plan	
Report Ref: 2020113	Drawn by: NH		



© Archaeology South-East		7 to 27 Albion Street, Southwick, West Sussex	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 200217	July 2020	Trench plan with proposed development	
Report Ref: 2020113	Drawn by: NH		



Trench 1, looking north



Trench 1, looking south



Trench 2, looking east



Trench 2, looking west



Trench 3, looking southeast



Trench 2, looking northwest

© Archaeology South-East		7 to 27 Albion Street, Southwick, West Sussex	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 200217	July 2020	Trench photographs	
Report Ref: 2020113	Drawn by: NH		

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