

Fieldwalking at Varley Hall, Coldean, Brighton

During March of 1997 members of the Brighton and Hove Archeological Society Field Unit fieldwalked 3 fields around the Varley Halls of residence, Coldean, Brighton. The fields may have been previously walked during assessment for the archaeology of the Brighton bypass route, a note is entered in the Sussex Archaeologica¹ Society Collections. The Brighton bypass produced the Bronze Age site at Downsvie (Pudling forthcoming and Funnell) and a later development. produced another Bronze Age. settlement site at Varley Hall (Rudling forthcoming). The Brighton and Hove Archeological Society conducted a geophysical survey around the excavated area of Varley Hall and produced significant material to suggest the presence of other round houses in this area (Funnell), The lands around Varley Hall are subject. to possible development and further assessment was felt necessary. The area is also part of a Brighton and Hove Archeological Society survey entitled 'The North Brighton Research Project This Research project is examining, by fieldwalking and geophysical survey, fields from Hollingbury north to Rocky Clump in Stanmer.

Details of fieldwalking

Field 1— North West of Varley Hall TQ331~O900

This field is triangular in shape and lies closest to the Bronze Age site at. Downsvie Adjacent to the new bridge crossing Coldean Lane Aerial photographs of 1975 show the field containing several lynchets and field systems, some of which can be observed in the field today. Unfortunately the southeast quadrant was covered with - the topsoil from the Varley Hall excavations. Some consideration must be allowed for in the interpretation of the artifacts from this section. The field was walked in 20 metre wide lines at 20 metre intervals.

Field 2— An L shaped field around the Varley Halls of Residence

It is -this field (TQ3325O880) that has been investigated by geophysics. The excavation at Varley Hall left. one round house terrace still remaining in situ on the north west side. The geophysics clearly showed the remaining half of the terrace and produced data for a possible ditch in the north west. section of the field with another round house on the north east side, Further geophysics are planned. The field was walked in lines twenty metres apart. and in 20 metres intervals.

Field 3— A small field north east of Varley Hall adjacent to the Brighton bypass and south east. of the small metalled bridge crossing the bypass.

This was the smallest, of the three fields and was walked at '10 metre line spacings but in 20 metres intervals

The small wooded area between fields 2 and 3 was also investigated by examination of rabbit burrows, a single end scraper was found in this area

John Funnell 16th March 1997







