

Introduction

Worthing Archaeological Society Field Unit (WAS FU) have been undertaking some activities in the Slindon Estate Stable Yard. These activities have consisted of removing vegetation and recording the plan of the west wing of the stable yard.

One of the features identified is a modern trench dug to accommodate a gas pipe for the Slindon Estate office. This trench cuts through the brick foundations of the third bay (located in NW corner) of the western arm of the stable block. See figure 1 – the foundations are located on left hand side of the block arch.



Figure 1 - West Wing of Stable Yard

It was noted that the five courses of brick are more than has been found elsewhere on the site. A sondage was excavated and revealed 10 courses of brick and what appears to be the left-hand side of an arch. Figure 2 shows the arch on the bottom right, (excavation was still on-going when this photo was taken).



Figure 2 - Wall foundation with arch appearing bottom right

Aim

The aim of the proposed excavation is to understand the construction of the foundation wall, to understand extent and function of the possible arch already located and to see if there is another arch to the east of this one.

Approach

The excavation will consist of one trench, to be located adjacent to the wall foundations and the wall running N-S. Trench Length 4.3m x 1.5m. The primary focus being to expose the southern and eastern sections of the foundations.

Under WAS insurance the trench can be up to 2m deep. A step will be incorporated into the side of the trench to provide easy access and exit.

The number of excavators will be limited to six.

The spoil heap is to be located north of the skip.

All finds to be retained.

Health & Safety

- a. The western end of trench will stop 0.5m before the trench for the gas pipe.
- b. Hard hats to be worn once the trench is 1.0m deep i.e., head is below the surface.
- c. Limit activities to either mattocking or trowelling - but not both at same time.
- d. Trench to contain a step running along the N side to assist entry and exit from the trench.
- e. The existing spoil heap is too close to the proposed trench, so will be moved before the trench is excavated. The oil drum located alongside the skip may also need to be moved.
- f. The trench is to be fenced off with Harris barrier or equivalent.
- g. Ensure a distance of 1m minimum between edge of trench and skip - this might reduce the width of the trench at this point.

Recording

The initial excavation of the sondage indicated two contexts, the upper one containing brick, tile and slate, the lower context contained only chalk rubble. So will see if this is true for the rest of the trench.

Section drawing of the wall foundations to be done at a scale of 1:10.

Time Scales

Estimate three days for excavation. Possible dates 31st August to 2nd September, with 7th to 9th September as contingency.