

An Archaeological Watching Brief at  
Broad Road, Willingdon, East Sussex,  
BN20 9QS

NGR 558275 103900

Project No. 3095  
Site Code: BRE 07

ASE Report No. 2008073  
OASIS ID: archaeol6-43181

Deon Whittaker

24th September 2008

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**24<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South East were commissioned by Peter Gardner & Holleran Mouchel Parkman to maintain a watching brief on approximately ten metres of trenching at the junction of Broad Road and Oldfield Road in Willingdon. Approximately 600mm of truncated head deposits overlay gault clay, which was observed to a maximum depth of 2.5 metre below ground level. No archaeological features or artefacts were identified.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

- 1.1.1 The site is situated at Broad Road, Willingdon. Early Ordnance Survey Maps shown that the site remained in open land until the early twentieth century. The Ordnance Survey Map of 1951 first shows residential housing at Broad Street.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

- 1.2.1 British Geological Survey Map No.334 indicates that the site lies on Gault with head deposits. OS map 123 shows the site lying at the very base of Coombe Hill to the south west on the shallow slopes of a valley running south east to north west, approximately 15 metres AOD.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

- 1.3.1 Archaeology South East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) were commissioned by Peter Gardner & Holleran Mouchel Parkman Joint Venture to undertake an archaeological watching brief during intrusive groundworks associated with upgrading a sewer at Broad Road, Willingdon (NGR 558275, 103900), (Figs. 1 and 2).
- 1.3.2 Due to the archaeological potential of the site, the County Archaeologist of East Sussex County Council (ESCC), in his capacity as advisor to Eastbourne Borough Council on archaeological planning matters, recommended that a watching brief should be maintained during all intrusive groundworks associated with upgrading the sewer.
- 1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlining the requirements of the Archaeological Watching Brief was prepared by ASE (ASE 2007) and submitted and duly approved.

### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

- 1.4.1 The general aim of the archaeological work was to monitor any intrusive ground works associated with upgrading the sewer 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. No specific aims were identified.

### **1.5 Scope of Report**

- 1.5.1 This Watching Brief Report details the background relating to the watching brief, describes the methodology applied and the results obtained by Deon Whittaker (Archaeologist) on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. There is a causewayed enclosure and Tumuli to the south of the site at Combe Hill. The hill itself, which is named after the feature below it, is actually a long spur running east-west, with the eastern end slightly higher than the west. The origins of the enclosure date to the Neolithic period with evidence of activity spanning into the Roman period. The causewayed enclosure was protected in 1932 when it became a scheduled ancient monument. It has been excavated twice, in 1949 by the Eastbourne Natural History and Archaeological Society when the terminals of two of the inner ditch segments were excavated and further excavations were carried out more recently as part of a training project.
- 2.2 The causewayed enclosure was constructed during the Neolithic period. Subsequently, three barrows were built during the Bronze Age on the hill near the enclosure, one to the west and two to the east. Early Bronze-Age beaker pottery has been recovered from one of the enclosure ditches. There seems to be little evidence of Iron-Age activity, but a large quantity of coins and pottery dating to the Romano-British period has been found associated both with the Neolithic enclosure as well as the Bronze-Age barrows.
- 2.3 The hill formed part of the original Willingdon / Jevington parish boundary; the older line of the boundary came up from Willingdon Bottom to the spur between the summit of Cold Crouch and the eastern end of Combe Hill itself.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 Machine and hand excavations undertaken by contractors were monitored at all times by an archaeologist until it became clear beyond reasonable doubt that no archaeological remains were present at the full extent of excavation depth. No more than ten metres of trench was excavated. A mechanical breaker was used to remove the tarmac and concrete deposits, whilst a 600mm ditching bucket was used to remove earlier deposits. Due to the presence of services, it was necessary for the contractors to hand excavate, primarily in the north end of the trench, where a 2m westwards extension was required to locate a service pipe.
- 3.2 Depth of the excavation exceeded safety limits of 1.2 metres. Subsequently no samples were recovered, although spoil was inspected as a matter of course.
- 3.3 Non archaeological deposits were recorded and are detailed below. No archaeological features or remains were observed. The site archive is quantified in the following table.

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

Number of Contexts	3
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	0
Bulk finds	0
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

## 4.0 RESULTS

- 4.1 The maximum extent of the observed trench is indicated in Figure 2. The maximum depth was 2.5 metres below ground level, with significant disturbance from modern services. Where the ground remained undisturbed, the contexts recorded were as indicated below in Table 2.
- 4.2 No finds were recovered from the trench. All deposits were apparently sterile. No samples were taken due to the depth of the trench being beyond safe working limits. Spoil was inspected for sampling suitability, but appeared sterile, without either ecological or artefactual remains.

Table 2 List of Recorded Contexts

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth	Height m.AOD
001	Deposit	Tarmac	10m	600mm	400mm	15.00
002	Deposit	Silt – Head	10m	600mm	600mm	14.6
003	Deposit	Clay - Gault	10m	600mm	1.5m	13.1

### Summary of Contexts recorded

Context [001] consisted of 400mm of tarmac over concrete.

Context [002] consisted of 600mm of medium orange brown, friable silt without inclusions. This is identified as head deposit.

Context [003] consisted of 1.5 metres of homogeneous medium grey, silty clay, identified as gault.

No archaeological finds or features were identified.

## **5.0 DISCUSSION**

- 5.1 Whilst the contexts recorded from the trench give no indication of archaeological remains, the limited size of the trench is such that no general conclusion can be drawn. The absence of buried subsoils or topsoils suggests that the original concrete road base has been laid on at least partially truncated head deposits.
- 5.2 In the northern end of the trench the disturbance from modern services would make identification of archaeological features problematic. Examination of the spoil therefore should mitigate somewhat, by identifying any artefactual / ecofactual remains from disturbed archaeological contexts.
- 5.3 In the remainder of the trench, the deposits were clean and undisturbed, thus 'natural', without inclusions. The abrupt horizon between the silty head deposit [002] and the overlaying concrete and tarmac road [001] suggests that truncation has occurred, although the degree of truncation is not known.
- 5.4 The general aim of the archaeological work was to monitor any intrusive ground works associated with upgrading the sewer 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. These aims have been achieved, despite the restrictions of access due to health and safety considerations. The close examination the spoil produced was sufficiently rigorous and the sides of the exposed trench were openly visible, such that confidence in the absence of archaeological remains is high and the methodology could be considered adequate.

## **6.0 CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 During the monitoring of Trench 1, modern road surfaces of concrete and tarmac were found above truncated head deposits. The head deposit overlay gault clay. All deposits were sterile, without inclusions, artefacts or features.
- 6.2 Although the spoil from the trench was examined closely for artefacts and ecofacts, none were identified, but this should not be taken to indicate that archaeological remains had not been present before the modern disturbance in the northern part of the trench. The overall pattern of truncation of soils and subsoils which probably occurs throughout the immediate vicinity of the site reduces the chances of identifying archaeological features.
- 6.3 The deposits observed do not reflect the wealth of archaeology in the wider vicinity. Despite the truncation it remains possible that vestiges of archaeological features and artefacts may be present in the head deposits identified. The small size of the exposed ground and truncation discourages further speculation.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

ASE. 2007. *Broad Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN20 9QS Archaeological Watching Brief - Written Scheme of Investigation*. ASE Unpublished Document.

**SMR Summary Sheet**

Site Code	BRE07					
Identification Name and Address	Broad Road, Willingdon Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Sussex East, Willingdon					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 558275 103900					
Geology	Gault Clay and Head deposits BGS Map 233					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3095					
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.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Peter Gardner & Holleran Mouchel Parkman					
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer					
Project Supervisor	Deon Whittaker					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>Archaeology South East were commissioned by Peter Gardner &amp; Holleran Mouchel Parkman to maintain a watching brief on approximately ten metres of trenching at the junction of Broad Road and Oldfield Road in Willingdon. Approximately 600mm of truncated head deposits overlay gault clay, which was observed to a maximum depth of 2.5 metre below ground level. No archaeological features or artefacts were identified.</i></p>						

## OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-43181**

### Project details

Project name	Broad Road Willingdon
Short description of the project	<i>Archaeology South East were commissioned by Peter Gardner &amp; Holleran Mouchel Parkman to maintain a watching brief on approximately ten metres of trenching at the junction of Broad Road and Oldfield Road in Willingdon. Approximately 600mm of truncated head deposits overlay gault clay, which was observed to a maximum depth of 2.5 metre below ground level. No archaeological features or artefacts were identified.</i>
Project dates	Start: 17-10-2007 End: 18-10-2007
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BRE07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 1 - Highways and road transport
Monument type	. None
Monument type	. None
Significant Finds	. None
Significant Finds	. None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX EASTBOURNE EASTBOURNE Broad Road Willingdon
Postcode	BN26 5XX
Study area	12.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 582 038 50.8115249935 0.245785681116 50 48 41 N 000 14 44 E Point
Height OD	Min: 15.00m Max: 15.00m

### Project creators

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

Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer
Project supervisor	Deon Whittaker
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	P Gardner Hollerhan Mouchelle Parkman

#### **Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Media available	'Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Photograph','Unpublished Text'

#### **Project bibliography 1**

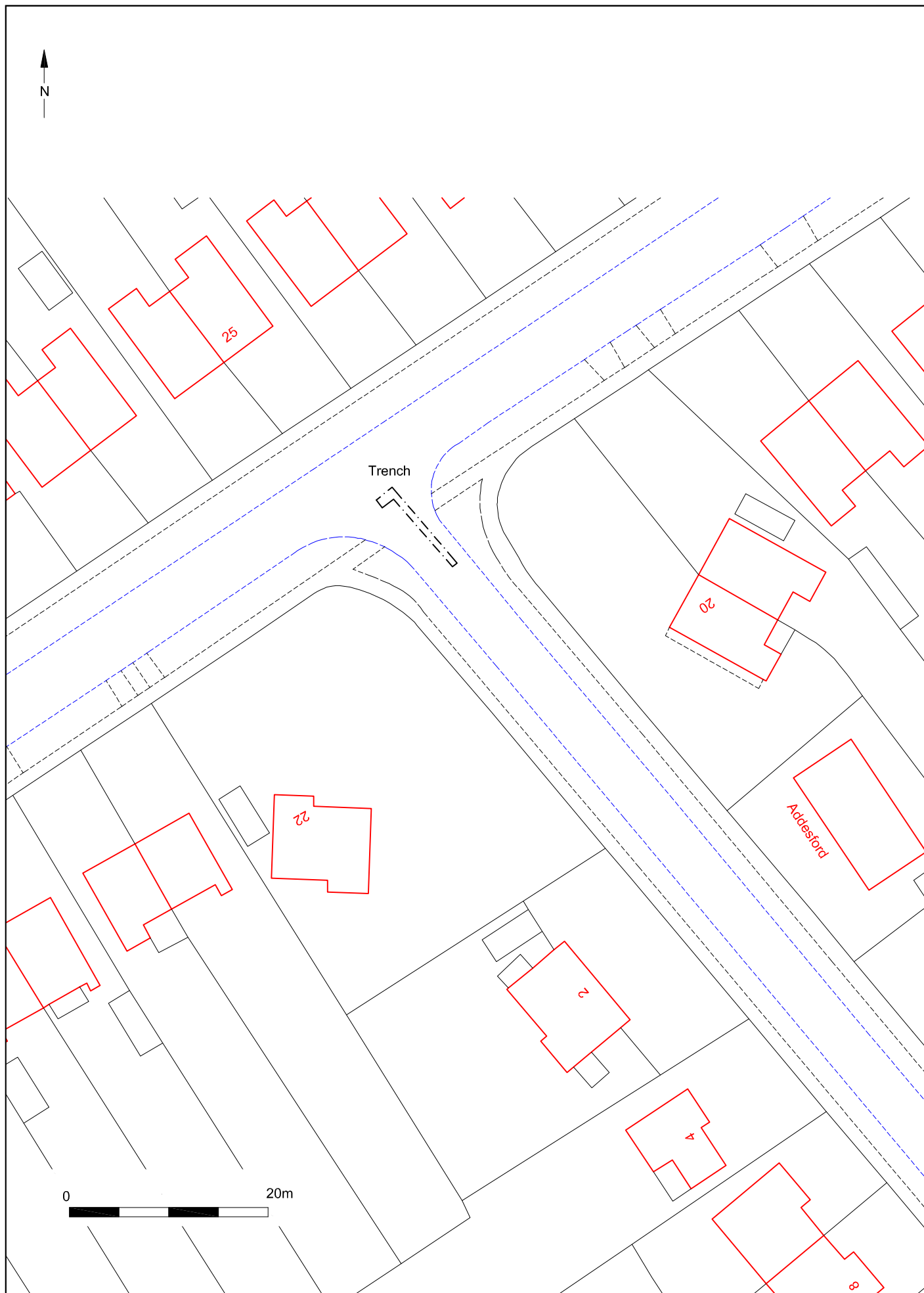
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Broad Road Willingdon
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Deon whittaker
Other bibliographic details	2008073
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	archaeology south east
Place of issue or publication	portslade
Description	A4 word processed in Ariel 12 pnt clear plastic cover bound
Entered by	deon Whittaker (mushak@hotmail.co.uk)
Entered on	2 June 2008

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© Archaeology South-East		Broad Road, Willingdon	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3095	Sept 2008	Site Location	
Report Ref: 2008073	Drawn by: JLR		

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© Archaeology South-East		Broad Road, Willingdon	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 3095	June 2008	Site plan with trench location	
Report Ref: 2008073	Drawn by: SM		

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