

An Archaeological Watching Brief at 45 Wenban Road,
Worthing, West Sussex.

NGR 514625 103052

Worthing Borough Council
Planning Ref: 05/1262/FULL
Project No. 2523
OASIS ID: archaeol6-17903

By
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Summary

A Watching Brief was maintained during the construction of approximately fifty metres of footings for the development of flats in place of a pre-existing house. Five separate site visits were made by staff from Archaeology South East. The remaining footings and services extended no deeper than 1.2 metres, undisturbed areas being brickearth. No features or stratified finds were found. Previous evidence for occupation is restricted to late 19th and 20th Centuries.

Archaeology South-East

Archaeology South-East is a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit. The Institute of Archaeology at UCL is one of the largest groupings of academic archaeologists in the country. Consequently, Archaeology South-East has access to the conservation, computing and environmental backup of the college, as well as a range of other archaeological services.

UCL Field Archaeology Unit and South Eastern Archaeological Services (which became Archaeology South-East in 1996) were established in 1974 and 1991 respectively. Although field projects have been conducted world-wide, Archaeology South East retains a special interest in south-east England with the majority of our contract and consultancy work concentrated in Sussex, Kent, Greater London and Essex.

Drawing on experience of the countryside and towns of the south east of England, Archaeology South East can give advice and carry out surveys at an early stage in the planning process. By working closely with developers and planning authorities it is possible to incorporate archaeological work into developments with little inconvenience.

Archaeology South-East, as part of UCL Field Archaeology Unit, is a registered organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists and, as such, is required to meet IFA standards.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Aims**
- 4.0 Methodology**
- 5.0 Results**
- 6.0 Discussion**
- 7.0 Bibliography**

SMR Summary Sheet

Figures:

Figure 1. Site Location

Figure 2. Site Plan

APPENDIX A - Oasis Summary Form

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit) was commissioned by Beaufort Building Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief at 45 Wenban Road, Worthing, West Sussex (NGR 514625 103052) (Planning ref.05/1262/FULL). (Fig. 1).
- 1.2 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 map (Sheet 318/333), the underlying geology at the site is Brickearth.
- 1.3 A Method Statement was produced by Neil Griffin, Project Manager of Archaeology South East, for an archaeological watching brief of the site (Griffin 2006). The stated aim of the work was to:

'monitor the excavation of new groundworks in order to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed and affected by the groundworks are recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.'
- 1.4 The on-site work was undertaken by Deon Whittaker and Justin Russell intermittently between the 17th July and 7th August 2006. The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and Jim Stevenson.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There is no known prior archaeological work on the site however, recent excavations in the Worthing area have produced Roman cremation sites, and possible areas of undisturbed ground are being treated with due caution. There is evidence of flooding during the Middle Ages followed by silting (Elrington. ed.1980) which provides much of the sandy silt deposits encountered during the excavation. Wenban Road lies now in the parish of Worthing, previously (prior to 1875) Broadwater.
- 2.2 The Broadwater hamlet, near to the Teville stream, lay at the head of a broad tidal inlet and was subject to periods of flooding from the sea and stream until the late 19th Century, remaining marginal land for some time. (ibid.) It is likely that the site of Wenban Road may have enjoyed similar marginal conditions given the low elevation of the land.

3. AIMS

- 3.1 The general aim of the archaeological work was to monitor the groundwork in order to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed and affected by the excavations were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.
- 3.2 The following intrusive groundworks were to be monitored by an archaeologist until/unless it became clear beyond reasonable doubt that no archaeological remains were present (e.g. once excavation reaches undisturbed natural subsoils).
- Removal of exiting foundations
 - Ground reduction
 - Landscaping
 - Excavation of foundation trenches
 - Excavation of services trenches and soakaways
 - Any other significant intrusive groundworks

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The objective of the watching brief was to observe, excavate and record archaeological remains or significant environmental deposits revealed during the ground works associated with the construction of the new development's service and footing trenches.

4.2 Removal of existing footings, services and hardstanding

4.2.1 The existing footings and hardstanding were excavated using a breaker and a toothed bucket observed by the attending archaeologist.

4.3 Service trenches and footings

4.3.1 The approximately fifty metres of service trenches and footings (see fig. 3) were also monitored by a professional archaeologist during excavation. A toothless bucket was fitted to machinery whenever possible allowing the sides and base of trenches to be examined by the attending archaeologist.

4.4 General

4.4.1 Modern features or features of late 19th Century date were not recorded. A palaeoenvironmental sampling strategy was set out in the specification brief prepared by Neil Griffin before the commencement of work (Griffin 2006). No deposits suitable for palaeoenvironmental sampling were encountered.

4.4.3 The removal of demolition material was scanned visually for any archaeological artefacts.

5. RESULTS (Fig. 2)

5.1 No archaeological features or finds were discovered during the excavation. Finds of late 19th and 20th Century were found unstratified amongst the demolition.

5.2 Removal of existing footings, services and hardstanding

5.2.1 The existing footings and hardstanding were removed using a breaker and a toothed bucket observed by the attending archaeologist. Concrete hardstanding was located along the western edge and southern end of the site, and was between 200 – 300mm deep. This revealed patchy hardcore and gravel levelling deposits up to 100mm deep. This was laid directly upon the brickearth natural which appears to have been levelled prior to construction of the original building. No traces of soils or subsoils were detected.

5.2.2 In places the removal of the hardstanding revealed late 19th or early 20th Century services (drainage). These were machine excavated with a toothed bucket and the sides of these excavations were examined for surviving archaeological features with no archaeology being found.

5.3 Service trenches and footings

- 5.3.1 The fifty metres (approximately) of service trenches and footings (maximum depth of 2.5 metres and approximately 600mm wide) were also monitored by an archaeologist during excavation. A toothless bucket was fitted to machinery whenever possible allowing the sides of trenches to be examined by the attending archaeologist.
- 5.3.2 The footings (see Fig.2) were monitored during and after excavation for archaeological features but none were found. In addition, the spoil was checked visually during excavation for archaeological remains. These footings were rechecked intermittently on subsequent visits to look for features revealed by weathering. The excavations revealed homogenous, archaeologically sterile brickearth with no evidence of other stratigraphic layers, exposure, weathering, submersion or other disturbance or modification, natural or otherwise.
- 5.3.3 A soak-away pit was excavated at the south end of the site, as indicated in Figure 2, down to a depth of approximately two metres. This revealed no archaeological deposits.

6. Discussion

- 6.1 The site appears to have not been utilised until the late 19th or early 20th Century when the pre-existing building was created. Although the site is situated directly on top of an archaeologically sterile brickearth deposit, the levelling of the site and removal of pre-existing soils and subsoils will have obliterated any stratified evidence for earlier activity.
- 6.2 Although the exact date of the pre-existing building is not known, unstratified artefacts of late 19th and 20th century origin were present in the demolition deposits. A relief map model of early 19th Century Worthing in the Worthing Museum and Art Gallery shows very sparse occupation in the general area surrounding Wenban Road. The marginal conditions prior to the late 19th Century make an earlier date for occupation unlikely whilst a late 19th and early 20th Century date accords with the general character of buildings in the immediate vicinity.
- 6.3 The extensive footings required for the new development have left very little of the site undisturbed. Based on the null result from the intensive monitoring of the excavations it is suggested that no significant archaeological remains are present.

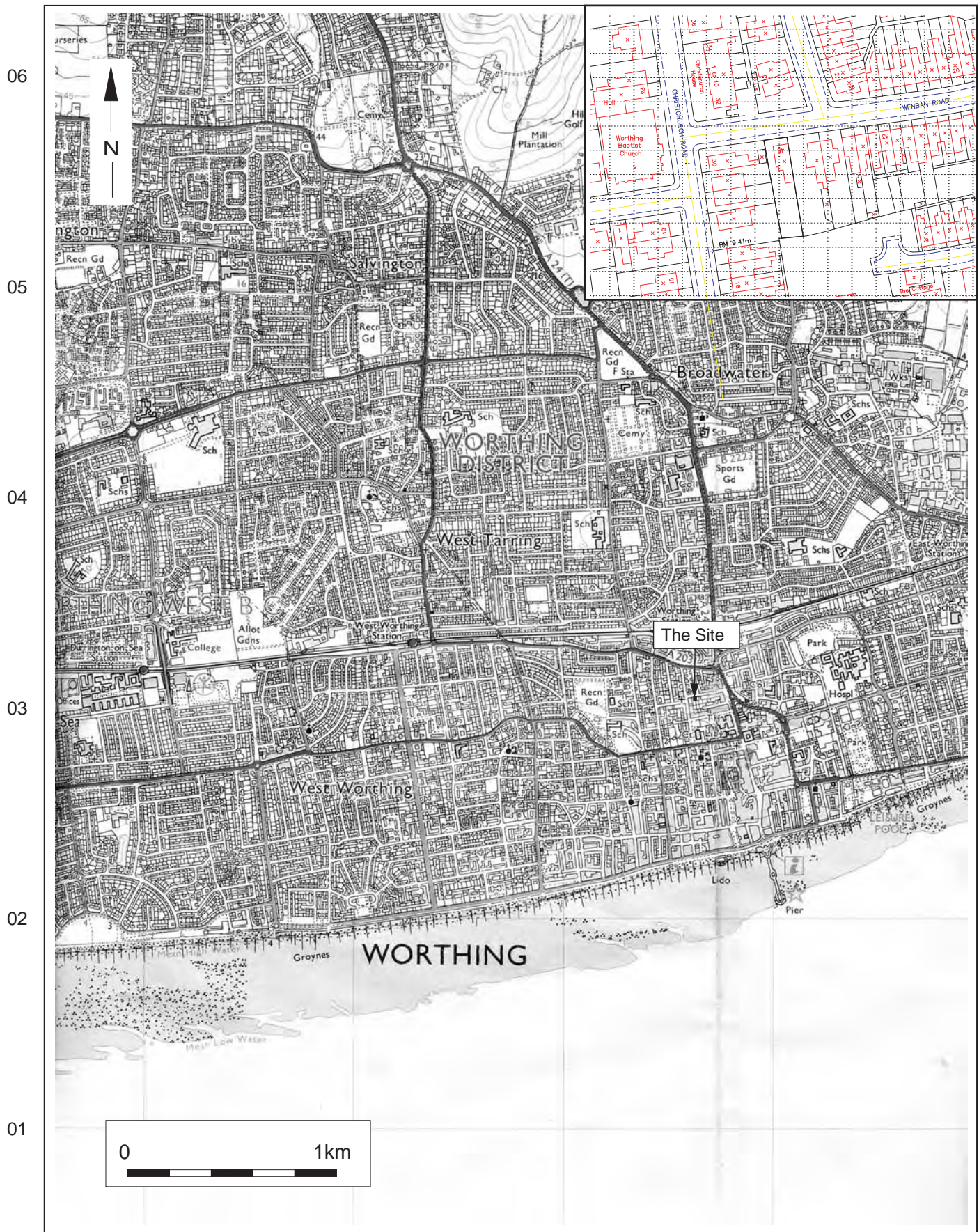
7. Bibliography

Griffin, N. 2006. 45 Wenban Road, Worthing, West Sussex - Archaeological Watching Brief : Written Scheme of Investigation. Ditchling, Archaeology South-East / UCLFAU.

Elrington. C.R. (ed).1980. The Victoria History of the County of Sussex Vol. 6. Part 1.. Oxford, Oxford University Press.

SMR Summary Sheet

Site Code	WEN 06					
Identification Name and Address	45 Wenban Road, Worthing, West Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex, Worthing					
Full 12 Fig. OS Grid Refs.	NGR 514625 103052					
Archaeology South-East Proj. No.	2523					
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.17/7/06-7/8/06	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Beaufort Building Ltd.					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Deon Whittaker & Justin Russell					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>A Watching Brief was maintained during the construction of approximately fifty metres of footings for the development of flats in place of a pre-existing house. Five separate site visits were made by staff from Archaeology South East. The remaining footings and services extended no deeper than 2 metres, undisturbed areas being brickearth. No features or stratified finds were found. Previous occupation appears to date from late 19th Century to present. Undisturbed brickearth was found but no surviving soils or subsoils were present.</i></p>						



12

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14

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© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		45 Wenban Road, Worthing		Fig. 1
Ref: 2523	Jan 2007	Drawn by: JLR	Site Location Plan	

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© Archaeology South-East			45 Wenban Road, Worthing		Fig. 2
Ref: 2523	Jan 2007	Drawn by: FEG	Site Plan		

APPENDIX A - Oasis Summary Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: archaeoi6-17903

Project details

Project name	Wenban Road, Worthing, Sussex
Short description of the project	A Watching Brief was maintained during the construction of approximately fifty metres of footings for the development of flats in place of a pre-existing house. Five separate site visits were made by staff from Archaeology South East. The remaining footings and services extended no deeper than 1.2 metres, undisturbed areas being brickearth. No features or stratified finds were found. Previous evidence for occupation is restricted to late 19th and 20th Centuries.
Project dates	Start: 17-07-2006 End: 07-08-2006
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Methods & techniques	'Visual inspection'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX ARUN FINDON 45 Wenban Road Worthing Sussex
Postcode	BN11 1HY
Study area	175.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 51460 10310 Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East

Project director/manager Neil Griffin

Project supervisor Deon Whittaker

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Physical Archive recipient Lewes Museum

Digital Archive Exists? No

Digital Contents 'none'

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Contents 'none'

Paper Media available 'Map', 'Notebook - Excavation', 'Research', 'General Notes', 'Plan', 'Report'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Watching Brief at 45 Wenban Road, Worthing, West Sussex.

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Date 2006

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