

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD NOTEBOOK 2001**

**A RECORD OF THE PROJECTS OF THE:**

**BRIGHTON AND HOVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
FIELD UNIT**

# CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
EXCAVATIONS AT 22 STANFORD AVENUE, BRIGHTON, SUSSEX	2
INTRODUCTION	2
THE EXCAVATION	2
THE FEATURES	2
THE FINDS	3
The Pottery	3
Fabrics	3
Flint Material	3
Mollusc	3
Metal Finds	3
Bone	4
Clay Pipes	4
Contemporary Finds	4
CONCLUSIONS	4
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	5
REFERENCES:-	5
Fig 1 - Plan	6
Fig 2 - Section	7
Fig 3 – West End Section	8
EXCAVATIONS AT ROCKY CLUMP, STANMER, BRIGHTON	9
INTRODUCTION	9
THE FEATURES	10
The East/West Ditch	10
The South Section Context 525	10
The North Section Context 536	11
The Dog Burial	12
The Cow Burial	13
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY	13
THE FINDS	13
The Pottery	13
The Bone	14
The Molluscs	14
The Metalwork	14
The Stone Artefacts	14
CONCLUSIONS	14
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	17
ROCKY CLUMP POTTERY UPDATE: AUTUMN 2001	19
POTTERY FINDS AT ROCKY CLUMP	21
ROCKY CLUMP POTTERY ANALYSIS	23
DESCRIPTION	23
Fig 1 - Plan	25
Fig 2 – Trench J	26
Fig 3 – Trench Details	27
Fig 4 – Soil Contexts	28
Fig 5 – Context 542, 574, 575	29
Fig 6 – Context 577	30
Fig 7 – Context 551, 546, 558 and 573	31
Fig 8 – Cut 512	32
EXCAVATIONS AT DEVIL'S DYKE ROAD BRIGHTON	33

FIELD WALKING AT COLDEAN (CALLED EAST FIELD), BRIGHTON	35
INTRODUCTION	35
METHODOLOGY	35
THE FINDS (EAST FIELD)	36
Flintwork	36
Pottery	36
Molluscs	36
Miscellaneous	36
DISCUSSION	36
BIBLIOGRAPHY	38
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	38
Fig 1 – Site Plan	39
Fig 2 - Flintwork	40
Fig 3 – Fire Cracked Flint	41
Fig 4 – Flint Tools	42
Fig 5 – Roman Pottery	43
Fig 6 - Molluscs	44
GEOPHYSICS AT BINSTEAD, WEST SUSSEX	45
INTRODUCTION	45
METHODOLOGY	45
CONCLUSIONS	45
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	45
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY AT BEEDINGS WEST SUSSEX	47
INTRODUCTION	47
METHODOLOGY	47
CONCLUSIONS	47
Fig 1 - Plan	48
Fig 2 – Geophysics 1	49
Fig 3 – Geophysics 2	50
GEOPHYSICS AT BEEDINGS ‘CASTLE’ NUTBOURNE, WEST SUSSEX	51
INTRODUCTION	51
METHODOLOGY	51
CONCLUSIONS	51
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	52
Fig 1 - Plan	53
Fig 2 - Geophysics	54
GEOPHYSICS AT NEW PLACE, PULBOROUGH	55
INTRODUCTION	55
METHODOLOGY	55
CONCLUSIONS	55
Fig 1 – New Place Drawing	57
Fig 2 – Site Plan	58
Fig 3 – Geophysics 1	59
Fig 4 – Geophysics 2	60
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY AT LAVANT ROAD CHICHESTER	61
INTRODUCTION	61
METHODOLOGY	61
NO 11 LAVANT ROAD	61
NO 51 LAVANT ROAD.	61
CONCLUSIONS	61
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	62
Fig 1 – Geophysics at Lavent Road	63
NEW EARTHWORKS IN STANMER WOODS, BRIGHTON	64

INTRODUCTION	64
PUDDING BAG WOOD	64
TUMULUS AT STANMER GREAT WOOD	64
STANMER GREAT WOOD	64
CONCLUSIONS	65
Fig 1 – Site Plan	66
MISCELLANEOUS NOTES 2001	67
SEA HENGE AT MEDINA VILLAS	67
WELL AT PATCHAM PLACE	67
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEFS	68
LOCATION: WILD PARK, LEWES ROAD, BRIGHTON	68
Fig 1 – Lithic Artefacts	69
9 ROEDEAN CRESCENT ROEDEAN	70
Fig 1 – Plan	72
47 THE CLIFF, ROEDEAN	73
34 THE CLIFF, ROEDEAN	74
172 SAUNDERS HILL, COLDEAN, BRIGHTON	75
BALSDEAN FARM	77
BRIGHTON AND HOVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD UNIT 2001 AND ATTENDANCE RECORD	78
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	80

## Introduction

The beginning of 2001 brought the spectre of foot and mouth to the whole country. Sussex did not suffer outbreaks of the disease and this may have been a result of the restrictions placed on entering the countryside. The loss of access to Stanmer postponed the excavations at Rocky Clump until the late summer, the excavations beginning in the latter part of August. The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit were fortunately given access to a garden in Stanford Avenue, Brighton, and this location was close to the known site of the Preston Road Roman villa. During the summer months the BHAS Field Unit moved en-masse to the excavations at Barcombe, where a joint project by University College London and the Mid Sussex Field Archaeological Team (MSFAT) was excavating an extensive Roman villa. The rescue excavation at Barcombe is of a considerable size and required assistance by other local groups.

An extensive programme of research included, surveying in Stanmer Woods, field walking at Coldean and a number of resistivity surveys. During 2001 the majority of geophysical surveys were conducted in West Sussex at the request of several local groups, including the Worthing Archaeological Society, the Chichester group, the Wealden Buildings Group and Caroline Wells, a teacher in Archaeology in the Pulborough area. The resistivity surveying in East Sussex was concentrated around the excavations at Rocky Clump, Stanmer.

The BHAS Field Unit has continued to thrive adding new members to the group throughout the year. A number of members have moved out of the area including Gary Bishop and Pauline Phillips. Gary Bishop had been co-director of the excavations at Rocky Clump during the past 4 seasons.

The unit's educational programme has continued with training in techniques of excavation, planning, section drawing, surveying and geophysics. The winter programme included a day school in the identification of glass, visits to museums including the British Museum and a number of visits to sites of antiquity including Combe Hill near Eastbourne.

In this year's note book reports and short notes have been added of excavations and projects undertaken by the unit with other groups. A number of miscellaneous notes are also covered, these being observations brought to the attention of the Society by members of the public and investigated by the Society. The final section of the note book is dedicated to the observations noted during watching briefs. A number of watching briefs were conducted by the Society producing very little finds of both features and artefacts. However, one particular watching brief at Roedean Crescent revealed a previously unknown underground chamber, probably dating to the Second World War. The future programme for the BHAS Field Unit continues to involve both research and excavation projects. Training will continue to be an important function of the Society and members will be encouraged to participate in the archaeological training courses organised by University College London at their excavations at the Barcombe Roman villa. A number of members of the Field Unit attended the courses in 2001. Excavation, field walking and geophysics are all planned for 2002.

# Excavations at 22 Stanford Avenue, Brighton, Sussex

## Introduction

In the early part of April 2001 the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit were invited to dig in the garden of 22 Stanford Avenue, Brighton. The house is owned by the Diocese of Chichester and written permission for the excavation was received prior to commencement of works. The house and garden lie close to the site of a known Roman villa in Springfield Road investigated in the later part of the 19th century and published as a report in the Sussex Archaeological Collections (Dudley). The garden of 22 Stanford Avenue is approximately 180 metres to the east of the villa and an archaeological assessment allowed an opportunity to investigate the possibility of out buildings associated with the villa settlement being located in this area.

## The Excavation

A trench was set out in the garden to the south of the house. The trench measured 5 metres by 2.5 metres (see fig1). An area of weed and rubbish was initially cleared prior to digging. The garden was found to be very disturbed stratigraphically. After removal of top soil and leaf mould the remains of a children's sand pit (Context 02 and see fig 2) was found in the east side of the trench, the west side of the trench came down on to a hard layer of black clinker.(Context04) A linear feature ran between the sand pit and clinker layer and was thought to be a possible utility trench (context 06/10). The fill of the ditch feature contained mainly chalky rubble overlying a considerable quantity of broken tiles. Once the contemporary layers had been removed layers of medium brown chalky loam(Context 03) were reached interspersed with dark layers of deposited rubble. The removal of this layer produced a new layer of clay with flint. A number of features were observed as possible post holes, (Contexts 11 and 12), but the holes were very shallow being only 20 millimetres in depth and produced no finds. A rubbish pit of contemporary material (context 14) cut into the clay(context 14) and it was from around this feature, but not actually in it that the 4 sherds of Roman pottery and single sherd of Medieval pottery were found.

The excavation continued, being trowelled in the central area of the trench only. At the east and west ends of the trench 1 metre wide sections were cut deeper into the clay, the west end (see fig3) produced few flint nodules but the east section produced flint nodules of considerable size. The final section of the excavation came below the clay with flint when the chalk natural bedrock was encountered. The sections were cleaned back and a number of irregular features observed.

## The Features

A possible ditch and pit were recorded in the west end section (see fig3), but upon excavation were found to be a natural erosion of the chalk by the clay with flint upper layer, no finds were recovered and the features were considered to be either the result of root or water action.

## The Finds

### The Pottery

A total of 48 sherds of pottery and glazed ceramics were recovered from the excavation. The majority of pieces were of 20<sup>th</sup> century dating with only 4 sherds of Roman (8%) and 1 sherd of Medieval (2%) producing evidence of earlier periods.

### Fabrics

- Sherd 1) Roman (possibly Iron Age) Heavily oxidised black pottery small flint inclusions 0.5-1.5mm
- Sherd 2) Roman Buff brown sand textured fabric (Rim piece)
- Sherd 3) Roman Orange/pink sand textured fabric, coated.
- Sherd 4) Roman Brown flint calcined 0.3-1.5mm fabric
- Sherd 5) Medieval pink/grey sand tempered thumbbed decorated piece

The contemporary ceramics contained various glazes and colours with some decorated pieces among the collection.

### Flint Material

A total of 98 pieces of flint were collected from the excavation from all layers. The patination of the flint artefacts varies from white, to grey, blue and brown suggesting that much of the material is re-deposited. The number of flakes retaining sections of cortex was 44 (45%), and 9 flakes (9%) were probably created using soft hammer techniques.

Flint flakes	62
Cores	2
Bladelet	1
Notched piece	1
Fire cracked	32
Total pieces	98

### Mollusc

A total of 5 pieces of oyster shell were collected

### Metal Finds

The trench produced significant quantities of contemporary material including a button and a thimble. A single piece of lead was found. A number of metal nails were found, 15 in total, but all were of recent manufacture.

## **Bone**

Several pieces of bone were found (8) including 3 teeth, one piece had some signs of being knawed.

## **Clay Pipes**

Clay pipe stems were found, 3 in total, and the thin section of these items places the dating to the late 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century (Atkinson)

## **Contemporary Finds**

Finds of brick (12), tile (9), slate (1) and glass (17) were also found with a single piece of foreign stone of indeterminate geology. The children's sand pit produced a number of pieces of toy wheels and plastic Lego, plus a Rupert doll.

## **Conclusions**

The small section cut into the garden at Stanford Avenue produced considerable evidence for disturbance over the past century. On the ordnance survey map of 1864 the area is shown as open pasture and it was not until the latter part of the 19th century that this part of Brighton was built upon. The various layers in the garden of number 22 clearly show that several layers of loam have been deposited on top of the clay with flint layer overlying the chalk bedrock. Cutting into these loam layers were a number of features. A children's sand pit was created on the east side of the garden and the area of solid black clinker material suggests a firm base for some form of structure. At a later period a trench was dug through a number of these layers but, as no trace was found of any utility usage other than a few broken tiles, it is not known for what purpose this was constructed.

The evidence for utilisation of the garden area during the periods of antiquity is very ephemeral. Roman villas and their outlying buildings can extend for some considerable distance away from the main building. Classic examples of villa complexes include Bignor and the recently excavated sites of Northbrook College, Goring and Beddingham villa at Preston Court Farm, Glynde. These past excavations give some indication of exactly how far some out buildings can be located away from the central house. The small section cut in the garden at 22 Stanford Avenue was certainly within the expected confines of such a settlement. The few sherds of Roman pottery do hint at some association with the known Villa. However, the degraded nature and size of the pottery sherds do not allow sufficient dating of the pieces to suggest that they are from an early phase contemporary with the villa, although the presence is sufficient to suggest that the land in this section of Brighton was being utilised.



The lack of building evidence in this small trench is important in that even negative results need to be recorded and the accurate location preserved for future reference. The small amount of evidence produced does indicate some possible link to the villa site, albeit a small one, and the small section excavated cannot rule out the possibility that other buildings may lay close by in this vicinity and that future opportunities to excavate other sections in adjacent gardens should be encouraged wherever possible.

### **Acknowledgements**

The author would like to thank Mr Neil Morgan, Mr Leo Jago and the Diocese of Chichester for allowing access to the garden and to the members of the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit who conducted the excavation.

### **References:-**

**Atkinson D.R. 'Sussex Clay Tobacco Pipes and the Pipemakers'**

**Dudley C. & Kelly E. 'Two Romano-British Burials' Sussex Arch Colls 119, 65-88**

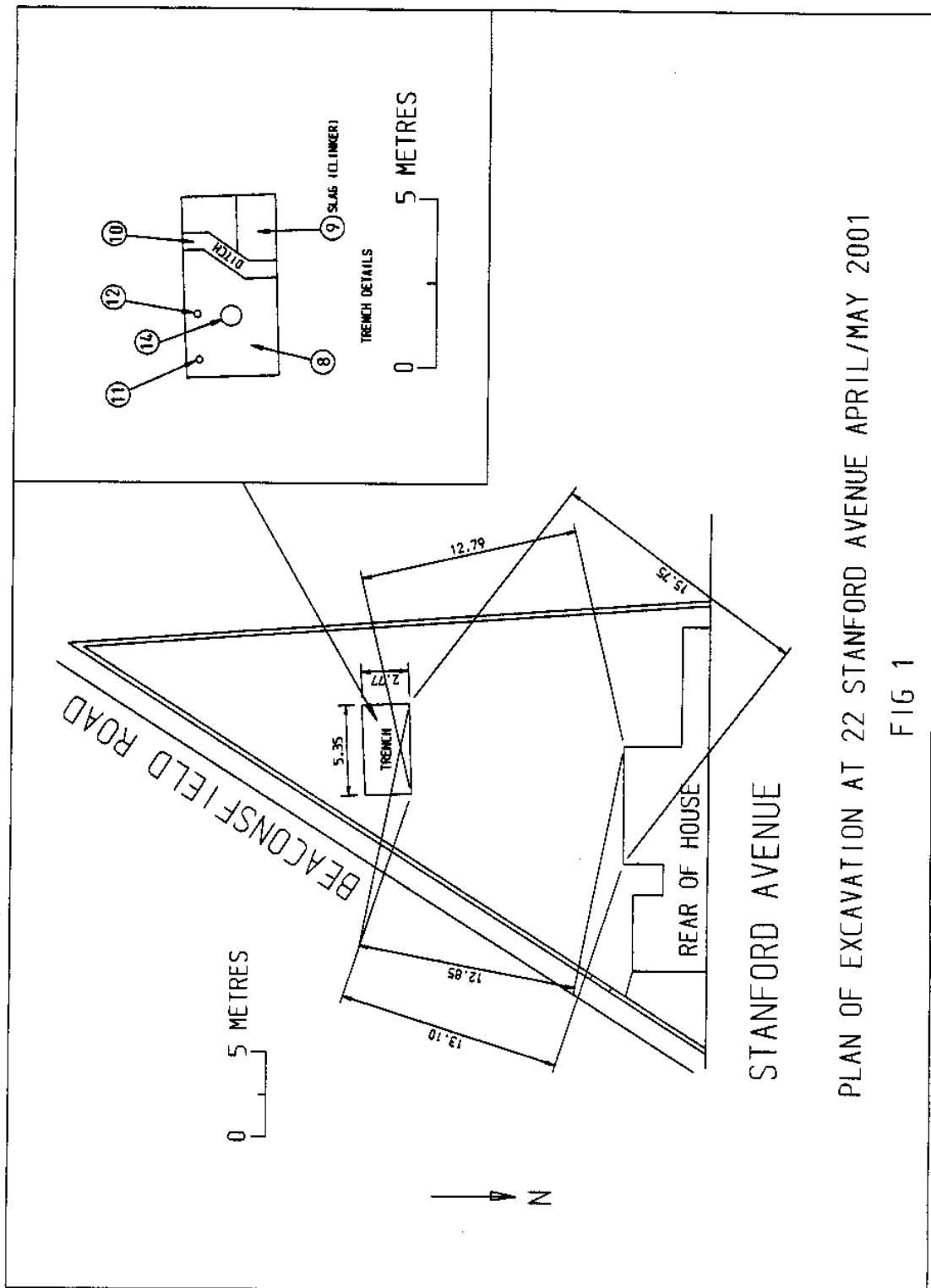


Fig 1 - Plan

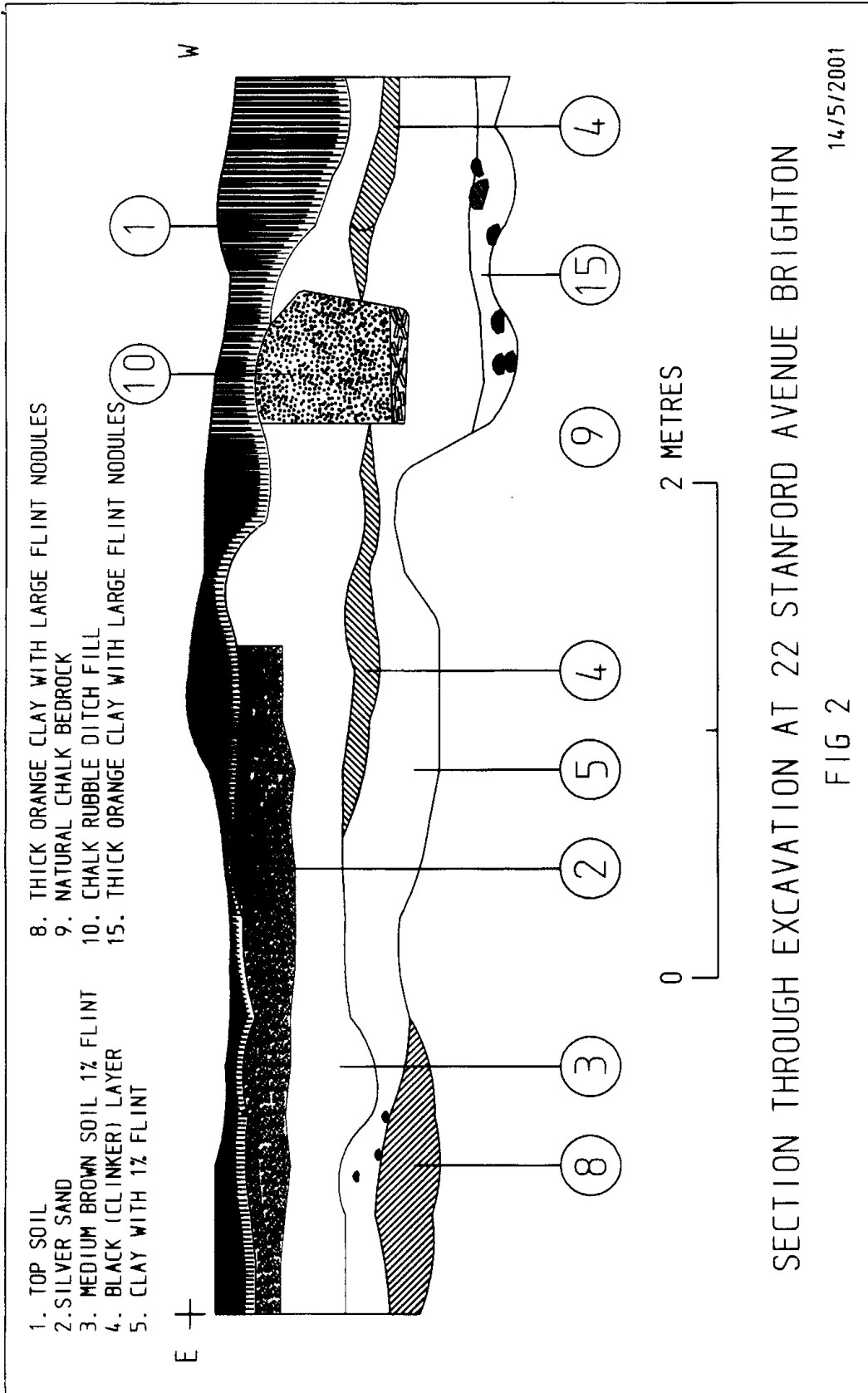
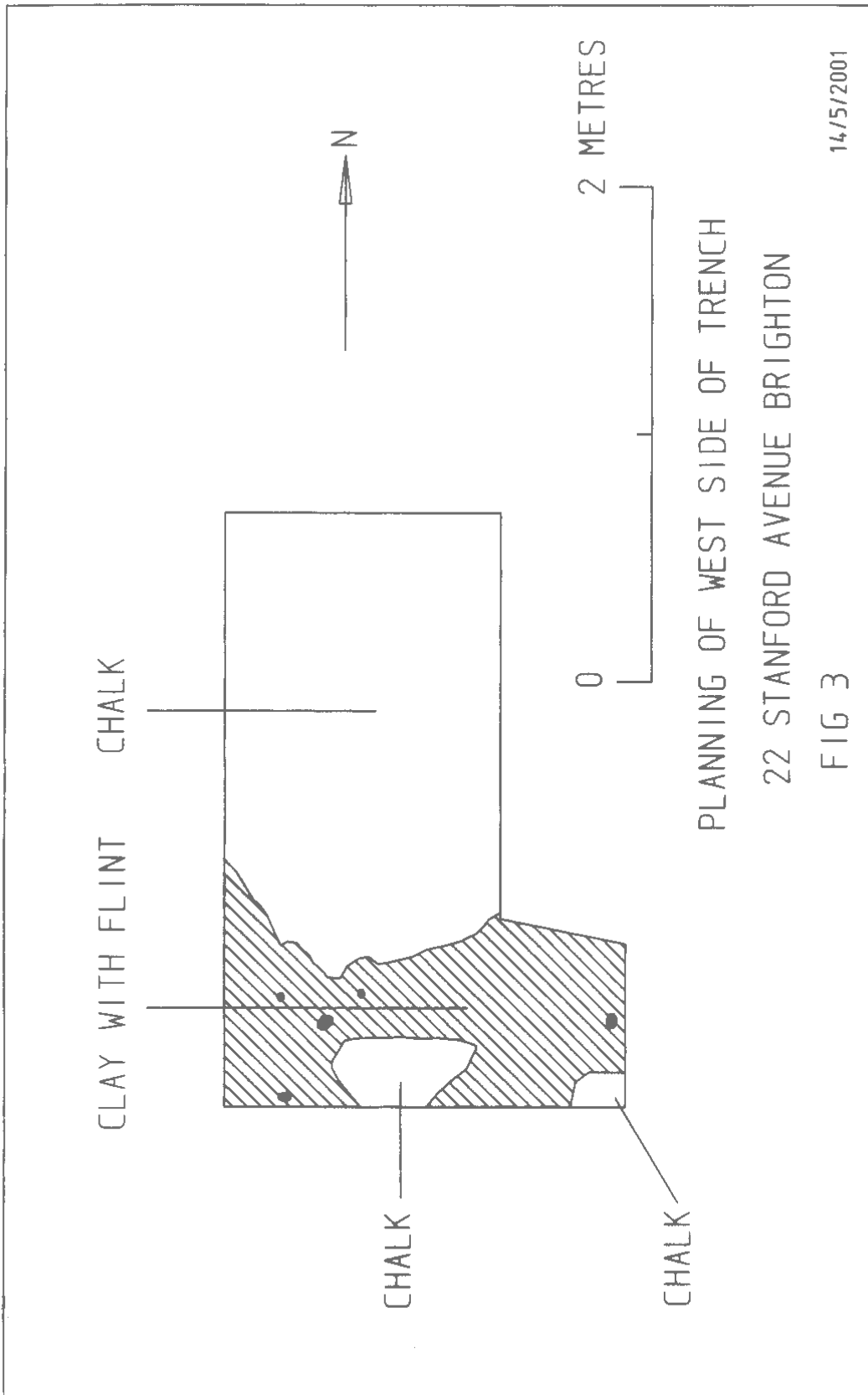


Fig 2 - Section



**Fig 3 – West End Section**

# Excavations At Rocky Clump, Stanmer, Brighton

## Interim Report 2001

### Introduction

As a result of the restrictions imposed during the foot and mouth epidemic, access was denied to the site in Stanmer and the excavations at Rocky Clump in 2001 did not begin until August. The excavations attracted between 10 and 12 people per day during the time on site although this number diminished as the colder weather encroached. The final day on site for the 2001 season was late December. A total of 52 members participated in the excavation during the season with training conducted in both section drawing and site planning. (Fig 1.)

The newly opened site area covered 60 square metres and was extended by a further 40 square metres northward to allow members of the Young Archaeologists Club, (Y.A.C.), access to the excavations by removing the top soil layers in this latter section.

Excavations on the main trench (Trench J Fig 2.), had commenced in the latter part of 2000. The ditch was not touched until 2001 with the exception of a section cutting through the feature to determine the depth and stratigraphy of the feature. The original plan had been to examine the large area of archaeology on the east side of the trench with a series of 2M square sections, but it soon became apparent that this approach would be of little significance as the archaeological features were of an extended nature. The plan was altered with two sections being cut north and south of a central baulk, retained for stratigraphical purposes. The south section was focused on context number 525, and the north section on context 536. The trench was planned prior to any cuts being made and the significant flint depositions were recorded. A number of linear arrangements of flint could be discerned, but a large area of natural clay with flint, abounding the central section of the trench, with areas of protruding iron stone and reddened clay formed part of the natural geology. There was some concern about creative archaeology. The planning records the distribution of the flint consisting of a mixture of both large and medium nodules and covers both archaeological and geological surfaces.

The new area had been opened in an attempt to 'chase' the significant north/south ditch that had commenced under the floor of the enclosure building excavated in the previous seasons. The ditch ran north from within the confines of the enclosure and disappeared north under the baulk. A geophysical survey in 1999 had intimated that a number of linear arrangements of high readings could be the location of the footings of another farmstead building. The north/south ditch was observed to disappear into a much larger area of archaeology, widening significantly to the east as it moved northwards. A new east/west ditch, parallel to those found in the earlier excavations, joined the north/south ditch within this complex arrangement.

The new east/west ditch was sectioned in alternatively spaced 1 metre segments, with the section drawings recording both the width and the length of the ditch. The east/west ditch section, up to context 573, was re-planned after the completion of its excavation.

The south section of the new excavation Context 525 proved to be a very complex series of features. The north/south ditch overlay a number of earlier features including pits, adjacent cuts, or sub ditches, and charcoal areas. The north section contained a number of layers and cuts with the north/south ditch and a large pit (Context 542) providing a relatively simple stratigraphical record.

## **The Features**

### **The East/West Ditch**

The excavation of the east/west ditch (contexts 512-573) revealed that the feature was in fact a pair of ditches, re-cut at some time in antiquity. The earlier ditch was located on the north side, this feature was vertical on both sides, but was cut by the later ditch to the south. The cut had left a small ridge running between the two ditch sections. The earlier north ditch terminated at a deposit of clay with flint. The south ditch carried on through eastwards joining the large north/south ditch at a junction under the remaining baulk. The east/west ditch widens as it moves east and also deepens quite dramatically on to a wide chalk platform. The fill of the ditches consisted of an upper layer of chalky loam, a secondary layer of more chalky loam but with a greater quantity of small chalk nodules. The primary fill consisted of chalk nodules. At the east end of this ditch was found an upper fill of large flint nodules, these were badly disturbed by ploughing, but were significant by their concentration and none were found in the ditch sections further to the west of context 573. Finds from the ditches were few with small fragments of pottery and small pieces of bone being the only items.

### **The South Section Context 525**

The area defined as context 525 contains a number of other contexts, (Fig.3) detailed as we progress into the report. The top soil layers incorporated both 525 and 526 contexts. The top soil layer consisted of a loose black silty fill and during its removal the underlying layer was found to contain a deposition of large and medium flint nodules and a large section of iron-stone, protruding from an earlier pit (Context 575). The black silty layer was identified as the fill of the north/south ditch. The ditch contained a number of discreet areas of differing constituents. The fill in the south/east section and the north west area of the ditch contained a large amount of flint material, (contexts 525B and 525C). The area around the south east corner of the ditch, (context 525D), was of a much softer texture and lacking flint nodules in the fill. As the excavation of the area progressed deeper it became apparent that a layer of large flint nodules overlay the whole ditch. The planning of this area tends to show that a 'cobbled floor' lay across the whole section, but had sunk at the western side into the soft silty fill of the ditch.

The finds from the upper layers of this section included significant quantities of bone and pottery. It was from a layer immediately below the cobbles that the complete articulated burial of a dog was found.

The east side of context 525 was excavated down to a layer of chalk rubble. During the planning of this area it was noted that a large circular cut lay below the cobbled layer. The

north section of this feature (context 575/577) still lies under the remaining baulk. The chalk rubble was removed and came down on to a number of crude round shaped depressions. Very few finds were recovered from this chalky rubble level.

Once the level of the ditch had been taken down to that of the lower chalk rubble surface it was noted that other features lay below and inside of the north/south ditch fill. A layer of large flint nodules and a large fragment of ironstone hinted at the location of a possible pit or post hole. However removal of the large pieces of stone found no evidence below of a any distinct pipe or post fill, the sub-surface blended in with the remaining silty ditch fill. An area of burning and concentrations of charcoal were noted in an area to the east of where the stone items from the possible post hole were found (context 578). A section cut through this feature produced a small round based pit containing significant quantities of charcoal.

The circular feature (context 575/577) was sectioned and contained a loamy, chalk rubble fill. Among the finds from this feature were two pieces of white decorated from a Gallo-Belgic ware beaker, dated to the 1st century A.D. (pers comm. Malcolm Lyne). The pit had been cut into the chalk and down onto a flat bottomed base. As the sectioned progressed it was noted that the west side of the pit continued down, and was deeper than the east side. This side of the pit was round bottomed and cut into the main north/south ditch section.

At a deeper level, a new smaller vertical sided ditch section was found, running below and parallel to the main north/south ditch. A second small ditch was uncovered to the east of the main ditch, again running parallel to the main ditch, but cut by the pit (context 575/577). The south terminus of this small ditch is cut into the natural chalk. The main north/south section has a sloping side on its west face, but is very irregular on the east side being cut by so many features. At the lower main ditch level a platform appeared. This lowest level of the north/south ditch is still to be excavated.

### **The North Section Context 536**

The area north of the remaining baulk was excavated as top soil (contexts 536, 537 and 538). The layer below the top soil contained a fill of medium brown chalky loam, although on the east side (context 538) a deposit of flint nodules covered a length almost 2 metre wide. The removal of the medium brown layer revealed a distinct archaeological boundary of two distinct variations divided by a linear arrangement of flint nodules, a 'flint' wall feature (context 536D). The west side of the wall feature had a fill of chalk nodules and was a distinct pink colour. The fill on the east side of the wall was a dark silty fill, similar in colour and texture to that of the ditch fill in context 525. The chalk area produced virtually no finds whereas the dark fill produced finds of pottery, shell, bone and metalwork. The metal work included a coin which is too eroded to be dated but in form appears to be a barbarous radiate.

As the area was excavated, and as it became deeper, it produced a distinct curved end on the east side. The west end, dropped by a sloping side, from the natural chalk onto a chalk terrace. The flint 'wall' feature continued in depth onto this terrace. A second wall, very ephemeral in nature, was found running parallel to the first wall on the east side of

the section. The distance between the two features measured 3 metres exactly. This new linear feature did not maintain the depth of the first wall on the west side.

The deeper the cut was excavated the more defined became the north/south ditch. The east side of the 536 section was clear and distinct, but it was cut by the wall on the west side. The east side of this very large section continued to be a well defined apsidal shape the deeper the area was excavated. The dark silty fill of the ditch lay above a layer of compact chalk, located between the east side of the north/side ditch and the apsidal east side. After this level had been cleared and cleaned a large pit was noted cutting into the compact chalk. The pit was sectioned and contained Roman pottery including a number of pieces of Samian Ware. The pit was completely excavated, but when the section was being completed it was found that the bottom of the pit came down onto a collection of bone. Once the pit had been completely excavated the bottom layer was found to have a large burial with the bones disappearing into the chalk rubble fill comprising the sides of the pit previously excavated.

The excavation of the north section continued downwards and as it progressed and the chalk rubble was removed the complete skeleton of a cow was revealed. The cow had been buried in a large pit at the east end of the large apsidal pit. The north/south ditch cut deeper into the chalk bedrock at the west end. The lower fills of this ditch contained significant quantities of oyster shell and dis-articulated bones including a number of skulls. A flat pebble 'rubbing stone' lay next to one skull and a perforated metal strip appeared to adorn the brow of another skull. The removal of the remaining chalk rubble came down onto natural chalk. The area below the large north/south ditch was found to contain a smaller deeper ditch below it, matching the lower contexts found in the context 525 lower ditch section. In the lowest depths of this lower ditch were found the remains of a scapula belonging to a cow. After final excavation another 'peculiar' feature was noted. The west side of the pit containing the cow burial dropped down to a flat platform with a circular edge on its north side, the fills of this depression were very complex with a number of different soils.

The contents of the large pit 536 are a complex set of features. On the west side lies the natural chalk layer beneath the plough soil. Moving eastwards a ditch side drops sharply down to a terrace, this continues east until another drop occurs where the north/south ditch edge is located. At the bottom of this large ditch section lies the cut of the smaller vertical sided ditch. As the cut continues eastwards the circular cut of the flat bottomed area disappears into the baulk on the north side. To the east of this circular platform is a raised edge after which is cut the pit into which the cow was buried. The far east edge of this large pit is the apsidal shaped almost vertical side of the pit. At the farthest point north in the excavations the north/south ditch has reached a width of 2.5M with a depth of 1.2M. The excavations have now produced three significant sections running from east to west, with a well defined stratigraphy.

## **The Dog Burial**

The dog burial found beneath context 525D has been examined by the Booth Museum. The dog is almost complete lacking, curiously, only three femurs. The dog had been carefully buried lying on its back with the head to the west. There have been four dog burials found at Rocky Clump (Ref Bones Report by Georgina Slater 1999) including one



of which, from the assemblage, was also a complete burial, but was a dis-articulated recovery. The 2001 dog burial was of an old animal, it was a bitch, and suffered badly in its later years with severe arthritis. (Pers comm Jeremy Adams Booth Museum). The Booth Museum have suggested that as the creature had lived so long and was then buried, this infers some affection for the animal and that it probably was a family pet.

## **The Cow Burial**

The burial of the complete cow is an interesting feature. The bone collection was complete with only the horns being sawn off and removed. The animal was buried with its head in the north east and the feet to the south west. The burial lay to the north west side of the burial pit with a space remaining on the opposite side. The feet were located close together in the south west corner. Other items found within the burial pit included pottery, dis-articulated sheep bones, including a jaw bone, and a flint flake.

## **Geophysical Survey**

During the period of excavation another resistivity survey was conducted around the site. An area to the north of the open trench measuring, 40M wide, and another area 40M wide to the west of the open excavation were investigated. The new area formed an 'L' shape around the current excavations. The results from the survey were the most revealing from any of the previous surveys conducted.

The images produced clearly defined the ditch running west as well as the east/west ditch excavated in previous seasons. The parallel ditches appear to link with a much larger ditch on the west side of the field. The new north/south ditch is running northwards down the hill towards the area known as Flint Heap. Other features include an area of low resistance immediately north of the open trench. The existing north section clearly shows that the natural chalk is cut by the north/south ditch on the west side, and a sharp edge is well defined on the east. The area within these edges contains significant quantities of low readings, suggesting some form of fill. It was also observed that where the east/west ditches join the new north/south ditch, significant areas of low readings may suggest a number of very large pits.

## **The Finds**

### **The Pottery**

A separate pottery report is appended to this interim report, compiled by a member of the unit, Richard Pulley, who is studying Roman pottery under the guidance of Mr Malcom Lyne. Initial examination of sherds from the north/south ditch suggests that they are of 1st century dating, a date recorded for the earlier sections of the ditch previously excavated further south.

## **The Bone**

The dog and cow burials were the main finds of the season. The large ditch section in both north (context 536) and south (context 525) areas produced significant amounts of animal bone in the lower ditch fills. A significant amount of skull material was recovered with some long bone also among the finds.

## **The Molluscs**

The lower ditch fills produced significant finds of marine mollusc with oyster being the predominant species. The shell was generally recovered in association with bone material. Oyster shells, however, have been a general find over the whole site including the top soil layers.

## **The Metalwork**

The predominant find from the site this season has been the number of nails, including some very large ones from the middle layers of ditch section context 536.

## **The Stone Artefacts**

During the excavation a number of rubbing stones were recovered. The rubbing stones found included a number of large flat pebbles. The finds processing confirmed a number of square edged fine pieces of rubbing stone. These fragments of rubbing stone were of a fine gritted material, used for fine rubbing, or for use as metal honing or sharpening devices.

## **Conclusions**

The year 2001 proved to be a shortened digging season due to the outbreak of foot and mouth, and the resulting restriction of access to Stanmer. Despite this earlier set-back the excavations at Rocky Clump have added greatly to our knowledge of Romano-British low status farmsteads. The excavation continues to produce new evidence about these forms of settlement and provides details of the previously unknown arrangements of agricultural environments. New evidence has stimulated debate into the methods and practises associated with farming in this period.

The complexity of the site is shown by the stratigraphy of the area excavated in 2001. The extension to the previous area excavated had anticipated finding a continuation of the main large ditch running from south to north across the site. However, the extension revealed not only the ditch but also a large area of archaeological features. The investigation of this large area had begun in the winter of 2000, but was largely carried out in 2001.

The results of the large sections in 525 and 536 have produced quite a number of significant finds and a stratigraphy that will allow 'in depth' examination of the remaining

baulk when it is removed in 2002. The top layer of the large feature contains a fill of silty dark soil with significant quantities of finds of shell, bone and pottery. The south and north sections are quite different in their configuration and stratigraphy. The upper layer of both sections was the dark silty fill. However, below this dark layer on the south side only (context 525) is a second layer of concentrated flint nodules. The flint is a mixture of both large and medium pieces. The spread suggests some form of crude floor area. The 'floor' in the south section extends to an area within the east section of the east/west ditch where it joins with the south/north ditch. The floor was found in isolated areas upon the natural chalk bedrock where it lay over solution material. A section of the floor was also found within the south/north ditch itself, where the heavier flint material had sunk into the softer under-lying fills. The extent of the floor is not known at this stage as it disappears into the baulk.

The ditch running from east to west was found to contain 2 cuts. The earlier of the cuts is the one to the north, the section reveals that the shallower south ditch does in fact remove the majority of fill of the earlier. The stratigraphy of this ditch has very few layers. The primary fill contained a vestige of chalk rubble which is expected in a chalk bedrock where frost damage would have initiated such a deposit. The second and third fills consisted of chalky loams with noticeably greater amounts of medium chalk nodules in the upper fill. The upper fill also contained a number of large flint nodules close to the location of the floor at its east end. Between the earlier and later ditch cuts was a small ridge of chalk. The earlier cut stops quite dramatically at the location of a large geological deposit of clay with flint, and it may be that this geological deposit caused the relocation of the ditch further south. The east/west ditch drops dramatically in depth and widens as it moves eastwards. At a location close to the junction with the larger south/north ditch the smaller ditch widens and drops onto a polished chalk platform.

The removal of the flint 'floor' revealed a complex set of features. On the east side of the trench were a number of irregular shallow based pits, but the configuration tends to show that it is the remains of an ancient tree hollow, very few finds were found in this area (Context 526). The south/north ditch was excavated down carefully and produced the articulated remains of the dog. It was also at this level that an area of charcoal and a shallow pit were observed cut into the lower ditch fills, indicating some activity in the ditch some time after it had begun to silt up. A number of large flint nodules and a large piece of sarsen stone were also uncovered at this level, but no purpose was noted of the reason for their deposit. To the east of the charcoal pit another pit had been cut into the chalk bedrock, this pit had been cut by the ditch running north. The pit, (Context 577), had been dug down to a flat bottomed platform, but then had been cut by the ditch taking the west side to a deeper level. A number of pieces of Gallo-Belgic wares dated to the 1st century A.D. were recovered from the lower loamy fill. (Pers comm Dr Malcolm Lyne). As the excavation reached deeper levels another smaller ditch began or terminated running parallel to the major south/north ditch.

This area is particularly complex and involves a number of ancient activities, the purpose of which is not at all clear. As the ditch silted up a number of sequences occurred including the use of fires and the burial of a family pet. The burial of a family pet close by and under a tree in a shady spot is a romantic perception today and may also have been appreciated in our ancient past. At some period after the burial the tree was removed for the laying of the flint floor, probably associated with the rural activities of the farmstead, including a possible extension, to the known enclosure or the addition of another building.

The excavation of the north section provided a clearer stratigraphy and a greater understanding of the chronological sequence. However, what the section does not provide at this moment is the purpose of the features found and the reasons for the complete burial of a cow. A large circular ended pit had been dug with the possible purpose of burying the animal. The reason for the burial can only be a subject for conjecture. The location of the legs close together suggests that the animal was bound when it was deposited. What is not evident is whether it was still alive when buried, or if the binding was merely a method of allowing the carcass to be dragged to the pit. The most obvious question is why bury such an animal? It is difficult to perceive this large creature as being another family pet, and the meat potential makes its interment even more difficult to understand. It is possible that the animal was suffering from some form of disease and examination by the Booth Museum may provide some evidence for this. The burial lay to the west side of the pit with some space on the east side. The curious circular platform to the west of the burial pit is only partially exposed and disappears under the baulk. It is not evident that the terracing on the west side of this large trench is of the same period, as the south/north ditch cuts through this section. What is observed is that once the animal had been buried the floor was quickly filled with a hard chalky rubble. At some time after this floor had been laid a pit was cut, probably for rubbish, but possibly to examine the remains below. During the 1st century the large north/south ditch was created.

The final phases of this section appear to be the construction of some form of building. The 'wall' is a small but distinct linear feature that clearly demarcates two areas of differing fills. The direction of the wall runs parallel with the south/north ditch feature below it. Another ephemeral wall 3 metres to the east and running parallel to the first may indicate the location of a small barn or shelter for animals at a later period. A large area of clay with flint lies immediately to the west of the south/north ditch at this juncture and a number of linear arrangements could be observed although, with the proliferation of flint material around, it is quite easy to provide 'creative' archaeology. The area was planned and a greater inspection of the plans may provide evidence for other walls.

The clarity of the archaeology in this later area is succinct. The burial and associated pit are early with the intruding pit (context 542) definitely a later activity. The south/north ditch is now dated to the 1st/2nd century A.D. by the pottery finds. The final phase is the creation of a small low status barn or shed building, probably associated with the agricultural activities of the farmstead. The platforms cut into the chalk, the extent of the floor and the termination of the wall, with a possible corner section, all lie beneath the remaining baulk, leaving a number of questions unanswered.

The south/north ditch is the predominant feature running across the site. The primary fills contained a large proportion of oyster shell and bone, with a considerable number of animal skulls, and these fragment of bone litter the whole of the lower ditch fills. The ditch is clearly defined in the north section of the site and continues northwards cutting an even larger pit, as yet un-excavated.

Rocky Clump is constantly revealing new features and is allowing, through excavation, an opportunity to produce an in depth study of a Romano-British farmstead. As the excavation of the site has progressed the extent of the features and buildings has emphasised that, far from being simple farms, these settlements were areas of some complexity. The various finds and features are giving greater insights into the scope and

scale of agricultural activities during the 1st to 3rd centuries. The geophysical survey has begun to provide details of the various ditch locations associated with the farm and some form of field system is beginning to emerge. The earlier ditches can be observed as becoming dumps and waste areas as the farm developed and extended its boundaries and changed the use of the surrounding land. The only question really unanswered is the location of the settlement? The excavated site at Rocky clump, north of the copse, can clearly be defined as the area of farming activity, more and more evidence proves that this is the working sector of the farmstead. The geophysical survey in the south field, with its large circular anomaly, is quite possibly the location of an Iron Age round house. A great deal of work still has to be undertaken before the north field is completely understood, and the post excavation examination will require a considerable amount of commitment to fully bring the evidence together. The final report on the activities of the Romano-British farmstead at Rocky Clump will provide essential evidence for low status agricultural activities.

It is still difficult to perceive any new evidence to support the theory that Rocky Clump was the site of a Romano-British shrine. The evidence for a shrine still remains the square building in the clump of trees. Other ritualistic evidence could be interpreted by the finds of clusters of oyster and winkle shells capped by skulls of sheep and cattle. The complete burial of a cow is suggesting that something significant has occurred at an early period, and the large numbers of skulls found in the ditch could be considered to be ritualistic evidence. Equally the whole picture could be interpreted as the ordinary residual remains of a 'simple' settlement. Hopefully further investigations will emphasise which of the interpretations is correct.

Despite being considered a settlement of lowly status, Rocky Clump has still produced some very interesting artefacts. Pottery from Spain and Central Gaul and a beautiful cuneiform shaped enamelled brooch, one of only 5 found in Britain. Rocky Clump still has the potential to provide exciting surprises for the future.

As in past seasons the site has provided opportunities for students and members of the public to become involved in archaeology. Members of the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit are encouraged to participate in all aspects of archaeological techniques and recording, and many are being trained in the supervision of site management. The future of amateur archaeology in Brighton and Hove is being prepared, trained and organised. There is a role for the local society in the archaeological environment. BHAS intends to continue in its programme of research and development projects for amateur personnel interested in archaeology, and through that process enrich the archaeological data available to the Brighton and Hove Planning Department and the Sites and Monuments Records (SMR).

## **Acknowledgements**

The author would like to thank Mr G.Bennett of Brighton and Hove City Council and Mr D.West for their encouragement and allowing access to their lands, Dr A.Woodcock for assistance with the geophysical surveying data, Mr and Mrs Driver for their help and support with the tools and equipment and to all the members of the BHAS Field Unit for their endeavours in the field. I would also like to thank all those members of the Unit who

volunteered for the supervisory course and are willing to accept greater responsibilities in the future and, finally Mark Gillingham for his role as editor of written reports.

John Funnell 26th April 2002

## Rocky Clump Pottery Update: Autumn 2001

After a long delay due to Foot and Mouth disease and commitments to other excavations Rocky Clump is once again beginning to reveal more of its secrets. The large ditch running roughly north to south which was a prominent feature of earlier years of excavation is producing some more interesting finds. Quantities of flint and bone are being recovered from the ditch as well as some intriguing pottery evidence.

First to appear was a small plain bowl with vertical sides. It was made, perhaps, to resemble black burnished ware from Dorset which was popular throughout Roman Britain during the Roman occupation. What is interesting about the vessel is that the fabric appears to be the ubiquitous East Sussex ware which we have grown to know and love at Rocky Clump. This fabric has a soft 'soapy' texture that, when smoothed and fired with a black surface colour, does suggest the burnished fabric of the Dorset originals.

The bowl was hand made and fired rather more evenly than most other East Sussex ware pottery we have from the site. It seems as if the potter was consciously attempting to imitate the Dorset style of pottery making. The form itself is interesting because it was not produced in the original BB1 fabric until the late third and early fourth centuries (Holbrook and Bidwell, pg 111).

Rather than a copy of a non-local original it could be a much earlier, original design from an East Sussex pottery working in the style of what became black burnished ware ( M. Lynne has suggested that there was indeed a potter in the area making versions of BB1, pers comms). There are a number of such examples from Newhaven and Bishopstone (Bell, Bell and Green). These often lack the very vertical sides of our example but are made to give a black burnished surface, while the fabric is traditional East Sussex ware. Green (SAC 117, pg163) notes that these forms do not appear much before the first century AD and are common in the second. This point is supported by the discovery of similar forms found at Newhaven (SAC115, pg 264) and associated with mainly second century AD contexts. All this evidence suggests that dating from just one example is very difficult, luckily we found something else.

Another exciting piece of pottery was found in the same context less than a metre away from the bowl a few weeks later. Samian ware is always an exciting find on any site even more so at Rocky Clump where pottery of any quality has been in short supply. So to find a complete base was indeed very pleasing, even more so because this particular base included a potters stamp.

Investigation suggests that the Samian ware was originally part of a small bowl or cup; possibly Dragendorff 33. A type that was produced throughout the period of Samian production. The makers stamp indicated that it was made by Habilis (stamped HABILIS.F, see illustration), who worked at Lezoux in central Gaul during the period from AD 150 - 180. His products have been found at Chichester and Silchester as well as further north at St Albans and Chester le Street (Down, May, Symonds and Wade). Our piece of base has no side walls, which hints at their deliberate removal, either to produce (if the base was inverted) a tiny bowl or a memento emphasising the potters name. What ever its purpose or reason for disposal it cannot have been put into the ditch before the end of the second century at the earliest.

Given the evidence from the bowl discussed above a very late second or third century date would seem more likely, unless of course they mark different depositions into the same ditch. It is interesting to note that another piece by Habis which was found at Exeter was recovered from what appeared to be a post - Roman context suggesting that Samian ware was valued, and deposited, long after its production had ceased (Symonds, R and Wade, S. Page 133 ). Sadly even with two reasonably well preserved pieces of pottery dating can only be very approximate. As ever only further archaeological excavation will help us to determine a more accurate date for the feature.

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Richard Pulley 26.9.01  
rcpot2



## Pottery Finds at Rocky Clump

Rocky Clump has for some time been an archaeological enigma. Ever since the site was first excavated in the early 1950's it has been reluctant to reveal its true identity (Funnel 2000: 9). Thanks to the continuing diligence of members of the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society the site is at last beginning to reveal its secrets. If we were to use Collingwood's definition of a villa, 'the dwelling of people somewhat Romanised in manners, who farmed' (quoted in Scott, 1993: 2) then perhaps Rocky Clump could, in terms of the pottery evidence at least, be classed as a villa!

Although only a relatively small proportion of its pottery has been analysed at present an interesting picture is beginning to emerge. From just below the plough soil has come a range of pottery from a number of different sources. It suggests a level of sophistication that points towards a relatively wealthy and well integrated farming community. By no means aristocratic the material might best be associated with *coloni*, the class of semi dependent yet self-responsible peasants (Love 1991: 26) that existed in Romanised Britain.

Pottery dating from the first century AD to the fourth century AD and into the early middle ages has been recovered, either from field walking or excavation. The vast majority (well over half the total fabric weight) is East Sussex grog tempered ware, ranging in date from first century AD to some late 'dog dish' and beaded and flanged bowl forms from the fourth century AD. This is a fabric form that does seem to be almost exclusively found within the county of East Sussex and whose production centre is still uncertain. It ranges in colour from orange through to dark brown and black. It seems to have been used mainly in the production of utility items such as jars and bowls.

From the first century AD comes interesting imported ware; fragments of a Gallo-Belgic flagon, a butt beaker and small pieces southern Gaulish Samian. From within the south east of England comes a very interesting piece of north Kent fine ware, possibly a beaker, dating from between 75-150 AD. Another fragment of fine ware has been identified as Pulborough Samian, it can be distinguished by its purple/maroon fabric colour, a small but striking fragment.

After East Sussex ware the commonest fabric type encountered are the sandy grey fabrics which are associated with the Hardham pottery industries. These are thought to be located near Pulborough some thirty miles to the west of Rocky Clump. Material relating to these potteries comes from the first to at least the third century AD. Jars seem to be the most frequently encountered form, with a few very large fragments turning up, but still not enough to make a complete vessel!

Moving into the second and third centuries AD there are examples of fine ware from the Wickham Barn kilns (near South Chailey) as well as cream ware from Wiggonholt (near Pulborough). There are also examples of courser sandy fabrics from the Alice Holt kilns in Hampshire. Imported wares continue but only in much reduced numbers. Just one very small piece of Lower Rhineland (Cologne) ware has been recovered dating from between 130-200AD has been found. Other finds include fourth century East Sussex ware as well as late Alice Holt fabrics. A fragment from a Nene Valley mortaria was recovered from field walking in the south field. This is an unusual find in this part of southern England, it could date from anywhere between the second to the fourth century. No Saxon material has been

recorded from the site although Anglo-Norman fabrics of the early middle Ages are relatively common finds.

As the ditch features to the north of Rocky Clump itself were excavated so they revealed material dating back to the middle Iron Age and into the immediate post conquest period. Some Samian fabrics were recovered along with material that could relate to the earliest examples of Wickham Barn fabric. Part of a carinated jar from Hardham and an Asham pot rim suggest that the east west ditch was at least in part filled by the middle of the second century AD. Just to confuse matters however some of the pit contexts did produce sherds that relate to fourth century material. We will have to await further details of the exact location of pit and ditch contexts before any firm analysis of the site can be made.

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# Rocky Clump Pottery Analysis

RCPOTC

Context	Feature	Description
02	F/W	Lower Nene Valley, mortaria
02		Hardham, grey ware
02		Samian Dg 31
035		Late Iron Age fabrics
101		Rilled vessel 1C - 2C Hardham?
127	TS	East Sussex ware, 'early' oxidised
127		Wickham Barn - fine ware 2C AD
127		East Sussex ware- early 1C- 2C AD
127		Hardham rim - unusual form
127		Samian Drag 31 - 150AD - 200AD
127		East Sussex ware buff/orange fabric oxidised
128	TS	Pulborough Samian Drag 36, 90 - 130AD
128		East Sussex ware- early 1C- 2C AD
128		Wickham Barn grey/white jar
147	Pit	Gallo-Belgic ware- butt beaker 43-80AD
149	TS	Hardham/Alice Holt -base 3C AD
149		Hardham -oxidised base
149		Alice Holt -reduced 270-370AD
149		East Sussex ware - cooking pot
149		East Sussex ware - 'dog dish' 200-300AD
149		Alice Holt -self slip early 3C AD
153	TS	Gallo -Belgic, flagon 1C AD
153		Wickham Barn?
153		Wickham Barn?
153		Samian
153		Pipe?
154	TS	Lower Rhineland -rough cast ware 130-200AD
154		Alice Holt -reduced fine ware 270AD+
154		Various colour coated wares
154		East Sussex ware - oxidised, grog tempered
154		East Sussex ware - grog tempered ware- broken everted rim
154		East Sussex ware - beaded and flanged bowl- post 300AD
154		Hardham -grey ware 70-270AD
162	Cobbling	Amphorae, Dressel 20 1-3C AD
300	Pit	Alice Holt 270-370AD
301	E-W Ditch	North Kent fabric 75-150 AD
301		Hardham fine ware, carinated jar 70-150 AD
305	TS	East Sussex ware- late beaded and flanged dish 4C AD
314	TS	Samian -South Gaulish
314		Post-Medieval stoneware (burnt)
338		East Sussex ware late 1st C
348		North Kent fabric 75-150AD
348		Wiggonholt cream ware 2nd C AD
348		Wickham Barn fabric mid-late 3rd C AD
350	Post hole	Wiggonholt cream ware
350		Pre-Wickham Barn fabric
350		Samian 40 - 160AD
351+358		Wickham Barn fabrics
355	E-W Ditch	East Sussex ware, strainer?
358	E-W Ditch	Hardham, carinated jar 70-150AD
358		Central Gaulish Drag 27 120-160AD
358		Wiggonholt cream fabric

Context	Feature	Description
360	E-W Di	Rowlands Castle fabric
395	TS	Samian
395		Anglo-Norman, pot 12-13C AD
402	?	East Sussex ware, early 2C
407	TS	Another part of 305
408B	Ditch	Hardham -fine ware
411	Pit	East Sussex ware, developed rim with resin 2-3C AD
412	N-S Pit	Alice Holt -beaded and flanged bowl (5B4), 270-330 AD
412		Hardham -pie dish 2-3C AD
412		Hardham 2C AD
412		East Sussex 2C AD
413	N-S Pit	Pre Wickham Barn -fine ware 70 - 200AD
413	(Lower)	East Sussex ware -soot soaked post 300AD
440	E-W Pit	Hardham -early example
440		East Sussex ware - various examples
443	E-W Pit	Hardham ware 2C AD
443		East Sussex ware, lid seated rim 2C AD
443		Worthing/Findon -ware late 2-3C AD
444A	E-W Pit	Samian ware, S. Gaul 70 -110 AD
445A	E-W Pit	Samian ware, S. Gaul Dr 27 43-110AD
446	E-W Pit	East Sussex ware- early
446		'Ashham' pot- 1C AD
449	N-S pit	Middle Iron Age
467A	Ditch	Alice Holt 3C AD
494	?	Oxfordshire

## Key

**TS** = Top Soil

**N-S Ditch** = The large ditch running north from the clump. 412-413 are from the most northerly part in a large ditch feature which seems to cut into the original ditch.

**E-W Ditch** = Long ditch with much intercutting running east west, joins N-S ditch at its eastern most end

For report on initial stages of the excavations see O. Gilkes.  
Sussex Archaeological Report vol 135, pg 113-127



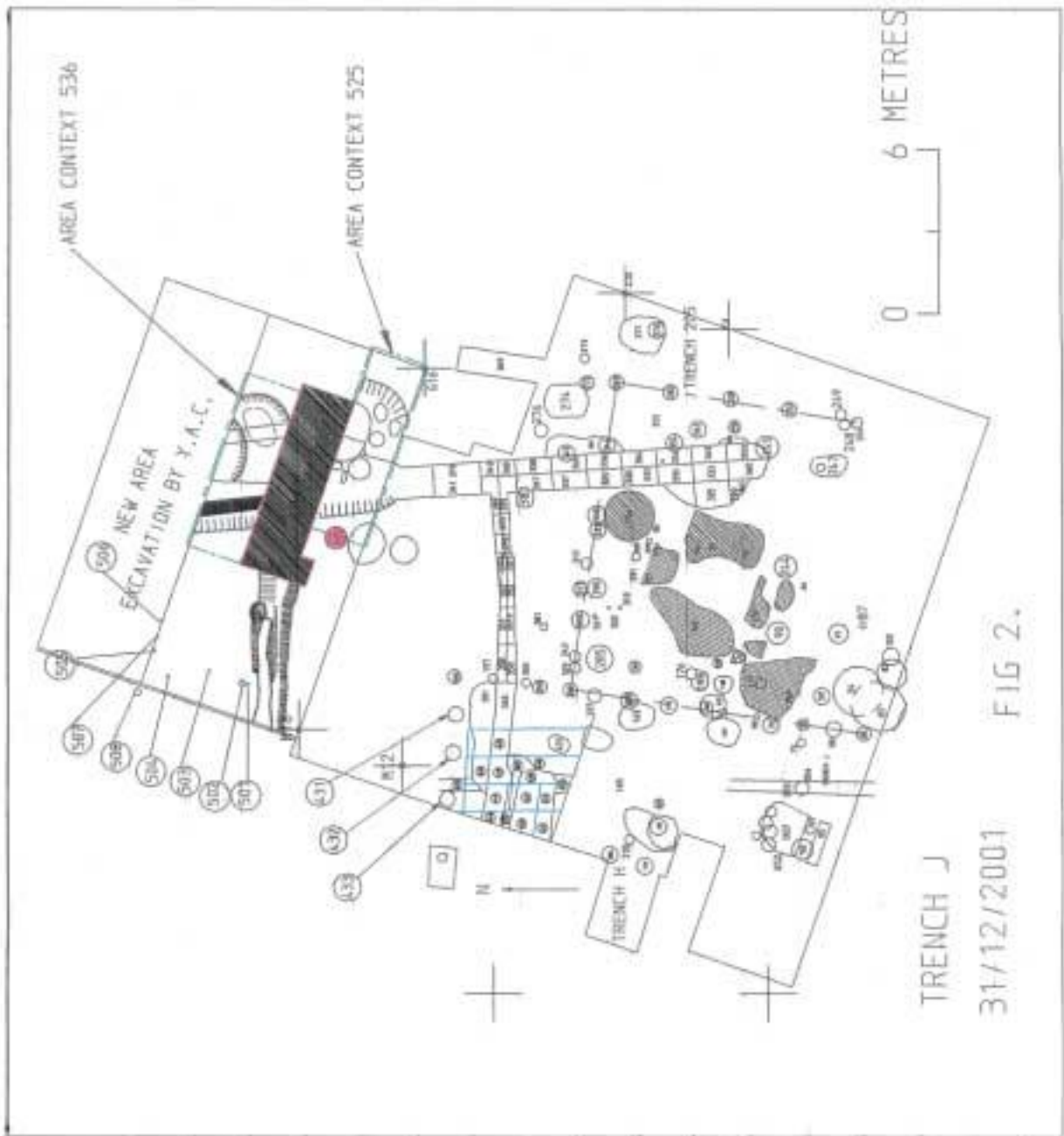


Fig 2 – Trench J

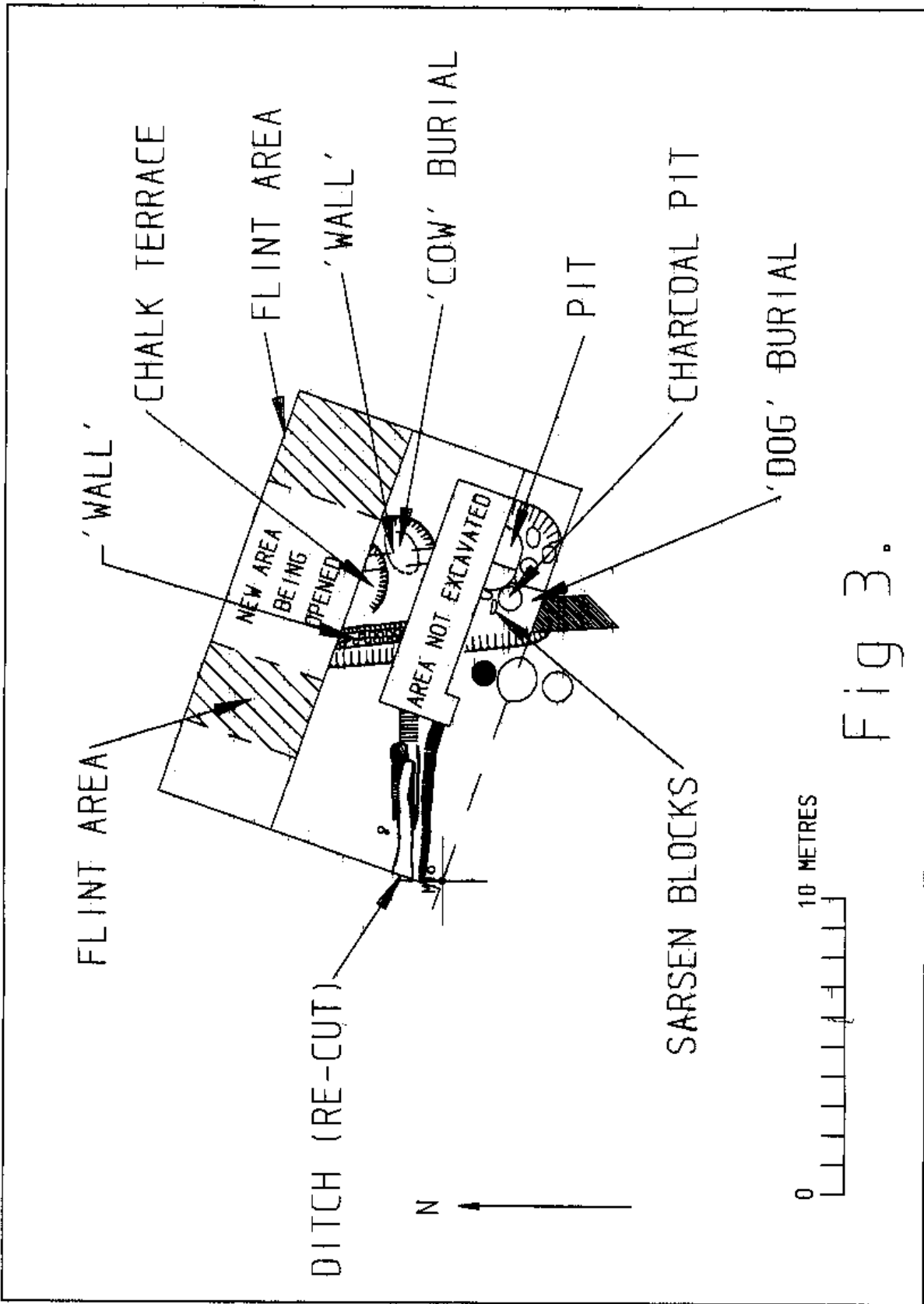


Fig 3.

Fig 3 - Trench Details

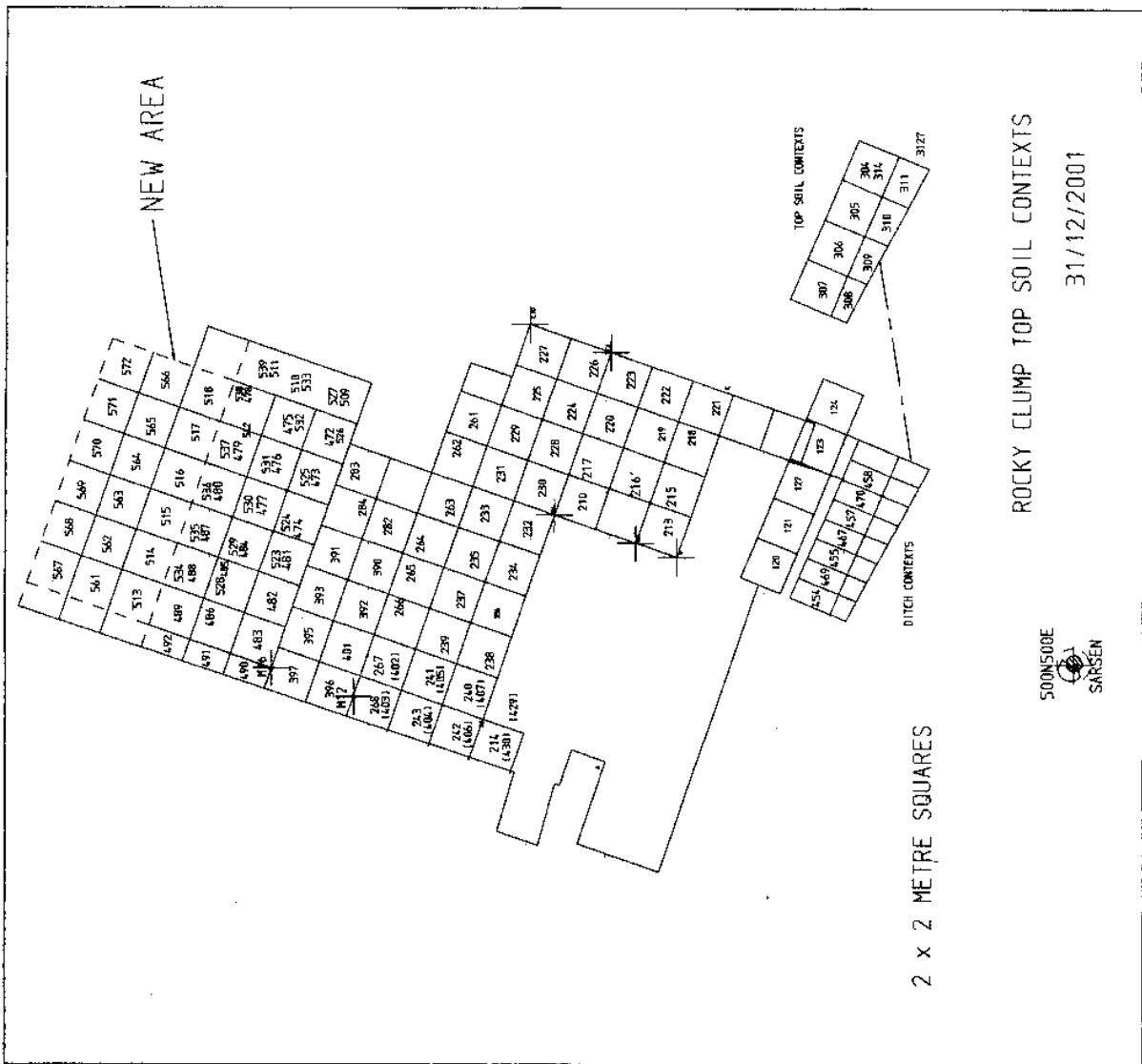


Fig 4 – Soil Contexts



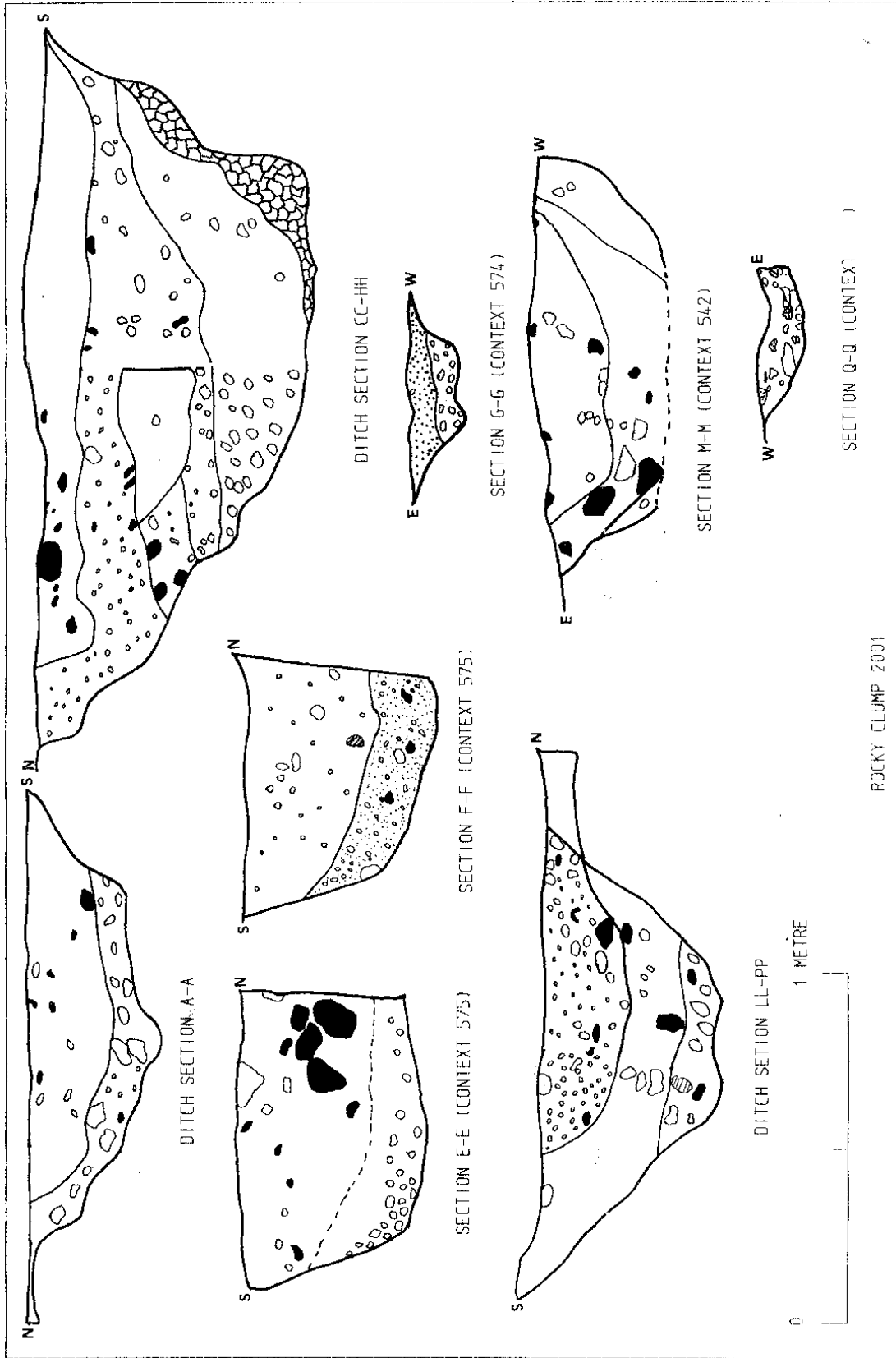
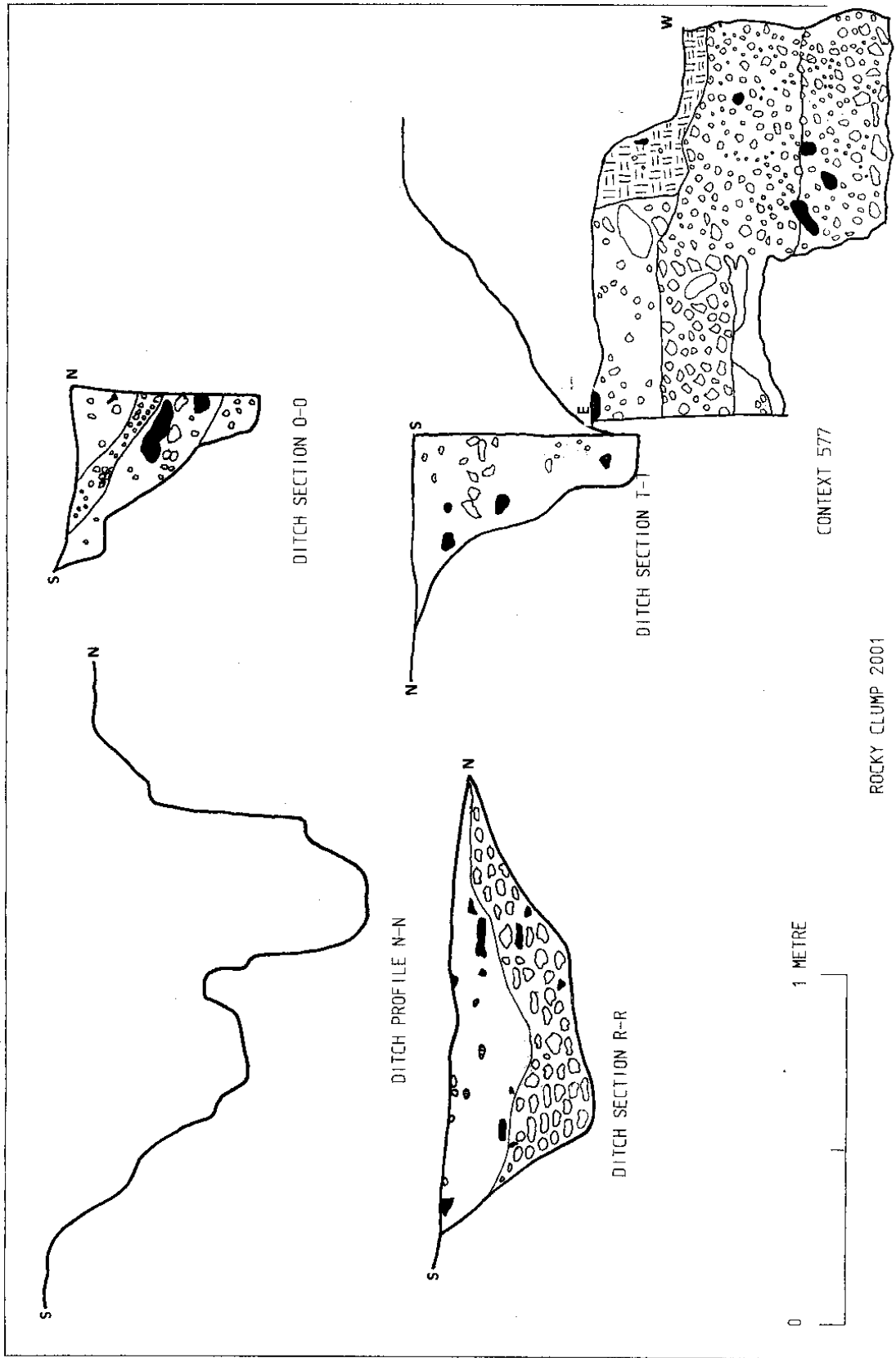
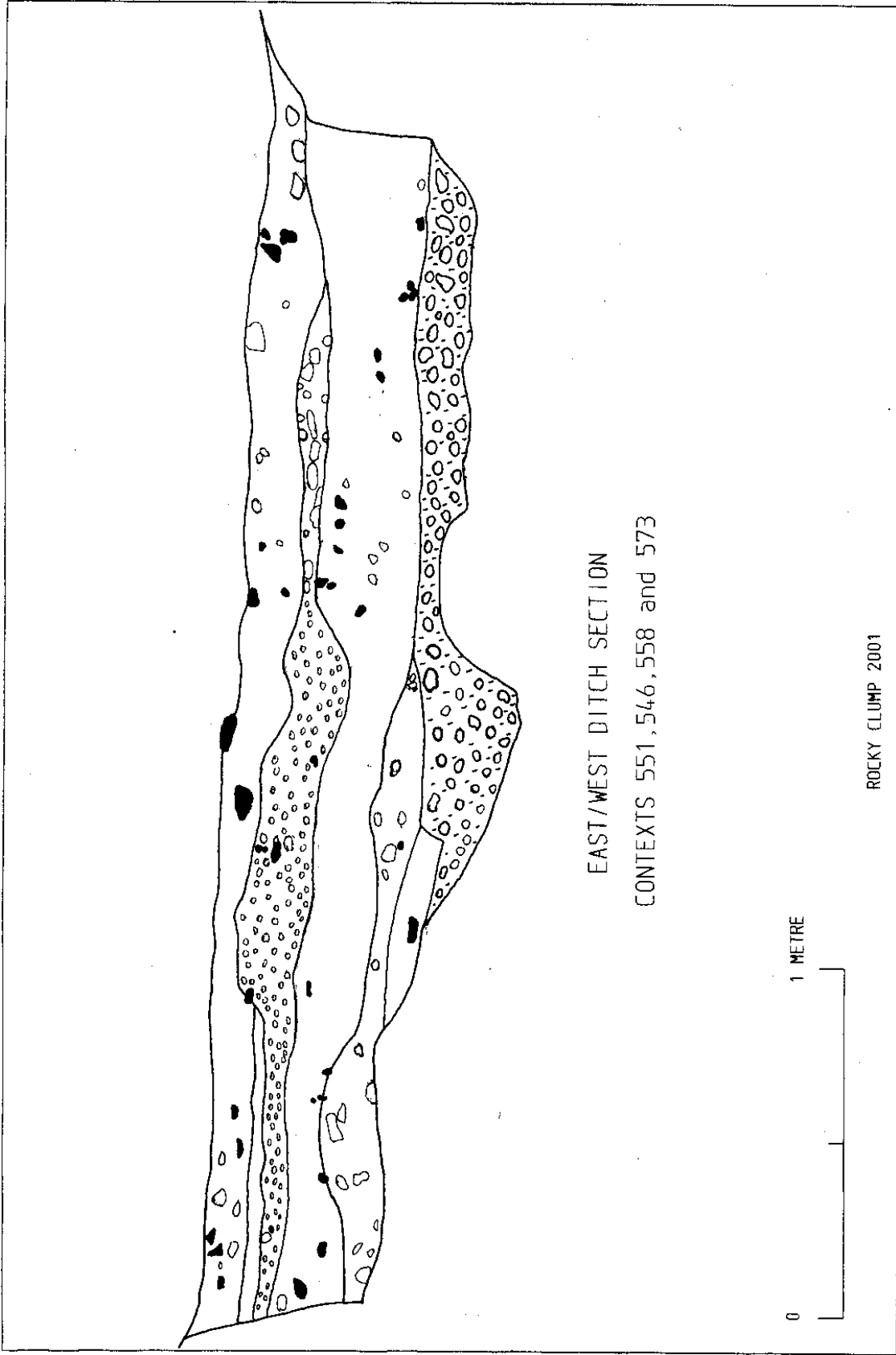


Fig 5 – Context 542, 574, 575

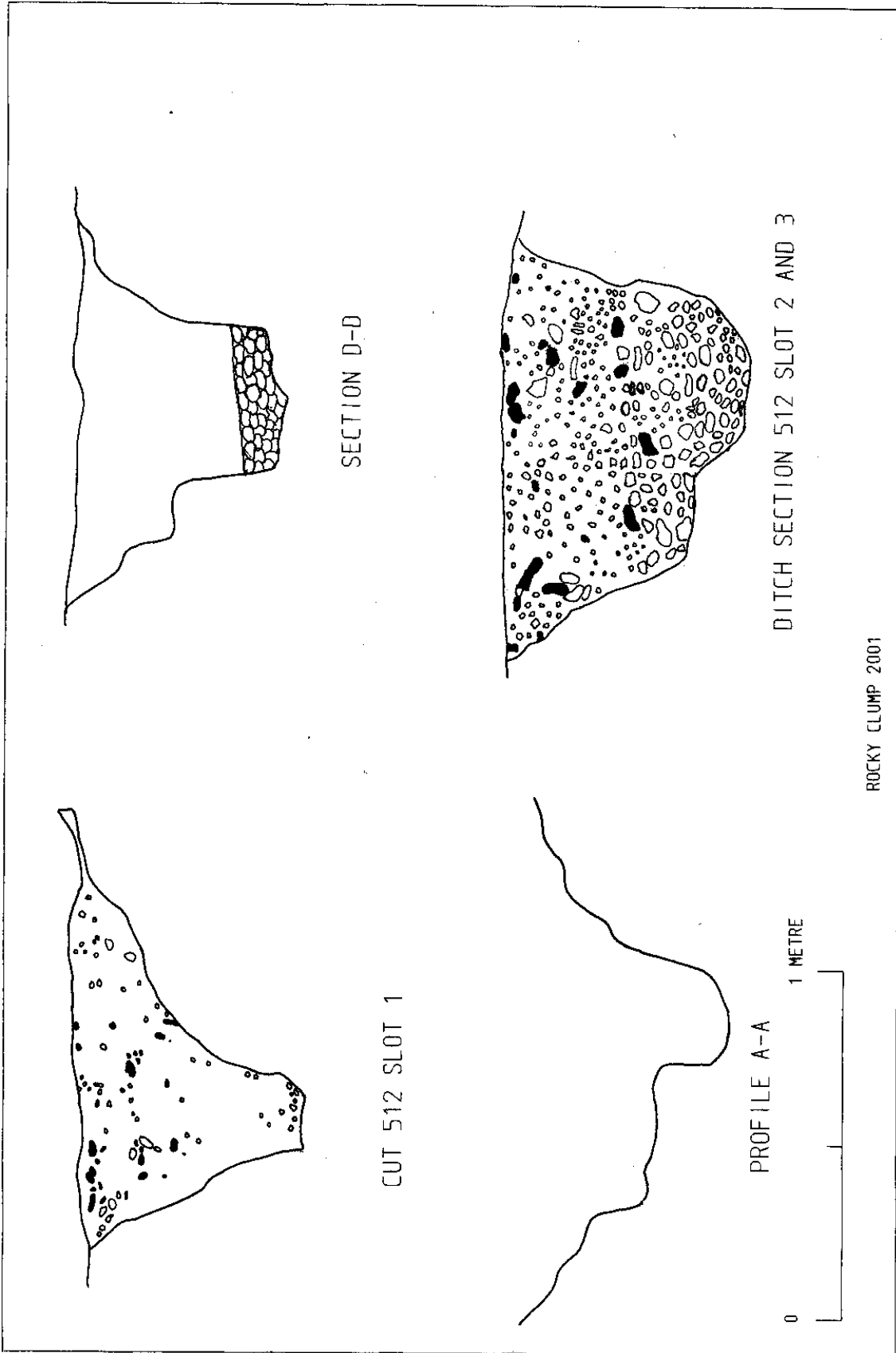


**Fig 6 – Context 577**



EAST/WEST DITCH SECTION  
CONTEXTS 551, 546, 558 and 573

Fig 7 – Context 551, 546, 558 and 573



**Fig 8 – Cut 512**

## Excavations at Devil's Dyke Road Brighton

The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit were asked to assist the professional unit Archaeology South East, with their excavations at the Devil's Dyke Road Brighton north of Brighton. The site was observed during a watching brief conducted by Archaeology South East on the gas pipeline being cut across the South Downs in 1999. Archaeological information on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) show the area to be archaeologically sensitive. An enclosure of possible Iron Age date was located in a field to the west of the pipeline cutting. After top soil removal, an area of intense archaeological activity was found close to the pumping station at the Devil's Dyke Road and Saddlescombe Road junction (Ref TQ277091). Archaeology South East had planned, drawn and sectioned a number of features on the site but significant quantities of archaeological features still required investigation and possible dating. Members of the BHAS Field Unit, 15 in total, were able to excavate all the features found over one week-end in May 1999 prior to the destruction of the site by the pipe line extension the following day.

A number of significant features were readily observed and some form of configuration was clearly noted with regard to a number of contexts. There were also a number of pits and post holes that were randomly placed. The predominant feature was a circular collection of post holes indicating the location of a round house, possibly of Iron Age date, which lay close to the west boundary of the pumping station. The round house was well defined but no trace of a ring gully, a feature often associated with this style of house, was noted. Close to the location of the round house and running in a northerly direction were located a pair of parallel ditches. Both of the ditches ended in alignment at the south end close to the round house, attempts to trace the ditches further north proved unsuccessful as heavy machinery following the route of the pipe-line had compressed the chalk subsoil and distorted the ground. A number of large pits were located at the southern extremity of the site.

Archaeology South East had sectioned several of the pits and had produced one section of a pit at the south end producing a find of antler in the lower fill. The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit were able to section almost completely all of the remaining pits and post holes and several sections across both of the parallel ditches.

One of the large pits lay close to the pit earlier excavated and this was also sectioned. Finds of antler bone were retrieved from the lower contexts. Decorated pottery was also found within the same layers. These pits at the southern end of the excavation are of possible Neolithic date and the proximity and deposition of pieces of antler may have some ritualistic connotation (D.Rudling pers comm.). Pottery was found from within a number of the post holes and the ditches. The ditches were parallel in direction but of different construction. The ditch to the west of the site was smaller in depth and even allowing for erosion by ploughing had a different section. D.Rudling has suggested the ditch may have been for a beam slot, but no trace was found of any evidence for vertical timbers. The ditch to the east was deeper and wider. The pottery from both of the ditches was of Roman date. The most significant find was a small pit containing the burial of an infant of about the age 3-5 years. The burial was in a crouched position and had been badly affected by ploughing. Archaeology South East had cut the original section and the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit completed the excavation including

the drawing and photography. The crouched style of burial is found in Neolithic, Iron Age and Roman contexts. Radio Carbon dating of the bone from the burial and of the antler may provide conclusive evidence for the dating of these features. The decorated pottery found will also provide valuable evidence for dating purposes.

All the finds and copies of drawings, photographs and slides taken have been passed to Archaeology South East. The professional unit will be responsible for the final post excavation report and the precise dating of the artefacts. The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit appreciates being asked to assist in the excavation and would like to thank David Rudling for inviting the Unit to participate.

John Funnell      2/10/99

# **Field Walking at Coldean (called East Field), Brighton February 2001**

## **Introduction**

The heavy rain of October 2000 had postponed the planting of crops on fields to the south of the Brighton bypass at Coldean, allowing the walking of one complete field and the commencement of a second. The fields are located close to the site of the Downsview Bronze Age settlement excavated in 1989 prior to the construction of the Brighton bypass (Fig 1). Both fields are situated south of the Brighton bypass on either side of the Ditchling Road. The field walked completely is east of the Ditchling Road lying south of another field laid down to pasture (TQ325088). The other field, only partially walked, is to the west of the Ditchling Road and is a long thin strip of land running north/south (TQ32350930).

The area of Coldean has been the subject of much archaeological investigation during the past century. During the 1950's when the Coldean estate was being built finds of Roman material including bone, pottery and a gold stater were found in a number of ditches lying on a small plateau in the area of Nanson Road. A number of finds relating to the Bronze Age was also recovered including a burial in a collared urn. During the 1950's an excavation of a barrow along the Ditchling Road produced a number of cremated burials (Yeates). It was the excavations conducted prior to the construction of the Brighton Bypass that produced the most significant finds of the middle Bronze Age settlement Downsview (Rudling & Funnell).

The field possesses a number of lynchet features easily observed in the setting sun. A track way, believed to be of medieval origin and emanating from the known medieval settlement of Patchway (TQ328098) crosses the hill at Coldean and disappears into the field being walked. The section of track way in this field has been eroded by ploughing. A section cut through the track way to the north of the ploughed field was investigated during the excavations at Downsview but produced no dateable evidence for its construction.

A number of fields have been walked on the south side of the Brighton bypass at Varley Halls and Marquee Brow producing finds of Neolithic flintwork and pottery dated to the Iron Age and Roman periods. The new field walking project was planned to produce a more detailed and composite archaeological picture of the larger area.

## **Methodology**

The field was set out on a base line running north to south. The north point of the base line was the northeast corner of the field (TQ32600895). The field was walked from east to west, up the incline of the hill towards the Ditchling Road. The first line (line A) was placed 10 metres south of the north base point and subsequent lines walked at 20 metres apart. The lines were walked in 20 metre transects and bags of finds collected for each transect. The finds were washed and marked and the information transferred onto dot density diagrams (Figs 2-6)

## The Finds (East Field)

### Flintwork

Item	Quantity
Flakes	324
Blade fragments	2
Cores	10
Scrapers	4
Notched Piece	1
Rough out axe	1
Fire-cracked	155
Weight gms	5286

The flintwork from Coldean was of mainly light blue and grey patination, with a small number of white patinated pieces. Most of the flakes had cortex attached, showing them to be part of the primary flakes removed from the core nodule.

### Pottery

Item	Quantity	
Iron Age	1	(Large calcined flint inclusions)
Roman	8	
Post Medieval	26	

### Molluscs

Type	Quantity
Oyster	14
Scallop	3

### Miscellaneous

A small number of miscellaneous items were found including fragments of roofing slate and 26 pieces of contemporary glass. A small number of metal items included 4 nails of modern type and some slag. It was noted that the collection possessed very little in the way of roofing tile and brick. However, this is likely to be because many of the field walkers do not pick up modern brick or tile.

### Discussion

The field walking at Coldean is part of a large archaeological investigation called the North Brighton Research Project. The study of fields in this part of north Brighton is being undertaken to establish concentrations of finds in an attempt to try to identify possible new archaeological sites. The results from this research may also indicate, from the collection



of finds, links to the known sites dating from the Prehistoric and Roman periods. The object of each successive project is to establish a constantly changing panoramic investigation of the landscape, and to perceive from the results the forms of activity taking place in discreet areas. The field walking at Coldean east field, combined with the results from the walking at Varley Halls, may enhance this overall compilation providing evidence of field usage over this whole valley.

The collection from the Coldean east field proved quite significant in its comparative lack of archaeological material. The flint collection was typical of late Neolithic or early Bronze Age assemblages, with a low percentage of tools (5.5%) to the waste flake collection. There was little sign of any concentration of flint in this area. A quantity of the tools and flakes were focused in the valley bottom but the steep incline in this part of the field suggests that this collection may be the result of colluvial activity. Fire-cracked flint was generally dispersed across the field with again little indication of any concentrated areas. The sherds of Roman and Iron Age pottery found were very few in number and were well dispersed over the whole field. A small concentration of oyster shell was located in the centre of the field.

The archaeological material collected from the field walking at Coldean (east field) is significantly lower in intensity in both volume and quality when compared with the finds from the opposite side of the valley at Varley Halls. The fields are comparable in size. The flint material is confirmation that some activity in this section of Brighton did take place during the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods, but of a limited nature, when compared to the opposite side of this valley. The pottery indicates some ephemeral association with the settlement on the valley bottom at Coldean. However, the lack of pottery finds, particularly above the lynchet features, raises the question as to whether the earlier field systems located in this area are older than the Roman period, and possibly associated with the Bronze age barrow. Although there were no finds of Bronze Age pottery this is not unusual, this material is usually very poorly preserved in plough soil and deteriorates very quickly. No evidence was produced from the medieval period and the dating of the track way, deemed to be of this date, must remain unresolved.

The panoramic overview of this area tends to show more agricultural activity on the east side of the Coldean valley. The small amount of archaeological evidence from this field walk and that conducted by the Society at Hollingbury (Funnell) in 1993, tends to suggest that the east facing fields on the slopes in this section of north Brighton may have concentrated on pastoral activities.

As always the field walking results need to be treated with some caution depending, as they do, on the relative experience of those taking part compared, not only with each other but, compared also with who took part in earlier field walks. The results of the field walking in the west field are not shown as only a small proportion of the field was walked prior to torrential rain which brought the field walking to an end.

## **Bibliography**

**C.Yeates** 1950 'Prehistoric Man in the Cold Dean Area' Sussex County Magazine XXXV, 337-380

**D.Rudling & J.Funnell,** 2002 'Excavations at Downsview' in D.Rudling (ed) 'Downland Settlement and Land Use: 'The Archaeology of the Brighton Bypass''

**J. Funnell 1993** 'Field Walking at Hollingbury' BHAS Field Notebook 2000

## **Acknowledgements**

The author would like to thank Mr G.Bennett of Brighton and Hove Environmental Services and Mr D.West, the tenant farmer, for allowing access to the land, and to all the members of the BHAS Field Unit who conducted the field walking.

John Funnell 18 Reeves Hill, Coldean, Brighton, Sussex, BN1 9AS 5<sup>th</sup> January 2002

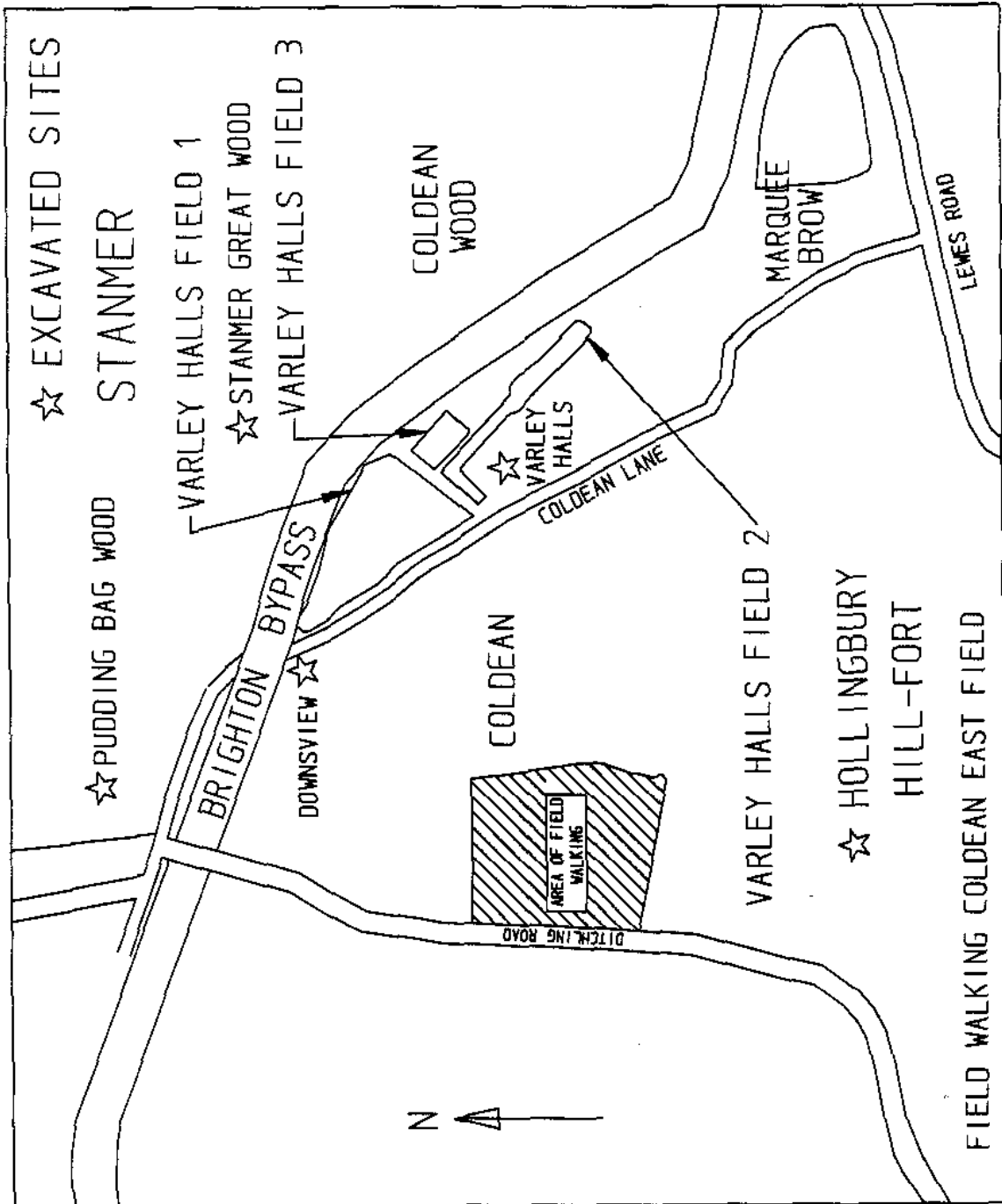


Fig 1.

Fig 1 - Site Plan

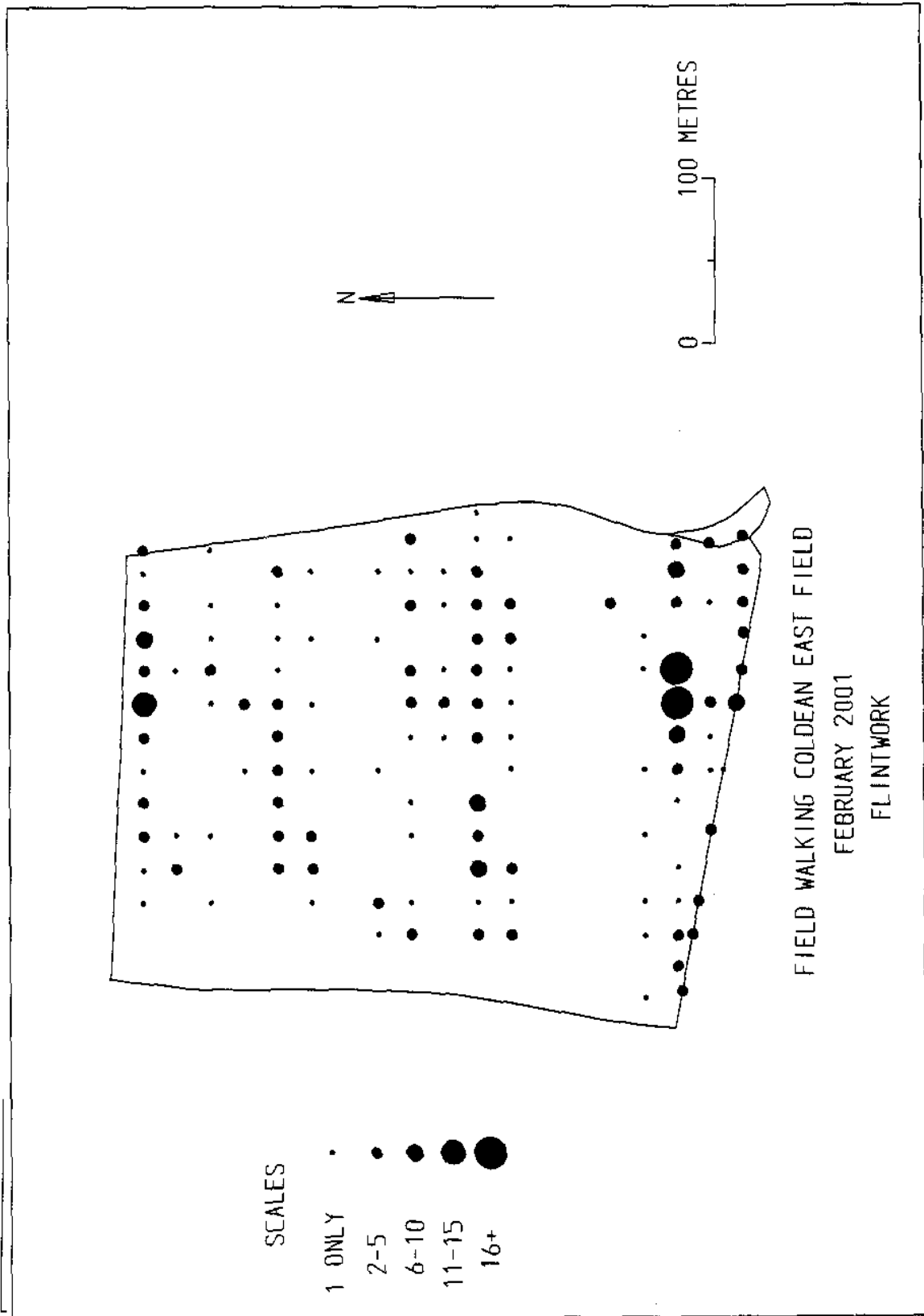
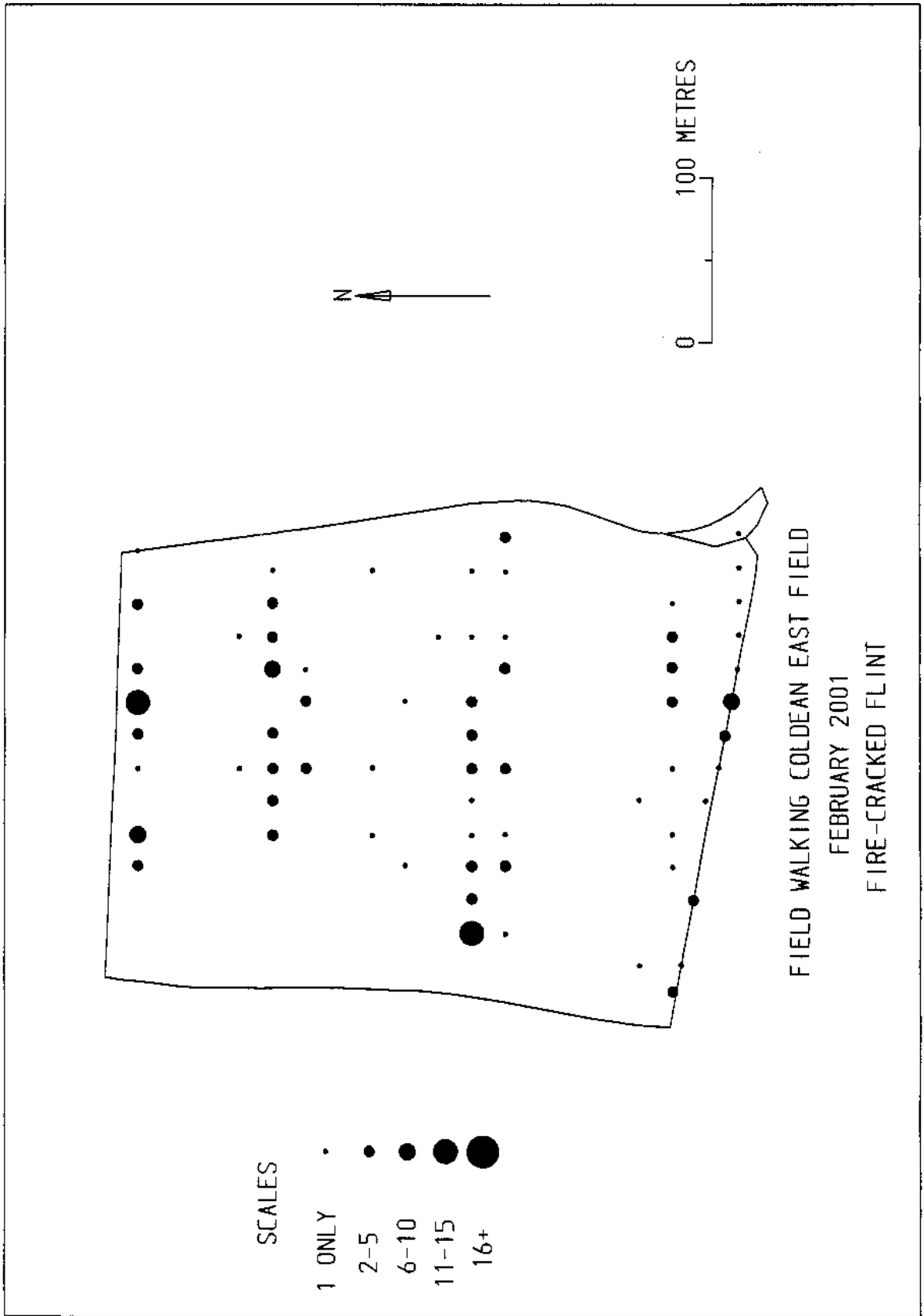


Fig 2 - Flintwork



**Fig 3 – Fire Cracked Flint**

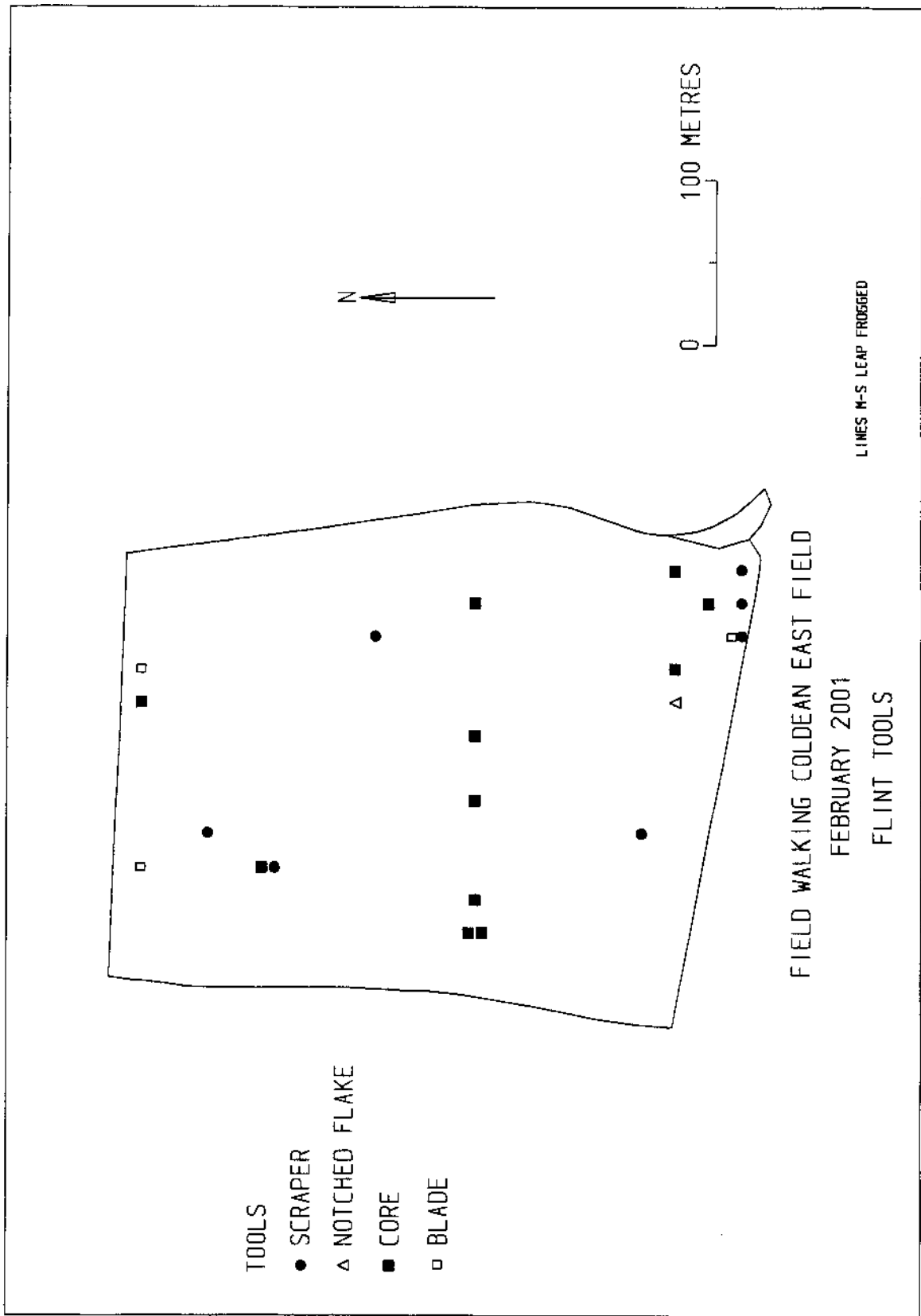


Fig 4 – Flint Tools

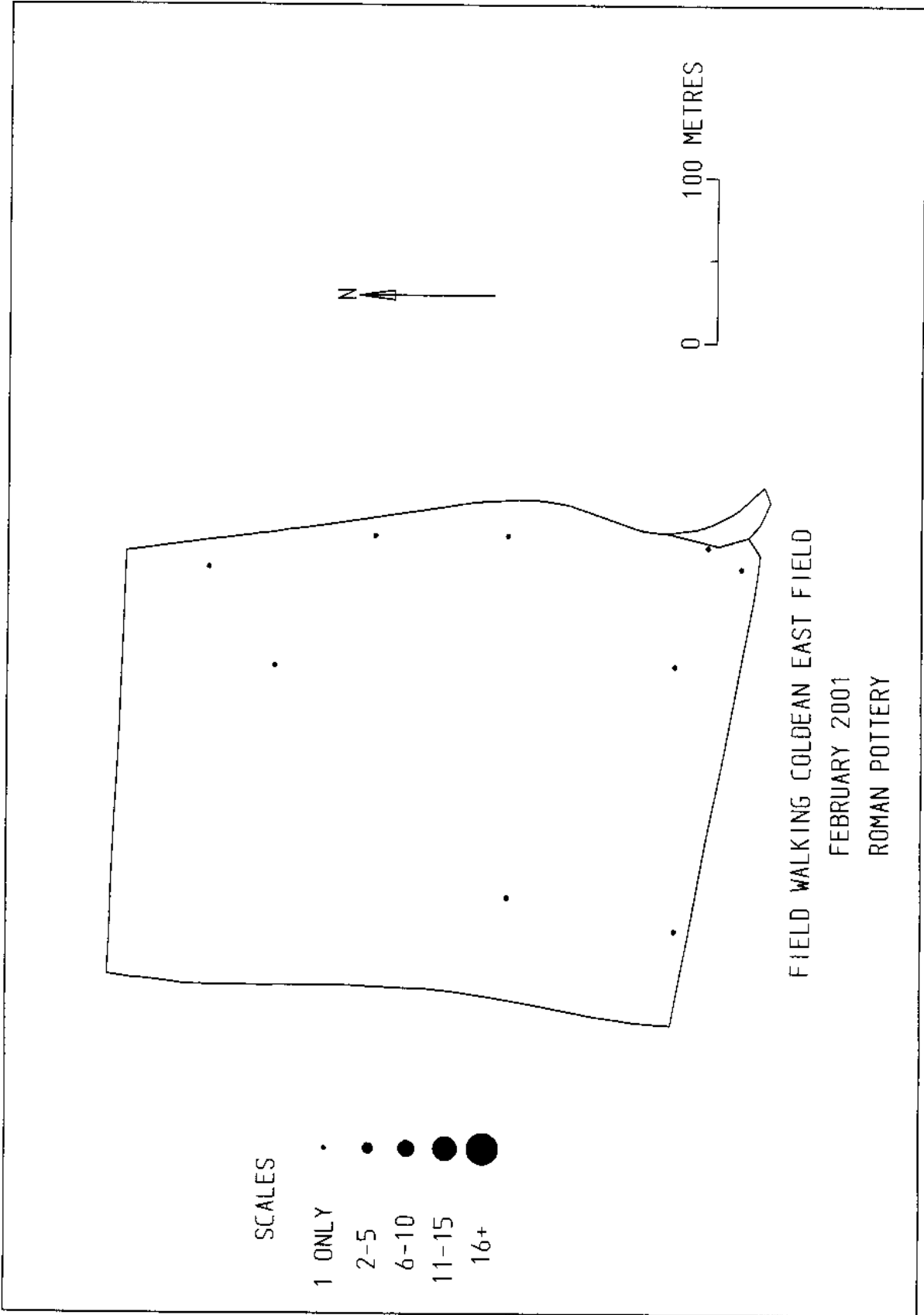


Fig 5 – Roman Pottery

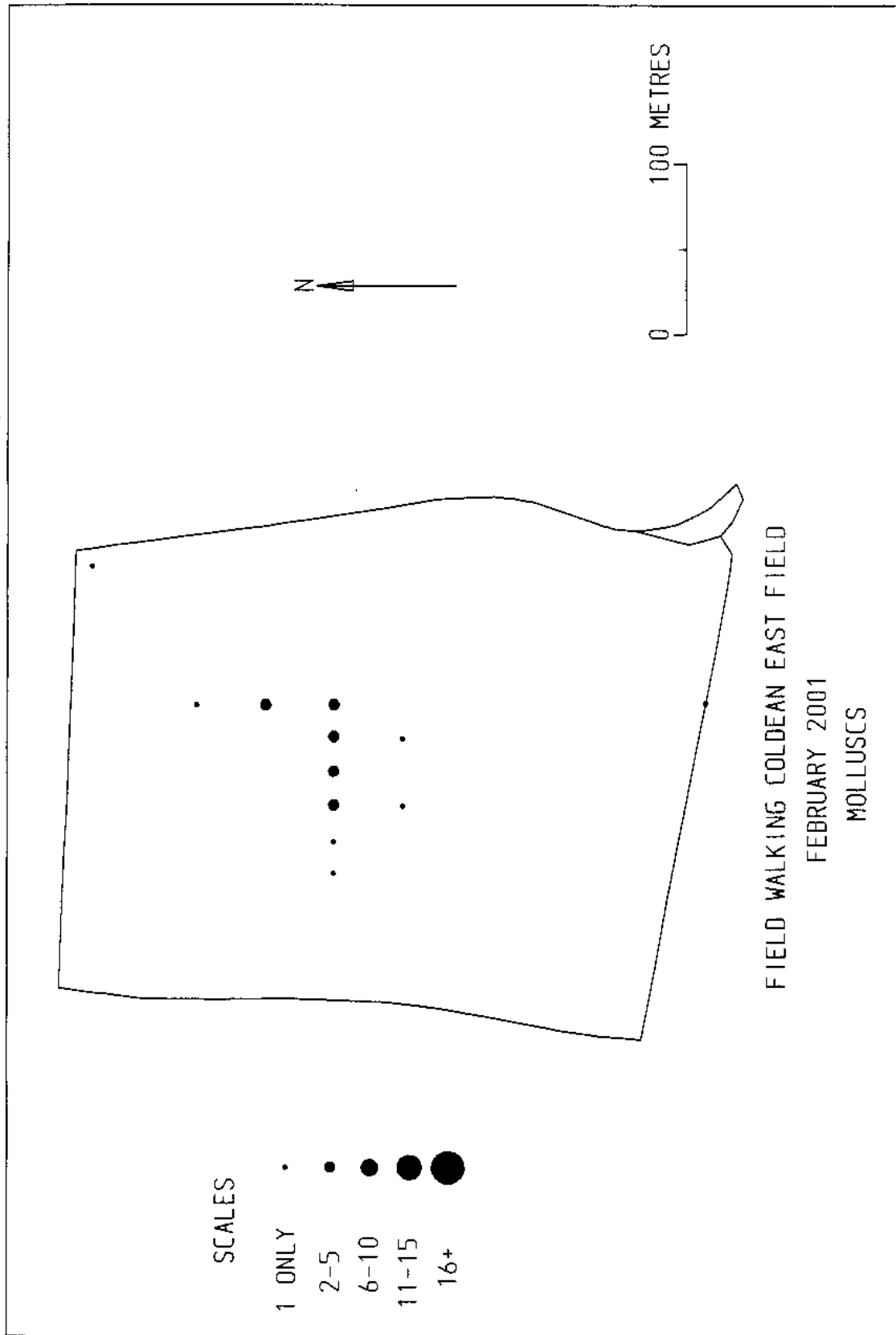


Fig 6 - Molluscs



# **Geophysics At Binstead, West Sussex**

## **Introduction**

During the past 2 years the Worthing Archaeological Society have been conducting excavations on a site close to the village of Binstead, West Sussex (Ref TQ97950660). This year the Worthing Society asked for the assistance of the Brighton and Hove Field Unit in conducting a geophysical survey prior to the commencement of excavations for the year's programme. The object of the exercise was to try and locate archaeological features prior to excavation. The excavations in 2000 had located a wall feature, probably associated with a known medieval tile kiln close by. A large ditch cuts across the west side of the field running north to south, and a bank associated with the ditch is clearly defined. The ditch has been dated to the Iron Age.

The opportunity was given for members of the Worthing Society to become proficient in the use of the RM15 resistivity equipment, and a training programme became part of the day's activities. A total of 6 squares were recorded, 3 complete squares and 3 partial, incorporating an area on the west side of the field. The Worthing Archaeological Society completed another 3 squares to bring the total to 9. The information was passed to Andrew Woodcock, East Sussex County Archaeologist who down loaded the information to produce the computer images (Fig 1).

## **Methodology**

The survey was set up using 20 metre square grids, with readings being taken at one metre intervals. The readings were measured in Ohms. The results were produced using Geoscan software.

## **Conclusions**

The results of the survey were very diverse. A concentration of high readings on the west side of the field produced no significant configuration, allowing no identification of archaeological features. A set of extremely high readings were found close to the field boundary among the hedgerow, but some form of hardened surface associated with the proximity of the road surface may have accounted for this difference. At Ovingdean the cattle ruts in a field produced significant areas of low readings close to the field boundary wall associated with water retention, and the opposite effect may be happening at Binstead. A significant number of low readings were produced running close to the area of the Iron Age ditch, and the Worthing Society considered that their previous excavations may also have contributed to the area of low readings.

The results of the survey will be incorporated in the interim report for the Worthing Archaeological Society Excavations.

## **Acknowledgments**

Both the Worthing Archaeological Society and the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society would like to thank East Sussex County Archaeologist, Andrew Woodcock, for his prompt assistance in the processing of the archaeological data after the survey.

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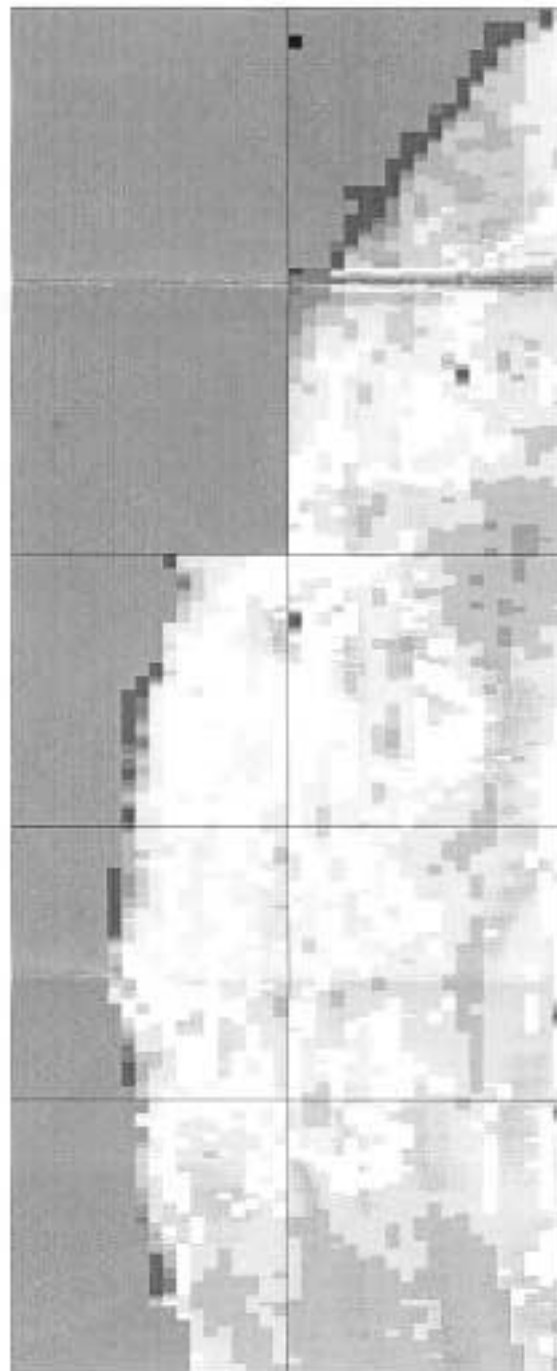
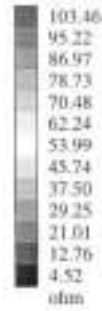
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**Fig 1 - Geophysics**

# Geophysical Survey At Beedings West Sussex

## Introduction

On 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2001 the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit conducted a geophysical survey on lands to the south of Beedings 'castle'. The survey was conducted in the garden and paddock of a detached bungalow ref (TQ074204)

The garden lies to the east of the building and the paddock to the north. There is some ground disturbance in the south area of the garden where cisterns and water tanks have been installed.

The reason for the investigation revolves around the excavation of a ditch by Con Ainsworth in the latter part of the last century. The excavation was unpublished but the finds from the ditch appear to suggest an Iron Age date. Other prehistoric artefacts and some flint finds are in the possession of the organiser of the project Caroline Wells. The aim of the geophysical study was to try and locate the ditch in the garden to the east of the existing building. A recent visit to the location, by Caroline Wells and Con Ainsworth, appeared to cast some doubt as to whether this area is indeed the correct location for the ditch.

The geophysics were conducted after a long period of dry weather and the study was undertaken on one such warm sunny day.

## Methodology

A base line was set up along the east side of the house running from south to north. A total of 4 grids measuring 20 metres square were surveyed with additional partial grids being surveyed up to the existing fence line. (Fig 1). The equipment used was an RM15 resistivity meter, the readings were taken in Ohms and measurements taken at 1 metre intervals. The results were down loaded onto a standard PC using Geoscan software. A graphical image was produced for interpretation purposes. (Fig 2 and Fig 3).

## Conclusions

The results from the resistivity survey at Beedings produced no real evidence for a ditch running across either the garden or paddock. The weather had been dry for some time prior to the survey, which could have had some affect on the results. However, the width of the ditch suggested by Con Ainsworth should have produced some form of anomaly. Some flint flakes were found among the disturbed area to the south of the garden. Con Ainsworth subsequently thought that the survey had been conducted in the wrong area close to Beedings, but could not remember the exact location of the excavation. A watching brief has been invoked as part of the planning application approval and features are to be recorded when the top soil is removed.

John Funnell (Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society) 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2001

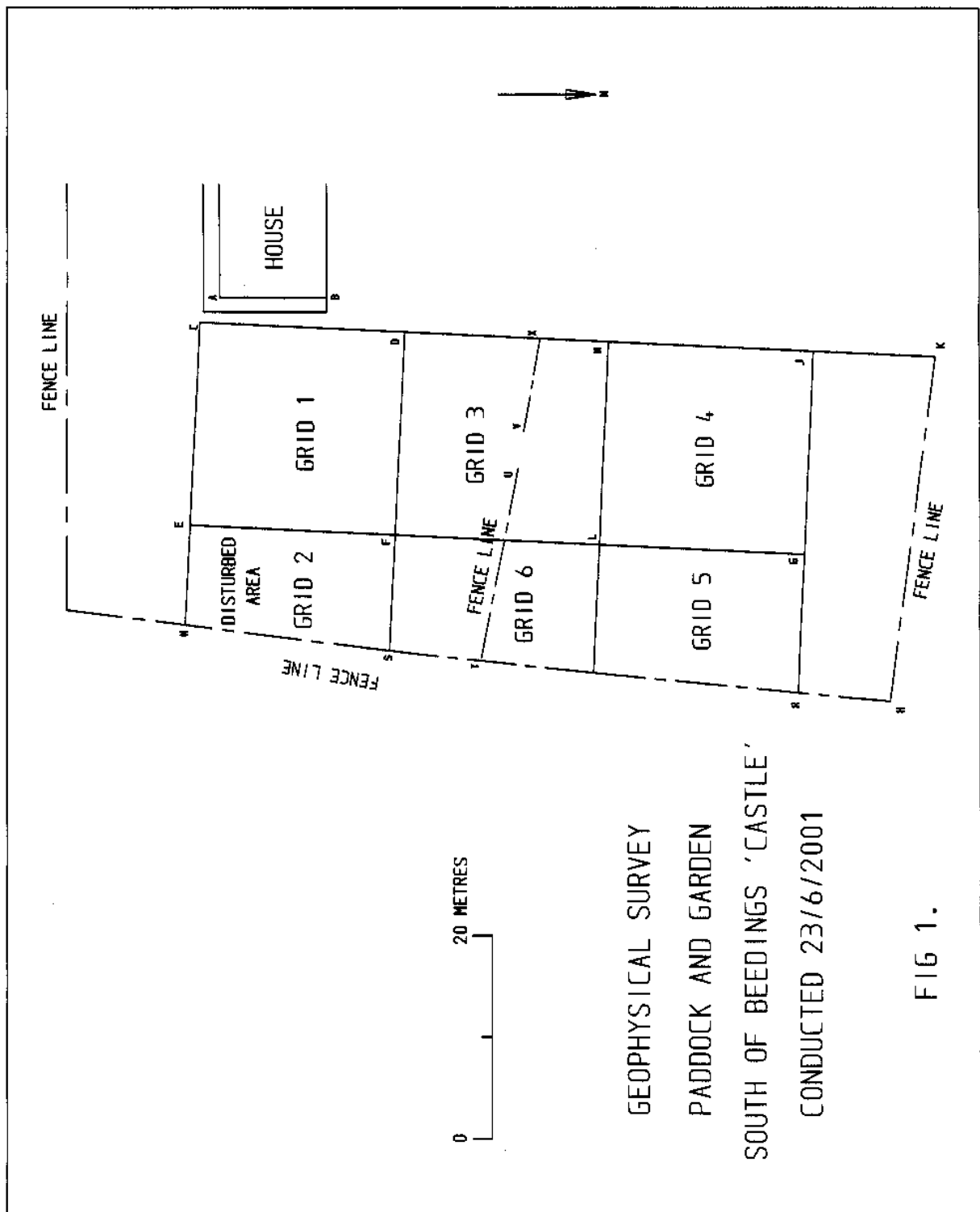


Fig 1 - Plan

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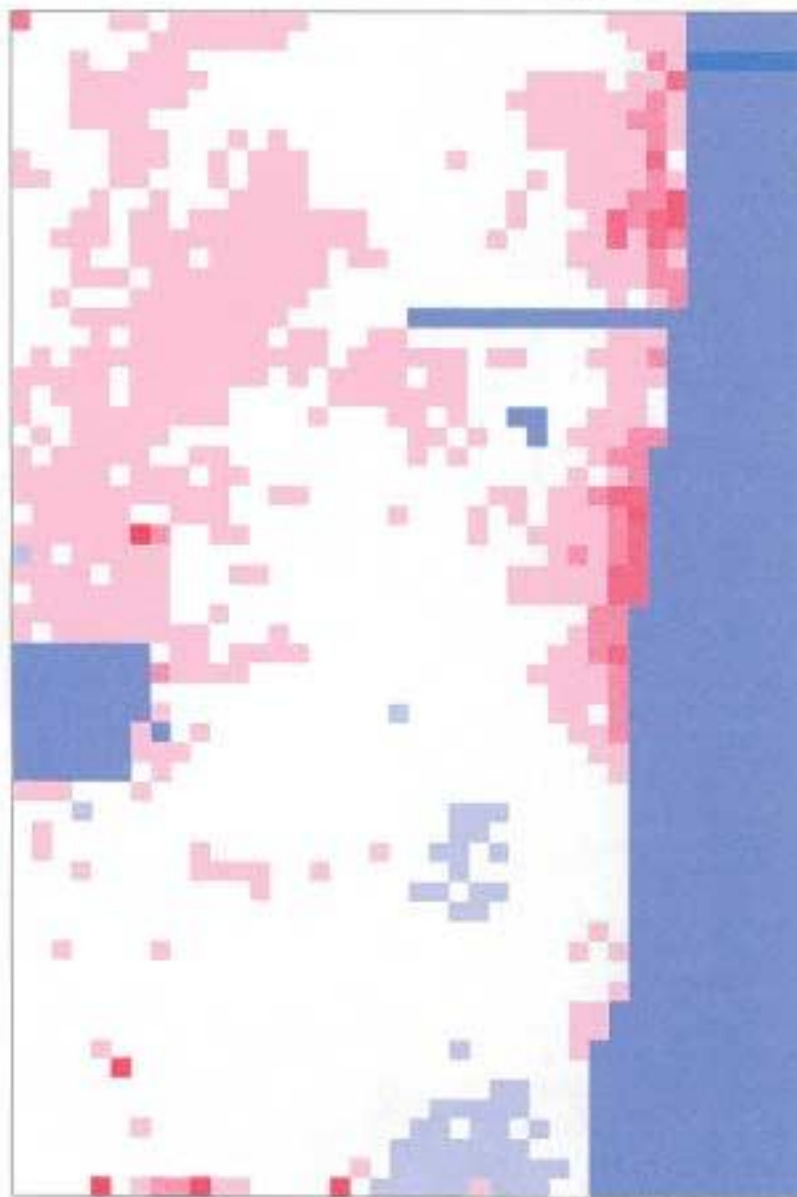
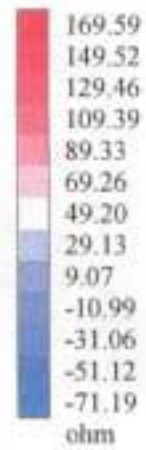
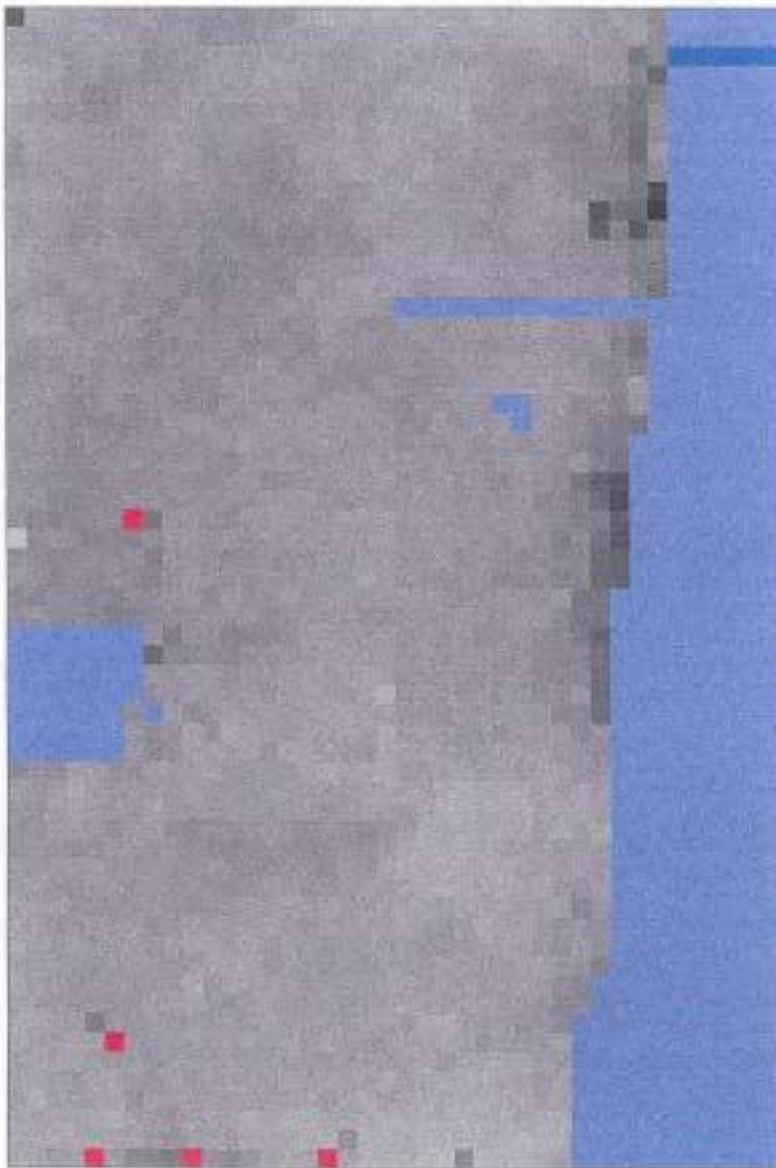
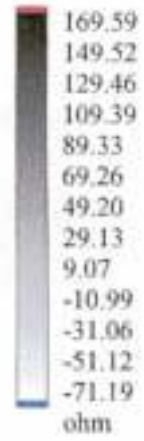


Fig 2 – Geophysics 1

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**Fig 3 – Geophysics 2**

# Geophysics at Beedings 'Castle' Nutbourne, West Sussex

## Introduction

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2001 the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit conducted a resistivity survey of lands to the east of Beedings 'Castle', Nutbourne, West Sussex (Ref TQ 075 205). The object of the exercise was to locate a geological fissure for future sediment sampling and analysis, to be used in conjunction with thermoluminescence dating of a presumed Upper Palaeolithic flint artefact which has been burnt.

The building of "Beedings Castle " in 1900 led to discoveries of prehistoric and Roman material. Most of these items are now lost. However, beautifully worked flints were also recovered and in the 1970's Dr Roger Jacobi identified these as, being of probably Early Upper Palaeolithic date. He has recently made an application for funding to attempt to date one of these flints, which appears to have been burnt in antiquity. TL dating would date that burning episode. In 1985 Con Ainsworth had a small excavation on the north side of the castle and recovered Late Iron Age finds but no features. At that time Dr Jacobi visited Con Ainsworth's excavations and made observations regarding a small stone pit then open in the field to the east, noting apparent fissures in the rock, and surmising that the Upper Palaeolithic flints had originally been found in similar deep fissures where the Castle now stands.

For this reason the geophysical survey was located close to the Castle on the east side- the nearest land free of modern buildings or garden landscaping. While the geophysical survey was in progress Dr Jacobi visited and was able to locate the approximate area of the pit which is now completely filled in, and which had not been located by Caroline Wells.

This geophysical survey was the third undertaken around Beedings Castle in the last 18 months, in an attempt to confirm the location of the various reports of finds or features observed both in 1900 and within the last 25 years.

## Methodology

A base line was established running from the north/ east corner of Beedings 'castle'. The grids of 20M square were set out in the field to the east of the 'castle' gardens. (Ref Fig 1). A total of 3 complete squares were recorded and a fourth partial square. The readings were taken at 1metre intervals and measured in Ohms. A number of linear anomalies occurring as high readings appeared to be registering running from north to south.

## Conclusions

The images produced from the resistivity survey are quite distinct and do show quite clearly variations in the geological substrate (Fig 2 and 3). A large area of high resistance can be observed on the east side of the area investigated, the high readings being interspersed with a number of lower sets possibly indicating fluctuations in the geology. The central concentration of high readings is cut in a number of places by small ridges and a large channel of low readings cut through 2 areas of high resistance running north/east to south/west. It is not possible to comment on the relationship to the earlier

excavations undertaken by Dr Roger Jacobi as these are to the east of this exercise. It is difficult to understand from the survey how the geology and archaeology relate. A larger survey over the earlier excavated area would prove beneficial and allow some understanding of the type of fissure in which the archaeology was located. At present there are possibilities that the smaller fissures harbour the archaeological remains, but that the larger channel may also swing round in the north/east corner of the field and may prove to be the location. No features relating to the Iron Age can be observed on the survey images.

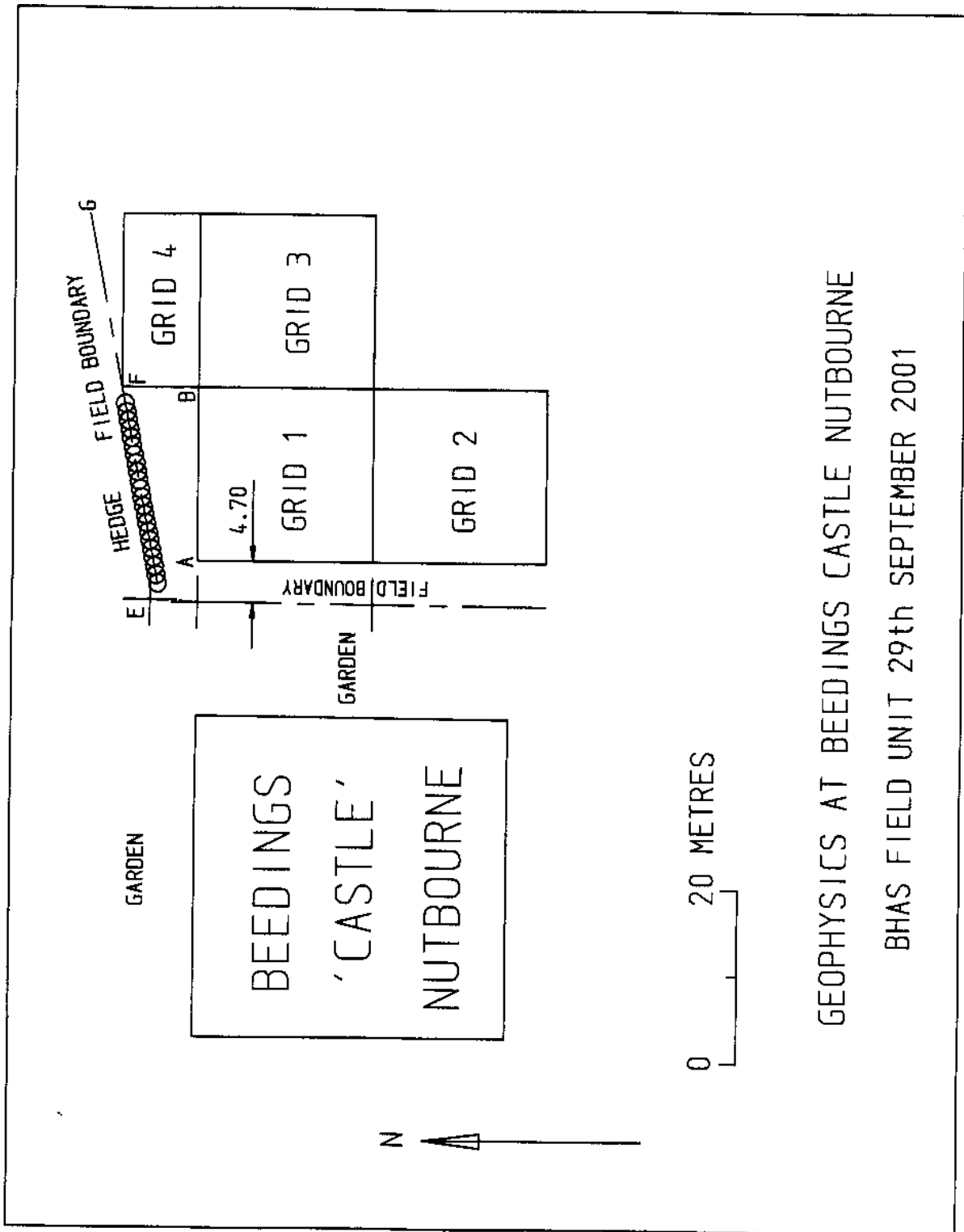
Ref Map 1:50 000 Chichester Map 197 TQ 075 205. (Landranger)

### **Acknowledgements**

The author would like to thank Caroline Wells for providing the history of the site documented in the introductory section of this report.

John Funnell 26<sup>th</sup> October 2001





GEOPHYSICS AT BEEDINGS CASTLE NUTBOURNE  
 BHAS FIELD UNIT 29th SEPTEMBER 2001

Fig 1 - Plan

Geoplot 3.0 - Resistance Data - c:\geoplot\comp\beedings\3.cmp

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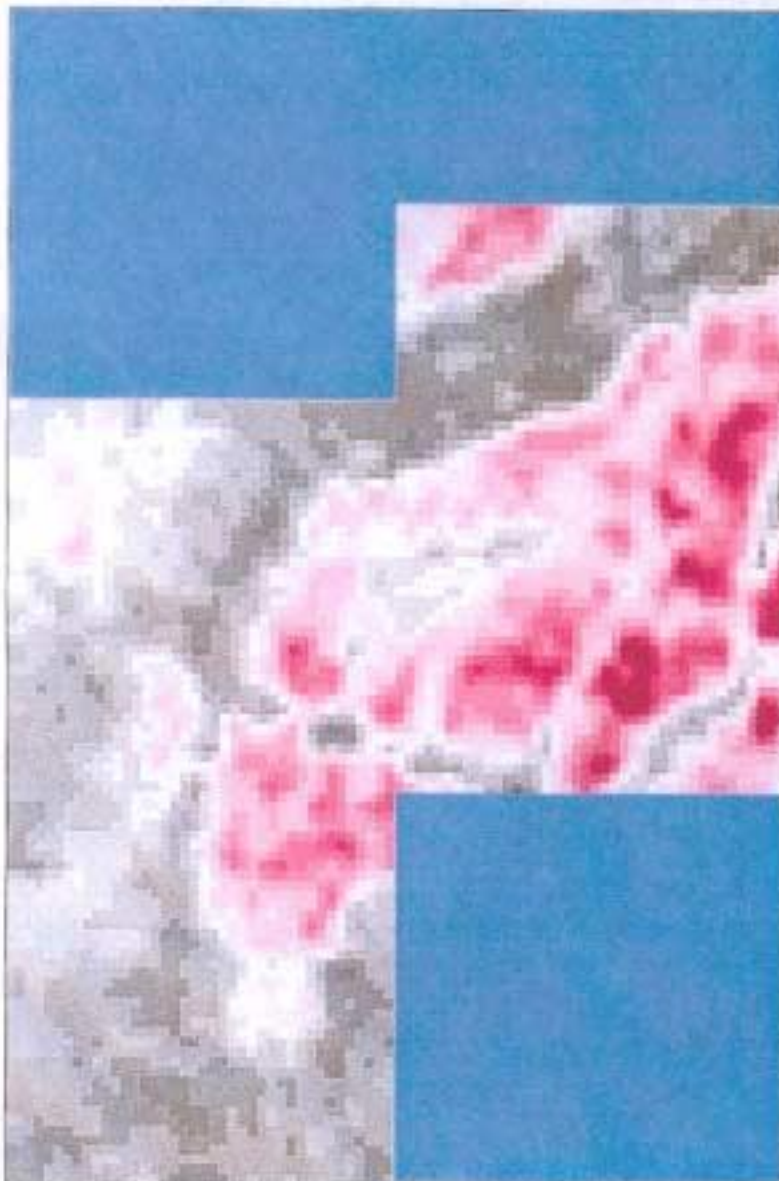


Fig 2 - Geophysics

# Geophysics at New Place, Pulborough

## Introduction

In June of 2001 the BHAS Field Unit conducted a resistivity survey of the gardens of the house known as New Place Pulborough.(TQ054194) The survey was conducted at the request of the Wealden Building Research Group, who have been studying the area. The house is stone built and possibly Tudor, although earlier phases can be detected. The house has undergone numerous changes and many features can be observed in the outside façade. The location of a possible butting turret can easily be noted with a curious window feature, looking inwards from what would have been the tower staircase. The windows in the south wall have undergone a number of changes in height location and a dovecote is a later addition on the south/west corner of the house. The garden has a paved area on the east and south sides, with a substantial driveway cutting through the garden on the south side. The driveway was included in the resistivity survey but the paved surround was not plotted. The garden wall on the south side of the house possesses a substantial pair of buttresses which are far too substantial to be considered as part of a garden wall, and the remaining east section of this south wall can be observed butting up to this larger construction. The Wealden Buildings Research Group believe that the large stonework may form part of an earlier building that once abutted the existing building on the south side. The object of the geophysical survey was to examine the garden to seek out areas of high readings that may indicate the presence of an earlier phase to New Place.

## Methodology

A base line was set out running from north to south to the east of the main building (Fig 1) and the garden to the east of the building surveyed (Grid 1 20M x 16M). An additional 2 grids (Grids 2 and 3) were set out along the remaining garden and driveway to the west , and this completed the survey of the garden precincts. A further 2 grids were set out and surveyed on the paddock area immediately south of the garden wall. This section of the survey included a derelict area of a disused potting shed. The grids in this area measured (20x20M) and (20x16M).

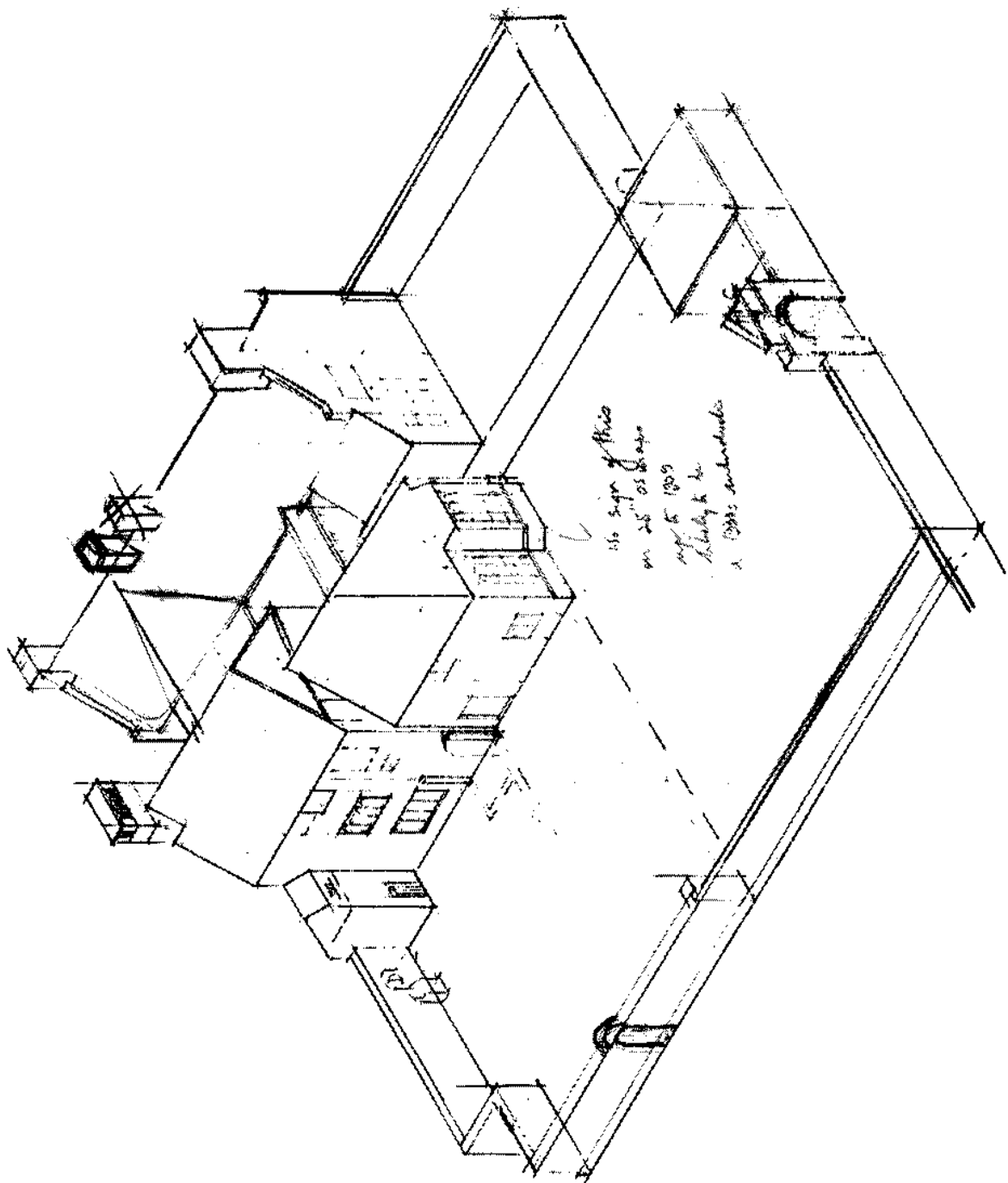
The machine used was an RM15 with data-logging device, the measurements were taken at 1 metre intervals and the readings were measured in Ohms.

## Conclusions

The results of the resistivity surveyed produced a number of areas of high resistance. The most significant factor was that areas of high resistance aligned with the substantial garden walls and linked with the existing house on the south side. A series of high readings were also noted in the garden to the east of the existing house, which may indicate further locations of an earlier building. The paddock area produced no significant anomalies of either high or low resistance.

The Wealden Buildings Research Group may be interested in conducting a small excavation, some time in the not too distant future, to investigate the nature of the anomalies observed.

John Funnell P.I.F.A. 10<sup>th</sup> August 2001



**Fig 1 – New Place Drawing**

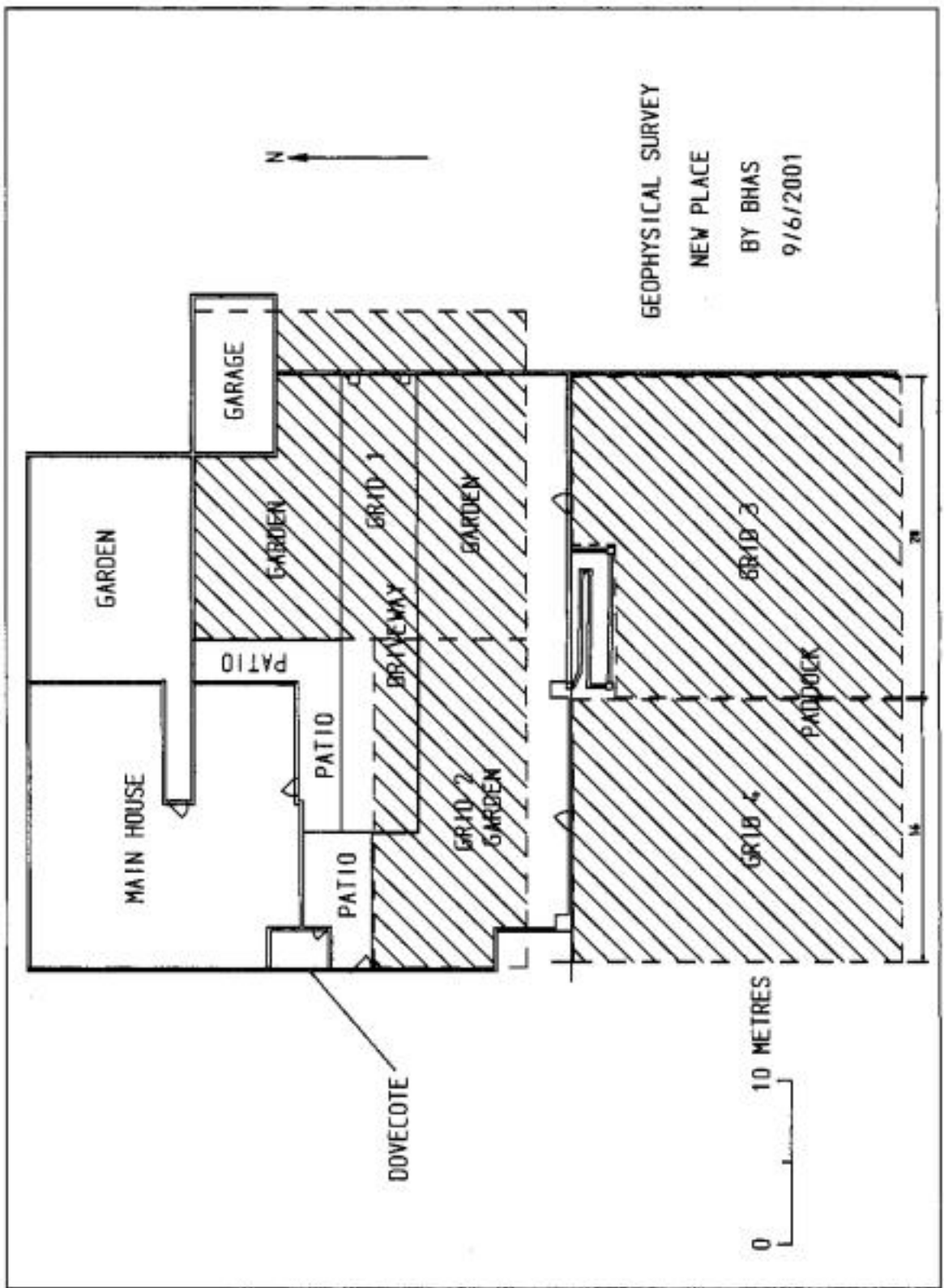


Fig 2 – Site Plan

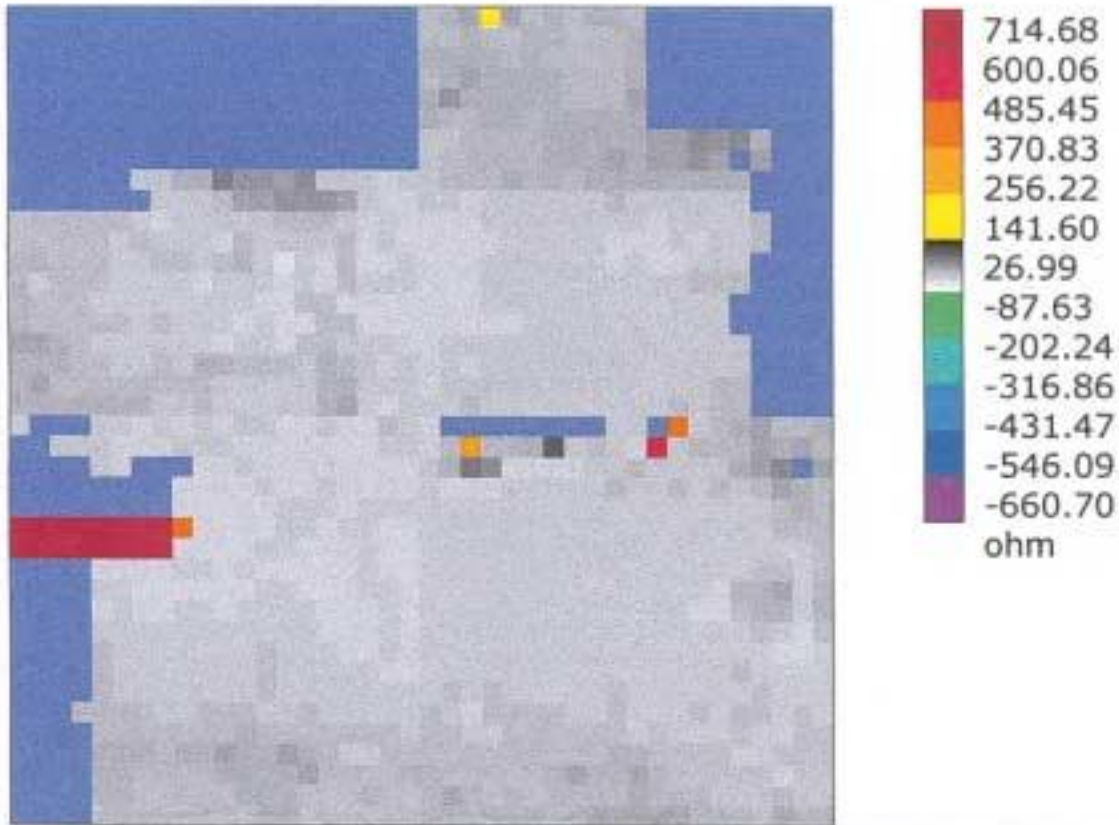
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**Fig 3 – Geophysics 1**

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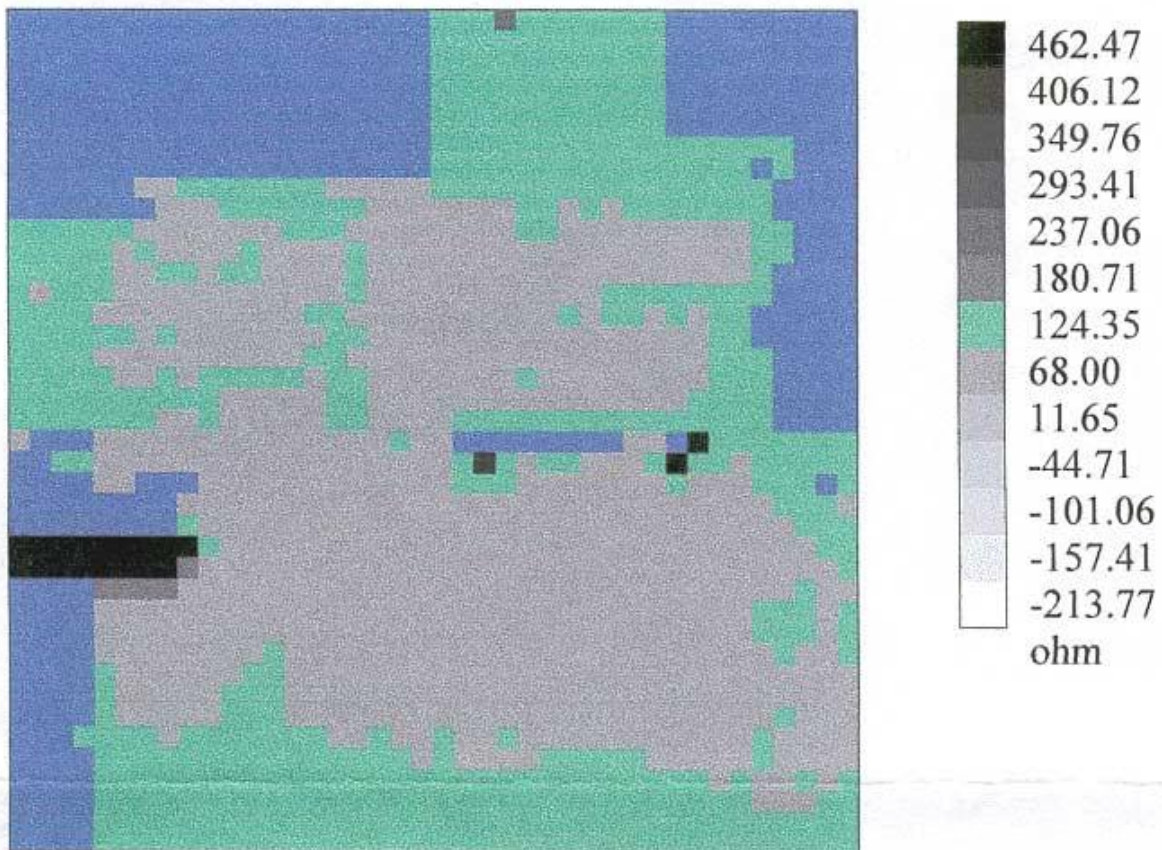
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**Fig 4 – Geophysics 2**



# Geophysical Survey At Lavant Road Chichester

## Introduction

In July of 2001 the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit were asked to conduct a resistivity survey of houses north of Chichester. The Chichester and District Archaeological Society have been seeking the location of the Roman road that is known to run northwards out of the ancient town. A number of excavations in this area have so far failed to locate the road. The projected path of the road lies within the vicinity of Lavant Road and when the opportunity was granted for access to two gardens a geophysical survey was considered as an alternative to continuing excavation. A dowsing exercise was also undertaken on both sites in an attempt to locate the flanking ditches located on either side of the road. The gardens of both houses were comparatively flat, with no sign of any agger often associated with Roman roads, or depressions suggesting flanking ditches.

## Methodology

The survey was conducted using an RM15 resistivity meter and data-logging device. Readings were taken at 1 metre intervals and measured in Ohms. The weather prior to the survey had been a mixture of sunshine and showers. The information was transferred to computer and the images produced using Geoscan software.

### No 11 Lavant Road

This garden is particularly flat and one complete 20 metre square was completed and another partial square measuring 20 metres by 16 metres

### No 51 Lavant Road.

The survey in the garden of 51 Lavant Road proved quite difficult with a number of flower beds and shrubbery causing restrictions in all directions. The survey covered all areas of lawn where accessible.

## Conclusions

The survey produced a considerable amount of high readings in both gardens. An area of particularly high readings was found in the west square at number 11 Lavant Road and high readings continued eastwards, although these were less intense. However, the readings were of a dispersed configuration and did not conform to a linear pattern which would have suggested a road type feature running from north to south. Similarly the garden at No 51 produced significantly high readings, but again in a very dispersed arrangement (Fig 1). Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the results from No 11 Lavant Road is that they may suggest a linear arrangement proceeding in an east/west alignment. No traces of flanking ditches were found in either survey. The results from the survey tend to suggest geological anomalies rather than archaeological, but one other consideration could be that the building materials from the road have been removed and used elsewhere. The results of the dowsing survey are known only by the Chichester and District Archaeological Society.

## **Acknowledgements**

Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society would like to thank Chris Butler and Bruce Wilton of the Mid Sussex Field Archaeological Team for allowing access to their Geoscan software and for downloading the geophysical data to produce the images.

John Funnell P.I.F.A. 27<sup>th</sup> September 2001

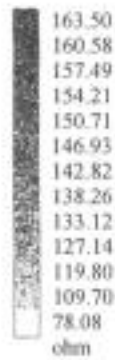
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No 11 Lavent Road



No 51 Lavent Road

Fig 1 – Geophysics at Lavent Road

# **New Earthworks in Stanmer Woods, Brighton**

## **Introduction**

In February 2001 members of the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit conducted a visual survey in Stanmer woods. The exercise was carried out in an attempt to locate potentially new and unknown archaeological features and, at the request of Brighton and Hove Council, relocate and investigate the location of a possible depression and tumulus.

## **Pudding Bag Wood**

A systematic search was made of the woods around the linear earthworks in Pudding Bag Wood. The area had been surveyed in 2000 and a plan produced of the linear earthworks, a tumulus (a Scheduled Ancient Monument) and a number of depressions to the north, south and east. The search to the north of the known features between the west footpath and the footpath running down to Coldean Lane car park produced no new features. A small ditch, or lynchet, was found close to the entrance of the car park at Coldean Lane immediately to the west of the entrance, and a number of white patinated flint flakes of probable Neolithic date, were observed in the undergrowth, but not collected.

## **Tumulus at Stanmer Great Wood**

A search of the grounds to the south east of the Coldean Lane car park managed to relocate a 'lost' tumulus. The 'lost' burial mound is approximately 90 metres to the south east of the tumulus located at the Coldean Lane car park. The mound is still quite significant, but appears to have a badger set disturbing the archaeology. A total of 5 pieces of fire-cracked flint and a solitary flint flake were found among the scrapings at the set entrance. The barrow is shown as item 31 on the SMR plan of the Stanmer area.

## **Stanmer Great Wood**

A number of earthworks were found in Stanmer Great Wood. The datum for the survey is the major track way running from the Coldean Lane car park down to and through the cross ridge dyke in Stanmer Great Wood, No 55 on the SMR plan of Stanmer. There are two depressions around the cross ridge dyke, one is immediately north west of the feature but is quite shallow and may be an old uprooted tree hollow. A second depression, much deeper, lies on the east side of the track way about 60 metres to the south/east, and both hollows are immediately adjacent to the track way itself.

A linear feature running parallel to the track way is located 60 metres approximately to the east of the main thoroughfare. The feature runs for about 100 metres and may be an older track way or lynchet feature. It is close to where the hill begins to drop down into Stanmer valley and house. David Larkin has mentioned that on old maps this location appears to be shown as an open area.

One area of particular interest lies at the south/east corner of Stanmer Great Wood. A number of features including both circular and linear earthworks form a complex configuration. One quite distinct area contains a well defined corner of two meeting linear features. The area is to the west of the track as it begins its descent into Marquee Brow

onto the Brighton bypass, curving to the south/ east as it drops. A collection of fences and wood cutter's equipment lies to the east.

A significant linear earthwork lies to the south east of the cross ridge dyke in Stanmer Great Wood. The feature is located 115 metres south east of the known cross ridge dyke and to the west of the major track way through the wood. The orientation of this earthwork is east to west. The west end of the feature is higher than the east and there is a distinct ditch on the north side of the mound and a partially visible ditch on the south side. A depression lies only a few metres to the west of the feature.

## **Conclusions**

Stanmer Great Wood contains a number of significant earthworks as yet unrecorded or undated. The disturbances may be of great antiquity or associated with second World War activities. A search through old maps and plans has failed to produce any real evidence for contemporary use of these areas. The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society intend to survey the features at the earliest opportunity, probably during the winter months of 2001/2002. Further research may include assessment excavations once permission is obtained.

John Funnell (Hon. Sec. Archaeology Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society)

15th March 2001

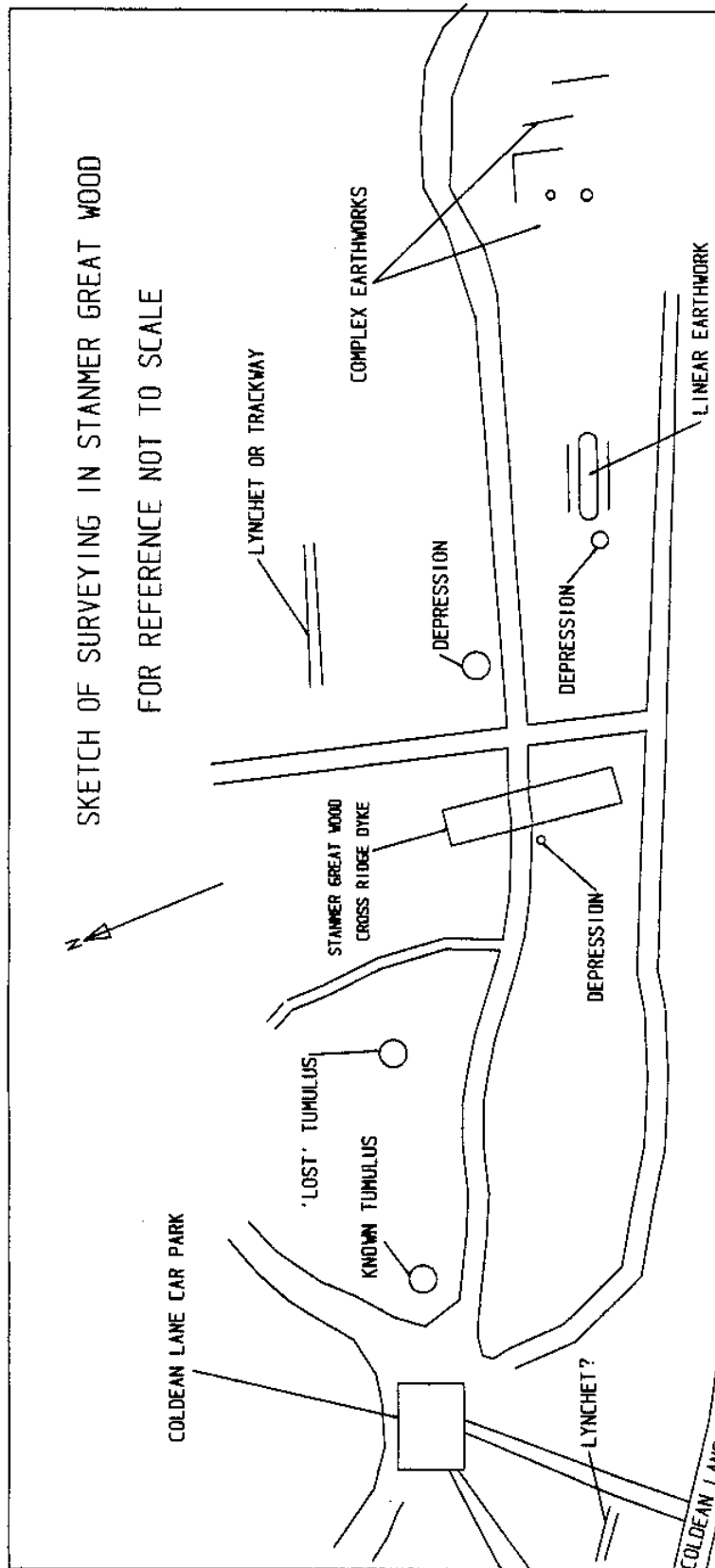


Fig 1 - Site Plan

## Miscellaneous Notes 2001

### Sea Henge at Medina Villas

The site of a possible sea henge was brought to the attention of the Society by Mr Lenton of Arthur Street Hove. Apparently Mr Lenton used to work for Hove Council during the 1950's. After a particularly bad storm in 1950 or 1951 Mr Lenton noticed a circular arrangement of timbers within the sands on the beach opposite Medina Villas and west of the Medina groyne. The recent programme about the sea henge in Norfolk prompted his memory. The features Mr Lenton observed are once again buried beneath the pebbled beach and only another dramatic storm is likely to allow them to reappear. Mr Lenton enclosed a photograph of the features with a pencil drawing completing the circle. An official investigation may have taken place as the photograph does show a policeman in uniform close to the site. The approximate location of the site is (TQ292042). However, it is possible that the timbers may be the remains of a Victorian/Edwardian wooden groyne.

### Well at Patcham Place

David Larkin of the Downland Ranger service alerted the Society to the fact that a well had appeared at Patcham Place. The well is located to the north east of the building between the house and the road. The well is a metre in diameter and is constructed or lined with flint nodules. The well centre has dropped by about 1.5 metres probably as a result of the recent flooding in the area disturbing the water table. The high level of rainfall had produced a stream running through the valley at Patcham Place and the weight of water probably caused the well centre to subside.

The location of the well is (TQ30050809)

## Archaeological Watching Briefs

**Location: Wild Park, Lewes Road, Brighton**

OS Explorer 122 Grid Ref: 332 078

Wild Park is an area of open grassland overseen by the Brighton and Hove City Council. The park lies west of the Lewes Road and North Moulscomb, and Coldean lies to the north. Hollingbury Hill Fort lies approximately 1 km to the west.

The recent earthwork ran parallel with the Lewes Road, cutting through the top soil. It was probably achieved with the use of mechanical earth moving equipment. The soil waste was dumped on the west side of the trench. The resulting trench, measuring approximately 4M wide, had been taken down to the natural chalk level.

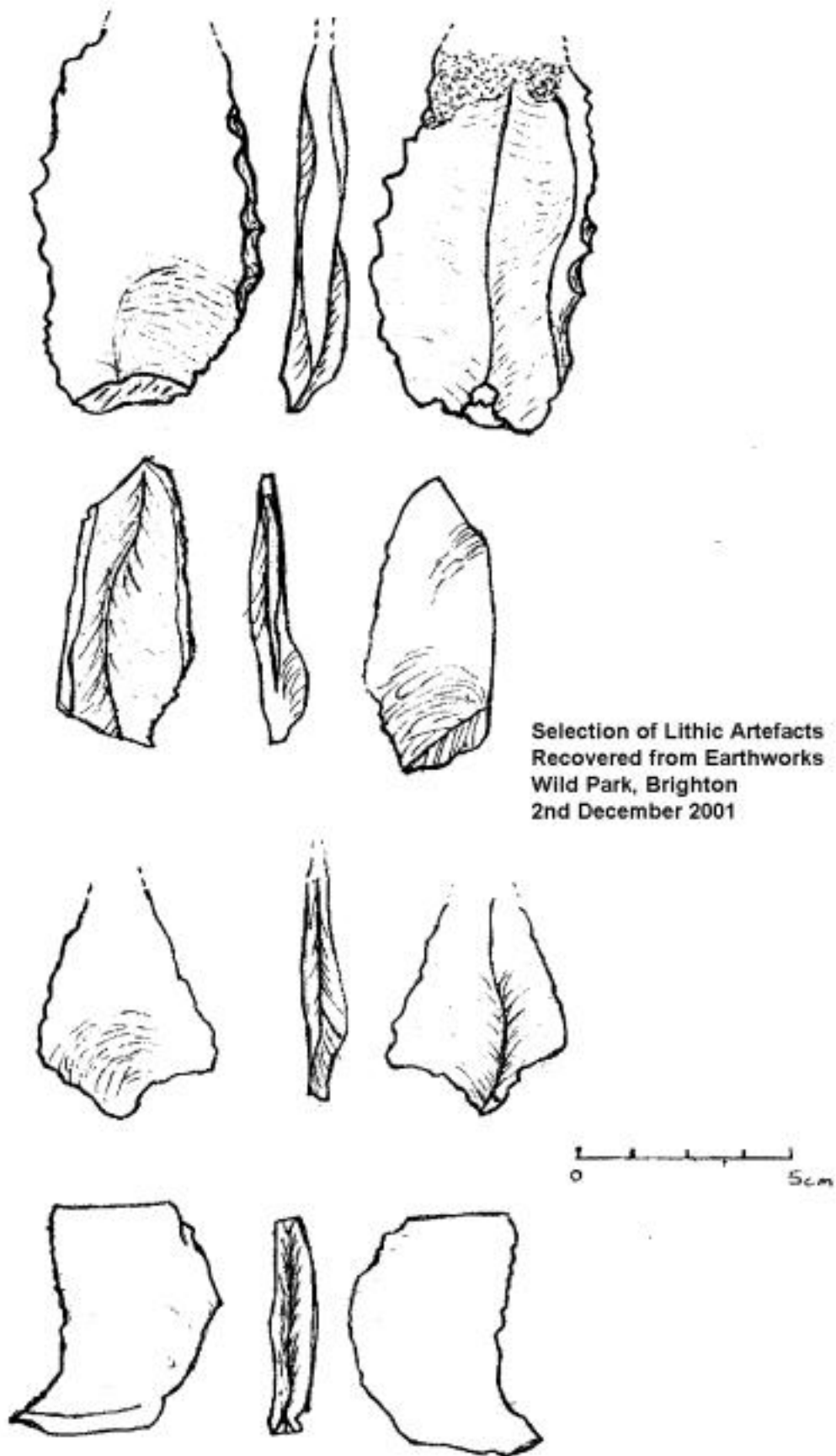
On Sunday 3rd December 2001 the writer conducted a quick field walking survey of the site. Various lithic tools, flint flakes, fire-cracked flint and oyster shell were removed from the surface of the cut trench and the waste soil heap.

Nine flint tools of various description were found, some of which have been drawn for identification purposes (see attached sheet).

The site of the trench lies very close to location of Bronze Age burials found when a bowling green was created in this area during the middle of the last century.

Norman Phippard 3rd December 2001





**Fig 1 – Lithic Artefacts**

## 9 Roedean Crescent Roedean

A request to provide a watching brief at 9 Roedean Crescent, Brighton was received during March 2001, and the writer duly attended. The property is a substantial Georgian style house built during 1937 straddling three plots Nos 9-11-13 and now being modernised for new owner (Mr Bhimji).

Work had started long before our attendance request was received and much demolition of the north facing entrance had taken place, "spoil" of masonry, brickwork etc being placed on the lawns to the SW of the grounds, this it seems may have covered features visible in the lawn surface.

During the reconstruction of the driveway which encircles the property some landscaping took place entailing moving soil from somewhere at the rear of house and depositing it along the Western border of the drive, and some small sherds of pottery, believed Roman era, were found here.

The contractors were required to excavate a large hole in the ground between the rear of the house and the driveway during which their JCB encountered a substantial obstruction in the shape of a concrete block wall aligned at right angles to the North wall of the house and then found that a small hole had appeared in the ground immediately adjacent to and West of the obstructing wall. Work in this area was suspended pending further investigation, at which point the writer arrived on the scene and was shown the discoveries. Photographs of the below ground structure were taken at this point by holding a camera at arms length down the hole and using flash, and these showed the the passage quite well.

The next day the writer returned and was told that the smallest member of the workforce had been down the hole on a rope and reported that a passage led North from the house into the SW corner of a substantial chamber about three metres wide and perhaps four metres long, with 10 metre long passages leading off from NW and NE corners heading West and East respectively and ending in escape ladders leading to trap hatches. The chamber contained what was described as a heater sitting in an alcove, also a cavity in the floor which looked like a drainage sump, (this later proved correct). As the air was foul with no ventilation other than through the small hole, and the contractor had been tasked with cutting a doorway into the structure, the writer decided to await an easier entrance later.

The weather, being very wet, caused the contractor to work indoors for several weeks and it was late April before the chamber became accessible, the writer then returned accompanied by Mr Ron Martin from The Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society. It was found that an opening had been made in the South wall of the chamber revealing a room about 10' x 10' with walls constructed out of hollow concrete blocks 18"x 9" x 9" containing iron reinforcing rods set in gravel concrete ballast, and covered by a reinforced roof, forming a very strong structure. (The writer has used Imperial measurement as it is obvious that designer worked in this scale, and the writer has found it very easy to see the basic layout!)

It is apparent that the original entrance to the chamber is via the passage leading North from the house entering in the SW corner of the chamber, other passages lead off from

the NW and SW corners providing escape routes via 30" x 30" trap hatches, long concreted over.

In an alcove in the West wall is a large device wearing a manufacturers plate carrying wording "KEITH BLACKMAN Ltd. Engineers, London. ARP Plant Size O 2 No F 363." This appears to be an electrically driven air filtration system, with a foot operated pump for emergencies!

There is a mystery about this structure as it appears that the foundations of the North wall of the present house built in 1937 sit over steps leading down into the access passage which was bricked up to prevent access probably at the time of building the house. This indicates that the underground chamber existed before the house was built, how long before and for what purpose is not known at the moment, speculation is rife! At first it seems obvious that it is an air raid shelter (witness the label which seems to support this idea, the equipment seems to be for air filtration) However why build one and then seal it off in 1937? Could it date from 1914-18 war period? The structure is certainly strong enough for shelter purposes. The Royal Navy used Roedean School during the Second World War and, was part of the King Alfred Training for Officers, does the chamber date from then? Further research is called for.

W.L.Santer 31-5-01

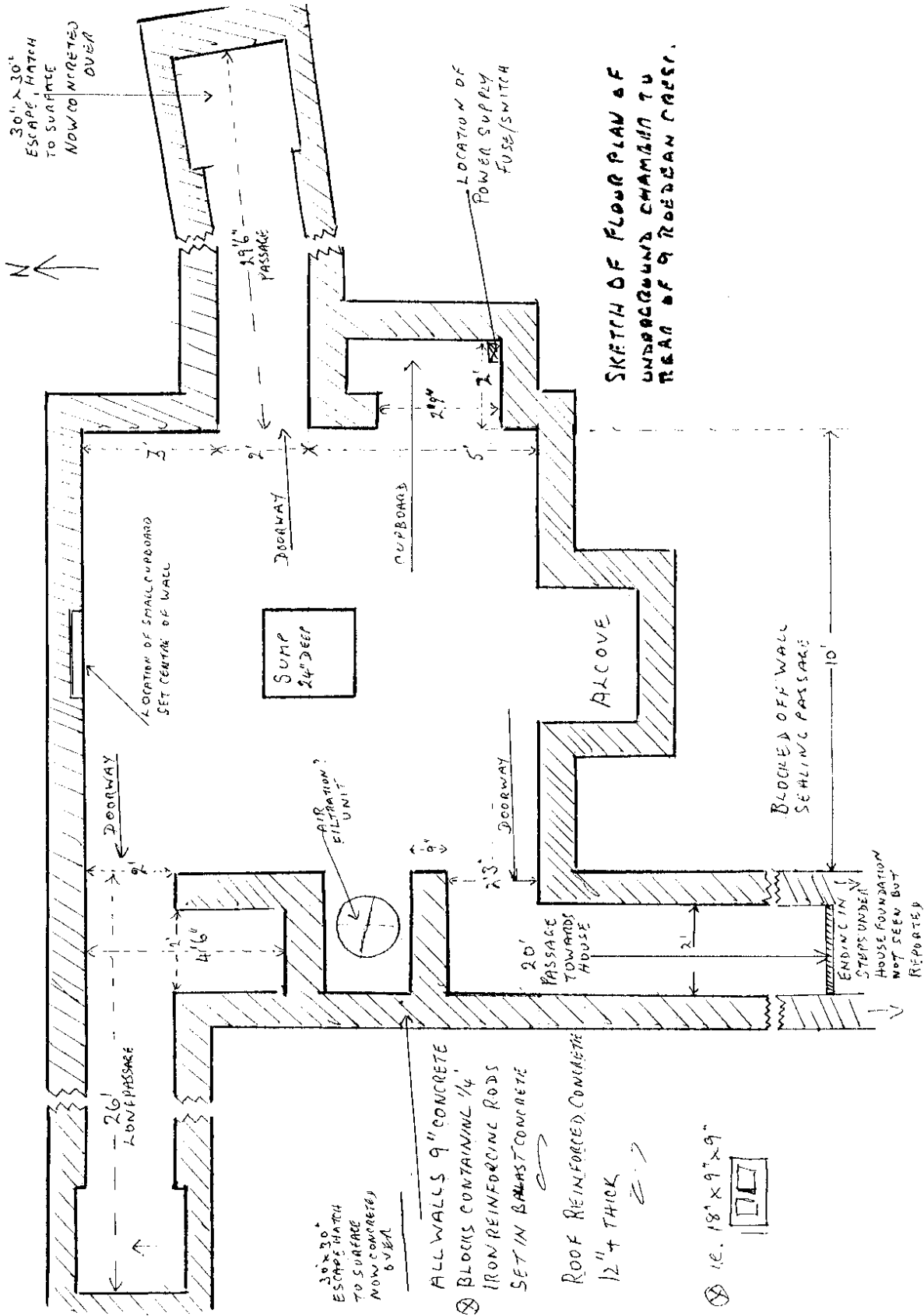


Fig 1 - Plan

**47 The Cliff, Roedean**

PLANNING APPLICATION No:- BH2001/00334/FP

ADDRESS:- 47 The Cliff, Roedean

PLANNING OFFICER:- Mr Godfrey Cooke

NAME OF APPLICANT:-

DATE OF FIRST CONTACT FROM LANDOWNER:- December 2001

DATE OF WATCHING BRIEF:- December 2001 (2 visits) January 2002 (1 visit)

OFFICERS CONDUCTING WATCHING BRIEF:- John Funnell & William Santer

**RESULTS OF EXAMINATION**

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An examination of the area of the new extension to 47, The Cliff, Roedean, produced no evidence for archaeological features. The garden has been extensively terraced during the past decade and the house owner reported that he had found nothing of archaeological interest during the landscaping.

The finds from the soil removed included a solitary struck flint flake, and a single piece of fire-cracked flint. (2gms)

John Funnell P.I.F.A.  
(Secretary for Archaeology Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society)

### **34 The Cliff, Roedean**

PLANNING APPLICATION No:- BH2001/

ADDRESS:- 34 The Cliff, Roedean

PLANNING OFFICER:- Mr Godfrey Cooke

NAME OF APPLICANT:-Ms Libby Fellingham

DATE OF FIRST CONTACT FROM LANDOWNER:- March 2002

DATE OF WATCHING BRIEF:- March 20<sup>th</sup> 2002

OFFICER CONDUCTING WATCHING BRIEF:- Mr W.L.Santer

#### **RESULTS OF EXAMINATION**

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Several visits were made to the above address. The site had been previously occupied by a building constructed in the 1920's and since demolished, believed several years ago. The present contractor, (Wayne Smith, mobile 07711465391) informed us that the whole site had been extensively landscaped with terraces for the earlier building. It would appear that as a result of this previous development any archaeology present has been effectively removed. A search of the current spoil heaps produced a number of nondescript flints and a solitary sherd of Roman pottery. There were no archaeological features present in the current area under development.

John Funnell P.I.F.A.  
(Secretary for Archaeology Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society)

**172 Saunders Hill, Coldean, Brighton**

PLANNING APPLICATION No:- BH2001/00388/FP

ADDRESS:- 172 SAUNDERS HILL, COLDEAN, BRIGHTON.

PLANNING OFFICER:- MR G.COOKE

NAME OF APPLICANT:-

DATE OF FIRST CONTACT FROM LANDOWNER:- JUNE 2001

DATE OF WATCHING BRIEF:- 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2001

OFFICER CONDUCTING WATCHING BRIEF:- MR W. SANTER

**RESULTS OF EXAMINATION**

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The address above was visited initially on 25th June 2001, to inspect an excavation carried out to allow wall foundations for a small extension to the rear of the house. A trench 1 metre deep, 60cm wide and approx 10 metres long in total, was dug over a period of 4/5 days, and from the spoil a number of items as listed below were recovered.

Flint Flakes:                      18  
Fire Fractured Flint:            5        --total weight 50 grams

Pottery:            3 sherds East SussexWare  
                      1 sherd Roman grey ware.  
                      1 sherd brown glazed ware, post medieval  
                      1 sherd unidentified, but probably modern.

Marble:            1 fragment from a slab 18mm thick, measuring 40mm x 55mm x  
                          50mm, possibly from a Victorian washstand (?)

Marine Shell: a number of Scallop shell fragments.

The whole of the soil excavated was found to contain numerous modern pottery fragments, some corroded but recognizable modern nails, pieces of brick, concrete, slate, plastic, in short typical debris from a modern building site. As the site is constructed on a platform excavated into the side of downland, it is highly probable that builders dug through an ancient site which then became mixed with building debris, soil etc. later to be deposited during landscaping around the house.

It was remarkable that an India rubber pencil eraser was found almost at the bottom of one section of the trench!

W.L.Santer.

The flint material is predominantly hard hammer struck, with only 2 pieces showing soft

hammer features. All the flakes with the exception of one has a white patination, the remaining piece being blue. The majority of flakes bore no trace of cortex, proving the items to be of secondary manufacture. The suggested date for the artifacts is Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age.

John Funnell



## **Balsdean Farm**

PLANNING APPLICATION No:-BH2000/02789/FP

ADDRESS:- BALSDEAN FARM

PLANNING OFFICER:- SUE DUBBERLEY

NAME OF APPLICANT:- MR JOHN CARR

DATE OF FIRST CONTACT FROM LANDOWNER:- AUGUST 2001

DATE OF WATCHING BRIEF:- 21<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2001

OFFICER CONDUCTING WATCHING BRIEF:- MR CLIVE LANGAN

### **RESULTS OF EXAMINATION**

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Report on Watching Brief at Balsdean Farm 21.08.2001

Location Reference TQ377042

Permission had been given to clear a strip of land at the rear of the farmyard in order to construct some horse boxes. The farmer, Mr John Carr, provided information that the modern farmyard was constructed in the late 1940's following bomb damage during WWII. It was necessary for a west facing chalk embankment to be stripped back using a mechanical digger. The digger destroyed the ruins of a small building which had been sited at the top of the south end of the embankment. The rubble from the building consisted only of modern brick, broken tarmac, a single roof tile, decaying timber and a small quantity of asbestos. There was no sign of pottery or domestic artefacts, suggesting that this had been a twentieth century out building.

When the whole of the embankment had been stripped back to the bare chalk, an ancient land surface was apparent, running the entire length of the embankment at a height of approximately 1.2 metres. This feature made it clear that the farm yard had been terraced into the hillside during its construction and that any evidence of archaeology would have been destroyed at that time. That the only artefacts recovered were a single waste flint flake and a small fire-cracked flint, would confirm that, archaeologically speaking, the area was sterile.

Report by Clive Langan on behalf of Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society.

## Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit 2001 and Attendance Record

John Funnell (Director)	48 Days	Brighton
Donna Angel(G)	11 Days	Brighton
Trish Ballard	1 Day	Croydon
Barry Bassett	1 Day	Hove
Gill Bassett	1 Day	Hove
Val Betts	1 Day	Brighton
Gary Bishop(Assistant Director)(P)(G)(S)	13 Days	Hove
Ali Bullough	3 Days	Brighton
Dawn Burns	7 Days	Littlehampton
Keith Butler (P)(S)(L)	18 Days	Shoreham
Bob Crowhurst (F)	38 Days	Brighton
Sue Day	1 Day	Brighton
Celine Durand (Assistant Director)(P)(S)(L)(G)	12 days	Littlehampton
Jennie Fisher	1 Day	Hove
Amanda Scales	2 Days	Brighton
Maria Gardiner(E)	5 Days	Hove
Phil Gerrish	1 Day	Brighton
Cherry Gillingham	1 Day	Hove
Mark Gillingham	32 Days	Hove
Francine Grant	7 Days	Hove
Jennie Holliday	2 Days	Canterbury
Avril Huggins	2 Days	Polegate
Leo Jago	7 Days	Brighton
Robert Johnston	2 Days	Brighton
Abigail Kennedy	1 Day	Brighton
Trisha Kennedy	1 Day	Brighton
Clive Langan (G)	28 Days	Uckfield
David Ludwig	44 Days	Littlehampton
Joan MacGregor	7 Days	Brighton
Grace Markwick	1 Day	Brighton
Alf Mason	1 Day	Falmer
Dot McBrien (E)(S)(F)	29 Days	Sompting
Colin Miller	9 Days	Brighton
Sarah Mounce	4 Days	Hove
Alexis Over	1 Day	Brighton
Lynda Penfold	3 Days	Brighton
Pauline Phillips	6 Days	Hove
Norman Phippard (S)(G)	10 Days	Brighton
Caroline Poole	2 Days	Brighton
Richard Pulley (Assistant Director)(S)	15 Days	Littlehampton
Steve Robotham	8 Days	Henfield
Bill Santer (Director G)(Q)	12 Days	Saltdean
Jennie Scott	1 Day	Crowborough
Kevin Simmons	2 Days	Brighton
Paul Smith	4 Days	Brighton
David Staveley(Assistant Director (P)(S)(L)(G)	19 Days	Eastbourne

Liza Stewart	10 Days	Rottingdean
Thomas Toone (G)	5 Days	Brighton
Leona Watson	4 Days	Eastbourne
Jeremy Webster (G)	3 Days	Hove

Total Attendance (excluding Barcombe)	<b>447 Days</b>
Total Number of Participants	<b>50 People</b>

### Codes

(P) Planning

(S) Section drawing

(G) Geophysics

(L) Surveying & levelling

(E) Educational Officers

(Q) Quarter master

(F) Finds processing

(Although finds processing is carried out by much of the team, those with (F) process considerable amounts of site material)

## **Acknowledgements**

The Director of the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit would like express appreciation to those who assisted with the Society's field projects during 2001.

Brighton and Hove City Council

Mr G.Bennett Brighton and Hove Council Environmental Services Department

Mr David West, Home Farm, Stanmer.

Mr David Baker Ovingdean Farm

Dr Andrew Woodcock, County Archaeologist

Mr Martin Brown, Assistant County Archaeologist

Mr David Rudling, Director Archaeology South East

Mr Chris Butler, Director of the Mid-Sussex Field Archaeological Team

Mr John Davies- Historian Ovingdean

and all the members of the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit.