

Walberton Neighbourhood Plan Archaeology Report February 2020

This is an updated proposal to be considered by the Steering Group to decide whether and what new policy should be added to the “made” Neighbourhood Plan to give protection to known non-statutory sites of archaeological interest.

- 1. Background:** an outline policy was deleted from the original draft Neighbourhood Plan by ADC. It had been rather clumsily drafted as a joint policy to protect locally important archaeology and wildlife sites. Rightly, ADC considered they should be treated as separate subjects. However, in the Review, we are adopting a new policy to protect wildlife by way of identifying Biodiversity Corridors.
- 2. The Historical Resource:** Walberton Parish contains 39 listed buildings and 2 Scheduled Monuments (both ancient earthworks north of the A27 in Fairmile Bottom woodlands and Goblestubbs Copse); these are recorded in WSCC’s Historic Environment Record (HER). In recent years, Worthing Archaeological Society has been active in excavating a Roman villa opposite Blacksmith’s Corner, east of Yapton Lane, and a medieval tile kiln just off Binsted Lane opposite the Black Horse PH.

West Sussex County Council maintains a valuable record of many archaeological events and finds over the years in the HER. It records individual sites and events that have added to our knowledge of the past. Dozens of records are recorded in Walberton Parish. This bank of knowledge is increased every year as new sites are investigated and as new techniques are developed. In its supplementary planning guidance on

Archaeology, Arun District Council notes that these records are subject to continual change and need to be continually updated.

As examples:

- a) recently, a LIDAR survey of the woodlands to the north of our parish is thought to have identified the exact route of the west-east Roman Road from Chichester to Arundel and beyond, linking a series of farmsteads and villas.
- b) archaeological surveys are often required in advance of new housing development; as a result, new evidence of Roman occupation was revealed at Fontwell Meadows and evidence of occupation as far back as the Bronze Age is expected to be announced at Avisford Grange housing site.

The good news is that our knowledge of our ancient heritage continues to grow. However, we have a concern that only a few sites have actual protection.

- 3. What is protected?** The two Scheduled Ancient Monuments have full statutory protection as being of national importance.

The HER not only identifies known sites but does also delineate areas where it is anticipated there could be signs of past communities: they are called Archaeological Notification Areas (ANAs). These are not exactly given protection in Arun's Local Plan, but any proposed development in those areas the designation should be a warning to ensure the sites' potential archaeological importance is acknowledged as before an application is processed.

There are only 4 areas of open land in the parish designated as ANAs:

- Land at Hedgers Hill where there was a medieval tile kiln
- Two areas of Land opposite Blacksmith's Corner which includes the site of the Roman villa
- Land at Lower Farm, east of Yapton Lane, the site of the recently constructed solar farm.
- Land at Fontwell soon to be developed as Fontwell Meadows
- Other ANA sites in the parish are the curtilages of farmhouses and parish churches

Inevitably, it sometimes takes several years to add new sites to records such as the HER. The review of the Neighbourhood Plan is an opportunity to bring some protection to sites recently identified but as yet unlisted:

- Iron Age earthworks at Hundred House Copse just south of the A27
- On the same site what is believed to be an Anglo-Saxon Moot Mound (see vol. 155 of Sussex Archaeological Collections)
- A medieval tile kiln in the field opposite the Black Horse Public House
- The defined actual route of the Roman Road as identified by the Historic England's LIDAR study, commissioned by South Downs National Park.

It is interesting to note that the former Tupper's Field was not within an ANA and yet a full survey was called for – probably because it is on the edge of an ancient village and contiguous to the Blacksmith's Corner ANA. Sure enough much new data was discovered tracing various settlements dating back some 5,000 years.

4. Proposal: It is proposed that a new policy should be added to the Plan:

POLICY - Archaeology

Development proposals that may impact on the following non-designated archaeological sites, shown on Map XX, must respect the site as a heritage asset. Development will not be supported unless developers can demonstrate that an alternate location is not possible, If development is essential, the area to be disturbed will first be subject to a full archaeological survey, the results of which will be published.

- 1. Land at Hundred House Copse being the location of an Iron Age earthworks and, in the same area, the suspected Anglo Sussex Moot Mound**
- 2. The site of a medieval tile kiln in the field opposite the Black Horse Public House**
- 3. The actual route of the Roman Road as identified by the 2016 LIDAR survey.**
- 4. The ANA (DWS 8478) on the east side of Yapton Lane opposite Blacksmiths Corner.**