ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD NOTEBOOK 2004

A RECORD OF THE PROJECTS OF THE :

BRIGHTON AND HOVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD UNIT

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

2004 has once again proved to be a very eventful year for the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit. A total of 82 people attended the group activities and 582 days were worked in the field. The unit conducted training in all aspects of archaeological excavation techniques including planning, section drawing, levelling, contour surveying and resisitivity surveying. The team was joined a by a number of new people and the site was once again visited by the Young Archaeologist Club, a group of students from Brighton and Hove High School and a group of students from a Heathfield archaeological evening class.

The year consisted of a number of research projects including field walking at Peacehaven and geophysics at Rocky Clump, Woodingdean and Perching. The Perching project was to support a student from Sussex University and her dissertation.
The field walking at Peacehaven was the second stage of a project started in 2003. The field has produced a number of Neolithic flint axes and other tools. A local lady who worked on the farm also allowed the society to view her impressive collection of Neolithic axes.

The geophysics produced some very interesting anomalies with the results from the Woodingdean survey later used as a guide for excavation trench locations.

The excavations this year were conducted at both Woodingdean and Rocky Clump. The Woodingdean excavations were very important as the cemetery is about to extend into the area where a number of earthworks are located and it was deemed to make this a priority to try and locate evidence for ancient activity. Rocky Clump continues to be used as a good site for training purposes and student activity.

The specialist groups have continued their good work with Carol White, Maria Gardiner and Averil Huggins, and on occasions Ali Bullough, producing excellent bone reports. The reports are often used as part of dissertations for projects at Sussex University. The Society also organised a number of day schools in archaeological subjects which included Preshistoric Pottery with Sue Hamilton, the Study of Roman Towns with Judy English and the study of flint Knapping with Alan Course. Our thanks are expressed towards Lynda Penfold who organised the venues.

During the summer a number of the team joined the Mid-Sussex Archaeological Team with their excavations at Barcombe and some went to Bishopstone to work with Dr Gabor Thomas or joined training courses at both venues.

Finds processing was conducted at the Victoria Rooms Stanmer and we are indebted to the Stanmer Preservation Society for allowing us access to the room. The pottery has now been passed to Keith Edgar for detailed analysis.

Chris Butler has expressed a wish to conduct the report for the flint work form Rocky Clump. A student from Surrey examined the Rocky Clump flint work patination for her dissertation, but apparently copyright does not allow the report to be produced here. However, it appears that there is very little difference between flint work patinations found in sealed contexts and that found in plough soil locations.

This year has seen the involvement of the society in a number of watching briefs, usually conducted by our officer Bill Santer. He is now being joined by other retired members of the society and they will continue to be available for small scale developments in archaeological sensitive areas and will report their finding to the Brighton and Hove Planning Department. Copies of the watching briefs for 2004 are appended to this document. We deeply appreciate the work that they do, often in difficult and unpleasant conditions. We are informed that the initial concerns of the affected householders are very often quickly replaced with a keen and enthusiastic interest in archaeology, especially when artefacts are found and explained.

The new season for 2005 is already being planned with excavations at Rocky Clump and at Ovingdean if the permit is received. Research programmes of field walking and geophysics will continue in a number of locations depending upon the farmers and their crop and ploughing regimes. Training will be available to anyone who wishes to become conversant with more detailed and specialised tasks. The new season looks to be as very eventful as this years programme and will enhance the knowledge of archaeology for the Brighton and Hove areas.

Hard copies of this report are passed to Mr G.Bennett at Brighton and Hove Planning Department, Dr A. Woodcock the County Archaeologist, Brighton Museum, Barbican House and the National Monuments Records Office at Swindon. CD-Rom copies are produced by the society's web master Mr Martin Devereux and are made available to the field unit members and others who desire a copy.

John Funnell 30th December 2005

WOODINGDEAN CEMETERY PROJECT INTERIM REPORT 2004

Introduction

During 2003 the author, the Hon Secretary of Archaeology for the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society noted that an area of landscape within the boundary of the Woodingdean Cemetery, situated south of the Warren Road, Woodingdean, contained lynchets and other anomalies possibly of ancient activity. Fields to the east and south of the cemetery site, shown on aerial photographs, clearly contain ancient field systems probably dating to the Iron Age.
It is highly probable that this area, which lays at the southern edge of the cemetery, will be utilised by the Brighton & Hove City Council, Bereavement Services for the burial of the local population in the near future.

An application was made to the Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) and the Bereavement Services Department for permission to carry an Archaeological Assessment of the area to ascertain whether or not the anomalies were of an archaeological nature or natural geology. The project was to be conducted prior to any burial activity being carried out, a process which would cause the destruction of any archaeological evidence. The BHCC granted a licence during 2004 to carry out a step by step archaeological assessment with controls put in place to ensure the site was treated with sensitivity due to the sites location.

Education

It was decided from the initial stage that the assessment of the site would be used to help new members of BHAS gain experience of archaeological field activities in the process of assessment and evaluation of an archaeological site. The site director would be made available to any members of the public and he would answer any questions they may have.

Research

A desk top study was carried out by the BHAS prior to field activities being carried out. The Site and Monuments record and the Tythe Map for the locality of Ovingdean were researched. According to these studies the cemetery land has always been rough grass and is recorded on the Tythe Map as sheep pasture. The aerial photographs were looked at to check on possible continuance into the cemetery of the known ancient field systems located in the fields to the south of the cemetery boundary.
Additional information came to light by talking to the local population and farmer.

Phase One (Resistivity and Topographical Surveys)

The initial phase was to be a non- intrusive survey by resistivity, this was carried out during March/April 2004. A total of forty-five grids each measuring 20m X 20m (16,800 $m^{2)}$ were surveyed by two resistivity machines under the watchful eye of the Geophysics Team Leader, David Staveley. The geophysical survey confirmed the presence of a number of distinct features although these were yet to be confirmed as archaeological features, the survey also produced other previously unseen anomalies of high and low resistance within the site area.

The results were analysed with a view to conducting the second phase of the project. This would involve assessment of the project through selected excavation, allowing the collection of structural, stratigraphical and environmental data.

During 2004 the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society (BHAS) field unit placed and cut a total of nineteen assessment trenches within the unused steep sloping south bank, situated at the south end of the cemetery to ascertain whether the geophysical survey anomalies were natural or contained ancient archaeological features.

.

The location and size of individual assessment trenches were designated by the possible archaeological features shown in the geophysics and topographical surveys. A small section was cut into the anomalies to assess their archaeological potential allowing the investigation to gain the maximum archaeological data without destroying the possible archaeological feature. Each assessment trench was excavated by trowel from the grass level to the natural geology, which in this area of the South Downs proved to be chalk with pockets of clay with flint. The higher edge of the incline proved to be of a shallow depth approximately 6 to 9cm with the depth increasing the lower the assessments went. Archaeological features excavated indicated that there was indeed evidence of ancient human activity within the cemetery boundary.

A considerable amount of worked flint, and fire cracked flint was located from approximately the middle to lower end of the south facing incline, the small amount of pottery excavated could be dated to the 18^{th}/19^{th}/ and 20^{th} Centuries. In some evaluation trenches the geology was interrupted by linear grooves running at a angle running east/west which are possibly produced by a hardened timber plough. Other anomalies could not be explained and are open to debate.

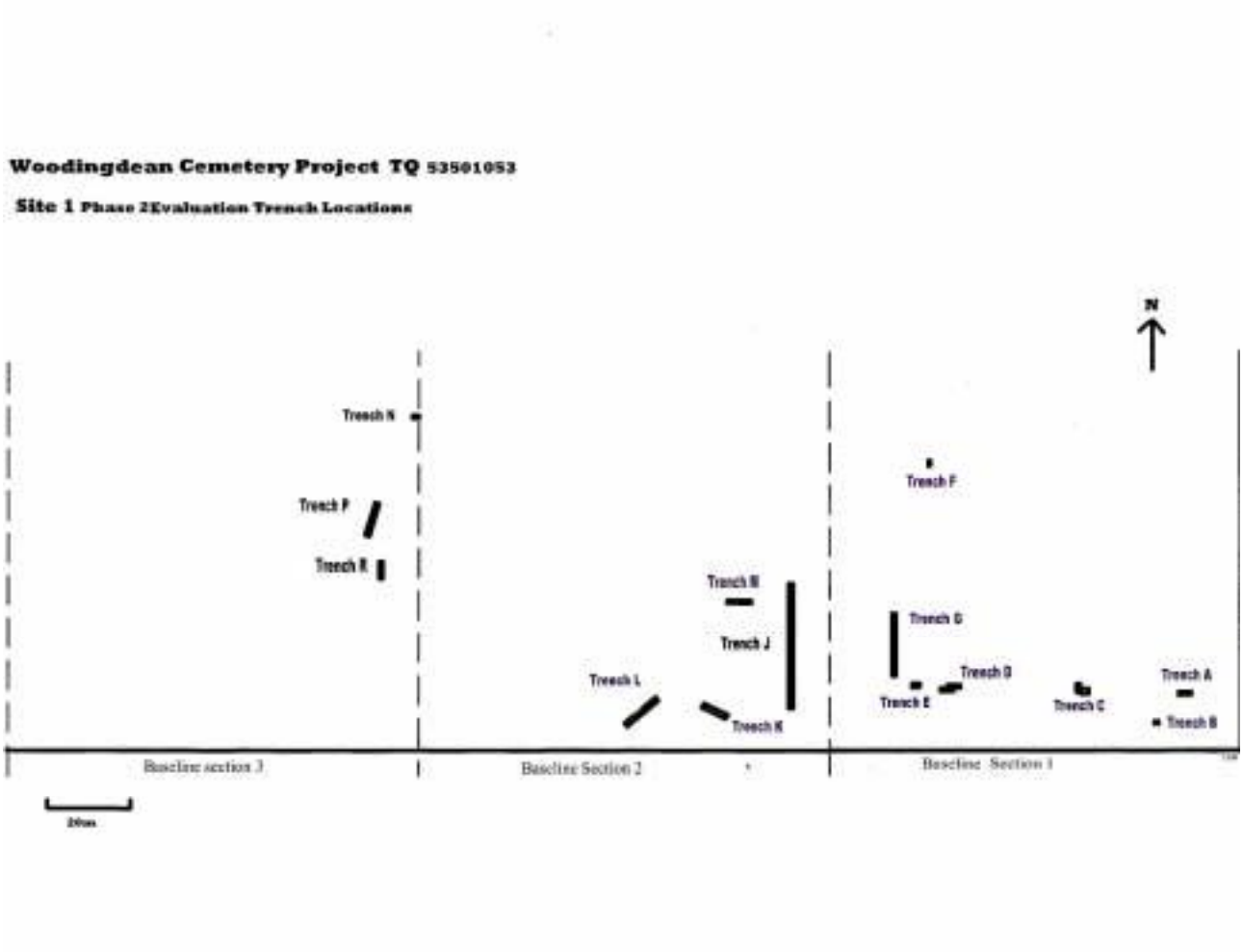
Each feature and layer were recorded and photographed. Excavated finds were placed into marked bags to be analysed at a later date.

The road feature prominent in the geophysical survey was examined and found to be a substantial ‘road’ or track constructed of brick and breeze blocks. The road, now covered in grass, produced the find of a bicycle buried below the brick layer. Mr John Davies a local historian brought to the site a photograph of a field in Sussex with a similar curving roadway being constructed by soldiers

during the Second World War. However, interviews with local people showed that the field had not been used during the war and none appeared to remember the road being built.

The second phase of the assessment will be conducted during 2005. This will require field walking in the fields to the south of the cemetery site and a geophysical survey in the grassed field to the west.

Norman Phippard 3rd January 2006



EXCAVATIONS AT ROCKY CLUMP, STANMER 2004

(An interim report)

Introduction

The excavations season in 2004 were focused on two locations. Norman Phippard led a number of the BHAS Field Unit in an investigation of the geophysical anomalies at Woodingdean cemetery, while at intervening periods during the year the author led the group on the continuing excavations at Rocky Clump. The excavations at Woodingdean took priority, being a rescue archaeological situation, as the cemetery is about to be extended and important archaeological features may have been lost and these needed to be recorded.

The small scale excavations at Rocky Clump began in April of 2004 and continued until November. A number of training sessions were held which included the teaching of site planning, section drawings, context sheet associations, levelling with the use of a dumpy level and geophysical surveying.

The excavations in 2004 focused on a new area measuring 10 metres by 4 metres examining the large ditch that runs northwards from the copse of Rocky Clump, and associated pit features revealed on the east side of the ditch. The area to the east of the ditch also had a large clay area, which is probably one of the many areas of solution deposits, remains of the overlying clay with flint layer that is a geological feature of this part of Sussex. The clay has a large pit cut into it and this had been partially excavated in 2003.

The New Excavations

The end of the season in 2003 had seen the removal of a large area of top soil in context areas 566-571 inclusive, with a number of archaeological features revealed beneath. At Rocky Clump the excavation of the top soil deposits is divided into 2 metre by 2 metre sections. These contexts attempt to plot and note spatial deposition of archaeological finds. In 2003 sections of the north/south ditch had been divided into1 metre widths to record the expanding variations in ditch section as the feature progresses northwards. The sections contexts were 612, 613 and 619. As the top soil overlying the ditch had been removed a number of pit features had been observed and these had been left unexcavated. The large clay deposit to the east of the ditch had only been partially excavated.

The top soil deposits to be removed were contexts 597, 798, 599, 600 and 603. The contexts 568, 569, 570, 571, 572 and 582 had been removed the previous season.

The remaining ditch fills, adjacent to those removed in 2003, were now excavated with the various fills very visible in the segments remaining, this allowed for a more accurate locations of finds from individual layers. These were contexts 619, 620, 625 and 627.
As the excavations progressed downwards a series of discrete areas of interest were noted, including contexts 608 in top soil area 570.

The ditch sections were divided into the various layers and were given suffix letters of A.B.C and D where applicable. The upper layer of the ditch being designated A, while the lowest was either C or D. depending upon the number of fills in each section. The ditch area below area context 600 was designated context 630.

The large clay geological deposit had appeared to have a pair of post holes cut into the clay. However, upon excavation it proved to be a single very large round based pit, bordered on the north side by a series of iron stones arranged in a linear arrangement, but most probably a natural geological deposit rather than an archaeological feature. The north end of the pit was later the subject of vandalism which completely destroyed the standing iron stones in-situ.

A new trench was opened further north top soil contexts 640, 641, 642 and 643 this is to examine in more details the bone deposits and to try and determine whether they are random depositions or have some ritualistic significance.

The features

The Ditch Sections (Contexts 619, 620, 625, 626 and 627)
The ditch that runs south to north is a very substantial feature with a distinct number of layers. It is the earliest of the features at Rocky Clump pre-dating the structure or enclosure found in previous seasons to the south. The ditch has produced finds of coins and pottery from the 1st century A.D. (pers. Comm. Malcolme Lyne). The upper fill of the ditches is a very dark soft loamy soil, easy to trowel. It is at the bottom of this dark, soft fill that the majority of the bone deposits are located, although quite a few pieces, though less in number, are also found in the deposit below. The second fill below the dark layer is a lighter loamy soil, and it is found on either side of the upper darker layer. This deposit contains loamy soil intermixed with medium chalk nodules. A similar layer of medium chalk composition is also the third layer down of the ditch (context C), but the ratio of soil to chalk nodules is different thus creating the two different layers. The bottom of the ditch is a straight sided flat bottomed feature again consisting of medium chalky loam but designated context ‘D’.

The upper dark layer of the ditch, contexts ‘A’ has produced most of the archaeological finds with the lower and primary deposits producing very little in the way of dateable items.

The Terraces

It is quite noticeable that the north/south ditch has associated terraces on both the east and west sides. The west side of the ditch has a dramatic drop down from a natural clay deposit on that side of the ditch down to a very small terrace only about 200/300 millimetres in width. The east side of the ditch however flatten out to a greater extent measuring 2/3 metres in width. The east terrace is cut by a number of features consisting of possible pits, discrete layers and post holes.

The Terrace Features

The various anomalies noted cut into the terrace included layers 607 and 608, which proved from later excavation to have been very shallow discrete deposits. This was also the situation with contexts 615 and 617 which proved to very ephemeral layers and not distinct features. The terrace was finally excavated down onto a number of very large pits. The terrace layers are very noticeable in the large section drawing of the baulk drawn from location H30 to L30.

The Large Pit Feature Context (604/610)

The pit cut into the clay deposit located on the east side of the ditch was initially regarded as a number of discrete features, contexts 604, 605, 609, 610 and 611. Features 604 and 610 were sectioned originally as post holes, but it became clear very quickly that the contexts 605, 609 and 611 were ephemeral layers and that in fact the contexts were one large pit. Once the feature has been discerned as one large feature it was re-designated for excavation being divided into quadrants and accordingly excavated. The fill was of a soft dark loamy soil similar to the upper ditch fill. The fill once excavated came down onto a natural deposit of red clay with large slabs of red ironstone being the north edge of the pit. The pit produced a number of sherds of pottery that appeared to be of one pot. The almost complete pot was later reconstructed by Keith Edgar. The pit also produced a beautiful brooch of possible 1st century dating in immaculate condition, and which included the pin.

The Pits (Contexts 627, 631, 632, 633, 635 and 636)

Context 627-This pit was originally cast as a terrace layer until it was re-defined during the excavation process. The small pit proved to be part of an even larger pit context 635 and had been cut into this larger feature at a later stage, so post dated the creation of pit 635. The fill were not excavated this season but will be part of 2005's season

Contexts 631, 632 and 633- These pits were quite indistinct features and the nature of the excavation, being the cutting of several sections through the

main ditch, did not allow them to be recognised until the final stages of the excavation showed the profiles and shape during planning. The contexts for these pits were, however, allocated during final excavation allowing the last vestiges of fill to given their own context numbers. The pits 632 and 633 are on the east of the main north/south ditch and along with a shallow cutting opposite, into the west side of the ditch, in the same location create a 'heart' shaped configuration of adjoining pits. The north/south ditch cutting between the three features effectively removed a large percentage of their fills.

Pit (Context 631)-This pit is a second shallow feature cut into the west side of the north/south ditch and appears to be part of the larger pit context 635. This pit was excavated as part of one of the ditch sections which had been removed earlier and has no distinct fill.

Pit (Context 636)- As the excavation progressed and the top soils were being removed further north (contexts 600 and 599) it became apparent that the whole area was a series of inter-cutting pits and the strategy of excavation was changed to the Graham Barker technique rather then a continuing series of ditch sections. Pit context 636 is a round pit cut into the side of the ditch west side, but to a larger extent than the earlier features. As only the top soil layers had been removed it was possible to draw the section of the pit context 636 and the large ditch which clearly showed that the pit was the earlier feature being cut by the later ditch.
At the end of the season the top soil across the whole area had been removed down to the upper levels of pits 636 and 635 and left for a more detailed excavation in 2005.

The Finds

The Pottery

The excavation continues to produce a significant amount of pottery sherds, mainly from the upper fills of the ditch. The pits have produced only a few sherds as much of their fill has been removed by the later ditch cutting. Keith Edgar has now taken on the role of pottery recording as Richard Pulley is now unavailable as he is continuing his university studies. Keith will however will be able to utilise the important information that Richard has already gathered and will be about to expand and enhance these details. Keith has already been examining the pottery from the earlier seasons and has so far managed to reconstruct three almost complete vessels and is in the process of producing a very impressive pottery report.

Marine Molluscs

The excavations have produced more finds of marine molluscs mainly oyster but also some mussel. However, it is noticeable that the finds are fewer than in previous seasons. The finds appear to be decreasing as the excavations

examine the ditch areas located further away from the enclosure or building found in the previous seasons.

Bone

The excavation of any bone deposits has now passed to Carol White, who is the BHAS bone expert and her team consisting of Maria Gardiner, Averil Huggins and assisted by Dawn Burns. Carol is recording the bone in-situ and then removing the bone pieces and fragments for further examination during the winter months. The bone is mainly being found in the upper ditch fills and includes a number of cattle skulls as well as sheep and pig jaws. A more detailed report was compiled for Carol's dissertation at Sussex University and is appended to this report.

Small Finds

The 2004 season produced a number of notable metal works finds including brooches and coins.

1. Coin-Empress Lucilla Augusta 180-192 AD-Context 597-Top soil context
2. Coin-Unable to be identified, too corroded-Context 631B-Lower ditch fill
3. Coin-Silver-Antonianus Late 3rd century A.D.-Context 598-Top soil context
4. Brooch-1st century-context 610A-Upper pit fill (Noted in 2003 report)

Conclusions

The excavations in 2004 were of a limited nature due to the rescue dig at Woodingdean. However, despite a temporary reduction in numbers on site, a significant amount of features and finds have been uncovered. The pits and ditch continue to produce important finds related to activities during the Roman period at Stanmer.

The complexity of the pits found raises a number of questions as to why they were created and how the features were being used. There are a number of reasons to create such pits including storage, structural, cess deposition and activities at present unknown. The terracing along both sides of the large ditch also indicates some possible use.

The use of the pits may be determined by closer environmental examination, but the fills of medium chalk nodules and light loam are unlikely to produce a great deal of evidence. However a concentration of seed, pip or pollen could indicate their use as cess pits. It has been suggested that each pit may have been sequentially cut, the fill from the newer pits being used to fill in the older features. The inter-cutting features do however show a great deal of activity with many subtle and discrete layers and pits, which would appear to be of a similar date. Individual features cannot at present be defined in a

topographical manner and only studies of the finds from each feature will prove whether they are of similar dating.

The pits and other features being found are similar to those from previous seasons which included the cow burial pit and the dog burial. The location of all of the features is on the east side of the ditch which may have some significance. In previous seasons post holes were regarded as individual features randomly located until later extensions to the excavations produced the configuration of a structure. It is possible that the reason for the series of pits will be better understood once the excavation has been extended further northwards.

The excavations have once again provided every opportunity for ordinary people to become actively involved in real archaeology and the society has been instrumental in training new people in the techniques of excavation and the recording of sites. The teaching also trains people in resistivity surveying, contour surveying and field walking and how the results of such exercises are transformed into archaeological reports and interpretation. The Young Archaeologist Club (Y.A.C.) is now a regular visitor to the excavations with the young archaeologists joining with the BHAS Field Unit in their digging.

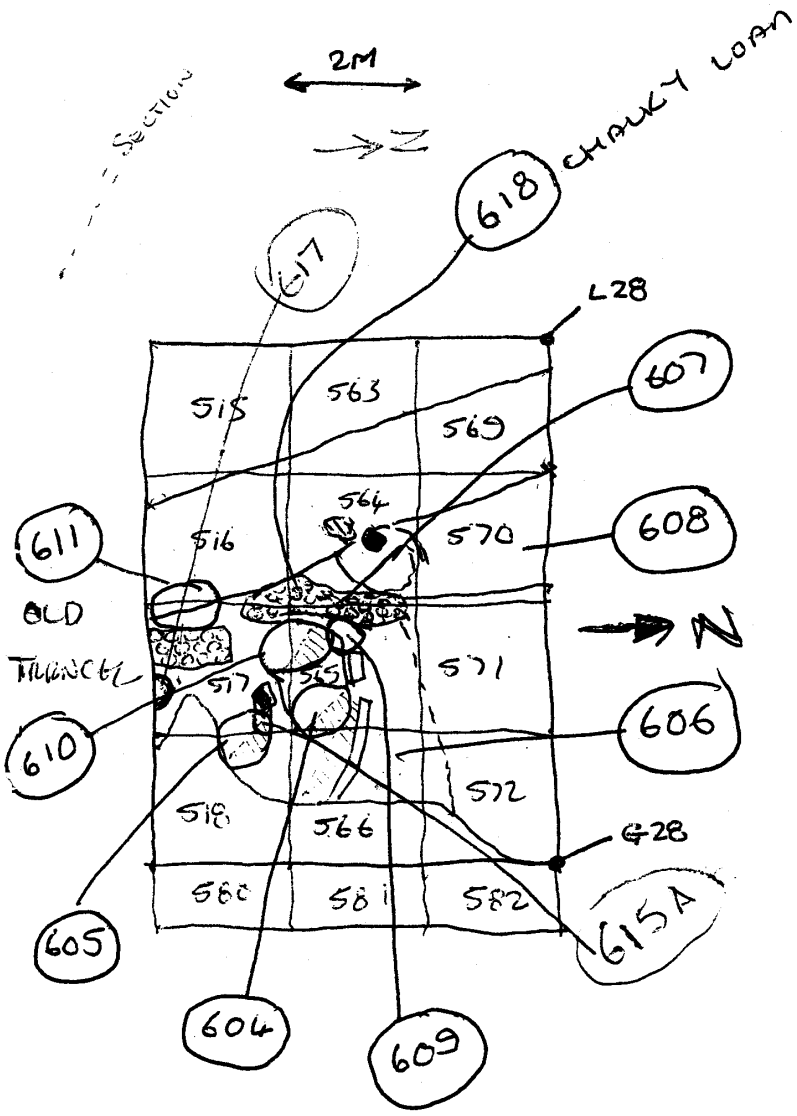
Despite the limited period of excavation this season Rocky Clump continues to provide interesting material that will enhance our vision of the Roman occupation in Stanmer from the first millennium B.C. to the early part of the 4th century A.D. The season for 2005 is already planned with further investigations of the pits found and the beginning of an excavation around the 'shrine' area in the trees. The new areas of excavation will try to determine the nature of the ritualistic building seek its true purpose.

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 storage of the tools and equipment, Mr D.Larkin Brighton Countryside Ranger 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 leading the geophysics team, Mr N.Phippard the Archaeological Secretary, and Mr M.Gillingham for editing the final reports.

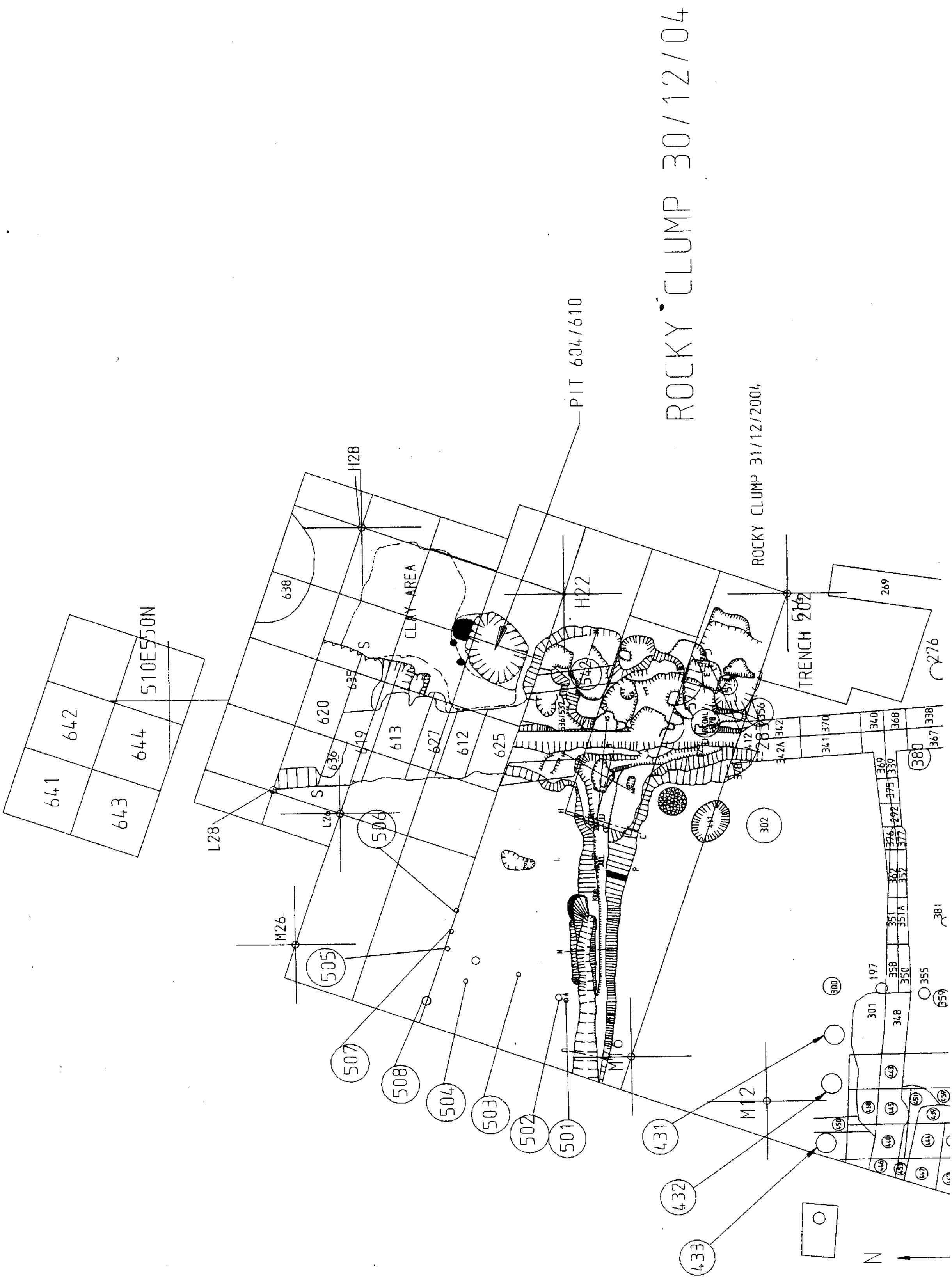
John Funnell 28th December 2005

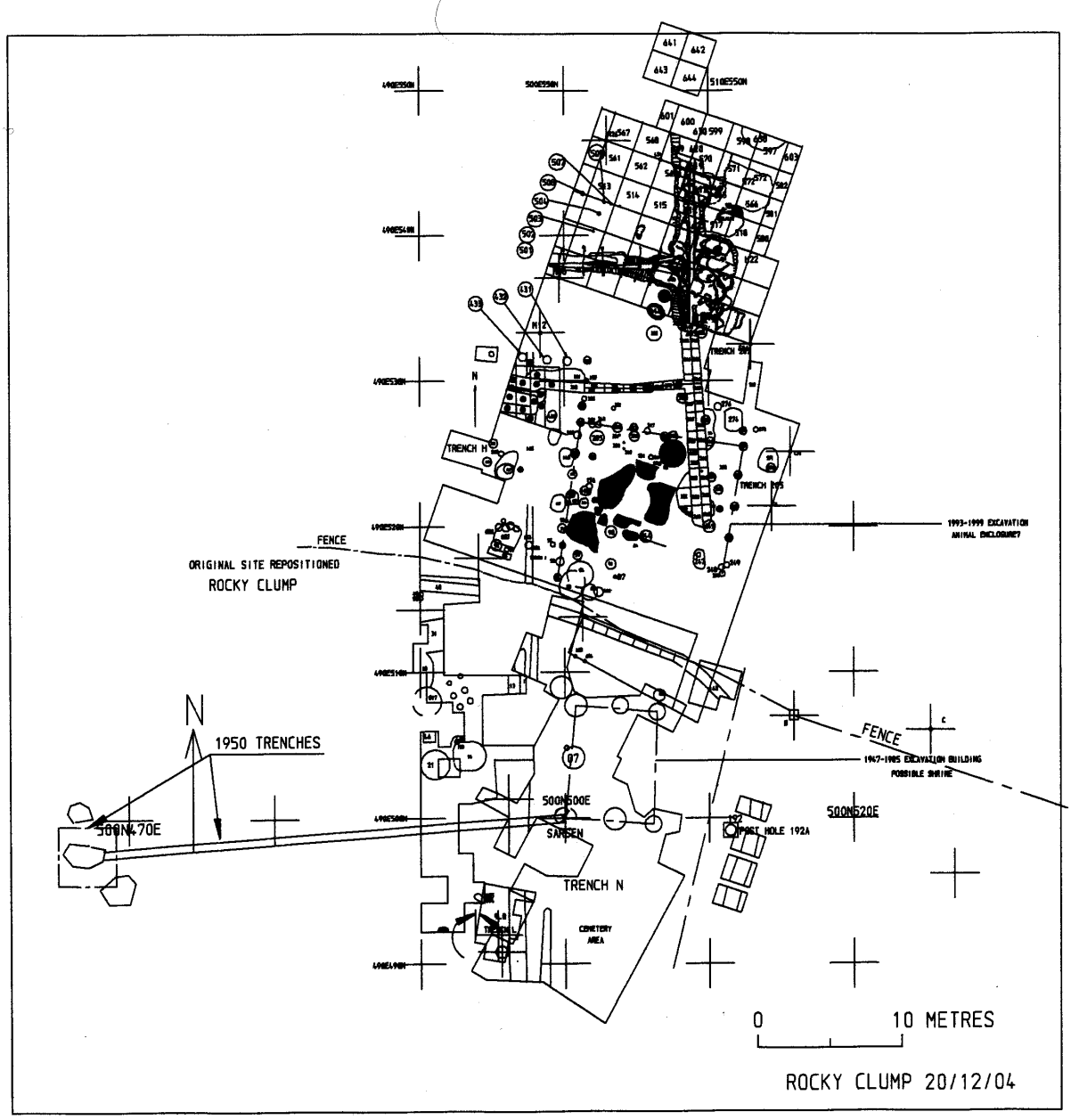


DISCRETE FEATURES AND LAYERS AROUND PIT CONTACT 604/610

ROCKY CLUMP 2004

FIELD SKETCHES J. FONNELL


ROCKY CLUMP 30/12/04
PIT 604/610
ROCKY CLUMP 31/12/2004
TRENCH 202
CLAY AREA
510E550N
H28
H22
L28
M26
M12
N


FENCE
ORIGINAL SITE REPOSITIONED
ROCKY CLUMP
1993-1999 EXCAVATION
ANIMAL ENCLOSURE?
N
1950 TRENCHES
500N470E
500N500E
SARSEN
500N520E
POST HOLE 192A
FENCE
1947-1985 EXCAVATION BUILDING
POSSIBLE SHRINE
TRENCH N
CEMETERY AREA
TRENCH M
TRENCH M2
TRENCH M5
0
10 METRES
ROCKY CLUMP 20/12/04

ROCKY CLUMP, STANMER PARK, EAST SUSSEX

AN INTERPRETATION OF THE SITE FROM ANALYSIS OF THE ANIMAL BONE ASSEMBLAGE EXCAVATED 2000 – 2004

BY CAROL WHITE (CANDIDATE NO: 90463)

Contents

INTRODUCTION

Rocky Clump is situated within the Stanmer Park Estate on the South Downs to the north the A27 in East Sussex. (NGR TQ 328 101). The Park was laid out for the landowner, Lord Pelham, in the 18th Century (Warne, 1989, p189-210). There is no record of Rocky Clump on the Stanmer Tithe Map of 1838. The natural geology of the site is chalk with overlying pockets of clay with flint and solution channels.

Rocky Clump is so named due to sarsen stones located within the Clump, and an ancient boundary runs through the site. Possibly associated with the sarsens are seven human burials found within the trees forming the Clump during the excavations undertaken from 1951-1981 (Gorton. 1973; Gilkes, 1997, p.113-125). The burials were at that time thought to be Anglo Saxon (primarily due to an iron knife dated to 750-850 A.D), and recorded as "a family group". However, there is uncertainty as to whether the knife was recovered at Rocky Clump or was from a nearby site (J. Funnell, pers.comm.)

Pottery throughout the site dates from the Iron Age through to the 18th Century. The pottery from the 1951-1981 excavations and those undertaken from 1999-2004 have been appraised by Malcolm Lyne who identified that the assemblage from the earlier excavations dated from 2nd Century AD and those from the current excavations were almost exclusively 1st Century AD (J. Funnell, pers. comm.)

As can be seen from the site plan (Appendix 1) only two possible structures have been located, both identified from post holes, one thought to be the shrine and the other interpreted as a possible stockade type structure.

The following report is an analysis of the animal bone assemblage excavated from 2000 to 2004. Omitted from number of bones recovered are two articulated burials – one cattle and the other dog – which are held at the Booth Museum in Brighton. These will be referred to only for interpretative purposes. I have had sight of the report made on the animal bone assemblage from 1991-1999 but this is a non-diagnostic report and is not referred to as part of this report. No bone data is available for the 1951-1981 excavations. The excavation reports from 1991 to the present are unpublished.

The assemblage has been analysed as follows:

- Species present.
- Minimum Number of Individuals.
- Age at death to assess indications of seasonality.
- Proliferation/absence of skeletal elements.
- Evidence of butchery.
- Spatial patterning.
- Indications of possible use of the site.

THE ANIMAL BONE ASSEMBLAGE

The animal bone assemblage has been identified and recorded over the last eighteen months by members of Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society who are particularly interested in the animal bones recovered at Rocky Clump (and at other excavations undertaken by BHAS). For the purposes of identifying the skeletal elements we have referred to Hillson (1996) and Schmid (1972). I have then re-examined the bones for evidence of butchery by way of cut and chop marks; and the mandibles and maxillas to record tooth wear patterns using Grant's method (1982, p.91-108) and so assess the age at which the animals were slaughtered to gain some insight into possible seasonality.

To date a total number of 2477 bones from 54 contexts have been recovered, of which 1462 were unidentifiable fragments, and 217 loose teeth. The bone fragments and loose teeth were simply counted and recorded by context. See Appendix 3 for distribution of bones recovered. All skeletal elements were present although it was evident that the femur was under-represented in comparison to humerus. Using as a basis of identification the proximal and distal elements of the bone, only one cattle femur was identified compared with nine humerii. This disparity of skeletal elements will be discussed further below under Discussion: The Bone Assemblage.

Species Present

As can be assessed from the Minimum Number of Individuals data, the usual species for a Romano-British site are present – cattle, sheep, pig, horse, deer, dog, and hare; together with unidentified minimal fish and bird skeletal elements (Sibun, 2003; Bell, 1976). A rabbit skull was excavated from within a secure context (D. Whittaker, BHAS, pers.comm.). Whilst it is generally believed that rabbits were brought to England at the time of the Norman Conquest, it is becomingly increasingly more common for some rabbit skeletal elements to be found within secure contexts on Roman sites. (pers. comm. Patricia Stevens). A press release from Norfolk Archaeological Unit manager, Jane Bowen, would appear to confirm this (www.bbc.co.uk; April 2005).

Minimum Number of Individuals Present

In order to calculate a Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI), the most prolific parts of the skeleton recovered and identified, excluding metapodials, phalanges and associated small bones, were selected for further analysis (O'Connor, 1999, p.69). The skeletal elements selected were Scapula, Humerus, Inominate Bone and Femur.

SKELETAL ELEMENT	NO. IDENTIFIED	LEFT/RIGHT SIDE	SPECIES
SCAPULA	6	4 LHS; 2 RHS	CATTLE
HUMERUS	9	4 Distal ends LHS 2 Distal ends RHS 1 Complete RHS 1 Proximal end RHS 1 Complete but immature LHS	CATTLE
HUMERUS	2	1 Distal end LHS 1 Distal end RHS	SHEEP
INOMINATE BONE	11	8 LHS; 3 RHS	CATTLE
INOMINATE BONE	1	LHS	HORSE
INOMINATE BONE	1	LHS	SHEEP
INOMINATE BONE	1	LHS	DEER
INOMINATE BONE	3	2 LHS; 1 RHS	DOG
FEMUR	1	LHS	CATTLE
FEMUR	2	1 LHS; 1 RHS	HARE
FEMUR	4	3 LHS; 1 RHS	DOG
FEMUR	1	RHS Distal End	DEER

N.B. Only the acetabulum area of the inominate bone was used to calculate the MNI.

(The number of recovered cattle humeri reduces to 8. It was discovered that a proximal section matched a distal section regardless of the fact that they were recovered in different contexts).

Based on this limited evidence, the MNI is calculated thus:-

SPECIES	MNI
CATTLE	8
HORSE	1
SHEEP	1
DEER	2
HARE	1
DOG	3

Of cattle, only one was identified as a calf, based on size compared to the other examples, together with fusion data evidence.

However, when recording tooth wear patterns from mandibular elements recovered, the following MNI became apparent:

SPECIES	RIGHT	LEFT
CATTLE	5	2
PIG	2	4
SHEEP	1	4
DOG	5	5
MNI		
CATTLE	5	
PIG	4	
SHEEP	4	
DOG	5	

Age At Death To Assess Possible Seasonality Of Site.

I then took the evidence to be gauged from the quantity mandible and maxilla excavated. Using Grant's Tooth Wear Patterns (1982, p 91-108), the following information was recovered. Where a tooth is missing, the average score has been used to calculate the final total (missing teeth are indicated in red italics):-

CONTEXT NO.	SIDE	P4	M1	M2	M3	TOTAL
CATTLE *All mandibles*						
536D	Right	11	*12*	14	12	49
536D	Left	11	12	12	12	47
631A	Right	12	16	16	16	60
612B	Right	11	12	12	11	46
525	Left	*8*	8	*8*	*8*	32
525	Right	*12*	*12*	13	12	49
531F	Right	*12*	15	12	*12*	51
PIG *(No complete mandibles or maxilla were recovered, the below information is included simply for evidence of presence on site)* Man – mandible Max – maxilla						
619B	Left Man	9	7	*7*	*7*	30
550	Right Max	*3*	3	6	*6*	18
573A	Right Max	*7*	7	*7*	*7*	28
525	Right Man	*13*	13	11	*11*	48
531U	Left Man	14	1	*1*	*1*	17
537A	Right Man	*10*	10	*10*	*10*	40
536D	Left Man	9	*2*	2	*2*	15
650A	Left Man	*12*	*12*	12	*12*	48
525F	Right Max	*9*	10	9	*9*	37
SHEEP *All mandibles.*						
605A	Left	*12*	16	12	12	49
612B	Right	*12*	12	12	12	48
612B	Left	12	13	12	12	49
619B	Left	*12*	15	12	12	51
631A	Left	1	12	7	12	32

Based on the above evidence, it would appear that the majority of animals were killed at around age three years, with the exception of a calf of about six months, one lamb, also of about 3-6 months and three piglets. (Grant, 1982, p 91-108)

DOG

Ten mandibles and five maxilla were recovered, together with numerous loose permanent and deciduous teeth. The distribution by context of the mandibles and maxilla is as follows:

CONTEXT NO.	SKELETAL ELEMENT	SIDE	TEETH WEAR APPARENT
525	Mandible	Left	All teeth worn
531F	Mandible	Right	All teeth worn
538	Mandible	Right	All teeth worn
612A	Maxilla	Left	Slight wear
612B	Mandible	Left	All teeth worn
612B	Mandible	Left	All teeth worn
612B	Mandible	Right	All teeth worn
612B	Mandible (no teeth)	Right	All teeth worn
612B	Maxilla	Left	All teeth worn
612B	Maxilla	Right	All teeth worn
612B	Mandible	Left	All teeth worn
613A	Maxilla	Left	All teeth worn
625A	Maxilla	Right	All teeth worn
625A	Mandible	Right	Mandible smaller than other examples.
631A	Mandible	Left	All teeth worn

It is therefore evident that there are five left and five right dog mandibles, of which only one right mandible is of smaller dimension and therefore assumed to be a breed variation rather than a young dog, given the tooth eruption evidence. On this evidence, the MNI for this species is calculated as five.

Butchery Evidence

The assemblage was carefully examined for chop and knife marks, which would indicate butchering of the carcass and knife marks indicating de-fleshing of the joints. Signs of butchery were evident on all major skeletal elements. (Appendix 2, photograph 1)

Cattle

Humerii exhibited evidence of chop marks indicative of dismemberment of the carcass. Of the nine examples recovered, only two were complete. (Appendix 3, photograph 2) The other samples had been chopped at almost identical positions along the shaft, an average of 16cm from the distal articulation. Distal epiphyseal fusion was complete indicating animals than 12-18 months. Only one sample exhibited evidence of knife marks indicative of de-fleshing.

These were positioned transversely above the olecranon and to the entire length of the anterior side of the shaft. The fusion of the epiphysis to the proximal articulation was absent, indicating an animal younger than 42 months (Reitz & Wing, 1999, p 76).

Only one sample of femur was recovered, and this was only a section of the proximal articulation. Epiphyseal fusion was complete indicating an age greater than 42 months. The paucity of femur compared to humerus may therefore indicate that the prime joints (in particular femur) were butchered on site and consumed elsewhere. Sherds of shaft elements were tentatively identified as femur.

Sheep

Only two distal ends of humerus were identified, one left and one right hand side. Epiphyseal fusion was complete indicating an age greater than 11-13 months. These had also been chopped in a similar manner to the Cattle samples.

As with Cattle, only fragments of shaft were identified as being possibly femur was recovered.

Deer

One distal articulation of humerus was recovered. Epiphyseal fusion data indicates an age of approximately 12-20 months. This displayed evidence of chopping just above the distal articulation and to the lateral epicondyle. Cut marks, indicative of de-fleshing, were noted to the shaft just above the medial epicondyle. The bone was burnt black, was small and probably roe deer.

Only one distal articulation of femur was recovered. This specimen was large, possibly red deer. It had been chopped along the shaft, approximately 17cm from the distal articulation. Fusion would indicate an animal older than 26 months.

Radius/Ulna & Tibia/Fibula

All samples recovered exhibited evidence of butchery. The majority had been chopped along the shaft, presumably for the extraction of marrow. One tibia exhibited signs of drilling, also presumably for marrow extraction.

Vertebrae and Ribs

The majority of vertebrae recovered were complete. This would suggest that the carcasses were not split lengthways along the vertebrae. Ribs were fragmented. However, there were insufficient quantities of both elements to fully represent the MNI of all species present on site. Only two sacrum were recovered, these both of cattle.

Inominate Bone

The absence of the pubis in all recovered samples would appear to indicate that the carcasses may have been chopped in half across the rib cage, and

then halved through the pubis. Both illium and ischium display chopping at their extremes, thereby supporting this theory.

Metapodials, Phalanges, etc.
Metapodials, phalanges and associated skeletal elements were only recovered from contexts adjoining the "hearth" areas of 525 and 610. All samples recovered exhibited evidence of butchery, with the exception of hare and dog.

Skulls including Maxilla
Several skulls, mostly cattle and sheep, have been recovered intact. They appeared to have been placed in an east/west position and were at the top of the context, some were on beds of oyster shell (J. Funnell, pers. comm.). One sheep skull recovered was examined by the writer and found to display evidence for decapitation. It also displayed indentation to the top of the skull, indicative of the animal having been pole-axed, possibly during sacrifice (Woodward, 1992, p.79). All maxilla had been chopped.

Pig maxilla was identified. These were fragmentary and there were no signs of further skull components.

Mandibles
As can be seen from the tooth wear analysis, quantities of mandibles for cattle, sheep, pig and dog were recovered.

All cattle mandibles displayed evidence of chop marks/fractures to the vertical ramus, indicative of the removal of the mandible from the skull. One immature mandible displayed cut marks in the area of the diastema. This may be an indication of the splitting of the mandible and removal of the tongue (Rixson, 1989; Maltby, 1989).

Sheep mandibles also displayed evidence of chopping through the ramus and the diastema, possibly also indicative of removal of this element from the skull. Dog mandibles were variously either complete or chopped. Pig mandibles had all been fragmented.

The damage to the mandibles may also be an indication of marrow extraction.

Horn Core
It is apparent from the limited skull evidence recovered on site that horn was removed on site (see Appendix 3, photograph 1). It is assumed that horn in entirety was taken from site for processing elsewhere as no horn core was recovered.

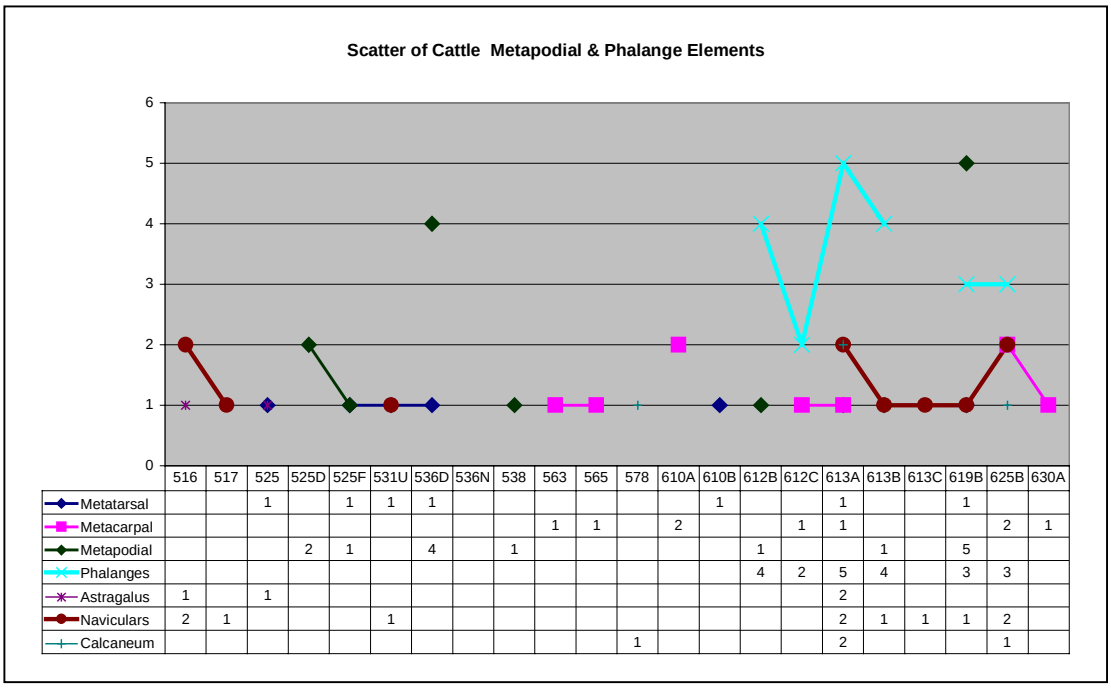
Spatial Patterning

The majority of the bone assemblage was deposited in the linear ditch running north/south along the site (Appendix 1; Appendix 2, photograph no. 3). When compared to the report prepared on the bone assemblage 1991-1999, there is a similar pattern, to include the east/west linear ditch, which widens out towards the west.

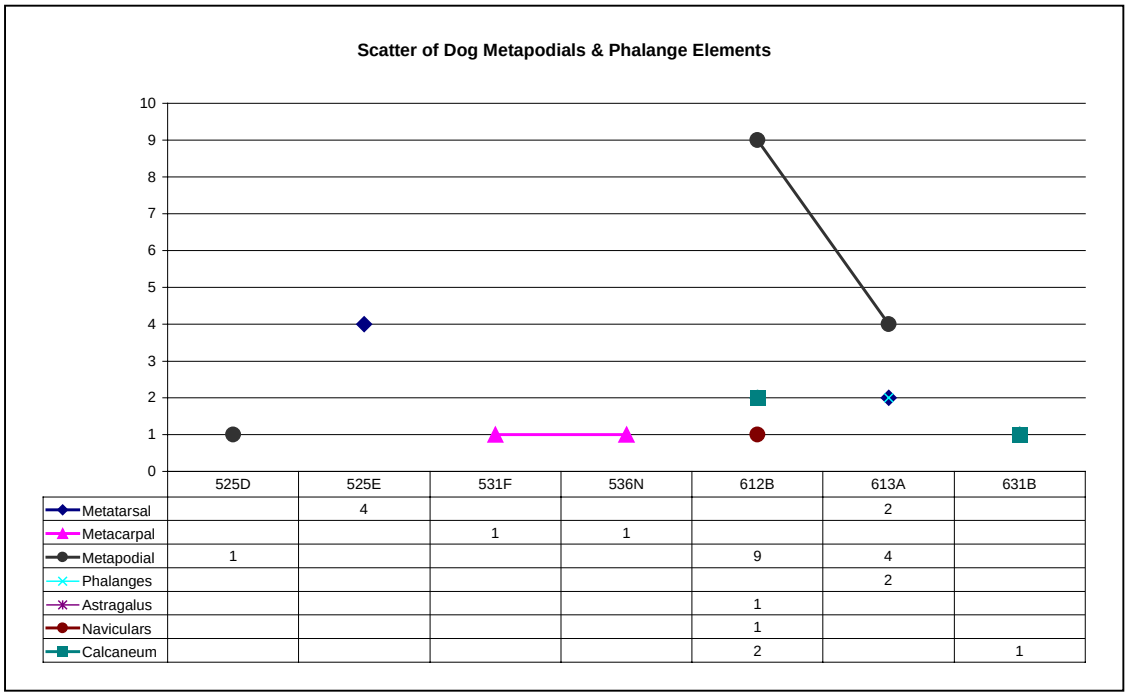
The largest deposits of bone of all species present on site are located close to context 610, an area of burnt clay and ironstone which could be interpreted as a hearth or cooking area (Appendix 2, photograph 4). The articulated cow burial was within context 542, a pit just to the east of the north/south ditch. This burial is just to the south of the possible hearth area, context 610.

Within the immediate area of context 525, an articulated dog burial was recovered. These remains, together with the articulated cattle burial, were donated to the Booth Museum, Brighton. Both right legs were broken but healed, therefore indicating that the animal had been cared for during the healing process. Cause of death would appear to be a large hole in the skull (J. Adams, Booth Museum, pers. comm.). This burial was located just to the south of a hearth area located approximately 0.75m down a pit, delineated with a circle of stones. Charcoal deposits were also found in the immediate area. (pers. comm.. John Funnell).

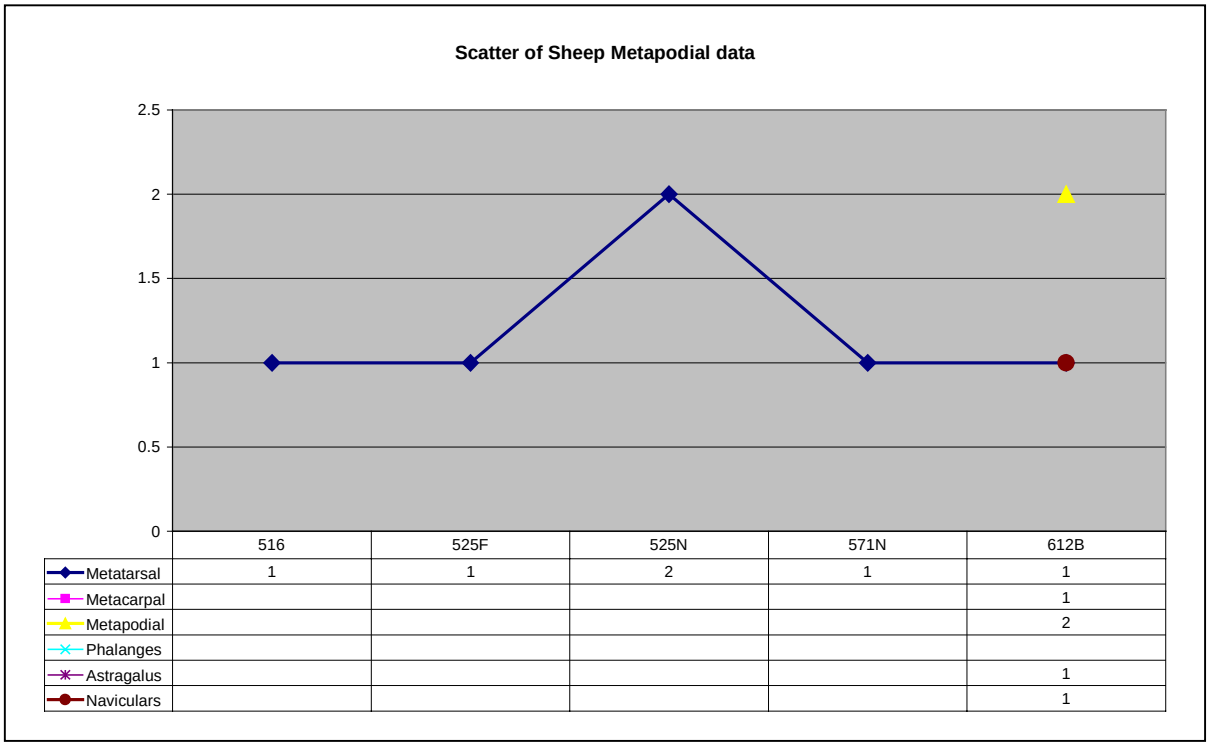
As identified from the charts below, indicating spatial patterning of recovered metapodials and phalanges, the majority of the feet elements of all species were recovered adjoining the hearth areas, contexts 610 and 525. Approximately 70% of all bones recovered in the season 2003 were excavated from contexts 612 & 613, adjoining the aforesaid hearth area.



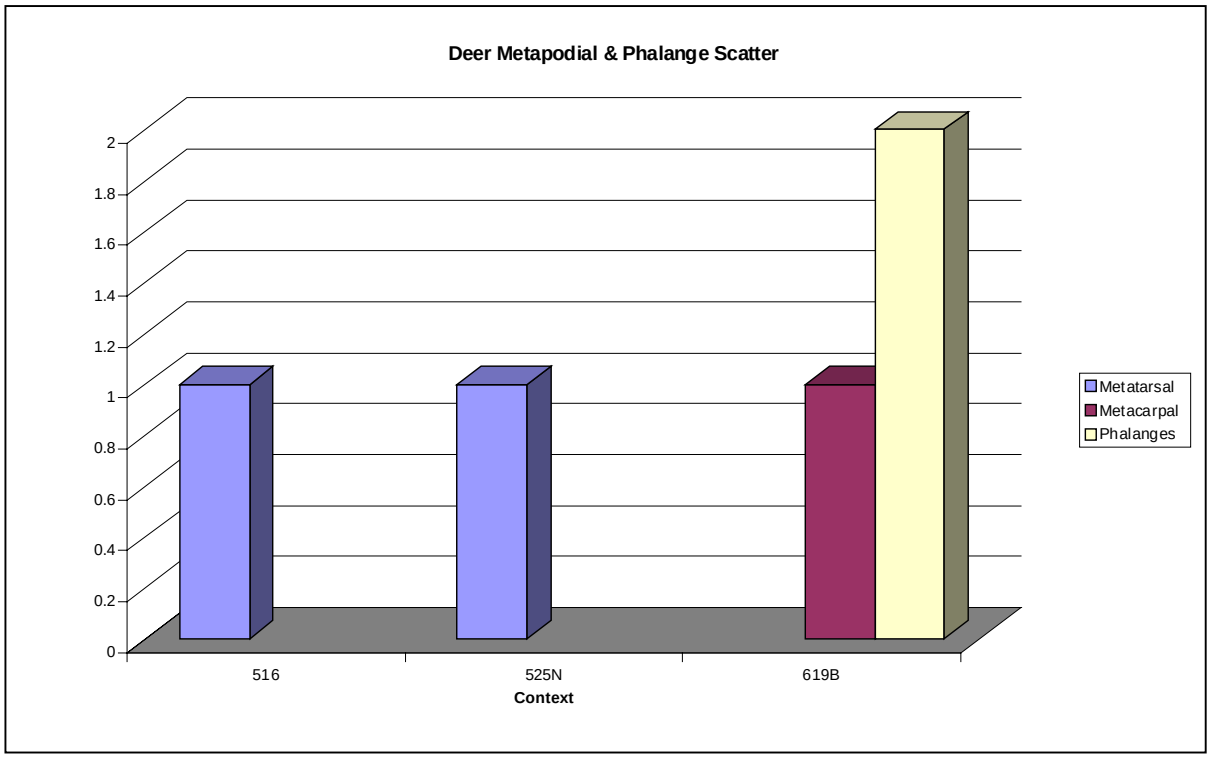
	516	517	525	525D	525F	531U	536D	536N	538	563	565	578	610A	610B	612B	612C	613A	613B	613C	619B	625B	630A
Metatarsal			1		1	1	1							1			1			1		
Metacarpal										1	1		2			1	1				2	1
Metapodial				2	1		4		1						1			1		5		
Phalanges															4	2	5	4		3	3	
Astragalus	1		1														2					
Naviculars	2	1				1											2	1	1	1	2	
Calcaneum												1					2				1	



	525D	525E	531F	536N	612B	613A	631B
Metatarsal		4				2	
Metacarpal			1	1			
Metapodial	1				9	4	
Phalanges						2	
Astragalus					1		
Naviculars					1		
Calcaneum					2		1



	516	525F	525N	571N	612B
Metatarsal	1	1	2	1	1
Metacarpal					1
Metapodial					2
Phalanges					
Astragalus					1
Naviculars					1



DISCUSSION

The Position of the Site

Stanmer's boundaries are outlined in the Anglo Saxon Charter of Aedwulf, translated in Sussex Archaeological Collection (SAC) 86 – "*Firstly from Moustone south to the "andowi" hill, then to the valley, so due north to Patchway and so to the boundary stream, Ditchling, Stanmer and Westmeston…… thence thus to Moustone*". The translation of Moustone, near Stanmer may be "milestone"; Patchway has been translated from *Petteleswige*, which is apparently from the Old English (OE) word *wig* or *weoh*, used to denote a heathen place of worship. *Valley* has been translated as "Coldean". (SAC 86, p.88)

This boundary passes through Rocky Clump and it is on the evidence contained within the Anglo Saxon Charter outlined above that Gorton based his interpretation of a possible shrine at Rocky Clump (Gorton, 1988). (Appendix 4, Map)

It is possible that the site under excavation was so situated during the Roman period due to the presence of the sarsen stones, which may delineate a boundary between neighbouring Civitates (Sedgeley, 1975). Saxon boundaries generally followed natural features, e.g. roads of varying types, agricultural settlements, burial sites and rocks (Reynolds, 1999, p. 32). The nearest water sources to the site are the stream mentioned in the Anglo Saxon Charter and an ancient pond located at Stanmer Village.

The Bone Assemblage

The number of bones recovered (2,477) is not inconsiderable for a site the size of Rocky Clump. No buildings have been identified that could be interpreted as habitations. Within the area of the Clump itself, an area of postholes has been loosely interpreted as *a possible shrine* (Gorton, 1988). A larger area of postholes has been interpreted as a possible *animal stockade* (Funnell, pers.comm.)

What is apparent from the assemblage is that a comparatively small number of animals were slaughtered and butchered, the bones then deposited in a linear ditch. There is a predominance of cattle remains over sheep, which is also illustrated at the Roman sites of Fishbourne and Newhaven (Sibun, 2003; Bell, 1976). From the paucity of femur compared to humerus and then compared to the number of tibia/fibula and metatarsals, it is evident that these prime joints were transported elsewhere for consumption, with the detritus, i.e. the skeletal elements associated with the femur, discarded on site. This is in variance to the bone assemblage reported at Fishbourne (Sibun, 2003) where both femur and humerus were recovered in more equal numbers, indicating butchering for consumption on site and also Newhaven (Bell, 1976) where there was no evidence of preference of joints, the assumption there being that animals were butchered for consumption on site.

Cattle, sheep and pig would generally appear to have been killed at approximately 3-4 years of age, which is general for Roman sites and is regarded as the prime age for meat (Sibun, 2003). However, the paucity of pig bones in comparison to mandibles would seem to indicate that the animals were butchered on site and consumed elsewhere. This also appears to be the case with deer, as very few bones or teeth have been recovered.

The lack of cut and chop marks to the metapodials indicates that these were possibly removed from the carcass at the joint with the tibia/radius and discarded as one.

It is evident that the bones were discarded into the ditch at the time of butchery or shortly thereafter as there is no evidence of gnawing by either dogs or rodents. Discarded oyster shell was also recovered from this area. To date the molluscs recovered from this site have not been examined and recorded in any detail and therefore no comment can be made as to whether they are marine or freshwater varieties.

The good preservation of the bones would also indicate that they were deposited and covered over quite quickly after discard as there is no evidence of weathering.

The age at which animals are thought to have been slaughtered, 3-4 years for the majority and approximately 6 months for five individuals (one lamb, one calf and three piglets), would indicate that the site was probably in use during the summer months, bearing in mind the lambing and calving cycles of these species today.

Although small quantities of burnt bone were recovered, it is likely that the majority of meat was boiled, similar to a stew or broth. The proliferation of fragmented bone would support meat being butchered into pieces, which would fit comfortably into a cooking pot.

As can be seen from the bone data charts by context (Appendix 3), there is no separation along the linear ditch by species; the bones are simply a mix of all species recovered, indicating slaughter of several species at once.

No environmental sampling has been undertaken on site, and it is therefore not possible to discuss the landscape and its use during the Roman or Saxon periods, or indeed whether the people using the site were simply butchering, cooking and eating meat, accompanied with the oyster remains recovered on site, or whether they were eating fruit and berries as well, as an example.

Interpretation of the Site

Unfortunately, there are no details of any animal bones recovered in the vicinity of the arrangement of post holes identified by Gorton as a *possible shrine* during the 1951-81 excavations (Gilkes, 1997, p113-125).

The arrangement of postholes identified as a *possible stockade* during the 1993-99 excavations was found to have flint cobbled flooring. (J. Funnell, pers. comm.)

The MNI data, together with the tooth wear analysis, and the evidence that the bone assemblage appears to have been deposited in short periods of time, would indicate that the site was only used seasonally. Although the variation of species present would suggest a domestic assemblage, the MNI evidence does not support this.

The Roman year was marked with a series of festivals, one of these being Ambarvalia, from which derives the “beating of the bounds” ceremony still found today. (Quennell, 1959, p.82) This festival would have been around May or June. The Secular Games, which included sacrifice, were irregularly held, approximately once a century, to mark a new era.

Romano-British festivals usually involved sacrifice, and the nature of this was dependent upon the deity worshipped. Pig was identified as the predominant species recovered at Chanctonbury, indicating a possible *cult of the boar,* and sheep at Harlow (Rudling, 2001, p 118). Cattle are the predominant species at Rocky Clump, although these have been recovered along with other species within the same contexts. Slaughter of several species, e.g. cattle, sheep and pig, may be encountered in some cases (Cunliffe, 1993, p12).

The case study of Lambs in Roman York (O’Connor, 2000, p. 90-91) outlines a proliferation of lambs slaughtered; at Rocky Clump we have but one lamb, indicating a possible ritualistic element.

Structurally, there is no real evidence to support the theory that the site could be a previously unrecorded shrine. However, the 1951-1981 excavations produced seven coins dating to the late 1st – late 2nd centuries A.D. Ox skulls and deer antler were also found. (Gorton, 1988). The excavations from 1991 to the present have produced 70 small finds including 14 coins dating to the 1st Century and 1 to 50 B.C; 7 brooches, sections of horse harness, various bronze items including a child's bracelet and numerous bronze nails (J. Funnell, pers. comm.). These items could be interpreted as votive offerings.

Without C14 dating and evidence of grave goods, we cannot be certain that the burials around the area of the sarsens are of Anglo Saxon origin. Indeed, the whereabouts of the burials is now unknown and are therefore not available for re-examination.

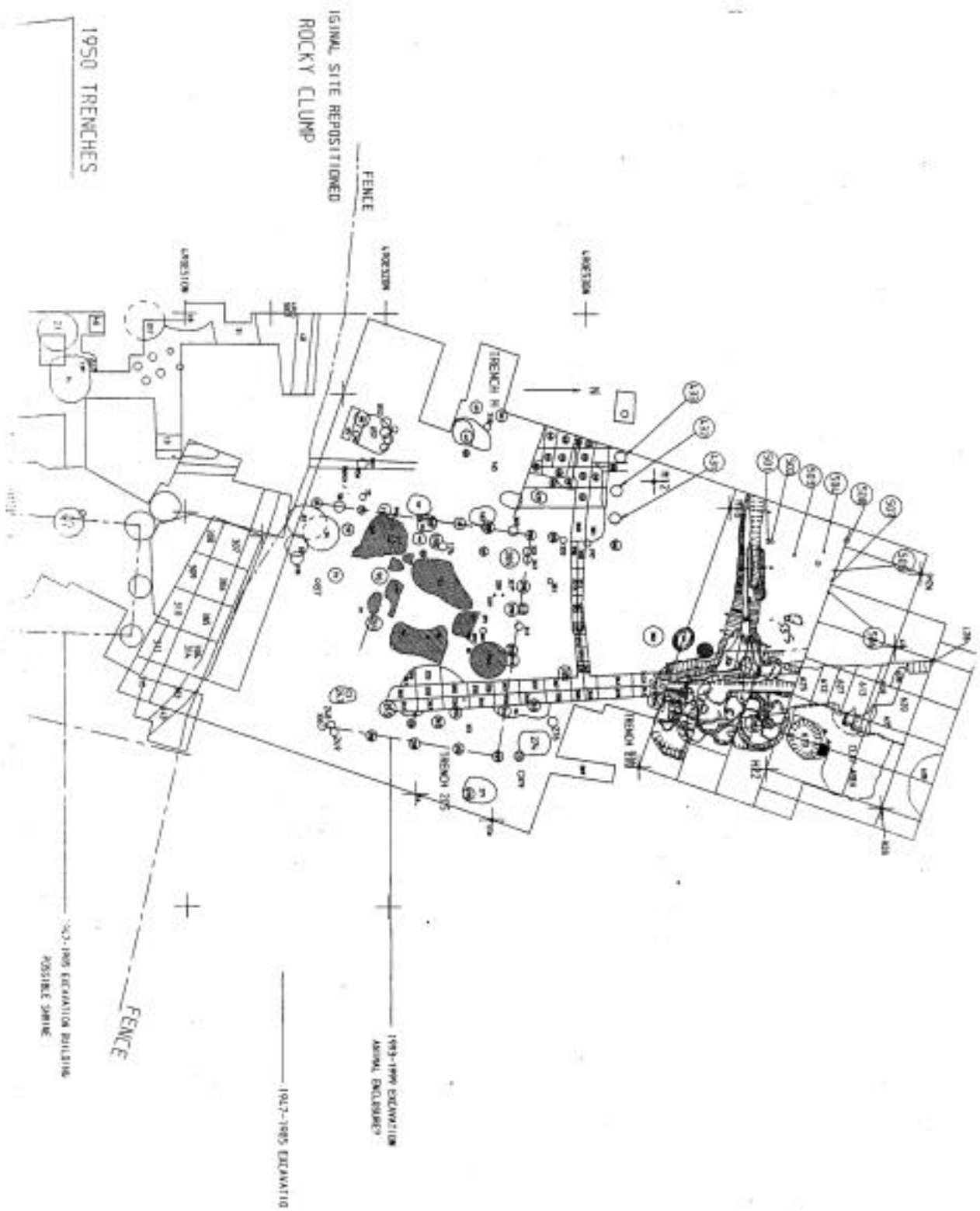
CONCLUSION

It is evident from the foregoing that Rocky Clump was probably not a farmstead. The evidence would suggest that the site to be that of a possible shrine. The position of the site on a boundary and sited around the sarsen stones could indicate its importance as a seasonal meeting place for sacrifice to one or a number of deities.

The MNI data and the age of the animals when slaughtered indicated by tooth wear analysis and epiphyseal fusion evidence, when combined with the number of small finds recovered on site, could indicate that the site was only used infrequently for sacrificial purposes, e.g. at the time of change of era, or for festivities held once a year, in this case in May or June. The possibility of once an era is also indicated by the dates of the coins recovered, i.e. approximately 175 A.D and 275 A.D.

Given the above evidence when combined with the known cemetery area and the presence of the sarsens, a ritual use of the site cannot at this time be discounted.

Appendix 1 Site Plan



Appendix 2 – Photographs

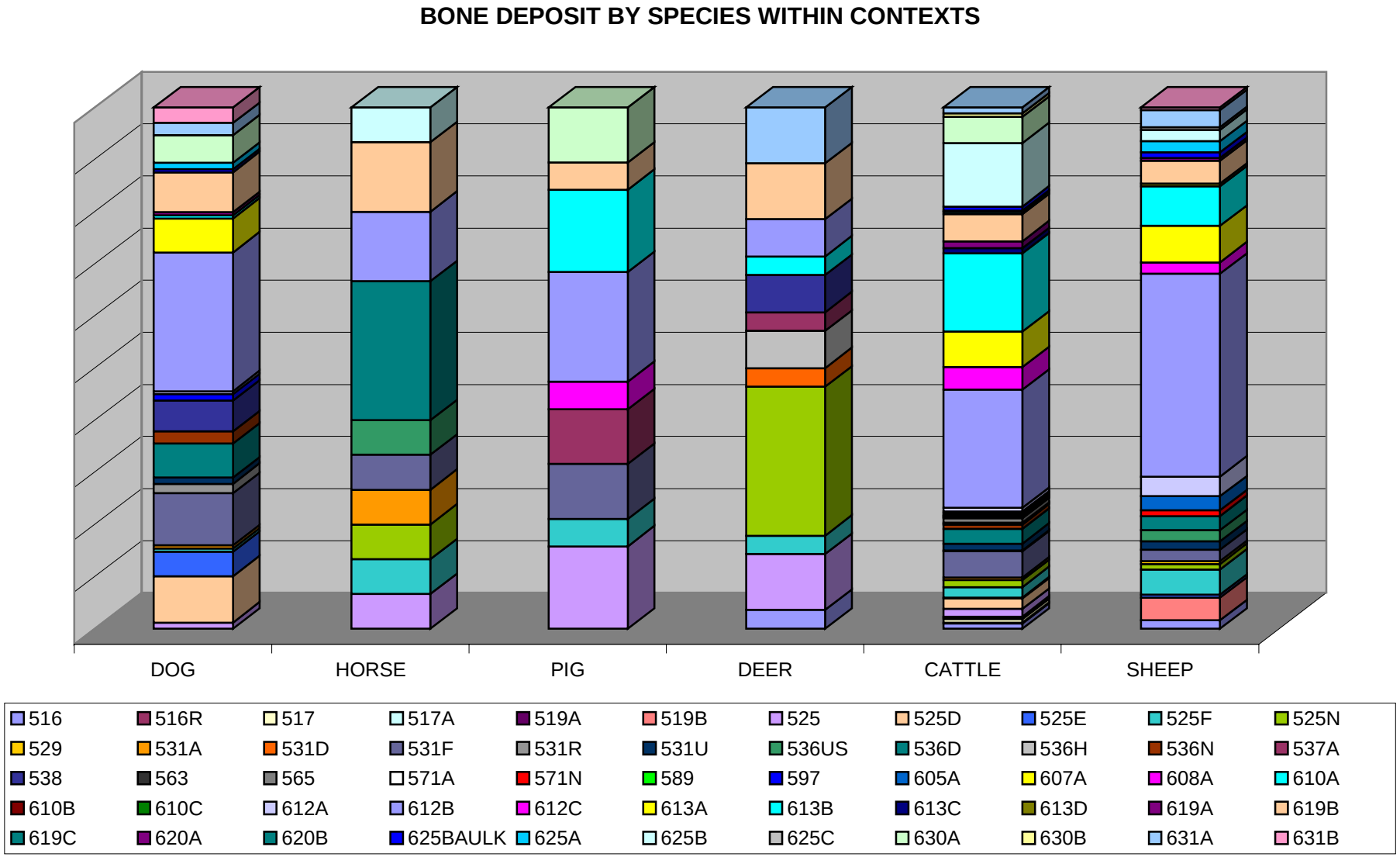
Photo 1. Various bones illustrating butchery marks

Photo 2 Examples of Bos Humerus illustrating areas of butchery

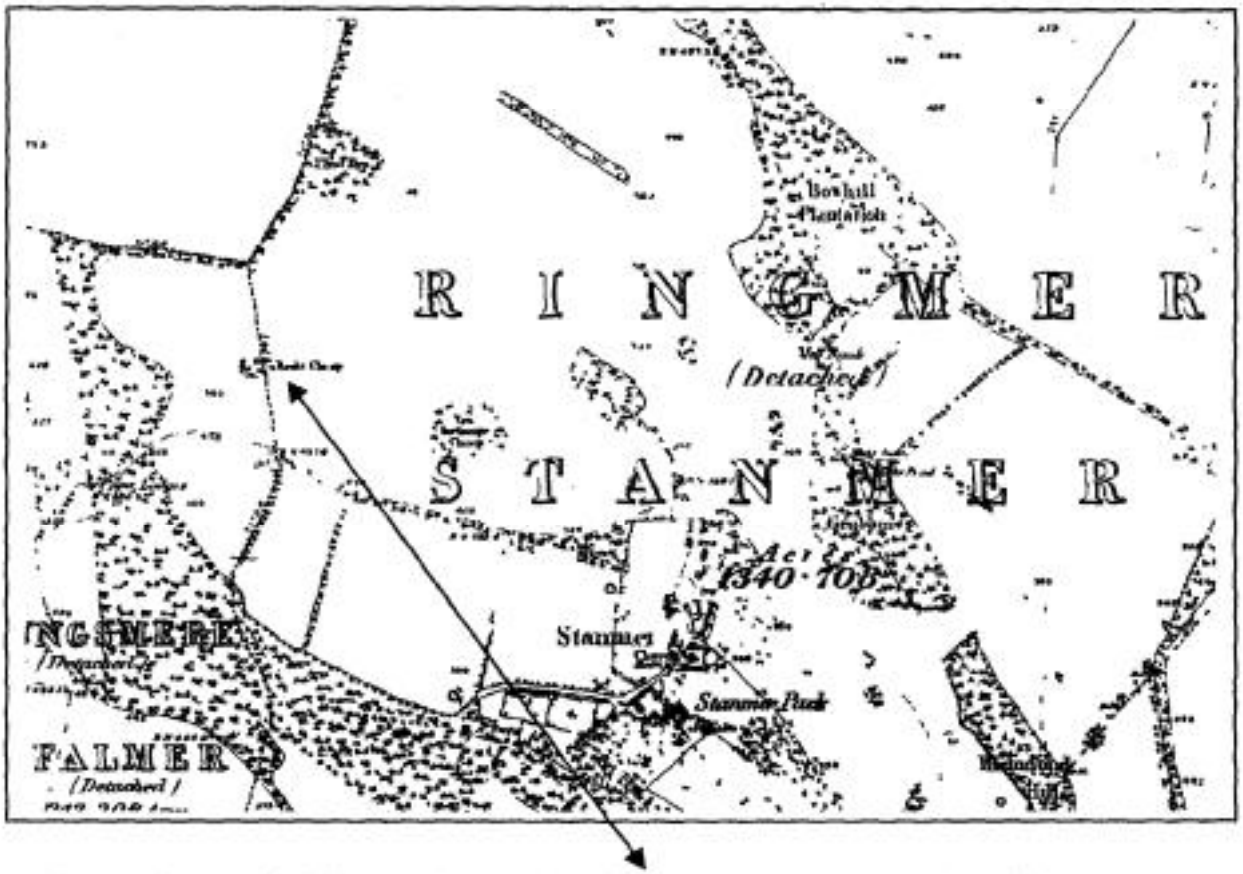
Photo 3 - Section 612 indicating bone deposits and also illustrating line of ditch

Photo 4 Section 610 – area of Ironstone and Burnt Clay, possibly a hearth/cooking area

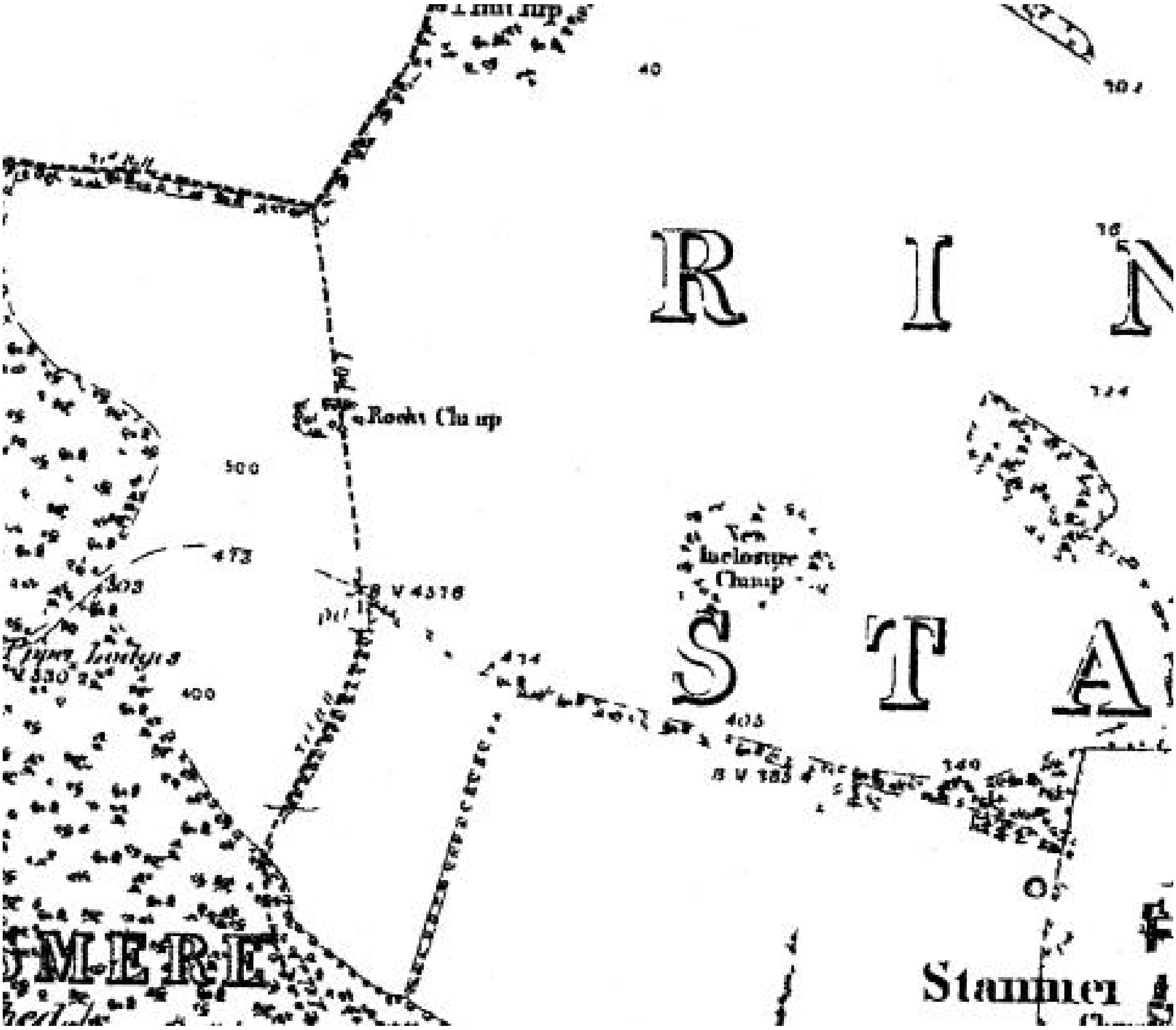
Appendix 3 Bone Deposits by Species within Contexts



Appendix 4 Maps



Excerpt of Map of 1879 indicating position of Rocky Clump on the boundary line.


R I N
S T A
Rocks Clump
New Inclosure Clump
MERE
Stanmer

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My thanks to Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society and in particular John Funnell for allowing me to pursue my interest in the animal bones recovered on various sites and for patiently answering my numerous questions regarding the excavations since 1991; Maria Gardiner, Alison Bullough and Averil Huggins of BHAS for all their help and expertise in marking, recording and identifying the bone assemblage and to Richard Carter and Fay Stevens for their encouragement and advice in the preparation of this report.

Bibligraphy

Books

Barker, E. (1947) *Sussex Anglo-Saxon Charters*. p. 86-87. Sussex Archaeological Collections (SAC) Volume 86.

Bell, M. (1976) *The Excavation of an Early Romano-British Site & Pleistocene Landforms at Newhaven, Sussex.* p. 218-309. Sussex Archaeological Collections (SAC) Volume 114.

Cunliffe, B. (1993) *The Roman Baths at Bath.* p. 12. Bath Archaeological Trust.

Gilkes, O.J. (1997) *Excavations at Rocky Clump, Stanmer Park, Brighton, 1951-1981*. p. 113-125
Sussex Archaeological Collections (SAC) Volume 135.

Gorton, W.C.L. (1988) *Rocky Clump Stanmer – A Forgotten Shrine?* Published by W.C.L. Gorton.

Hillson, S. (1996) *Mammal Bones & Teeth, An Introductory Guide to Methods of Identification*. Published by The Institute of Archaeology, London.

O'Connor, T. (2000) *The Archaeology of Animal Bones*. p. 90-91. Stroud. Sutton Publishing Ltd.

Quennell, M & C.H.B. (1959) *Everyday Life in Roman & Anglo-Saxon Times*. p. 82. London. Batsford.

Reitz, E.J. & Wing, E.S. (1999) *Zooarchaeology*. p. 76. Cambridge University Press.

Reynolds, A. (1999) *Later Anglo-Saxon England – Life & Landscape.* p. 32. Stroud. Tempus.

Rudling, D. (2001) *Chanctonbury Ring Revisited, The Excavations of 1988-91.* p. 115. Sussex Archaeological Collections (SAC) Volume 139.

Schmid, E. (1972) *Atlas of animal bones for prehistorians, archaeologists and Quaternary geologists.* Amsterdam. Elsevier Science Publishers.

Sibun, L. *Animal Bone* Manley, J & Rudkin, D. eds. (2003) *Facing the Palace. Excavations in front of the Roman Palace at Fishbourne.* p.125-130 Sussex Archaeological Collections (SAC) Volume 141.

Warne, H. (1989) *Stanmer: A restructured Settlement*. p. 189-210. Sussex Archaeological Collections (SAC) Volume 127.

Woodward, A. (1992) *Shrines & Sacrifice*. p. 79. London. Batsford.

Excerpts from Journals

Grant, A. (1982) The use of Tooth Wear as a guide to the age of Domestic Ungulates. *B.A.R. British Series,* No. 109, pp 91-108.

Maltby, M. (1989) Urban-Rural Variations in the Butchering of Cattle in Romano-British Hampshire. *B.A.R. British Series,* No. 199, pp 75-91.

Rixson, D. (1989) Butchery Evidence on Animal Bones. *Circaea*, Volume 6, No. 1, pp 49-62.
Sedgley, J.P. (1975). The Roman Milestones of Britain: their Petrography and probable Origin. *B.A.R. British Series,* No. 18, pp 1-15

Internet Web-Sites

http://newsvote.bbc.co.uk/mpapps/pagetools/print/news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/norfolk
Accessed 14th April 2005

http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Delphi/8991/roman.html?200515.
Accessed 15th April 2005

EAST BRIGHTON EARLY BRONZE AGE BURIAL

(A Short Note)

In October 2003 the BHAS Field Unit conducted an excavation of an Early Bronze Age burial at East Brighton Golf Club. An extension for the club stores had cut into the side of the hill to the north of the clubhouse revealing in section an obvious grave cut. The feature proved to be a crouched burial, lying east/west with the head to the west, and facing north. The few sherds of pottery suggest that the burial is probably dated to the Early Bronze Age (pers. comm. S.Hamilton). Unfortunately the burial had been badly damaged by the contractor's machine and only the skull, arms, fingers and partial leg bones remained. The grave produced a number of interesting finds including a large flat stone similar to that found in the grave of the Amesbury archer (pers. Comm. Chris Butler). A number of pierced chalk cubes were recovered from around the neck area of the body, where the finger bones were located. The burial lies very close to a number of other Early Bronze Age crouched burials found at Roedean and may suggest that this area is a cemetery site. A Roman coffin burial has also been found in the vicinity.

A ditch was revealed to the west of the burial, but whether it relates to the burial is difficult to determine. The lower fill of the ditch contained a number of flint flakes, but the upper fill produced early Iron Age pottery. A small geophysical survey, conducted to the north of the features, tends to indicate that the ditch does curve around the burial area although the landscaping for the golf course may well have removed any evidence of a mound. The geophysics clearly indicated other areas of low resistance and these may prove to be burials. The cemetery area lies to the south/east of, and below, Whitehawk Hill and the location of the Neolithic Causewayed enclosure.

A full report of the excavation has been submitted to the Sussex Archaeological Collections for publication.

John Funnell December 28th 2005

EXCAVATIONS AT THE BRIGHTON ROMAN VILLA

In November 2004 the professional unit of Archaeology South East returned for the second phase of the excavations on the Roman villa located beneath the Endeavours garage along Preston Road, Brighton. In 2002 the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit participated in the first phase of excavations which were to the east of the development area.

The 2002 excavations produced a number of very large rubbish pits, portions of the villa walls, a well and a new burial close to the location of burials in the earlier part of the century.

The new excavations in 2004 were on the portion of the site to the west, adjacent to the Preston Road. Sadly we have to report that black and white mosaics reported in notes from the earlier parts of the century had all been destroyed by the construction of the Endeavours Garage. The only features found in this excavation were some very small sections of wall, about 2/3 metres in length and a small section of blue tessellated floor measuring about 18” by 12” (450mm x 300mm).

I would like to thank Richard James the Director of the excavation for allowing access to the site and permitting the taking of photographs. It is assumed that Archaeology South East will be compiling a full report and that it will eventually be published in the Sussex Archaeological Collections.

John Funnell 31st December 2005

FIELD WALKING AT PEACEHAVEN
Interim Report March 2004

Introduction

In January and February of 2004 the BHAS Field Unit conducted a field walking survey of lands at Lower Hoddern Farm, Peacehaven.(Ref TQ 416018). The field is divided into 3 sections, east, west and south. An initial field walking of 10 lines in 2003 had found two Neolithic rough out axes, and numerous amounts of flint tools in the north/west section of the field. The field walking of 2004 completed a survey of all three fields with some very interesting results. The field has been identified as the possible location of a Neolithic flint tool manufacturing site, probably utilising natural resources from the cliff faces along the coast close to Newhaven(Pers. Comm. O.Gilkes). A local lady, Mrs Schutze, had collected a number of Neolithic axes when she worked on the farm, she allowed members of the Society to examine and photograph them. However, their exact find provenance is unknown. A number of Mesolithic blades have also been found in a field close by local historian Mr Tony Paine

The finds recovered were mainly of waste flint flakes and fire-cracked flint. However, a considerable number of flint tools were also recovered. The tools included scrapers, piercing tools, notched pieces, a number of beautiful blades and blade fragments and a total of 8 Neolithic axes. Other pieces included a possible early Neolithic blade and sickle. The dot density diagrams are indicating possible concentrations of material in a number of places across the east and west fields. The south field contained countless pieces of fire-cracked flint, and considerable quantities were collected, counted and weighed during the project.

A road or trackway used to run across the west field joining the north/south trackway, but this has been dug up and removed in recent times. It can be noted in aerial photographs.

The Geology

The fields at Lower Hoddern Farm are a distinct sandy loam. Mr Appleton, the farmer, informs us that on a number of occasions when he has had to dig deep sections within the field no trace was found of a chalk substrate.

Methodology

The fields were walked in three sections, the west field was walked first, the east second and the south field last of all. A concrete track way divides the east and west field, and a grass track way separates the east/west fields from the south field. A base line was set up running along the west side of the central concrete road and running parallel to it. The concrete track way, however, dog-legs towards the south west at the lower end of the field so that some of the initial transects of lines R-BB are actually in the east field. The

same base line was used to walk the east field lines CC-FFF. The west field was walked from east to west, while the east field was walked from west to east.

The south field had a base line running along the track way that separated it from the other two fields. This field was walked from north to south. The grass track way is in a small valley bottom so that the south field rises up as a small hill to its boundary along the southern edge. The contours across the other fields show that there is a gentle rise from the west, in the west field towards the track way. The east field drops to a shallow valley and then rises again on the east side.

The first line A was located 20 metres along the concrete track way south of a row of trees that are the north west boundary of the main fields. There is another smaller field located north of the ones walked, located close to a number of factory units, but this field was not walked. The lines were set out 20 metres apart, and each line was divided into 20 metre long transects. The first line of the south field was located 10 metres in from the east boundary of the field.

The weather was predominantly dry and sunny. However, there were a number of showers in the morning, when walking the south field.

Material Collected

Flint Flakes	2518
Scrapers	74
Cores	56
Piercers	8
Bladelets	41
Notched pieces	9
Axes	8

Fire-cracked Flint 3431 (Weight 101,533 Grammes)

Total Collection 6145

The Axes

A total of 8 axes were collected, 6 of these axes had been broken in antiquity. Two of the axes were complete and one is defined as a Mesolithic tranchet axe (pers comm. Chris Butler). One of the axes was polished. The material patination varied from a predominantly grey/brown colour to black, with some darker blue items. The patination range also applied to the flint flakes and flint tools, with a wide range of colours. Most of the flint had been hard hammered, very few soft hammer pieces being found.

The flint tools will need examination by a specialist to confirm the figures produced in this report. It is likely that some of the totals of the finds may change a little.

The Pottery

The fields produced a small collection of Roman pottery. There were a number of isolated finds in the south field, but the main focus of attention appears to be in the centre of the other two fields. The pottery was mainly East Sussex Ware, with a couple of Roman ware pieces, including a base fragment. The pottery was very abraded and some pieces showed burnishing including a small piece of rim.

Total Pottery 23 sherds

Miscellaneous Finds

The fields produced a small number of clay pipe stems, and quantities of contemporary materials including brick and tile. A few pieces of roofing slate were noted and the building material is largely concentrated along the south boundary of the south field. In this same area is a concentration of pebble stones, possibly a localised geological deposit.

Conclusions

The fields at Lower Hoddern Farm have produced artefacts to suggest that this area was significantly utilised in the Neolithic period.(Figs 1-5).The numbers of axes found, in conjunction with the other tools collected, suggest a wide range of artefacts and use. The flint tools appear to be concentrated on the higher ground in both the east and west fields, and it is likely that other flint artefacts have been covered by colluvial deposits in the valley bottoms.

An earlier Mesolithic usage can be discerned by the tranchet axe recovered in the south field, and the blade collection found by Mr Tony Paine. However, it is likely that ploughing has removed all trace of this ephemeral occupation.

It is debateable whether a Roman site is located within the fields at Lower Hoddern Farm. The quantity of pottery found is slight and although focused is too few to suggest a lengthy occupation or major site. However, a second examination of this area of concentration, after the next ploughing, may prove beneficial. It is possible that the few sherds of pottery are intrusive and have been brought in from other sections of the farm.

The south field is also significant in the vast amount of fire-cracked flint that was collected. The field is literally ‘awash’ with the material. The main concentration is all along the upper levels of the field in the south east corner, but the finds of the material stretches almost the complete length of the south field. It is also noticeable that the amount of flint tools and flakes found in this area is not as concentrated as the fire-cracked flint suggesting that other forms of Neolithic practise were being undertaken in this area.

Concentrations of fire-cracked flint are not uncommon, a similar concentration was found in a field close to the seashore at Ovingdean (Ref.TQ358027) in field

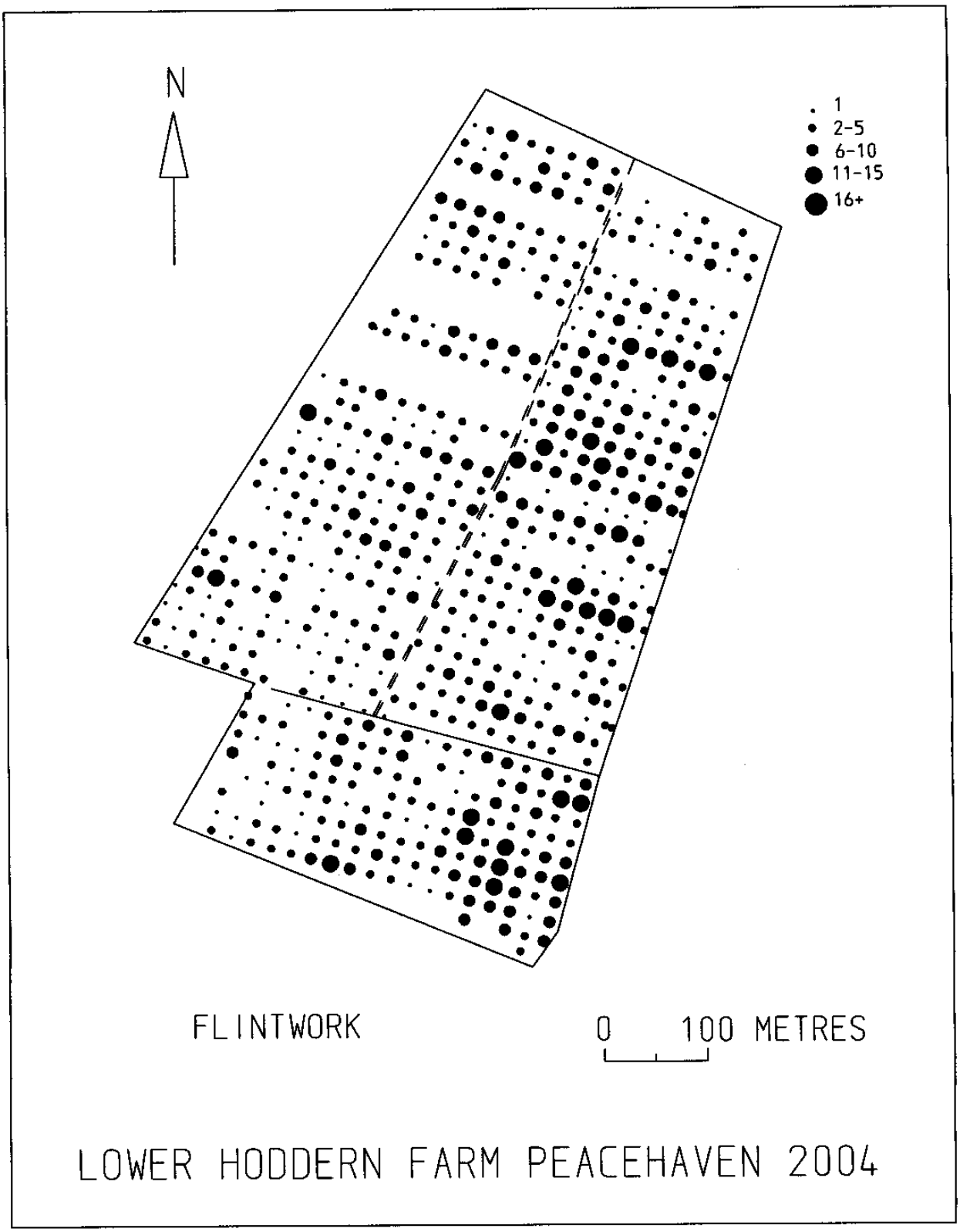
walking in 2000. A similar concentration of the material was recently found by the Worthing Archaeological Society south of Worthing. (pers comm. J.Barrow). It is believed that these are the ploughed out deposits of ancient flint cairns, but archaeologists have no defined idea as to why these features were originally created.

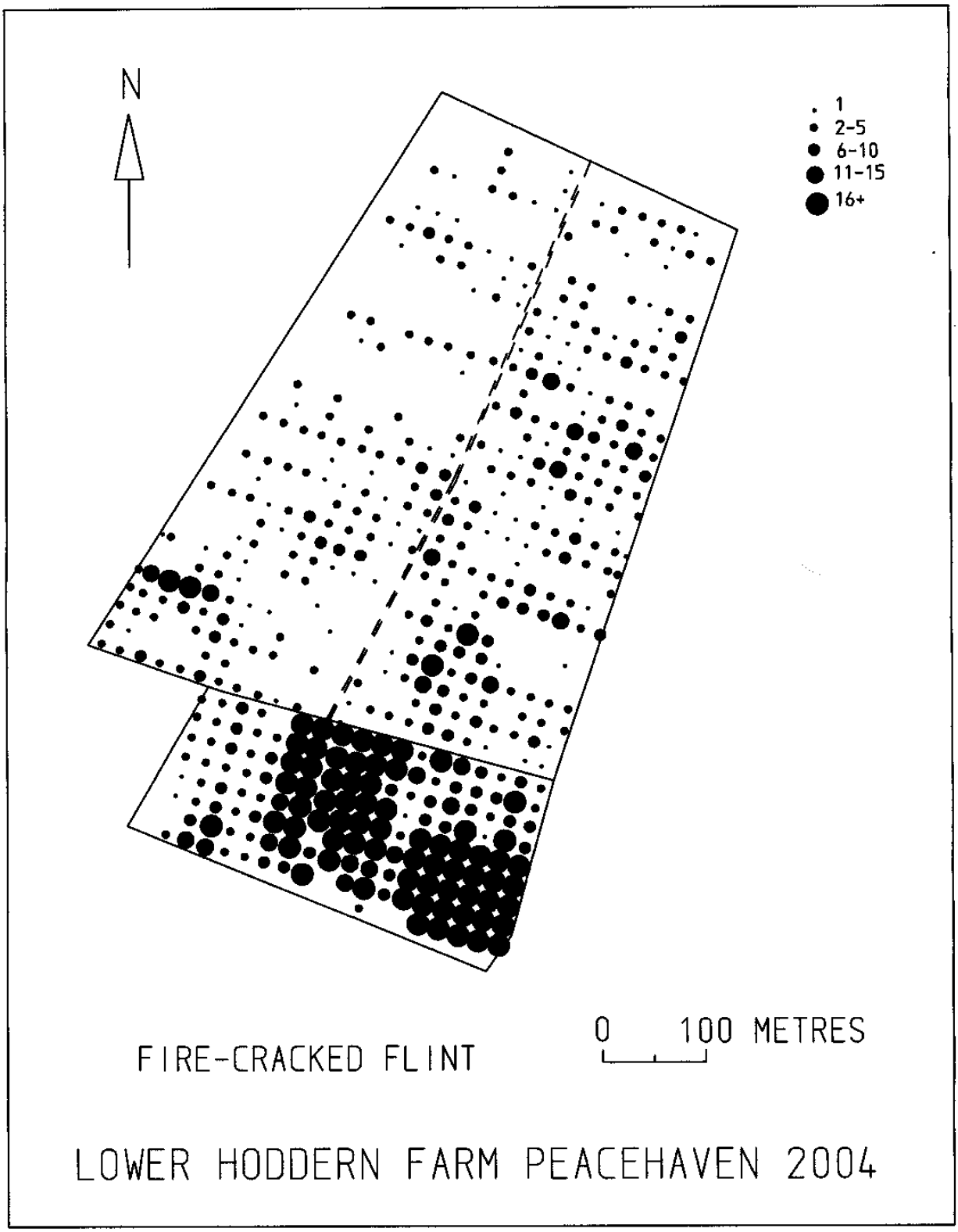
The most noteworthy finds from the fields are the collection of Neolithic axes. The combined collection of polished axes found by Mrs Shutze, the new axes found during this years field walking, and the array of flint tools, along with the area of fire-cracked flint, confirm that Lower Hoddern Farm is an important Neolithic flint processing and ancient manufacturing site.

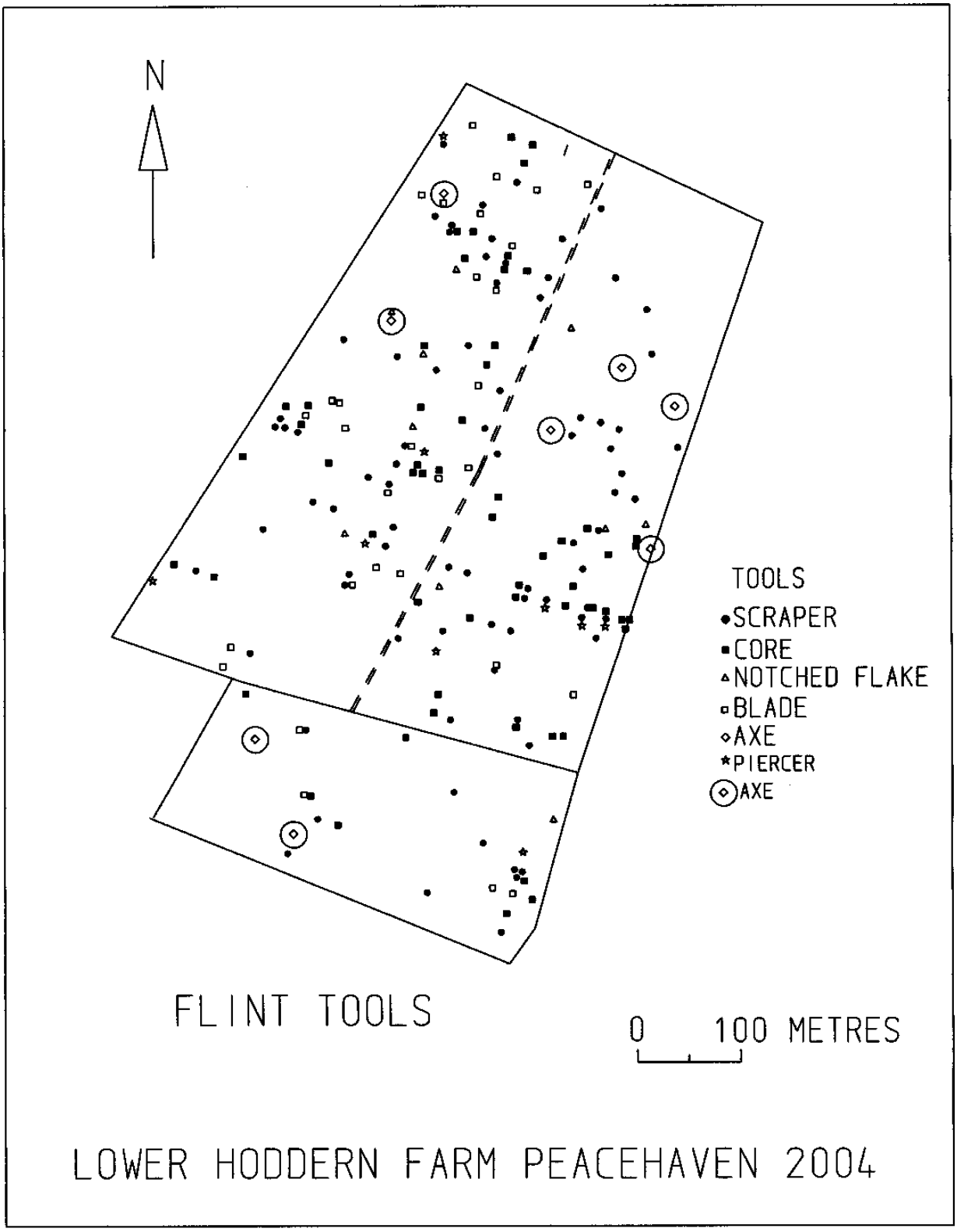
A major report is being compiled by Ms Donna Angel at Sussex University as part of her MA research.

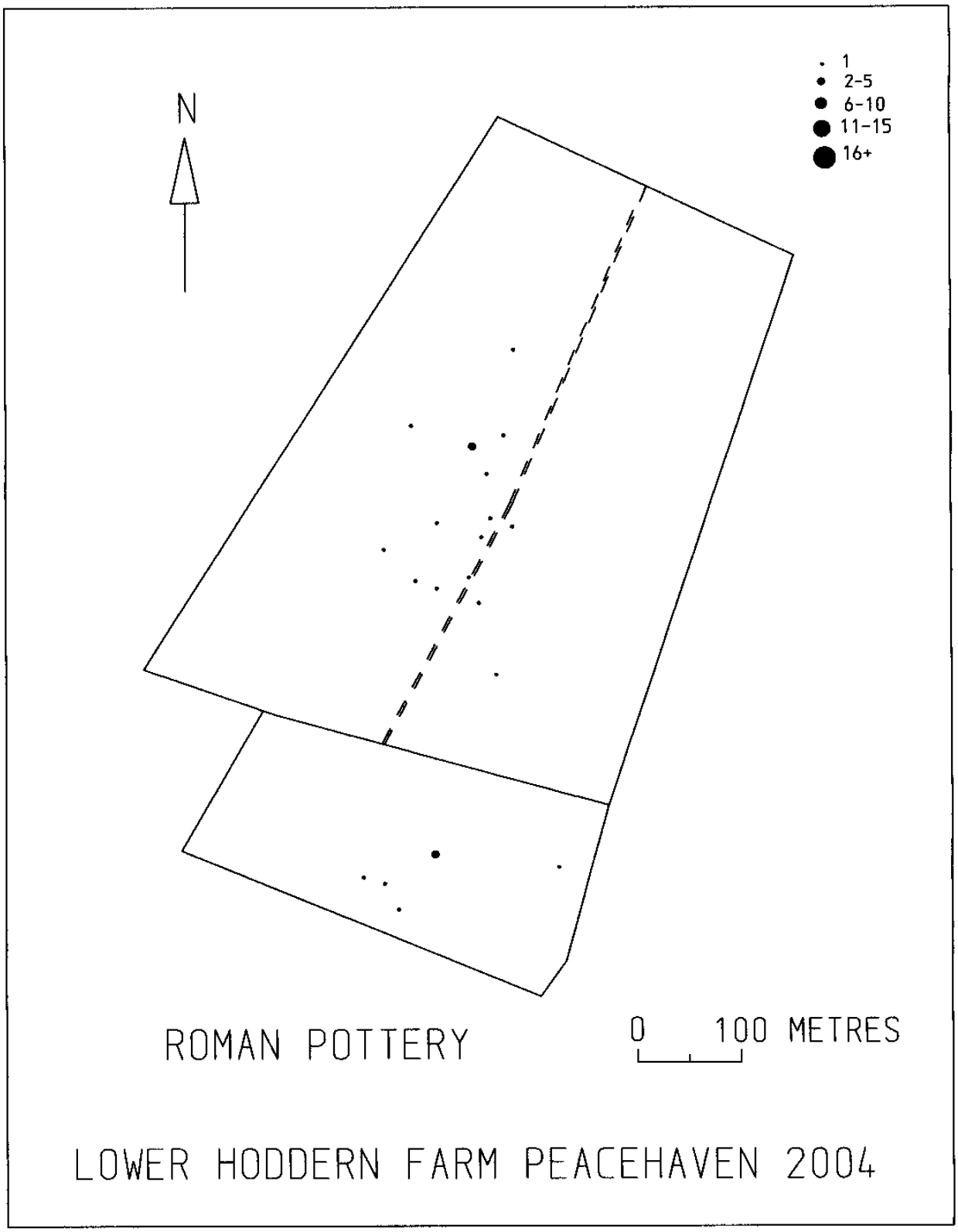
The professional archaeological unit of Archaeology South East subsequently conducted field walking in a field of stubble to the east of the fields by BHAS and also conducted a geophysical survey of both the same field and part of the south field in this project. It appears that the geophysical survey has revealed evidence for some Iron Age enclosures. For further details or information regarding the professional undertaking please contact Archaeology South East based at Ditchling, West Sussex.

John Funnell 7th March 2004


N
1
2-5
6-10
11-15
16+
FLINTWORK
0 100 METRES
LOWER HODDERN FARM PEACEHAVEN 2004


N
1
2-5
6-10
11-15
16+
0 100 METRES
FIRE-CRACKED FLINT
LOWER HODDERN FARM PEACEHAVEN 2004


N
TOOLS
SCRAPER
CORE
NOTCHED FLAKE
BLADE
AXE
PIERCER
AXE
FLINT TOOLS
0 100 METRES
LOWER HODDERN FARM PEACEHAVEN 2004


N
1
2-5
6-10
11-15
16+
ROMAN POTTERY
0 100 METRES
LOWER HODDERN FARM PEACEHAVEN 2004

WOODINGDEAN CEMETERY

Introduction

The lands that lie to the south of the Woodingdean cemetery, and that are scheduled to be part of the cemetery extension, were noted to have a number of subtle earthworks. (TQ350054). The land has been pasture and grassland for some considerable time. A study of the fields to the south of the designated cemetery extension are regularly ploughed and cropped. A study of aerial photographs of this field has noted a number of linear features and other soil marks that may be associated with ancient field systems. A tumuli is noted on the top of the hill to the south named Mount Pleasant, but has subsequently been ploughed away. A small Roman farmstead lies in this ploughed field and has been examined by metal detectorists in the past (pers. comm.) The site of the Roman dwelling is apparently very visible after the field has been ploughed.

The cemetery south field has a number of distinct features including both curved and linear configurations. A large circular feature is the location of a possible road surface believed to be the boundary of a Jewish cemetery, a plan later discarded. A linear feature running across the field from north/west to south/east is probably a lynchet or earlier field boundary. An underground water pipe crosses the field in the south/west section of the field and a number of metalled plates indicate its location. Other features include some very subtle lynchet style linear earthworks and a number of depressions and terrace like incursions into the hillside.

The Surveys

In April and May of 2004 the BHAS geophysics team, under the leadership of Norman Phippard and David Staveley, conducted a resistivity survey of a significant part of the cemetery extension area. A contour survey was also undertaken by Roy Pateman using his total station. Another survey in a number of grid squares examined the metal detecting potential for some sections of the field. The scale of the survey allowed the use of two geophysical machines, an RM15 resistivity meter and a TR Systems machine. The field was set out in a number of 20 metre square grids. The readings were measured in Ohms and the readings were taken at 1 metre intervals.

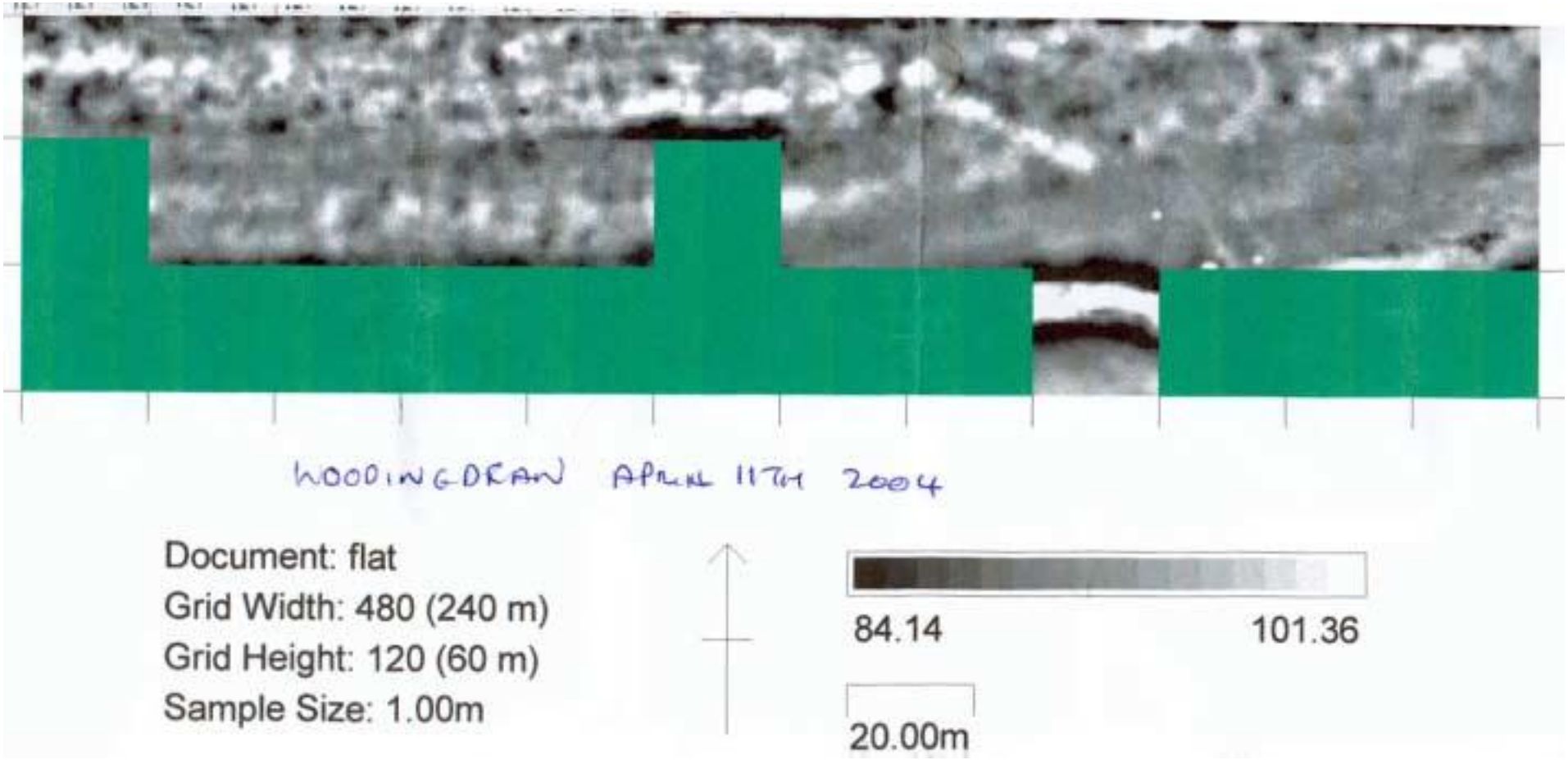
The resistivity survey results and images were produced using David Staveley's 'Snuffler' software. The survey has produced a number of anomalies of both high and low resistance. The boundary road is very well defined as an area of extremely high resistance.

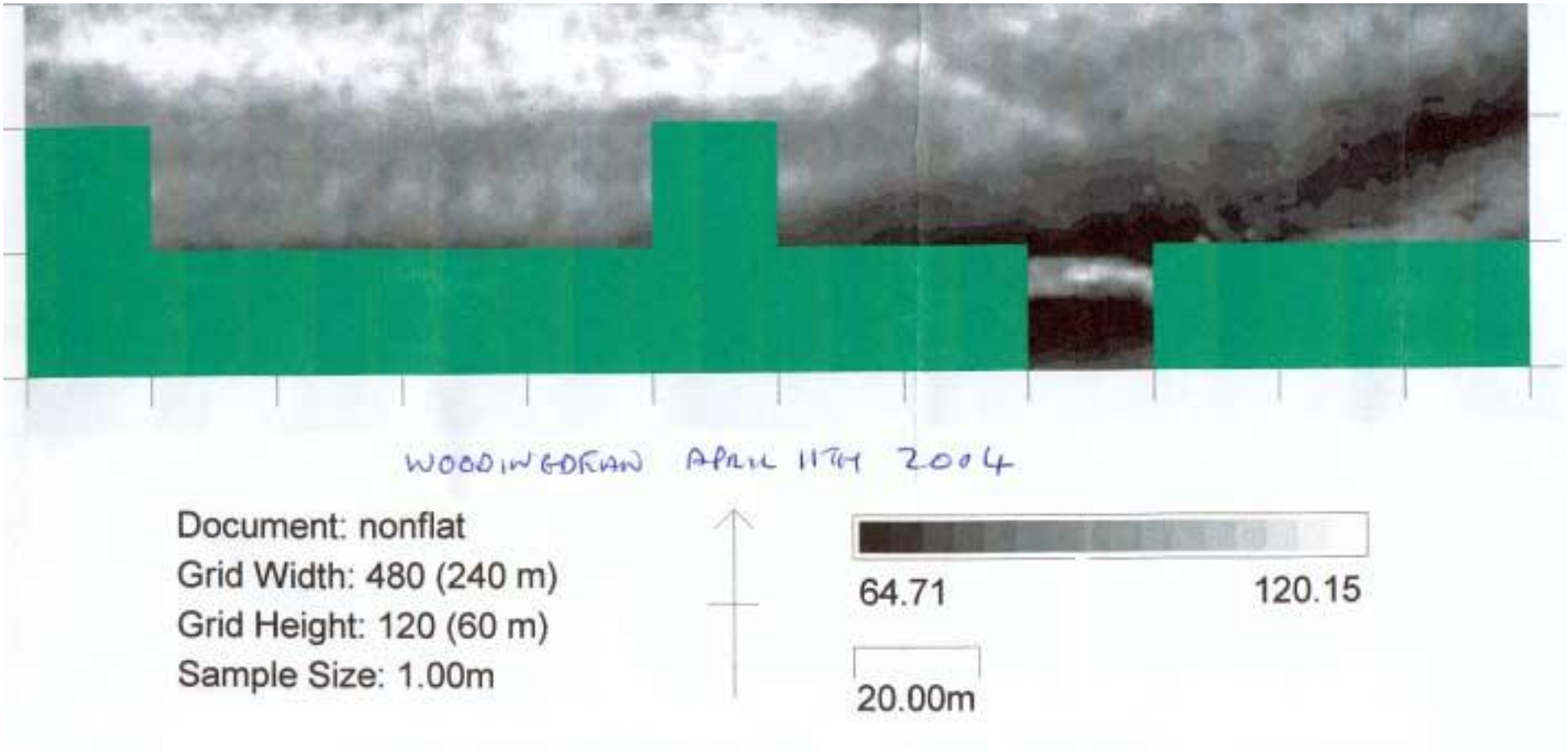
Conclusions

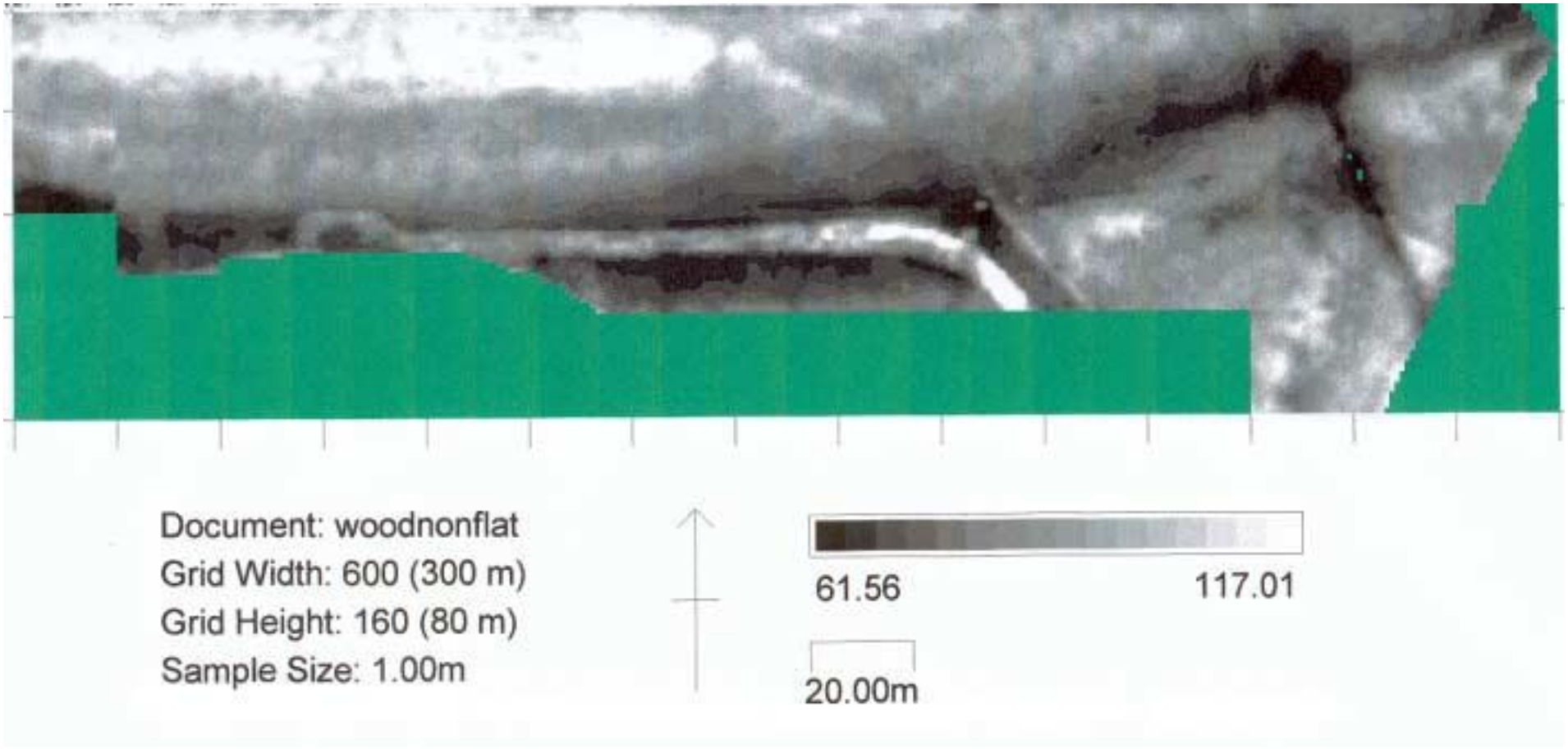
The results are currently being studied with a view to conducting a number of assessment trenches, to determine the nature and dating of the features. The use of the land for a cemetery site means that this project is a rescue operation, any archaeology is likely to be destroyed by the cutting of the new graves. The metal detecting exercise produced a significant number of metal readings and many iron objects probably fence nails, but no incursions were made at this stage into the turf to determine what the readings had identified.

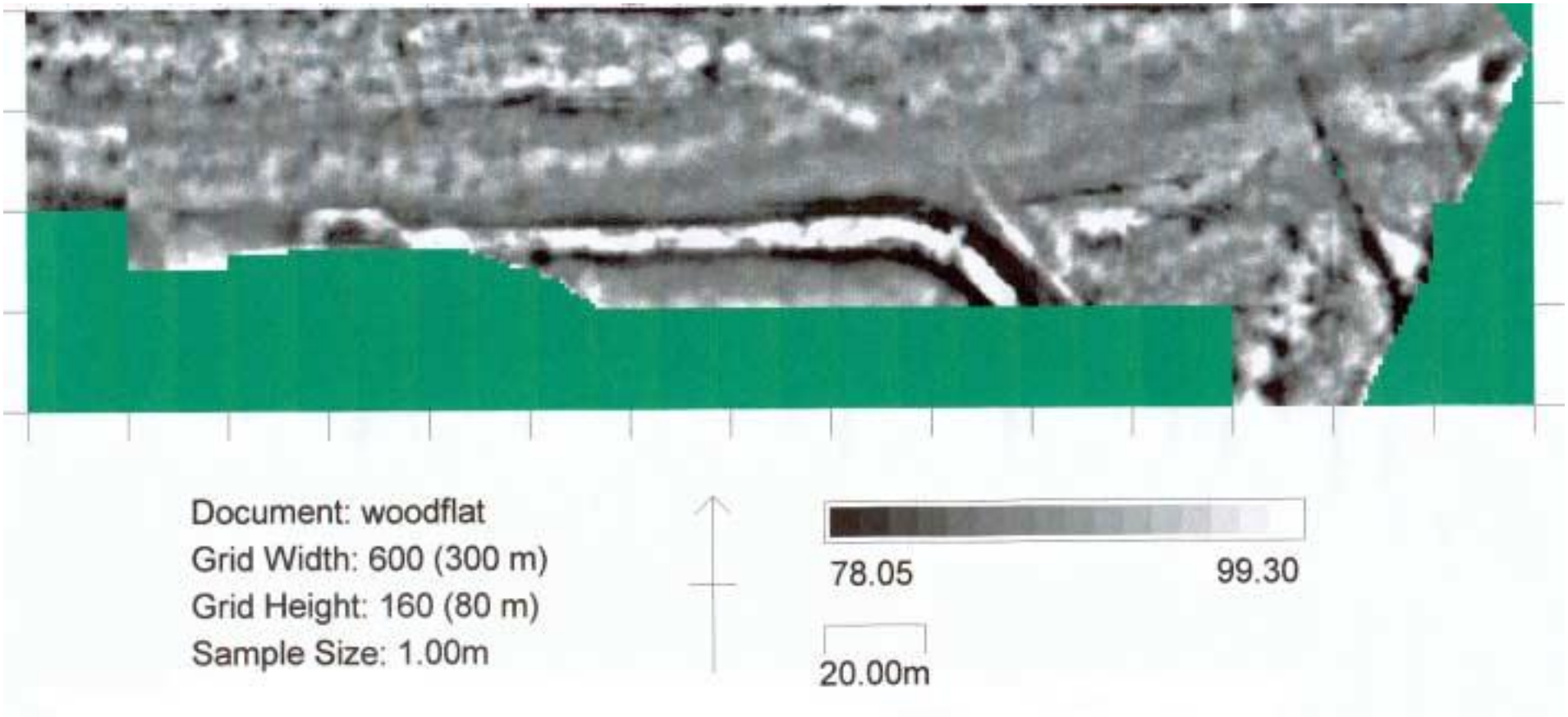
A number of trenches are being planned to investigate the features visible in the landscape and the anomalies found during the resisitivity survey. Norman Phippard will be responsible for the excavations.

John Funnell 22nd May 2004


HOODINGDEAN APRIL 11TH 2004
Document: flat
Grid Width: 480 (240 m)
Grid Height: 120 (60 m)
Sample Size: 1.00m
84.14
101.36
20.00m


WOODINGDEAN APRIL 11TH 2004
Document: nonflat
Grid Width: 480 (240 m)
Grid Height: 120 (60 m)
Sample Size: 1.00m
64.71
120.15
20.00m


Document: woodnonflat
Grid Width: 600 (300 m)
Grid Height: 160 (80 m)
Sample Size: 1.00m
61.56
117.01
20.00m


Document: woodflat
Grid Width: 600 (300 m)
Grid Height: 160 (80 m)
Sample Size: 1.00m
78.05
99.30
20.00m

PERCHINGHILL BARN

Introduction

Perchinghill Barn lies in a small valley to the south of the scarp of the South Downs between Edburton and Fulking. (TQ242103). The actual barn is now derelict. In this valley a number of earthworks are located close to the valley bottom (TQ246103). The earthworks are a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) and it is believed that this is the site of a deserted medieval village. (DMV). To the north of the site, lying on the crest of the scarp, is the site of a Norman motte and bailey castle. The castle is an ancient reminder to the conquered Saxon community that the Normans were now the lords of the county. Until recently the fields surrounding the motte and bailey had been ploughed and significant amounts of medieval pottery had been noted in the plough soil.(Pers comm.. Con Ainsworth).

A trackway running along the west end of the valley containing the earthworks is considered to be an ancient road and part of a Saxon or medieval ‘strip’ parish boundary. It would have been that along this trail that pigs would have been herded into the dark forests of The Weald for foraging and clearing of the scrub and undergrowth.

Below the scarp of the Downs and the motte and bailey castle lies a moated site, with deep ditches and large banks, part of perhaps another medieval landscape. To the west of the moated site is the Norman church of Edburton. The church is believed to have Saxon origins (Wales). The parish of Perching and its associated manor has a much documented history (pers. Comm. K.Edgar) and is currently being studied by a number of students from Sussex University.

The earthworks at Perchinghill Barn consist of a number of raised platforms and incursive cuts, creating terraces cut into the hillside. A flint wall measuring 0.7M in width and in places 1M high with buttresses at a number of locations runs up from the site on the east side and is the east boundary. The wall turns to the west almost at the top of the hill and continues running in a westerly direction just below the crest of the hill. The wall continues for some distance, about 200/300 metres until it terminates. The west end of the wall is built over a large earthwork and it can be observed following the contour of this feature. This earthwork appears to be the perimeter of a much older enclosure.

The Perchinghill Barn earthworks have a number of pits and depressions lying between the various platforms. Some of the incursions appear to be quite of recent creation. In March of 2004 the BHAS geophysical team, under the leadership of David Staveley, conducted a resistivity survey over a significant area of the earthworks. Included in the survey was part of the steep incline facing northwards which was the south extent above the earthworks, before the interior rose even higher to the surrounding wall. The survey was part of a

historical dissertation for Karol Eager, a member of the BHAS team studying at Sussex University.

A small plane tabling contour survey was also carried out as a training exercise for members of the BHAS unit.

The Resistivity Survey

The resistivity survey was set out using 20 metre square grids. The machine used for the survey was an RM15 Geoscan Resistivity Meter. The readings were measured in Ohms and taken at 1 metre intervals. The images were created using ‘Snuffler’ software.

Conclusions

The results of the survey (Fig 1.) clearly indicate that walls and floors lie beneath the surface of the earthworks, particularly within the mounds. Other linear areas of low resistance may indicate the location of ditches. It is not possible to date the features from the geophysical survey alone. The examination of a number of rabbit burrows and badger sets close to the site produced a single sherd of medieval pottery. A few other random finds included flint flakes and fire-cracked flint.

The farmer who once owned the site has mentioned that before the Second World War there were standing buildings on this site. The farmer had planned to renovate and restore the structures, but the land was commandeered for training purposes during the war and the buildings were used for target practice, and as such destroyed.

The earthworks deemed to be a deserted medieval village are quite small in area and the term hamlet is more applicable that village. It is possible that the small platforms may have been localised features containing dwellings for shepherds. It is a very hard and considerable climb from the bottom of the scarp on this part of the South Downs and this secluded valley and it is possible that a small hamlet could constitute a small summer habitat for the herdsmen.

A small examination of the field north of the scarp forming the interior of the moated site at Perching (TQ240114) was carried out after ploughing and sowing. The field produced only a two sherds of medieval pottery and some oyster shell. The moat is still very well defined on the eastwards side despite being partially filled in. The south side is considered to run parallel to the lane that runs from Edburton to Fulking, while the north boundary consist of a substantial bank and drop to the Wealden bottom.

It is difficult to consider this as being a typical medieval moated site as the moats would have to have been ‘dry’ features. There is a spring and stream

lower down the slope and further northwards and this would have been a much more viable location for such a site.

The field to the north west of Edburton Church is also deemed to have significant earthworks noted in the past. (Pers Comm.K.Edgar) but a small search found very little evidence for the features.

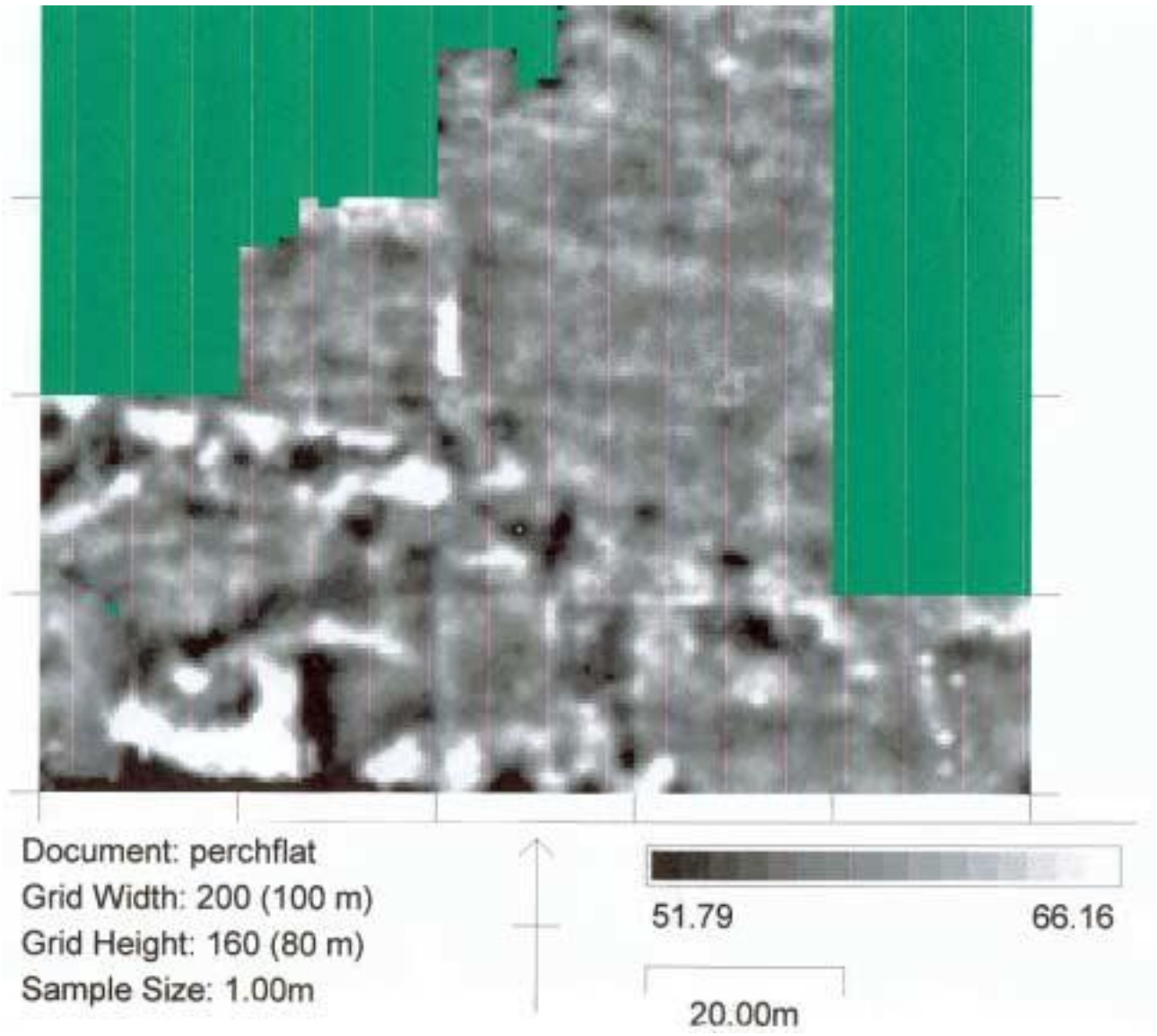
The small survey and tentative investigations at Perching and Perchinghigh Barn indicate that while a large amount of research has already been undertaken much more needs to addressed to understand the complexity of finds and features from this area. The resistivity survey has been very useful in identifying anomalies and possible buildings but only excavation will reveal the true and accurate dating of the features. The moated site at Perching would benefit from further investigation using both field walking and geophysics to identify possible concentrations and areas of interest that would justify further intense examination.

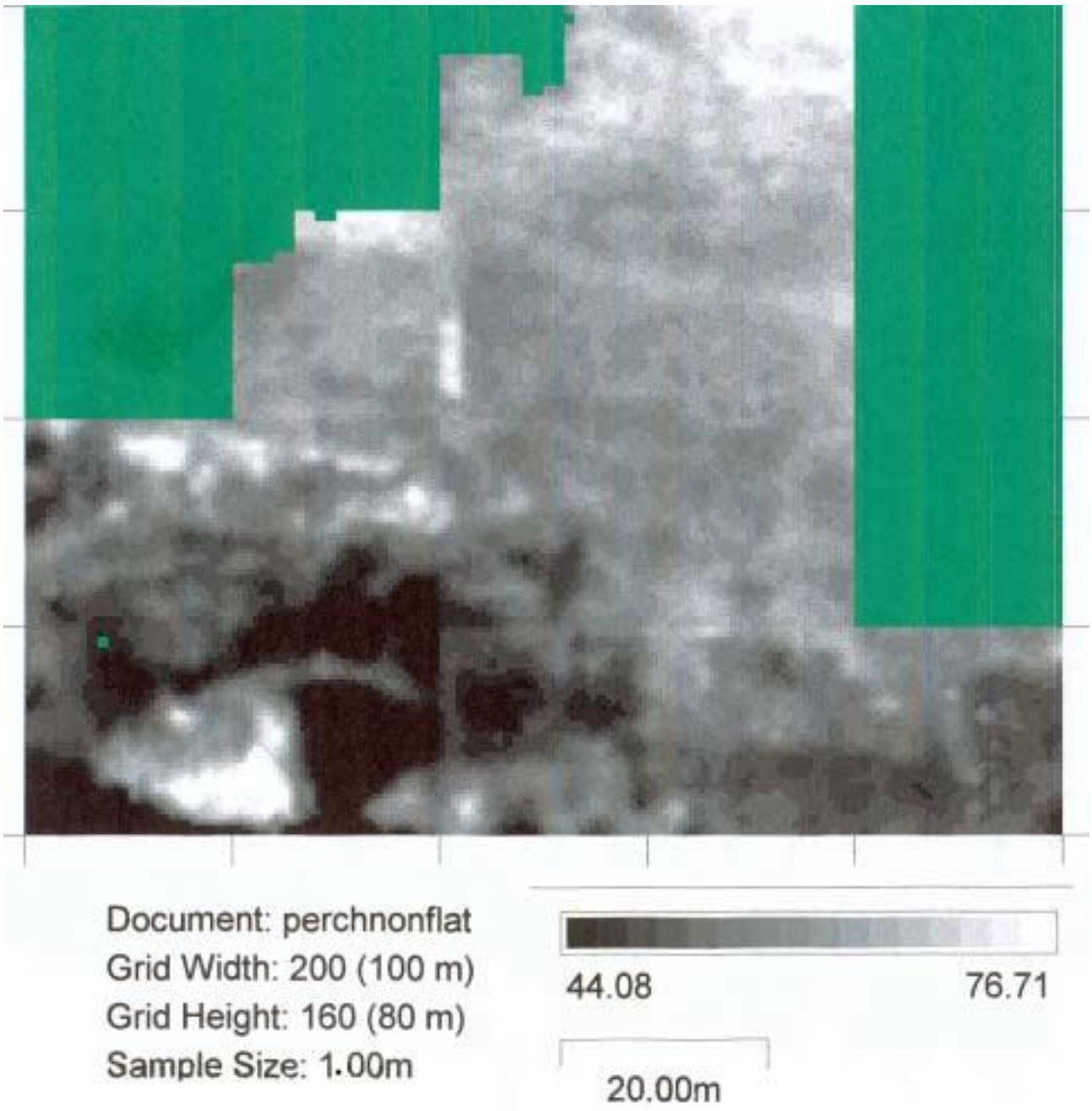
The dissertation written by Karol Eager has not been made available for appending to this report. It may be possible that further information can be gained from Sussex University.

References:-

Wales T. 1999 ‘The West Sussex Village Book’ Countryside Books, Berkshire

John Funnell 22nd May 2004


Document: perchflat
Grid Width: 200 (100 m)
Grid Height: 160 (80 m)
Sample Size: 1.00m
51.79
66.16
20.00m


Document: perchnonflat
Grid Width: 200 (100 m)
Grid Height: 160 (80 m)
Sample Size: 1.00m
44.08
76.71
20.00m

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY AT CATTLE HILL, OVINGDEAN

Introduction

Cattle Hill has been the subject of a major investigation over a number of seasons. Field walking of the fields along the south coast road and to the east of the Roedean School have produced finds of artefacts dating from the Neolithic through to the medieval periods. The latter probably being associated with the manorial house and complex recorded north of St Wulfrans church.

The new geophysical survey is part of an ongoing investigation to try and seek out the location of a major site from the Roman period. The quantities of pottery from both Iron Age and Roman times plus knowledge that metal detectorists during the 1970's and 1980'e gleaned hundreds of Roman coins from these field is indicative of a very important site along the south coast.

A previous geophysical survey was conducted in 2000 close to the west boundary of the field(Funnell 2002).The survey produced no archaeological or geological anomalies at all. The new survey is concentrated in an area to the east of the original survey, and on a similar elevation in the field, where Roman pottery has one of the larger areas of concentration. The area surveyed also included a distinct 'lynchet' feature running east to west, which drops down towards the sea and is hoped to be a possible site boundary (Fig.1).

Methodology

The area was set out using 20 metre square grids with the location recorded in the field being (TQ35500310). A total of 11 squares were surveyed encompassing 4400 square metres.

The machine used was a TR Systems Resistivity Machine. The measurements were in Ohms and readings taken at 1 metre intervals. The weather had been predominantly dry during the previous weeks.

Conclusions

The results from the new resistivity survey were once again very disappointing with very little in the way of either archaeological potential or geological deposits being noted (Fig.2). However, during the surveying those members of the team working the end lines collected nearly 2 complete bags of Roman and Iron Age pottery from among the field stubble.

One of the geophysical team is a metal detectorist and he has suggested that future surveys ought to be conducted in the east section of the field where the majority of coins finds had been recovered in the 1970's.This area is well away from where the pottery concentrations have been found. A structure has been noted, from aerial photographs, in the north east section of this field by past Assistant County Archaeologist Paul Smith, but the rectangular building

appears to be more modern that Roman. The location of the building seen from the air, however, does not produce any building rubble when ploughed, which is unusual.

The surveying project will continue at Ovingdean once the new crop has been removed. However, team leader David Staveley firmly believes that any Roman features associated with this field may have already been destroyed by ploughing .

John Funnell 13th October 2004

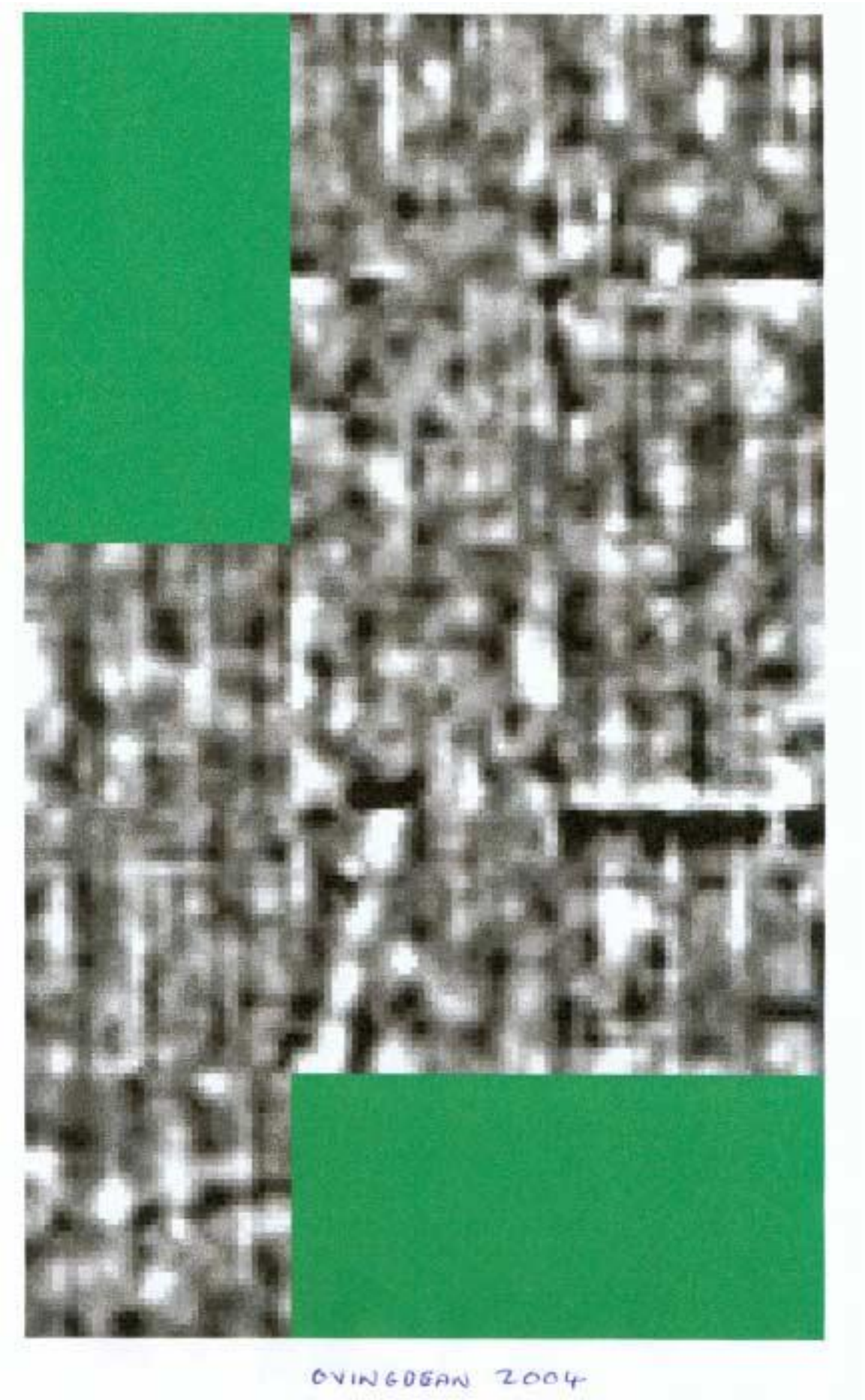


Figure 1

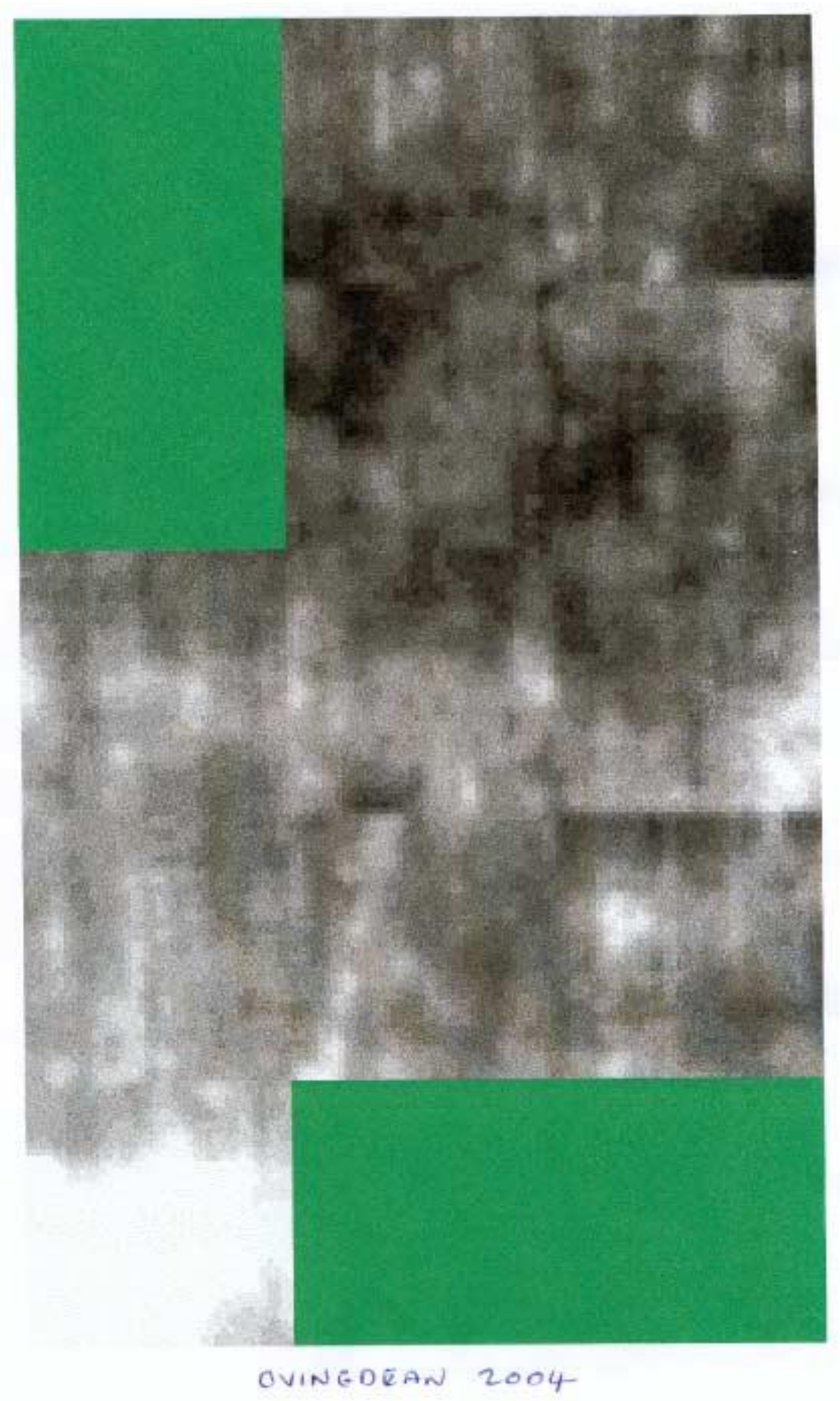


Figure 2

MILLBANK WOOD SURVEYING 2004

Introduction

In 1995 a group from Northampton noted earthworks in Millbank Wood, Stanmer and reported to the County Archaeologist Dr Andrew Woodcock that the hill may the location of previously unknown Iron Age hill-fort. (TQ33901050). In 1996 the BHAS Field unit visited Millbank Wood to examine the earthworks.

The earthworks consist of a large plateau with a ditch to the south west. The east side of this plateau has a drop onto a track way. The drop is variable in nature being both gradual and steep in places. There is no sign of a ditch on either the east or north sides of the plateau. The southern edge of the plateau becomes an open paddock containing a circular feature, noted in the 1995 sketch. The mound may be the location of a possible tumuli or barrow. However, it is known that bombs fell in this paddock during the Second World War and were subsequently filled in again, so that the feature could prove to be of recent construction.

A flint ‘metalled’ road is known to be in the south east of Millbank Wood (TQ34201025) running down the hill in the direction of Falmer village. (pers. Comm. Jim Driver). The metalled road, although now covered by grass, has a distinct agger on both sides.

Heather Warne has produced a study of Stanmer focused around 1608 which mentions that a windmill had been recently erected, presumably at Millbank, but the miller appears to have lived in the village (Warne).

Contour Surveying Methodology

The surveying began in March 2004 and consisted of a number of projects and training exercises. The main survey concentrated on a contour survey of the major features in the north/west section of the wood. The methods included the use of tapes and dumpy levels to produce a number of section drawings, as well as producing an informative plan of this area. A small plane tabling exercise was conducted as a training exercise for members of the BHAS Field Unit. A geophysical survey was conducted within the wooded area on a section of the plateau adjacent to the ditches (Grid 4) and also within the wood further north (Grid 3), also surveyed were a depression noted close to the paddock boundary in the south east (Grid 2) and an area to the south east of the large mound or tumuli in the paddock (Grid 1). The geophysics team returned to Millbank Wood in May and conducted a major survey within the paddock to the south east of Millbank Wood. Recent ground disturbance of illegal motor-cross bunding and ramps, secreted within the woods, were also examined. A major survey was also conducted using a total station.

A base line was set up along the lane in the south east section of Millbank Wood. The base line was divided into points at 20 metre distances. Sections were plotted from the edge of the lane across the ditch and incline that led up to the plateau. The measurements were taken at 1 metre intervals.

Methodology of the Resisivity Surveying

The surveying consisted on 4 single grids measuring 20 metres by 20 metres. The machine used was a TR Systems Resistivity Meter. The measurements were recorded in Ohms and taken at 1 metre intervals. The images produced were processed using 'Snuffler' software. The initial survey examined areas within the woods while the later survey in May 2004 surveyed 18.25 grids measuring 20 metres by 20 Metres covered a large extent of the paddock field and incorporated an investigation into the possible barrow feature.

Conclusions

The survey of the earthworks shows quite conclusively that this part of Millbank Wood is not an Iron Age hill-fort. The ditches are concentrated in the north/west section of the wood and are less distinct as they move south eastwards. There is no sign of an associated bank along the peak of the plateau, which is relatively flat and even over the whole surface. The geophysical survey on the plateau produced no anomalies of any significance and no evidence for any archaeological activity. However, the single grid surveyed close to the edge of the paddock boundary, and within the wood has produced very high readings and possible indicators of a floor or structure. The major resistivity survey within the paddock area has produced a number of linear and circular anomalies which tend to indicate the location of a number of features of archaeological interest. A circular feature may indeed prove to be the location of the mill from Millbank.(Figs 1, 2, & 3).

The drawings of the contour survey and resistivity survey locations have been produced (Fig.4) However, it unlikely now that the results from the total station recording are ever likely to be produced.

The paddock is covered by numerous mole hills. An examination of many of these earth mounds produce not a single item of archaeological interest, and consisted of very light soft brown soil. An examination of the illegal bunding in the woods produced a single sherd of Roman grey ware pottery.

The geophysical surveys do stress that some form of intense activity has been undertaken at Millbank Wood at some in the past. However, the ditch deemed initially to be the defensive depths of a hill-fort are more than likely to be ancient track way, and the metalled track on the steep sided hill would allow greater traction for vehicles ascending or descending the hill. It is possible that Millbank Wood was indeed the location of a Tudor mill, and that the earthworks are the avenues leading to the mill. It should be noted that Lawrence Stevens,

an authority on mills, is concerned that there are so few finds of millstones and grinding stones and associated buildings.

A historical search conducted at the East Sussex Office has been conducted by Carol White and is appended to this report.

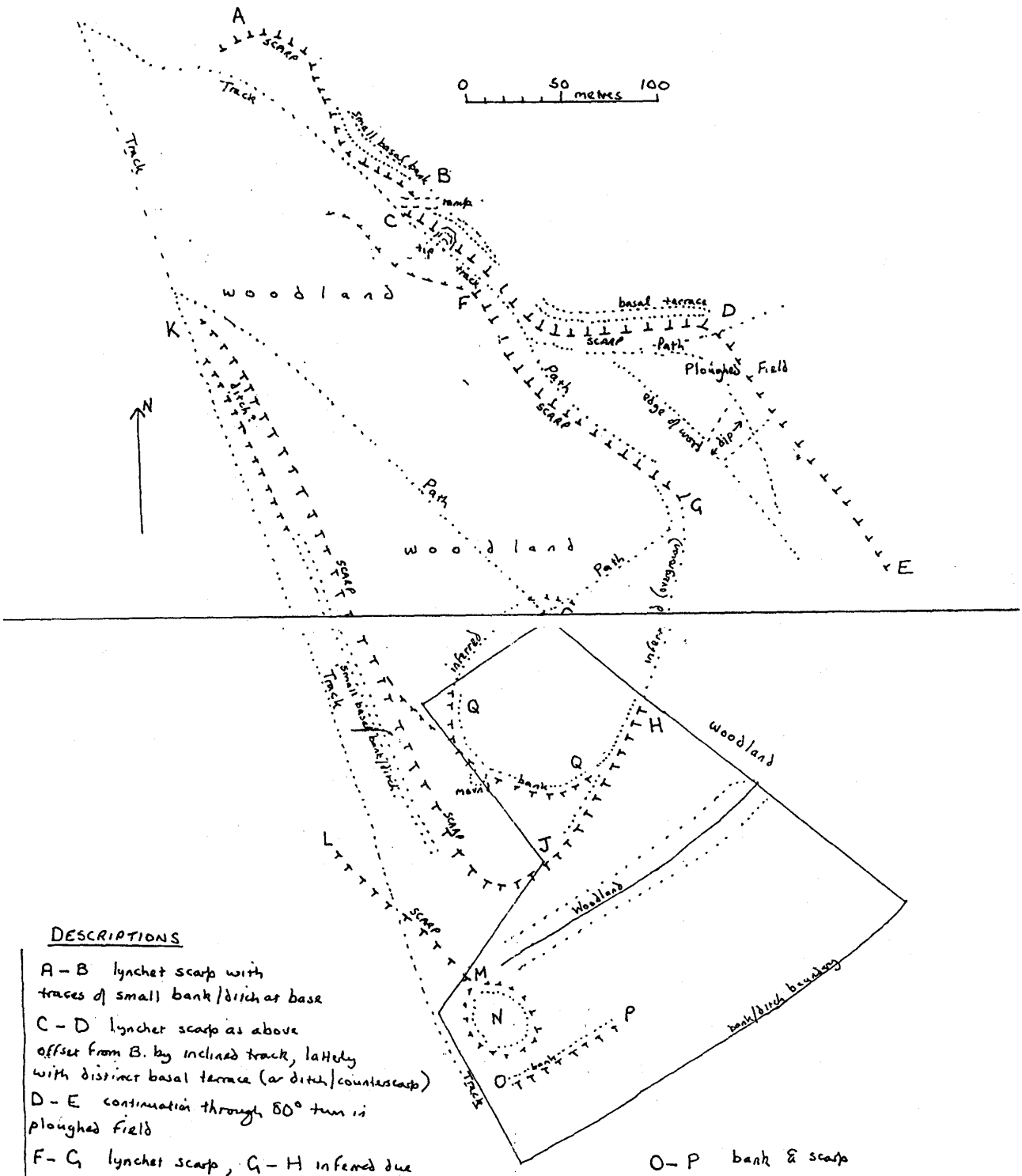
The surveys conducted in Millbank Wood are initial research projects and have produced some very interesting results. Further investigations are planned for this area including further surveying. A brief for some form of excavation is being planned to investigate a number of the anomalies found during the surveying in an attempt to produce a more detailed record and date for the features found.

References:-

Warne H. 1989 ‘Stanmer: A Restructured Settlement’ Suss. Arch. Colls. 127, 189-210

John Funnell 6th June 2004

MILLBANK WOOD centred TQ 339 104. EARTHWORKS



DESCRIPTIONS

A – B lynchet scarp with traces of small bank/ditch at base

C – D lynchet scarp as above offset from B. by inclined track, laterally with distinct basal terrace (or ditch/counterscarp)

D – E continuation through 80° turn in ploughed field

F – G lynchet scarp, G – H inferred due to undergrowth.

H – J scarp with traces of bank on crest

J – K lynchet scarp with significant ditch/counterscarp bank towards K, fading to small bank ditch towards J.

L – M scarp

N oval enclosure

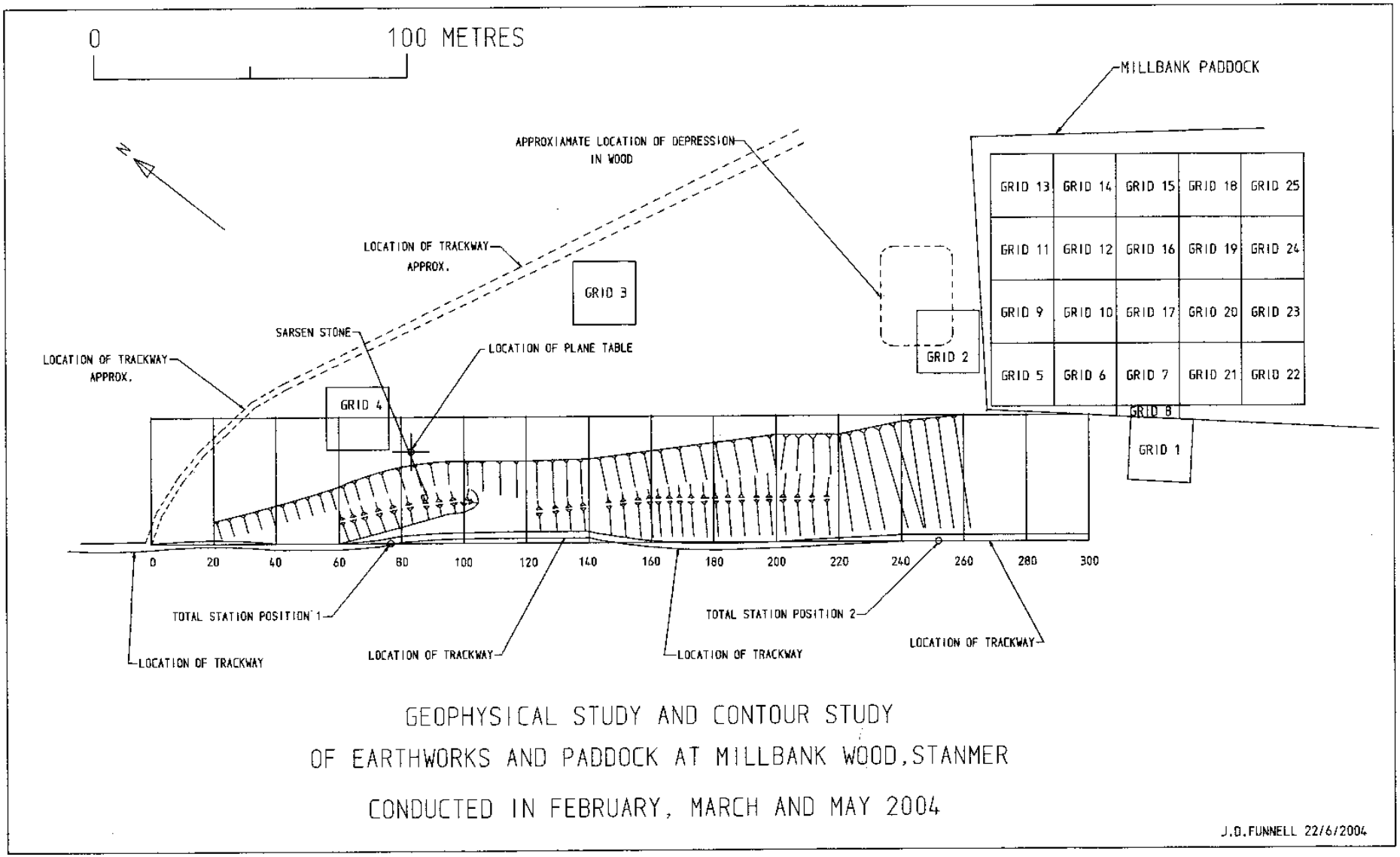
O – P bank & scarp

Q – Q sub circular enclosure formed by low bank/scarp merging with H, J, K

SKETCH MADE BY NORTHAMPTON GROUP.

Thomas C Welsh

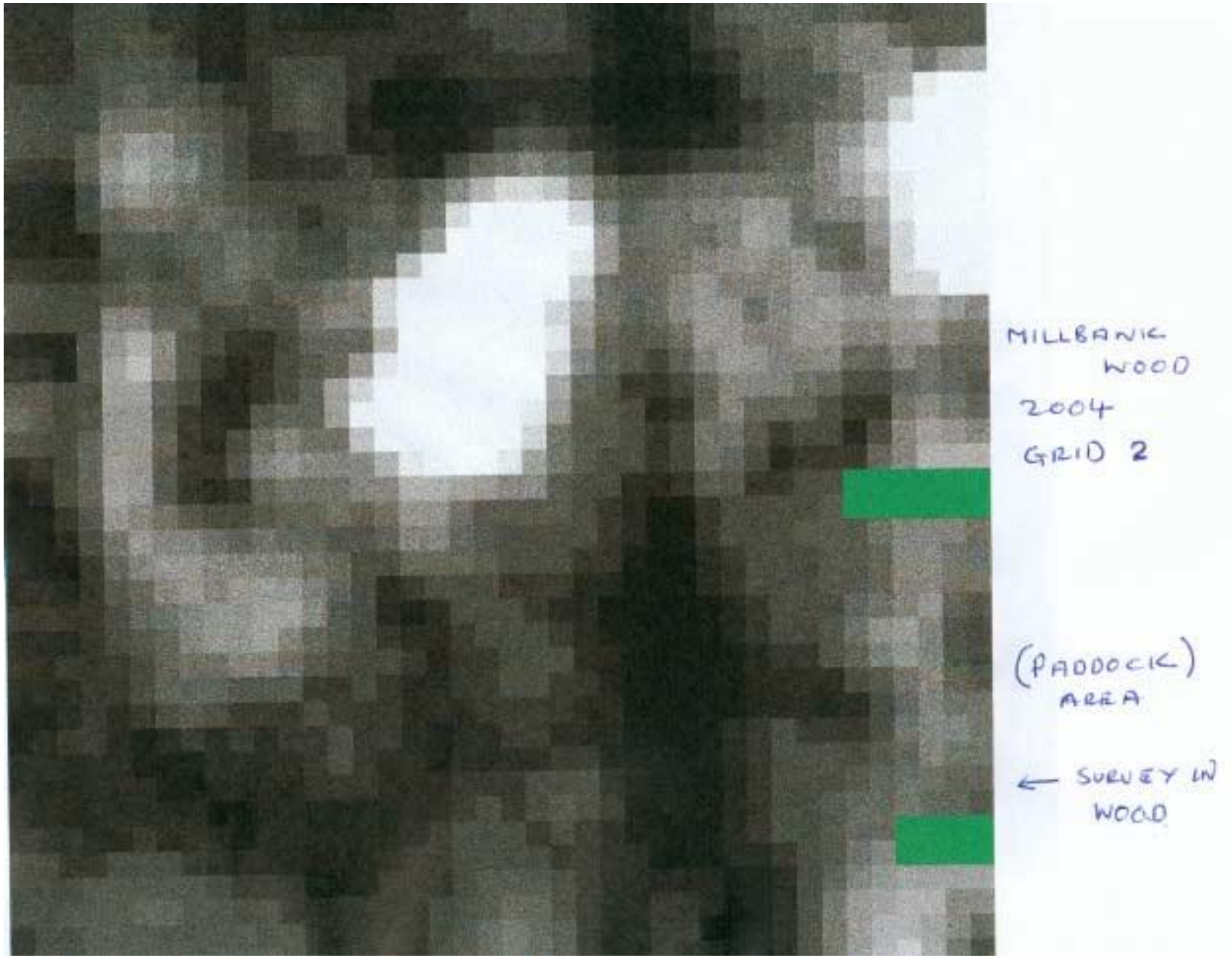
DR THOMAS C WELSH
22nd September 1995.

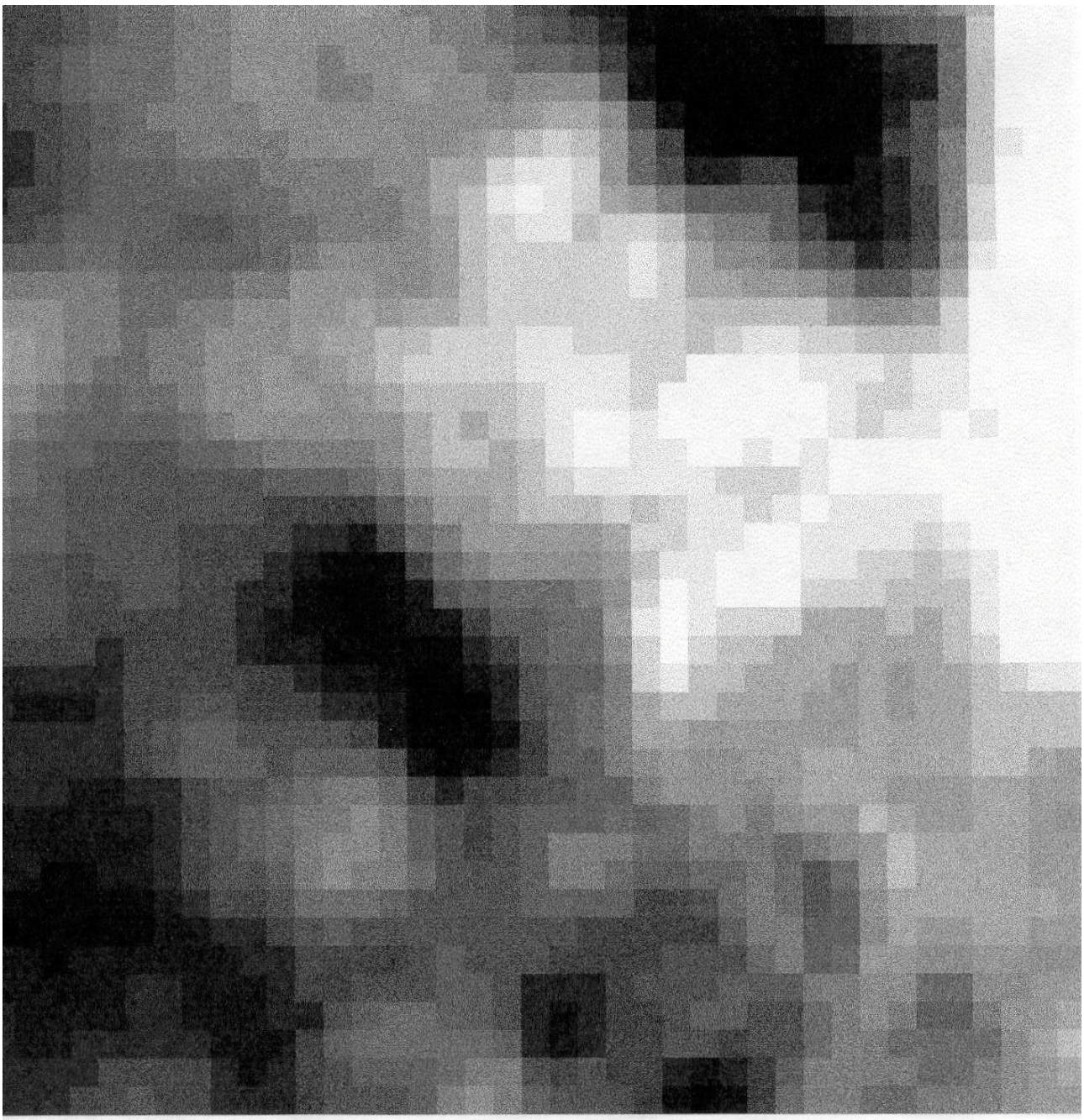


GEOPHYSICAL STUDY AND CONTOUR STUDY
OF EARTHWORKS AND PADDOCK AT MILLBANK WOOD, STANMER
CONDUCTED IN FEBRUARY, MARCH AND MAY 2004

J.D.FUNNELL 22/6/2004

MILLBANK
WOOD
2004
GR 10 1

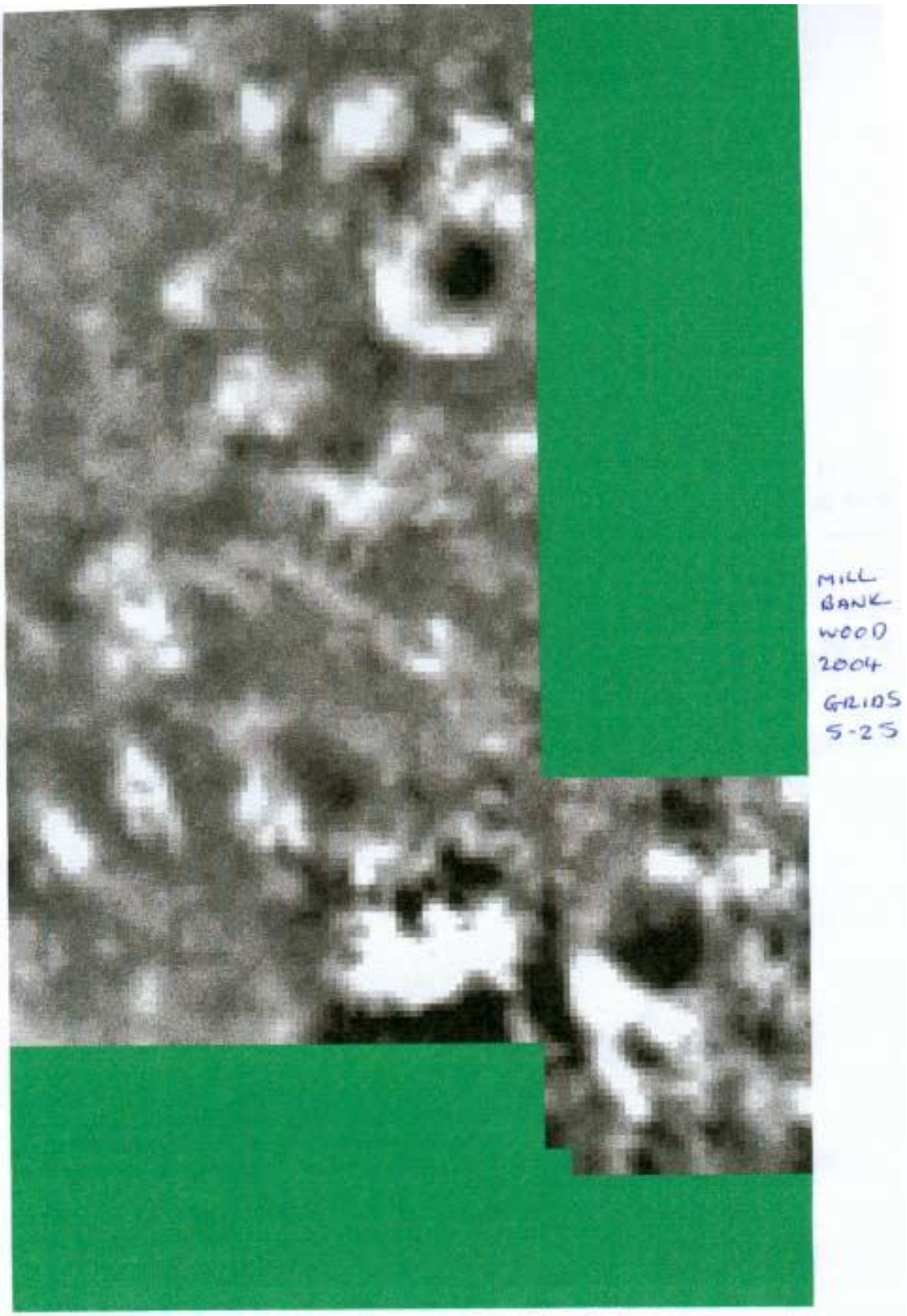

MILLBANK
WOOD
2004
GRID 2
(PADDOCK)
AREA
← SURVEY IN
WOOD

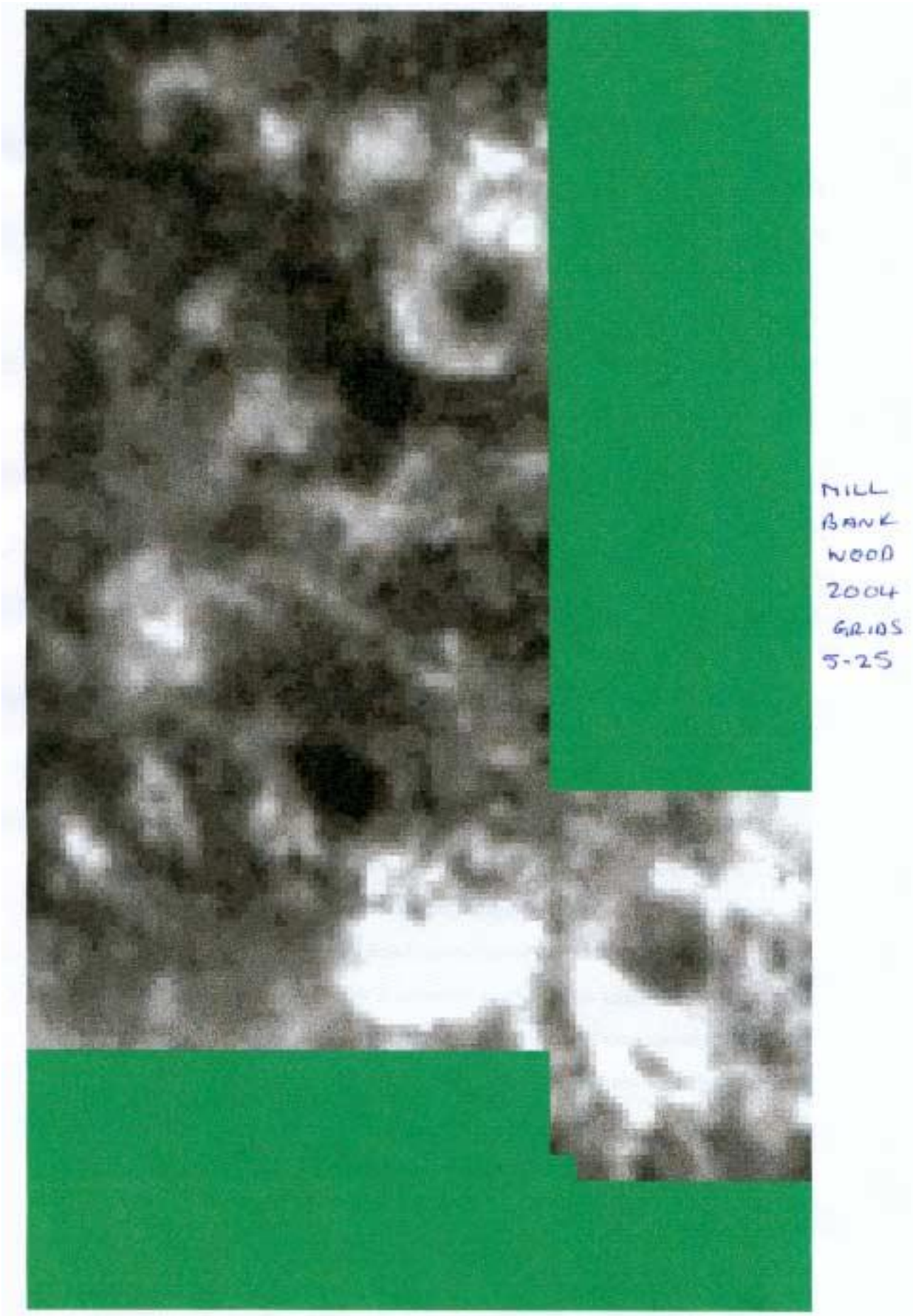


MILLBANK WOOD 2004

GRID 3

MILLBANK WOOD 2004
GRID 4


MILL
BANK
WOOD
2004
GRIDS
5-25


MILL
BANK
WOOD
2004
GRIDS
5-25

Research through Historical Documents

The main area of investigation in the last year or so has been Millbank Wood and our search for the site of the Mill. It is mentioned in Heather Warne's paper "Stanmer: A restructured settlement" published in SAC 127, 1989, p. 189-210), that a Survey was undertaken in 1608 by Thomas Marshall, Surveyor of the King's Possessions, in order to assess with accuracy the Crown assets at Stanmer. Unfortunately for us, this was a written survey with no map. It is kept in the Public Record Office in Kew.

The area known as Mill Banks, today's Millbank Wood, was recorded in 1839 at the time of the Tithe survey. To quote Heather "this name refers back to the windmill which the 1608 survey tells us was erected on land allocated out of Chisselden Laine. The former mill thus indicates the general area of Chisselden Laine.". It is therefore highly probable that the land recorded as Mill Banks refers to the site of a mill.

In Table 1 of this survey, Henry Lucas is listed as being the tenant of 3 acres in Chisselden Laine and 2 acres in Middle Laine, with 9 sheep on the down and one beast in pasture together with a house and barn. At that time a barn could be anything from a large barn, to a shed or a granary store set on staddle stones. It is likely if located near to the mill that it was the latter. He is listed in table 5, a list of cottagers, as having two acres of arable land and a croft., which is a piece of enclosed ground for tillage or pasture, usually an arable area near a house, of one rood, roughly a quarter of an acre. Strangely, a cottager is interpreted as a house with no arable land and no pasturage rights. Therefore on the face of it there would appear to be some anomalies in the 1608 Survey. In Table 2 of the Survey, which is the Parish Register Information re: 1608 landholders, Henry Lucas is listed as having a Windmill only and a house.

I attended the East Sussex Records Office in an attempt to discover more about Henry Lucas. Both he and his wife are listed in the burial register for Stanmer as having died in 1616. From other sources it was found that the predominant illnesses in this country in 1616 were typhus and typhoid. Intriguingly, no other persons by the name of Lucas were listed in the Birth, Marriage or Burial Registers for Stanmer.

I then checked the lists of Wills and Inventories held at ESRO. There listed was a Will (these are mostly on microfiche or microfilm) for a John Webb, Miller of Stanmer which was made in 1622. I looked at the Will on the viewer and decided it would easier to obtain a copy of the Will and try and transcribe it at home. Although it is written in English, the hand is somewhat untidy. I have not completely transcribed this Will to date, but it would appear that the Mill was left to his Son.

There appears to be a family link to Falmer, this is mentioned in the Will. This needs to be investigated further and it may well be that the Mill we are looking

for was at some time after December 1631 (John Webb, Junior's date of death) moved and relocated to Falmer.

I then extracted the following entries from the Stanmer Parish Register relating to the family Webb, this are listed below:-

Meeching (Modern Newhaven, East Sussex)

As it can be glimpsed above, research through original historical documents and records is a very rewarding, although sometimes frustrating, pastime. I am at present researching medieval Meeching, something that has never, to date, been published. There are very few Manorial documents dating before 1600 (I know of only three, all of which I have copies) and these are in Latin. However, the information that is coming to light from the 1342 (the earliest of the three) Halmot Roll is, to say the least, fascinating.

Carol White BHAS Field Unit

Extracts From Stanmer Parish Register

These extracts relate purely to the surname of Webb in the light of the previously discovered Will of a John Webb, Miller of Stanmer.

BURIALS

1631	
May 6th	Mary, daughter of John and Katherine
Dec 5th	Elizabeth, daughter of John & Katherine (Elizabeth baptised 7.3.1624)
Dec 24th	John Webb
1632	
January 9th	Alice, daughter of Katherine, Widow
1633	
May 13th	Elizabeth, daughter of James and Elizabeth
1641	
January 11th	Elizabeth, wife of James

MARRIAGES

1621	
April 3rd	William JURDEN to Ann WEBB
1630	James, Son of Mary, Widow of Falmer to Elizabeth Jurden, daughter of Margery, Widow.

BAPTISMS

1629	
August 9th	Richard, son of John & Katherine
1634	
October 5th	James, Son of James & Elizabeth
1643	
February 19th	Matthew, Son of James and Ann
1644	
September 8th	Edward, Son of James and Ann
1648	
August 3rd	John, Son of James and Ann

Falmer Registers

Edward Webb, Churchwarden at Falmer c. 1639; three daughters, Anne, Mary and Marie – connection?

Robert Edwards, Miller – died 1611 – Only Miller listed.

Webb (Falmer) b. 1660 (Husbandman or Yeoman) – No “Webb” before this date.

A PIT AT SELHAM CLOSE, COLDEAN, BRIGHTON

In early May of 2004 Mr John Ridge of 24 Selham Ridge found a pit while digging in his garden. Most of his garden is covered by only a few centimetres of chalky loam and is then virgin chalk. However, while digging in the north east corner of his garden, he found that a large pit had been created. He excavated the pit down to a depth of 1.5 metres and found a large collection of horse shoe shaped hob-nailed boot remnants, as well as garden mower parts and other iron objects. The garden is next to the Coldean church of St Mary Magdalene, which had previously been part of a farm complex, prior to the construction of the Coldean estate. Mr David West the local farmer, who had lived in this farm as a boy, was approached for possible information about the pit but could not reveal any reason for the pit being in that location.

LOOM WEIGHT FROM VARLEY HALLS

Mr Ridge had visited the excavations at Varley Halls when that had been in progress. After the professional unit had completed their excavations Mr Ridge once again visited the site and found, during his perambulations over the exposed chalk, what he thought to be a possible fossil. An examination of the item found it to be a baked clay loom weight. Mr Ridge has the item in his collection of artefacts.

John Funnell 21st May 2004

WATCHING BRIEF AT 19 STANMER VILLAGE, BRIGHTON, BN1 9PZ

OS Ref, Pathfinder 1307-TQ 20/30 337097
Tuesday 20th April 2004

REF BH2003/02529/FP

Following upon the decision to construct an extension to the rear of the above address, contractors, using a small excavator, opened a 1m wide 'L' shaped trench approx 1.2m deep to contain wall foundations. During the course of this work they uncovered at a depth of approx. 1M a sizeable "sandstone" water worn boulder – 360mm x 360mm x 230mm (14" x 14" x 9") adjacent to a cut chalk block – 410mm x 360mm x 230mm (16" x 14" x 9"), both appeared to be set in a sandy decaying mortar, with a mortar joint between them, and a similar layer of mortar above them, and were oriented West to East. The two "stones" were embedded in the North side of the trench having been grazed by the excavator but left in place revealing their sides.

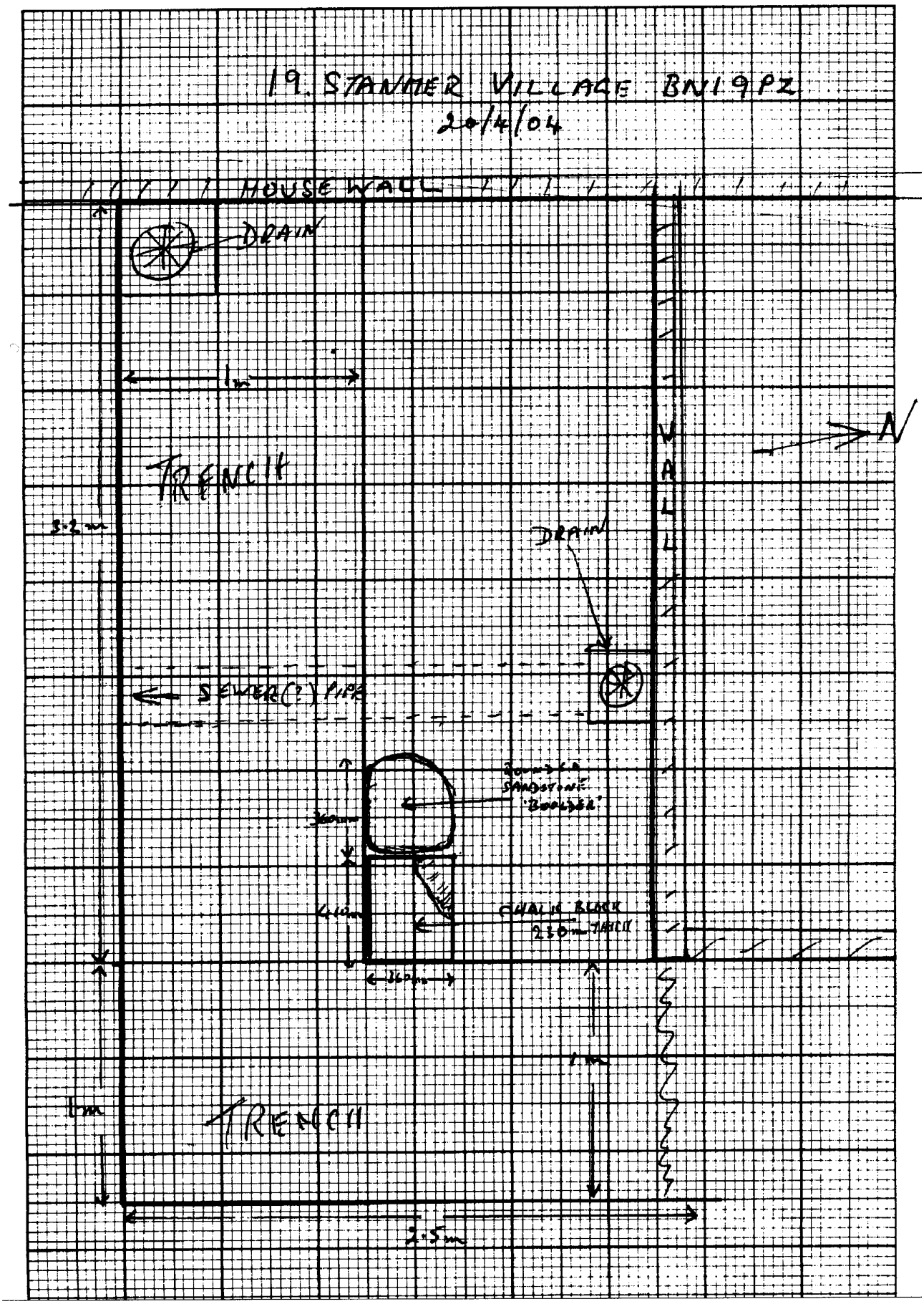
After obtaining contractors consent the tops of both and the East end of the chalk block were trowelled free of covering soil, allowing measurements and photographs to be taken.

The East end of the chalk block very clearly shows grooves cut when it was formed, and there may have been mortar here.

The North-West corner of the top of the chalk block has a concave shape, sloping to the rear, without more extensive digging to extract the entire block it was not possible to determine whether natural or cut.

In the writers opinion these two objects formed part of an early wall foundation, the rest of which has been disturbed by the passage of a modern soil (sewage?) pipe, laid when the present house was built by L.A. in 1950's.

W.Santer


19. STANMER VILLAGE BN1 9PZ
20/4/04
HOUSE WALL
DRAIN
1m
TRENCH
3·2m
WALL
DRAIN
SEWER(?) PIPE
SANDSTONE BOULDER
CAVITY BLOCK
TRENCH
1m
2·5m

WATCHING BRIEF :- EAST BRIGHTON GOLF CLUB

PLANNING APPLICATION No:- BH/2004/01186

ADDRESS:- EAST BRIGHTON GOLF CLUB

PLANNING OFFICER:- Ms MARY CLAY

NAME OF APPLICANT:- MR ADRIAN HEWITTSON

DATE OF FIRST CONTACT FROM LANDOWNER:- 8TH SEPTEMBER 2004

DATE OF WATCHING BRIEF:- 11TH SEPTEMBER 2004

OFFICER CONDUCTING WATCHING BRIEF:- MR W.SANTER

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

Ref OS Pathfinder 1307 TQ 20/30 347052

The building development fit into an area 6m x 4m and will be served by a septic tank 3m x 3m x 3m dug 7m to the West. The building is located on a landscaped platform, which was originally a bunker formed many years earlier, and was made redundant due to a change in the course layout. It seems that landscaping was carried out by depositing chalk on existing downland turf, which was revealed in the stratigraphy of the foundation trenches excavated.

A metal detecting survey was carried out prior to the commencement of works and produced finds of aluminium ring-pulls and a 1945 farthing.

The turf was stripped from the area and then a foundation trench was cut around the perimeter, down to natural chalk or 1metre whichever came first. In the course of this operation a cut measuring approx. 500mmm wide and 600mm deep, and which was filled with flint nodules, appeared in the West wall of the trench. This proved to be a land drain running from west to east across the site, which traversed both areas, and was a very distinct feature. Trowelling and cleaning the edge of this feature, to enhance photography, produced a solitary rim-sherd of East Sussex Ware pottery, located on top of the flint nodules. The sherd is almost certainly a stray piece deposited when the drain ditch was constructed. Interestingly the trench excavation encountered natural chalk at an average depth of around 1metre, whereas the septic tank some 7-10 metres to the West found hill wash down to the 3m level, and continued down to an undefined depth.

The sides of the trenches revealed a layer of broken, compacted chalk overlying a deeper soil horizon which had a dark line on top. This layer is

interpreted as being decayed turf from the original down land, under the layer of deposited chalk sitting on top of natural chalk.

Conclusion.

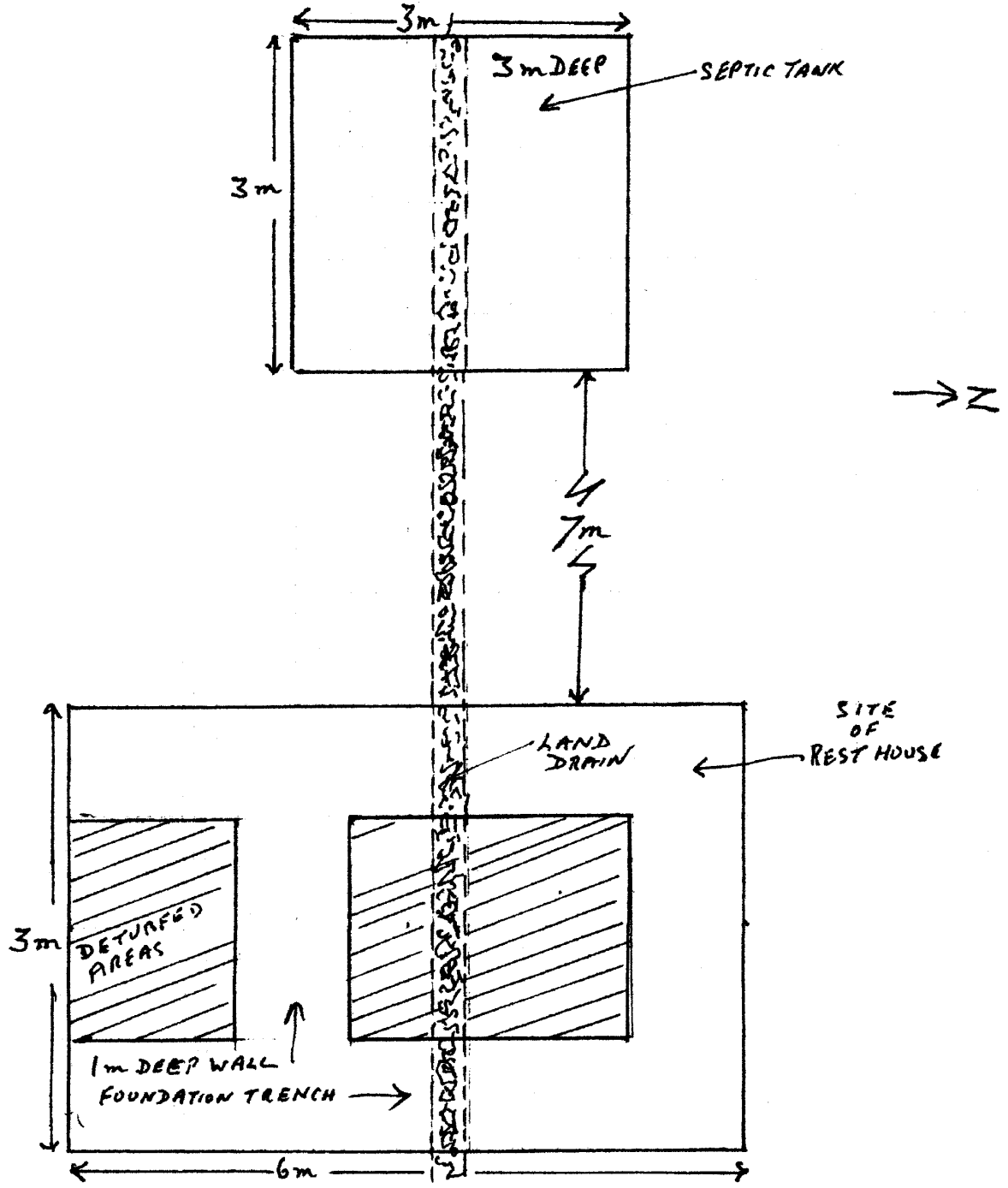
The development areas excavated here revealed no archaeological features, and the artefactual remains consisted of a single sherd of pottery, which could possibly date from either the Iron age or Roman era. The pottery is one of a number of finds from the Roman period that have been found in this location, and clearly indicates that some form of Roman settlement must be located in this area.

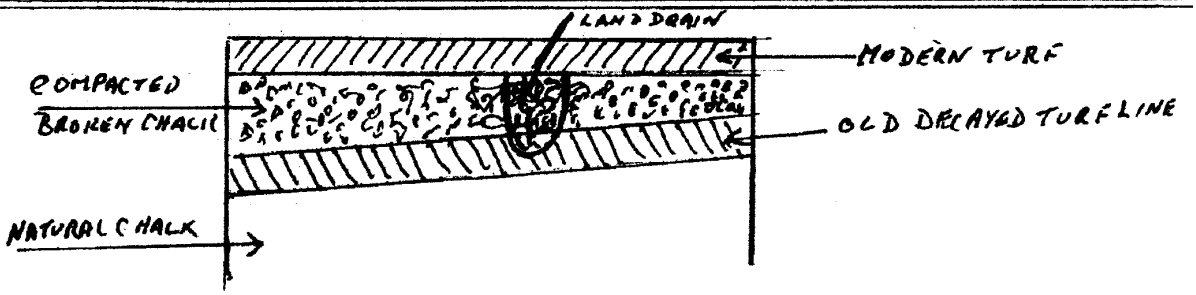
W.L.Santer.

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

Date 21st September 2004

E.B.G.C. 11-9-2004





SECTION DRAWING OF SIDE OF TRENCH

6 SOUTHOVER STREET, BRIGHTON. 11-03-04.

Contact: Mr Philip Meeson, 24, Tivoli Road, Brighton, Tel. 565806

I visited the Southover St.address in the company of Mr Meeson, at noon on Thursday 11th March to inspect a cavity which appeared in the ground floor at the rear of the building during structural alterations. The hole is in the N E corner of what may previously have been the kitchen, and extends under the exterior wall, continuing under a still standing outhouse which is scheduled for demolition. Work here has stopped pending structural engineers report.

1 took some digital photos above and below ground level, among the latter obtained a picture of the surface under the outhouse wall, which appears to show building demolition debris, brickbats, plaster, mortar, breeze (?) block, and what seems to be a fairly intact molluse shell, probably scallop, lying on the surface.

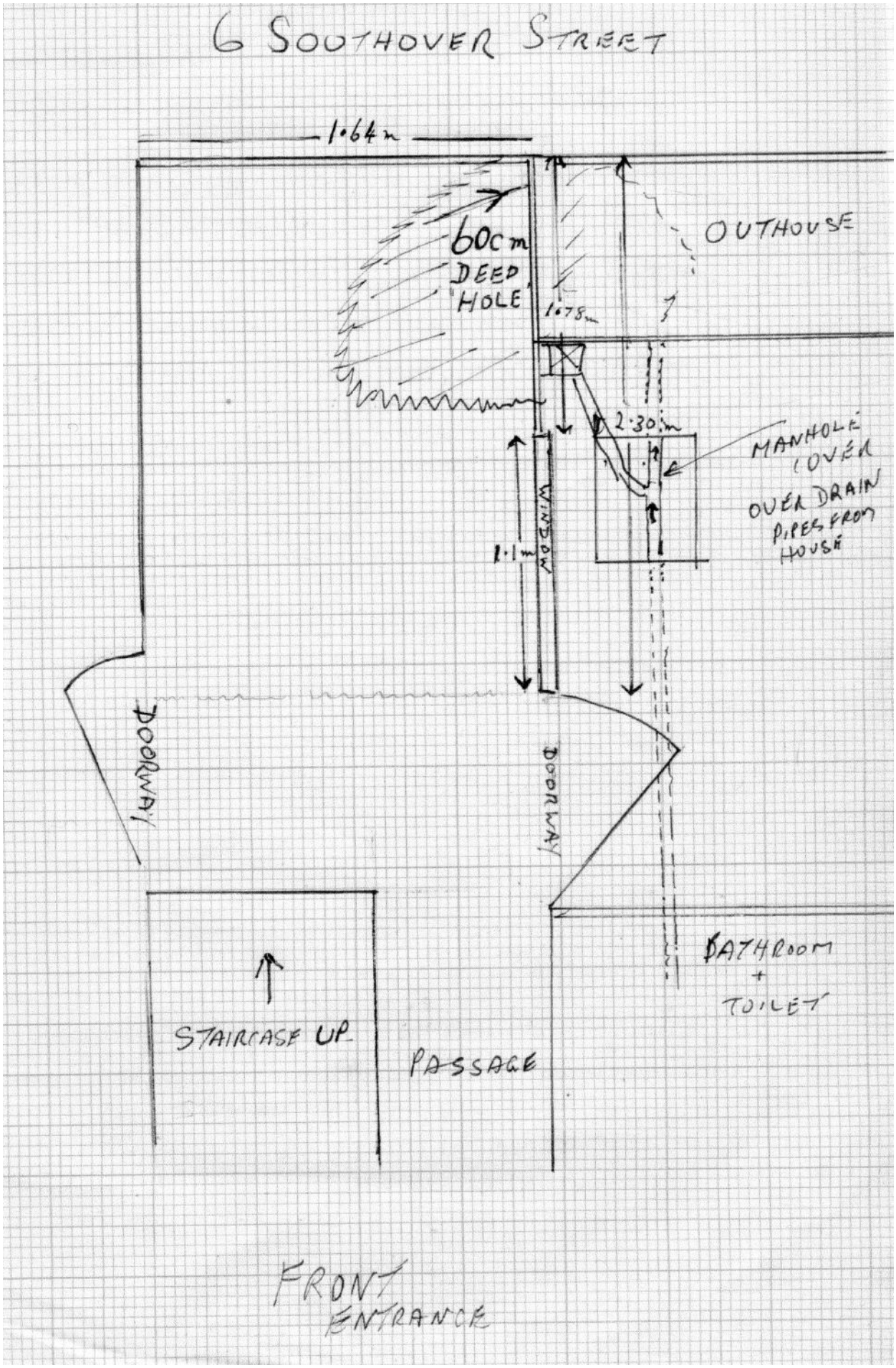
There is outside the void area a drain, which allows surface storm water to flow into the house drainage pipes which disappear under the outhouse wall immediately above the void!

My impression is that the existing property replaced an earlier building and that the cavity has appeared within a structure left by the builders, it could be that here was a cesspit, or a cellar, which was filled with rubble, soil etc. The present drainage system seems to pass, through or over this area on its way to main sewer system? If, a leak in this system is present somewhere in the vicinity then it is possible that liquid seeping into the ground could have washed away the smaller matrix particles over a period of time causing this effect?

I am invited to return when further demolition has taken place.

W.L.S.

A later visit revealed that void was due to subsidence of backfill caused by water seeping from mains drainage pipe, over period of time. Now made good by infilling with concrete?


6 SOUTHOVER STREET
1·64m
60cm DEEP HOLE
1·78m
OUTHOUSE
2·30m
MANHOLE COVER
OVER DRAIN PIPES FROM HOUSE
1·1m
WINDOW
DOORWAY
DOORWAY
BATHROOM + TOILET
STAIRCASE UP
PASSAGE
FRONT ENTRANCE

WATCHING BRIEF - 123 CRESCENT DRIVE SOUTH, WOODINGDEAN

PLANNING APPLICATION No:- BH2004/01404/FP

ADDRESS:- 123 CRESCENT DRIVE SOUTH, WOODINGDEAN, BRIGHTON.

PLANNING OFFICER:- Ms KAREN TIPPER

NAME OF APPLICANT:- MRS. ELLIOT

DATE OF FIRST CONTACT FROM LANDOWNER:-13th December 2004

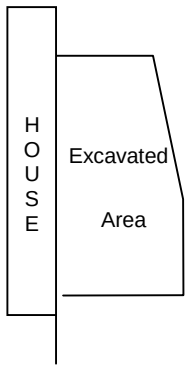
DATE OF WATCHING BRIEF:- 15TH DECEMBER 2004

OFFICERS CONDUCTING WATCHING BRIEF:- MR S. CORBETT & MRS. E. CORBETT

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

Map Ref: Pathfinder 1307 TQ367054.

The address above was visited on 15th December 2004, to inspect an excavation carried out to allow wall and floor foundations for a small extension to the side of the house. A trench ¾ metre deep, 60cm wide and approx 7 metres long in total was dug, and soil removed over the area enclosed to a depth of 30cm.



The whole of the soil excavated was found to contain numerous modern tiles mainly alongside the house, under an existing concrete path, possibly used as hardcore. When the topsoil was removed from the ground to the right of the path it proved to have been previously disturbed by trenches for a gas pipe and a drain.

It is probable that any archaeology on the site had been previously destroyed during the laying of the gas pipe when the house was built and more recently when the drain was layed.
The watching brief produced no archaeological features or artefacts from the

soil removed.

S. & E.T. Corbett

John Funnell (President Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society)

ATTENDANCE RECORD

John Funnell (Director)	44 Days	Brighton
Donna Angel	6 Days	Brighton
Trish Ballard	8 Day	Croydon
Judith Billingham	18 Days	Brighton
Dawn Burns(F)	7 Days	Littlehampton
Martin Burns	10 Day	Worthing
Mark Bush	4 Day	Brighton
Keith Butler (P)(S)(L)	4 Days	Shoreham
Brenda Collins	6 Days	Shoreham
Eva Corbett	22 Days	Eastbourne
Steve Corbett	22 Days	Eastbourne
Kelly Cox	1 Day	Shoreham
Bob Crowhurst (F)	26 Days	Brighton
Karol Eager (G)	4 Days	Shoreham
Keith Edger(G)(S)(L)(SP)	2 Days	Southwater
Penny Edger (G)	1 Day	Southwater
Jane Elliott(P)(S)	5 Days	Brighton
Maria Gardiner(E)(SP)	7 Days	Hove
Eleanor Gerney	1 Day	Brighton
Mark Gillingham	23 Days	Hove
Merryn Greening	4 Day	Leatherhead
Mrs Greening	1 Day	Leatherhead
Charles Harding + 9 students	12 Days	Heathfield
Andy Hazell	3 Days	Burgess Hill
Daniel Hill	1 Day	Hove
Martin Hird	2 Days	Crawley
Phillipa House	1 Day	Hove
Avril Huggins	7 Days	Polegate
Leo Jago	1 Day	Brighton
Clive Langan (G)	7 Days	Uckfield
Ginette Leech	16 Days	Brighton
David Ludwig	45 Days	Rustington
Dot McBrien (S)(SP)(G)	35 Days	Sompting
Joan MacGregor (G)	28 Days	Brighton
Jane Mann	1 Day	Shoreham
John Mannington	1 Day	Chelmsford
Val Mannington	1 Day	Chelmsford
Peter Martin (M)	2 Days	Brighton
Andrew Maxted	7 Days	Saltdean
Mark Melvin	3 Days	Worthing
Colin Miller	1 Day	Hove
Nadia Khalili-Nayer	13 Days	Shoreham
David Nissen(M)	1 Day	Hove
Oliver	1 Day	Hove
Emily Padmore	1 Day	Crowborough

Roy Pateman	5 Days	Newhaven
Lynda Penfold	1 Day	Brighton
Norman Phippard (Assisant Director)(S)(G)	47 Days	Brighton
Angela Pini	1 Day	Hove
Stella Purvis	2 Days	Portslade
Fionnuala Rose	4 Days	Chichester
Ian van Ryne	1 Day	Leicester
Bill Santer (G)(Q)(M)	21 Days	Saltdean
Anna Simmonds	1 Day	Brighton
Phil+ 6 students	7 Days	Brighton 6th Form
Kevin Simmons	1 Days	Brighton
Pamela Smith (G)	20 Days	Brighton
Paul Smith	2 Days	Brighton
Sarah Smith	1 Day	Brighton
David Staveley(Assistant Director) (P)(S)(L)(G)	14 Days	Eastbourne
Jeremy Webster (G)(S)	1 Days	Hove
Carol White (SP)	13 Days	Newhaven
Deon Whittaker (G)(S)(P)©	13 Days	Worthing
Rowan Whittaker	1 Day	Worthing
Tamsin Whittaker	1 Day	Worthing
John Woodall	6 Days	Tunbridge Wells
Sue Worth	12 Days	Brighton

Total Attendance (Excluding Barcombe) 582 Days;
Total Number of Participants 82 People, not including the Young Archaeologists Club (YAC)

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).

Updated 24th December 2004

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The President 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 2004.

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 their 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