

## **An Archaeological Watching Brief at Robins Hill, Iping, West Sussex**

**NGR SU 847 251  
CHICHESTER: Midhurst**



**ASE Project No. 3113  
Site Code: RHI 07**

**By Michelle Collings MA AIFA**

**September 2007**

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**Archaeology South-East  
Units 1 and 2  
2 Chapel Place  
Portslade  
East Sussex  
BN41 1DR  
Tel: 01273 426830  
Fax: 01273 420866  
Email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)**

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## **Abstract**

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Robins Hill, Iping, West Sussex (NGR SU 847 251). The work was undertaken between the 4<sup>th</sup> September and 10<sup>th</sup> September 2007. The work was undertaken for CgMs Consulting Limited on behalf of Holleran Mouchel Parkman Joint Venture for their clients Southern Water Limited.*

*Archaeological monitoring was maintained during a replacement scheme of an existing rising main. A 110m section of the 250m trench was identified for an archaeological watching brief, of which a 45m length was monitored following consultation between CgMs Consulting Limited and the County Archaeologist during site works. The underlying natural was encountered at 1.09m below the ground surface.*

*No deposits or features of archaeological significance were observed and no artefacts were recovered. It is likely that modern disturbance, particularly that associated with the laying of various services through the area has had a detrimental effect on the survival of archaeological remains.*

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## INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** Archaeology South-East (ASE) a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, UCL was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Limited on behalf of Holleran Mouchel Parkman Joint Venture for their clients Southern Water Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the replacement of the existing rising main at Robins Hill, Iping, West Sussex (NGR SU 847 251) (Figure 1).
  - 1.2** The site lies within an Archaeologically Sensitive Area. In view of this, the West Sussex County Council Archaeologist, John Mills, in his capacity as archaeological advisor to Chichester District Council advised that archaeological monitoring would be pertinent and would be required during any open cut excavation within a 110m stretch from the pond which is located to the southeast of Knapp House to the junction of Iping Lane with Robins Lane. All excavation within this 110m length, whether machine or hand-dug was identified for archaeological monitoring, however this was reviewed following consultation between CgMs Consulting Limited and the WSCC Archaeologist during site work.
  - 1.3** A Specification for Archaeological Monitoring (CgMs 2007) was subsequently prepared by Cathy Patrick of CgMs Consulting Limited and submitted and duly approved by the West Sussex County Council (hereafter WSCC) Archaeologist prior to the fieldwork taking place. All work was undertaken in accordance with this document, as well as with the Recommended Standard Archaeological Conditions issued by West Sussex County Council (WSCC 2007a) and the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA).
  - 1.4** The underlying geology comprised Atherfield Clay and Hythe Beds.
  - 1.5** The fieldwork was undertaken by Michelle Collings between the 4th September to the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2007. The project was managed by Diccon Hart (Project Manager) and Louise Rayner (Post Excavation Manager).
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## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** The site lies within an area of known archaeological interest, in particular relating to potential Roman activity. Roman remains and artefacts have been recorded within a close vicinity of the Site. The archaeological background was obtained from the *Specification for Archaeological Monitoring* (CgMs 2007) and is reproduced here with due acknowledgement.
- 2.2** A findspot is recorded to the east of Robins Farm (NGR 84729, 25199), comprising a tiled Roman floor or paving which was found with a Roman ceramic box and glass bowl containing charcoal and burnt bone. Both the cremation and possible structure were recorded in 1908. Roman brick or tile is also recorded at this location. However, a subsequent watching brief at this findspot did not reveal any archaeological features or artefacts.
- 2.3** Varied multi-period archaeological evidence has been recorded within a fairly close vicinity of the site, to the southwest, at Iping Common, where there are thirteen archaeological sites of which nine are scheduled. Activity relating to the Mesolithic period has been recorded and Bronze Age activity has been identified from twenty barrows recorded at Iping Common and Fitzhall Rough.
- 2.4** In the mid 1st Century AD, a Roman road aligned north- south was built running across Iping common from Chichester to Silchester in Hampshire.

## **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1** A 250m trench was excavated to allow for the replacement of the existing rising main, located across land as illustrated in figure 1 and 2. A section of the trench totalling 110m was identified for archaeological monitoring. This was reviewed by consultation between CgMs and the Archaeological Officer for West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) during the course of the fieldwork and resultantly the watching brief was maintained during excavation of a 45m stretch of trench as illustrated in figure 2. Prior to the fieldwork taking place it was agreed between CgMs and the Archaeological Officer for West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) that if any sections were being directionally drilled no archaeological monitoring would be required (agreed 29<sup>th</sup> March 2007 by telephone). However, all excavation was undertaken by mechanical excavator and by hand where necessary and the watching brief was maintained throughout until it was agreed by consultation between CgMs and the WSSCC Archaeological Officer that sufficient works had been monitored.
- 3.2** The aims and objectives of the fieldwork were laid out in detail in the *Specification for Archaeological Monitoring* (CgMs 2007) and are reproduced here with due acknowledgement. The general aim of the fieldwork was to record and analyse any archaeological remains that were

revealed in the course of all works below current ground level and to ensure that these are recorded, sampled and interpreted to an acceptable standard. Further, to ensure that any significant discoveries of artefactual and environmental evidence are recorded and analysed to an acceptable standard. The specific aim of the fieldwork was to establish the presence or absence of any Roman remains, potentially associated with the previously recorded cremation and possible structure and to record any such remains so that they may be related to the other Roman remains in the vicinity.

- 3.3** The trench was cut by a 7 ton 360° tracked excavator fitted with a 0.60m wide bucket. The excavation was undertaken using a combination of a mechanical excavator and hand digging where necessary. The machine was only used to remove non-archaeologically significant material and the excavations were taken down to the top of the underlying geology or to the surface of any significant archaeological deposit or the maximum safe working depth; whichever was the higher. The section of the trench was selectively cleaned to observe and record the stratigraphy. The removed spoil was scanned for the presence of any stray, unstratified artefacts.
- 3.4** All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to acceptable professional standards in accordance with the approved ASE Written Scheme of Investigation using Archaeology South-East context record sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:50 and a general site plan was kept at 1:250.
- 3.5** A full photographic record of the work was kept (monochrome prints, colour slides and digital), and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade and will in due course be offered to a suitable museum.
- 3.6** There were no contexts/deposits thought suitable for environmental samples.

## 4.0 RESULTS

4.1 The stratigraphy comprised the tarmac road surface (001) with an underlying make up deposit (002) with two underlying deposits of made ground (003) and (004) overlying natural (005), where reached. The make up deposit for the tarmac surface was a reddish brown coarse gravelly sand with frequent stones up to 50mm in size, frequent gravel inclusions and small fragments of concrete (002). The underlying made ground (003) was a mixed deposit comprised of a greyish brown slightly silty gravelly sand with moderate small stones and occasional fragments of Ceramic Building Material (CBM) and flecks of charcoal mixed with re-deposited natural (003). Underlying this was a further layer of mixed made ground (004) comprised of a mottled greyish brown clayey sand with very occasional stones mixed with re-deposited natural (004) overlying natural (005), where revealed. The natural was a mottled orangey yellow and greenish grey clay (005).

### 4.2

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
001	Layer	Tarmac Surface	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m
002	Layer	Make up deposit for Tarmac Surface	Tr.	Tr.	0.18m
003	Layer	Made Ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.19m
004	Layer	Made Ground	Tr.	Tr.	0.62m
005	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Table 1: List of recorded Contexts

4.3 No archaeological deposits or features were observed and no artefacts were recovered.

## 5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Despite careful monitoring no archaeological deposits or features were observed and no artefacts were recovered. It is likely that modern disturbance, particularly that associated with the laying of various services through the area monitored has had a detrimental effect on the survival of archaeological remains.

5.2 The archaeological watching brief did not reveal any Roman remains but indicated that any archaeological evidence once present may have been destroyed by modern disturbance. The scheme largely followed the route of the existing rising main and the entire length of the trench monitored revealed considerable depths of made ground. The area monitored was fairly small and very restricted and does not prove the absence of archaeological activity within a close vicinity of the site or wider area.

## **6.0 REFERENCES**

CgMs. 2007. *A Specification for Archaeological Monitoring Robins Hill, Iping, West Sussex*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Thanks are due to Steven Weaver of CgMs Consulting Limited, Holleran Mouchel Parkman Joint Venture and their clients Southern Water for commissioning the work. The advice and guidance of John Mills and Mark Taylor of West Sussex County Council is also gratefully acknowledged.

**SMR Summary Form**

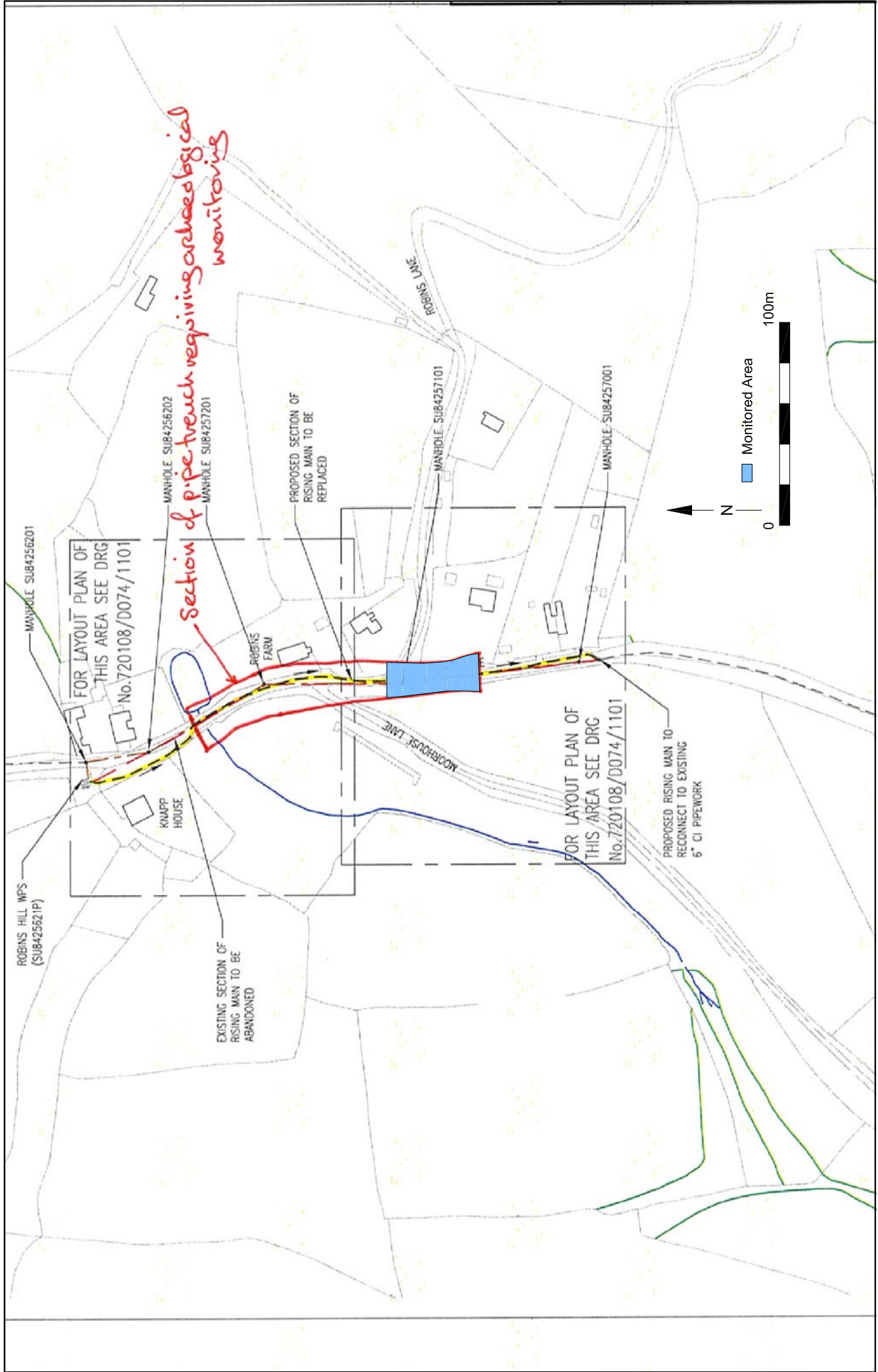
Site Code	RHI 07					
Identification Name and Address	Robins Hill, Iping, West Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex County Council, Chichester District					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR SU 847 251					
Geology	Atherfield Clay and Hythe Beds					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3113					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban ✓	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 4 <sup>th</sup> September - 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2007	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting Limited on behalf of Holleran Mouchel Parkman Joint Venture for Southern Water Limited					
Project Manager(s)	Diccon Hart					
Project Supervisor	Michelle Collings					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Victorian		
<b>Abstract</b>						
<p><i>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Robins Hill, Iping, West Sussex (NGR SU 847 251). The work was undertaken between the 4<sup>th</sup> September and 10<sup>th</sup> September 2007. The work was undertaken for CgMs Consulting Limited on behalf of Holleran Mouchel Parkman Joint Venture for their clients Southern Water Limited.</i></p> <p><i>Archaeological monitoring was maintained during a replacement scheme of an existing rising main. A 110m section of the 250m trench was identified for an archaeological watching brief, of which a 45m length was monitored following consultation between CgMs Consulting Limited and the County Archaeologist during site works. The underlying natural was encountered at 1.09m below the ground surface.</i></p> <p><i>No deposits or features of archaeological significance were observed and no artefacts were recovered. It is likely that modern disturbance, particularly that associated with the laying of various services through the area has had a detrimental effect on the survival of archaeological remains.</i></p>						





© Archaeology South-East			Robins Hill, Iping, West Sussex		Fig. 1
Ref: 3113	Sept 2007	Drawn by: JNC	Site Location Plan		

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Ref: 3113

Sept 2007

Drawn by: JNC

Plan Showing Trench Monitored

Fig. 2

Head Office  
Units 1 & 2  
2 Chapel Place  
Portslade  
East Sussex BN41 1DR  
Tel: +44(0)1273 426830 Fax:+44(0)1273 420866  
email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.archaeologyse.co.uk](http://www.archaeologyse.co.uk)



London Office  
Centre for Applied Archaeology  
Institute of Archaeology  
University College London  
31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1 0PY  
Tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778 Fax:+44(0)20 7383 2572  
Web: [www.ucl.ac.uk/caa](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/caa)

The contracts division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London 

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