

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD NOTEBOOK 2003

A RECORD OF THE PROJECTS OF THE:

BRIGHTON AND HOVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY FIELD UNIT

Introduction

The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit has during the season of 2003 conducted a wide range of activities in the field. Post excavation and field walking workshops have processed much of the material found, and drawings and interim reports have been completed where possible. The reports on the field walking conducted at Varley Halls in 1995 and the Roman nail scraper found at Lancing Down in 1998, which had been submitted to the Sussex Archaeological Collections, have been published in the SAC Volume 140.

The season has concentrated on excavations at Ovingdean, Rocky Clump, and the excavation of an Early Bronze Age burial found at East Brighton Golf Club. The burial was found during a watching brief conducted by the BHAS Field Unit.

This year field walking at Ovingdean in St. Dunstan's field produced further evidence for Roman activities at this part of Brighton. Field walking at Lower Hoddern Farm, Peacehaven produced important finds from the Neolithic period.

The geophysics were very active during 2003 with surveys at Henfield Parsonage, the gardens of a Medieval 4-bayed hall house at Graffham, West Sussex and a major undertaking into the investigations of lands in and around the Neolithic causewayed enclosure at Combe Hill, near Eastbourne.

A major impact on the BHAS Field Unit has been with watching briefs. Mr W. Santer has taken on the role of Watching Brief Officer and his reports on the findings of the various projects are appended to this document.

Finds processing has been well attended by significant numbers of the unit and finds from both Ovingdean and Rocky Clump were processed during the latter part of 2003. The pottery report on the 2002 excavation at Ovingdean has now been completed by Keith Edgar. Carol White, Maria Gardiner and Averil Huggins are beginning a study of the bones from both the Ovingdean and Rocky Clump excavations. The site plans for Rocky Clump have been transferred to a Radan CAD station and have been updated with the results being compiled in dxf. Format.

Other events have included support for the Mid Sussex Archaeological Field Team (MSFAT) with their endeavours on the Roman villa site at Barcombe. A number of the unit worked at Barcombe from May to the end of August, before returning to Rocky Clump for the remainder of the BHAS season. A number of the team also joined the Sussex Archaeological Society excavations at Bishopstone under the directorship of D Gabor Thomas.

Training and education have been an important part of BHAS Field Unit activities. On site training, in all aspects of archaeological techniques and management, continues with encouragement and expertise being provided for those wishing to learn or enhance existing skills. The day schools in 2003 included a flint workshop with Chris Butler, a Roman pottery workshop with Malcome Lyne and a glass workshop with John Shepherd from the Museum of London. We are indebted to all of our specialists for coming along to enthral and educate the Field Unit, and to Maria Gardiner for organising the events as well as Lynda Penfold for organising the venue. In 2003 the excavations at Rocky Clump were

visited twice by the Young Archaeologist Club, (YAC), who assisted the BHAS Field Unit with their endeavours. Rocky Clump was also opened up for the 'Time Team Big Dig' but only three people joined the excavations. The BHAS Unit also assisted with YAC activities at both Fishbourne and Bignor with the use of their resistivity equipment.

The field activities of the BHAS Field Unit are increasing to attract new people, with varying degrees of archaeological skills, and with the education process these skills are being developed and enhanced. The season for 2004 is already planned, and it is going to be a very busy year. Research and excavation will continue to be part of the Society's programme. Finds processing and day schools are also part of next season's agenda.

John Funnell 26th December 2004

Contents

Excavations

- 1) Ovingdean, 'Hog Croft' field-A Medieval Manor House.
- 2) Rocky Clump, Stanmer, Brighton-A Romano-British Farmstead Interim Report 2003
- 3) The Brighton Roman Villa-The BHAS Field Unit with the professionals

Field Walking

- 1) Ovingdean-St Dunstan's Field- A Roman Site
- 2) Peacehaven-Lower Hodder Farm-A Neolithic Site

Geophysics

- 1) Henfield Parsonage, West Sussex-Tunnel between Parsonage & St Peters Church?
- 2) Combe Hill, Neolithic Causewayed Enclosure, Near Willingdon, Sussex.
- 3) 'Thraves' Graffham, West Sussex-4 Bayed Medieval Hall House

Miscellaneous

- 1) Earthworks at Ladies Mile, Patcham, Brighton.
- 2) Earthwork disturbance at Whitehawk Hill
- 3) Medieval pottery from Telsombe Tye
- 4) A 'well' or pit at 3a, Lewes Crescent, Brighton.

Archaeological Watching Briefs

- 1) 3, Winton Avenue, Saltdean, Brighton.(Close to a Saxon burial).
- 2) 19, Roedean Way, Brighton.
- 3) Benfield Hill-Cycle track close to known Saxon Burial
- 4) St. Dunstons Field, Ovingdean, Brighton.
- 5) 24 Ashburnham Drive, Coldean, Brighton.

BHAS Field Unit Attendance Record

Acknowledgements

A Medieval Manor House in 'Hog Croft' Field, Ovingdean

John Funnell *In 2003 a Medieval Manor house was partially excavated in 'Hog Croft' field, north of St Wulfran's church, Ovingdean. The building had substantial walls and an undercroft or cellar. The variation in wall thickness indicates a number of phases of usage.*

With major contributions by Keith Edgar and Carol White Interim report

Introduction

Hog Croft Field lies immediately north of St Wulfran's church Ovingdean, near Brighton, Sussex (Fig 1). The field has been the subject of archaeological investigation for over a decade. The field contains a number of substantial earthworks forming a square enclosure. During the latter part of the twentieth century the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society conducted a number of geophysical surveys covering the whole field. The resistivity surveys in 1986 and 1991 used an RM4 resistivity meter while a survey in 1999 used an RMI 5 meter with a data-logging attachment. The results from all of the surveys produced similar areas of high resistance, indicating the possible location of a number of linear anomalies that suggested the walls and floors of a number of buildings.

In 2002 the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society conducted excavations in the field to investigate several of these anomalies. A number of trenches were cut to examine the features and confirm a dating for any archaeological features revealed (Fig 2.). The results of the excavations confirmed that the field did contain a number of walls and floors and that they dated from the 12th century A.D. onwards, with a predominant period of occupation during the 13th century A.D. (Funnell 2002, forthcoming).

During 2002 a greatly enhanced image of the geophysical results confirmed that a large building lay located close to the grave-yard wall at Ovingdean. A local historian, John Davies had suggested that the earthworks may relate to a possible manorial complex associated with the church. In April and May of 2003 the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society returned to 'Hog Croft' field to investigate the building noted in the enhanced images.

Methodology

The excavation was to be an archaeological assessment of any structure, with only minimal disturbance of the archaeological remains. The excavation planned to examine one quarter of the building concentrating on the north/east section. The north/ east quadrant was chosen because the geophysical survey had produced a less distinct and obscure series of readings. It was thought that an element of wall robbing may have taken place in this location and a more detailed examination was considered a useful undertaking.

The boundary of the excavation was based around the dimensions associated with the enhanced images of the resistivity survey. The turf was removed and the archaeology was found to lie immediately below. The excavation trench measured 6 metres by 4 metres; but

this was extended by another 2 metres to the north when it was found that the north boundary of the excavation was precisely on the face of the north side of a wall. The additional width was required for sections to be cut to investigate the north face of the walls. The trench was divided into sections lettered A,B,C, D,E, F, J,K and L. Each section measured 2 metres square.

The Excavations

Outside of the Building on the North side

The removal of the turf had revealed a large area of sandy, grit like material, mortar and flint nodules, some of the flint nodules had mortar still attached. The flint nodules were scattered over the whole site. The areas were carefully cleaned back down to a depth of approximately 150mm. It was at this depth that walls began to appear, (Fig. 3) and it became immediately obvious that the wall varied in width along the north side. The east side of the excavation trench was extended by a local cut measuring 2 metres by 1 metre to seek out and find the north/east corner of the building. The whole area, both inside and out of the building, was covered with a dense layer of the grit material and flint nodules. The fills appeared to be created as the result of the demolition of a building similar in construction to the church of St.Wulfran's church. The fill produced very few archaeological finds.

The building had been cut into a natural chalk ridge, which ran northwards through areas B and K, the ridge was noted continuing into the baulk. The area to the east of the ridge, and to the north of the building walls was excavated in varying depths. The fill in section 'J' produced no finds at all, and the excavation was discontinued in that area when it was considered that the fill constituted only wall rubble. However, the same fill in section 'K' was removed to some depth to reveal a large section of the north facing, exterior of the building wall. The section was not taken down to the natural chalk, and further deposits of building rubble continued at a greater depth below the section cut. A number of finds of pottery were recovered from where the chalk ridge dropped away eastwards into the building rubble.

The chalk substratum was only found in section "L". The chalk area in section 'L' produced a number of post holes, contexts 14,15,16,20 and 21. A number of stake holes were also found in area 'L', but there appeared to be no distinct configuration indicating a purpose for their creation. A small section was cut along the north face of the north wall, about 500mm in width. The section revealed the base of the wall at its east end, the wall continued to a greater depth at the west end where it was protected, being cushioned by the chalk ridge. The fill removed in this section was composed entirely of grit and flint nodules and produced no finds.

The Interior of the Building

The fills within the building produced a number of small, distinct areas. The south west section in area 'F' produced large quantities of red roofing tile. The trenches cut in the excavations of 2002 and located close to the church wall, notably Trench A, had also produced significant quantities of red roofing tile. The tile is probably associated with the re-roofing of the church. A small area of darkened soil lay on the south side of the trench in

area 'E'. This feature, context 4, proved to be the remnants of a small 'smithy' with a significant collection of nails lying within the vestiges of a metal box or container. The metal items were found above a pair of contemporary building bricks that had been set into the ground. The feature was disturbed by metal detectonsts one evening, but the lower fill of mud and ash produced a pair of 'Shippams' paste jars, dated to circa. 1905. (pers. comm. K.Edgar).

The general fill of the interior comprised of more flint and grit rubble, some of the larger pieces of flint nodules still having mortar attached. The upper fill contained a number of large rounded flint pebbles located against the inner wall, and several pieces of dressed chalk blocks, possibly part of the building window mullions or architraves. As the various sections were cut inside the building it became very clear that the fill was the same as the rubble found outside. There were few finds recovered from this debris, but significant from the upper layer was a collection of small mammal bones found close to the walls. The bones were considered to be the remains of rodents nesting in the decaying vestiges of the fallen or demolished building.

The Walls of the Building

It became very evident during the excavation that a dramatic change had occurred to the building some time in antiquity. The wall at the west end of the building was substantially wider and deeper than the wall to the east. A distinct change of width happened in area 'B'. The wall to the west measured 1.4M in width while the longer east section of the wall measured only 0.57M. Both walls had been constructed of flint knapped flint nodules, although some of the flint pieces had flakes removed in some locations. The 'dressing' of the wall appeared to cause an accidental production of flint flakes rather than a deliberate styling of the wall.

The north/east corner of the junction of the east/west and north/south walls was uncovered. The corner was found to be constructed of well dressed blocks of stone and carved chalk blocks, the stone is probably Caen stone. The Caen stone was the outer surface of the wall while the interior consisted of large squared sections of carved chalk.

The newer, thinner wall was joined to the older and more substantial building phase by using a partially demolished beam slot as a bonding agent. The new wall had a basic alignment with the earlier feature but was not exactly on a true alignment, running at a small deviational angle to the north. The smaller wall had been well constructed and was very parallel, while the thicker earlier wall appeared to be built in a less skilled manner. The ragged appearance of the outside of the larger wall could be attributed to the intervening demolition process.

The Beam Slot

The large wall contained a beam slot (context 23) located at east end of the thicker wall, and was the junction for the commencement of the smaller wall. The beam slot measured a 1.1 M in length, 40mm in width and 140mm in depth, although it may have been longer in its original construction. It was a very even and parallel feature in both its width and depth, and may have been created around a wooden or stone cill to produce this regular appearance. A number of post holes (contexts 14, 15 and 20) were located north of the

beam slot and running parallel to it. The location of the beam slot is approximately in the centre of the north wall, a feature noted among other medieval dwellings. At Salehurst in East Sussex the entrances were in a similar location central about the house (Gardiner et al 1991). The excavation did not examine the south wall to investigate whether there was a similar matching entrance on that side.

The Sections

A number of sections were cut during the excavations to investigate the stratigraphical evidence provided by remains of the building:-

Section B3

Section B3 was located north of the small wall in top soil context 'B'. The purpose of the section was examine the joining of the thicker and thinner walls. The depth of the section measured 450mm. The section showed that the chalk substratum continued downwards at a steep angle going eastwards. The fill consisted of fine grit, mortar and flint rubble. The section was extended for a further 500mm into the chalk substratum following the face of the thicker wall. The section proved that the thicker wall continued down deeper than the smaller wall. The smaller wall measured only 140mm in depth and consisted of approximately 3 layers of flint nodules. It is not certain if this had been the complete depth of footing as evidence, at the east end of the smaller wall, showed that it was in the process of being systematically removed. There was a clear and well defined step in the layers of flint nodules. The smaller wall had been laid on top of a layer of chalky loam. The loam was left intact so as not to disturb the wall feature above. The section cut into the chalk to examine the large wall appeared to show that the wall was tending to lean, or list outwards, in a northerly direction.

Section (Context 17)

The interior of the north east corner was removed to examine the corner structure, and as mentioned earlier, had produced a stone outer quoin and carved chalk inner blocks. This section was cut deeper by another 100mm, which revealed that another wider and more substantial wall lay beneath.

Section (Context 25)

This section (context 25) was cut to examine the inner surface of the large wall. The section produced a fill consisting of yet more fine grit, mortar and flint nodules. The nodules inside the building were found to be quite large, with once again many still having mortar attached. A number of large pieces of dressed chalk were also recovered from this area. The section examined the inner end of the large wall in that area and it showed that it was being very demolished in a very crude manner. The very ragged, exposed end comprised loose nodules of both flint nodules and chalk.

Sections (Contexts F2 & F4)

A section was cut in the south west section of the trench in area 'F'. The section measuring 1 Metre by 0.5M, context 'F2', this was later extended to the east, 'F4', to create a 1 M

square section. The section was designed to investigate the interior of the larger wall and in particular the interior surface. Once again the fill consisting of more of the demolition rubble. The section was cut to a depth of 1.8M exposing a significant section of the large wall interior. The wall continued below this depth, but the unstable nature of the fill prevented the excavation of a deeper section to the bottom of the feature. The wall was constructed on unknapped flint and the style of bonding, mortar and technique appears to suggest a 13th century date. (Pers. Comm. Chris Butler).

At the bottom of the section the excavators found the remains of two articulated sheep burials. One of the skeletons was removed for further study but the other was left in-situ as a stratigraphical reference.

The Finds

The excavations in 2003 produced a dearth of artefactual items. The few sherds of pottery recovered were mainly concentrated at the junction of the chalk ridge slope and the gritty layer beneath in areas 'B' and 'K'. The majority of bones, other than the intact sheep burials came from the upper layers, and immediately inside the walls of the building.

The Pottery

An amended 2002 pottery report is included in this finds report, as the few sherds recovered did not justify a separate report.

The Bones

The bones report is forthcoming and will be appended.

The Carved Chalk Blocks

The chalk blocks are being measured and drawn where appropriate.

Wall Plaster

A number of pieces of wall-plaster were recovered, including a number of pieces with wattle impressions. The plaster was a firm and hard product probably made from locally produced lime derived from local chalk. No decorated pieces were found.

Discussion

The clarity of the enhancement of the geophysics conducted in 2003 provided a strong possibility for a substantial structure north of St Wulfran's church. The new geophysical results were so clear and distinct that other rectilinear features could also be discerned. These high resistance linear features suggest that possibly lower, and therefore older walls may lie beneath the building investigated in 2003, or show that the building has other, additional bays attached. The excavations in 2003 confirmed that such a building existed beneath the earthworks in Hog Croft field.

The building had walls measuring over a metre in thickness at the west end, where the building had been cut into the natural chalk bedrock. The depth of the structure excavated to a depth of 1.4M indicates that the building possessed a cellar or 'undercroft'. The nature of the wall construction consisting of unknapped flint surfaces tends to suggest that the structure is of 13th century dating or earlier. The excavation provided evidence for a door cill in the north face of the building but the limited extent of the excavation was unable to confirm whether such a door was located in the opposite south wall

A number of post holes were revealed in the chalk bedrock to the north of the door cill, and these run in a line east/west and parallel to the door opening. It is possible that these post holes indicate the location of a porch on the north side of the building. A number of phases have been deduced from the excavation of 2003. The first phase was the cutting into the chalk bedrock and building of a substantial building measuring approximately 11 metre in length and 7 metres wide. The building did possess an undercroft but the thickness of the walls even suggests that the building may have also possessed a second floor. A number of large pieces of dressed chalk, corner stones and window mullions show that the building was both substantial and significant. However, the dating evidence is very ephemeral as with only a few pottery sherds being recovered from outside of the building, The few sherds that were found were recovered from where a chalk ridge dropped dramatically away on the east side of the excavated area. The interior of the building produced no medieval pottery being almost completely filled with wall rubble.

The building went out of use, probably during the later 13th century, and was being robbed of building materials. At a later period, as yet undated, the older structure was used as part of a less substantial building with considerably thinner walls. The newer structure was bonded to the vestiges of the older structure using the remaining section of an existing door cill as a bonding agent. A part of the construction technique for the second phase of building included the channelling out of the centre of the older wall to produce a level surface. The upper surface of the old wall was removed until it became level with the upper surface of the new wall. The width of the old wall was channelled to make it the same width as the new thinner walls being built at the east end. The purpose of this structure is unknown, but the articulated remains of two sheep in the bottom layers suggest that it could have been used as a barn or some other agricultural building.

The final phase appears to have been the demolition of the whole structure, with the upper walls being deposited as rubble within the building cellar. The disturbed area shown in the resistivity survey, located in the north/east corner, is clearly large amounts of building debris. However, It is not possible to determine, without further excavation, as to whether the debris is associated with the earlier construction of the house or the final demolition phase.

Interpretation

The excavations conducted at Ovingdean in 2003 have provided evidence for a large building that is almost certainly a medieval manor house (Dr G.Thomas pers comm.). The manor house, church and outlying buildings found in the assessment excavations of 2002 and 2003 are without doubt part of typical medieval manor complex. The buildings all appear to have been built in the late 12th or early 13th century and were in use for most of that century and possibly into the 14th century. It is not possible to understand why the

manor complex went out of use and was subsequently demolished. The historical evidence for the change of ownership comes during the 13th century when the Pierrepont family were without issue and the lands passed to the (?) Ovingdean Grange is deemed to have 14th or possibly 15th century origins, and was probably being constructed from materials robbed from the earlier medieval manor buildings. The question of why the location of the manor house was changed and location may never be answered. The excavation provided no evidence for burning or malicious destruction, which could have been associated with the French forays into Sussex during the 14th century. As to whether the neglect and deprivation of the buildings is associated with plague or pestilence is also a subject for debate and conjecture.

One possible reason as to why the manor building was demolished may be hinted at in the location of the chalk ridge. The older wall can clearly be seen as leaning outwards, and it may have been that subsidence or poor construction of the original structure that deemed it necessary for the building to be abandoned. It is possible that the north wall unsupported by the chalk bedrock collapsed of its own accord, thereby rendering the main dwelling useless as living accommodation. The medieval complex appears to be focused around the old manor house, and the movement to a newer house down in the valley bottom would probably have provoked a similar movement of the other ancillary buildings. The older remains of the original building could then have been used as a crude structure for housing sheep. The final collapse of the building buried any sheep within that structure and the efforts to retrieve the animal carcasses were probably not considered worthwhile.

Ovingdean has many of the attributes associated with a medieval manor complex (Mason 1978). The manorial complex at Alciston has a church, a manor house, a tithe barn and dove-cote. The excavations at Ovingdean during 2002 and 2003 has produced evidence for a manor house and a number of walls that could be attributed to large tithe barns. The revealing of a medieval tiled floor hints at the presence of other structures. The Church of St Wulfrans lies immediately south of the manor house, and the north door of the church, now blocked may be the entrance from the manor of the Lord and his entourage. The fourth constituent of any manorial complex, and defined as an important feature, is the presence of a dove-cote. During the 2002 excavations a complicated section was excavated (Trench B) and this produced a large, deep area of rubble with considerable amounts of large flint nodules. The area was observed as an obscure area of high readings in the resistivity survey. The east end of Trench B produced a curved edge to the feature. It is possible that this 'circular' feature is the missing dove-cote. A number of circular dove-cotes dated to the medieval period are still standing in Sussex, including one at Patcham and another at Hangleton Manor.

Vestiges of medieval manorial complexes can still be found as standing buildings. Patcham still has the church, dove-cote and a tithe Barn, now incorporated into contemporary building schemes. A large house, adjacent to the dove-cote is the ideal location for the manor house. At Hangleton the dove-cote is located within a setting of large medieval structures which could comprise a manor house, tithe barn and dove-cote, but in this instance the church is located some distance away.

The building construction techniques at Ovingdean are similar in both style and materials, with the exception of the dove-cote, to those found at Alciston. However at Alciston the dove-cote is of a rectangular configuration. The buildings are all robust and sturdy, with

well defined foundations. A tenement house at Seaford was constructed in a similar manner and had an undercroft, still visible in 1958. (Gardiner). A comparison with the buildings of the Bishops palace, within a medieval moated site at Stretham, near Henfield (Barr-Hamilton et al forthcoming) shows that this prestigious complex of buildings and outbuildings were far less substantial than the buildings found at Ovingdean. The exceptions to this were the large flint buttresses of the Bishops palace and the finds of window lead, glazed ridge roofing tiles-and glass which do hint at high status structures.

The excavations in 2002 and 2003 at 'Hog Croft' field Ovingdean are providing important evidence for a medieval manorial complex lying beneath the earthworks in this field. There is no evidence, other than the slight listing in the north wall of the manor house, as to why the complex went out of use in the later 13th or early 14th centuries. The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society intend to return to Ovingdean in 2005 to investigate the possible location of a circular dove-cote and investigate an in-situ tile floor found during the excavations of 2002.

Acknowledgements:-

The author would like to thank Dr Andrew Woodcock, East Sussex County Archaeologist, Mr Geoff. Bennett of Brighton and Hove City Council, and the tenant farmer Mr David Baker, for allowing access to the lands. The author would like to thank Carol White and Keith Edgar for their specialist reports and to Keith for producing the illustrations, as well as all the members of the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society who participated in the excavation.

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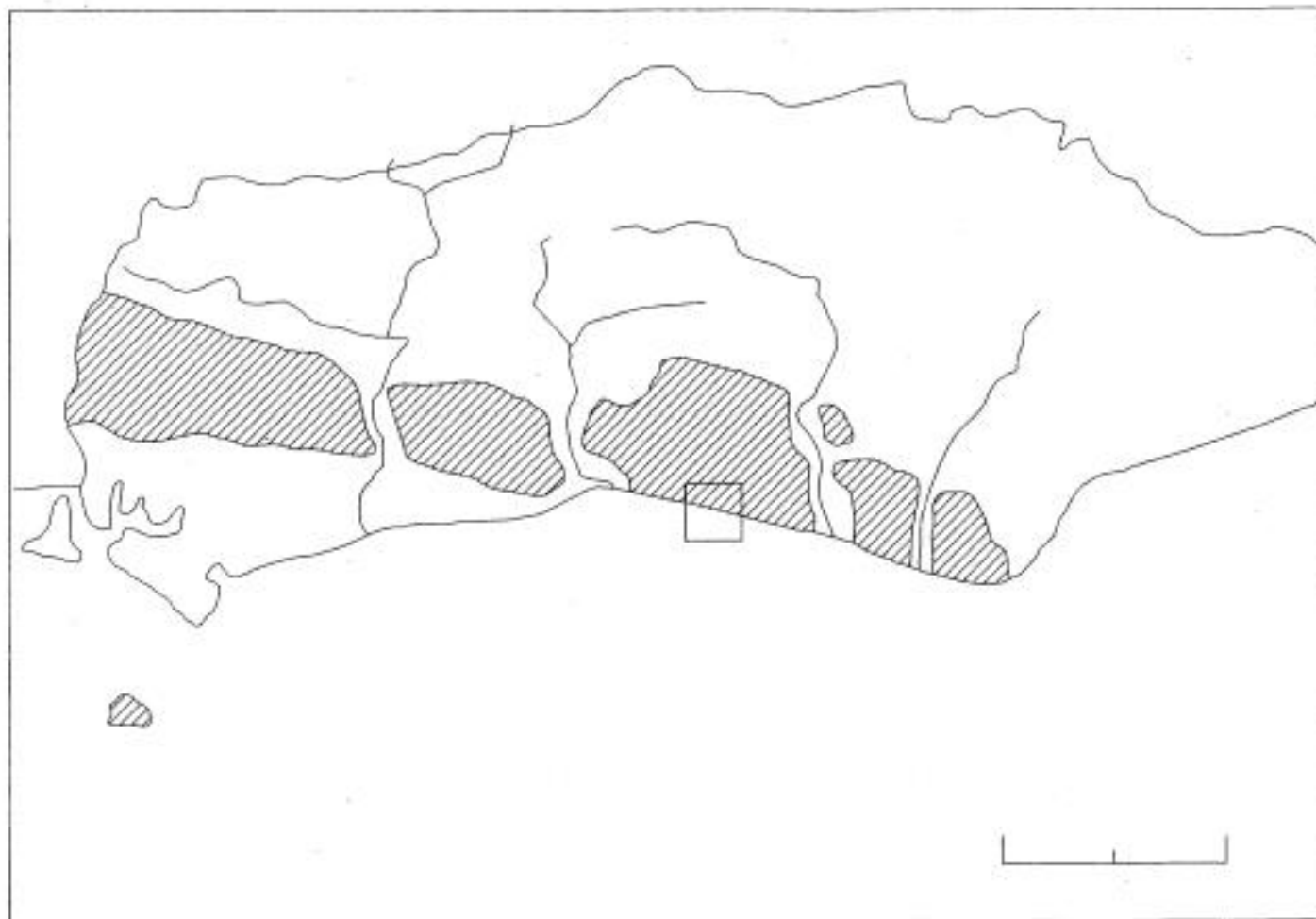


Fig 1. Ovingdean site location

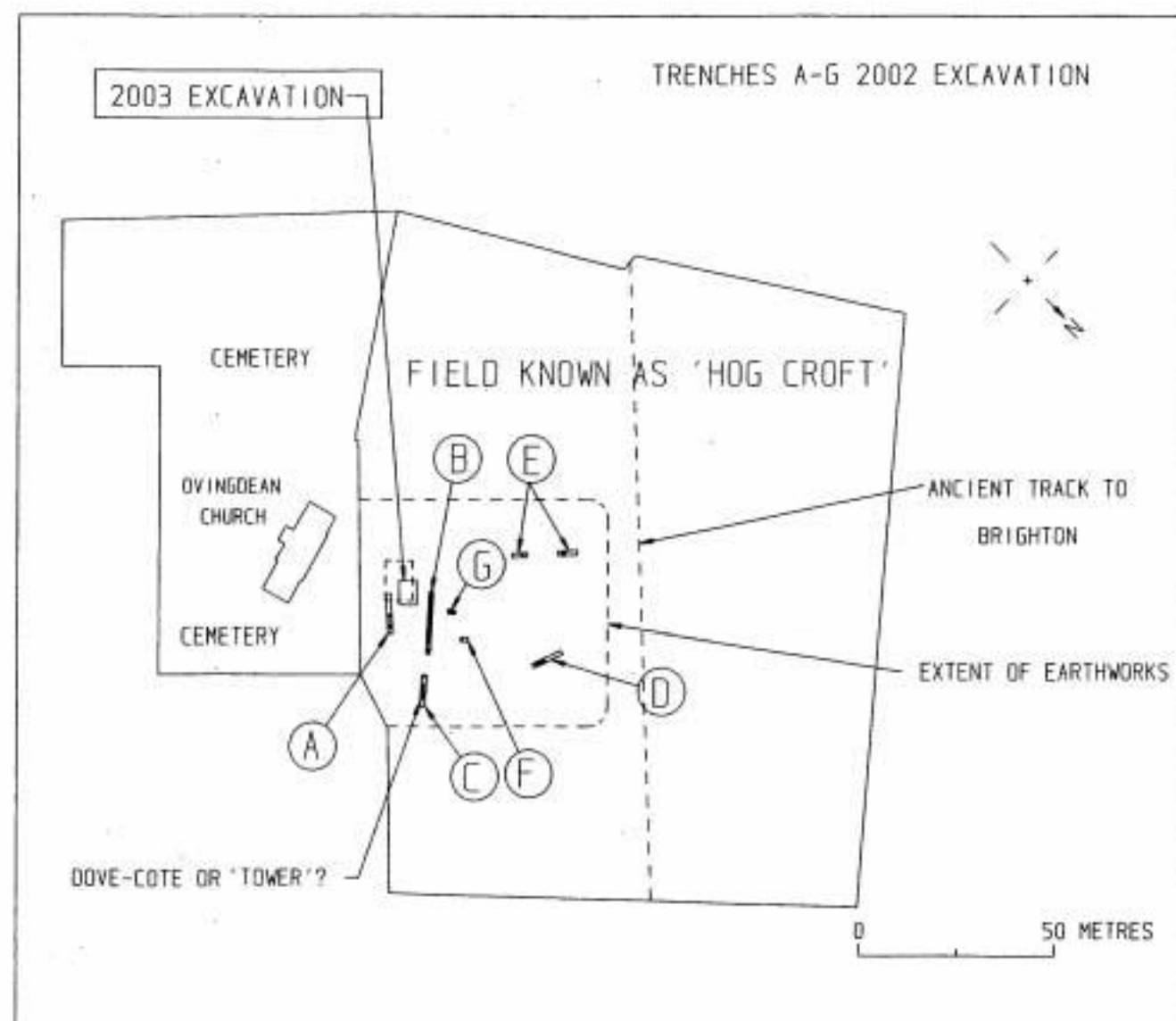


Fig 2. Ovingdean site location

EXCAVATIONS AT ROCKY CLUMP, STANMER, BRIGHTON

INTERIM REPORT 2003

Introduction

Rocky Clump, Stanmer, near Brighton is the site of a small Romano-British farmstead. Located on a small spur of the South Downs the site has been excavated by the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society since 1947, although not continuously. The excavations from 1951 to 1981 were published in 1997. (Gilkes).

The Brighton and Hove Archaeological returned to Rocky clump in 1992 with field walking of fields to the south and west of the previous excavations. A series of new excavations within the trees at Rocky Clump, and in the field to north, commenced in 1993 and have continued until the present time (Fig 1).

The excavations at Rocky Clump in 2003 began in June. A small number of weekends had been worked at Rocky Clump in the early spring but the team moved temporarily in April to a new excavation at Ovingdean. The excavation at Ovingdean was an assessment excavation conducted over a limited time period.

There were no geophysical surveys conducted at Rocky Clump this season as most of the fields all around the excavations have been surveyed in previous seasons. However, the BHAS Field Unit geophysics team were working in other areas of Sussex and produced a number of research projects published in other reports in this years Field Notebook. The excavations at Rocky Clump continued until December 13th when the weather deteriorated. In December the Field Unit moved into the Victoria Rooms in Stanmer village for processing of the finds from both the excavations at Rocky Clump and Ovingdean.

The excavations were used, as in previous seasons, for training purposes for both new and existing members. The techniques of archaeological planning and section drawing, surveying and site management were all included in this programme. The Young Archaeologist Club (Y.A.C.) visited Rocky Clump on two occasions in June and September and their members assisted the BHAS team in their excavations under the supervision of Y.A.C. personnel. During the winter months there were days schools in bone identification, flint knapping, Roman Towns and prehistoric pottery.

The excavations at Rocky Clump were also incorporated into the 'Time Team Big Dig' when the site was opened to the public, but it is with regret that we have to report that only three people seized the opportunity to visit the site and participate in the excavations.

The Excavations

The excavations in 2003 concentrated on a new area, north of the existing excavation, measuring 10 metres by 6 metres (60 metres sq). The top soil contexts were 514-518, 561-566, 568-572 and 580-582. (Ref Site Drg dated 30/09/2004) (Fig 2 & 3).

The prime objective had been to examine further the large ditch running south to north across the field and to cut a number of sections across the ditch to record, in detail, the stratigraphy of the feature.

The trench was excavated back to the new north boundary by trowelling only, with only mattocks and shovels being used for back filling of the previously excavated and recorded section of the site.

The trowelling back revealed the large ditch continuing northwards and expanding in width on the east side. An area of clay with flint was also revealed on the east side. However, a large pit had been cut into this clay area, contexts 604/610. The ditch edges were revealed as well as a number of discrete layers or areas of disturbed fills of loams and chalk deposits. The clay area produced some small pockets of chalk rubble and a number of distinct clay features, contexts 605, 606, 607, 608, 611, 617 and 618. Most of these contexts proved to be very shallow and ephemeral areas of disturbance, indicating possibly some activity in antiquity associated with the filling in of the pits. The continuing excavation of these lighter layers, did however, reveal a distinct chalk rubble layer below. The area may have been disturbed in some areas by deep ploughing which may have caused some dislocation of these upper layers. There was a general deposition of finds of Roman pottery over the whole area.

A number of sections were cut through the ditch measuring 1 metre in width, and placed at 1 metre intervals, leaving a retaining baulk between each section, Contexts 612, 613 619 and 620.

The sections produced evidence for terraces cut into both the east and west sides of the ditch, with the larger terrace, which continued to expand in width, on the east side. Sections were drawn of all the various cuts into the ditch and the various levels taken and recorded.

The Features

Pit Context 604/610

The removal of top soil from the area to the north of the cow pit, found in 2001/2002, in contexts 517, 518, 565 and 566 revealed a thick deposit of red clay with occasional inclusions of naturally blackened flint nodules. However, a darker fill in the centre of the reddened clay suggested the location of a number of pits.

It was initially decided to investigate one feature, context 604 by cutting a section through the feature. However, as the section proceeded it became apparent that the area was not a pair of small pits, but one large pit, and as such was divided into quadrants. The excavation of the pit produced quantities of very blackened, burnished pottery, possibly all of the same vessel. The feature also contained a single, and very well preserved, brooch dated to the 1st century A.D.

The pit was completely excavated down to a soft, red clay base. However, on the north/east corner of the pit the edge of the pit consisted of a steep sided, large piece of ironstone. The stone block was part of the natural geology of clay with flint, but had obviously been utilised as a solid base to the pit on that side of the feature. (Fig 4).

The Ditch Sections

The ditch sections were cut to examine the stratigraphy, and examine the variations in width of the ditch as it progressed northwards, but due to weather and time restrictions only one of the sections, context 612, was actually excavated down to the chalk bedrock. The other sections were covered and sealed for the duration of the winter of 2003/2004.

The ditch sections all contained an overburden of loamy chalk soil, which lies beneath the disturbed upper loam plough soil. This layer seals an even finer deposit of dark, soft silty soil which is the upper fill of the ditch feature. This silty layer is defined with a suffix of A to the context numbers (e.g. 612A and 613A etc). A second layer below consists of another chalk loam fill, but in this deposit the main constituent was of small chalk nodules, mixed with the loam soil. This layer covered the whole width of the ditch, with the upper silty layer actually cutting into it, creating effectively a single context that appeared either side of the smaller silty layer.

The final layer was a smaller ditch section. This lower cut was located at the bottom of the wider, upper vee shaped ditch. The sides of the lower ditch were almost vertical, and the small lower ditch left a small flat surface between it and the sides of the ditch above it. The fill of this lower ditch contained a similar chalky loam. The upper ditch, lower fill, was given a suffix B, creating a context 612B, while the smaller ditch at the bottom was given a suffix C.

During the 2003 season only context 612 reached the chalk bedrock, with contexts 613 having 613A totally excavated and 613B partially excavated. Ditch context 619 was only partially excavated in context 619A.

The Finds

The finds were similar to those found in previous seasons with Roman pottery, shell and bone being the predominant items. Some flint flakes were recovered from both the top soil and ditch sections, as were a few finds of fire-cracked flint. The predominant finds this year were of bone deposits with large cattle bones being the main find. However, skulls, rib and leg bones were all been found this year. The bones have generally been located at the bottom of the upper silty layer and above the lower loamy ditch fill. These contexts were designated with a suffix B.

The BHAS Field Unit now have a bones identification team who meet on a regular basis and are compiling a complete bones report from 1999 till 2003. A bones report for finds from 1993 to 1999 was completed by a student from Southampton University and published in Field Notebook 1999.

The Small Finds

No.	Object	Context	Comments
60A.	Bronze Brooch	516	A tee-shaped 'dolphin' brooch
62.	Coin of the Republic	571	Silver coin
63	Coin Vespasian	613A	Silver coin
64	Bronze Bracelet	613B	Bronze child's bracelet, Twisted copper alloy w
65	Bronze Brooch	610A	Found in large pit with pot
66	Coin copper alloy	572A	Very abraded(undated)

Conclusions

The excavations at Rocky Clump in 2003 produced more features and finds related to a Romano-British farmstead. It is not the intention of the director to 'chase' a ditch across a field and a north extremity to the excavation is now being envisaged. However, the features found in 2003 have revealed a complexity of usage, the understanding of which may require further archaeological research through further excavation. The large ditch running northwards is still the predominant feature. However, other new features are now appearing on either side of it.

The new area of clay and flint is one of several geological features similar to deposits being found in previous years. The excavations in 2003 have found, as they have in previous seasons, that cuts of pits and gulleys are being made into this geology as well as the natural chalk. It has been suggested in previous interim reports on Rocky Clump that these clay areas have been exploited for pottery creation. While this may be a possible use for the incursions into the clay deposits there is still no firm evidence to support this. However, recent televised research programmes, (pers. comm. M. Gardiner), have provided techniques to suggest that pottery making could have been, and probably was part of a localised culture. The large pit found in the clay, context 604/610 could certainly have been utilised as a rough kiln as the clay was quite reddened in places. However, the distinct red colour of the clay bore no distinct traces of having been fired.

The ditch is quite a substantial feature, and as such it is very difficult to imagine it being used purely as a field boundary. The dimensions of the ditch could be appreciated if it was considered part of a large enclosure, surrounding and protecting structures within the precincts of such an enclosure. The geophysics at Rocky Clump have produced no evidence to support structures being located within ditches noted on the various surveys. The ditches found in the geophysics are mainly located to the north and west of the structures found in all of the excavations. However, the south terminus of the ditch does lie beneath the 'stockade' structure excavated between 1993 and 1993, making it an earlier and thus redundant feature during the 2nd century A.D. onwards.

It is possible ploughing has removed any traces of post hole constructed buildings within these ditched enclosures. A number of post holes found in previous seasons, and associated with the known building or animal enclosure, had been severely truncated by ploughing over the centuries.

The characteristics of the large ditch also suggest that other activities were taking place within this ancient environment. The nature of the ditches, expanding and dropping down

the hill tend to suggest use in a drainage capacity, and a number of small gullies leading into pits also suggest the channelling of water or other fluids.

The widening of the ditch as it progresses northwards and the terraces being revealed on either side also raise new questions. What is the purpose of these terraces? It is possible that wooden planking may have been laid one side to the other to create a bridge, but as yet no evidence has been found to support this. The terrace on the east side of the ditch is a very wide feature and excavations this year have revealed a number of very large pits cutting into both this terrace and the ditch.

It is difficult to perceive how long any excavation should continue, or what parameters are required to continue with any research programme. It is difficult to ask just how large is a Romano-British settlement? And what does it fully encompass? These and other questions are the main motivation for further research at Rocky Clump. A number of questions have already been answered by the previous seasons excavations, but many more have been created by the new features revealed. The new pits and post holes, areas of flint cobbling and the large ditch are only a small part of an even larger ancient ecological environment. It is obvious that there is still considerable work to be undertaken before a greater understanding of the more subtle and discrete features, revealed this season, can enhance our understanding of the Romano-British traditions. The additional investigations can only expand our knowledge of the Romano-British agricultural practices and settlement patterns found on the gentle slopes of the South Downs and their relationship to the broader perspective of Roman Britain.

Further Excavations at Rocky Clump

A new season of work is planned for 2004, when it hoped to extend and investigate the terraces and ditch running northwards. The excavations will begin to look at the area within the trees once again where it hoped to examine the floor of the possible 'shrine' building located within the trees. In 1995 a small trench was cut in the field to the east of Rocky Clump. The trench cut was on an alignment with the 'shrine' post holes which were placed at regular intervals, the small excavation produced another post hole on this alignment. It is possible that the 'shrine' at Rocky Clump is an aisled building. Further investigations are planned within the cemetery precincts which may produce a previously unexcavated burial in an area once covered by a tree, since removed. A new burial find could provide very useful carbon 14 dating for the interments. A number of sections are also being planned to other ditches found in the field which have not as yet been dated, and are only linked to the existing excavations by the resistivity survey. It is possible that they date from other earlier periods.

Rocky Clump is a very enigmatic and productive site with regard both features and finds. It has now produced evidence for rural activities dating from before the Roman invasion through to the early 4th century. A very clear chronological sequence is now established through both the pottery and the supportive coin assemblages. The site has numerous features suggesting a number of agricultural activities. However, these features still require further enhancement, through additional finds, before a broader and clearer picture can be established of Roman-British settlements.

In 1993 the site at Rocky Clump consisted of a series of indiscriminate pits and post holes, it required a greater extent of excavation before the post holes became a recognisable

building or enclosure. The excavations at Rocky Clump in 2003 provide a similar perplexing, and tantalising image, with conjecture rather than fact, producing the images of Romano-British farming and its rural activities. It is hoped that future work will produce a much clearer and greatly enhanced picture of antiquity for this part of Sussex.

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, Mr and Mrs Jim Driver for their continuing support with the tools and equipment and for all the members of the BHAS Field Unit for their endeavours and support during this season. The author would also like to thank the Stanmer Preservation Society for allowing access to the Victoria Rooms at Stanmer for finds processing, Mr D.Staveley for his active role in the development and utilisation of the geophysical processes, for N.Phippard for undertaking the role of Assistant Director and M.Gillingham for his role as editor of written reports.

References:-

Gilkes O. 1997 'Excavations at Rocky Clump, Stanmer, Brighton. 1951-1981. Sussex Arch. Colls. 135, 113-127.

Note:- All electronic data regarding the resistivity and magnetometer surveys has been passed to the County Archaeologist for the Site and Monuments Record (SMR).

John Funnell 24th September 2004

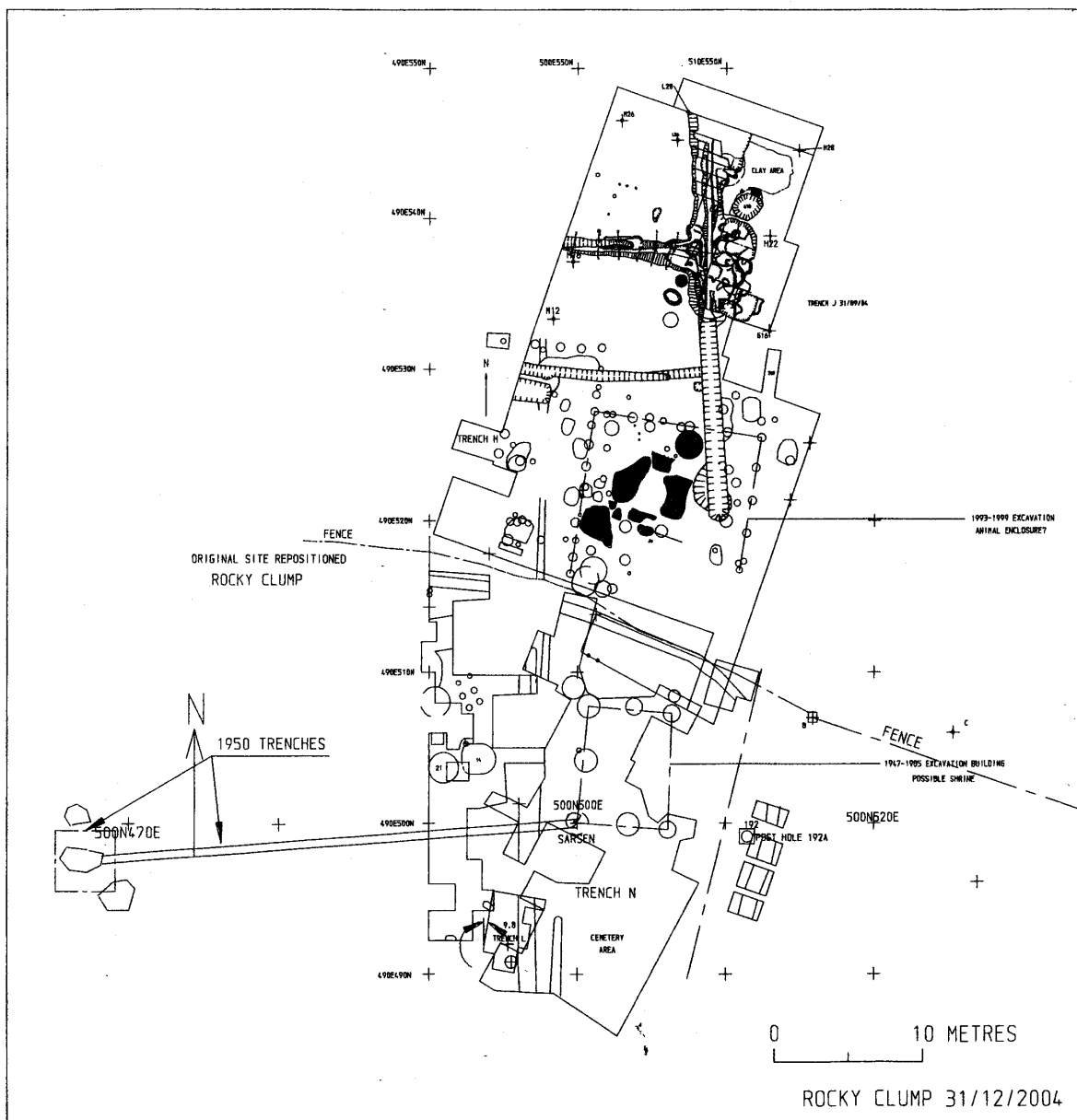


Figure 1

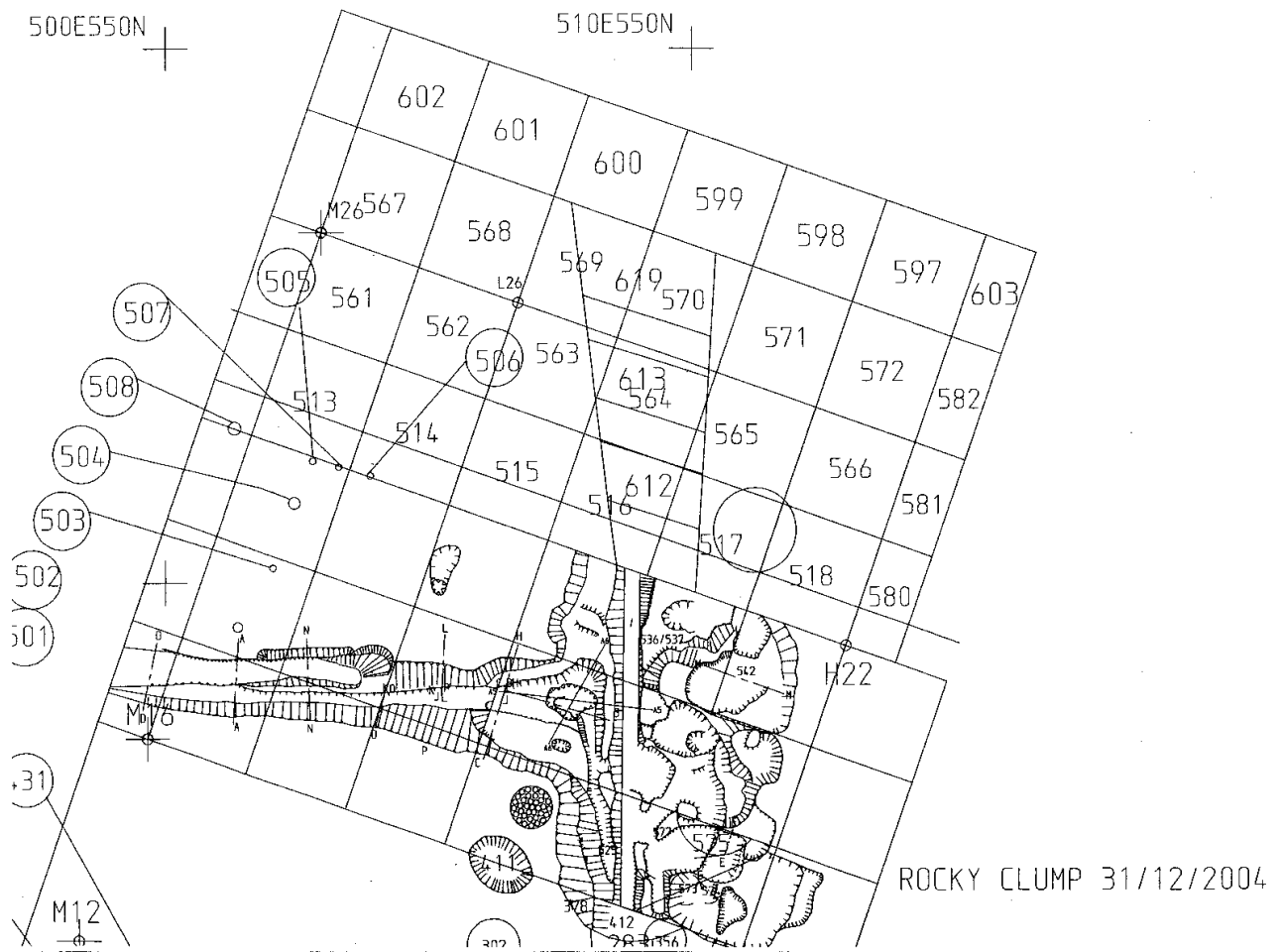


Figure 2

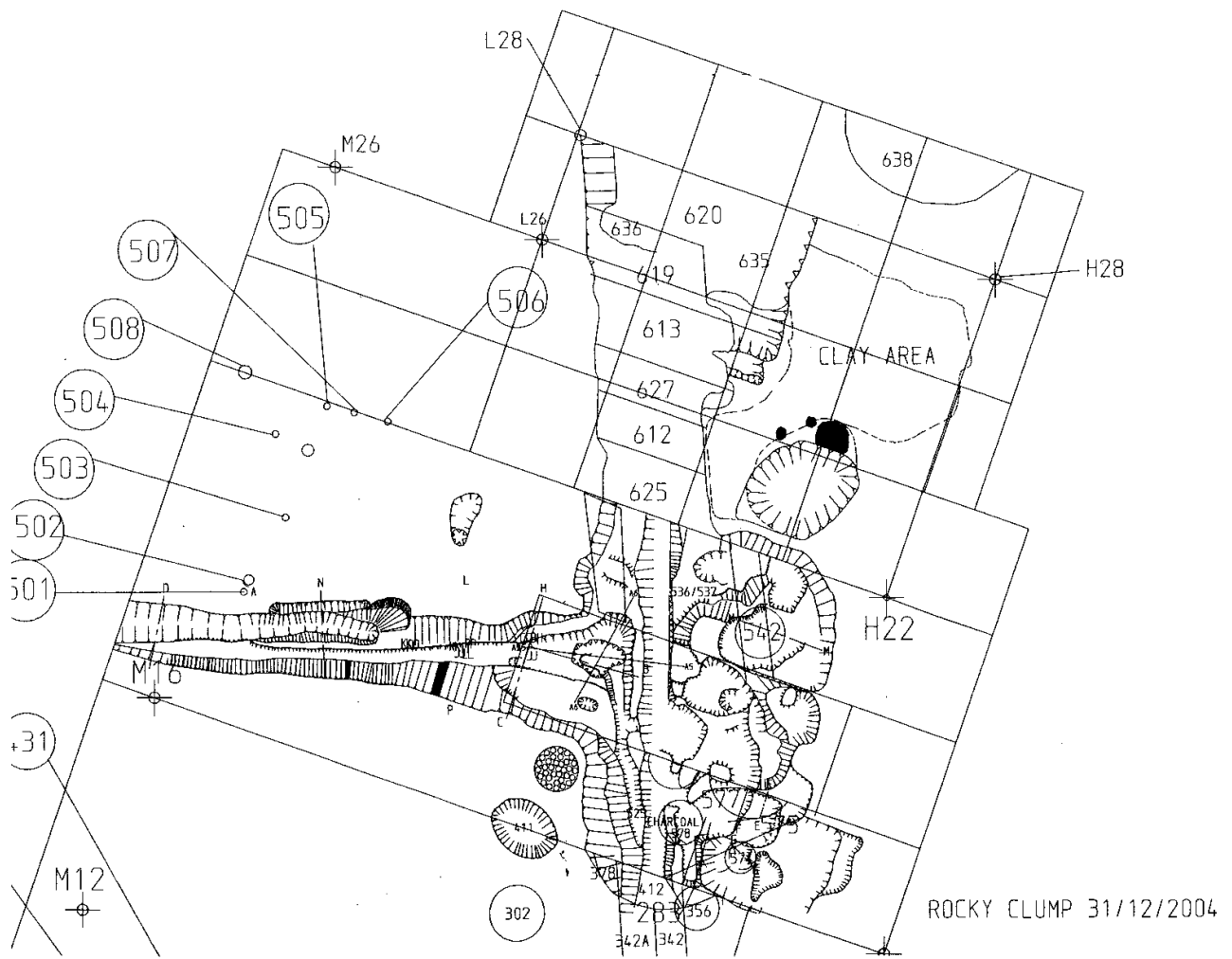


Figure 3

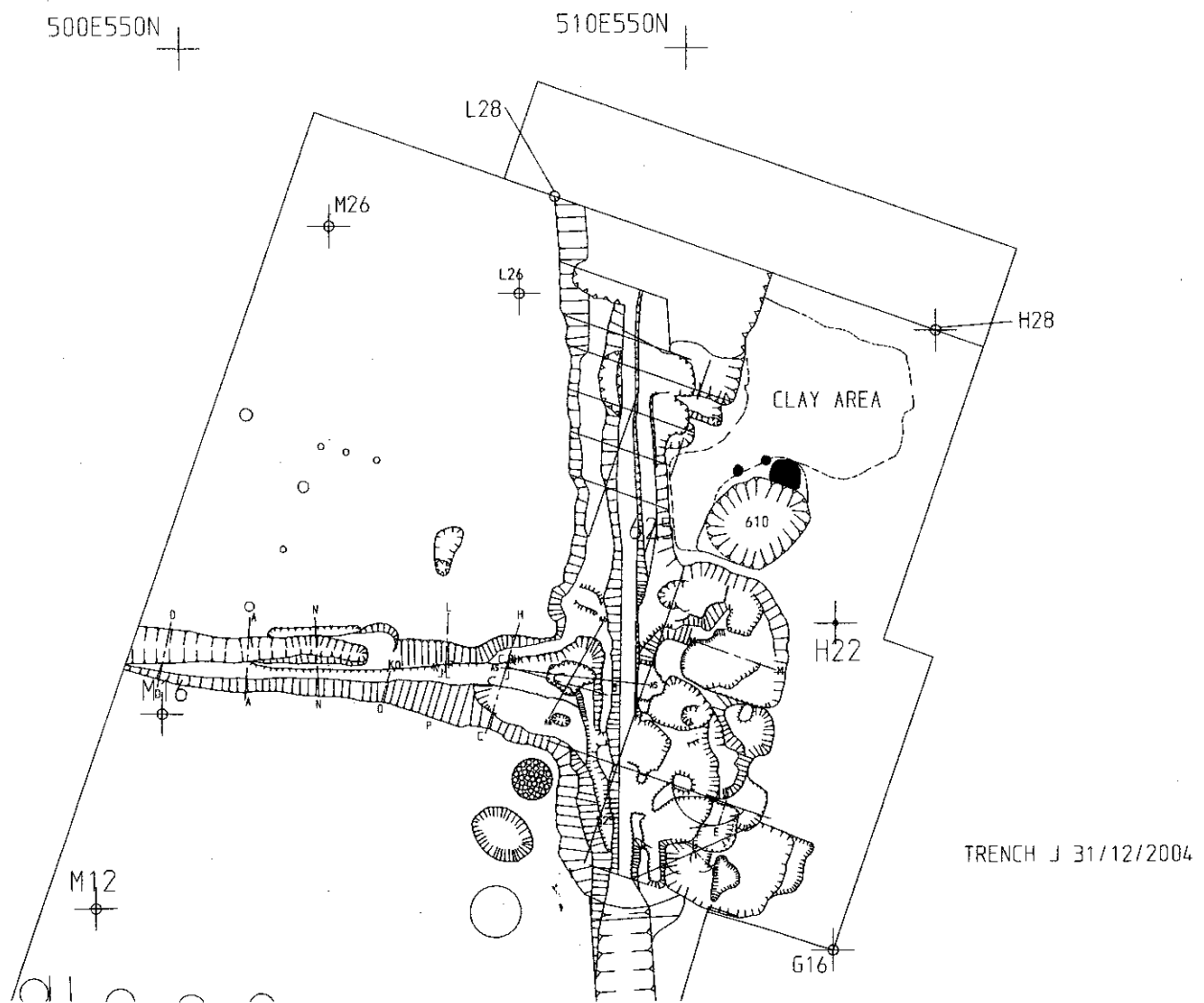


Figure 4

BRIGHTON ROMAN VILLA

The Roman villa at Brighton, located at the bottom of Springfield Road, (Dudley), was recently being excavated by Archaeology South-East. During the month of October 2002 the site of the old Endeavour Garage was demolished to allow commencement of a building project consisting of several blocks of apartments. The buildings are being constructed in two phases and the first section cleared allowed investigation of an area to the east of the known Roman villa. The villa is considered to date from the 1st century A.D. and is known to have possessed black and white geometric mosaics. During the latter part of the professional excavation, and after clearance from the building contractor, the members of the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit were allowed to join the professional unit in their endeavours. The land and old garage buildings had been removed down to a level just above the natural deposits of combe rock. The area produced a number of features including some walls, a well, pits, post-holes and a single burial.

The walls revealed protruded only a few metres east of the old garage concrete floors, which still cover the main villa site. The professional excavations produced a sequence of events in this area of an early pit being built upon by later walls and some disturbance occurring as a result of the unstable ground. The wall features appear to have been investigated before and earlier excavations by H.S.Toms and a watching brief during the construction of the Endeavour Garage are deemed responsible for these intrusions. There was evidence of some wall chasing. The pits were of considerable size, with one pear shaped pit almost 1.5 metres in depth. The pits had been sectioned by the professional team with the BHAS field unit removing some of the remaining quadrants. Cleaning back a large section of clay with flint, overlying the combe rock, produced a number of post-holes and a small pit. One large pit on the site was constructed and then filled with a deposit of grey coloured clay, into this clay deposit was cut another smaller pit containing a fill consisting of significant numbers of oyster shells.

The burial was of an adult, among the bones of the feet were collected a number of hob nails. The burial appears to be aligned with other burials found during the middle of the last century when garage work pits were sunk into the floor below. The most significant feature found by the professionals, and noted in earlier building works, was a beautifully constructed chalk block lined well. The well was excavated to a depth of 1.5M and finds of Roman pottery show that it was filled in during a later Roman phase. The BHAS Field Unit examined the well fills and found a coin of Constantius II dated to 347-350AD (pers comm. David Rudling)

The pits produced large quantities of pottery, bone and shell. The EHAS unit found a bone pin, an additional one to those found earlier by the professional unit. Other finds by Archaeology South East included a pair of bronze tweezers, and decorated samian ware. The pits lie east of the known villa site, but the peculiar feature of this excavation has been the walls. The walls are substantial and Roman pottery has been found beneath the lower layers. However, the orientation of the protruding walls is on a different alignment to those indicated in the published report (Dudley). The walls may be of an earlier phase or as has been suggested by the Director Richard James a possible mortuary building associated

with the burials close by. The final chronology and development of the villa will not be determined until the second phase of the excavation is completed. The members of the BHAS Field unit look forward with eager anticipation to the commencement of this second phase at Springfield Road.

The BHAS Field Unit would like to thank both Ian Greig and Richard James for allowing the members of the Society to participate in their excavations. A complete report on the excavations, with the confirmed dating details, will be compiled by Archaeology South-East.

References: -

Kelly E. & Dudley C. 1981 'Two Romano-British Burials' *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 119, 65—88.

FIELD WALKING AT Ovingdean 2003

Introduction

In February of 2003, in bitter cold and freezing conditions, members of the BHAS Field Unit conducted a field walking investigation of a field at Ovingdean, east of Brighton (TQ357029). The large field originally consisted of three fields but these have now been merged into one large field. The field does possess a vestige of the old field system with a preserved lynchet, running from south to north, towards the east as the field drops down into Ovingdean valley. The field is immediately north of the main coast road, the A259. The east boundary of the field is a road called Greenways, and the west boundary is Roedean School. The north fence line runs east to west across Cattle Hill.

The eastern part of the field was walked by the BHAS Field Unit in 2000 (Funnell, 2000). This part of the field, which is mainly in the valley but rises gently upwards towards the west, produced numerous archaeological artefacts. The finds included Neolithic flintwork, concentrations of fire cracked flint, marine molluscs and both Medieval and Roman pottery. The west section of the field was not walked at this time due to time restrictions and the crop having been sown. The Sites and Monuments record (SMR) does show a note of Roman pottery being found. A brief walk across this upper section of the field did reveal a significant number of sherds of Roman pottery including Samian ware and a number of sherds of Iron Age flint calcined material. The ploughing and sowing of the crop postponed the investigation of this part of the field until early 2003.

Methodology

The base line of the field walking was the fence line north of the field, the west datum was the north/west corner of the field (TQ35450320). The first line 'A' was measured out 10 metres to the east of the datum corner and the subsequent lines 'B-J' were placed at 20 metre intervals going eastwards. Each line was divided into 20 metre long transects, and a total of 10 transects were walked on each line. The bottom or south section of the field was not walked. The field walking was down the hill, walking toward the sea.

The final three lines were walked using several walkers to each line, leap frogging, to complete the line on that day. The last grid square, with corner locations I1, I2, J1 and J2 was walked using the total collection method, with people at 1 metre spacings. This single square produced 56 sherds of Roman pottery.

Conclusions

The finds from the field walking in 2003 have been primarily assessed, but as yet have not been the subject of more detailed analysis. The west section of the field at Ovingdean has produced further collections of Neolithic and early Bronze Age flint work, considerable quantities of fire-cracked flint and significant amounts of Roman pottery.

The new dot density concentrations have been added to the original details produced in 2000 to produce a combined and more detailed image of the whole field. The dot density diagrams were published in the 2002 Notebook, as part of the Ovingdean excavations report (Figs 3,4 & 5).

The flintwork appears to have no real focus with a general deposition, but both the fire-cracked flint and Roman pottery have produced areas of concentrated finds. The fire-cracked has 2 centres of interest, one in the valley bottom to the east of the field, noted in the 2000 Field Notebook, and another around the new area of finds of Roman pottery.

The field at Ovingdean is producing so many finds of Roman pottery that a significant site must lie close by. The field was exploited by metal detectorists during the 1970's and 1980's when hundreds, if not thousands of coins, including gold staters were known from and removed from the field without being recorded. (pers. comm. local metal detectorist).

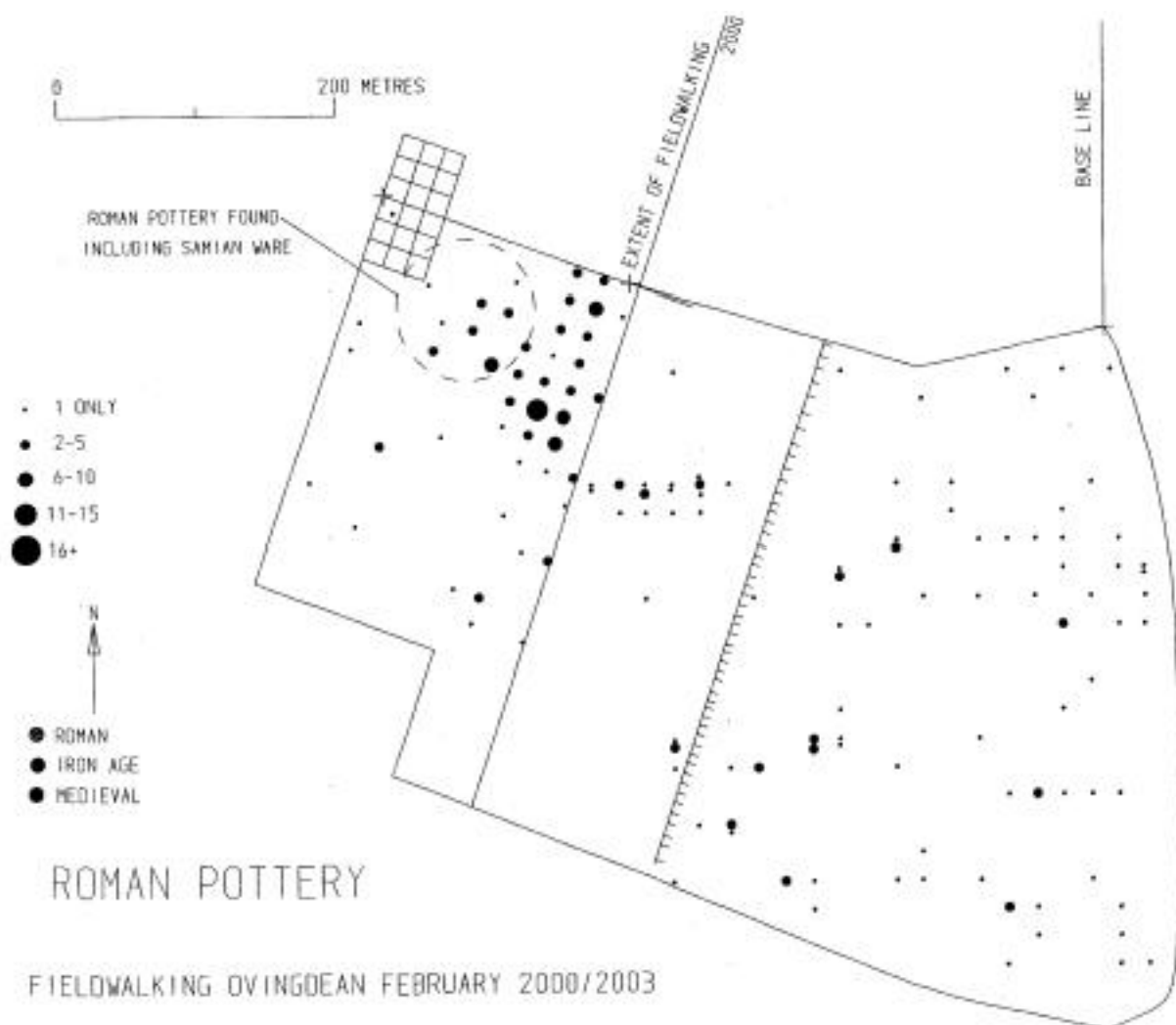
The finds from the 2003 field walking are still being processed and it is hoped to produce a more detailed report about the finds for the 2004 Field Notebook.

During the latter part of 2003 a small resistivity survey was conducted close to the Roman pottery concentrations. The survey comprised of 9 squares of 20 metres by 20 metres (3600 metres square). (Fig 1.) The survey used a TR Systems resistivity meter, the measurements were taken in Ohms and at 1 metre intervals. The survey failed to find any trace of either archaeological or geological anomalies. During the field walking in 2003 a linear, lynchet feature was noted close to the concentration of Roman pottery. The lynchet runs east/west across this part of the field. A new resistivity survey is being planned for 2004 to investigate this area.

John Funnell (Archaeological Co-Ordinator Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society)
10th December 2004

References:-

Funnell J. 2002 'Archaeological Field Notebook-'A Record of the Projects of the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Field Unit.'



0 200 METRES

- 1 ONLY
- 2-5
- 6-10
- 11-15
- 16+



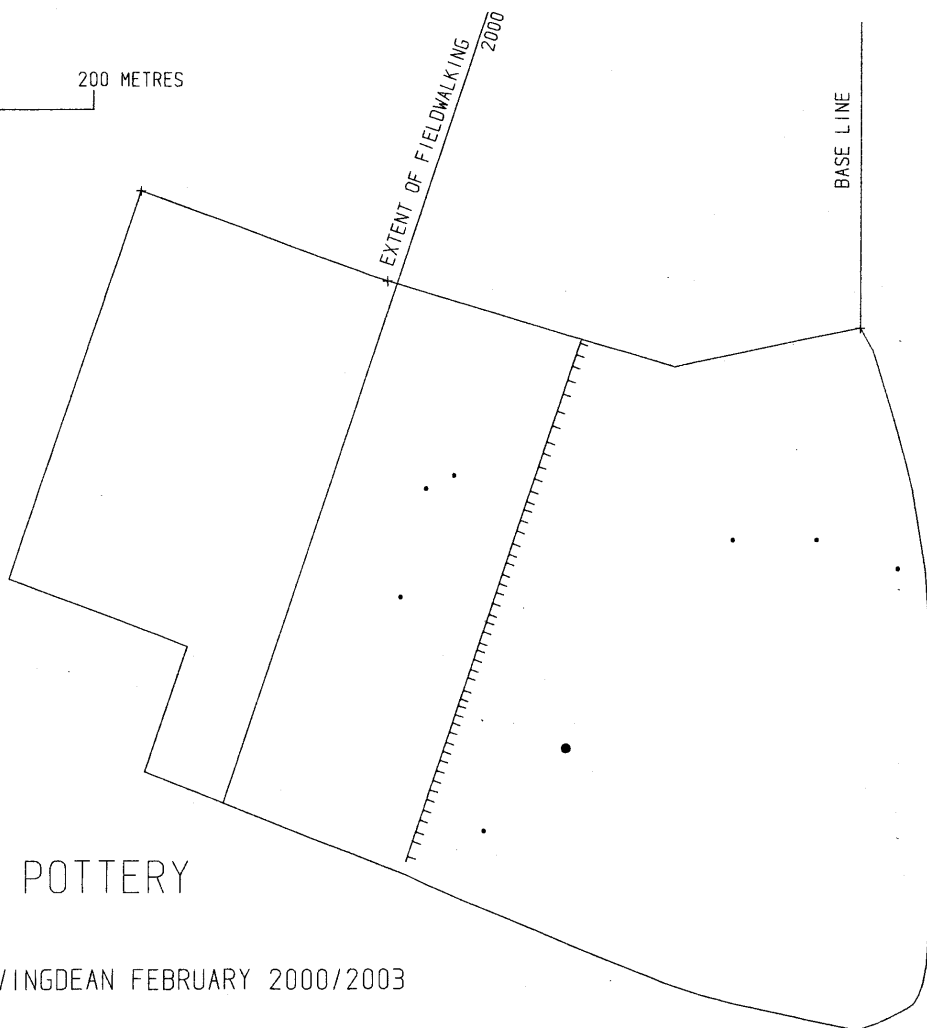
• IRON AGE

EXTENT OF FIELDWALKING
2000

BASE LINE

IRON AGE POTTERY

FIELDWALKING O Vingdean February 2000/2003



0 200 METRES

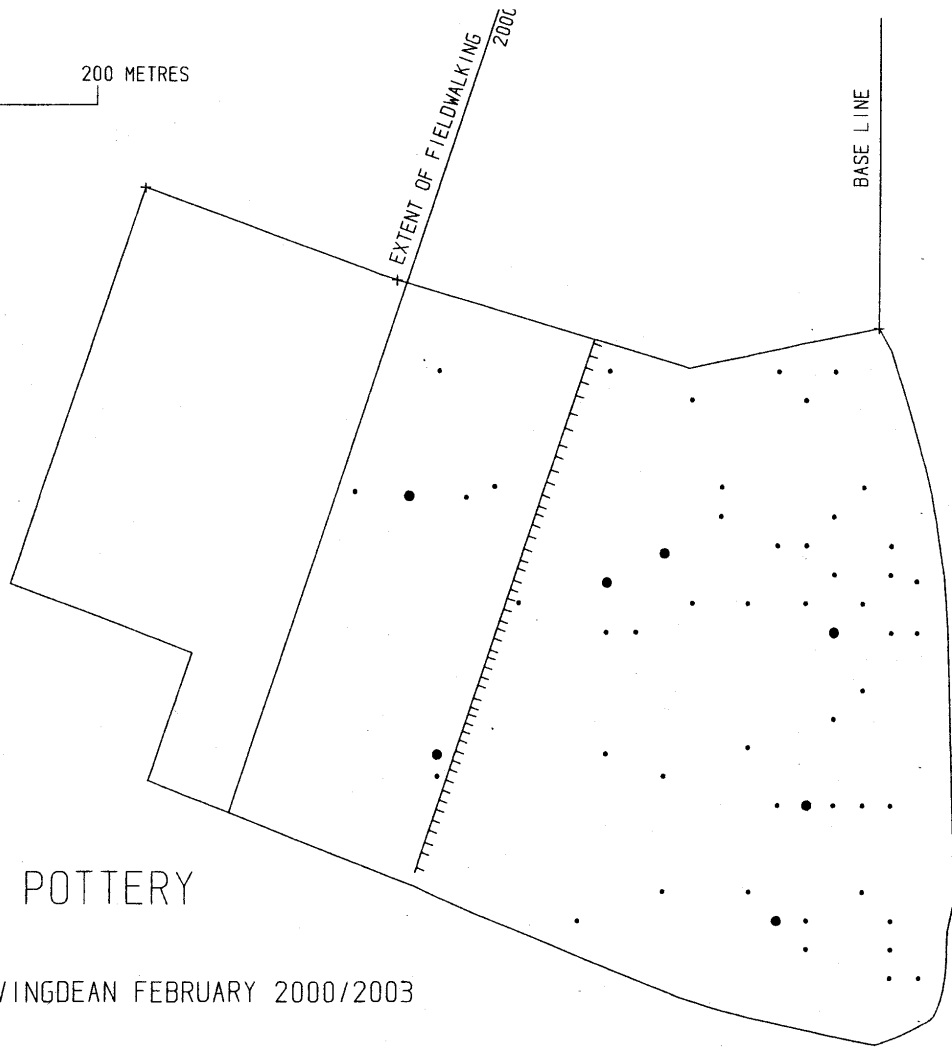
- 1 ONLY
- 2-5
- 6-10
- 11-15
- 16+

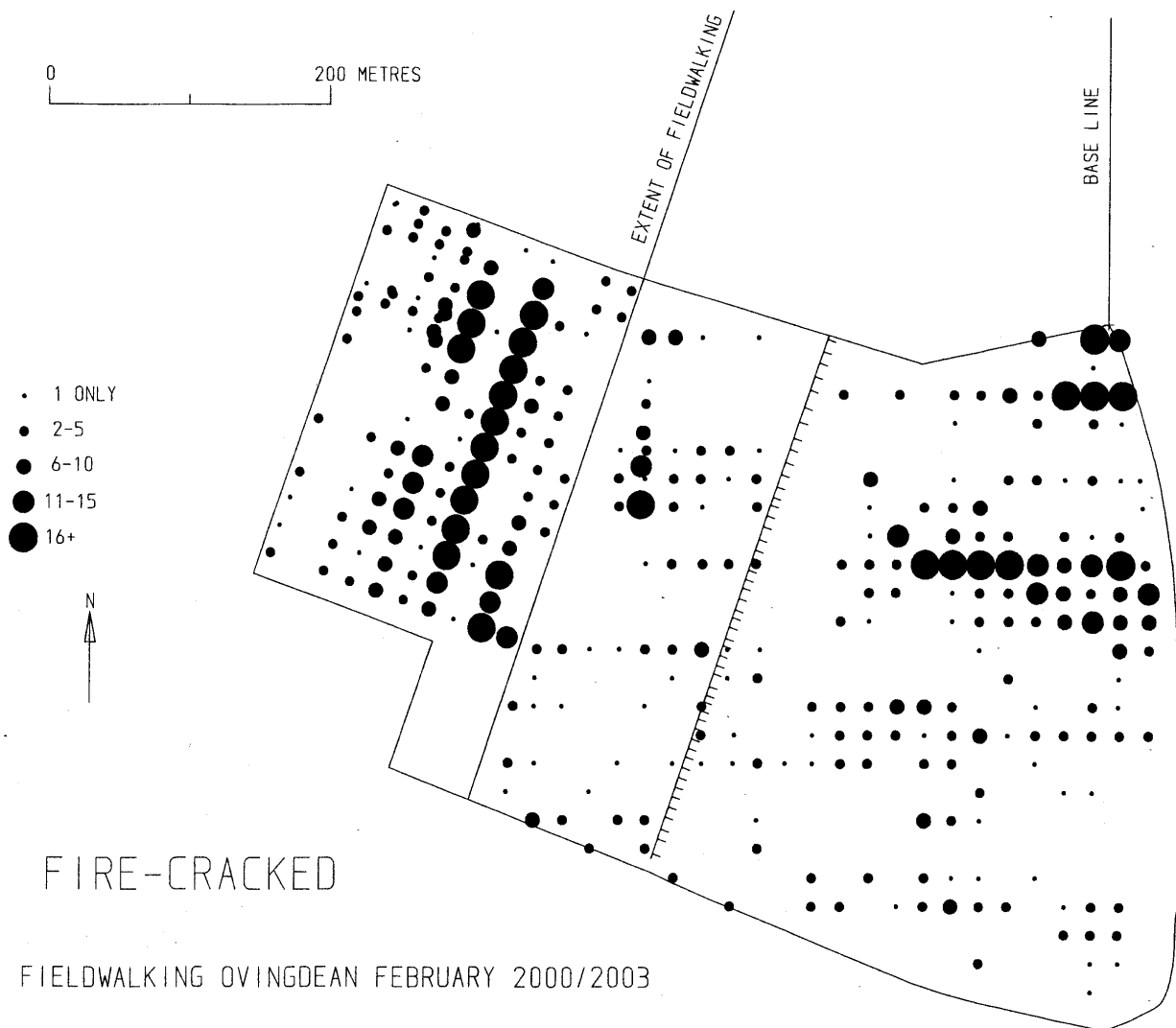


• MEDIEVAL

MEDIEVAL POTTERY

FIELDWALKING OIVINGDEAN FEBRUARY 2000/2003





0 200 METRES

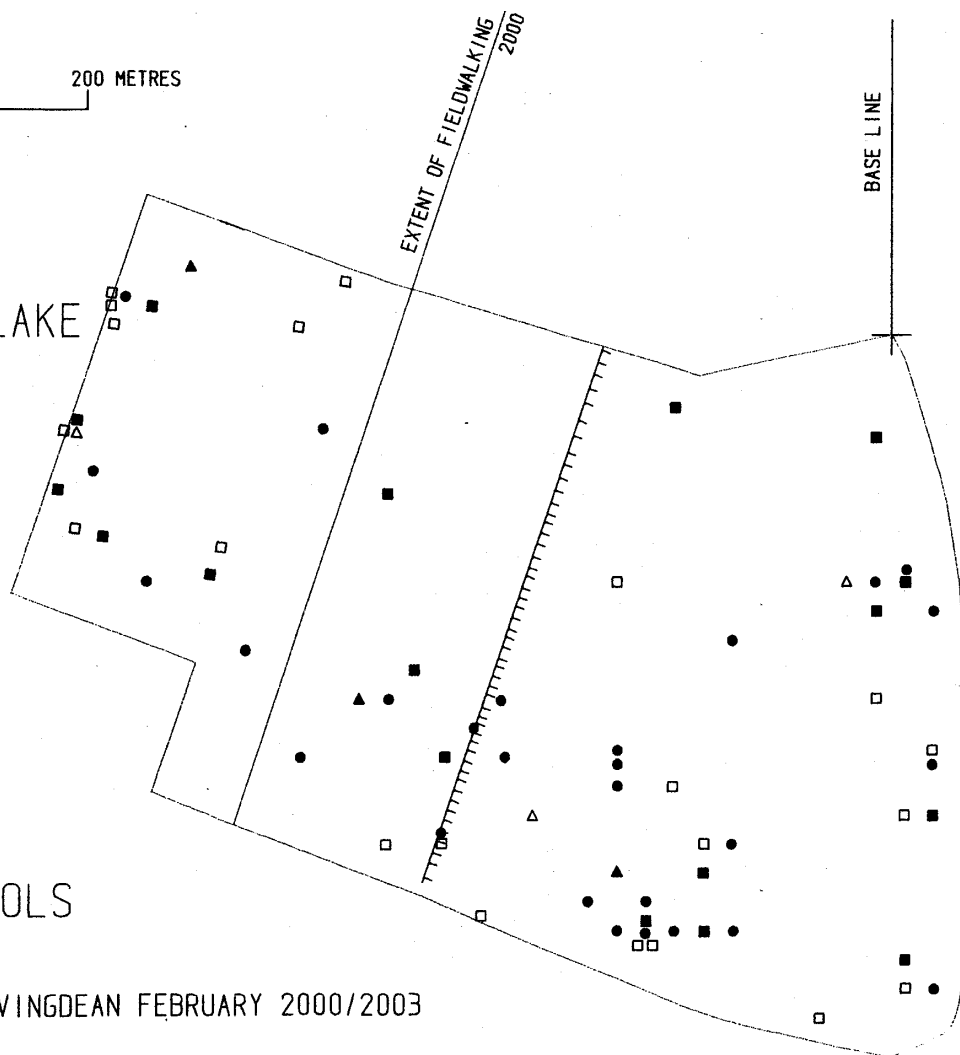
TOOLS

- SCRAPER
- CORE
- ▲ NOTCHED FLAKE
- BLADE
- ◇ AXE
- ★ PIERCER



FLINT TOOLS

FIELDWALKING O Vingdean February 2000/2003



0 200 METRES

- 1 ONLY
- 2-5
- 6-10
- 11-15
- 16+

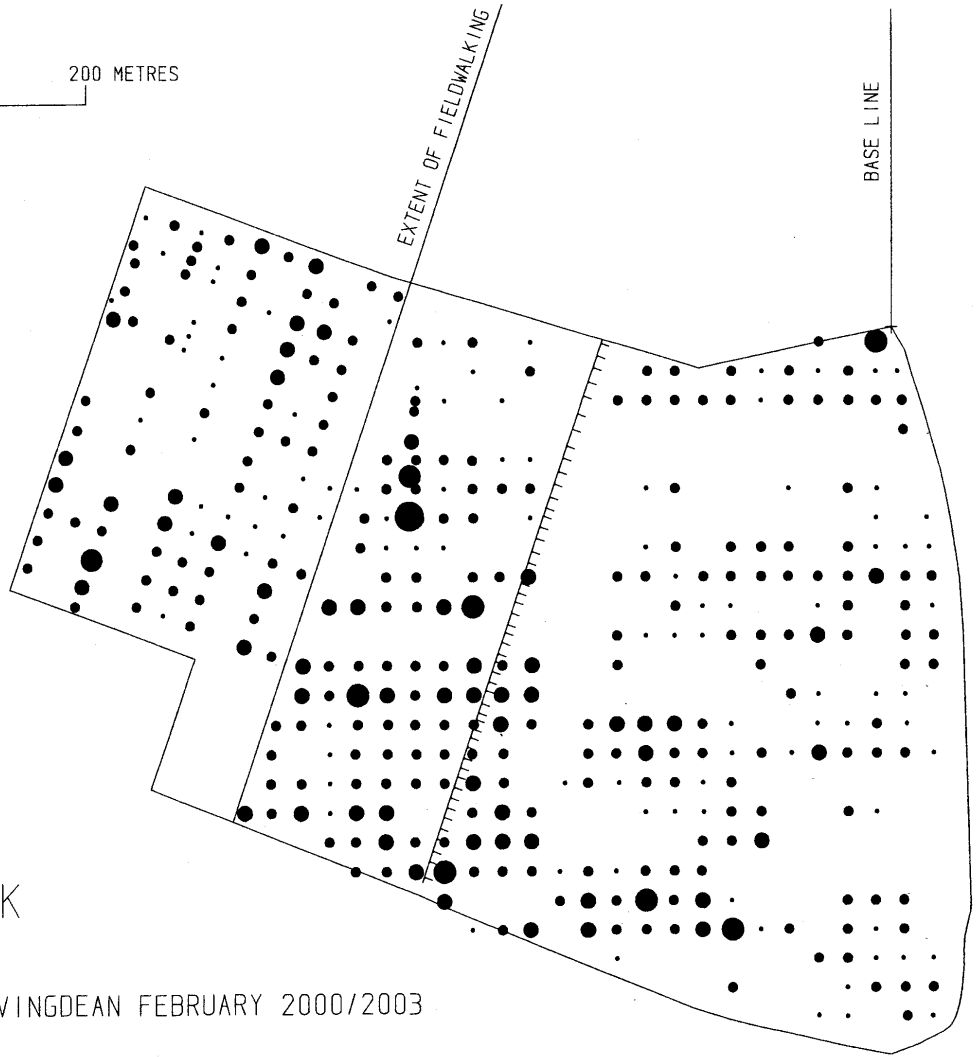


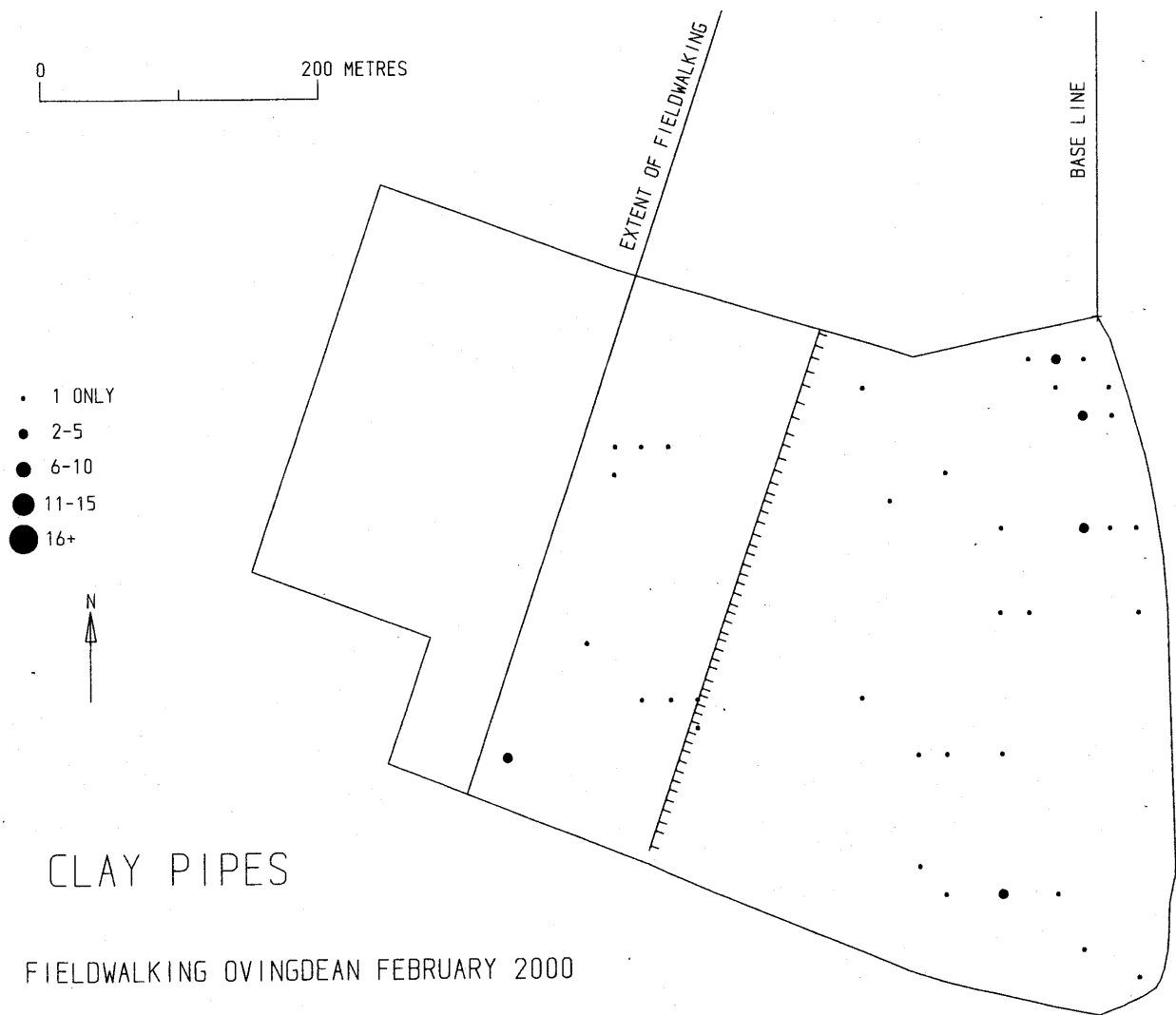
EXTENT OF FIELDWALKING

BASE LINE

FLINTWORK

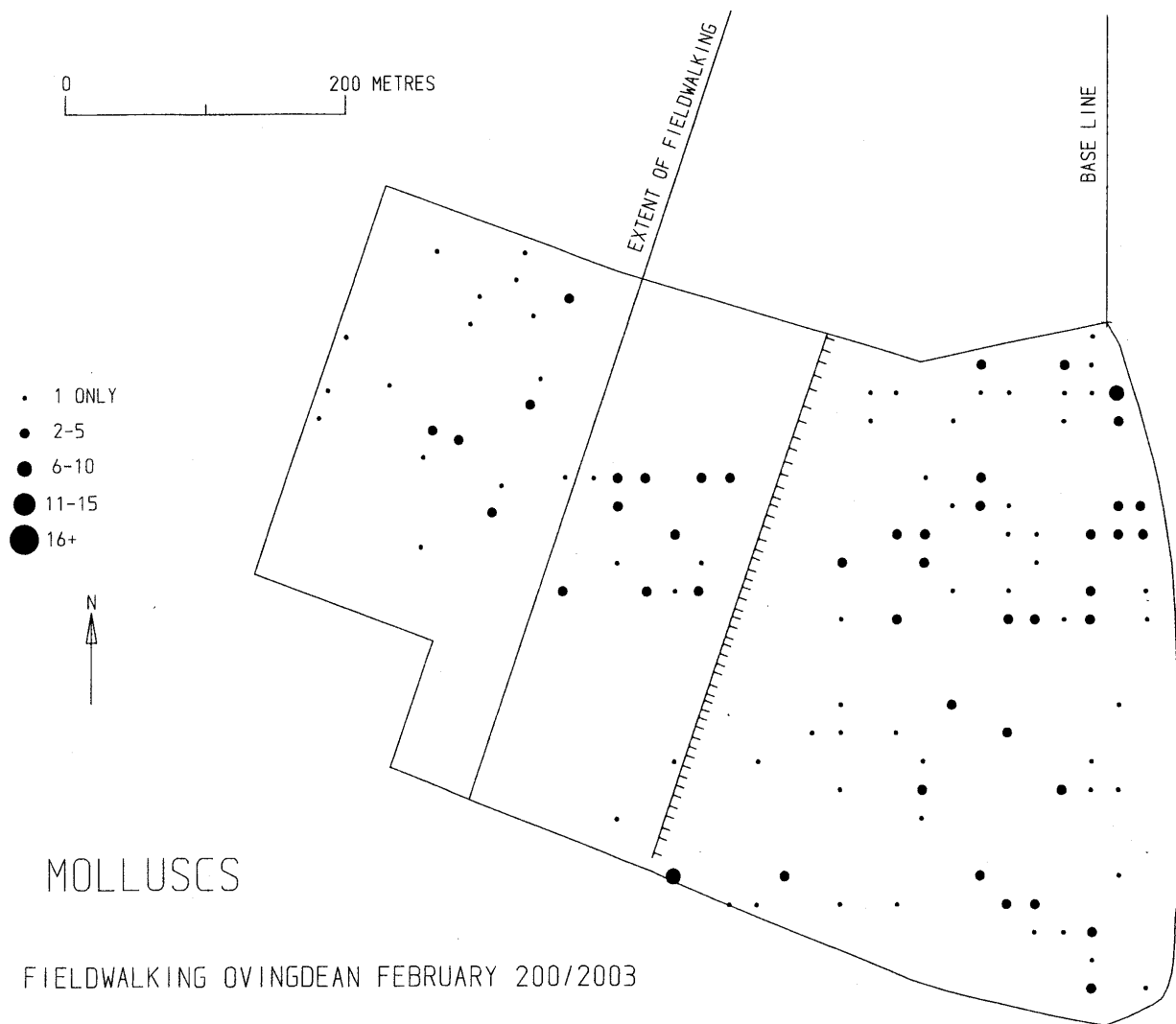
FIELDWALKING OIVINGDEAN FEBRUARY 2000/2003





CLAY PIPES

FIELDWALKING Ovingdean February 2000



FIELD WALKING AT PEACEHAVEN

Introduction

In March of 2003 the BHAS field Unit conducted a small field walking project at Lower Hoddern Farm, Peacehaven. The project is a joint venture between The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society and the Peacehaven Local History Society, with the consent and encouragement of the farmer Mr Appleton. The field has been of interest over a number of years with discrete finds of flintwork dating to both the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods being found. A local resident Mr Tony Paine possesses a collection of Mesolithic blades found in the south east corner of the fields being investigated, while another local resident Mrs Shutz, who used to work at Lower Hoddern Farm, has a collection of Neolithic axes including both rough-outs and polished items.

Topography

The field investigated in 2003 is one of three large fields that are being walked as part of a long term project. (Ref TQ41700180). The field walked in 2003 was only partially completed due to the crop being sown, and the walking concentrated on the north/west corner of this the west field. The field is relatively flat at this point, but there are gentle undulations in the field going eastwards, with a dramatic drop in the south/east corner of the east field. The third field is the south field which begins at the bottom of a steep vally and rises in a southerly direction going towards the sea.

Methodology

A total of 13 lines were set out covering an approximate area of 2,500 square metres. The lines were set out along a base line that runs parallel with the west edge of a metalled trackway that divides the west field from the east field. The datum corner was the north/east corner of this field. The first line was set out 10 metres south of the datum point. Subsequent lines were set out at 20 metre intervals. The lines were divided into 20 metre long transects and finds collected from each transect. The field was walked from east to west. The weather was quite pleasant and the field flat and level.

Conclusions

The finds from the west field at Lower Hoddern Farm, Peacehaven consisted mainly of Neolithic flint work, including a number of scrapers and notched pieces. However the most significant items collected on this day proved to be a pair of Neolithic rough-out axes. The field produced no pottery from antiquity.


The flintwork confirms that these fields at Lower Hoddern Farm are part of an area that could form part of a manufacturing centre for this part of Neolithic Sussex. (Pers. Comm. O.Gilkes). The area of investigation will be broadened in 2004 when it hoped to field walk the remaining part of the west field, the east field and the south field. The new investigations will hope to produce a greatly enhanced picture of possible concentrations of flint work, perhaps indicating some focus or centre for these ancient activities.

Acknowledgements

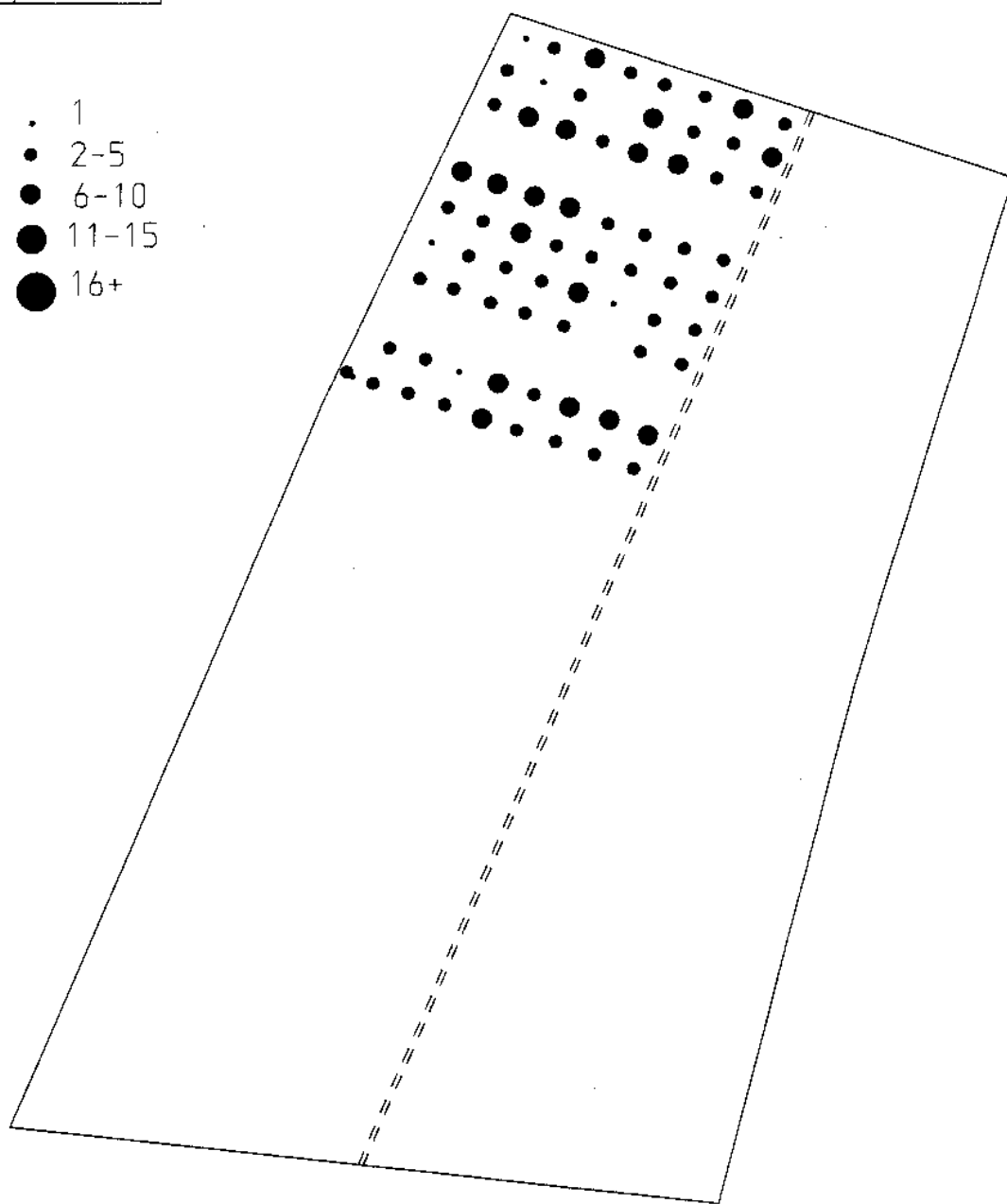
The author would like to thank Mr Appleton the land owner, Mr Tony Paine and Mrs Shutz for allowing access to their collections of finds, the Peacehaven Local History Society and all those members of the BHAS Field Unit who conducted the field walking, with particular reference to Mr W.Santer and Mr N.Phippard for organising the project.

John Funnell (Archaeological Co-Ordinator Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society)
12th December 2004

0 200 METRES

A horizontal scale bar with a vertical tick mark at the 100-metre point.

- 1
- 2-5
- 6-10
- 11-15
- 16+



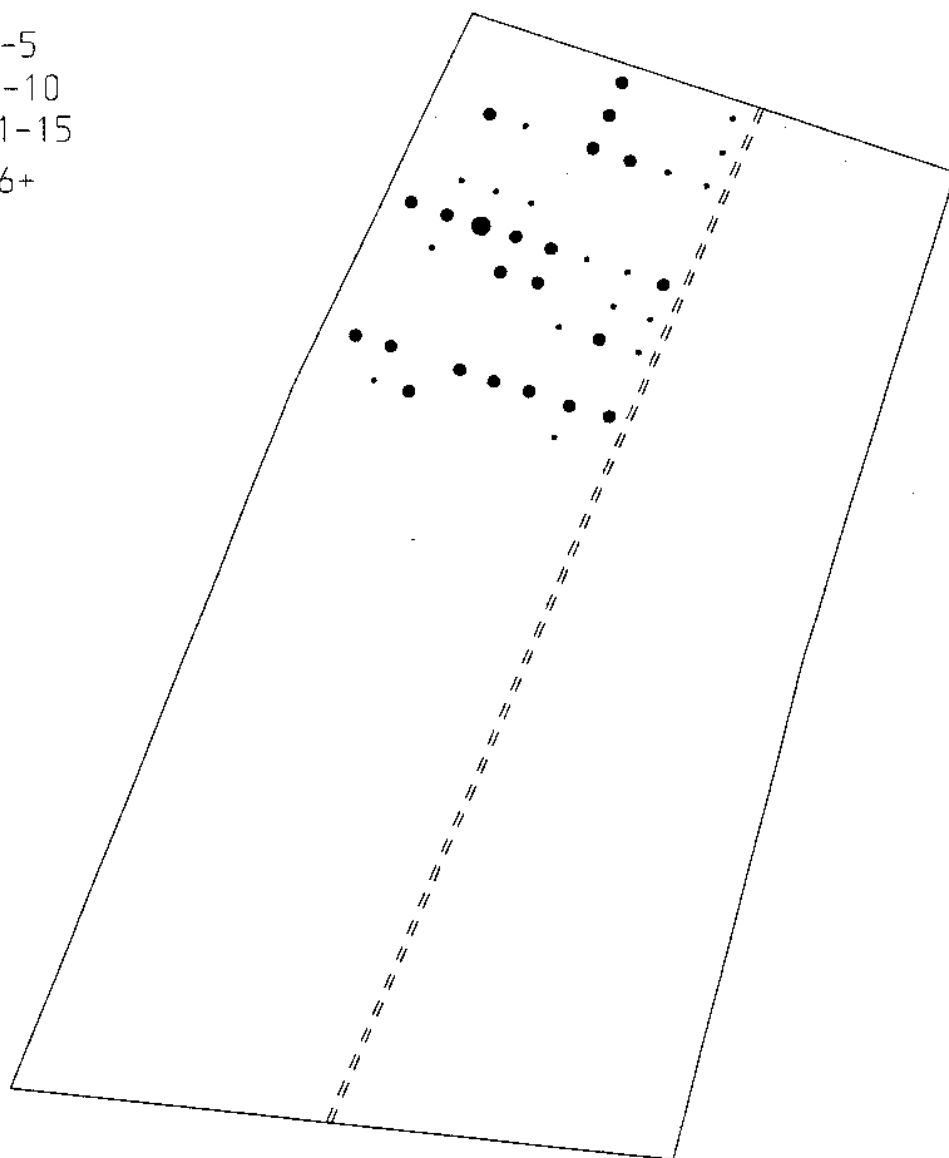
FLINT

FIELDWALKING PEACEHAVEN MARCH 2003

0 200 METRES



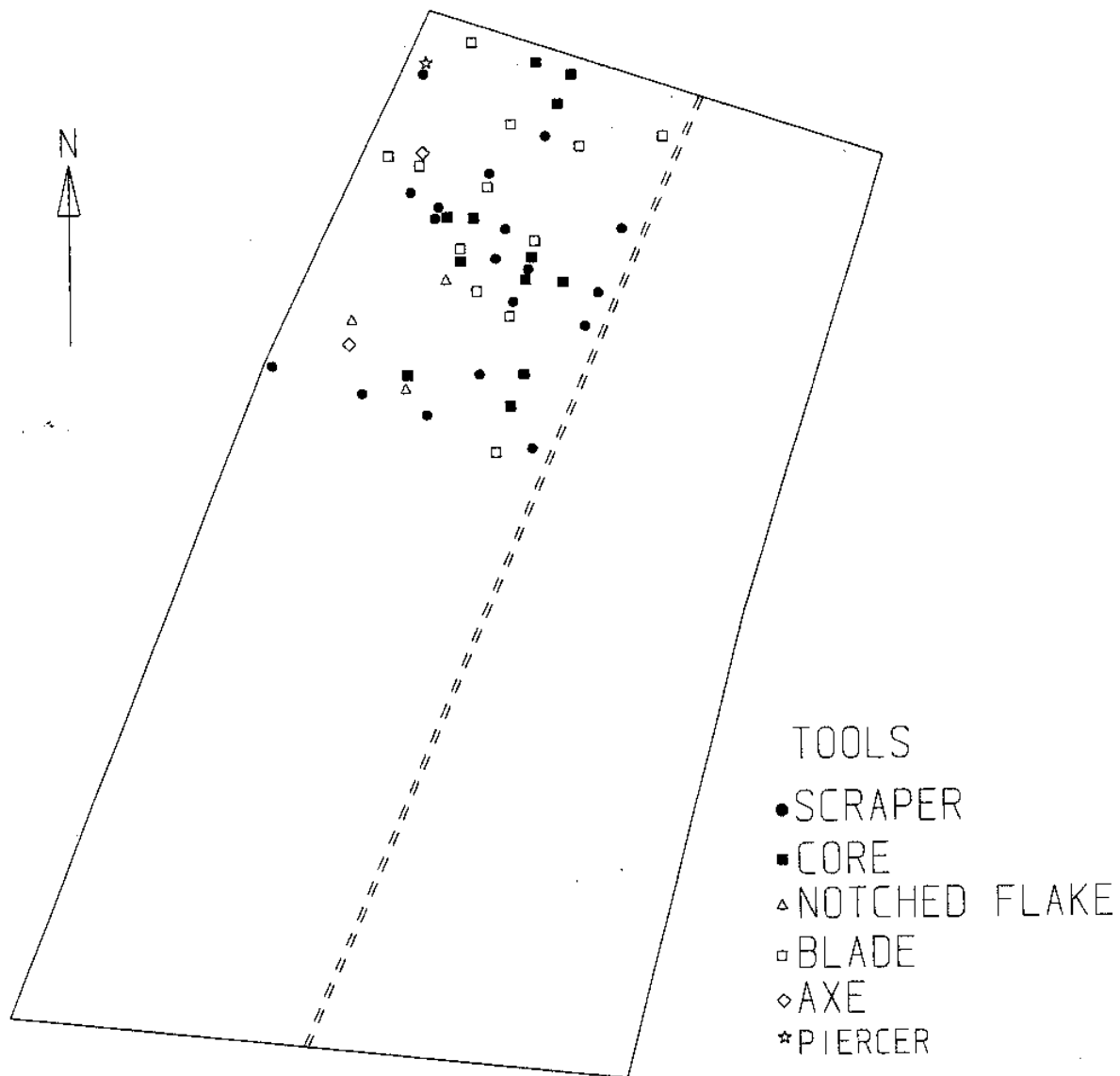

- 1
- 2-5
- 6-10
- 11-15
- 16+



FIRE-CRACKED FLINT

FIELDWALKING PEACEHAVEN MARCH 2003

0 200 METRES



FLINT TOOLS

FIELDWALKING PEACEHAVEN MARCH 2003

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY AT HENFIELD PARSONAGE

Introduction

Henfield parsonage is a large and quite ancient building lying north/east of the parish church of St Peters (Ref TQ21251630). The house, which possibly dates to the 16th century and may even be older, has been visited and examined by Dr Annabelle Hughes, but no report of her findings is as yet available. The interior of the upper part of the house has wood panelling including a door that opens up onto a wall? This does suggest that either the wood panelling is an additional decorative feature or that a southern part of the house has been demolished in the past. The house is typical of old houses full of passages and landings which emphasise the various alterations that have taken place over the centuries.

One of the past owners of the house was Henry Bishop, who lived in the premises during the 17th century, the period of the English civil war. Henry Bishop was a gentleman who was prone to change sides during this conflict, which may have rendered his position difficult at times, especially when adverse military conditions found him in the wrong location at the wrong time, and on the wrong side.

One of the features of the house is a 'priest hole'. It is believed that Henry Bishop hid in this priest hole when enemy forces were close by, apparently secreted with his dog. An examination was made of the priest hole. The opening is now covered by a wooden trap-door, and is located in one of the childrens bedrooms. The trapdoor is kept locked for safety. The 'hole' is of crude construction and has been roughly cut through the floor below. The variation of structures can be observed on either side of the feature as it descends. There has been no major structural survey made of the feature, or drawings created as a record but photographs were taken. A measurement was made of the depth of the priest hole and the bottom of the feature was found to be level with the outside garden surface.

Tradition has it that between the parsonage and the church of St Peters is an underground tunnel linking both the buildings. The tunnel is thought to have been a possible escape route for Henry Bishop. However, there is no historical evidence to support this tale. There was no evidence at the bottom of the priest hole to suggest any excavations had been undertaken to a depth below the bottom floor level. Considerable work would have been required to construct even a small tunnel from the parsonage to the church.

The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society were asked to conduct a resistivity survey of the garden to the west of the house, in an attempt to seek evidence for such an underground link. It was hoped that any subterranean passage would be constructed of solid brick or stone, and as such would produce a linear configuration of high resistance readings.

During the survey the author walked from the parsonage to the church, the area has a number of other medieval dwellings located around the church. It was noted that Church Road which is located between the parsonage and the church of St. Peters has cut into the subsurface by several metres. It is reported that an omnibus did drop down into a large subsidence some time in the recent past (pers.comm Henfield Historical Society), but there appears to be no written record of this occurrence.

Methodology

The resistivity survey was set out using the west side of the house as a base line. The survey covered the majority of the west garden with grids measuring 40 metres by 13.5 metres. A total of 540 square metres were surveyed. (Fig 1.) The machine used was a TR Systems resistivity meter. The readings were measured in Ohms and taken at 1 metre intervals. A graphical image of the results was produced using 'Snuffler' software. (Fig 2.) The weather had been predominantly dry over the previous weeks with only a few light showers.

Conclusions

The resistivity survey at Henfield Parsonage failed to find any trace of a tunnel linking the parsonage with the church of St Peters. However, the survey did reveal a number of areas of high resistance which could be the location of old, demolished structures or buildings. The owners of the house produced an aerial photograph of the Parsonage from the recent past and documents that indicate the Parsonage had been part of a much larger complex. It is possible that these areas of high resistance are remaining vestiges of some of those outbuildings.

During the examination of the priest hole it was noted that one of the walls on the north side of the opening appeared to be the corner of a building, consisting of large dressed quoin stones. The building appeared to be running westwards and would have been located under the area of the lawn surveyed. The geophysical results tend to support the existence of an earlier building in that section of the lawn, but only excavations could determine the style of construction and possible date of the structure.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the owners of Henfield Parsonage, Mr and Mrs Smith for allowing access to the garden. I would like to thank S, Rowbotham and the Henfield Historical Society for inviting the BHAS Field Unit to undertake the investigation and to D. Staveley and the members of the BHAS Field Unit who conducted the survey.

Author John Funnell, 18 Reeves Hill, Coldean, Brighton, Sussex. BN1 9AS

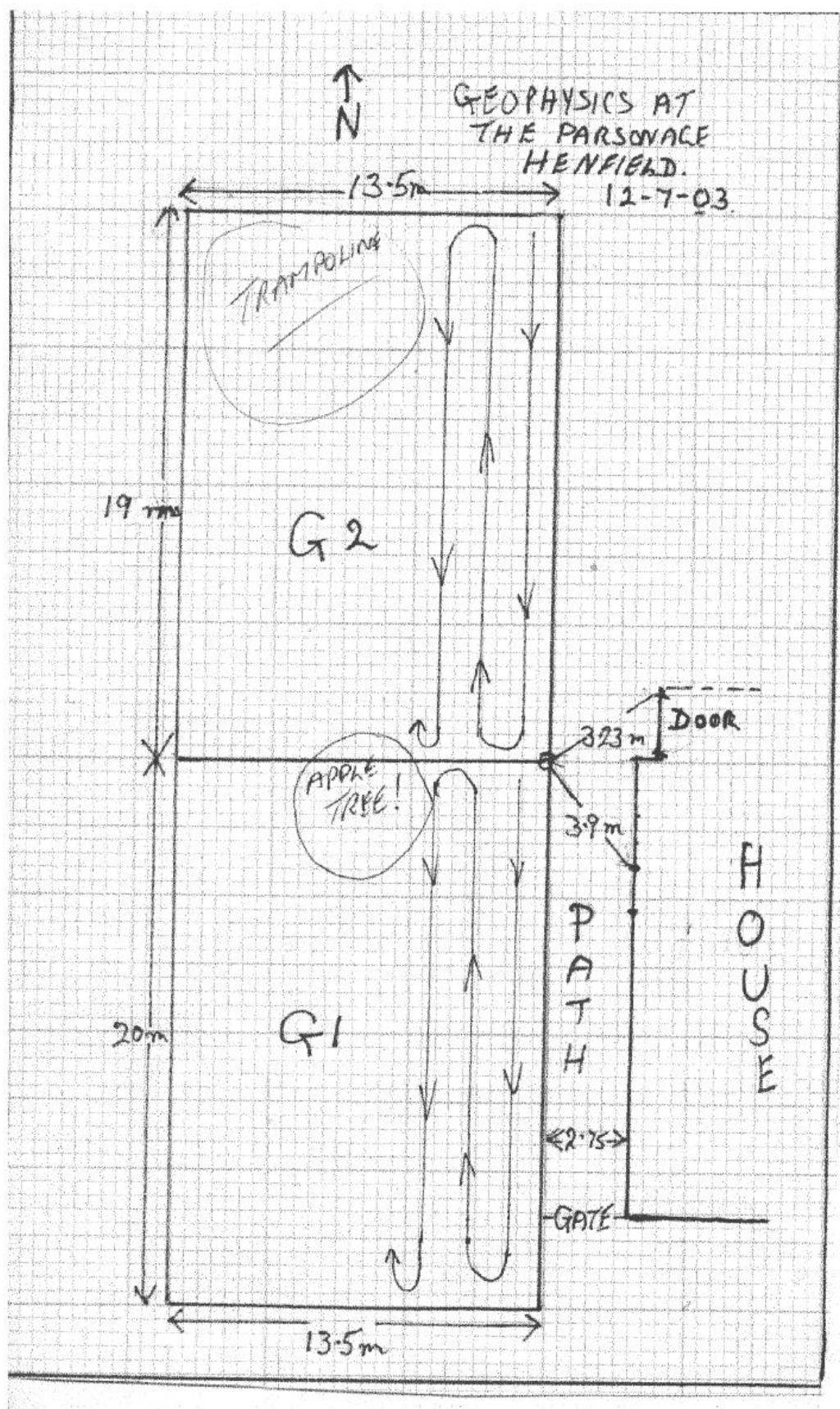
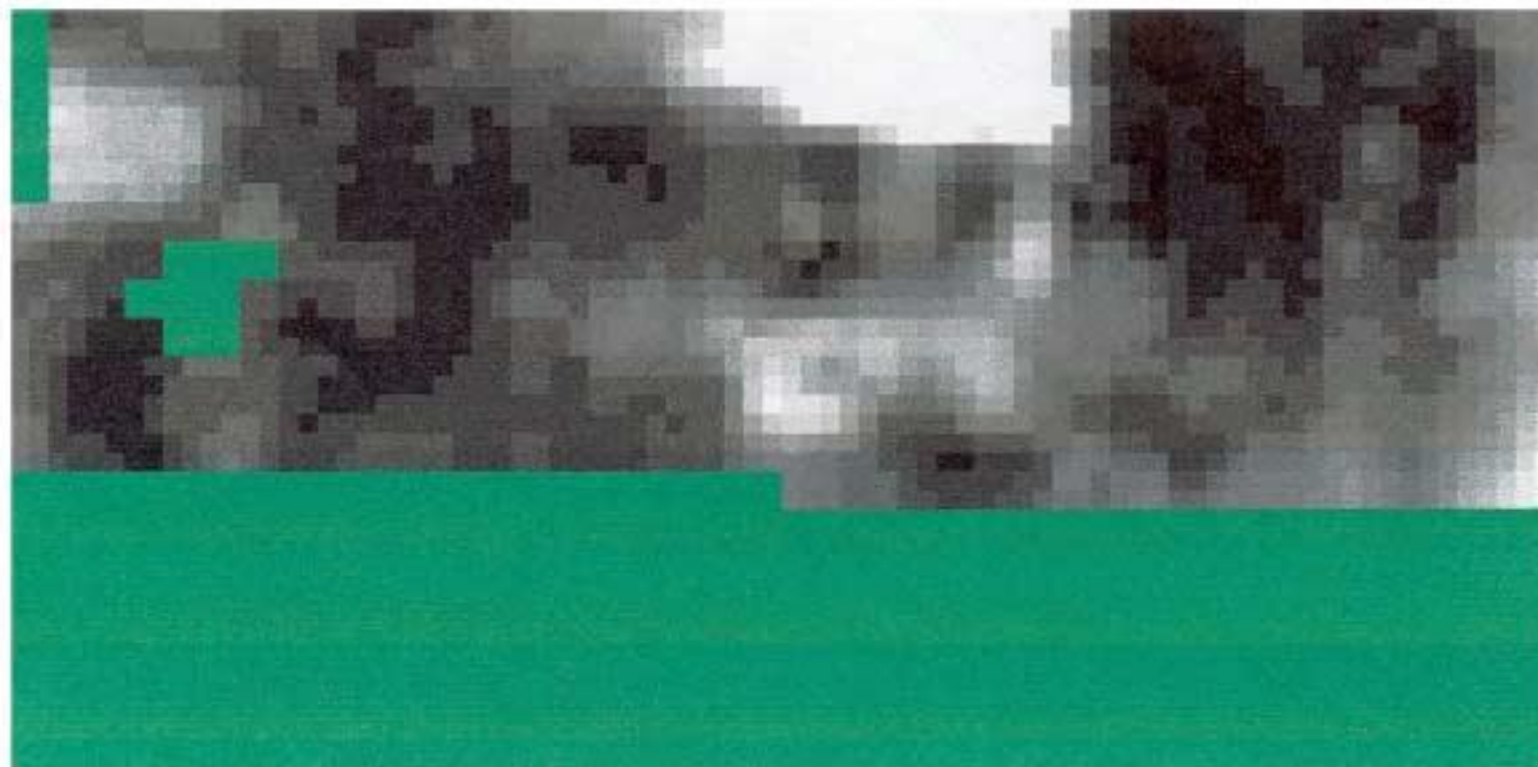


FIG 1.



Document: henmapView

Grid Width: 80 (40 m)

Grid Height: 40 (20 m)

Sample Size: 1.00m



6.67

25.38

20.00m



Figure 2

A Resistivity Survey Of Combe Hill Causewayed Enclosure Near Willingdon, East Sussex, July-August 2003

Report By David Staveley August 2003

Introduction

From 28th July to 8th August 2003, the Brighton & Hove Archaeological society conducted a Resistivity survey on 71 grids of 20 by 20 metres on the site of the Neolithic Causewayed Enclosure and two adjacent harrows on Combe Hill, near Willingdon, East Sussex. The purpose of the survey was to identify features hinted at by the Royal Commission earthwork survey of the enclosure (*Oswald & Field 1995*). The features sought were the outer enclosure circuit and also two 'tails' attached to the two bronze-age harrows flanking the enclosure on the hill. Any other features found internal to the enclosure were to be considered a bonus.

The location of the enclosure is on the top of a chalk ridge on the northern edge of the South Downs. The topsoil is very thin, just a few centimetres thick judging by the depth the fixed probes penetrated, and the site is used for pasture. Coupled with the extremely dry weather we had before and during the survey, this left the site in far too dry a condition for a decent set of results to be gained. The conditions affected the site to the extent that some of the ditches of the enclosure actually gave a higher reading than their surroundings, a process described by Anthony Clark (1996 p.49). Nevertheless, some results were obtained, though they are ephemeral. A magnetometry survey may help resolve certain possible interesting features shown by this Resistivity survey.

Method

Diagram A shows the layout of the grids in relation to the RCHMIE earthwork survey results. The grids were laid out using tapes and the baseline reaches from roughly the centre of the bowl barrow to the west of the enclosure through roughly the centre of the disc barrow to the east of the enclosure. A YR Systems Resistivity Meter was used in its standard configuration with readings being taken every square meter. The resulting data was processed using Snuffler, with two plots produced. Both plots had the edges of the grids matched up and were de-spiked. Thereafter, the first plot (Diagram B) was interpolated, whilst the second plot (Diagram C) was flattened using a High Pass Filter before being interpolated.

Results & Interpretation

The results as interpreted from the two plots (Diagrams B & C) are shown on

Diagram D. The following interpretive text refers to features shown on this diagram.

Geology

Despite the dry conditions on site, the geological background was quite noisy, though fortunately free from the pockets of Clay With Flints that plague surveys on this type of geology. Some geological features relating to the slope of the hill can be seen on the

northern edge of the survey results, whilst the readings for the general background seemed to be higher resistance in the west than the east.

Modern

Of the modern features visible, the two trackways that currently pass through the site are easily visible, crossing the site from east to west. Also visible is a low resistance linear feature similar to the other two trackways but not as clearly defined. It runs from the northwest, climbing the hill heading ESE, crossing the northern trackway roughly at the point that trackway crosses the inner enclosure and stopping when it reaches the southern trackway. The nature of the feature as seen on the survey coupled with its termination at another modern feature point to it being another trackway, now no longer visible but once in use at the same time as the southern trackway.

Bronze-Age

Of the Bronze-Age features, the outlines of the two barrows are just visible, but their 'tails' appear much more strongly, though both of them different in character. The tail that leads SSE from the western bowl barrow seems to be formed of a series of high resistance blobs, contained within an area of lower resistance with a few blobs of lower resistance also within this area. The whole seems to curve slightly to the south with two thin low resistance linear features making an appearance halfway down the tail. Whilst the high resistance blobs show quite a strong deviation from the background, they were not noted apart from being part of the 'tail' structure as a whole. What does make its presence felt on the ground are two small mounds just east of the tail, around where the two linear features start, that shows on the RCHME survey and also on the Resistivity survey as 'blobs' similar to those seen in the tail. It should be noted here that some sandstone could be seen in the top of one of these mounds.

The 'tail' on the eastern disc barrow appears on the RCHME survey to be composed of two separate features and this appears to be the case on the Resistivity survey results. Unlike the RCHME survey however, these seem to pass through the barrow rather than stopping at it, though they don't continue for much distance past it. These two separate tails are quite different in character to the tail on the western bowl barrow. They are high resistance and linear rather than curved, much thinner and more continuous rather than blobby. The stronger feature appears to be the tail which heads NNW from the barrow. The second tail heads NW and where it hits some high resistance geology at the edge of the survey area, it shows up as low resistance in comparison. A third even more ephemeral tail may possibly be seen also heading northwest from the barrow, but this is not marked on the interpretation diagram. A fourth linear feature, stronger than the others radiating from the disc barrow can be seen to the southwest of the barrow. It is not aligned on the barrow, seeming to stop at the southern trackway, though the geology in the area south of the barrow is noisy and makes things difficult to see.

The tails on both barrows are assumed to be bronze-age because of their association with the barrows, though this is of course far from being a certainty. The linear feature on the south-east side is also assumed to be bronze-age due to its similarity to the other linear feature associated with the barrow, but this is even more tenuous. The purpose of all the features other than the barrows can only be guessed at, so here are my guesses, such as they are. The enclosure itself seems to be almost bounded in by the combination of these

features and the natural escarpment to the north. A hill that has been enclosed in a similar manner is Bow Hill in West Sussex, though this is Iron-Age. A more suitable comparison can be made with Long-Burgh near Alfriston. There, the long barrow along with an oval barrow and round barrows are isolated on a spur of the downs by a 'cross-dyke' or linear earthwork. It may be that these linear features were designed to mark the land as somehow special and apart from everyday existence. Perhaps they were designed to mark a boundary that should not be crossed. The association of the barrows with these features raises two other possibilities. Firstly, that the ancestors buried there were put there along with the linear features to help enclose and protect against an area that was somehow considered contaminated. Secondly, that the burial of your ancestors at such a spot is meant to cement your claim on the area, and its associated history.

Whilst some of these ideas may seem reasonable for the relatively simple linear earthworks on the eastern and southern sides of the enclosure, the western 'tail' is more confused. For the 'blobbyness' of the western tail, I have the following two possible explanations apart from the simple linear boundary theory. Firstly, the area to the west was cultivated in prehistory and the blobs are clearance cairns dumped at the edge of the field. There are field systems further down the hill to the west, but whether they went further up than is now visible is unknown. My second guess is that flints were quarried and/or worked in the area, which would also explain the low resistance blobs associated with the high resistance ones.

Neolithic

The results for the Neolithic features are both disappointing and fascinating in equal measure. The inner enclosure is visible, though not clear enough to pick out the causeways. Unfortunately, the outer enclosure is only visible to the west, where the earthworks can be seen, with a hint of its continuation to the south where it has been flattened. A better response may have been gained when the site is not so dry. It is in the visible enclosure ditches that you can see the extreme effect of the dry weather, where at some points the readings are higher than the surrounding area. The area comprising the ditch and bank is thicker than shown in the diagram, but unfortunately the results are not clear enough to properly define its limits.

It is within the inner enclosure that we unexpectedly find features of interest. Firstly, two features composed of what seem at first glance to be large posts must be described. Firstly, on the south side of the inner enclosure is a semicircular arrangement of nine low readings. This palisade, which seems the most likely cause, almost completely covers the southern 'entrance' to the enclosure. If it is indeed a palisade, the posts must have been very thick to show up so well on the plot. The second 'palisade' consists of what seems to be a linear arrangement of eight posts heading NW-SE and close by the eastern 'entrance' to the inner enclosure. It doesn't seem to stretch right to the entrance, and indeed no postholes were found within the entrance by Seton-Williams (*Dreweti* 1994 p.10). That both of these 'palisades' are associated with entrances into the enclosure is interesting, perhaps they were used to somehow control the use of these entrances. A Neolithic posthole structure can be seen to be associated with a causeway at Whitehawk, but it is of a different form to those at Combe Hill and it is associated with a small causeway rather than a larger entrance (*Curwen* 193.4 p.105). The semicircular enclosure on the southern side of the enclosure is similar in form to a mortuary enclosure, such as those found under long barrows (*Thomas* 1991 p.13.2), but it is rather out of context.

Moving onto more ephemeral objects within the inner enclosure is the possibility of yet another enclosure circuit. It is marked on the map as a thin ellipse, but the plot shows something much thicker. It is roughly 43 metres East-West and 35 metres North-South. It is composed of a rather fuzzy collection of slightly higher readings, strongest on its western edge, but it does seem to be concentric both in proportion and distance to the main inner enclosure within which it sits. Another possible feature sits just within this possible new enclosure on its Southwestern side, just north of the modern path. This is a small low resistance ring roughly 9 metres across, with a low resistance spot in its centre.

Acknowledgements

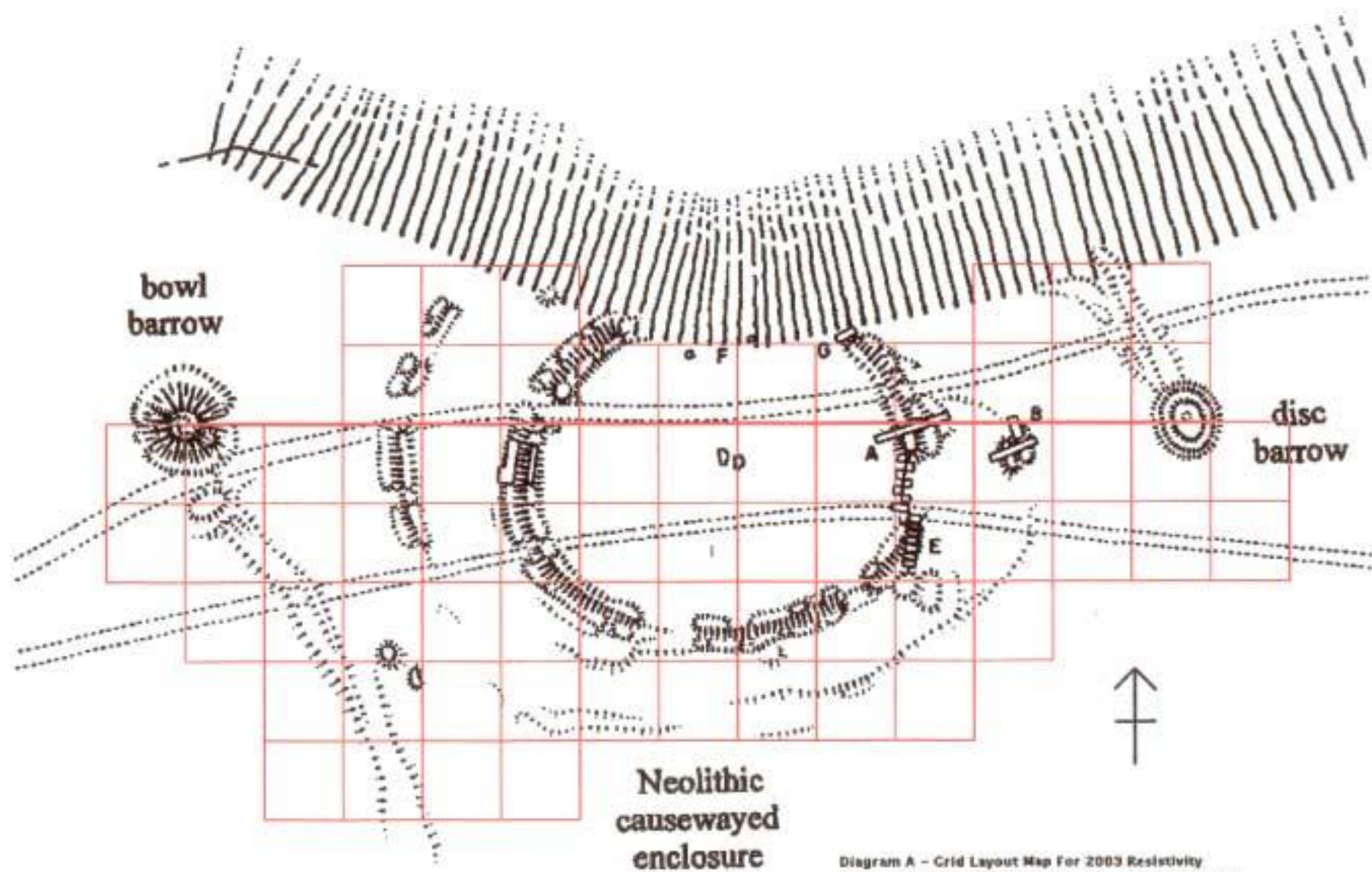
I would like to thank the members of the Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society for all their hard work in the face of such gruelling weather, challenging undergrowth and curious farm animals. They are (in order of appearance):

John Funnell, Donna Angel, Deon Whittakar, Bill Santer, Karol Eager, Dot McBrien, Penny Edgar, Leo Jago, Andrew Musselwhite, Fiona Whittakar, Joan MacGregor and Share Price.

I would also like to thank English Heritage, English Nature, Dave Pearce at Eastbourne Borough Council, the tenant farmer, Richard Brown and Sarah-Jane Webb for proof reading.

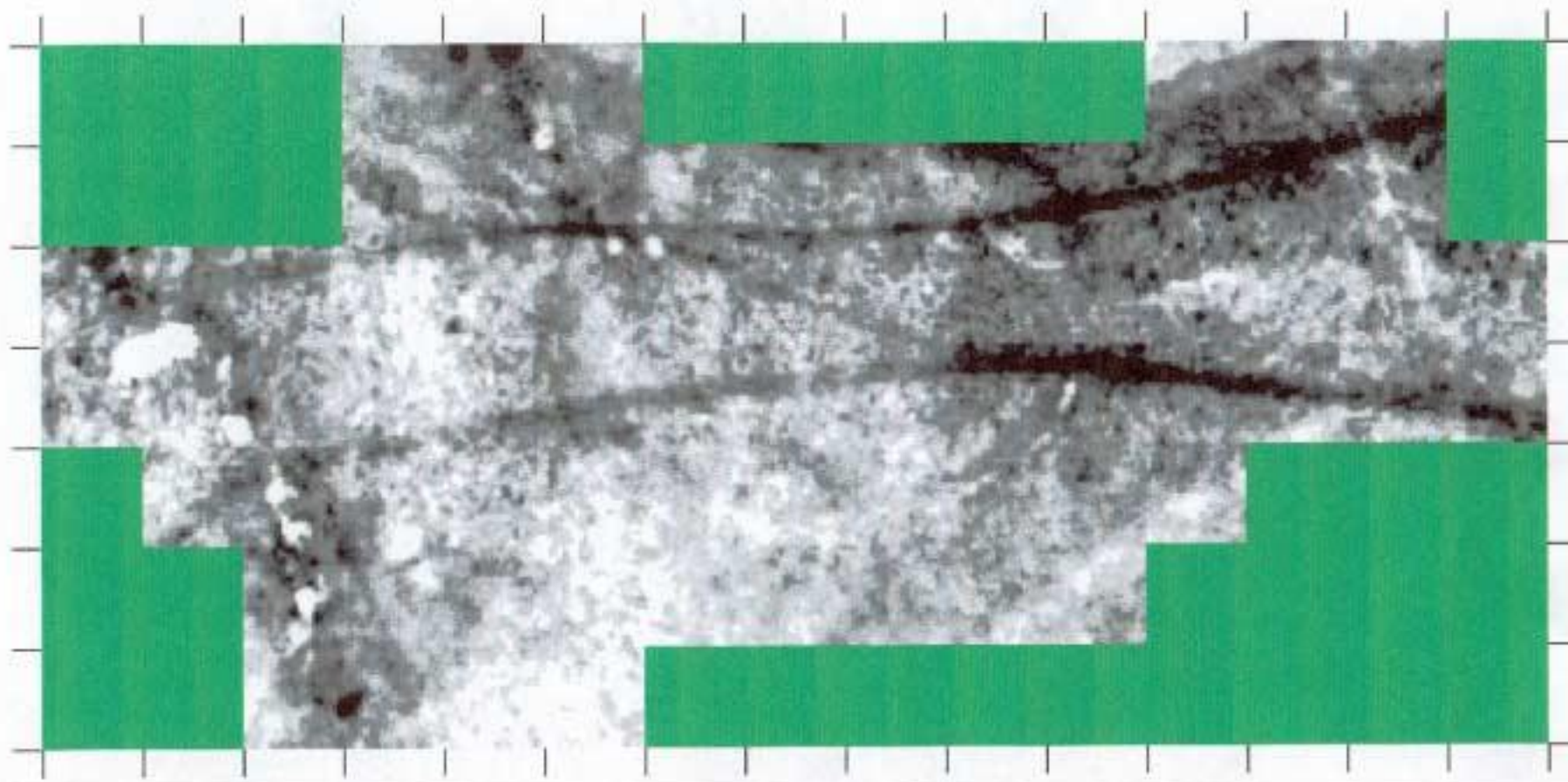
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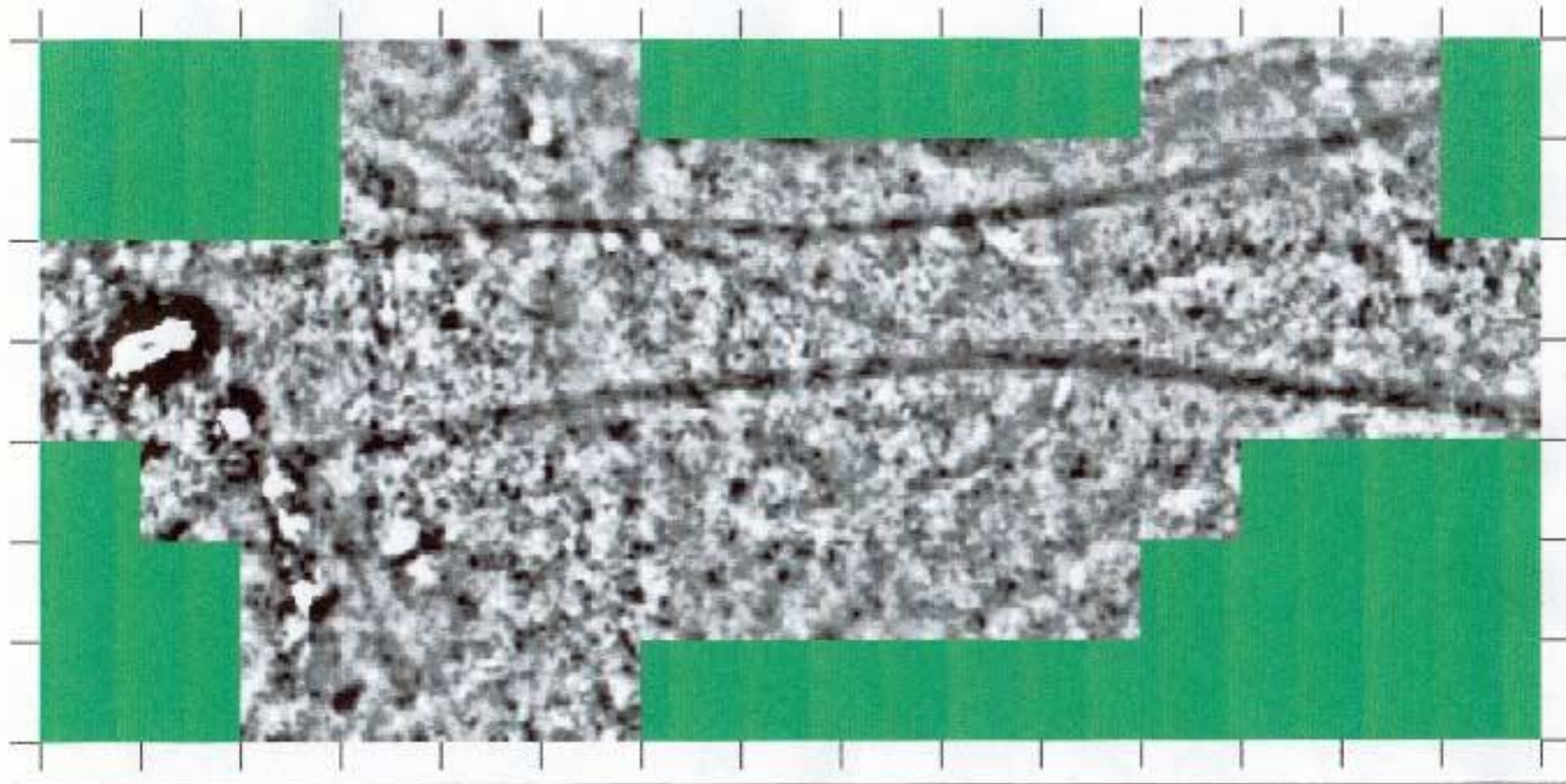
**Neolithic
causewayed
enclosure**

Diagram A - Grid Layout Map For 2003 Resistivity
Survey Of Cumbe Hill Neolithic Causewayed Enclosure
Based On Diagram by Oswald & Field 1995 (Used with Permission)
© Crown Copyright, BMH



CH03 Diagram B - Normal Image
Grid Width: 600 (300 m)
Grid Height: 280 (140 m)
Sample Size: 1.00m





CH03 Diagram C - Flattened Image

Grid Width: 600 (300 m)

Grid Height: 280 (140 m)

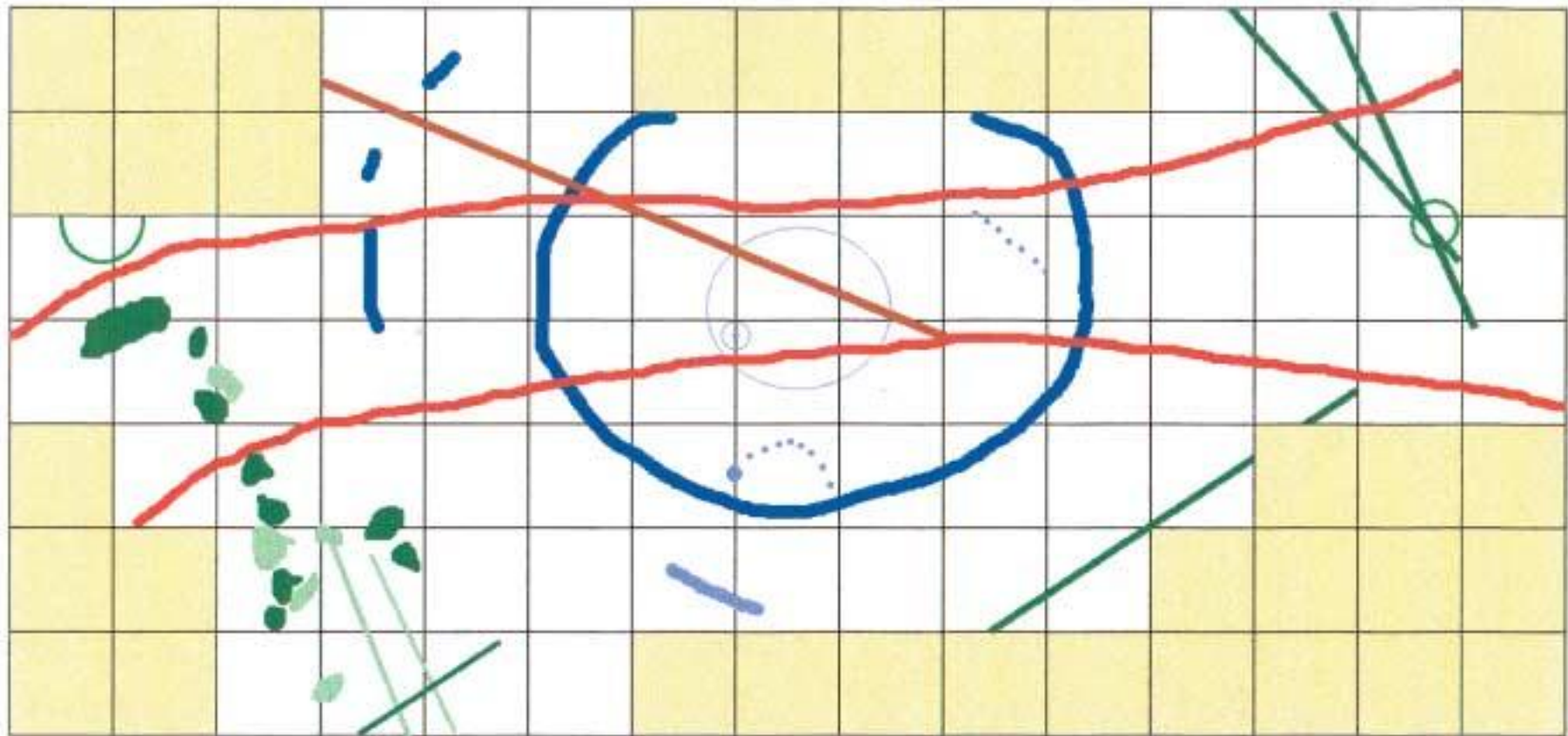
Sample Size: 1.00m



91.88

124.69

20.00m



- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ■ Modern - Definite | ■ Neolithic - Definite | ■ Bronze Age - Definite |
| ■ Modern - Possible | ■ Neolithic - Possible | ■ Bronze Age - Possible (High Resistance) |
| ■ Unsurveyed | | ■ Bronze Age - Possible (Low Resistance) |

Diagram D - Interpretation Of Results For 2003 Resistivity Survey Of Combe Hill Neolithic Causewayed Enclosure

GEOPHYSICS AT 'THRAVES' GRAFFHAM, WEST SUSSEX

Introduction

The house named 'Thraves' lies on the southern outskirts of the village of Graftham, West Sussex, nestled in a small valley on the north side of the South Downs. (TQ9290 1675). The house was built circa 1410 and is described by Dr Annabelle Hughes as a medieval four bayed hail house. The house has over the centuries been the subject of much structural alteration. A number of additions to the house are clearly visible from both the front and back of the house. The alterations have included the addition of a chimney, centrally spaced, and a pair of windows cut into the roof. The front door appears to be central but the rear door is offset, but a small extension to the rear of the building may incorporate this doorway. The chimney and the upper windows appear to create some form of symmetry within the early fabric of the building. However, the south end of the structure has obviously been the subject of some dramatic change in recent times. The removal or loss of the south bay of the hail has produced an irregularity in the house design in that area.

The house owner, Mr Peter Hawkes, produced a number of plans of the house and the surrounding area. At one time the house had been the rectory for the church located nearby. The plans showed that over a period of time other buildings had been constructed around the focus of the main house and these over a period of time had either changed or been removed.

Dr Hughes had suggested that the BHAS Field Unit be contacted with regard conducting a geophysical survey on the south side of the house to seek possible evidence for the missing fourth bay. During the intervening period a small excavation was conducted by the District Archaeologist south of the existing building. The trench measuring 2.5M by 2.0M was still open when the BHAS unit arrived to conduct the geophysical survey, and evidence for a robbed out wall footing could be discerned within the excavation. The excavation trench revealed a significant depth of soil and demolition overburden above the early wall levels. It was anticipated that the results of the geophysical survey would be affected by the depth of this earth and rubble. The survey also had to navigate around the remaining spoil heap of the excavation.

The Geophysical Survey

The geophysical survey concentrated in those areas of the front and rear gardens that were accessible, (Fig 1 & Fig 2.), but despite the restrictions imposed by flower beds, shrubbery and other garden features, a survey of 2 complete grid squares measuring 20M by 20M was accomplished. The completed grid survey of the front area of the house included the driveway and a section of the neighbouring garden, with permission being granted by the enthusiastic neighbour.

Methodology

The resistivity survey used a TR Systems machine. The readings were measured in Ohms and readings were taken at 1 metre intervals. The weather had been dry for some time

prior to the survey. The images produced show areas of high resistance being discerned as light grey or white in colour, low resistance areas being black or dark grey. (Figs 3 & 4)

Conclusions

The survey to the front of the house produced very little evidence for anything other than the flower beds, a dark linear feature running from the bottom left hand corner of the picture running up and to the north east in the image is the driveway. The lighter area running either side of this dark feature is grass and flowerbeds. The dark area in the south/east quadrant is the driveway and grass of the neighbouring house.

The rear garden does, however, contain a number of interesting anomalies. The lawn has produced a number of high resistance areas that can clearly be noted. On the east side of the garden, close to the garden wall running down to the roadside is a small square feature consisting of 3 possible walls. However, there appears to be no wall on the north side. There is an ephemeral lighter linear link running from this feature in the east to the west side of the garden, this subtle linear feature may be the remnants of an earlier building or an old garden wall. The west side of the garden, has a number of linear features of high resistance. These features measure between 2 and 5 metres in width and may continue in a westerly direction. A separate rectangular feature can be noted just to the east of this other linear arrangement, but all the areas of high resistance may possibly be linked.

The survey produced no evidence for walls located in the area considered to be the location of the fourth bay of the house, this was anticipated because of the excessive overburden seen in the section of the excavation trench. The resistivity survey of the gardens around the house called 'Thraves' indicate that vestiges of old outbuildings may lie beneath the lawns and flowerbeds. It is not possible to say with certainty exactly what the results prove and how old the features are, often geological anomalies can produce similar results. However, the features being of a regular configuration do suggest possible structures, but only excavation can really determine the nature and date of the features.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the houseowner, Mr Peter Hawkes, for allowing access to his garden and for leading members of the BHAS Field Unit on a tour of the interior of his house. I would also like to thank Mr D. Staveley and those members of the BI-IAS Field Unit who conducted the survey and Mr D. Whittaker produced an inked drawing of the south face of the house. (Fig 5.)

Author: John Funnell (Hon. Sec. Archaeology Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society) 9th November 2003

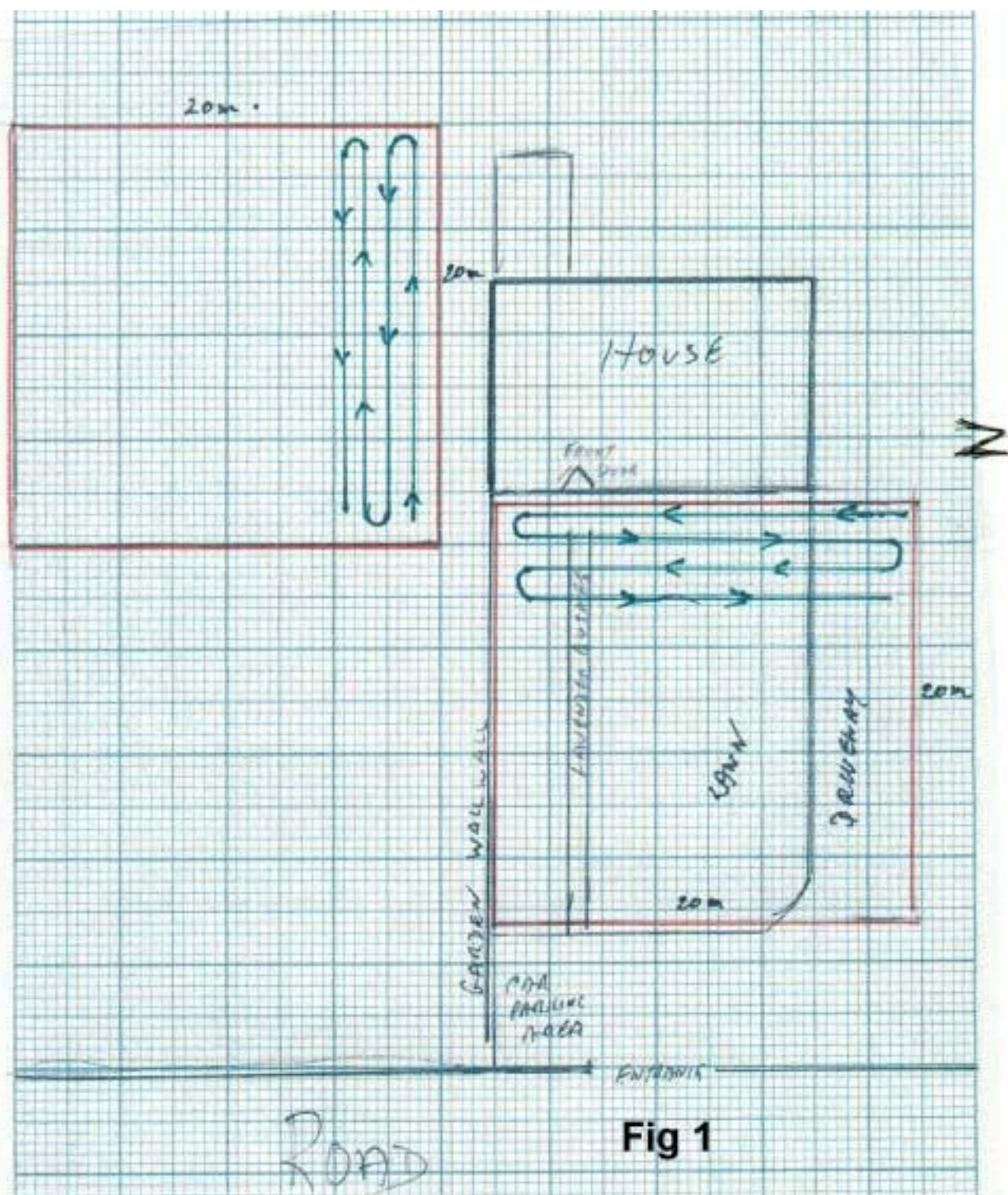
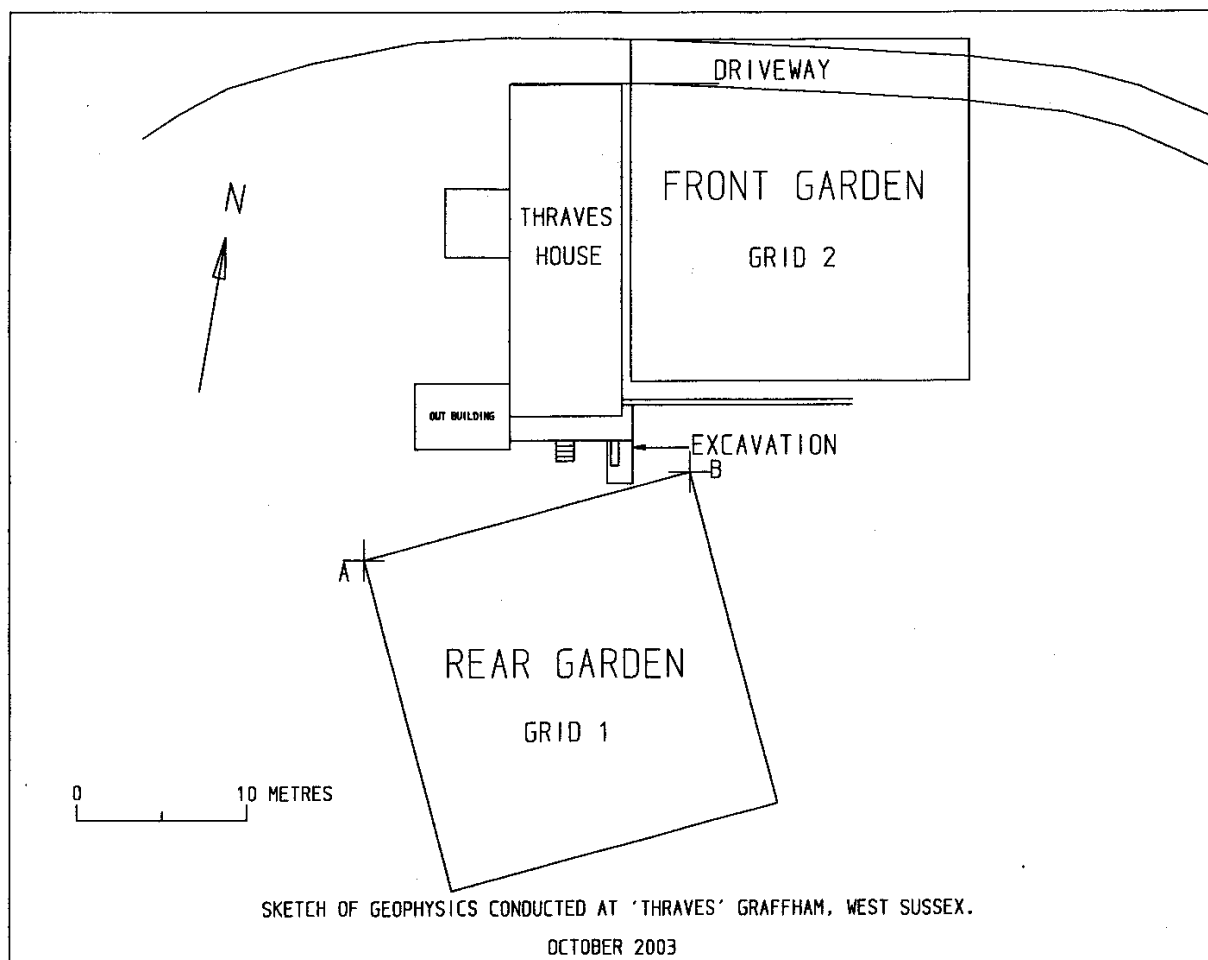
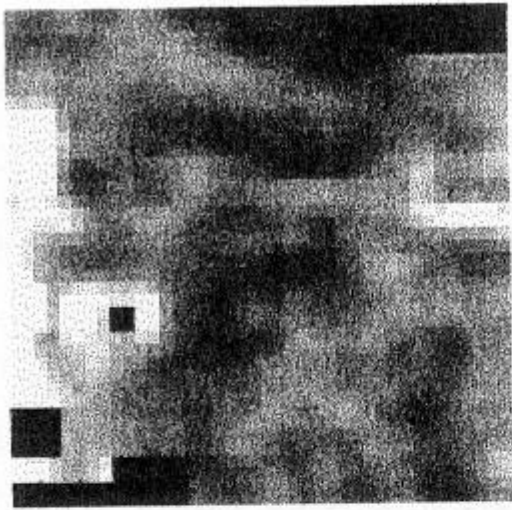


Fig 1

Fig 2.

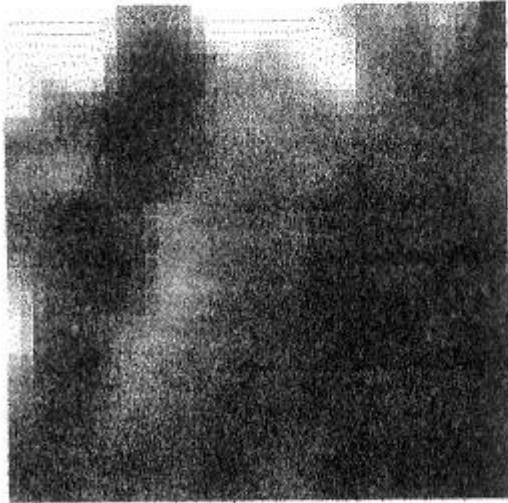




North



Rear Garden "Thaves"
25/10/2003



Front Garden "Thaves"
25/10/2003

THRAVES HOUSE



FIG 5.

EARTHWORKS AT LADIES MILE, PATCHAM

Introduction

In January 2003 the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society were approached by Mr Crispin FitzPatrick of the Brighton Rangers, part of Brighton and Hove city Council environmental department, about a depression that had been noted at Ladies Mile, Patcham. The depression lies west of the mast that lies to the south of the Brighton bypass. A significant section of this area had been levelled during the later part of the last century as playing fields for Patcham Fawcett School. The lands around this part of Brighton were known to be full of archaeological remains, much of which has been destroyed by subsequent development. Prior to the construction of the Patcham Fawcett School the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society had excavated a large tumulus containing a number of burials dated to the Bronze age. The playing fields to the west of the school, later to become part of a housing development, were found to contain a Bronze Age settlement (Greatorex forthcoming). One of the finds from this site included an intact cremation burial in a collard urn. A number of Romano-British burials were excavated in the same area in the 1950's.

Prior to the construction of the Brighton bypass Archaeology South East conducted excavations on the Ancient Scheduled Monument (ASM) known as Eastwick Barn. The area to the north of the Ladies Mile contained significant earthworks relating to field systems dated to the Iron age and Romano-British periods.(Rudling) These field systems were largely destroyed by the construction of the Brighton bypass, although vestiges of the lynchets can still be observed north of the roadway.

On Friday 7th of February 2003 an examination was made of the depression found at Ladies Mile. Around the depression, which is about 10 metres in diameter, and located approximately at (TQ3 18094), lie a number of other linear earthworks. A number of these linear features run parallel in a south to north direction. The mostly easterly of these lynchets links with another linear feature which turns at right angles and, then travels eastwards for some distance.

Conclusions

The brief survey showed that the lands north of the Ladies Mile have significant earthworks, but being able to date them would require some form of archaeological investigation. The linear earthworks could prove to be part of the outlying 'celtic' field system from Eastwick Barn, they are on the opposite of the valley, but in a similar alignment. However, the Sites and Monuments Records (SMR) do not have these particular features shown. There was a considerable amount of activity in this area during the Second World War when anti-glider devices and considerable numbers of anti-tank pyramids were constructed around Patcham.(Pers. Comm. K.Goodchilde). It is possible that the linear features are associated with these wartime constructions.

The depression lies on the step side of the hill, facing northwards. The feature is unlikely to be a redundant dew pond as these tend to lie on more even ground. The possibilities for other use include a marl pit associated with the field system, a flint mine or a bomb crater.

A possible marl pit is located on the east side of the Ditchling Road, but despite recent investigation prior to the bypass construction, it remains undated. The location of a possible flint mine is possible but would prove unprecedented, while flint mines are a popular feature in West Sussex they are uncommon in East Sussex. The location of bomb craters around Brighton has been recorded, but there is some uncertainty as to its thoroughness. A simple solution to determine whether it is a bomb crater would be to examine the depression with a metal detector, large quantities of metal readings would signify, without doubt the location of shrapnel. A map of Brighton indicating the location of strikes by German bombers is in the authors possession, however, the exact location of this feature is just outside the boundary of the publication. The document does show that there is a proliferation of bomb hits within close vicinity, and that this depression is almost certain to be one of this cluster.

The earthworks are of interest and will be included in the BHAS programme for surveying, with the proposal that a small section be cut through the mounds to investigate the features, with a view to dating them.

John Funnell 10th February 2003

References:

Rudling D.R. 'Downland Settlement and Land Use 'The Archaeology of the Brighton Bypass'.

EARTHWORK DISTURBANCE AT WHITEHAWK HILL

The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society were alerted by Crispin Kirkpatrick, of the Brighton and Hove Rangers Service, that incursions had been made into lands close to the site of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) of Whitehawk camp. The site at Whitehawk is a Neolithic Causewayed Enclosure and a site of national importance.

The Hon. Sec. Archaeology visited the disturbed area on Friday 15th August 2003. A large terrace had been cut into the side of the hill on the west side of Whitehawk Hill. The cutting is approximately 30 metres south of the Whitehawk television aerial and about 150 metres west of the aerial. (TQ328045). A large circular depression has also been sunk, possibly as a cesspit, immediately north of this terrace. An excavating or digging machine had been used as scrape marks were clearly noted in the terrace walls. The site is south of another local incursion created during 2002 by a local character. The site created was apparently used as a platform for a musical 'rave'.

An examination of the platform and the surrounding area produced no finds of antiquity, the majority of the terrace being virgin chalk. The wall of the terrace, which is about 1 metre deep at the highest point, produced no features of pits or post holes being cut into the natural chalk. The author did not examine the possible cesspit, bearing in mind the possibility of the presence of hypodermics needles.

The vandalism at Whitehawk does have some archaeological implications. The site is also a local nature reserve. (LNR). The causewayed enclosure dates to the Neolithic period and another feature of the Neolithic period is the construction of flint mines. The circular feature, once again covered with scrub and downland grass, could easily be interpreted as such a feature. The terrace, probably used as a platform for the music equipment, has created a flat level surface with a rear wall of chalk. The scale and configuration of this incursion also compares in both shape and size, about 15 metres in diameter, to roundhouse terraces found on the Bronze Age settlement sites at Downsview and Varley Halls, Coldean. It is important that this change to the environment is recorded on both the Brighton and Hove City Council planning maps, and the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). This act is to ensure that the feature is not considered and confused with an ancient archaeological site.

A watching brief was carried out on the site while the site was re-instated. Mr Santer, the BHAS Watching Brief Officer, reported only finds of contemporary ceramics, glass and broken flower pots.

John Funnell (Hon. Sec. Archaeology) Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society.
August 18th 2003

MEDIEVAL POTTERY FROM TELSCOMBE TYE

During 2003 a member of the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit Mr W.Santer, noted a feature on lands at Telscombe Tye. The field was being ploughed and a large dark feature was observed. A cursory examination of the feature produced 55 sherds of Medieval pottery (Plates 1 and 2). The pottery has flint inclusions with a sandy fabric, It is believed that the pottery is Saxo-Norman ware.

The location of the feature (TQ399024) may be the site of a 12th/13th century dwelling. Further investigations on this part of Telscombe Tye may be undertaken once permission is received from the landowners.

The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society would like to thank Mr Santer for bringing the site and the finds to the attention of the Society.

John Funnell (President Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society)
26th December 2004

A WELL FOUND AT 3A LEWES CRESCENT, BRIGHTON

Mr Geoff. Bennett, Senior Planner Conservation, passed a note and some photographs to the Society with regard a well found during building works at 3A, Lewes Crescent Brighton.

The feature lies in one of the basement vaults of the premises. The 'well' or pit is approximately 4 feet in diameter (1.21M) and narrows to 3 feet in diameter (0.91M) at the top. The brickwork at the top of the feature had already been broken off, and the pit or well was full of rubble.

A circular vault or chute lies above the well feature. An adjoining vault also had a similar chute with a layer of coal dust. The contractors did not excavate to the bottom of either of the features.

The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society would like to thank both the contractor's representative, Mr Tim Jefferies, and Mr Bennett for passing on this information for our records.

John Funnell (Archaeological Co-Ordinator Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society)

WATCHING BRIEF AT 3 WINTON AVENUE, SALTDEAN

In April of 2003 the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society were asked to conduct a watching brief in the grounds of the house at 3, Winton Avenue, Saltdean. Archaeological remains of a Saxon burial had been found when an extension had been constructed on the west side of the house, and a badger set was about to be constructed in the north west section of the garden.

On April 12th members of the BHAS Field Unit visited the garden and conducted a resistivity survey and metal detecting examination of the area about to be disturbed (Fig 1.). The results from the geophysical survey found no evidence for possible grave cuts, and this was endorsed by the metal detecting that also found very little evidence of metalwork lying below the surface. Saxon artefacts would have produced significant readings, particularly swords, spearheads and shield bosses.

On the weekend of 19th/20th July a greenhouse was removed and a trench cut into the garden measuring 2 metres by 2 metres. On Saturday 2nd August the trench was trowelled back and examined by members of the BHAS team and Lisa Rigby of the Brighton Rangers Service. The trench and subsequent incursions into the garden for the deepening of the existing fence revealed no evidence for any other Saxon burials. It was noted that the green house area had been levelled and that the natural decent of the land was packed with a layer of chalky loam, which was probably from other areas of the garden, but which may have re-located some of the finds recovered in this trench. The north/west end of the trench measured 0.3M dropping down to a depth of 0.52M on the south east side.

The 2 metre square trench did, however, produce some archaeological artefacts, and these are listed below:-

Flintwork

A total of 6 flint flakes were recovered from this trench and 6 pieces of fire-cracked flint (Total weight 184gms). The flintwork is all with a white patination and were hard hammer struck. There was no sign of retouch on any of the pieces, although one piece of the fire-cracked collection may have been used as an end scraper before burning. Of the flint pieces only 2 items retained fragments of cortex. The flintwork is probably of Late Neolithic or Bronze Age date.

Pottery

A total of 3 pieces of pottery were recovered from the trench. One piece is a very abraded sherd of Roman grey ware, but with a soft temper and may be grog tempered.

A small piece of pottery is grog tempered ware, possibly East Sussex Ware. One piece had a coarse temper of very small flint inclusions, with a small percentage (5%) of larger pieces of flint temper (0.2-0.5mm length). There were also a small number of pieces of mica present.

The pottery collection consists of quite small pieces, and all were very abraded. The grog tempered ware could equally be of either Roman or Saxon dating, only a detailed analysis could determine which. The coarse flint tempered piece may be of prehistoric origin or possibly Saxo-Norman, only specialist examination could confirm which.

Molluscs

A total of 3 fragments of oyster shell were found among the soil removed from the trenches.

Miscellaneous Items

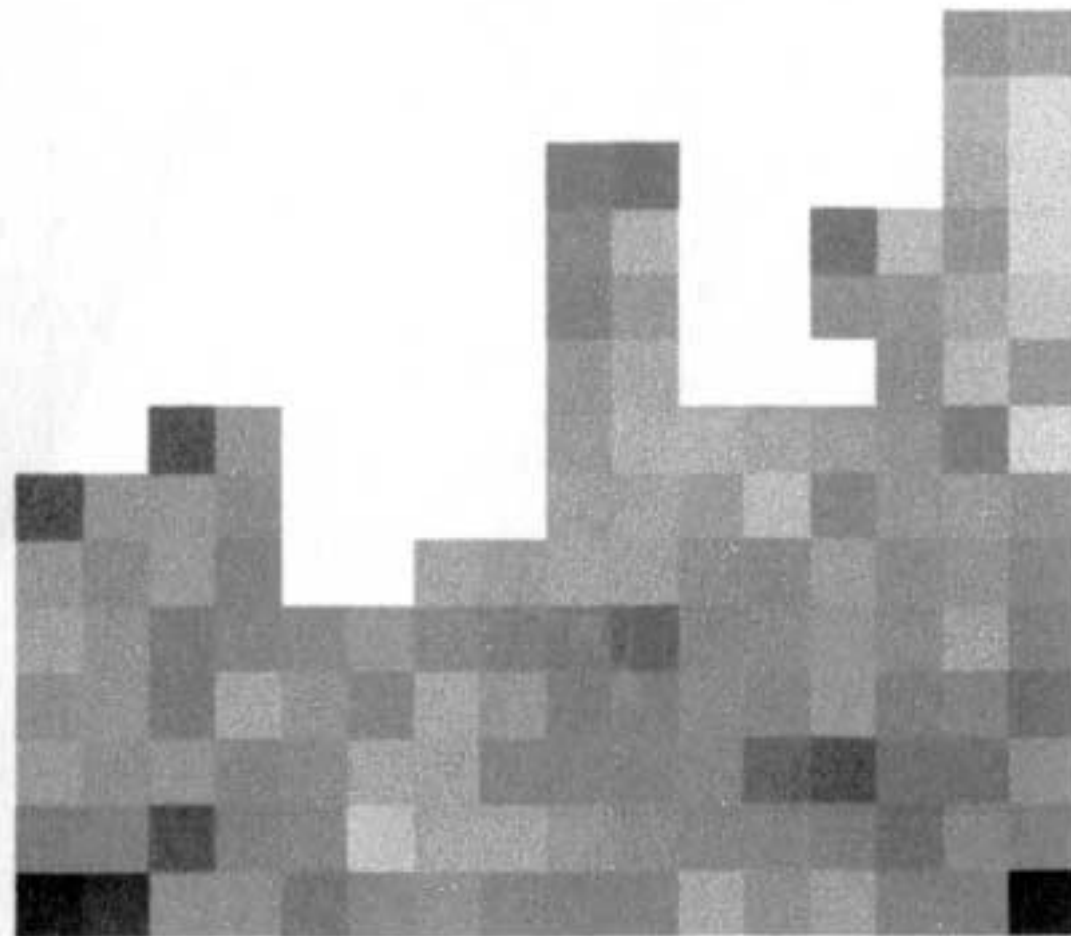
Pieces of contemporary metalwork, tile and ceramics were also found among the soil removed from the trenches.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the owners, Mr & Mrs Overlaet, for allowing access to the property, to Paul Skinner of Badger Watch, Lisa Rigby of the Ranger Service, Carol White and particularly Bill Santer who conducted much of the watching brief, visiting the site on a number of occasions. I would also like to thank Peter Martin and David Staveley who conducted the metal detecting and geophysical surveys.

The finds will be presented to the house owners with a copy of this report.

Author: John Funnell (Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society)
16th August 2003



**3 Winton Ave, Saltden
April 2003**

BRIGHTON AND HOVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY WATCHING BRIEF

PLANNING APPLICATION No:-

ADDRESS:- 19 ROEDEAN WAY, BRIGHTON

PLANNING OFFICER:-

NAME OF APPLICANT:- (Contractor Mr Rob Wood)

DATE OF FIRST CONTACT FROM CONTRACTOR:- 4th October 2003

DATE OF WATCHING BRIEF:- 7th-8th October 2003

BHAS OFFICER CONDUCTING WATCHING BRIEF:-Mr W.Santer

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

Roedean Road and the surrounding area has produced a number of important finds from the Neolithic to the Roman periods, including a number of Early Bronze Age burials.

The site was visited on both the 7th and 8th of October 2003. The watching brief noted only the presence of an old soakaway. An examination was made of the soil removed from the trenches cut.

No Archaeological features were observed or artefacts recovered.

John Funnell (Co-Ordinator Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society)

WATCHING BRIEF AT BENFIELD HILL

On 20th February 2003 the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society conducted a watching brief on the widening of a cycle track along Benfield Hill. The officer conducting the watching brief was Mr W. Santer. Benfield Valley is the location of a Saxon burial and Archaeology South East conducted a large scale excavation in the valley prior to the commencement of a link road to the Brighton bypass.

The cycle track investigated runs along the side of a field adjoining West Hove Golf Club. (Ref TQ268092 to TQ262086) and was being widened to 1.5M. The top soil, which was very shallow had been removed down to the natural chalk

The watching brief noted a linear feature running parallel to the cycle track and considered to be a contemporary land drain. (Ref photograph). The examination produced finds of 6 flint flakes of Late Neolithic to Early Bronze date. No pottery was found.

The author would like to thank both Sue Forsyth and the contractor who assisted Mr Santer during the watching brief.

John Funnell (Archaeological Co-Ordinator Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society)

25th February 2003



Looking North



Looking South



Looking South

Note:- Line of a “Pipe” Trench showing up in the Chalk in Centre of Path



Looking South - “Trench” Cut

BRIGHTON AND HOVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

WATCHING BRIEF

PLANNING APPLICATION No:-

ADDRESS:- Field east of Roedean School and west of St Dunstans

PLANNING OFFICER:-Mr Geoffrey Bennett

NAME OF APPLICANT:-

DATE OF FIRST CONTACT FROM LANDOWNERS:-

DATE OF WATCHING BRIEF:- 11th - 24th January 2003

BHAS OFFICERS CONDUCTING WATCHING BRIEF:- Mr J.Funnell, Mr W.Santer & Mr P .Martin

Report of Finds of Archaeological Examination

The field located to the west of St Dunstans, Ovingdean (Ref TQ359028) has been the subject of archaeological investigation through a field walking project conducted by the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society in 2000. Finds of material from Neolithic, Roman and Medieval periods have been recovered. The field has been the interest of metal detectors for over 25 years and is believed to have produced significant finds of Roman coins.

A watching brief was conducted on the south east corner of the field when contractors from Brighton and Hove City Council created an enclosure for the housing of machinery to be used in works being undertaken on the under-cliff walk.

A layer of top soil was removed and was used as a perimeter bund. The top soil cut into the deep colluvial layers but did not reach the natural geology of the chalk bedrock. As a result no archaeological features were noted during the watching brief.

A survey over the area of the soil removal and the bunding surrounding the site produced finds of 13 flint pieces, 2 pieces of Roman pottery and 3 fragments of oyster shell. A metal detecting survey produced only a small fragment of unidentified bronze, possibly Roman.

Flint Details

All of the flint pieces, except one that had a white patination, possessed a grey/blue patination.

Description	Number
Flint flakes	8
End Scraper	1
Blades	2
Notched piece	1
Fire-cracked	1
Total	13

Pottery

The pottery consisted of 2 very abraded pieces of East Sussex ware.

Comments-

The nature of the flint material found during the watching brief at Ovingdean, support the evidence found during the field walking in 2000, of Neolithic/early Bronze Age activity in this area. The pottery is probably associated with the Roman site located somewhere north east of Roedean School, an area still being investigated through field walking and geophysics.

John Funnell February 5th 2003









BRIGHTON AND HOVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

WATCHING BRIEF

PLANNING APPLICATION No:- BH2003/02751/FP

ADDRESS:- 24 ASHBURNHAM DRIVE, COLDEAN, BRIGHTON

PLANNING OFFICER:- SIMON TAYLOR

NAME OF APPLICANT:- MR ALAN HALES

DATE OF FIRST CONTACT FROM CONTRACTOR:- 13TH November 2003

DATE OF WATCHING BRIEF:- 20th November

BHAS OFFICER CONDUCTING WATCHING BRIEF:- MR BILL SANTER

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

The watching brief conducted at 24 Ashburnham Drive, Coldean, Brighton found no archaeological features or artefacts other than contemporary materials.

The development found the area contained hard core and debris possibly of a previous structure of contemporary dating, possible an earlier section of the existing house.

John Funnell 22nd November 2003

(Based upon information supplied by Mr Bill Santer)

Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit 2003 and Attendance Record

Name	Days	From
John Funnell (Director)	46	Brighton
Donna Angel (G)(S)	11	Brighton
Trish Ballard	1	Croydon
Judith Billingham	14	Brighton
Charlotte Bingham	1	Horsham
Gary Bishop	1	Hastings
Dawn Burns(F)	15	Littlehampton
Keith Butler (P)(S)(L)	23	Shoreham
Janet Going	7	Brighton
John Going	7	Brighton
Bob Crowhurst (F)	28	Brighton
Jim Driver	2	Brighton
Celine Durand (P)(S)(L)(G)	2	Littlehampton
Karol Eager (G)	10	Shoreham
Keith Edger(G)(S)(L)Asst.Director	8	Southwater
Penny Edger (G)	3	Southwater
Jane Elliott(P)(S)	4	Brighton
Zoe Funnell	1	Lancing
Carla Edmunds	3	Portslade
Maria Gardiner(E)(SP)	11	Hove
Mark Gillingham	22	Hove
Rebecca Harwood	1	Steyping
Andy Hazell	7	Burgess Hill
Martin Hird	2	Crawley
Avril Huggins	4	Polegate
Leo Jago	5	Brighton
Clive Langan (G)	9	Uckfield
Ginette Leech	16	Brighton
David Ludwig	48	Rustington
Dot McBrien (S)(SP)(G)	22	Sompting
Joan MacGregor (G)	25	Brighton
Peter Martin (M)	7	Brighton
Mark Melvin	7	Worthing
Owen McDonough	1	Falmer
Sarah Mills	1	Hampshire (Overton)
Cormac Mills	1	Hampshire
Connor Mills	1	Hampshire
Colin Miller	6	Hove
David Nissen(M)	4	Hove
Charlotte Osbourne	1	Brighton
Lynda Penfold	4	Brighton
Norman Phippard (Assisant Director)(S)(G)	36	Brighton
Pauline Phillips	1	Hastings
Caroline Poole	1	Brighton

Helen Poole	1	Brighton
Richard Pulley (S)(G)	1	Worthing
Steve Rowbotham	5	Henfield
Bill Santer (G)(Q)(M)	24	Saltdean
Kevin Simmons	5	Brighton
Pamela Smith (G)	18	Brighton
Paul Smith	6	Brighton
Sarah Smith	2	Brighton
Tanitha Snow	1	Worthing
Polly Spencer	3	Brighton
David Staveley(Assistant Director)(P)(S)(L)(G)	29	Eastbourne
Kate Walters	1	Brighton
Jeremy Webster (G)(S)	3	Hove
Carol White (SP)	12	Newhaven
Deon Whittaker (G)(S)(P)©	30	Worthing
Rowan Whittaker	3	Worthing
George Yerby	2	Hove

Total Attendance (Excluding Barcombe)	577 days
Total Number of Participants	61 People

Codes

(P) Planning
 (S) Section drawing
 (G) Geophysics
 (L) Surveying & levelling
 (E) Educational Officers
 (Q) Quarter master
 (F) Finds processing (Although finds processing carried out by much of the team, those with (F) process considerable amounts of site material.
 © Conservator
 (SP) Specialist Field (Metal Detecting).

Date 28th December 2003

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Archaeological Co-Ordinator of the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit would like to express appreciation to those who assisted with the Society's field projects during 2003.

Brighton and Hove City Council

Mr G.Bennett, Senior Planner Conservation, Brighton & Hove City Council

Mr David West, Home Farm, Stanmer.

Mr David Baker, Ovingdean Farm

Mr Appleton, Lower Hodden Farm, Peacehaven.

Dr Andrew Woodcock, County Archaeologist

Mr Greg Chuter, East Sussex County Council

Mr David Rudling Archaeology South East

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

Mr John Davies-Historian Ovingdean

Mr K.Edgar, Ms C.White, Ms M.Gardiner, Ms A.Huggins, Ms D.McBrien for the specialist reports.

Mr N.Phippard- Assistant Director of the BHAS Field Unit

Mr W.Santer-Watching Brief Officer

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