ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD NOTEBOOK 2005

A RECORD OF THE PROJECTS OF THE
BRIGHTON AND HOVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY FIELD UNIT

CONTENTS

Introduction

2005 once again proved to be a very eventful year for the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit. A total of 76 people attended the group activities and 659 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 resistivity surveying. The team was joined a by a number of new people including a group from Cambridge and a new girl from London. The site was once again visited by the Young Archaeologist Club. This year the Society has been working in conjunction with the Brighton and District Metal Detecting Club. New projects of both field walking and geophysics will now include the facility to record any metal finds found within the same grids.

The year consisted of a number of research projects including field walking at Woodingdean. Field walking is now being restricted due to the time span between crop removal and re-ploughing, which is now often carried out in the same week. Some set aside fields are accessible but the stubble and weed growth make the exercise very difficult and limits the type of finds found.

The geophysics team worked on a number of interesting new sites some notably close to and within the scheduled sites of Hollingbury hill-fort and the Edburton Hill motte and bailey complex. Both projects were conducted with the permission of English Heritage. A number of research projects included a large scale investigation at Bushy Bottom, near Shoreham and Beacon Hill, Rottingdean. A contour survey was made of the open field at Millbank in Stanmer.

The excavations this year were focused on the main site at Rocky Clump. Rocky Clump continues to be used as a good site for training purposes and student activity. A small scale excavation was conducted in the garden of a house at Nanson Road, Coldean. Coldean produced a number of finds in the 1950's among which were Roman ditches and a possible Iron Age round house. The excavation at Nanson Road was conducted prior to the construction of another house being built in part of the garden. The most important excavation this season was at Malling Hill, Lewes where a number of burials were excavated as a result of human bone eroding out of rabbit burrowing on the east side of the hill. The BHAS Field Unit had been asked for support by the County Archaeologist Dr Andrew Woodcock.

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. Keith Edgar is examining the pottery from Rocky Clump and has partially reconstructed some of the pottery from the site. Dot McBrien is now studying soil samples with a view to producing reports on the seed, pollen and snails for environmental evidence.

During the summer a number of the team joined the Mid-Sussex Archaeological Team with their excavations at Barcombe. In the autumn members of the BHAS Field Unit joined Greg Chuter at Arlington. A small scale assessment excavation examined the location of a Roman road and sought evidence for a possible settlement along the road side.

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 and the bone to Carol White.

Day schools in 2005 were organised by the Society education officer Maria Gardiner and included geology with Stewart Ullyott, Bones studies with Lucy Siburn and a metal finds day with Liz Wilson the Finds Liaison officer for Sussex.

This year has seen the involvement of the society in a number of watching briefs, usually conducted by officers Steve and Eva Corbett and Bill Santer. The watching briefs are becoming more frequent and there is a need for more members to be trained in this process to ensure that adequate recording is conducted on these sites.

The new season for 2006 is already being planned with excavations at Rocky Clump and Ovingdean. 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 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, Casper Johnson, the County Archaeologist, Brighton Museum, Barbican House, the East Sussex Records Office 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 26th December 2006

EXCAVATIONS AT ROCKY CLUMP, STANMER 2005

(An interim report)

Introduction

The 2005 season of excavations at Rocky Clump, Stanmer began in April and continued through to December (Fig. 1). The excavations, in the early part of the season, were running simultaneously with the excavations at Woodingdean which were in the finishing stages. The numbers attending the excavations this season were slightly down on 2004 with 76 people coming along to dig. However, the total days digging for the 2005 season was up being 659 days in the field.

Once again training of personnel was part of the seasons programme with several members being taught both planning and section drawing. A number of the group have been involved with bone identification and Carol White, the team leader, now has Maria Gardiner and Averil Huggins as regular participants and Ali Bullough, who has other commitments, visiting on a less regular basis.

Rocky Clump played host once again to the Young Archaeologist Club (Y.A.C.) and this year were joined by the Brighton and District Metal Detecting Club who metal detected around the fields at Rocky Clump and as part of the field walking project at Woodingdean. The metal finds have not been too productive with only marginally interesting finds being recovered. The B&DMS did a major metal detecting survey in the field to the west of Rocky Clump called Iron Square and they can confirm that it is aptly named.

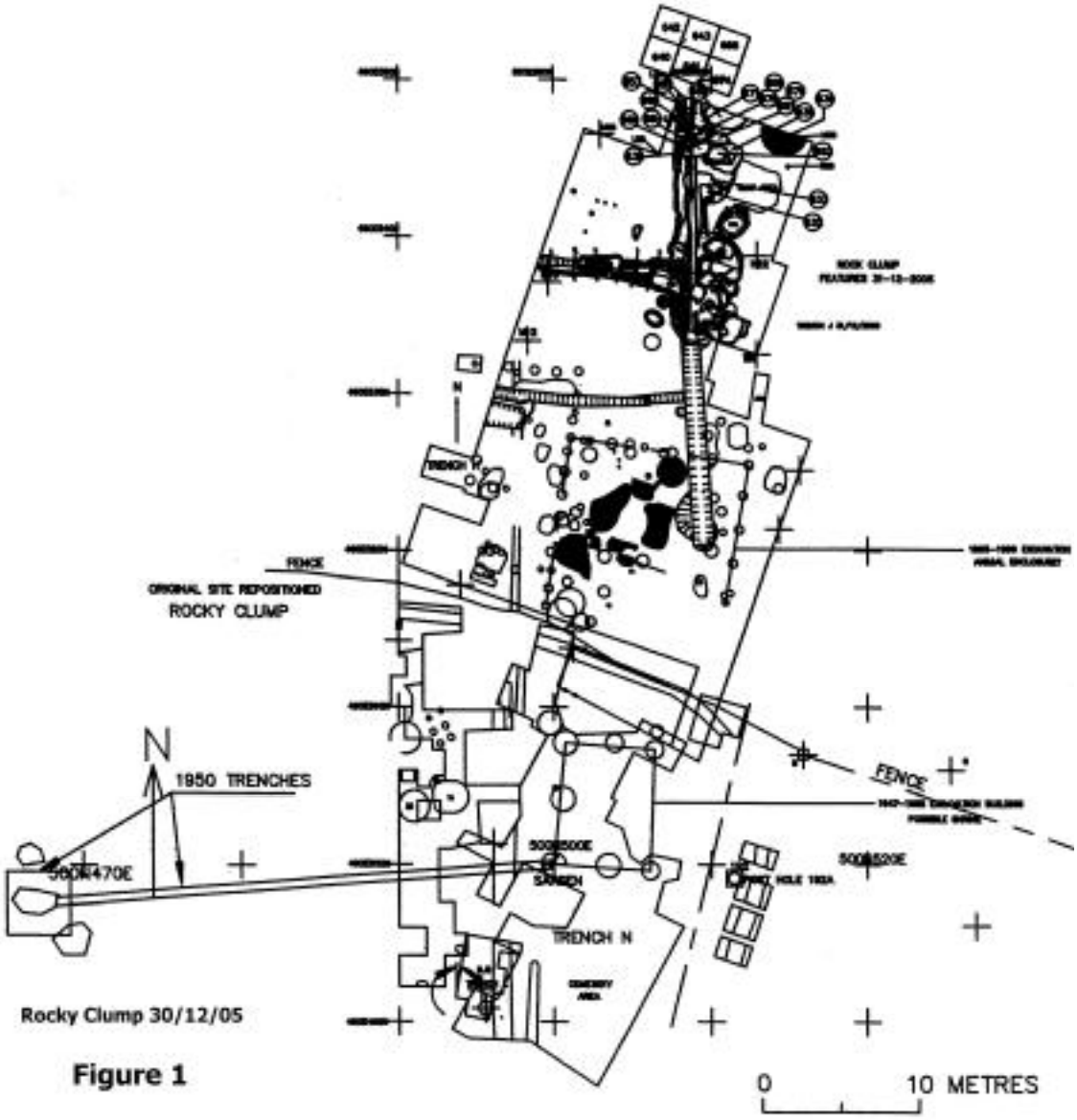

FENCE
ORIGINAL SITE REPOSITIONED
ROCKY CLUMP
N
1950 TRENCHES
FENCE
TRENCH N
Rocky Clump 30/12/05
0
10 METRES

Figure 1

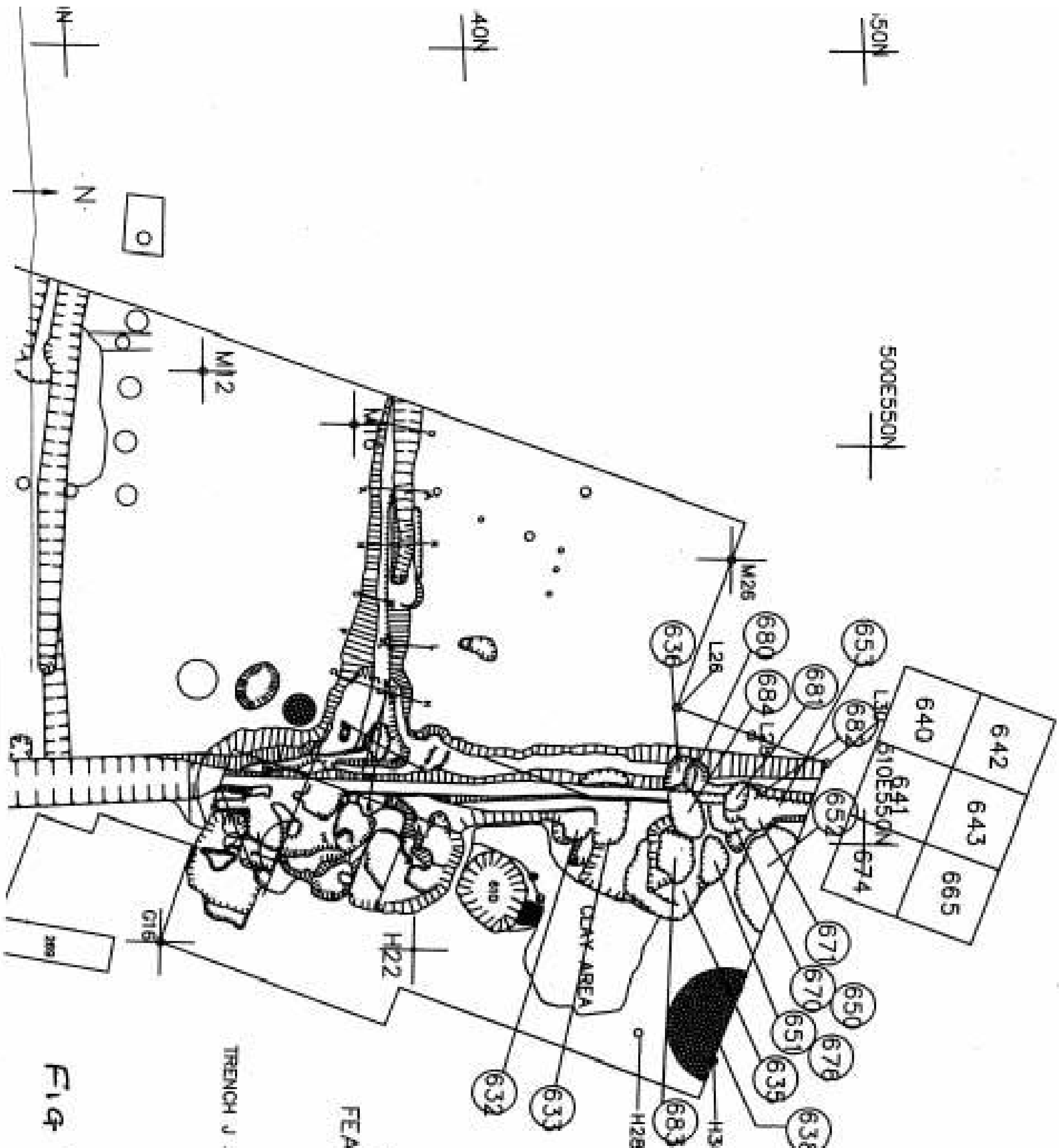
The Excavations

The 2005 season of excavations has focused very much on the remaining un-investigated section in trench J. (Fig.2) A large part of this trench had already been completed in 2004 producing further evidence of the large ditch running north/south from a terminus just north of the copse of Rocky Clump. A terrace (context 627) was partially revealed during the 2004 season which lies on the east side of the large ditch. There is trace of a similar, but much smaller, terrace on the west side of the ditch. The previous season at Rocky Clump had been excavated using intermittent sectioning of the ditch at 1 metre intervals. This method of excavation had been useful in producing numerous ditch sections but in the process had failed to realise the complex inter-cutting of pits at greater depths. Notably a large pit which had cut into the natural chalk walls on either side of the ditch (Context 633) had been removed as part of the north/south ditch fill. It was now impossible to determine which feature cut which and provide a chronological sequence for these particular features. The north end of the 2004 excavations had revealed a number of pits on both the east and west side of the ditch (Fig.3 and Fig. 4), and pit (context 636) had been partially excavated, but in this case the section was recorded and it was obvious that it was an earlier pit cut by the later north/south ditch.

The number of people attending and working on the excavations allowed a second large trench to be opened further north. A baulk of 1 metre width was left between the north boundary of trench J and the new north trench. The new section was programmed to examine the north/south ditch once again with a view to continuing an examination of the bone deposition in this feature. A similar exercise was planned for the remaining section in trench J. The new section measured 6 metres from west to east, and 4 metres from south to north. A total of 6 plough soil contexts numbered 640, 641, 642, 643 and later 2 additional areas 665 and 674.

The third area of investigation was to focus on the ‘shrine’ area and to the east of the shrine out in the field. The object of these excavations was to seek evidence to determine whether the possible shrine, is alternatively, a Roman aisled building. The new sections within the trees allowed an examination of the shrine ‘interior’ which had never been excavated in previous years due to the location of a rotting Beech tree. The tree had become dangerous and had now been cut down and removed away from the area of interest, which allowed excavation of one of the most important features at Rocky Clump. The third section in the trees was used primarily as an overspill area for the excavations depending upon number attending and can be observed by the sequence of plough soil context numbers 647, 648, 672 and 673. The shrine area contexts were 649, 654, 655, 657, 663 and 664.

This year’s programme included further geophysics of the area surrounding the excavation. The resistivity survey examined an area to the west and north of the existing trench. The results show very little on the west side, but to the north the large north/south ditch appears to expand into a huge circular feature? (Fig.5).



ROCK CLUMP
FEATURES 31-12-2005

TRENCH J 31/12/2005

Fig 2.

The Features

Trench J Detailed Pits and Ditch Sections

In 2005 the method of excavation was changed to the Graham Barker technique of excavation. This method involves a gradual removal of the plough soil levels down to feature identification. Sectioning this season was confined to actual features. In trench J a number of features had already been revealed during the 2004 season of excavation, while others were observed through the section created by the previous season in the north/south ditch section. Notable features were a small pit to the west of the ditch and partially excavated in 2004 (context 636). A large pit on the east side of the ditch and cut into the lower terrace had also been observed in 2004, but had not been touched. (context 635).

As the excavations progressed a number of ephemeral layers were noted and removed. These subtle features (contexts 626a and 626b) was among a number of small discrete fills that had no real definition and were thin layers of the back fill over and above the main fill of the north/south ditch section. Similarly a layer of chalk nodules created a small 'wall' around the west rim of pit (context 652), while a similar linear arrangement of small chalk nodules (context 670) formed the south boundary between pits (context 651 and context 652).

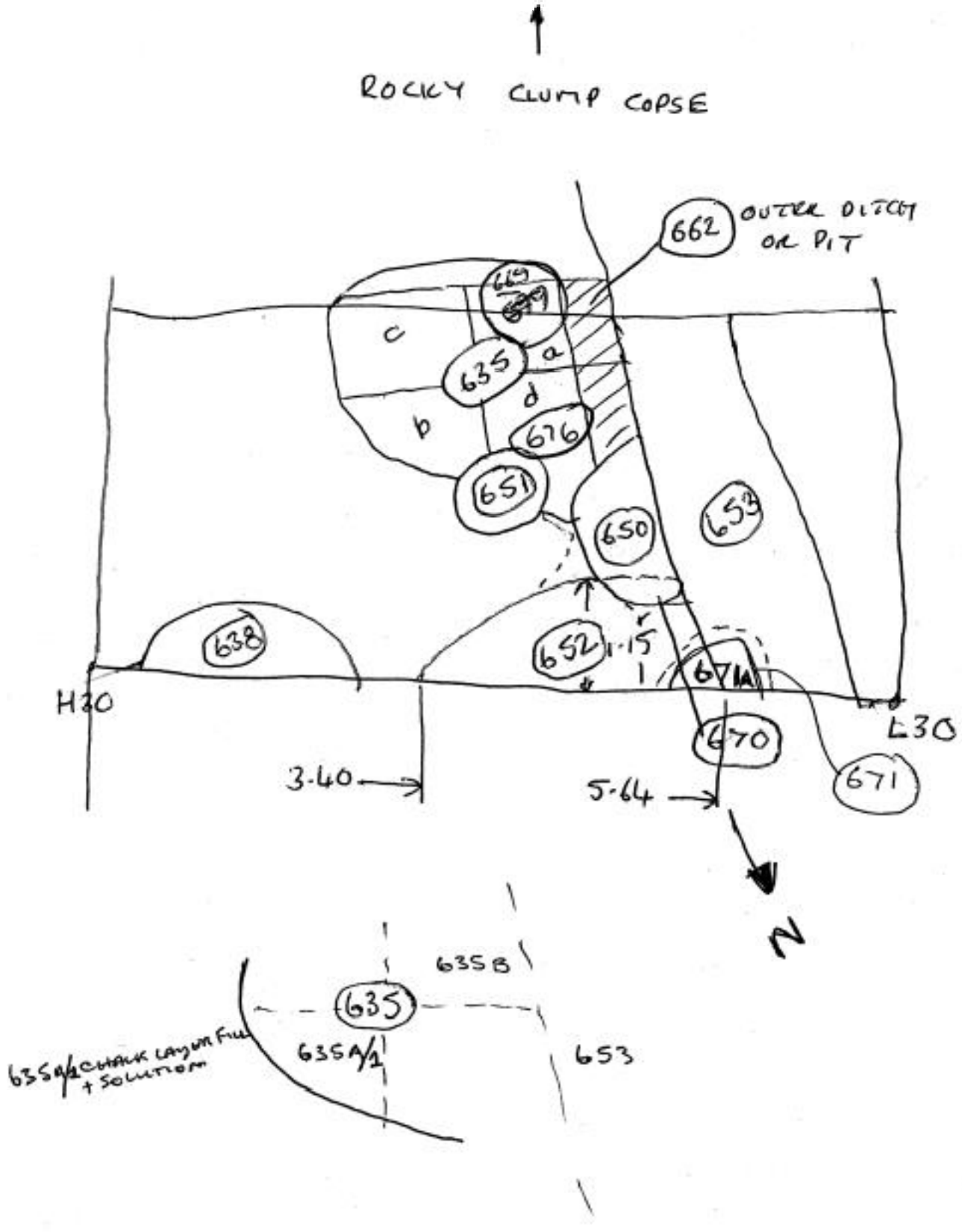
It was on arrival at site on the morning of the 25th June, and after a large amount of overnight rain, that the new area in the trench revealed a spectacular display of greatly enhanced features. The rain had produced a clearly visible chronological sequence for a number of the pits. The site diary was able to record that one of the large pits (context 652) was cut by a smaller, and as proved to be shallow pit (context 650). This pit had in turn been cut by the newest of the features, the large north/south ditch (context 653). The observations noted because of the rain had been a very rare occasion on site. Most of the pits at Rocky Clump were independent features, and only linked topographically and through dateable finds. In this small area it could be observed that the large pit (context 652) was clearly the earliest feature.

The progression of the excavation in this area proved very complex with not only a variation of fills in various pits, but also the finding of even smaller inter-cutting pits at lower depths, in the lower depths of the larger pits.

Context 635 Pit

Context 635 was a large straight sided, but irregular bottomed pit measuring 1.95 metres in length by 1.9metres in width. The dimensions are at the widest points, the feature being a very irregular shape and probably derived from a series of cuts. It had been cut by a number of smaller pits notably contexts 680, 683 and 684. At a slightly lower depth and to the north of this pit was a shallow pit context 651 (later 676). A small ridge ran between to the two features. The large pit context 635 was the east end of the pit revealed in section as (context 636) and the whole section produced a myriad of varying fills. Most of the fills consisted of chalky loams with a basic chalk and soil constituents with varying degrees of small flint pieces added. The upper layer of pit 635 produced a shallow layer of dark sandy clay (Context 635A/A). The pit had some incursion from slippage due to the location of clay with flint geological solution on the east side of the pit. The excavation of the pit 635 used the quadrant method with opposite corners (Context 635a (south west corner) and

635b (north east corner) being removed first for section drawing. The pit had been cut by the north/south ditch and soft silty ditch fill lay in the west section of the pit (context 662).



SKETCH OF PITS AT ROCKY CLUMP 2005 (BEFORE EXCAVATION) **Fig 3**

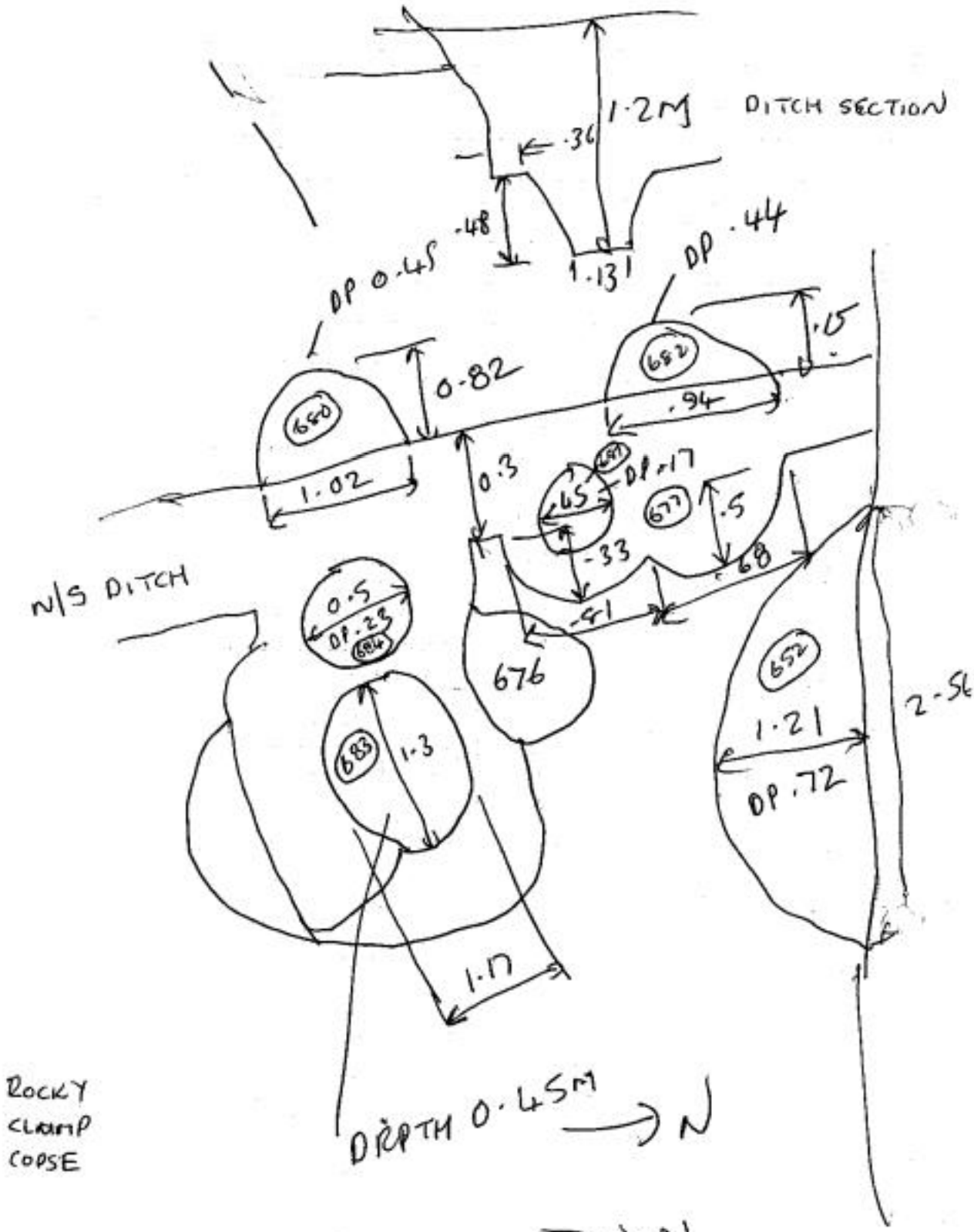

1·2M
DITCH SECTION
·36
·48
1·131
DP 0·45
DP ·44
·15
0·82
·94
1·02
0·3
DP ·17
·65
·5
·33
·68
·41
N/S DITCH
0·5
DP ·23
676
1·3
1·21
DP ·72
2·5
1·17
ROCKY
CLUMP
COPSE
DEPTH 0·45M
N
N
SKETCH.
ROCKY CLUMP PITS AFTER
EXCAVATION 2005

Fig 4

Flint Circle Context 638

Context 638 was a semi-circular feature on the north east corner of trench J. It consisted of large to medium flint nodules. The feature was sectioned in what would have been one quadrant and was found to a geological solution hole. Below the upper layer of flint nodules was a fill of hard orange clay. The feature was excavated for only a few centimetres and then abandoned.

Pit Context 650

Context 650 was a shallow pit containing soft silty soil. It measured 860 millimetres in length and 560 millimetres in width. It was only 50 millimetres in depth. The pit was truncated on the west side where it was cut by the north/south ditch. The pit cut into the upper fill of large pit context 652.

Pit Context 651/676

Pit 651 was a small pit located north of the large pit 635. A small chalk ridge marked the boundary between the two features. The pit was flat bottomed. The fill was of light chalk loam. It measured 1.1 metres in length and .65 metres in width.

Pit Context 652

This second very large pit was straight sided and flat bottomed. It measured 2.56 metre in length and 1.21 metres in width. The pit was only partially excavated as only half of the feature was exposed, the remaining half being under the baulk to the north. The fill of this large pit had several layers, but all were in varying degrees chalk loam with greater or smaller concentrations of flint nodule inclusions.

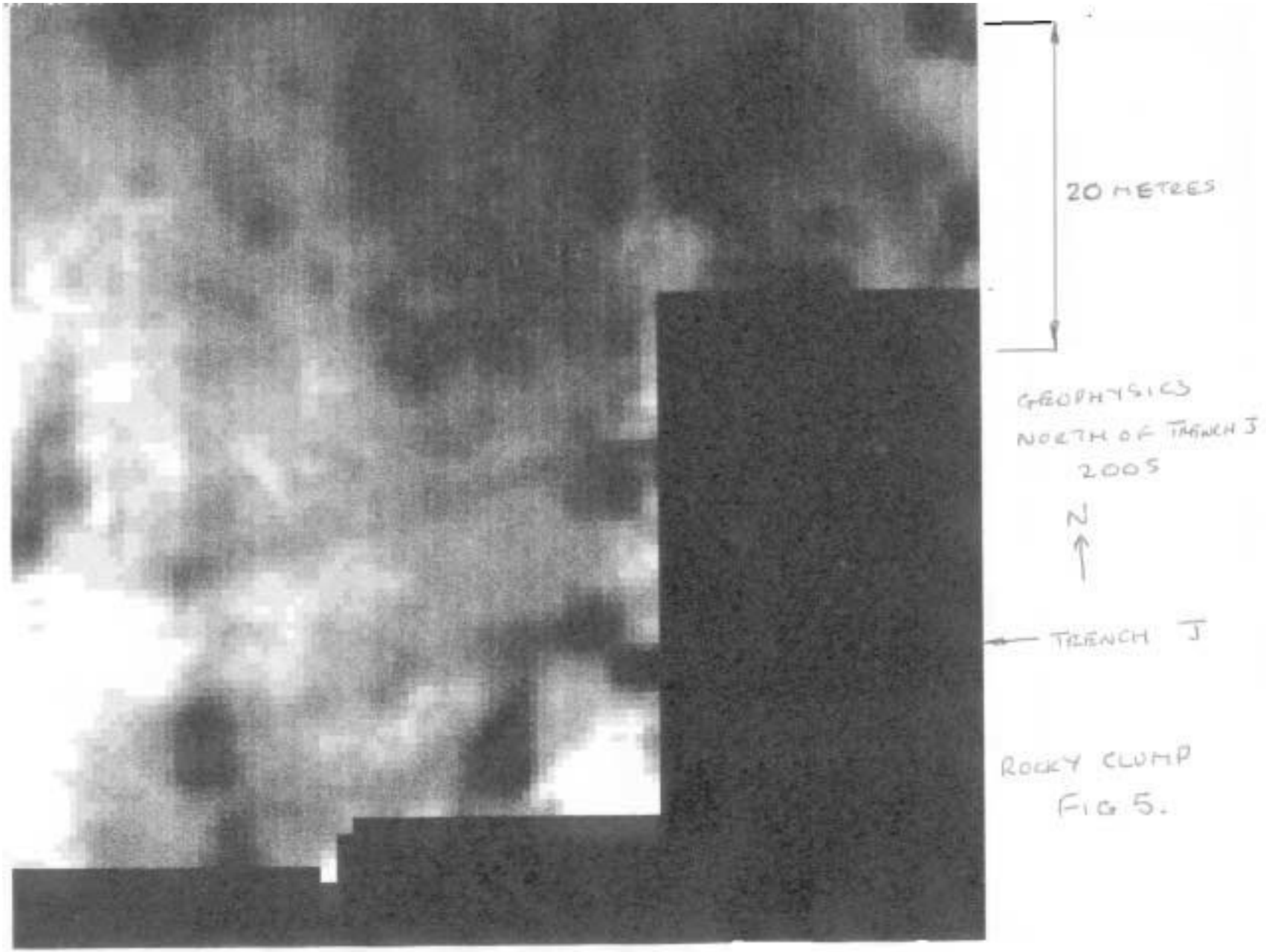
Ditch Context 653

This section of the north/south ditch measured 4 metres in length and lies between locations L26 and L30 and H26 and H30. The ditch measures 1.6 metres at its widest part at the top. The ditch contains basically 3 different fills. The upper fill is of a soft, dark silty soil. It is in this upper context that most of the finds have been recovered. The majority of bone finds come from the lower levels of this fill. Below this is a fill of chalk loam, with small amounts of small flint nodules. The deepest fill is within a vertical sided cut at the bottom of the ditch, measuring 0.3 metres in both width and depth and with a fill of small chalk pieces.

Pit/Layer Context 670

On the east side of the ditch and at its northern extremity were noted a number of distinctly different but ephemeral layers. Context 670 was such a feature which originally appeared to be a possible pit cutting into the larger pit 652, but which disappeared very quickly when excavated down to the firm natural chalk of the large pit side.

As the excavation progressed to a greater depth new pits were noted. At the bottom of the large pit 635 were 2 smaller pits.



ROCKY CLUMP
FIG 5.

Terrace Context 677

Context 677 was a small, deeper ledge, cut into the larger terrace on the east side of the ditch. The terrace had been cut by the large ditch. The shape was of a double curved edge on the east side of this ledge and measured 1.49 metres in length and between 0.5 and 0.33 metres at maximum width. Cutting into this small ledge was another pit context 681.

Pit Context 680

This feature was part of a small pit that had been severely truncated by the north/south ditch. It measured 1.02 metres in remaining length and 0.82 metres in width. The fill was removed as part of the large ditch fill.

Pit Context 681

This was a small pit cutting into the small ledge that had been cut into the terrace on the east side of the large ditch. The feature measured 0.45 metres in diameter and was 0.17 metres deep. The fill was of chalky loam.

Pit Context 682

This pit was further to the north of pit context 689 and had a similar shape as it also had been cut by the large ditch. This feature measured 0.15 metres in remaining length and 0.94 metres in width. Again the fill had been removed as part of the large ditch.

Pit Context 683

The elongated pit that is context 683 was one of two small pits that lay at the bottom of the large 635. This pit measured 1.3 metres in length and was 1.17 metres wide. It had a quite distinct edge, but as wit the majority of the large pit fill with a chalky loam. The pit was round bottomed.

Pit Context 684

The second of the pits that lay at the bottomed of large pit 635 was to the west of pit context 683 and was a circular cut measuring 0.5 metres in diameter and 0.23 metres in depth. The fill was similar to that of context 683 and was chalky loam.

New Trench north of Trench J

Originally this area was planned to study in detail the deposition of the bone being found in the north/south ditch. The complexity and manpower required to excavate and record the complex series of pits just south of this new area meant that only surplus personnel were able to move to this new location. The contexts excavated 640, 641, 642, 643, 665 and 674 were originally top soil contexts but as some considerable depth has now been reached with no sign of any chalk natural new questions are being asked. The later contexts 665 and 674 were added to try and pick up vestiges of the large pit 652. No trace of any chalk has yet been found and it must be assumed that the pit terminates under the 1 metre wide baulk. The new area has produced some interesting pieces of pottery and the large ditch western edge has been located cutting into an area of clay. The east side of the ditch has yet to be revealed. A 1 metre wide section was cut into the south east side of this new area in attempt to seek the chalk natural revealed natural clay with flint. It is

uncertain as to whether this new feature is a large geological configuration or a very large archaeological pit? However, as yet there is no trace of the large ditch edge to the east or the soft dark, silty fill associated with the ditch.

Excavations within the Shrine Area

The removal of a large tree stump and base by the Brighton Rangers has allowed access to a previous untouched section of the 'Shrine' area defined by Walter Gorton in his booklet (Gorton). The post holes of this structure had been excavated in the seasons 1947 to 1986, but the interior of the building was covered by a large Beech tree which has now been removed. The area of scrub was cleaned back, as was the sawdust from the tree stump. The area investigated measured 4 metres by 4 metres, with a small extension towards the large sarsen stone on the west. The excavation is limited in a southerly direction as both Charlie Yeates and his wife are buried in this part of Rocky Clump.

The excavations removed an overburden of leaf mould and bark which revealed a lower level of chalk that had been heavily disturbed by both tree root activity and burrowing animals. The main contexts 655, 649, 654 and 657 were areas of disturbed chalk rubble. There was, however, a very well defined edge that ran along the centre of southern contexts 649 and 654. To the south of this defined ridge was located a large post hole, context 658, and this proved to be one of the post holes excavated by the Gorton and Yeates, their context PH1.

The post hole 1 (context 658) was re-excavated to check dimensions and proved to be a large flat bottomed pit/post hole. Walter Gorton report that these large features did produce post pipes. The re-excavated fill consisted of large amounts of flint nodules, but also a number of pieces of dressed stone. A number of pieces of dressed chalk were also recovered from the interior of the shrine contexts 655 and 657. The interior of the building produce very few other finds of either shell or pottery and no metal work.

A very useful feature also revealed was the edge of another of Gorton's post holes his context PH2 and the associated edge of grave cut GII. The grave proved to be a very shallow cut. The new features excavated this season allow additional dimensional checks for a comparison between the data of both the earlier and later excavations. This is planned for the 2006 season. Additional features found in the new area included a flat bottomed, straight sided post hole (context 664) located north of the large post hole 658. The new post hole is considerable smaller than context 658 and very much disturbed by tree root action. The investigations in 2005 were planned and recorded and the area will be extended northwards in the 2006 season to examine more of the interior of this substantial structure.

A second trench was opened up east of the shrine area. This new trench is to seek evidence for the possible location of post holes associated with a Roman aisled building , this being a possible alternative to the shrine theory considered by Walter Gorton. In 1994 a small trench had been cut to the east of the trees. This trench was in alignment with the known post holes and was measured in at the regular spacing of the post holes noted in the old site plan. The trench came down onto a post hole, but it was much smaller than the shrine post holes within the trees. The location of this new post hole was noted, but it was never excavated.

The first feature to be revealed in the new area was a section of the ditch surrounding Rocky Clump and still proving to be a problem with dating. The section revealed this

season is an area that was investigated by a series of 4 trenches in the 1960's by Clive Skeggs, but never published. It is anticipated that the edge of any of sections cut by Skeggs will be observed and should not require any re-investigation. The ditch section revealed was given context 656. This trench was later extended to include context 666, the area between trench contexts 647, 672 and 648.

As digging progressed in this area it became apparent that there was a lighter fill associated with a cut into the ditch surrounding the Clump (Context 668). The size and shape of this feature resembled a possible grave cut. A small section was cut into the feature, but it only produced a soft chalk loam fill and no finds. This investigation was temporary abandoned until the following season.

Discussion

The digging at Rocky Clump has once again produced some very interesting archaeological finds and features. The continuing investigations along the course of the north/south ditch have raised some very interesting questions about the purpose of the Roman site at Rocky Clump. This question was only partially answered by previous publications (Gorton) and (Gilkes). Is the site at Rocky Clump purely a simple rural farmstead or does it have ritually associated structures, this question still has to be answered with hard and indisputable evidence. The earlier publication in the Sussex Archaeological Collections (Gilkes) suggested the site was dated to the 2nd/3rd century A.D. The finds of pottery from the large north/south ditch are clearly from the 1st century A.D. (pers comm.. M.Lyne) A coin of the Republic has been recovered from the ditch fill suggesting an even earlier date for this ditch. Rocky Clump has several phases covering a large span of the Roman period. The excavations have revealed a new series of pits that indicate some form of rural activity from the earliest known phase of Roman Rocky Clump.

The series of pits cut into a shallow terrace on the east side of the large ditch is confidently the earliest phase of Romano-British activity at the site, and may even be Iron Age. A large pit found in 1994 within the trees (Context 14) may be an earlier dating, possibly to either the Late Bronze Age or early Iron Age. (Pers. Comm. Malcolm Lyne). Finds from the pits have been very few, but will be an important factor in determining the date of this early phase. Several large pits were cut by the ditch going northwards and may be topographical features. The chronological sequence shown by the rain soaked features noted shows that there was a continuation of activities in this area. The question is essentially what was the purpose for this proliferation of large pits?

The pits are another phase showing that there is some complexity with regards Roman rural activity. In earlier excavations at Rocky Clump the various ditches tend to suggest some form of water coursing arrangements, but as has been proved in very heavy rainfall there is very little problem associated with drainage from any part of the site. The ditches retain very little vestiges of rain water. A question was raised as to whether the terrace and pits were possibly some form of sluice. The lack of any water retention other than on the occasional clay pocket areas makes this very unlikely. It has been suggested that the various ditches are field boundaries (Gilkes) but are very substantial for this purpose.

It is possible that the series of pits are a succession of cess pits and the reason for such complex back filling. It is possible that the ditch running northwards is a drain for cess. The large pit to the north, hinted at by the geophysics, and which the limited excavation this season tends to support, may produce answers to this theory.

The tenant farmer David West was asked for opinion as to why a farmer would want to create such a series of pits. David West could only suggest that it could be part of a tanning or dyeing processing plant. Tanning and dyeing were processes carried out in Roman times and the smell of this industry would have justified the location of such manufacturing plants well away from major settlements. The pits at Rocky Clump are substantial and relate in size to similar pits found in ancient industries still maintained. These processes can still observed in locations in North Africa in both Tunisia and Morocco. The tanning or dyeing process could be considered if some hint or evidence of staining could be found within the chalk walled sides of the pits and cuts. The excavations found no evidence for any staining or discolouring in any of the pits. The purpose of this series of pits must remain unknown at this time.

The new trench being opened north of trench J has produced a few sherds of Roman pottery and the depth which is now below the plough soil would tend to suggest that it is either a very large pit or a geological feature. There is no conclusive evidence at this time from the 2005 excavations.

The area of most significance in 2005 was the interior of the ‘shrine’. The excavation revealed a very disturbed platform of chalk. The amount of disturbance made it difficult to determine where the original natural surface may have been. Running through the excavated area was a ridge of chalk about 60 centimetres in depth, but it was irregular in shape. The ridge was in alignment with the large shrine post hole context 658 and ran east to west across the excavation. The interior of the shrine had a small incursion in the north west corner which could have been a smaller post hole, but was too disturbed to certain. The whole area produced virtually no finds of any description except for some pieces of what appears to be dressed chalk. It was quite a distinct platform of chalk that could be a very disturbed elevated floor level, or even possibly a fallen chalk wall? It is too early at this to make a confident assessment and more work needs to be done.

The pieces of dressed chalk, along with the other pieces of dressed stone found when re-excavating the large post hole context 658, hint at some form of structure, but these finds along with small fragments of Roman roofing tile found in previous seasons tend to suggest that they may have originated from another site close by which is still to be located.

The small trench to the east of the trees found nothing to substantiate the theory that Rocky Clump may have been the site of a Roman aisled building, but the interesting number of anomalies and pits warrant further investigation. An extension to this trench is planned for 2006.

Rocky Clump is gradually revealing its secrets. This is a very rare opportunity to investigate a ‘low’ status site of the Romano-British period, and quite different from the usual villas sites often excavated. During past seasons a random number of unintelligible post holes eventually produced, through continuing excavation, the clear configuration of a new building or structure. This new structure is in alignment with the ‘shrine’ located within the trees. It is highly possible that the continuing excavation will produce similar results for our current unintelligible pits in the north. At present the collection of pits and ditches to the north of Rocky Clump are evidence for some form of activity during the Roman periods as yet unknown. It is possible that the pits are rubbish pits or cess pits. If the pits are for cess, being continual filled in as they were re-cut, this could explain the paucity of finds. The pits appear to be in a regular sequence going northwards and on the same alignment as the later large north/south ditch. It is possible that when the ditch was cut through the earlier

features they were still visible and that the diggers of the ditch knew that the digging would have been easier than through natural chalk.

The lower fills of the north/south ditch have produced a limited number of finds. The main material comprising bone, marine shell and pottery comes from the lower section of the upper fill of dark, silty soil. It has been suggested that activities at Rocky Clump were conducted over a number of phases and that there was not a continuity of occupation at the site. The pits and ditches at the north of the site do tend to confirm this with a distinct dating between finds from the interior of the new structure found in earlier seasons and the lower silty fills of the large ditch. The question now arises as to the chronological sequence at Rocky Clump. It has already been noted through pottery and coin finds that the ditch is much earlier than the new building. If the ditch, which is confidently dated to the first century, it must imply that the pits that it cuts are earlier and possibly even Iron Age. It must be stated that there are at present few finds of Iron Age pottery to confirm this. Finds processing and an examination of the few pottery finds from the pits may provided vital evidence. The small terrace or platform cut to the east of the ditch is equally difficult to explain, although a shallow ridge to the west of the ditch could have provided a platform for some form of plank covering, but again there is no real explanation as to the purpose of such a requirement.

Rocky Clump continues to intrigue and enthral the excavators with so many unanswered questions. It is obvious that various indeterminate activities were taking place at this copse of trees but as yet we are unable to confirm exactly what these were. The excavations have focused on the north field and it is possible that the real site or occupation may lie to the south. Recent excavations at Downsview (Rudling) and Varley Halls (Greig) have all revealed south east facing terraces, dated to the later Bronze Age cut into the side of the hill. It is possible that people during the Iron Age and Romano-British periods still preferred their houses in this location and orientation. A geophysical study, (Fig. 6), conducted in the south field a number of years ago shows a proliferation of small areas of low resistance and many of these may relate to Iron Age round houses. It is a logical thought that if the pits and ditches being revealed at present are rubbish or cess pits then the natural inclination would have been to place them on the other side of the hill.

The excavations at Rocky Clump will continue in 2006 and the main thrust of the excavation will lie within the copse of trees. The investigations will continue within the interior of the ‘shrine’, the east trench will be expanded to investigate the new features revealed and a small area in the known cemetery, previously unexcavated will seek evidence for a new untouched grave cut, which could produce vital carbon 14 dating for the burials. The examination of the north/south ditch in the large circular feature to the north will be used as an overspill area if required.

Trench J has now been back filled to preserve the archaeological features and make the area safe for members of the public visiting the site during the winter months.

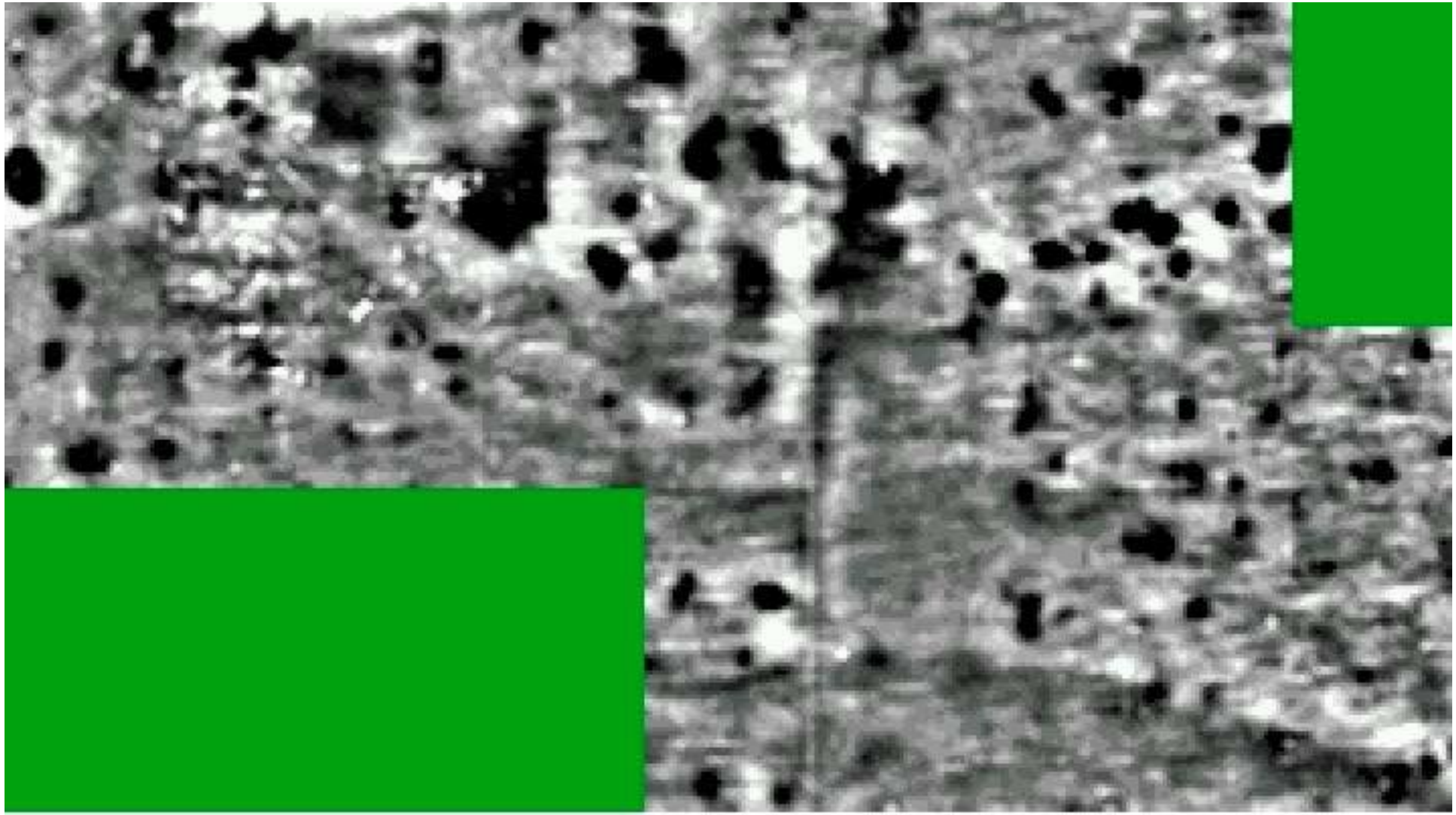


Fig 6 - Rocky Clump Geophysics

Post Excavation

Every season post excavation work is undertaken between January and March. Finds washing is conducted by Bob Crowhurst throughout the year with finds marking and cataloguing being undertaken during the post Christmas period. BHAS now has a number of specialists working on the material from both Rocky Clump and the excavations at Ovingdean. The bones team, led by Carol White, have been examining all of the bone material found from the 1999 season onwards. Geraldine Slater a student at Southampton University had completed a bone study on bone finds up to 1999 and this was published in an earlier field notebook. Keith Edgar has taken on the role of pottery identification, taking over from Richard Pulley who is now studying elsewhere. Keith has so far managed to pieces together 4 pots from Rocky clump, some almost complete vessels. A student from Surrey University has examined all of the flint work recovered up to the 2004 season. The student based her dissertation on the patination of the flint finds. The report is unpublished and unavailable to the Society but her findings show very little variation in patination between finds found in plough soil and those recovered from sealed contexts. Dot McBrien another member of the BHAS Field Unit is now beginning to study environmental evidence from Rocky Clump. She is examining both seed and snail evidence. Support has been promised for this venture from Mike Allen of Wessex Archaeology. Barbara McNee who has joined the Society and is a prehistoric pottery specialist will taking over the role of prehistoric pottery specialist and will be taking over the examination of the Pudding Bag Wood and Stanmer Great Wood pottery analysis from Sue Hamilton who is obviously much too busy. She will also examine the pottery from pit (context 14) that is deemed to be prehistoric.

Small Finds

No.	Type	Context No	Location
72	Spindle Whorl	630A	North/South silty fill layer
73	Coin	665	Top soil area

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 for back filling and removal of trees 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 S.Corbett and Mr M.Gillingham for editing the reports.

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Rudling D.R. et al 2002 ‘Downland Settlement and Land-Use, The Archaeology of the Brighton Bypass’. Archetype Publications**.**

Author:- John Funnell 1st January 2007

Excavations at 30, Nanson Road, Coldean, Brighton.

Site Topography and Geology

The Coldean housing estate is located in a small valley which is part of the South Downs. (TQ328088). (Figs.1 & 2.) The east end of the valley opens out onto a junction with another valley along which runs the Brighton to Lewes road. This valley was created by the Winterbourne stream that emanates from Falmer down into the town of Brighton. The name Coldean is confirming the nature of the environment “cold valley” and is remarkable for spawning “Warmdene” in the next valley westward (Coates). The valley has a plateau focused around Ingham Drive, Nanson Road and the south section of Hawkhurst Road. The plateau drops down into a secluded basin to the north which is the location of Coldean School and the old Cold Dean farm. A stream used to run through the lower part of Stanmer Great Wood close to the old Cold Dean farm (Pers. Comm. Mr David West). The site being developed lies on the plateau on a slight incline towards the south west corner of the valley.(TQ32850850). The geology is chalk loam overlying a bed rock of upper and middle chalk**.**

Historical and Archaeological Background

The Coldean area of north Brighton has, over the past five decades, been subject to the most intensive archaeological investigation of the whole of the Brighton and Hove city area. A number of discrete finds and several major excavations have produced evidence for occupation and settlement over much of antiquity.

The housing estate was a post Second World War development constructed during the 1950’s. During the house building workmen uncovered a number of archaeological features while digging trenches for house footings. The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society, who were excavating a tumulus along the Ditchling Road at the time (Yeates), were invited to investigate the features and produced evidence for Romano-British ditches and Iron Age round houses. The finds from these excavations included a gold stater (Funnell forthcoming).

The investigations prior to the construction of the Brighton bypass produced evidence for a significant Middle to Late Bronze Age Settlement on a location close to the old Downsview School (Rudling et al). The site was located on the steep sided hill that lies to the west of Coldean Lane. Excavations at Varley Halls, also on the east side of the valley, produced a number of round houses and a ditch that may relate to another similar Bronze Age settlement (Greig). Field walking of the lands surrounding the Coldean valley has produced finds of Neolithic and Late Bronze Age flint work, fire cracked flint and pottery dated to the Iron Age and Roman periods (Funnell) & (Hartridge et al). A Roman corn drying oven was found close to the Ditchling Road and a gas pipe line cutting in the 1990’s suggested that a Roman site is located somewhere close to Old Boat Corner. However it is possible that this site was destroyed when the old Ditchling Road was relocated to its newer and wider location.

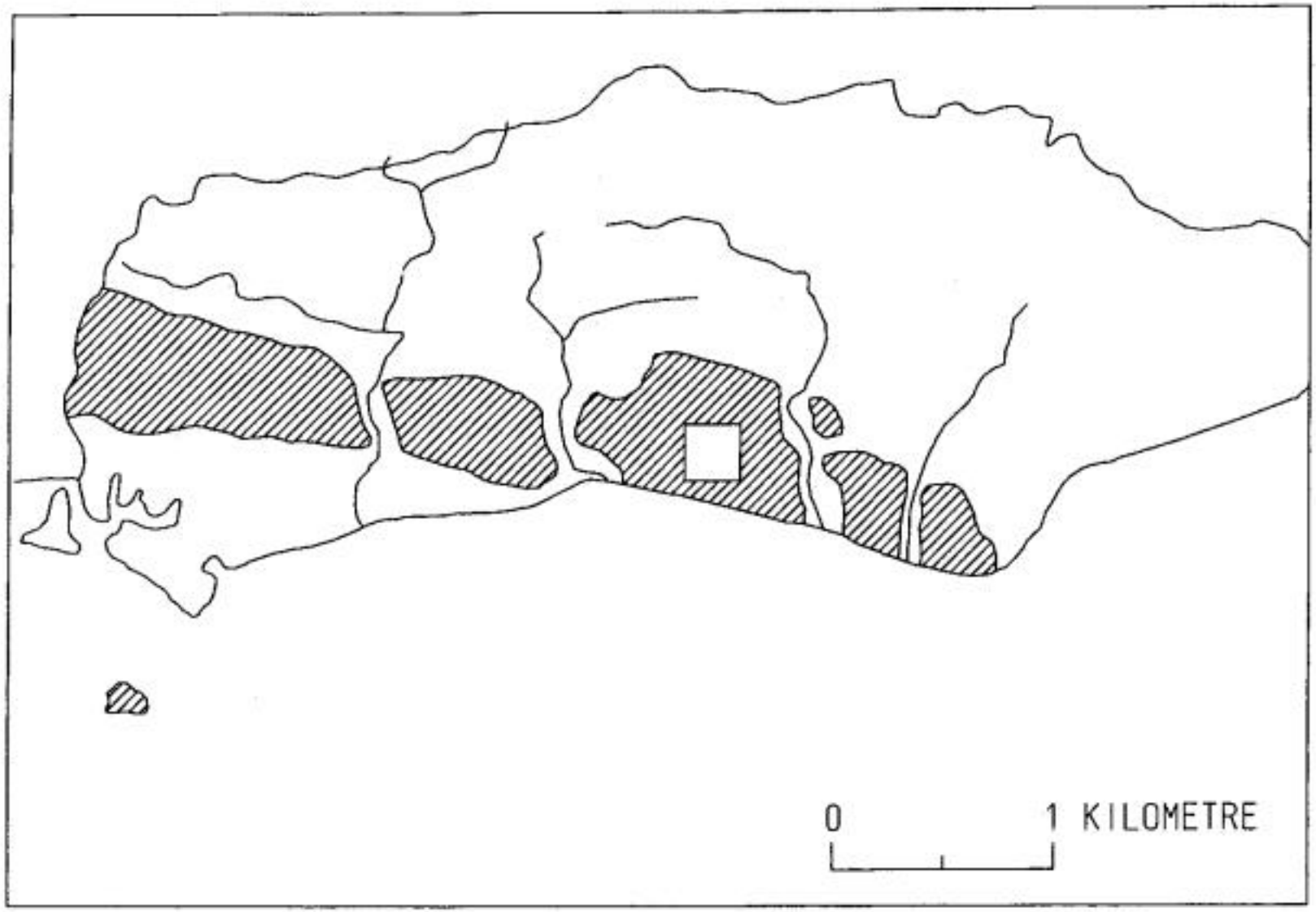

Fig 1. LOCATION OF EXCAVATION AT 30 NANSON ROAD, COLDEAN.

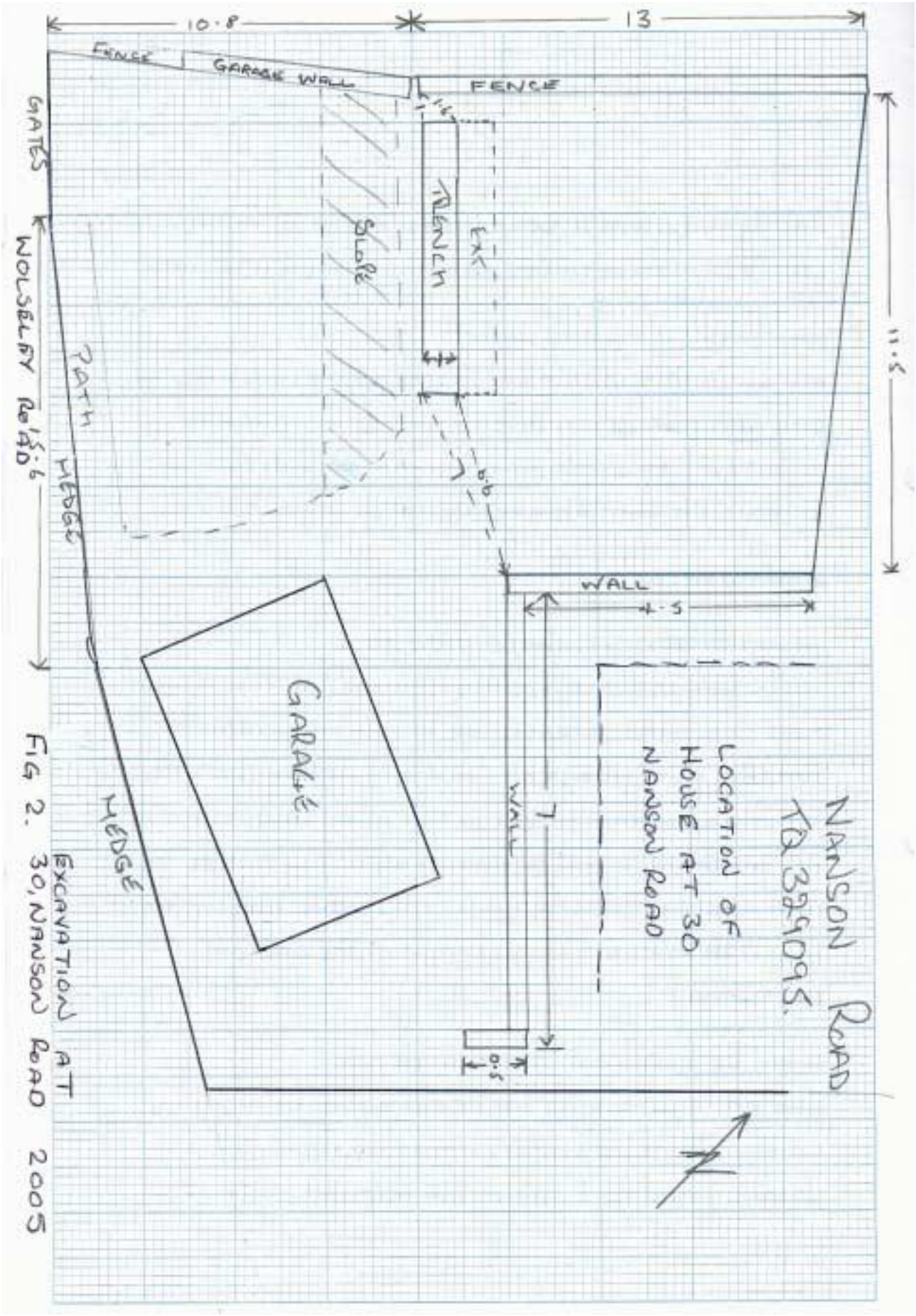

FIG 2. EXCAVATION AT 30, NANSON ROAD 2005

During 2000 excavations at Pudding Bag Wood and Stanmer Great Wood examined two linear earthworks. The features proved to be of Late Neolithic to early Bronze Age date (Pudding Bag Wood) and Iron Age (Stanmer Great Wood). A geophysical study at Varley Halls clearly indicates that the Bronze Age settlement site continues upwards and northwards beyond the previously excavated area. However, watching briefs conducted on a number of developments in Ashburnham Drive and Hawkhurst Road failed to find either archaeological artifacts or features. A watching brief of a gas pipe line at the bottom of the Coldean Lane in 2005, noted deep colluvial deposits and only finds from the upper layers of contemporary ceramics and building debris.

The Excavations

The BHAS who had been asked to conduct a watching brief at 30 Nanson Road, approached Mr Clive Voller, the land owner for consent to undertake a small excavation within the garden area. The society then conducted a small excavation prior to the commencement of the development works. The garden had been terraced in a number of places and the west side consisted of large quantities of contemporary soil from possible tipping. The BHAS Field Unit excavated a small trench in an area which appeared to retain the original land surface and which appeared untouched by later garden activities. The trench measured 3.5M x 1.5M and 1.4M in depth. (Fig. 3)

Stratigraphy and Contexts

The garden area was covered by scrub and brambles and this was cleared prior to the beginning of excavation. The upper layer of humus was removed using a mattock and shovel, while the lower fills were removed using trowels. The excavation produced a series of well defined archaeological layers. The trench, which was 1 metre in width, was later widened by 0.5M in an easterly direction.

Context A-The top layer was a very dark layer of humus varying from 310mm in depth at the north end of the section to 330mm in depth at the south. The dark layer produced a quantity of finds, mainly contemporary. These included modern ceramics and pieces of clay pipe.

Context B-The layer below the humus consisted of a light beige chalky loam. The fill contained quantities of small flint nodules. The finds from this layer included Iron Age pottery and struck flint flakes. The thickness of this deposit varied from 200mm at the north end to 330mm at the east end.

Context C-The deepest layer was a thin intermediate vestige of beige sandy loam, located between the chalk bedrock and the thicker chalky loam above. This sandy layer measured only a few millimetres in depth. A solitary flint flake was recovered from this lower level.

Context D-This context consisted of a small, rectangular shaped, collection of small flint nodules measuring 570mm wide, 250mm deep and protruding from the section by 280mm. (Fig 3.). The mound of flint was removed and was found to lie directly above the chalk bedrock with no incursions having been made into the chalk. The mound appears to have been a localized feature as no flint was observed in the section after excavation.

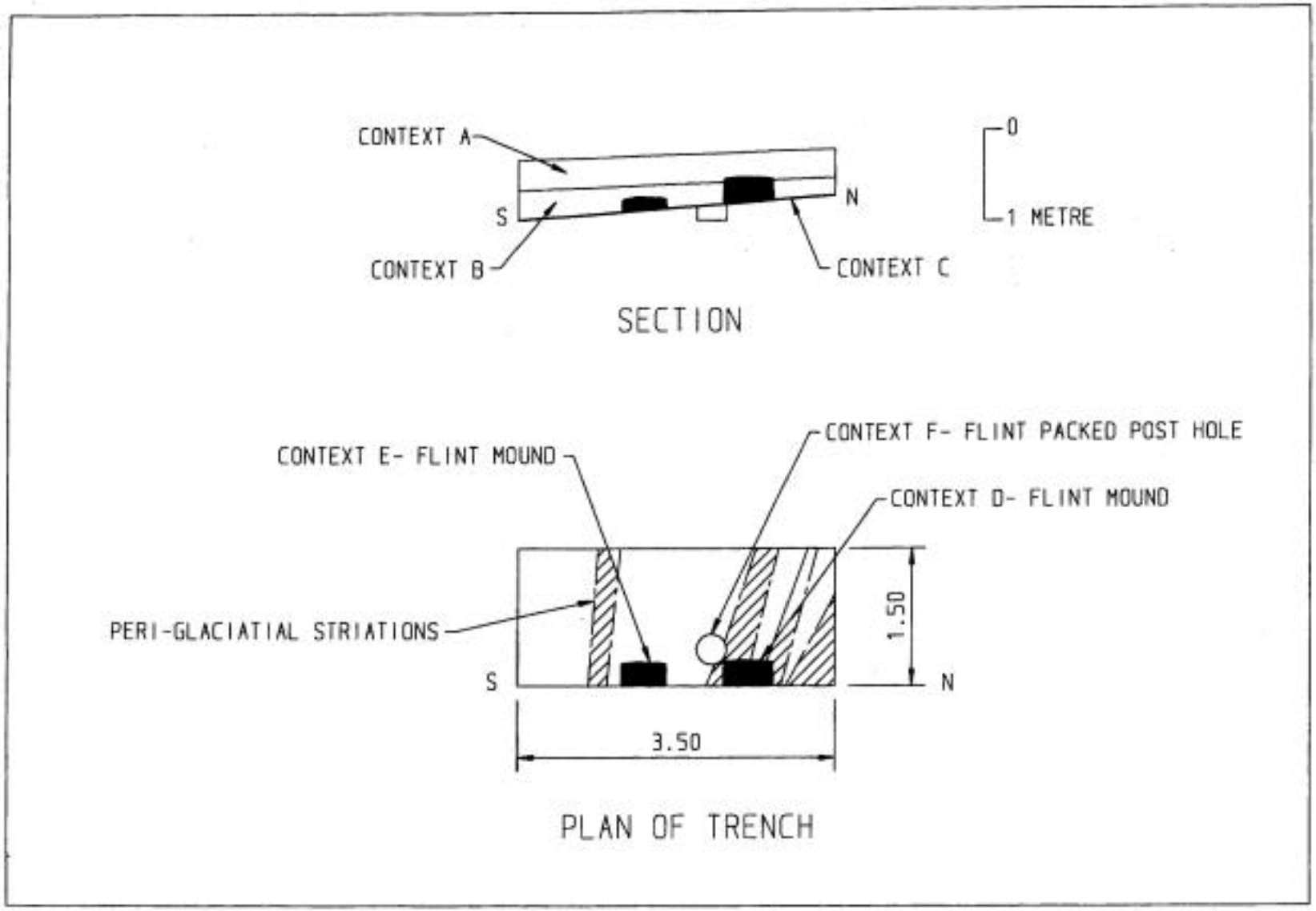

Fig 3. Excavation trench at 30 Nanson Road, Coldean

Context E-This context was a smaller mound of small flint nodules and lay to the east of context D. The excavation of the mound of nodules showed, as in context D, that no incursion had been made into the chalk, and after excavation no trace was visible in the section of the trench.

Context F-Context F was a flint packed post hole measuring 330mm in diameter and 207mm deep. The flint packing in the post hole was concentrated on the east side of the feature.

A number of linear features crossed the trench from west to east and are probably peri-glacial striations. These features were sectioned in a number of places and were found to be, with some minor variations, approximately 100mm in depth. The features had a soft fill of beige/white chalky loam and none of the sections cut produced any archaeological finds.

The Finds

The Pottery

The trench produced 11 sherds of pottery. The pottery consists of a number of fabrics and the style and inclusions tend to suggest that they are Iron Age.

Fabric A

The largest group of pottery sherds, 8 pieces in total, consisted of a reduced ware with flint inclusions measuring from 0.5mm to 7mm in length. The sherds were quite small and no diagnostic pieces were found.

Fabric B

There were 2 sherds of grog tempered East Sussex Ware. This pottery was a common style of manufacture throughout the Iron Age and the Roman and Saxon periods.

Fabric C

Fabric C was a single sherd of coarse sand tempered ware, well fired and oxidized.

The Flint Work

The collection of struck flint totalled 30. They were all hard hammer struck with 58% still retaining vestiges of cortex indicating that they were primary struck flakes. The patination varied from white in 14 flakes (45%) to blue in 17 flakes (55%). No flint tools were found. A total of 6 pieces of fire-cracked flint were also found with a combined weight of 219gms.

Context	**No of Flakes**	**Fire-cracked Flint**
A	6	1 (56gms)
B	21	3 (106gms)
C	0	
D	2	2 (57gms)
E	1	
Totals	30	6

Molluscs

The excavation produced a number of marine molluscs comprising scallop (80%), oyster (16%) and limpet (4%)

Mollusc	Context	No. of Pieces
Scallop	A	14
Scallop	B	4
Oyster	A	3
Oyster	B	1
Limpet	A	1
Total		23

Clay Pipe

The trench produced 2 pieces of clay pipe stem, one piece had an undecorated bowl still partially attached. The stems both measured 6mm in diameter and may be part of the same pipe. The measurements tend to suggest a 19th century date (Atkinson).

Miscellaneous Items

The site produced a number of items of contemporary dating including numerous pieces of glass from a number of vessels, roofing slate, glazed ceramics, flower pot sherds and two metal straps.

Conclusions

The small excavation at 30 Nanson Road has provided further evidence to indicate that the small valley at Coldean was part of a possible settlement during the Iron Age. The pottery found in the excavation lies close to the features found during the 1950's. The single flint packed post hole may be part of a structure or a fence line, but the solitary flint flake found within the post hole is not sufficient evidence to suggest that it was created during the late Neolithic period. The flint mounds found in close proximity to the post hole could be associated features but, again, there is no supportive evidence other than flint flakes to confirm this. A number of the round houses at the Downsview site did possess hearth features that were cut into the chalk bedrock and were packed with fire-cracked flint. However, the flint mounds at Nanson Road were rough flint nodules and had not been fired. The flint mounds were found lying on top of the chalk bedrock and so are highly unlikely to have been Bronze Age hearth areas. The concentration of flint nodules does suggest that they may have been stored for some prehistoric use, as yet unknown, although they could have been deposited at any period.

The excavation confirms that the area of archaeological interest at Coldean does extend towards the west of the valley. The lack of finds from recent watching briefs and the valley bottom gas pipe line trenches does tend to suggest that the main focus of the Iron Age and Romano-British phase is along the Hawkhurst Road/ Ingham Drive area. This part of the estate is the upper plateau section of Coldean. The earlier Bronze Age phase appears to be focused upon the steep sided east valley sides with the cemetery possibly located on the west side of the valley. However, the upper reaches of the east valley side do contain a number of tumuli, which does suggest a number of phases during the Bronze Age or a number of small nucleated farmsteads. However, the Downsview excavations confirm that

the focus of Middle to Late Bronze Age settlement continued in the same section of the valley. The funerary finds of both tumuli on the east side of the valley and cremation pit burials on the west side of the valley has a very interesting perspective which requires further investigation.

The few local finds of Neolithic material at Marquee Brow and Pudding Bag Wood indicate that this valley was a possible shelter to people in early antiquity. The settlement sites at Downsview and Varley Hall and the discrete burial sites around the valley show that this land was widely exploited during the Bronze Age. Field walking has provided finds of pottery to show activity during both Iron Age and Roman periods with the ditches found during the house building suggesting that there is an associated settlement. The shallow trackway that crosses the valley side on the west side links a number of medieval farmsteads. One medieval farmstead is known at Patchway field and there is a well documented manor at Piddingworth (Christie et al).The trackway was sectioned and examined during the Brighton bypass excavations, but no dating evidence was found (Rudling et al).

The excavation at Nanson Road was an opportunity to view just a tiny fragment of the ancient archaeological record, and it provided evidence to show that many gardens in this part of Coldean should be regarded as probable archaeological sites. Any future opportunities to dig in this area may provide important new finds that will help bring together, and enhance, the fragments that we presently hold and may eventually produce a clearer vision of the various settlements that have nestled in this tiny valley.

Even with so much archaeology revealed over the past four or five decades, it could be considered that investigations in any valley along the South Downs are likely to reveal similar strands of archaeology to that found at Coldean.

Acknowledgements:-

I would like to thank Mr Clive Voller for allowing access to the site and to all members of the BHAS Field Unit who conducted the excavation.

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John Funnell (President Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society)

24th May 2005

COLD DEAN FARM CIRCA 1940 BY C. YEATES.

A MASS GRAVE AT MALLING HILL, LEWES

In early May 2005 the BHAS Field Unit responded to a request from the County Archaeologist and Greg Chuter for help with a site on Malling Down. The Lewes Rangers had been scrub cleaning and when bushes had been removed found that rabbit burrowing had been disturbing human remains. Over a bleak week-end of intermittent drizzle and rain members of the unit conducted an excavation on a small platform area on the steep, scarp, west facing side of Malling Down. Two small trenches were cut and the excavations produced a total of 9 burials. The site was immediately adjacent to an earlier trench that had been cut in the 1970's that had produced 12 burials.

It soon became apparent that these were no ordinary burials, from a total of 9 bodies in the new excavation only 1 head was recovered. As the dig progressed the people who had been buried were observed to have had their hands tied behind their backs. There was a small area between the old and new excavations that was free of any skeletal remains.

It would appear that the burials were execution victims. It would seem that the young men, our bones team who are examining the remains trend to confirm this, were marched up the hill and then beheaded, their bodies being thrown into a number of shallow pits. A solitary buckle was found at the junction of one of the leg and feet bones. They were executed on this elevated spot no doubt to make a point to those watching in the valley below.

It was a poignant thought that as we stood on Malling Down and looked towards Lewes Castle, and the medieval churches of Hamsey and Barcombe, that this was the last view that these poor wretches may have seen just before their tragic ends.

Greg Chuter will be producing a full report for the Sussex Archaeological Collections. Carol White and the BHAS bones team produced a report on the bones and this was passed along with the human remains to English Heritage at Fort Cumberland in October of 2005.

John Funnell 21st December 2005

Appendage

Since the original draft of this note was written subsequent examination of the human remains by English Heritage have raised some interesting questions. The bodies were originally assumed to be soldiers associated with the battle of Lewes in 1264, and their execution regarded as a vengeance for being on the wrong side. There was some speculation that the executions could be a Saxon/Norman event for reasons unknown. English Heritage have now completed a carbon 14 dating for the bones and have come up with a date of 810-910AD for the remains, which raises some very fascinating questions as to what was happening in Lewes prior to the Norman conquest.

John Funnell 28th December 2006

Woodingdean Project

Phase 1

The Woodingdean Cemetery Project was reopened during the later part of March 2005. The investigation involve a further three trenches, (P) (R) (S) being opened in an attempt to identify possible ancient activity. (TQ350054). The location of these trenches was governed by the visual topography of the land at the borders of the cemetery. Excavated trenches were recorded by planning and photography while artefacts extracted during the excavation were collected for post-excavation analysis. Trench P was placed to cut an existing compacted track way. The materials that made up the track way dated the track way to the 20th Century, (Plate 1.) while the raised platform of soil it lay on contained some worked flint tools and flint flakes. Further analysis of the flint work will be required to place these items into a more detailed date range. Trench R was positioned across a possible ancient field boundary, (Plate 2.) while Trench S was placed at the bottom of the hill slope to see if the bottom of the slope had previously been a wetland area and how much ancient worked material had collected at the bottom, due to natural soil movement over time. The investigation trenches were backfilled during May 2005.

Phase 2

Phase 2 consisted of a geophysical survey of the field to the west of the cemetery. (TQ348052). It is known that ancient bronze objects had been found in this field. A small geophysical survey was conducted which revealed a circular area of low resistance, which may be some form of enclosure. (Fig 2.) Further work will have to be carried out before any useful data, with regard the type of feature and what date it is can be, can establish whether it is an ancient or modern feature.

Phase 3

Phase three consisted of field walking the field which lay to the south of the cemetery site (Fig 1.) where aerial photographs clearly show a collection of ancient field boundaries. (TQ353052). A base line was set out using the north boundary of the field. The field walking consisted of lines set at 20 metres apart and the lines walked were divided into 20 metre long transects. The fields were walked north to south going down the hill, the field unit paired off into two's, and they walked a total of fifteen lines. Unfortunately the field had not been ploughed and was full of weed and scrub, which made walking difficult to carry out and also reduced the amount of artefacts collected. The unploughed surface reduced the amount of researchable data. The artefacts that were collected at the end of each 20m grid will be collated and recorded to allow any potential hot spots of possible ancient activity to be recorded.

Norman Phippard

WOODINEDEAN 2005
PLATE 1.

WOODINGDEAN 2005
PLATE 2.

WOODINGDEAN FIELD SOUTH OF CEMETERY 2005

FIG. 1

Fig 2

Geophysical survey
Woodingdean 2005

Bushy Bottom, Shoreham

Introduction

In the latter part of 2004 the BHAS Field Unit received a request from a student at Winchester for help in conducting a major resistivity survey on earthworks at Bushy Bottom, north of Shoreham. The earthworks lie south of the television mast located on top of Truleigh Hill (TQ228097). The earthworks are at a considerable distance from the main track way which is the South Downs Way. It may this isolation that has preserved them. The Society is unaware as to whether ploughing has taken place on the fields in the past, but the state of preservation appears to suggest that the hill side has been purely used for pastoral purposes. The valley bottom was being ploughed during the survey.

The earthworks consist of a large curving bank that appears to be some form of enclosure (Fig 1.) Within this feature are a number of linear banks which are probably field systems. The survey was a project to seek geophysical evidence for a chronological sequence for the interlinking features between the enclosure boundary and the field systems located within. The survey did not include plans for any subsequent excavation to confirm any hypotheses formulated as a result of the surveying.

The enclosure is close to and east of the Iron Age hill-fort at Thundersbarrow Hill. The earthworks at Bushy Bottom are just one of many earthworks observed and recorded in this area over the past century. Very few of these earthworks have been investigated through excavation. The features are considered to be relatively safe from destruction or erosion while they are being maintained as fields for grazing.

The survey was the subject of a project by Paul Clements, a student studying at Winchester. (The report is appended to this note). The majority of the extensive survey was conducted by Paul aided by his mother Beth. The Society assisted at week-ends. The equipment from Winchester initially had a number of technical problems which caused a large part of the survey having to be undertaken a second time.

The survey began along the bottom of the hill and gradually extended eastwards and upwards from the valley bottom. (Fig 2.) The survey continued for a number of weeks during January and early February of 2005.

Methodology

The area to be surveyed was divided into a series of 20 metre square grids. A base line was set up parallel to the fence line running north/south along the valley bottom and the survey moved eastwards and up the hill, examining both the enclosure ramparts, field system and surrounding area. (Fig.2)

The machines used were a four prong RM15 from Winchester and a TR Systems machine was used by the BHAS Field Unit. The measurements were taken at 1 metre intervals and the measurements recorded in Ohms. Both machines were used at a ‘minimum’ distance of 40 metres between them to avoid any disruption and interference with the data collection. During previous surveys, when two machines were used, confusing data was noted when the two machines were used within 40 metres of each other.

BUSHY BOTTOM 2005

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FIG 1

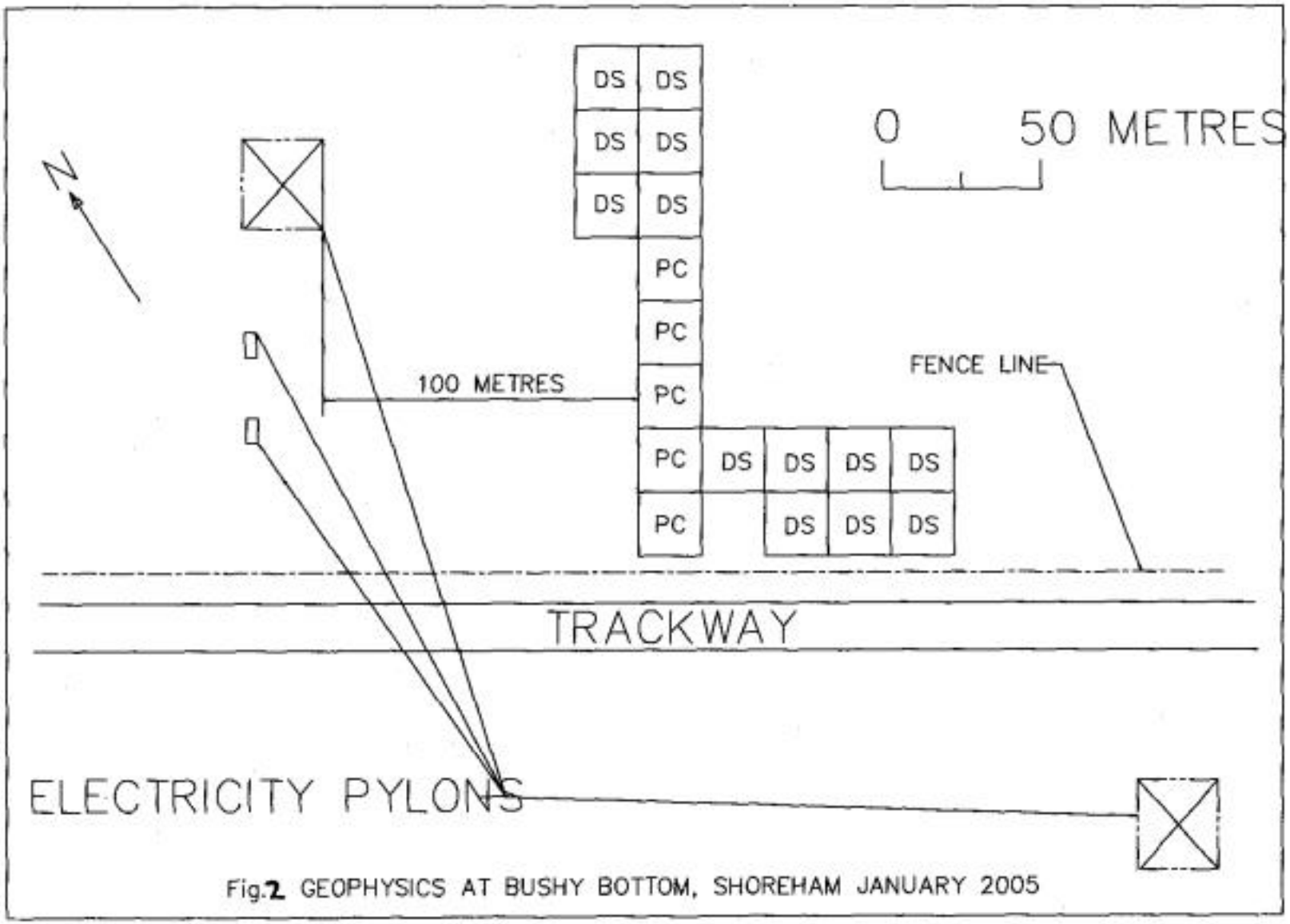
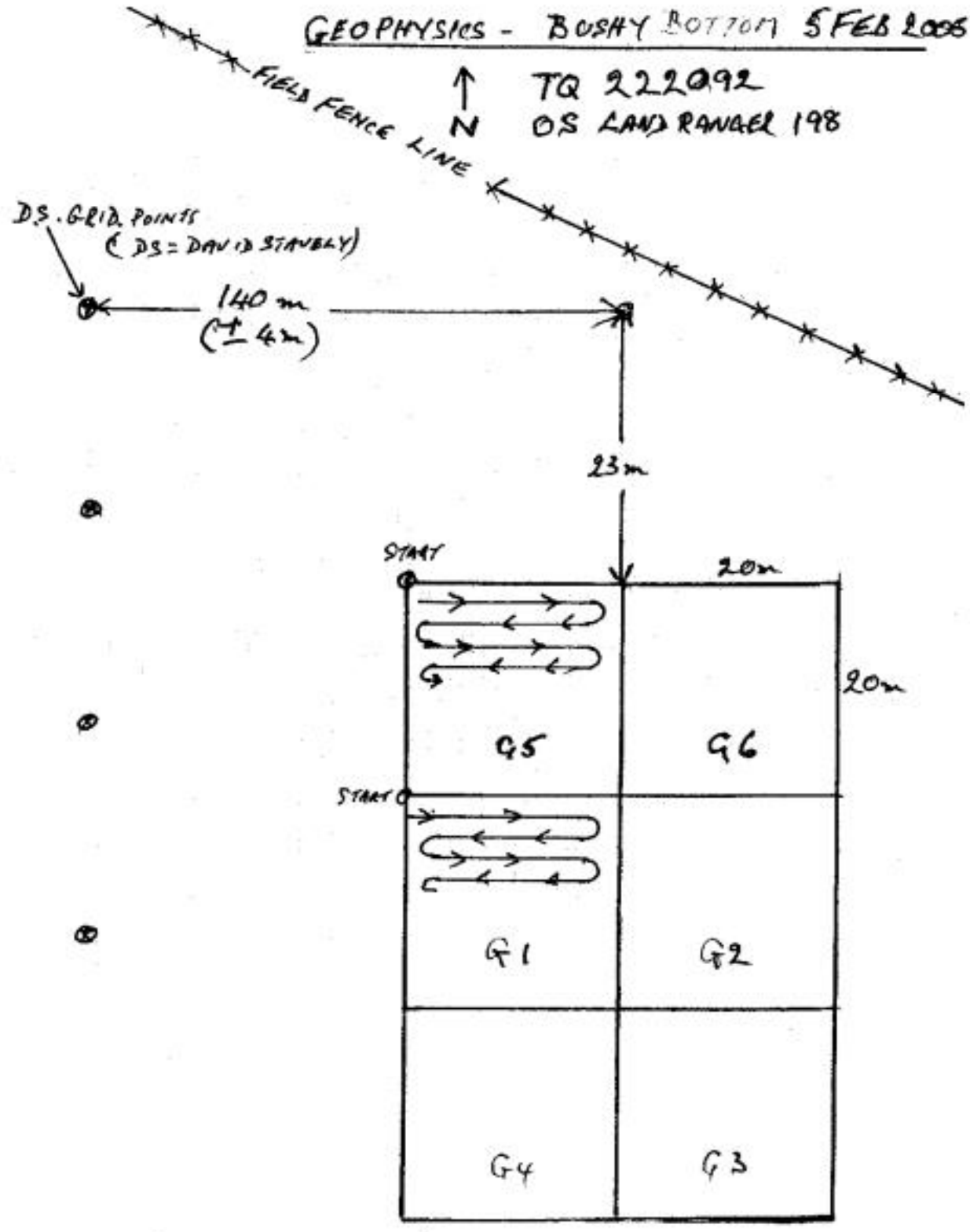


Fig.2 GEOPHYSICS AT BUSHY BOTTOM, SHOREHAM JANUARY 2005



MACHINE. TWIN PROBE RM15

TEAM: JOHN FUNNELL
DAVID LUDWIG
BILL SANTER
RICHARD

PLUS PAUL CLEMENTS AND MUM!

Fig 3

Results

The results of the survey produced some very interesting anomalies. The discussion about the survey images and results are entirely the work of Paul Clements and his published dissertation. BHAS had no input for the dissertation producing only part of the data collection. During the surveying a number of anomalies were observed in the landscape. The features appeared, possibly due to the low sun, as extended shadow marks and are located on the hill to the east of the valley. It is possible that the upper reaches of the hill side contain a number of subtle platforms. It would be very presumptuous to suggest that these ephemeral features are the sites of prehistoric house terraces, but evidence from prehistoric sites at Downsview (Rudling) and Varley Halls, Coldean (Greig) do have a striking resemblance. It is possible that further surveying may provide evidence to confirm the location of a settlement associated with the field systems examined.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank those members of the BHAS Field Unit who assisted in the surveying. David Staveley who led the team comprising M.Greening, S.Corbett, E.Corbett, D.McBrien, D.Ludwig, R.Symonds, W.Santer and B. Collins.

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PAUL CLEMENTS

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY AND EARTHWORK SURVEY OF BUSHY BOTTOM, SUSSEX

January 2005

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to acknowledge the help received from the people helped me with this project. First of all the National Trust and Brian Harris, the land owners, who kindly granted permission to carry out the work.

Keith Watson of West Sussex and Greg Chuter of East Sussex County Council County Council for taking time to sort out SMR data for me.

I would like to thank John Funnell and David Stavely of Brighton and Hove Archaeology Society and the others members who came out to help me with the resistivity survey.

John and Beth Clements who also spent time in the field helping with the geophysics.

Alex Turner for helping me with the geophysics equipment and the results.

Simon Roffey who helped with supervision over this report.

SYNOPSIS

The site of Bushy Bottom is located on top of the South Downs at NOR 523219 109481. Aerial photography of the area shows old field boundaries and another enclosure which appears to be placed over these earlier field boundaries. From looking at the aerial photography the earlier boundaries look to be part of a prehistoric coaxial network of fields. Further east their looks to be more of these prehistoric field systems. The later enclosure has been suggested to be Roman. A map, c. 1870 of the area has a Roman Encampment marked on it (NGR 524511, 109615), about a mile east, which on modern maps is now marked as field systems. About one mile northeast of the site is the medieval village of Perching, and to the north of the medieval village the remains of Fulking Castle, the remains of a Motte and Bailey. Also dotted around the area are barrows none of which come into the area of earthworks which I plan to study. Maps show that about half of the area is owned by the National Trust and the other half privately owned. At present written permission is still pending, but when received Brighton and Hove Archaeology Society have said that they will be willing to help with any practical work carried out there. At the site I am planning to do a Geophysical survey of the area using both resistivity. This will be combined with a topography survey looking at the earthworks and recording them.

CONTENTS

ILLUSTRATIONS

INTRODUCTION

Peasant farmsteads are common in Sussex, their locations tend to be on hilltops and in areas considered to be poor farming land. The Romanisation of Britain would have made a difference to the lives of the wealthier people of the society, but the people on the peasant farms, it has been argued, would have noticed this to a much less extent (Millet, 2003,186). Possibly due to being on the fringes of society or in more remote areas away from centres of trade that would have helped with the spread of Roman ideas. Archaeological evidence has shown that they would have continued to farm the same land as their ancestors before them, using the same field systems. It also shows that the main change that they would have seen would have been an influx in the mass produced Roman pottery. Evidence of this is shown at Park Brow and Charleston Brow which showed that the local pottery was gradually replaced with the Roman wares (Curwen, 1952, 222).

Early Iron Age settlements can fall into a variety of categories. The majority are not defensive, but just defined by a bank and ditch to mark out the perimeter of the site, sometimes also with a stockade. The area enclosed varies a lot and can range from 0.5 acres up to 10 acres or more. Generally smaller enclosures tend to have one single hut, but the larger enclosure do not, as would be expected, contain many huts forming a small village. It should also be noted that not all settlements in the Iron Age were enclosed. Other sites, such as, Crannings Cross in Wiltshire and Slonk Hill in Sussex, were not defined by any type of boundary, and these are known as open settlements (Harding, 1974,21).

As Harding (1974, 21) points out, it is good to acknowledge that there is “always a danger in assuming... .that enclosure ditches necessarily mark the outer limits of a settlement; conceivably such a boundary could delimit only the nucleus of the occupation.”

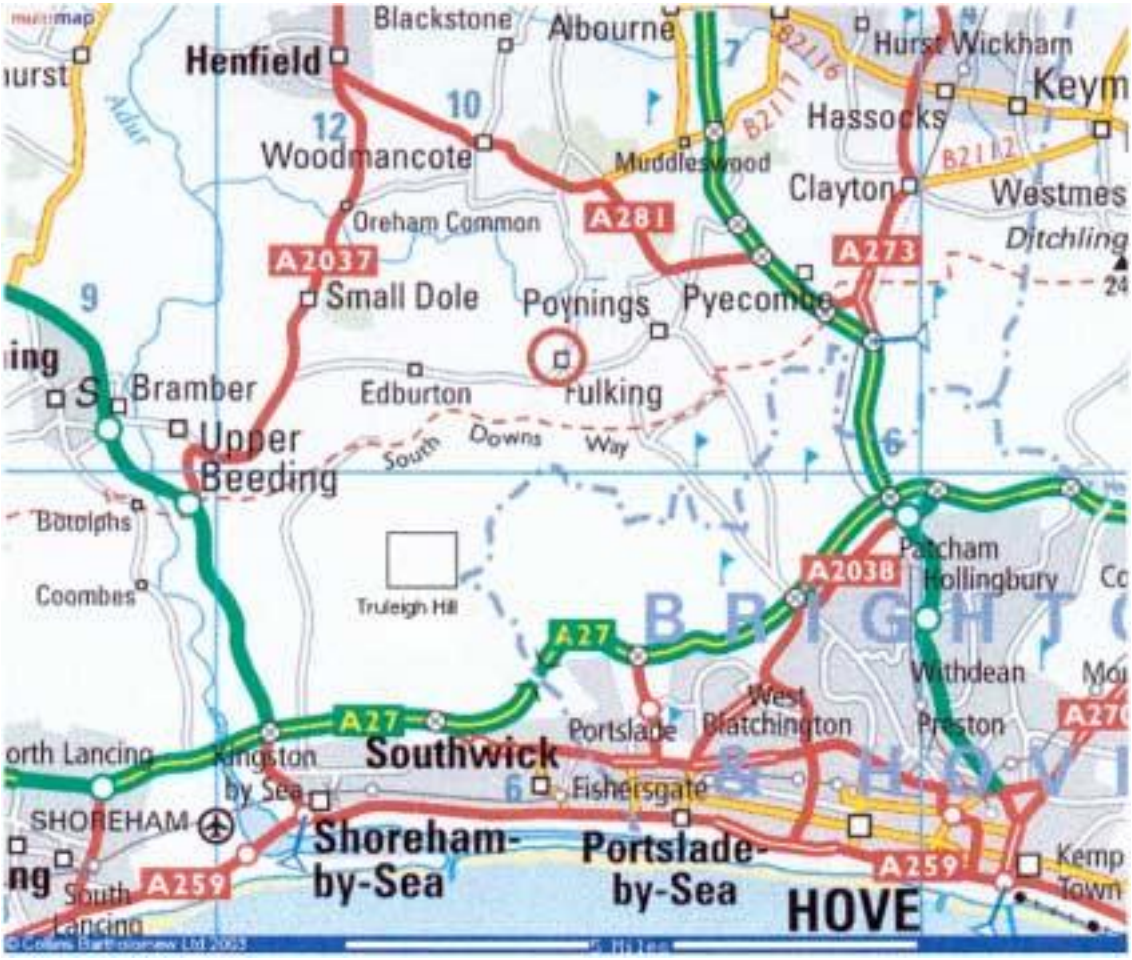


Figure 1 Location Map 1:10000 (Multimap.com)

All over the Sussex Downs remains of prehistoric field systems and settlements are numerous. Many good examples can be noted such as the Plumpton Plain, a Bronze Age settlement, up to the Iron Age defended enclosure of Thundersbarrow Hill, which later had a Romano-British settlement built to the east. In most cases these settlements leave little or no evidence of there existence on the surface, and often are only identified through finding pottery sherds and burnt flint through animal disturbance (Curwen, 1929, 171).

Aerial photography shows many remains of pre-Roman field systems on the Downs, showing that the area would have been greatly covered with farms that would, most likely, have continued into the Roman period. An area of the South Downs between the River Adur and the River Ouse was studied in 1935 by G.A. Hollyman. By studying earthworks and locating field systems, he identified thirty-two occupation sites, including the site that is being studied, consisting of small hamlets to single huts. The finding of pottery also helped with this identification (Curwen, 1954, 289). The site being studied is just above the valley of Bushy Bottom on the southern slope of Truleigh Hill, north-east of Brighton, NOR TQ23 10009600, Figure 1. The earthworks are located in an area noted as being archaeologically sensitive, but are not scheduled monuments and there are no scheduled monuments in the surrounding fields, as advised by English Heritage. The land is part owned by the National Trust and the privately owned by Mr Brian Harris. Both parties were contacted before the commencement of work and written permission sought from both owners.

The first part of the work consisted of an earthwork survey of the lynchets forming the field system. This will be done in sketch plan format to a scale of 1cm: 25 metres A geophysical survey of Resistivity will be done concentrating on the area of the enclosure. The geophysics will only look at some of the interior and the enclosure ditches, but not specifically aimed at looking outside of the enclosure (method Appendix 1.)

The main aim of the survey is to look for any signs of human activity and possible settlement, and to use the data collected to make comparisons with other sites to determine a possible use and date of the site.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

No excavation has been done on the site but has several mentions in documents. The first was in the 1929 version of The Journal of Roman Studies part two, page 210 when it says ‘Dr. E. C. Curwen observed much pottery in a pitted area surrounded by characteristic lynchets, indicating a Romano-British village.’ The same details are given in his book Prehistoric Sussex, but also adds that he was following an ancient track way (1929, 94). The West Sussex SMR record for the site (SMR Number 4365 -WS875) also mentions these details and includes that ‘A bivallate Celtic road runs N and S up the hill with branches to left and right: It also notes that the pottery found by Curwen has now been lost, so this can not be looked at again to see if it was Iron Age. Assuming that the site continued to be used into the Roman period it would be thought that some Roman pottery would have been found as well.

The nearest, main, Iron Age site is the settlement on Thundersbarrow Hill. This located about 1 mile south of the enclosure. Thundersbarrow Hill was occupied from the Iron Age with a small defended enclosure. A later Romano-British settlement was then located to the east of the enclosure. Looking north from this point it is possible to see some of the field systems on Truleigh Hill and the enclosure.

The Thundersbarrow farm settlement is the centre point of the large area of lynchets, containing roads that link it to other farms in the area (Curwen, 1952, 291). Containing several huts it also has its own corn drying kilns and may suggest that the site on the southern slope of Truleigh Hill may have been controlled by this settlement or at least that this could have been the main storing area of grain for a few settlements in the locality, based on its Iron Age history which the people may still of had links with.

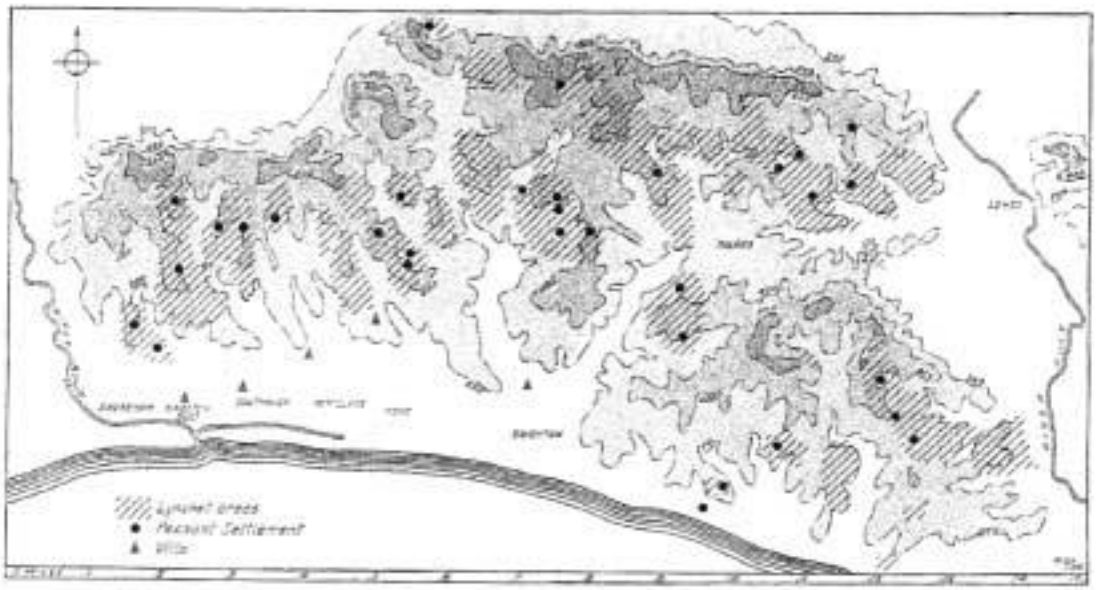


FIG. 89.—DISTRIBUTION OF PEASANT SETTLEMENTS, VILLAS AND LYNCHETS IN THE BRIGHTON DISTRICT
After G. A. Holleyman
The hatched areas were under cultivation in the Roman period

Figure 2 Holleyman's Results (Curwen, 1954, figure 89)

When looking at the results collected by Holleyman (Figure 2) you can see how the farmsteads in this area can be grouped together. Looking at the group containing the site I am looking at, it is in a group of 7 settlements. One settlement is located in the centre of this group and this one is Thundersbarrow with Truleigh Hill to the north.

This may be coincidence with the way the sites have been grouped, but with its Iron Age defenses and the only one known to have corn dryers it would be viable that this could be a central point for the farms grouped in this area. It is clear to see that the Sussex chalk Down lands supported a dense distribution of non villa settlements (Hingley, 1989, 56).

Several early Roman villas can be found within the area. The nearest villa to the site is in the Southwick area of Brighton about 5 miles south-east. It is also possible that these farmsteads, as thought by some people, could be linked with villas. These small farmsteads working parts of the land for these wealthier people. No extensive work has been done on these links and a problem looking at it in this way is that there is no real way to identify which land would have been owned by which villa or landowner. There is also the possibility of overseas absentee landowners who are known of in the Roman Empire, but in Britain only one is known about (Millett, 1990, 189). Four villas in total are known of in this area, all are in the lower regions of the downs. As with villas generally, they are located near to roads, these where it is thought a road would have gone from Brighton to Lewes, and as such it not possible to gain much information on their links with the farmsteads. From the distances between these two types of settlement, it would suggest that they are separate from the villas but most likely worked in small groups of settlements working areas of land that were deemed to be bad farming

SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The site consists of a series of lynchets forming a prehistoric field system, with a presumed later enclosure, possibly of Roman date. Located on the South facing slope of Truleigh Hill the enclosure measures c.220 metres from the fence at the eastern edge to the western lynchet, and c. 160 metres from the most southerly edge to the northern lynchet. The shape of the enclosure is of a rounded triangle shape, but the eastern tip is not visible beyond the later fence that cuts it. The lynchets of the enclosure, although flattened slightly by ploughing, are still c. 50cm up to c. 1 metre high along the northern edge. The field itself had been ploughed, but this stopped in 1989.

The lynchets forming the field systems are clearly visible from the ground. Flint concentrations, more so on the lynchets of the enclosure, can be seen through the grass. This is most noticeable On the northern and western lynchets. It has also resulted in the grass being lighter than that that surrounds it. The flint banks are seen at other sites in the local area, which are discussed below.

Within the enclosure lynchets running east-west of the fields systems can be seen to enter it. A double lynchet feature also appears on the aerial photography, entering at the southern edge. The enclosure and the associated field systems have no major animal disturbance, only a few small holes no more than 10cm deep with no finds disturbed.

North of the site in the same field earthworks are also visible. These appear more like terraces and extend from the far north of the field, to the field systems and the enclosure and will be mentioned more in the aerial photography.

The geology of the site chalk with flint, as shown below.

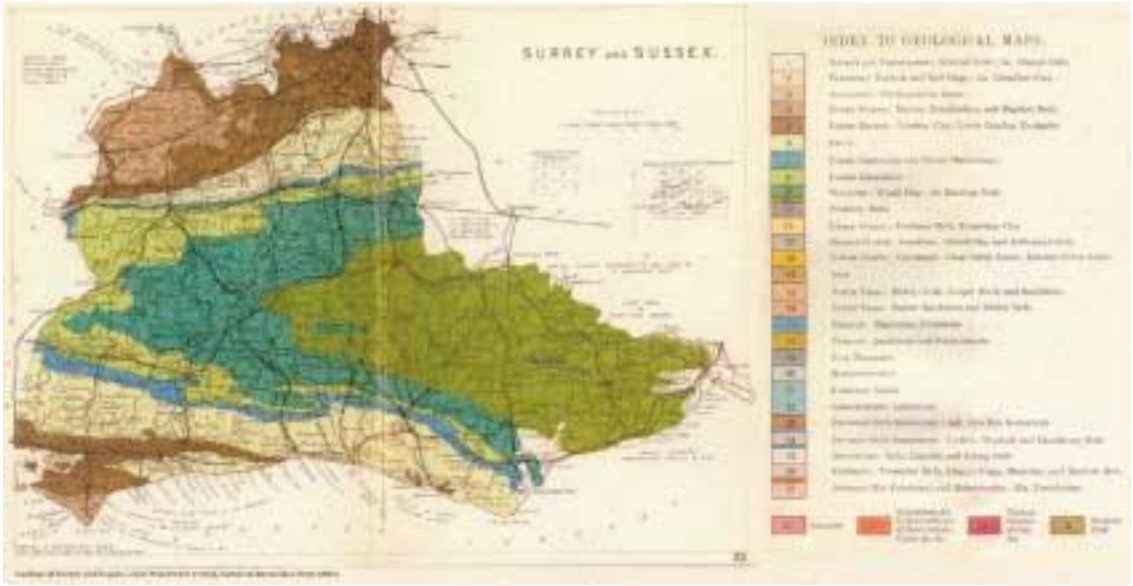


Figure 3 Woodward's 1904 Sussex Geology Map, figure 2

MAPS

The earliest map of the site is the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1874/5 (Appendix 4). This map shows the western edge of the later enclosure and eastern extent of the field systems running in a northern direction. The north-western corner of the enclosure is clearly visible and appears to be shown joining with the south running lynchet of the western most field. This section is clearly shown as a bank with hatchets in opposite directions showing it to be a quite substantial earthwork. One other item of interest is the location of a barrow immediately to the north. The 1898 second edition OS map has no extra information or features. The maps of 1912 and 1947 still show the same earthworks and described as mounds. From the 1960's OS maps the tumulus shown at the top of the hill is no longer mentioned and today is not a scheduled monument. The 1968 map shows the north and south earthworks of the enclosure, but now leaves out the western side. It also show the approximate boundary of the enclosure as being fenced off as a black line. In the 1972 OS map it shows no earthworks in the area. Other comparisons with the earlier 1968 map show that it just less detailed. One last point to note is that no earthworks are shown for the north of the field, where earthworks are visible in aerial photography.

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

The earliest aerial photograph is a 1947 RAF photo. The area of the enclosure stands out from the surrounding area as it appears as though this area was ploughed and the rest of the area was left as grassland. Despite being ploughed no interior features are visible as soil marks. Not all of the enclosure area has been ploughed. The eastern edge and the southern tip of the enclosure are not included. The south-eastern lynchet is visible on this photo, but can not be followed further beyond the modern field boundary to the east. The northern lynchet can be traced a little further into the next field on the east, but just appears to fade out. The northern bank presumed to be a boundary lynchet is just visible. It also shows the east-west lynchet of the three fields created by these two lynchets as their north and south boundaries. In this aerial photograph no evidence can be seen for the ancient track that was mentioned by Curwen in 1929 in The Journal of Roman Studies.

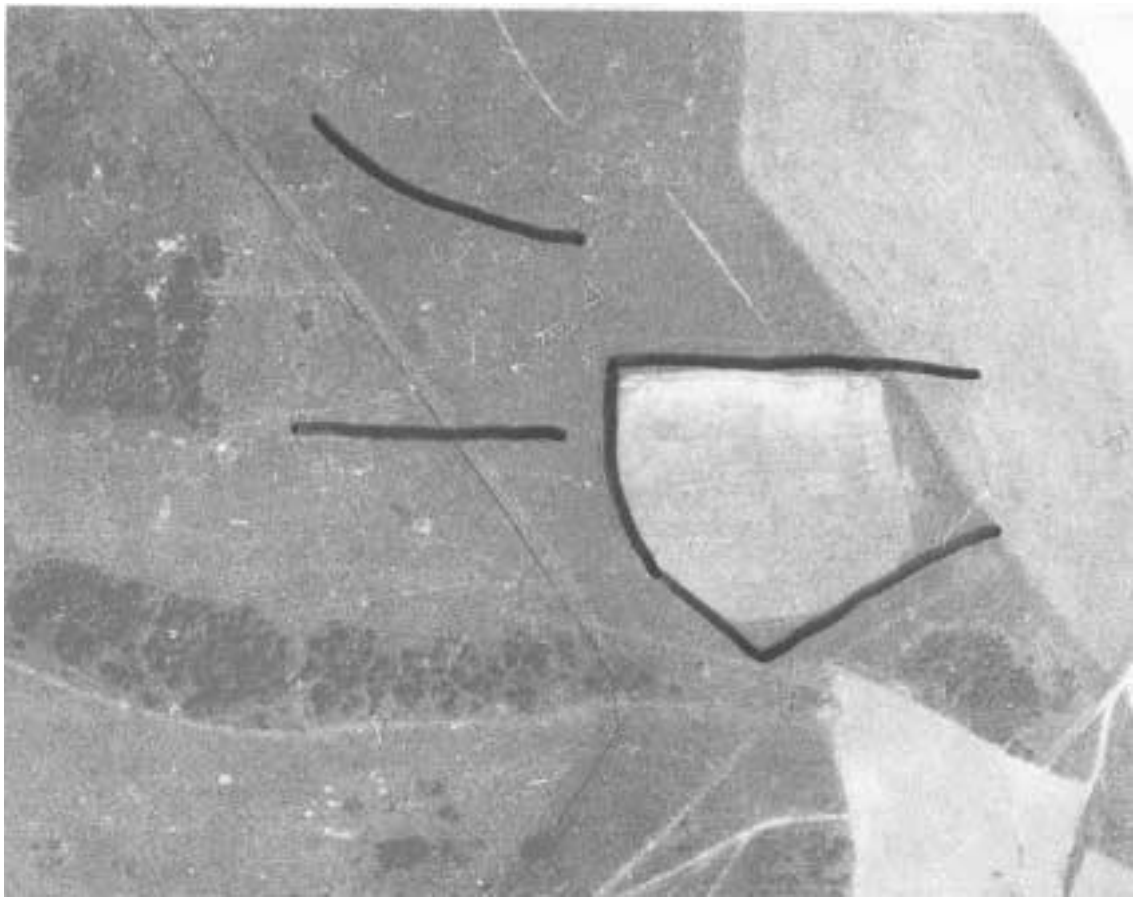


Figure 4 1947 RAF Aerial Photography

The next photo was taken in 1988, figure 5, the last year that the area was under the plough. The direction of the plough marks combined with the stage of crop growth when this photograph was taken help to hide the soil marks and lynchets. Despite this most of the enclosure and the adjoining field system are still visible. The northern boundary lynchet can be identified and it can be seen on this photo that on the meditate interior of this lynchet in the fields it is darker which would suggest that there is a ditch here. The middle and eastern lynchets dividing up the fields, running north to south are visible with the southern boundary of these fields as well. Just visible are two lynchets south of the pylon joining onto the enclosure. Of the enclosure itself the north and western edges are most evident and the interior of these is darker indicating an internal ditch. The northern bank can also be seen continuing into the next field to the east, but then just appears to stop. The southern boundary can just be identified, but no other information can be obtained. No internal features can be seen within the enclosure.

Figure 5 1988 Aerial Photography, West Sussex County Council

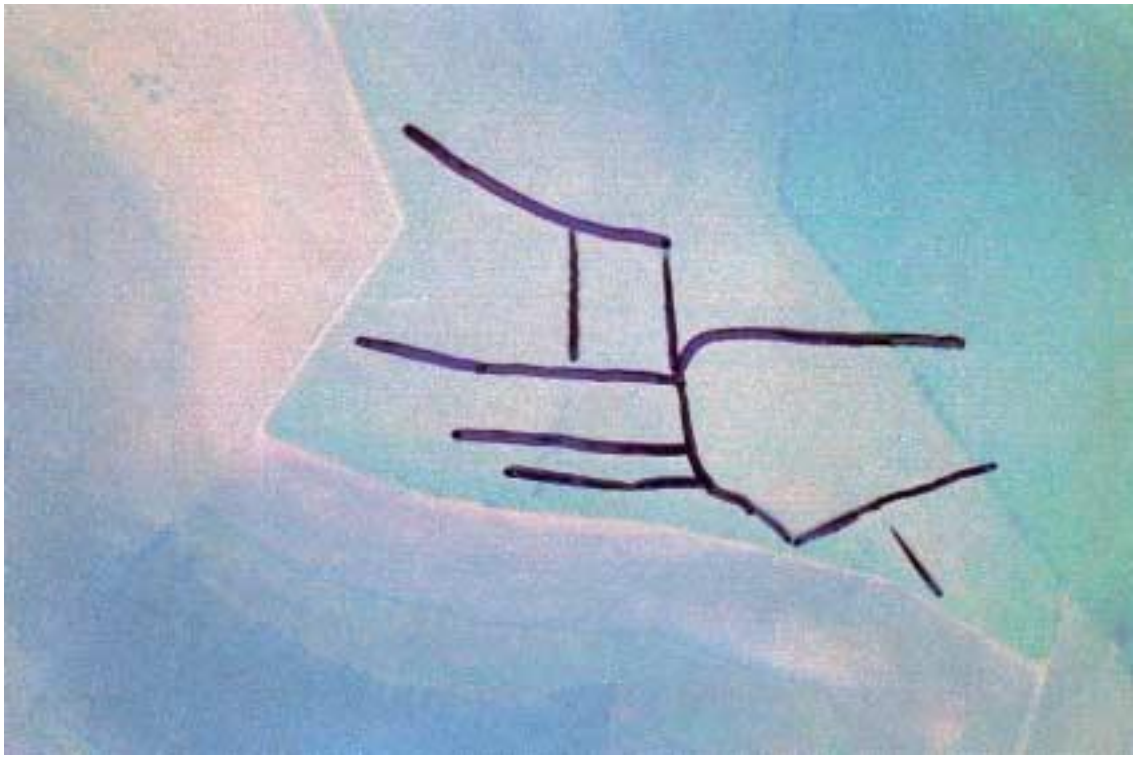


Figure 6 1997 Aerial Photography, West Sussex County Council

The 1997 aerial photograph, figure 6 shows the same features of the field system and enclosure, but it does reveal more interior features of the enclosure. It shows double

lynchet feature entering the enclosure from the south-east, this likely to be the ancient track way mentioned by Curwen. It appears as though the track joins with the southern most east-west field lynchet, and also continues in an arc shape north. The track can not be followed further south than the edge of the modern field. The north western corner of the enclosure appears to show a continuation of the field system lynchet indicating that this part of the field predates the enclosure.

The most modern aerial photograph was taken around 2001, figure 7. This photograph shows the enclosure and field systems clearly and adds extra features to the interior of the site. The track way again is clearly shown and seen to pass the enclosure bank. North of this point a double lynchet feature can be seen by the field edge and may well be part of the track way, that on the SMR describes it as branching east and west. To the west of the enclosure interior is a semi circular feature, but it is not clear how it relates to other features from the photograph.

Figure 7, 2001 Aerial Photography, (GetMapping)

ENCLOSED SITES IN SUSSEX

Plumpton Plain is an area which hosts the site a Bronze Age settlement (Curwen, 1929, 92) located on a southern spur of Down land. The site contains two settlements both dating to the Late Bronze Age, although in use at separate times. Each of the enclosures were approached by a track way which runs directly past all of the enclosures. Three of the enclosures on the site were excavated in 1934 by Brighton and Hove Archaeological society under G. A. Holleyman and E Curwen (Curwen, 1954, 175). The soil was removed down to the natural chalk. Many postholes were found to have been dug into the chalk, but were now filled with flint. A total of three round huts were identified from the postholes, measuring about 6 metres in diameter. The second area of settlement, Settlement B, was excavated at the same time, although there were no major earthworks at this area, postholes were found which showed three more huts.

Another good example of Bronze Age settlement can be seen at New Barn Down. This site was excavated in 1933. It showed evidence of two huts and along the southern bank evidence of some type of palisade, with postholes found about 90 cm apart. (Curwen, 1954, 179). The New Barn site was located on the south eastern spur of Harrow Hill. The enclosure was approached by a double lynchet track way from the west, which then ran south through the field systems. New Barn consisted of two enclosures, compared with that at Plumpton Plain , which had 3 contemporary huts aligned along a track way. Itford Hill seven or eight conjoined enclosures, not all contemporary, were found with three separate huts scattered further away. It is evident that some settlements were individual farmsteads and others could have taken the form of small hamlets or villages (Cunliffe, 1991, 44).

More recently other excavations, conducted during the construction of the Brighton bypass between 1989 and 1990 (Rudling, 2002, xix), have been carried out on other Bronze age sites around the edge of Brighton.

One notable site being that of Eastwick Barn. This area had many large lynchets that had survived well due to the lack of modern cultivation. The site was located in the bottom of a dry valley (Rudling, 2002, 107). The field system lynchets were constructed of banks of flints randomly placed into lose soil, and has been suggested that these flints were part of field clearance. Many of the lynchets when excavated revealed Iron Age to Romano-British pot sherds, and Later Bronze Age pottery sherds were also found (Rudling, 2002, 110).

At Park Brow, near Sompting, one mile north of Cissbury, there were traces of field systems and evidence of a succession of settlements dating from the late Bronze Age through to latter part of Roman period (Curwen, 1929, 171). A short distance from the Bronze Age site is an early Iron Age settlement (Drewet, Rudling, Gardiner, 1988,133). On the South downs continuity of settlements appears to have occurred from the Bronze Age through to the Roman period and this is evident at Park Brow through the three distinct settlement areas (Hingley, 1989, 129).

Closer to the site on Truleigh Hill, only about two miles south-east, were excavations at Mile Oak Farm in 1989 as part of the bypass excavations. Very shallow lynchets were visible and were presumed to be iron age to Romano-British in date. The excavations revealed three round house structures, of middle Bronze Age date, which may have been contemporary or a succession of buildings. An early Bronze Age henge monument was also uncovered during these excavations. Evidence of later Bronze Age metal working was also uncovered. Very few finds dating to the Iron Age and Romano British period were

found, with only pot sherds from the top soil, although a dolphin brooch, made of copper alloy, of the mid second century, and a silver Iron Age coin of Verica were found (Rudling, 2002, 80).

Hollingbury and Park Brow in Sussex both have trenches for use with a rectangular palisaded enclosure. At Park Brow around 30 metres was uncovered, whereas at Hollingbury only one side, 46m long was uncovered with a central entrance point. Lack of excavation within the enclosures and palisade trenches means identifying the use is difficult and may have been specialised structures, and possibly not settlements (Cunliffe, 1991, 216).

The typical Roman site consists of a settlement enclosure and associated track ways and linear boundaries (Hingley, 1989, 56). Rural settlements vary greatly in size. The best researched area is the Fenlands of Cambridgshire, Norfolk and Lincolnshire (Hingley, 1989, 75). Single farm settlements are more common on the north and west, whereas in southern Britain these tend to be less common (Hingley, 1989, 76).

Black Patch is slightly different. Here terraces for the huts are scattered amongst the field systems. One of the terraces was fully excavated and revealed five circular houses within a fenced enclosure. The plans suggested that they were all of very similar date with occupation of around 30-50 years. Studies of the artifacts found on the floors of the huts gave an indication of there uses. It revealed hut 1 was used mainly for food production, hut 3 for craftwork and storage while hut 4 showed evidence of both uses. Little evidence survived in huts 2 and 4. This one terrace can be seen as an independent settlement, but it is not fully known how it would relate to the other terraces in the area (Cunliffe, 1991, 29).

Itford Hill is a series of embanked earthworks terraced into the hill side dating to the Later Bronze Age (Russell, 2002,102) and shows a dense nucleation of enclosures (Cunliffe, 1991, 30) as shown in figure Russell 102. The main fenced enclosure revealed eleven huts, now thought to have constructed over four separate phases (Russell, 2002,103).

From these sites it can be seen that in general they were located on south facing spurs of Downland and typically had some continuity in use from the Bronze Age through to the late Iron Age and Romano British periods.

SETTLEMENTS FROM ENGLAND

SETTLEMENT ON THE CHALKLANDS

The basic structure of the enclosure on the chalk lands of southern Britain tends to be of sub rectangular shape of various combinations of banks, ditches and palisades. (Cunliffe, 1991, 28)

Shearplace Hill in Dorset is a settlement enclosed by a 'U' shaped ditch c.3m wide, with an internal bank which may been constructed with a palisade. (Cunliffe, 1991, 28) In Sussex, however, at Cock Hill the bank and palisade are on the outside of a c.2m wide ditch (Cunliffe, 1991, 28).

At all of these examples evidence of postholes within the enclosures show that they enclosed circular huts c.6-7.5m in diameter. New Barn contained at least two, Shearplace Hill contained three, Cock Hill had at least five and Thorny Down contained up to nine huts, but these may not have been in use at the same time. (Cunliffe, 1991, 28). With the number of buildings and size of the enclosures Cunliffe (1991, 29) says they "would have been ideally suited to a social group of family or extended family size."

Mother type of enclosure in the same area and of similar date, are banked enclosures with the ditch on the outside, but show little evidence of any habitation. South Down Lodge and Martin Down Camp are two examples of this type of enclosure, both from Cranbourne Chase and both excavated by Pitt Rivers. Both are rectilinear in shape. South Lodge has one entrance and Martin Down has two, but appears to have an undefended. The excavations of Pitt Rivers revealed the interiors to be void of any features, except for a few pits which were undated. The re-excavation of South Lodge revealed that it was constructed within an existing field system and the interior contained evidence for two round huts, and also other single pits and post holes. (Cunliffe, 1991, 41)

In these areas settlements were generally enclosed by a bank and sometimes with a palisade or thick hedge set into it, and with some type of gate entrance. The enclosures average 0.4- 0.8 ha, within them one or possibly more simple round hut, arranged leaving enough space for other domestic activities.

Shearplace Hill in Dorset consisted of substantial ditch with a bank on the interior, but had no evidence of a palisade. Ditches can also be seen at Boscombe Down East, Wiltshire and at numerous sites on the Marlborough Downs. The sites in Sussex which have ditches appear to be a minor part of the enclosure, with the focus on the palisade in the bank. This may be a regional development rather than chronological one, but from the seventh century to the around the third century BC the favour tends to have been with a palisade instead of the Bank (Cunliffe, 1991, 214).

The most extensively excavated pallisaded site in Britain is that at Little Woodbury, in Wiltshire. Two phases of continuous activity can be seen. The first phase saw the farm enclosed by a palisade only on the eastern side where the main entrance into the site, a four post gate, was found. Within the enclosure was a circular hut 13.7 m in diameter with entrance aligned with the gate. How far the palisade extended is unknown, but the ditch it was replaced with enclosed an area of 1.6 ha, which can be used estimate the original palisaded area. Domestic activities also left there mark within the enclosure. A large irregular working hollow where grain parching and cooking may have taken place, behind the hut was uncovered. The earliest phase of occupation can not be dated with precision,

but based on the earliest pottery assemblages, their styles date from the fifth to sixth centuries BC, but a few sherds of the Kimmeridge-Caburn ware would date it to possibly early sixth century BC (Cunliffe, 1991, 215).

Little Woodbury, Meon Hill and the Caburn all had their palisades replaced by earthen banks and ditches. They can be dated to be around the fourth to first century BC, based on the finding of Saucepan Pots which were in use at around that time (Cunliffe, 1991, 218).

Excavations at Little Woodbury have shown that the palisade was replaced with ditch 14 metres wide and 2 metres deep (Harding, 1974, 22) and would have had a bank of the chalk that was dug from it (Cunliffe, 1991,218). It would have enclosed a circular area of 1.6 ha. and had one wide entrance but no gate structure was found (Cunliffe, 1991,218). The earthwork would have enclosed houses, granaries, pits and working hollows. The size of the ditches Harding (1974,22) suggests would best function “as a protective boundary against intruders or wild animals at night.” Antennae ditches leading from the eastern entrance of the enclosure were possibly used to funnel animals into the centre (Harding, 1974, 23) suggesting that the enclosure was used as an animal corral as well. About 500 metres away is Greater Woodbury was excavated at the same time. A section was dug through the ditch of the enclosure. This was significantly larger, being 7 metres wide and almost 4 metres deep (Harding, 1974, 23).

Swallowcliff, in Wiltshire, started off like Little Woodbury, with a palisade, and it initial use contemporary with Little Woodbury. Although it was excavated before modern methods and apart from pits not much else was of significance was identified (Cunliffe, 1991, 215).

At Gussage All Saints, in Wiltshire, there are two phases of activity. The first phase dates to around the fifth century BC based on C14 dating and other artifacts. A ditch 1.2 metres wide and 0.8 metres deep enclosed an area of around 1.2 ha with a bank on the outside. Like Little Woodbury there are also antennae ditches, to guide animals into the enclosure (Harding, 1974, 22).Within the enclosure were lots of pits, and possible evidence of four post granary structures, but no signs of houses (Cunliffe, 1991, 218). During the second phase a more substantial ditch was dug, 2.2 metres wide and 1.4 metres deep and generally followed the same alignment as the first ditch. The entrance was now served by a timber gateway. Pits continued to be dug within the enclosure and circular gullies suggest the locations of huts. Radiocarbon dating gave an occupation period from the third century to first century BC, towards the end of this occupation there is evidence of bronze foundry activity (Cunliffe, 1991,219).

Also found in the South is another type of settlement, but more extensive. Worthy Down and Owslebury, in Hampshire and Casterley Camp in Wiltshire, are all characterised by their complex series of ditches defining various size and shapes of enclosures. Some were being used for living, and others, like Owsiebury, were used for burial. It is presumed that others would have been used for keeping animals (Cunliffe, 1991, 226).

On the South Downs in the area of Chalton, in Hampshire, a detailed study has been carried out and has shown the density of settlements in this area, all linked to their fields and to each other by a series of trackways. In an area 5km2 eleven settlements were identified all less than 500 metres from their neighbor (Cunliffe, 1991, 227) showing that all of the South Downs would have been densely populated.

Figure 8 Tollard Royal, Bowen and Forwler, Figure 2

Tollard Royal, on Berwick Down, has three settlements on one spur of downland. The southern most of these settlements is an oblong enclosure surrounded, partly by a U shaped bank and ditch, with evidence from this area producing finds of the first century AD.

For comparison reasons I will also briefly look at the ditched defenses of hillforts from the Sussex area. The main difference between settlement enclosures and hillforts is their locations. Hillforts are always placed in strategic defensive areas overlooking and controlling the main approaches to the site. Settlement enclosures on the other hand were placed in areas close to arable land. The relationship between settlement and arable land can be seen clearly at the Farley Mount enclosure in Hampshire which has acres of Celtic field systems leading from it (Cunliffe, 1991, 227). Similarly at Thundersbarrow Hill in Sussex this can also be seen. The hillforts of Sussex were constructed by the native people of the area, resulting from the threat of war in the third century BC (Harding, 1974, 54). There are two types of construction of hillfort defenses. One is a simple dumping of material excavated for the ditch, and the other is that the material was retained by a front and back revetment (Harding, 1974, 56) as shown in figure.

At Cissbury, Sussex, an excavation of the site showed a ditch over 3 metres deep with chalk piled on the inside forming a bank with a timber palisade on top. (Hughes, http://www.findon.info/cissbury/cissbury.htm).

Mingies Ditch is an example of a settlement type for an extended family or possibly small hamlet. It was constructed around the fifth century BC on a small gravel hillock. No more than two contemporary houses were. Around the settlement was a double ditch, enclosing it, with antennae ditches running from the entrance (Cunliffe, 1991, 231), similar to Littlewoodbury. It has been suggested that the double ditch system was used as a type of animal corral. It is not known if the settlement was occupied continually throughout the year, or seasonally occupied (Cunliffe, 1991, 231). Groundewell farm is another double banked enclosure (Cunliffe, 1991,231) with possibly a similar use of it ditches.

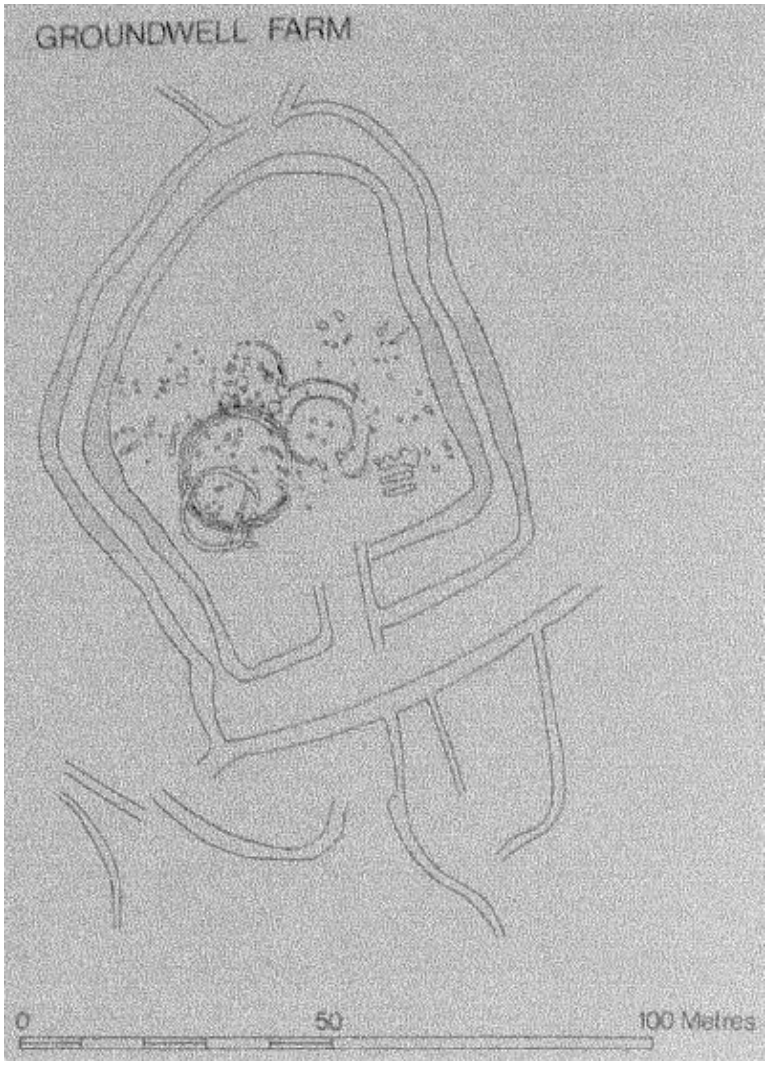


Figure 9 Groundwell farm (Cunliffe, 1991, figure 12.11)

EARTHWORK SURVEY

The earthwork survey was carried out over the whole area of the enclosure and the adjoining field systems. As with the aerial photographs, the possible boundary lynchet, to the north, is still clearly visible from the ground. It virtually follows the contour of the hill east-west. The north side of this lynchet on the west has been flattened and is only just visible from this side although the eastern area is identifiable from the north. The three field system boundaries that divide the fields south of this lynchet all clearly show up on the later aerial photography. From the ground the only one that can be seen in full is the centre lynchet, and this one is clearer towards the north. The southern two thirds gradually get shallower until it can not be seen, just before the southern boundary. The western most bank can only be identified about halfway between the northern and southern banks making up the field. The eastern lynchet of these three fields, from the ground, joins with northern boundary and this area is very clear, but does again very quickly become low and disappears before reaching the corner of the enclosure. The northern boundary lynchet continues for a few metres past the top of this bank on a similar alignment, but from the aerial photography it shows that this is different and not part of the boundary lynchet, part of an earlier series of lynchets.

Marking the southern edge of these fields, an east-west lynchet, very much destroyed, is visible as a small bank dropping away on the southern side. It can be traced from the modern day field boundary at the western side through to the enclosure. How it relates exactly with the enclosure can not be exactly inferred, but from what can be seen from the ground it most likely butts against the enclosure. South, below the pylon, is a bank which runs east-west along to the enclosure and can be traced to the south-west corner of the modern field, although by this time it is very shallow and not well defined. Where it meets the enclosure it can be seen to continue for about 3-5 metres inside the enclosure, but has been flattened inside. South of this lynchet is an east-west bank, just above the telegraph poles, within the modern field. Just past these it is destroyed and can not be followed any further west. Eastwards it can followed, almost, to the enclosure, with a 3-4 metre gap, but then continues within the enclosure. This is the most notable of the features inside the enclosure, defined by a large bank dropping away southwards, continuing in the east-west direction. At the eastern end of this lynchet it becomes lower, and can be seen to curve northwards, but then can not be seen where it continues to. This feature can be seen on the modern aerial photography and looks to be earlier than the enclosure.

The area between the lynchet south of the pylon and the lynchet above the telegraph poles is flatter than the general slope of the hill and possibly part of a track way. The track identified from the aerial photography can be seen on the ground in very low lynchets. Just barely visible in the south-east corner of the field one side can be seen just above the field boundary. It is cut by another shallow feature, which from aerial photography and the maps, no feature can be seen on these to identify what it is as it does not continue far enough to link with any other features. When looking from the top of the hill to this corner of the field a line can be seen from the southern field boundary moving north-east to join up, almost, with the modem tracks going north and north-east. The 1947 aerial photography shows a track coming down off of the hill opposite and crossing this area, so this is part of the old footpath that went through here before the modern field boundaries.

The shape of the enclosure ditch can be compared to the shape of that at Tollard Royal. They have a similar shape, but not an exact match.

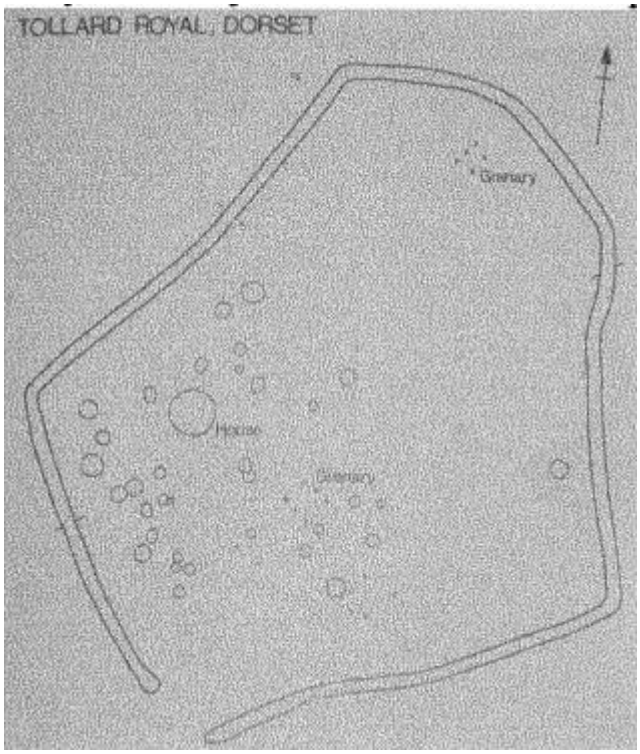


Figure 10 Tollard Royal (Cunliffe, 1991, Figure 12.7)

Another comparison with the shape can be made with Carloggas, Cornwall. Again the shape can be seen as being similar.

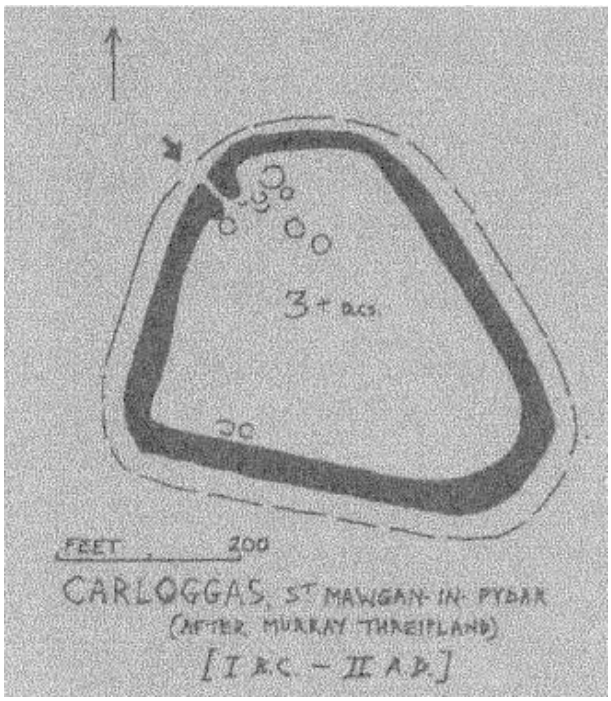


Figure 11 Carloggas (Thomas, 1966, figure 5)

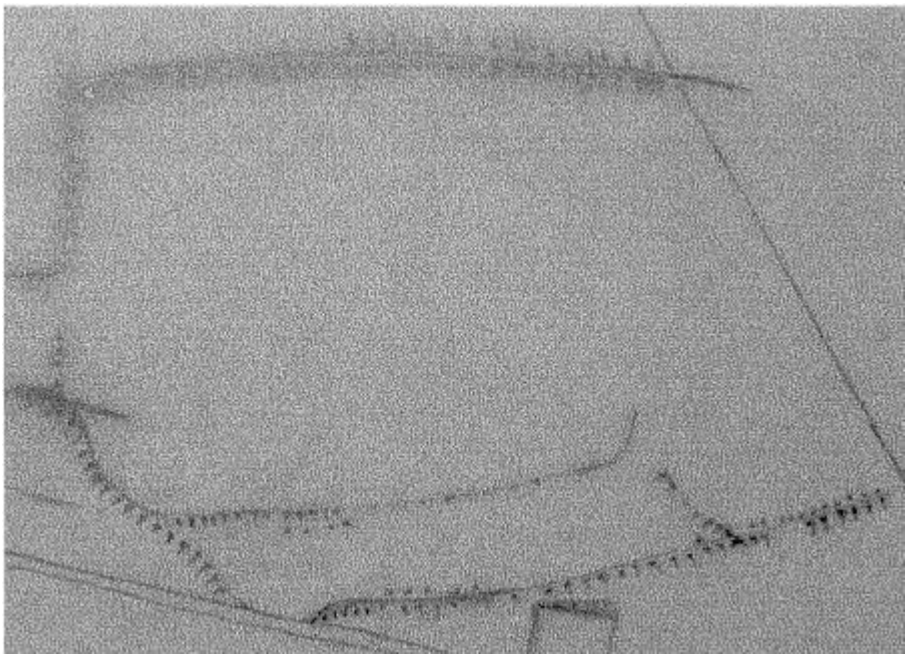


Figure 12 Truleigh Hill Enclosure

RESISTIVITY RESULTS

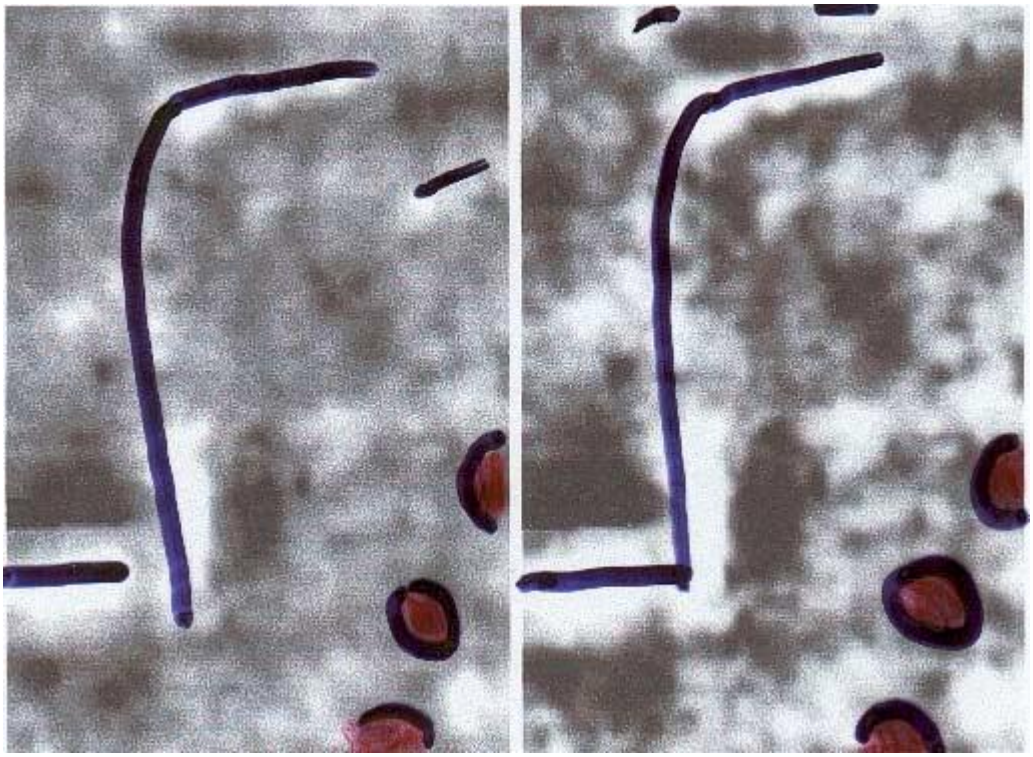


Figure 13 Geophysics of north west corner

This area is from the north-western corner of the enclosures. The enclosure bank can clearly be seen running across the top of this picture as an area of white High resistance, and then turning nearly at 90o to run south. Not running all the way to the bottom of picture, it is joined from the west by another area of high resistance, this is part of the field systems which are clearly visible on the aerial photography. North and south of this field system lynchet ditches are shown. From the aerial photography it was original thought that the enclosure was later than the field system, but these results appear to show that the field lynchets butt up against the enclosure, suggesting they are contemporaneous. Within the area of high resistance of the enclosure there is low resistance indicating that there is a ditch on the interior. Below this is again possible evidence of a second lynchet, which continues eastwards. To the north of the exterior bank is an area of low resistance suggesting an exterior ditch. Three circular features running through the south-east corner are of low resistance and may well very plausibly be areas of pits.

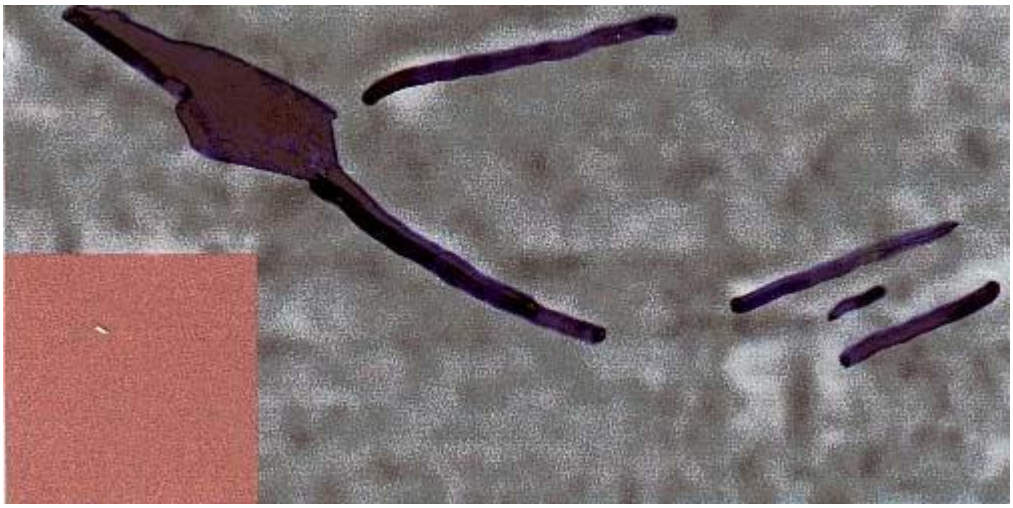


Figure 14 Geophysics of Southern section

This area shows the southern extremity of the enclosure at the bottom of the hill. The high resistance areas running from the north to the most southerly part of this picture are the enclosure lynchets that are still very much visible on aerial photographs and from the earthwork survey. Visible on the aerial photography as well is a lynchet on the interior of the enclosure. From this it was thought that it was a continuation of part of the field system, but the resistivity results show that it does appear to continue past the enclosure and join up. North of this lynchet the results show that there is a ditch and this appears to join with the interior ditch of the enclosure suggesting this could be part of an earlier phase of the enclosure, which then suggests that it has been extended at some point. Other enclosure sites that have multiple ditches around the settlement have been thought possibly to be animal corrals and there is no reason that this area may have had some similar use. Assuming that the enclosure was extended this may account for the large knuckle of high resistance where the three lynchets meet, and also why the lynchet running south of this area appears to be just a single bank and only slight evidence of a ditch on either side. This section of ditch is constructed differently to the rest which all show as a double banked enclosure. Why this is, there is no clear reason, but it can be speculated and reason suggested, such as extending of the enclosure, ploughing resulting in damage, although no other evidence of this can be seen in this area, or just that this area was constructed differently. The location of these grids may also affect the results, mentioned below. The lynchet from the east has a small cut through implying that this lynchet was cut through for the enclosure bank and destroyed on the outside which answers why this lynchet, which is on a very similar alignment and which from aerial photography strongly suggested were the same, do not connect. The most southern lynchet moving eastwards shows three distinct lines of high resistance. The reasons for this could be due to the ploughing, or possibly rebuilding of this area. Being down the bottom of the hill and being close to valley bottom the results in the line of grids along to the bottom generally had low readings and this may have affected the readings by making ditches less visible due rain.

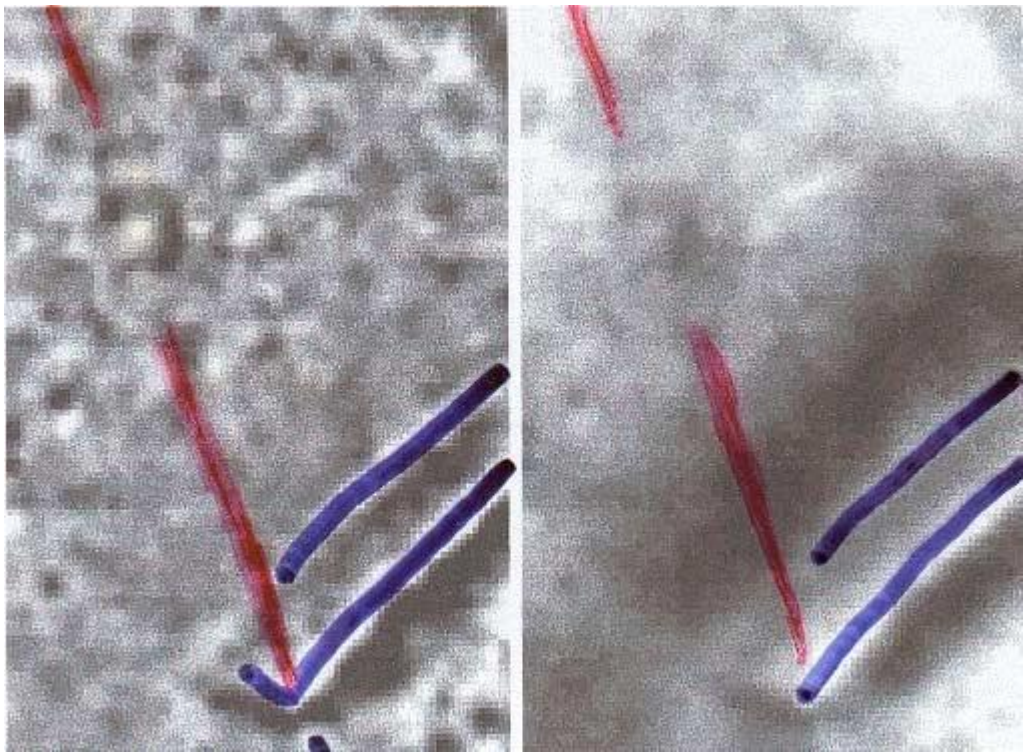


Figure 15 Entrance Geophysics

This is about 120 metres away from the rest of the survey, it was chosen because the aerial photography had shown an area which was likely to be the track that was mentioned by EC Curwen in the 1929 Journal of Roman Studies Volume 1. From the topographic survey the lynchet in this area distinctly dropped and other features were also noted. The results shown were completely unexpected as they show an extremely clear double bank with an exterior ditch which curves around the end of the bank forming an entrance. Between the two banks it would have been expected to find another ditch, but the results show no clear sign of low resistance between them. There is the possibility that this is one large lynchet constructed to hillfort size, as can be seen at Great Woodbury, but this would make the base around 10 metres wide and this seems unrealistic in the context of the site. The immediate interior of the enclosure up to the lynchet shows a band of no disturbance and then further into the enclosure it clearly becomes disturbed. The area identified as the track can also be seen as area of disturbance running down out of the enclosure. On the other side of this track way the band of no disturbance continues within the enclosure. One other later feature can also be identified. This is a straight line which cuts through the interior bank and is inline with a small area of high resistance which maybe where the top of the bank has been taken off, and likely to be evidence of later deep ploughing.

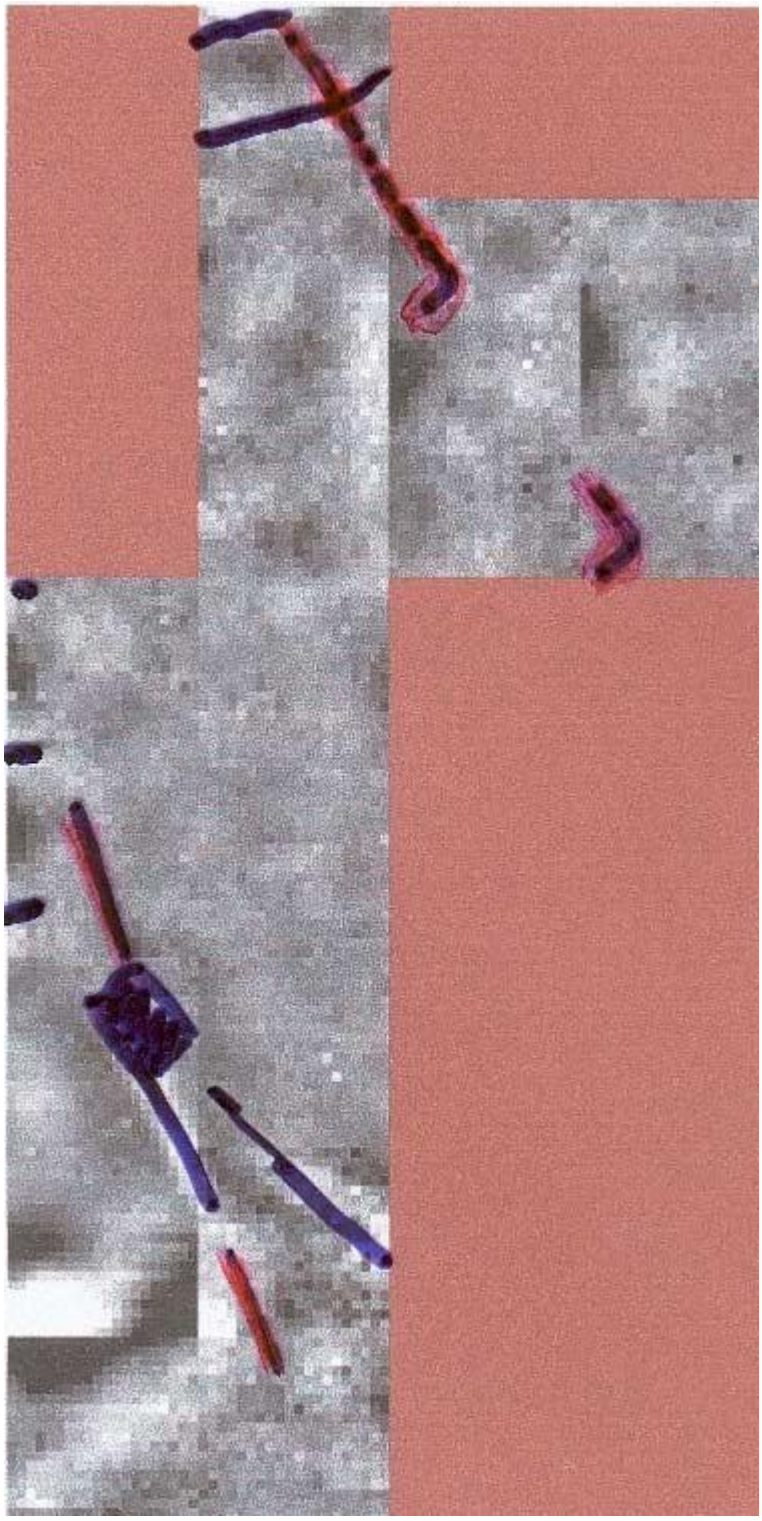


Figure 16 Western Side of The Enclosure

The very last section looks at the area that covers the western lynchets of the enclosure where the field systems can be seen to relate with this section of the bank. The main feature is the area that shows the enclosure bank. This can be seen up to 60 metres from the bottom where it then looks to terminate in a large area of high resistance. It can be argued that this is another entrance point to the enclosure, but there is no evidence of a track way in this area between the field systems. The construction of the enclosure bank in

this area has an external ditch, a bank, ditch then small evidence of band of high resistance inside this ditch. Extending from the external ditch and continuing in the same direction is another thin band of high resistance, it can also be seen south of this bank, suggesting that it is an earlier feature, and adds wait to theory put forward, when discussing the aerial photography, that the earthworks of this part of the ditch are on the same alignment as an earlier field system, linked with the track way. The most northern grid shows the ditch and an interior and exterior bank, but does not take in enough to show the full extent of the enclosure construction in this area. Through this area a linear feature of high resistance is cut by the bank and ditch, showing it to be earlier than the enclosure. From the top of the results it runs c. 35 metres south east where it makes a 90o turn and can be traced for another c6-7 metres. Continuing from this point for c2 metres more this feature then stops. On the same alignment south east this feature appears to be picked up again, and here it takes another 90o turn. This is most likely part of an earlier field system, which can be seen in the aerial photography. The areas within the enclosure down to 60 metres form the north show more evidence of the large circular low resistance features, but mainly in this area show that it is more disturbed than the area to the south. The final feature to note is at the very bottom of the surveyed area, it is a large area of very low resistance which looks like a very large ditch running up to the enclosure, quite what this is unknown as the aerial photography shows no evidence of anything there and the topographic survey also shows no earthworks in that area. The high resistance to the north of this feature corresponds to the field system lynchet running east west at the bottom of the hill, which was thought to join with the one that continues into the enclosure. Along the most western side of the results there are two small areas right on the edge of low resistance, the aerial photography shows no features in this area, but the earthwork survey identified a very shallow feature only just visible and these areas of low resistance link to that. Being on the same alignment to the rest of the field systems to the west of the enclosure it can be accurately assumed that this must have once been another lynchet of this system. Shown on the earthwork survey it splits the horizontal fields into three or four similarly sized fields (Complete view Appendix 3).

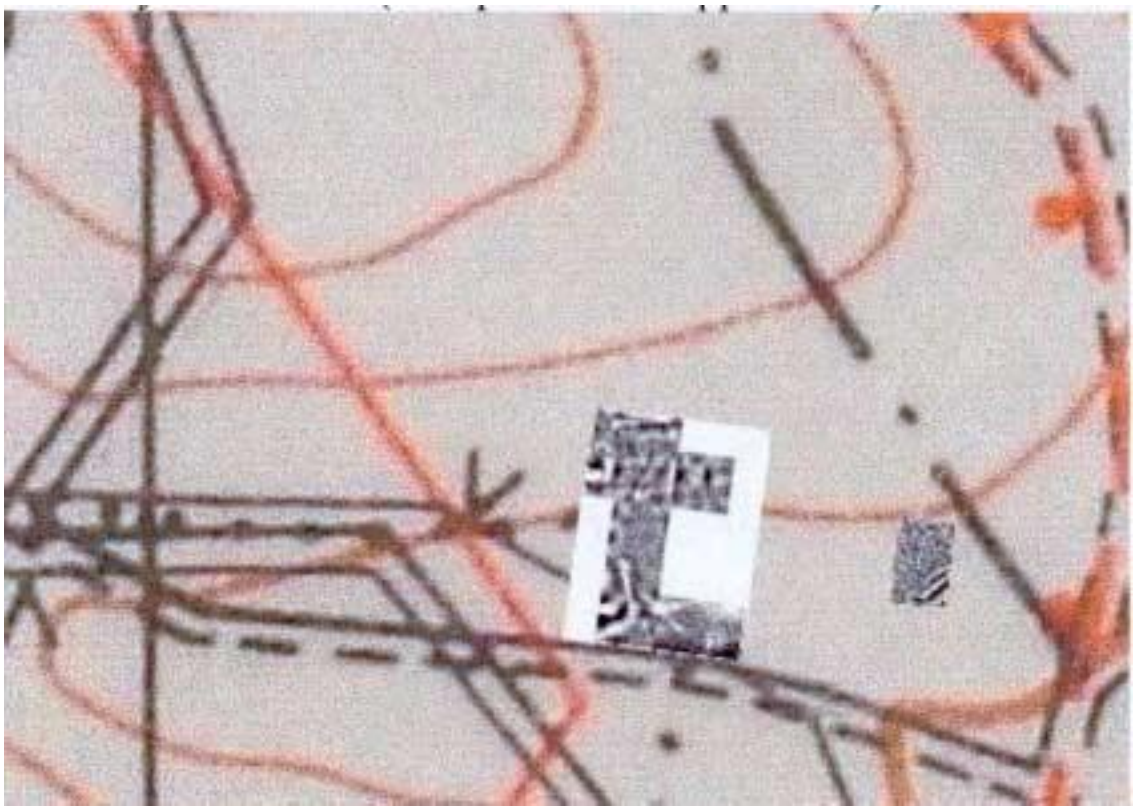


Figure 17 Resistivity Results on Map

CONCLUSION

It is clear that from the Bronze Age through to the Roman period, especially the Iron Age, the Downlands of Sussex supported a dense network of settlements (Hingley, 1989, 56), and this can be seen from Hollingwood's study of Romano British peasant farmsteads. From his results, shown in figure 2, they also appear to be in small groups of settlements all within easy access of each other and some, such as Truleigh Hill to Thundersbarrow Hill are in view of each other. E.C. Curwen, in 1929, found what, he said, was Iron Age pottery and burnt flint in the mole hills of the site, but with these lost they can not be used to help with the dating of the site. The area of the enclosure is large compared with others in the local area, but when looking at sites further away, such as Little Woodbury, it appears to an average size for an earthwork enclosure. The attached field systems comprise of five to six fields all linked close together over an area of 170 metres by about 400m. Other sites of similar date like Park Brow are much larger covering an area of around 1000 metres by about 600 metres, and so show that the settlement on Truleigh Hill was much smaller and therefore only really likely to have been for one family unit.

To the north of the main enclosure, as shown on the aerial photography, further field systems exist. These are of a different type of construction being cut into the hill rather than lynchets constructed much like those at New Barn Down. Although these earthworks are outside of the area of study it is important that they are mentioned as they continue from the north of the modern field down to the south and connect with the lynchets that are being studied. These lynchets, from aerial photography, appear to show that they have been constructed over some of these other earthworks, most notably what has been called, in this work, the boundary lynchet. At the eastern end a shallower lynchet visible on the aerial photography, less so from the ground, on the earthworks survey, is on a slightly different alignment and can be traced on aerial photography, and possibly be still seen in the field systems. This can be seen again in the resistivity results where a linear feature can be seen running south-east and then begins to turn 90 degrees. This feature has been cut by the enclosure bank and ditch, again showing that these features are earlier. There is also one probable other example of this, although less convincing. The geophysics, on the western enclosure lynchet, show a thinner area of high resistance that again appears to go under the earthworks, extending further north and slightly further south than the enclosure bank, but are on the same alignment, suggesting that when the enclosure and field systems were constructed they used a similar alignment to the fields that were already there. It also helps to date the enclosure to post Bronze Age and shows, like other sites, such as Park Brow and Plumpton Plain that there is a succession of settlement movement southwards.

The Devils Dyke hillfort is a late Iron Age Construction. It was built due to some fear of war in the area. The enclosure bank from aerial photography and the earthwork survey indicated that it was just a simple single bank and ditch enclosure. The resisitivity survey conducted over the area of the track way revealed that this part of the enclosure was a double bank with exterior ditch. This is very much a defensive construction, but constructed near the valley bottom. The fact that this is the entrance way, as there are no other definitive features to suggest any other point of entry, may mark out the need for some kind of defensive structure at this part of the enclosure. With no real definite evidence of a ditch between the two banks, this is not what would be expected. The two banks cover an area of about 10 metres in width and it seems very unlikely that this is one defense constructed in the box format, but is just a double banked section. And just constructed differently to the rest of the enclosure. The other part of this section of the bank can be seen as three just visible linear features, but not as clear as the section by the

entrance. The double banked area shows a clear boundary of no activity and within the enclosure very disturbed ground showing occupation. There are no clear indications of huts, but several areas that may be pits indicating that the enclosure was used for settlement. This can also be supported by the results from the North-west corner. Here there are possibly three pits in line.

The aerial photography indicated that the enclosure was built over the adjoining field systems, but the resistivity results from this area show that the fields join with the enclosure and there is no evidence that they continue within it. This is true apart from the southern most lynchet of the fields. It appears to join with a lynchet that runs within the enclosure, but the restivity results and earthwork survey show that they do not join, but are on the same alignment. Aerial photography indicates that it could join with the track way that enters the enclosure. This is one of the two lynchets that, as said above, create a trip that is shallower than the slope of the hill.

The shape of the enclosure can be seen to be much like that at Tollard Royal, in Wiltshire. This site has been dated to the first century AD and would fit in with the date range given by Curwen. It can be said that being on a south facing slope would have been seen as an advantage, much like a south facing home today, giving warmth from the sun and protection from northerly winds, all good for crop growth. This is also similar to Tollard Royal, in which the Romano-British Settlement moved own hill for its sheltered nature (Bowen and Fowler, 1966,46).

The modern aerial photography shows, what looks to be a circular feature in the middle of the enclosure. This was not covered by any of the geophysics as the feature is not visible from the ground, and must be assumed to be part of an earlier phase.

From the earthwork survey and geophysics results there is no definite evidence as to what the site was used for. From the other sites discussed it would appear to be used for settlement and as an animal corral. The size of the site strongly suggests that it was a small family unit settlement, with close contact with other settlements in the area. Whether or not it was controlled or dominated by any of the larger farmsteads, like Thundersbarrow Hill can not be said.

Over all the site has been occupied since the late Bronze Age and continued in use through to the late Iron Age to early Romano-British period. The latter periods being when the field system and enclosure were constructed. The most probable use of the enclosure would have been for settlement activity and as an animal corral, like other sites in the south.

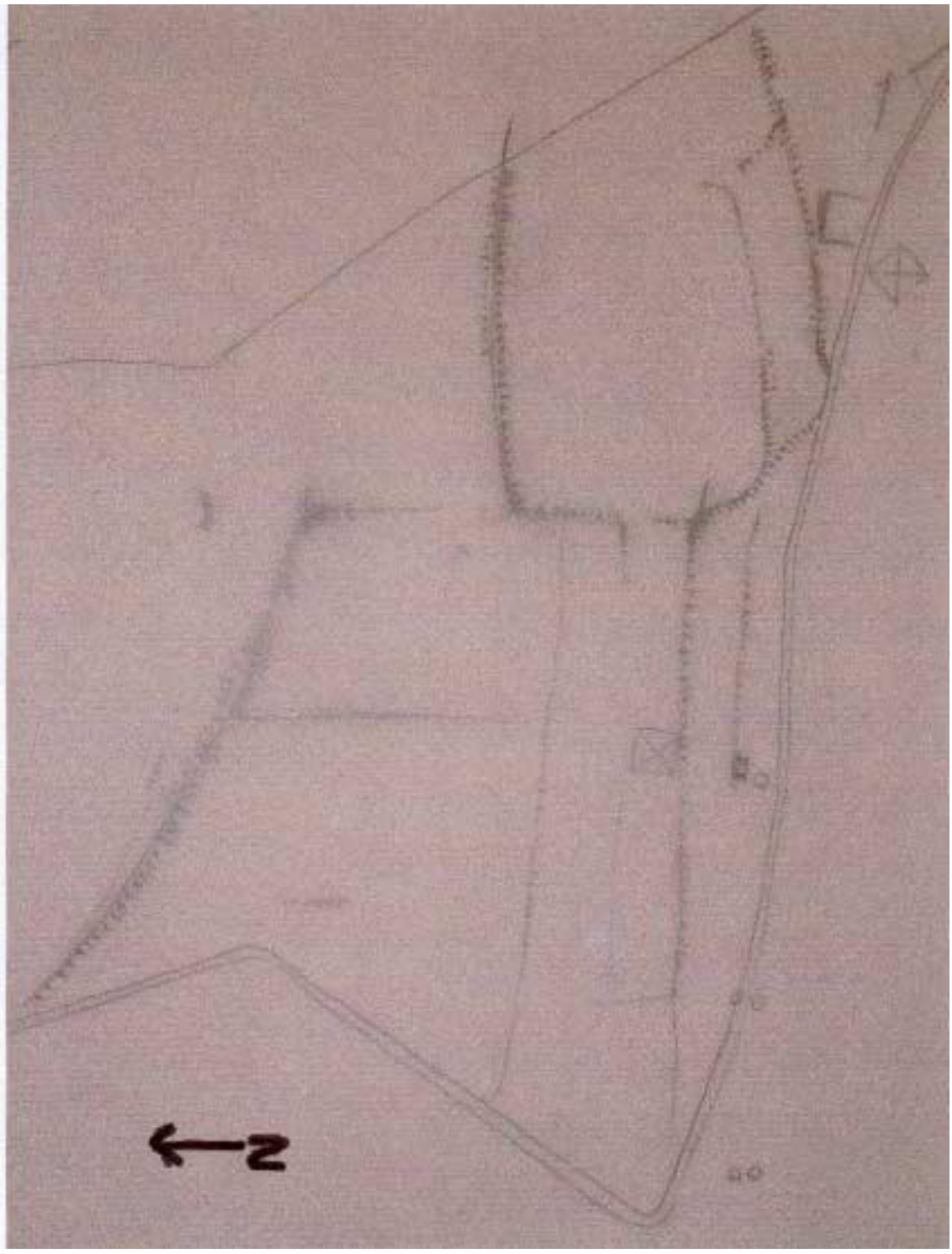
APPENDIX 1

METHOD

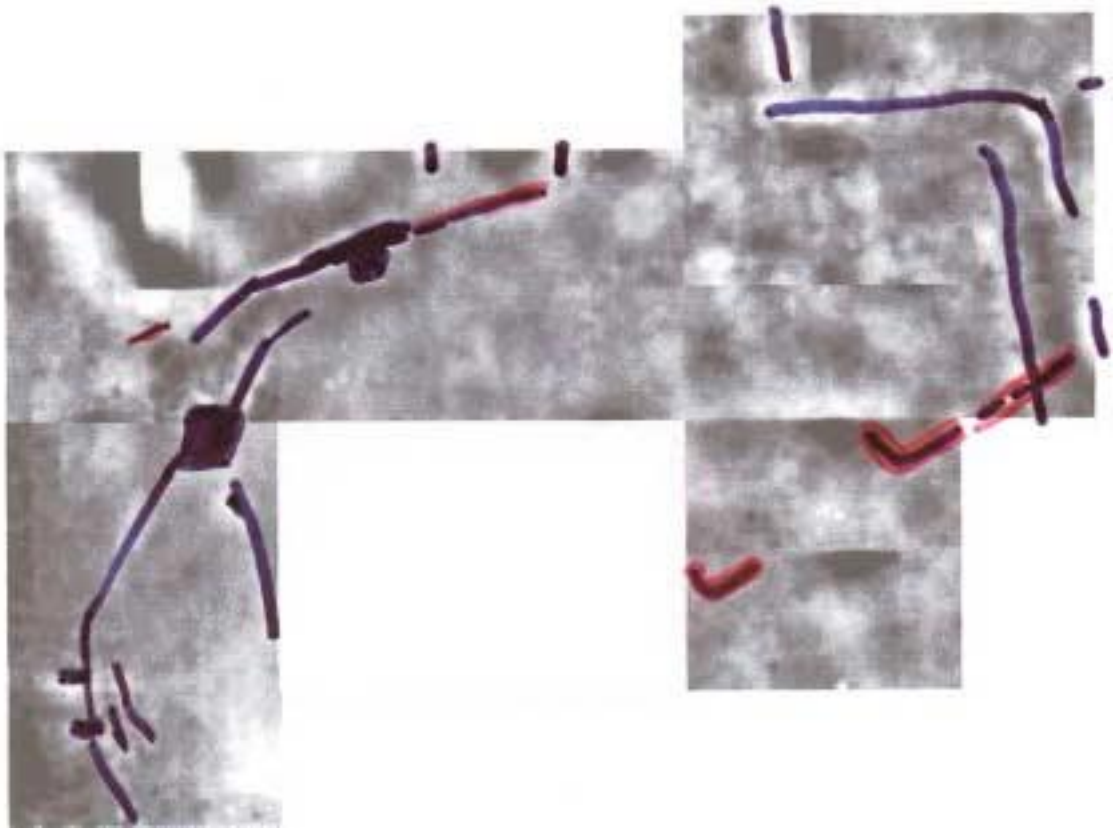
The first part of the survey to be done was an earthwork survey. This was started on Wednesday 22nd December. The weather conditions were light cloud with sunny intervals, which meant that it was not to dark to do the survey. 25m squares had been plotted onto a map of the site. This was placed under a sheet permitrace as a guide for drawing on the earthworks. Starting in the south-eastern corner the grids were paced out and any features noted were drawn in. Large earthworks and lynchets that were shown using lines to mark the top of the feature and hashes to show the direction of the direction of the slope. Features that were only slight and only visible during light conditions wee marked on as just lines. The earthwork survey has been taken the site each time as the varying light conditions make different features visible. The earthwork survey will also play apart in deciding which other areas to look at with a geophysical survey.

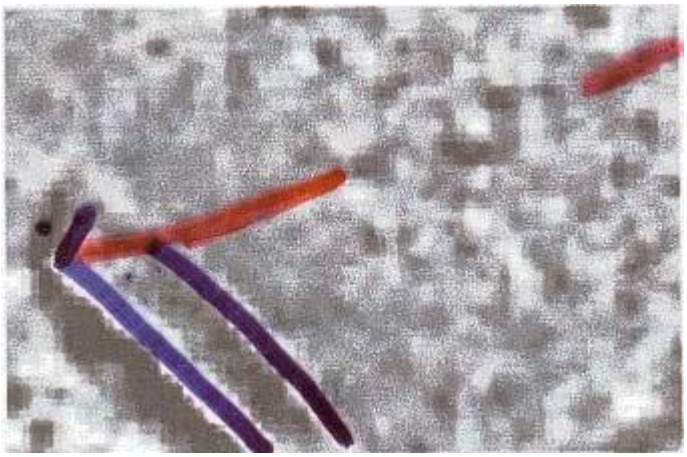
20m grids were laid out the day before the commencement of the geophysical survey that on Friday 7th January so that a full day could be given to collecting data. The grid was positioned to run eastwards to be certain to take in the southern lynched features, but the main feature it was intended to take in the survey, was the western lynched of the enclosure, as this area links closely with the earthworks of the field systems. This would show if these earthworks once continued to where the enclosure now is. To be able to link the grids into the Ordnance Survey map the base point is located on a bend on the field boundary to the south. Measurements from pylons could also be used. The rest of the grid points were marked out using pegs. There were no features within the area of survey where grid points could not be placed exactly 20m, but one slight problem with measuring over the earthworks which caused small discrepancies with point locations, but re-measuring fixed these problems. Two machines were used to collect data. Both were Geoscan RM15’s with one difference on the machine from University College Winchester, which was fitted with a multiplexer, meaning that this machine will take two readings across a metre instead of one.

APPENDIX 2



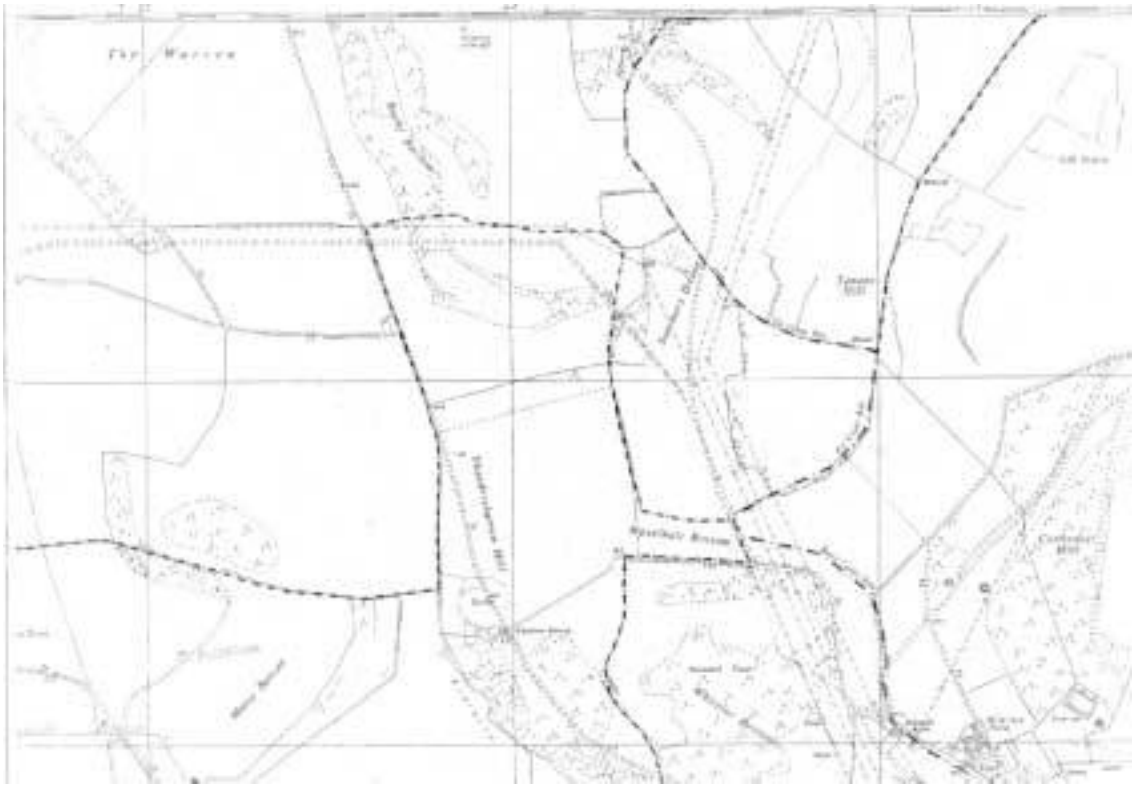
APPENDIX 3





APPENDIX 4

1875 first edition OS map



1968 OS Map

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BEACON HILL ROTTINGDEAN

Introduction

In December of 2004 a visit was made to Beacon Hill, Rottingdean to examine some earthworks. Crispin Kirkpatrick, one the Brighton Rangers, had noted a number of earthworks after the hill had been mown. The hill which is noted both for the windmill and the mini-golf course is now part of a local nature reserve. The hill possesses two Neolithic long barrows, a windmill and a dew pond. The features noted in December of 2004 included a platform cut into the west facing side of the hill and a number of circular features on the summit of the hill close to site of one of the long barrows.

In late August 2005 the geophysical team of the BHAS Field Unit, led by David Staveley, conducted small survey of the features noted to try and determine the nature and possible date of the earthworks. Although Beacon Hill has Neolithic features and prehistoric activity other events have affected this swathe of downland. When the windmill was being constructed in the 19th century a burial was found, but is of indeterminate date. The record calls the burial as being a 'warrior' which does suggest that it may have been Saxon. Saxon burials are often accompanied by finds which include spears, swords and daggers. The elevation at Beacon Hill is similar to the Eastbourne College of Technology and lands close to the Booth museum along the Dyke Road, Brighton which are known as being the site of Saxon cemeteries. Apparently this part of Beacon Hill is very popular with unauthorised metal detecting.

The hill being close to the coast may also have had any number of Second World War anti-invasion devices. While the survey was being conducted we were visited by Mr John Cummin, a local counsellor, who informed us that in the past the hill was the location for an important beacon location. The 'beacon' on Beacon Hill apparantly managed to send messages off in not one, but two different directions. Another local told the team about a depression that was regarded as a gun emplacement. During the Napoleonic war there is documentary evidence for a signal station that may have included a substantial brick built structure. (Pers Comm. W.Santer, Barbican House museum)

Methodology

A base line was set out running parallel to the north boundary of the golf course. The area being surveyed included the earthworks noted in 2004 by Crispin Fitzpatrick. (TQ36450255). The grids were 20 metres square, the measurements take at 1 metre intervals, and the readings measured in Ohms. The machine used was a TR Systems machine. The data was downloaded using 'snuffler' technology and the subsequent images produced by David Staveley. A total of 4 grid squares were examined on this part of the hill.

A second survey examined a large depression on the west side of the hill, just north/east of St Dunstans. (TQ36250281). In this location the same methodology was used, with again 4 squares investigating the depression which was focused in the centre of the 4 squares.

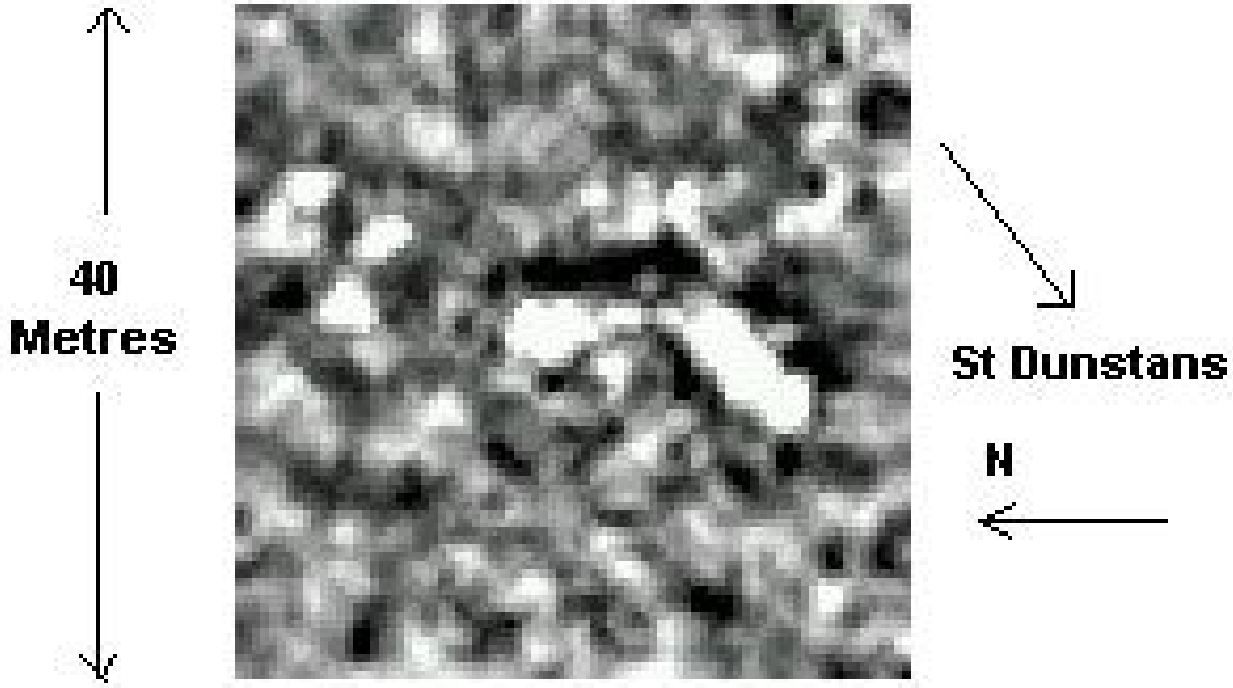
Fig 1

Beacon Hill Rothingdean 2005

South facing

Mini-Golf Course

N



Beacon Hill
Rottingdean 2005
West Facing

Fig 2

The Results

The results of the surveying proved very interesting. The platform cut into the side of the hill does consist of an area of very high resistance, but it has no distinctive or regular configuration. The survey on the top of the hill, however (see files attached), has produced evidence for a number of features. The main earthwork to the east has a very large circular area of high resistance with a clearly visible ‘tail’. David believes that the circular feature with an associated tail may be the location of another, earlier windmill. The central area produced a number of interesting anomalies including a ditch. The ditch appears to run towards the location of the Neolithic long barrow located on this part of the hill.

Beacon Hill is going to be the subject of a major survey by the BHAS Field Unit. As the hill appears to have remained relatively unscathed by modern ploughing it is possible that vestiges of prehistoric activity associated with the long barrows may remain. The burial recorded and the various interesting anomalies revealed by the resistivity survey clearly indicate that a larger survey would prove beneficial. A larger survey would hopefully produce evidence for activities over a number of periods. It is probable that upon completion of the survey small trenches may have to be cut into the features found to produce dating evidence. A permit has been received from Brighton & Hove City Council to conduct a geophysical survey over the whole of Beacon Hill, but additional permission will need to be sought to survey the long barrow to the north of the golf course and for any subsequent excavations.

The survey has been a very useful research project and Beacon Hill will now become part of a larger investigation to be conducted over a number of seasons.

John Funnell 28th December 2006

GEOPHYSICS AT HOLLINGBURY 2005

Introduction

In the latter part of October 2005 members of the BHAS Field Unit led by David Staveley conducted a resistivity survey within the confirms of the Scheduled Ancient Monument that is Hollingbury Iron Age hill fort. The survey was organised by Dr Matthew Pope from University College London, and permission for the survey was granted by English Heritage. The lands within the hill fort are being cleared of gorse as part of a planned restoration, renovation and preservation programme for the interior of the hill fort. The work is being carried out by Brighton and Hove City Council and led by the Brighton Ranger service.

Dr Pope has observed that during the autumnal equinox the sun rises in alignment with the eastern or postern gate of the hill fort. During excavations in the 1960's (Holmes) the director of the excavations apparently intimated that the presence of a Roman temple at Hollingbury would not be inappropriate, with Chantonctonbury Ring and Lancing being as striking parallel locations. The elevation and visibility of such a structure would fit very well into a Roman landscape with a number of other Roman site locations, notably villas along the south coast. The excavation during the 1960's found very little evidence to support such an idea.

The removal of much of the gorse and scrub from within the hill-fort allowed a considerable area to be surveyed. The focus of the survey included, and was extended west of the known barrows recorded by both H.S Toms and the Curwen's during their work at Hollingbury. (Fig 1).

Methodology

A series of 20 X 20 metre square grids were set out. 6 squares were examined in total. The grids were set out using the tumuli within the hill fort as point locations. The readings were taken at 1 metre intervals and the readings measured in Ohms. The data was down loaded using 'snuffler' technology and the images produced by David Staveley.

Results

The resistivity survey produced some interesting but inconclusive results. The large area examined produced very little evidence for internal features within the Iron Age hill fort, although readings taken at smaller intervals may be worthwhile considering for future endeavours. It is possible that post holes and small pits may be present in this location but too small to register on the 1 metre intervals.

The survey did produce one area of interest on the south west corner of the investigation. It was in this area that a series of high resistance readings tend to indicate the location of something substantial, but as yet undefined. It is possible that the features noted are geological, pockets of clay with flint are frequently found on the tops of hill sides in this part of the South Downs.
The resistivity survey in 2005 found very little evidence to support the evidence for a possible Roman structure. The unusual presence of high readings does warrant an extension to the survey in that location to examine the possibility for some form of building

or possible structure being within the hill fort. This extension to the survey is planned for early in 2006.

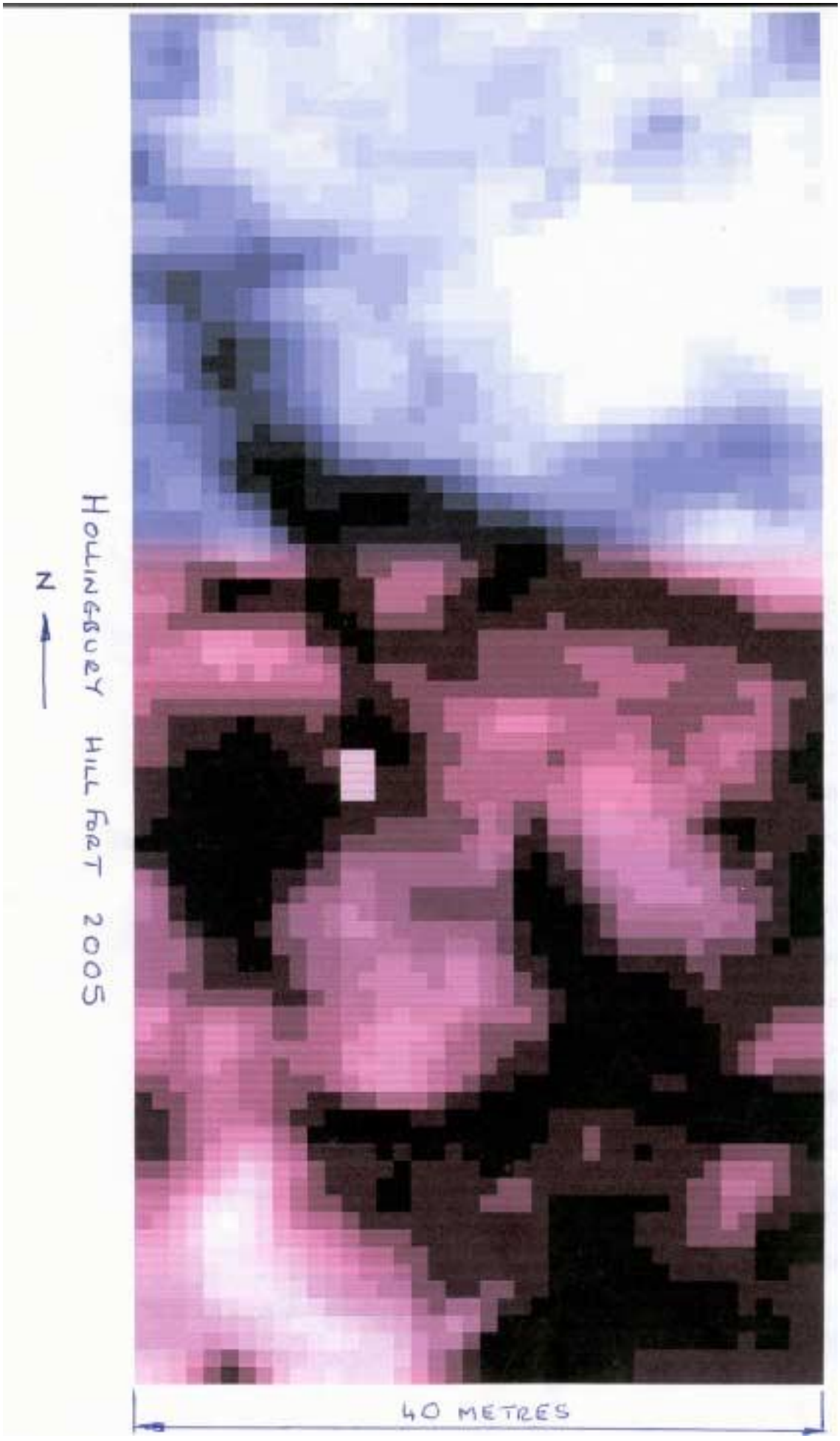
While visiting the site, and during the survey, it was noted that a large area and depression, close to and south west of the standing burial mounds could possibly be the site of another barrow. The earthworks would tend to suggest that a similar pattern of spoil could result from such an excavation of a barrow. It is documented that Gideon Mantell found a number of exciting objects while seeking 'geological' evidence at Hollingbury. Dr Pope contemplated that could this disturbed area could possibly be the location of Mantell's earlier investigations?

The author would like to thank all those members of the BHAS Field Unit who assisted with the survey and to Dr Pope for his continuing support and interest.

References:-

Holmes J. 1984 'Excavations at Hollingbury Camp, Sussex, 1967-9' Sussex Arch. Colls. Volume 122, 29-53

John Funnell 28th December 2006


HOLLINGBURY HILL FORT 2005
N
40 METRES

GEOPHYSICS AT EDBURTON HILL

Introduction

A meeting was held at Edburton Hill (TQ238110) in June 2005. The meeting was attended by David McOmish from English Heritage, Norman Phippard, David Staveley, Keith Edgar and the author from the BHAS Field Unit. David McOmish is very interested in prehistoric landscapes and was asking for assistance with research through resistivity surveying in this part of Sussex.

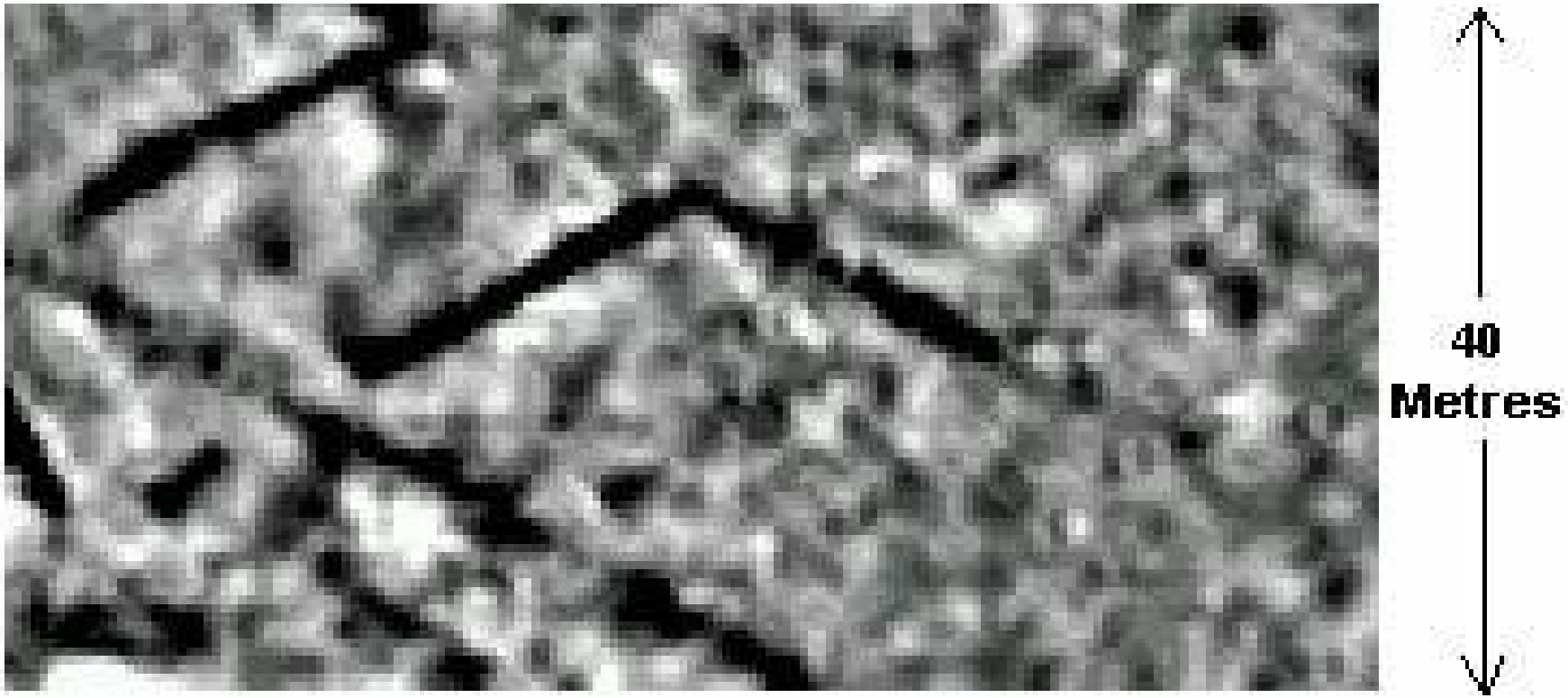
As a result of this meeting a geophysical survey was conducted at Edburton Hill in November of 2005. Edburton Hill possesses a Scheduled Ancient Monument of medieval date. Con Ainsworth would frequently find scatters of medieval pottery around the earthworks during walks to the area. The walks were conducted during the latter part of the 20th century and when the fields were ploughed. (Pers. Comm Con Ainsworth). The land is now under grass and owned by the National Trust. There are a number of other medieval sites close to the scheduled motte and bailey castle at Edburton. In the Wealden plain below Edburton Hill lies Edburton church which has Saxon origins. To the east lies a moated site at Perching and other medieval earthworks are located along the hilltop from Edburton at Perching High Barn (Funnell). There have been a number of historical studies of Edburton and the surrounding area by students from Sussex University, as yet unpublished (pers. Comm. K.Edgar).

David McOmish had examined the motte and bailey monument as part of his role as an EH officer and had noted, what he believes, to be earlier and possibly prehistoric origins. David had noted a number of indentations in the grasslands and possible ditches around the medieval earthworks, some of which had been cut by the later medieval features.

The object of the resistivity survey was to seek evidence for the continuation of the supposed prehistoric bank and ditch into the field to the south that could confirm the presence of such an earlier prehistoric landscape.

Methodology

The area to be surveyed was set out in a number of 20 x 20 square grids, running parallel to the fence line and southeast of the motte and bailey earthworks. The equipment used was a TR Systems machine. The readings were taken at 1 metre intervals and measured in Ohms. The results were down loaded using ‘snuffler’ software and the resulting images produced by David Staveley.



Edburton Hill 2005

The Results

The survey showed a number of ephemeral features one of which was curving away into the field where the continuation of the ditch was expected. The curve was, however, not going in the direction expected. It was anticipated that the feature would circle around and enclose the motte site. In addition to this, there were a number of clear, sharp and interconnecting low resistance linear features of an unknown date. In another context, they could be interpreted as land drains, but that does not fit the chalk hilltop location. The features do not appear to be prehistoric, and may be features associated with the medieval motte, though only excavation with confirm this.

The survey in November was limited by the poor weather conditions. The area is of significant interest and it would certainly justify an extension to the lands already surveyed. Any new investigations would enhance the images so far produced and seek evidence for other ancient features located within this landscape. It is possible that the BHAS Field Unit could return to Edburton Hill for further investigations. The features revealed would need to be the subject of some intrusive excavation to confirm and determine their dating and confirm either prehistoric or medieval origin. The results of the survey have been passed to David McOmish at English Heritage.

Acknowledgements:-

The author would like to thank all members of the BHAS Field Unit who participated in the survey, to David Staveley for completing the results and to David McOmish for his support and interest.

John Funnell 28th December 2006

Woodingdean Project

Phase 1

The Woodingdean Cemetery Project was reopened during the later part of March 2005. The investigation involve a further three trenches, (P) (R) (S) being opened in an attempt to identify possible ancient activity. (TQ350054). The location of these trenches was governed by the visual topography of the land at the borders of the cemetery. Excavated trenches were recorded by planning and photography while artefacts extracted during the excavation were collected for post-excavation analysis. Trench P was placed to cut an existing compacted track way. The materials that made up the track way dated the track way to the 20th Century, (Plate 1.) while the raised platform of soil it lay on contained some worked flint tools and flint flakes. Further analysis of the flint work will be required to place these items into a more detailed date range. Trench R was positioned across a possible ancient field boundary, (Plate 2.) while Trench S was placed at the bottom of the hill slope to see if the bottom of the slope had previously been a wetland area and how much ancient worked material had collected at the bottom, due to natural soil movement over time. The investigation trenches were backfilled during May 2005.

Phase 2

Phase 2 consisted of a geophysical survey of the field to the west of the cemetery. (TQ348052). It is known that ancient bronze objects had been found in this field. A small geophysical survey was conducted which revealed a circular area of low resistance, which may be some form of enclosure. (Fig 2.) Further work will have to be carried out before any useful data, with regard the type of feature and what date it is can be, can establish whether it is an ancient or modern feature.

Phase 3

Phase three consisted of field walking the field which lay to the south of the cemetery site (Fig 1.) where aerial photographs clearly show a collection of ancient field boundaries. (TQ353052). A base line was set out using the north boundary of the field. The field walking consisted of lines set at 20 metres apart and the lines walked were divided into 20 metre long transects. The fields were walked north to south going down the hill, the field unit paired off into two's, and they walked a total of fifteen lines. Unfortunately the field had not been ploughed and was full of weed and scrub, which made walking difficult to carry out and also reduced the amount of artefacts collected. The unploughed surface reduced the amount of researchable data. The artefacts that were collected at the end of each 20m grid will be collated and recorded to allow any potential hot spots of possible ancient activity to be recorded.

Norman Phippard

WOODINEDEAN 2005
PLATE 1.

WOODINGDEAN 2005
PLATE 2.

WOODINGDEAN FIELD SOUTH OF CEMETERY 2005

FIG. 1

Fig 2

Geophysical survey
Woodingdean 2005

Millbank Wood, Stanmer 2005

Introduction

Millbank Wood continues to be an area of interest and investigation by the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society. The woods at Millbank, Stanmer contain numerous earthworks that originally had been suggested as a possible Iron Age hill fort. An investigation of the earthworks in previous seasons has discounted this idea. The features are more likely to be a series of track ways rather than defensive ramparts as there is no bank associated with any of the ditch like depressions.

Historic investigations have provided evidence for a possible mill at Stanmer during the early part of the 17th century (Warne). There is also historical evidence for a gentleman call Millbank living in this part of Stanmer. This factor may have produced a 'naming' or ownership connotation for this part of the landscape.

The BHAS Field Unit have over a number of seasons, conducted both resistivity and contour surveying on lands at Millbank. The projects examined areas in both the woods and the adjacent open paddock to the east of the wood (TQ33901040). The geophysics has produced some interesting anomalies of both circular and linear features lying within the open paddock. An area of high resistance has also been noted in the wood immediately to the west of the fence line. (Funnell)

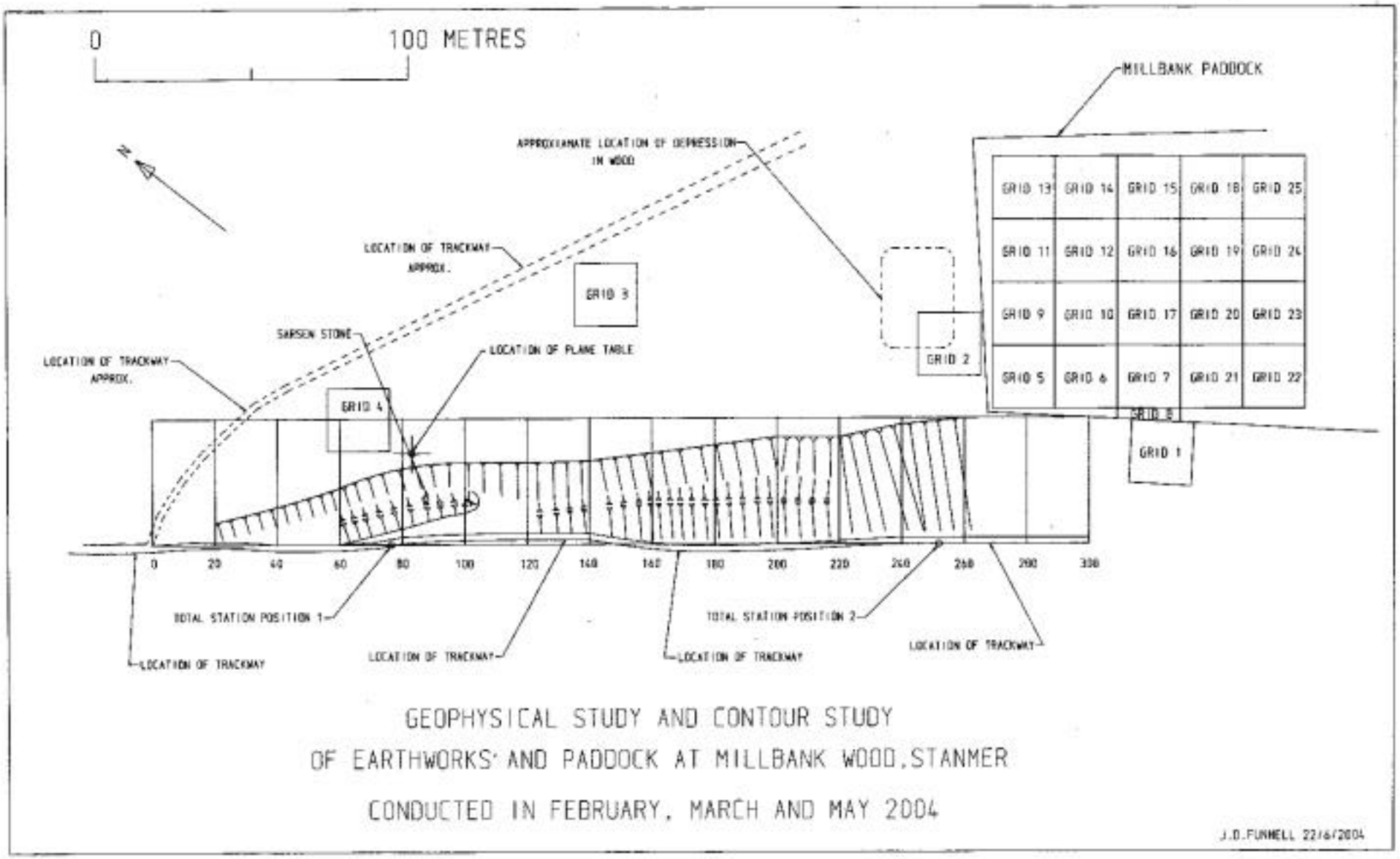
New Survey 2005

The activity in 2005 was a contour survey in the Millbank paddock, east of the woods. The equipment used was a dumpy level, staff and tapes. All measurements were recorded by hand and later transferred to a CAD system. The survey measured variations in the level of the field over a wide area (Fig. 1). Readings were taken at 1 metre and 2 metre intervals depending upon any possible features observed. It should be emphasised that there are few visible signs of earthwork activity other than a mound, noted in the 1995 survey, on the south west edge of the field.

Results

The readings transferred to CAD (Fig.2) showed that any ground disturbance in the field at Millbank is very minimal. It would have been anticipated that a mill located in this field would have left some form of archaeological footprint, but the results confirm very little in level variation other than natural hill slope. The randown examination of mole hills during the suervey produce no finds of any description. Lawrence Stevens, from the Eastbourne Archaeological Society, and an authority on mills and mill sites, has expressed some surprise that there are no finds of mill stones or fragments of them, something that would be expected on such an industrial site.

The main evidence for the location of a Tudor mill at Stanmer still appears to be the results of the resistivity surveying conducted in 2004. It would appear that only an assessment excavation of the anomalies found in 2004 will resolve the question as to whether the features noted are archaeological, or merely distracting geological features.



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

FIG 1

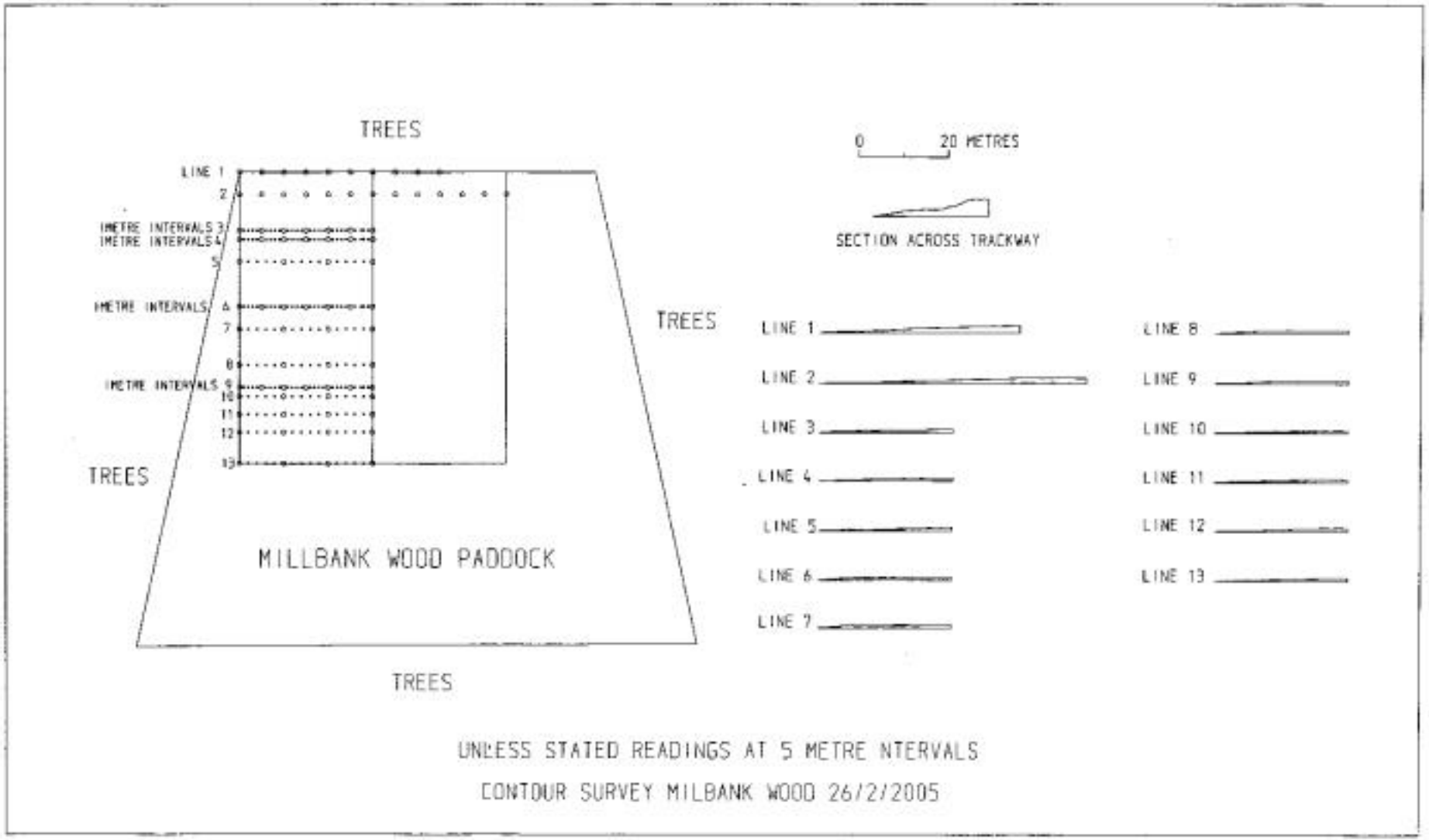

TREES
LINE 1
2
METRE INTERVALS 3
METRE INTERVALS 4
5
METRE INTERVALS 6
7
8
METRE INTERVALS 9
10
11
12
13
TREES
TREES
MILLBANK WOOD PADDOCK
TREES
0 20 METRES
SECTION ACROSS TRACKWAY
LINE 1
LINE 2
LINE 3
LINE 4
LINE 5
LINE 6
LINE 7
LINE 8
LINE 9
LINE 10
LINE 11
LINE 12
LINE 13
UNLESS STATED READINGS AT 5 METRE NTERVALS
CONTOUR SURVEY MILBANK WOOD 26/2/2005

Fig 2.

Acknowledgements:-

The author would like to thank all those members of the BHAS Field Unit who assisted with the surveying and to Mr G.Bennett of Brighton & Hove City Council and the tenant farmer David West for allowing access to his lands.

References:-

Funnell J.D. 2004 ‘Millbank Wood Surveying’ in ‘Brighton and Hove Archaeological Field Notebook 2004’

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

Earthworks at Falmer

During 2005 visits were made to a number of earthworks within the region of Falmer. Falmer has a Scheduled Ancient Monument, which consists of an extremely large enclosure, located on the side and around a deep valley to the east of the village. (TQ365080). The enclosure has not been investigated and remains undated. A feature which appears to be an ancient sunken trackway runs parallel to the Falmer to Woodingdean road before veering off northwards towards Newmarket Plantation. (TQ35750760). It is not certain whether the trackway and enclosure are connected.

During the hot summer of 2005 the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society were contacted by Mr Bob Burtenshaw from Brighton who had observed what he believed to be subtle features and earthworks in Falmer. The author and Mr Greg Chuter of East Sussex County Council joined Mr Burtenshaw for an investigation of the features that he had noted. The earthworks lie around and within Newmarket Plantation, (TQ36750800) and consist of banks, ditches and depressions. A number of banks lie within the trees and there appears to be a bank on the south/west side of the trees. Other ditches or depressions lie to the east of the trees and may be vestiges of earlier track ways that may have linked Lewes and Brighton, via the Lower Bevendean valley. The Newmarket Plantation appears to be a focus or meeting place for a number of tracks.

The earthworks within the trees have not been investigated and it would be a very useful project for someone to survey and record the features. The results of a survey may produce some inclination as to their purpose, and if the project were extended could produce a very interesting panoramic overview of this very intriguing landscape.

In 2005 a visit was also made to Newmarket Hill. David Larkin, the Brighton countryside ranger, had noted an earthwork on top of the hill that appears to be unrecorded. The location of the feature is close to the junction of two track ways that cross Newmarket Hill. The very large mound is actually crossed by one of the footpaths. (TQ363071). The north/east side of the mound is being eroded by ploughing. It is possible that this large circular feature is a tumulus or barrow. David Larkin believes that it may be a filled in dew pond.

The mound on Newmarket Hill justifies further investigation and will be the subject of a BHAS research project in an attempt to try and determine an identity for the feature. If the results of the project confirm that it is a burial mound then the Society will endeavour to either have the fence line moved or suggest an archaeological rescue package to record the area being eroded. A geophysical survey could identify any associated ditch. As the possible burial mound is being destroyed by ploughing a small excavation may be useful in providing some dateable material. The project will be added to the current list of BHAS research investigations.

John Funnell 12th January 2007

BRIGHTON AND HOVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

WATCHING BRIEF

PLANNING APPLICATION No:- BH/2004/03093/FP

ADDRESS:- 90 THE HIGHWAY, BRIGHTON, BN2 4GD.

PLANNING OFFICER:- Ms MAUREEN ROBERTSON

NAME OF APPLICANT:- MR. N. BAKER

DATE OF FIRST CONTACT FROM LANDOWNER:-

DATE OF WATCHING BRIEF: - 11th, 13th & 16th FEBRUARY 2005

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

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

Map Ref: Explorer 122 TQ330071.

The address above was visited on 11th, 13th & 16th February 2005, to inspect an excavation carried out to allow wall and floor foundations for an extension to the rear of the house.

An area 3.2mtr x 4.4mtr was cleared from the wall at the edge of the patio. This area sloped from 300mm at the wall to 800mm at the rear of the cleared area. After clearing the loose soil two areas were targeted for further investigation. Two 1000mm x 500mm trenches were place on features of differing coloured soil. Trench A was placed over a dark area and trench B over the end of a square area of yellow soil. Both were excavated to a depth of 50mm, once this depth was reached both areas showed natural yellow clay and flint nodules and no sign of previous disturbance.

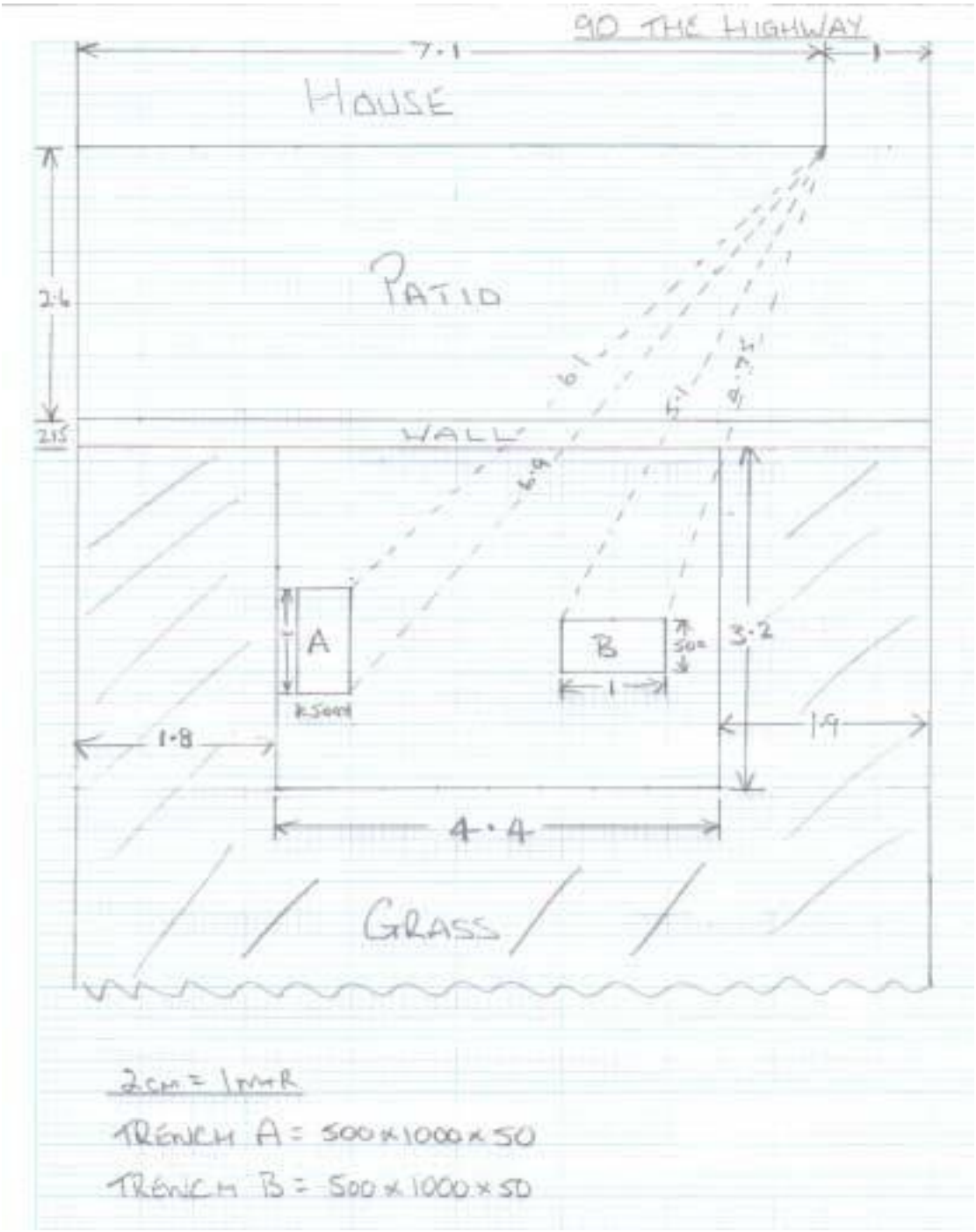
Finds;
1 x coin (poss ½ p 1971-1974)
1 x fire cracked flint (27g)
3 x flakes Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age
1 x piece clay pipe stem-Probably 18th/19th century date
1 x piece scallop shell
1 x piece contemporary tile
6 x pieces modern pottery
1 x piece fire brick (light weight and cindery at one end)

S. & E.T. Corbett
BHAS

A visit was made to the site on Friday 25th February 2005 after the footings had been dug, No features were noted. It was observed that the depth of colluvial material was approxiamately 1.8M deep. A small deeper section, of a possible old soakaway, did reveal chalk or combe deposits at the greater depth.

Signed on behalf of Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society

John Funnell (President)



BRIGHTON AND HOVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

WATCHING BRIEF

PLANNING APPLICATION No:-BH2004/02019/FP

ADDRESS:-26 GORHAM AVENUE, ROTTINGDEAN

PLANNING OFFICER:-MS M. ROBERTSON

NAME OF APPLICANT:- Mr and Mrs John Smith

DATE OF FIRST CONTACT FROM CONTRACTOR:- October 2005

DATE OF WATCHING BRIEF:- 27th October 2005

BHAS OFFICER CONDUCTING WATCHING BRIEF:- W.SANTER

Mr W.Santer visited Gorham Avenue on Thursday 27th October. Mr Smith had informed the Society that he had terraced the garden which is the development area at some distant time in the past. Any possible archaeological features would have been removed at that time. Mr Santer confirmed that the previous works on the garden had probably removed any features if they ever existed. However, Mr Santer did return to the site when the work had been carried out found no finds or features of archaeological interest.

John Funnell 30th October 2005

BRIGHTON AND HOVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

WATCHING BRIEF

PLANNING APPLICATION No:- BH2003/00422/FP

ADDRESS:-16 Martyn's Close, Ovingdean, Brighton

PLANNING OFFICER:- Ms Cushlar Barfoot

NAME OF APPLICANT:- Dr S.G. Sripuram (Contractor) Mr Bishop, 45, Westfield Avenue, Patcham

DATE OF FIRST CONTACT FROM CONTRACTOR:- 18th July 2005

DATE OF WATCHING BRIEF:- 20th-21st July 2005

BHAS OFFICER CONDUCTING WATCHING BRIEF:- Mr W.Santer

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

Ref (TQ361037) OS Explorer 122 1:25 000 Scale

Conclusions

The site was visited twice once on the 20th July and again on the 21st July. The site is a small extension to the south of an existing building. The development consisted of a short foundation trench for a wall required at the side of the house. The trench created passed through a thick layer of old building debris, half bricks, mortar etc derived from the original building construction. The remaining excavation produced only natural chalk.

No archaeological features were observed and no artefacts were recovered.

(Based on a report compiled by W.Santer)

John Funnell (BHAS Field Unit)

Watching Brief at Ovingdean after the relocation of bunding at the roundabout opposite and to the west of St. Dunstans.

In late February of 2005 Bill Santer of the BHAS Field Unit conducted a survey of the earthworks that had originally been created for a construction depot with regard work on the undercliff at Ovingdean. (TQ360026). The survey was conducted after the bunding surrounding the site had been redispersed into the field.

The Finds

Flint Flakes 4- Very crude and rough pieces, no retouch but only 1 piece retaining cortex.

Fire-cracked 1 piece 33gms

Oyster Shell I piece

BRIGHTON AND HOVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

WATCHING BRIEF

PLANNING APPLICATION No:-

ADDRESS:- 2 Petworth Road

PLANNING OFFICER:-

NAME OF APPLICANT:- Mr Jeff Moyne

DATE OF FIRST CONTACT FROM LANDOWNER:- October 2004

DATE OF WATCHING BRIEF:- 14th March-21st March 2005

OFFICER CONDUCTING WATCHING BRIEF:- MR S. CORBETT & MRS. E. CORBETT & MR W SANTER

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

History

The development at Petworth Road is close to a number of known archaeological sites. The Patcham Fawcett School, which was to the north west of the development, was the location of a large Bronze Age tumulus that produced a number of burials. When the school playing field was examined during an archaeological excavation, prior to a housing development, it produced evidence for a Bronze Age settlement with a number of round houses and a collard urn cremation burial.

During the 1950'2 a pair of Roman burials were found close to the development area.

Map Ref: Explorer 122 TQ 316088

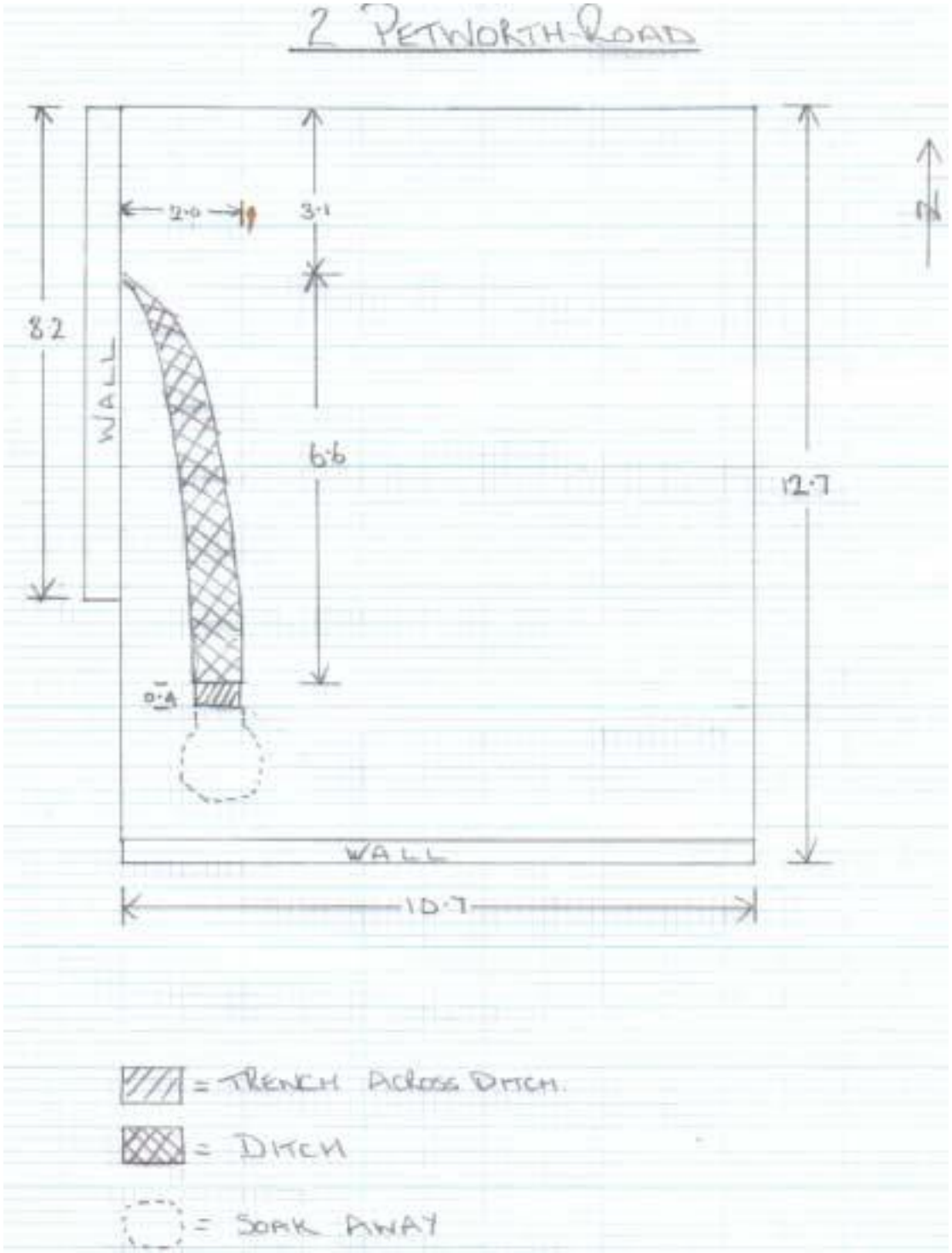
The above address was visited on a number of occasions from 14th March to the 21st March 2005. This area had been unused for many years, and it is now to be used to build garages on the land.

The vegetation had been removed prior to the watching brief. The top soil was removed over an area of 12.7x 10.5 metres. The depth of soil varied from 1 metre at the rear of the plot to only a few centimetres along the wall at the pavement edge. Once the natural chalk was exposed, a change of texture and colour could be seen that resembled a ditch (see plan).

A section was cut through the ditch and it proved to be a modern soakaway.

No other features were observed and an examination of the surrounding soil and spoil heap produced no finds of antiquity

S. & E.T. Corbett
BHAS


2 PETWORTH ROAD
2·0
3·1
8·2
WALL
6·6
12·7
0·4
WALL
10·7
= TRENCH ACROSS DITCH.
= DITCH
= SOAK AWAY

An Archaeological Watching Brief at 23, Roedean Crescent, Roedean, Brighton, East Sussex. TQ 345036 (OS Pathfinder 1307 TQ 20/30)

by W.L.Santer and J. MacGregor

Planning Application No BH 2004/01331/FP

Between 11th and 17th February 2005

BRIGHTON and HOVE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
FIELD UNIT

On the 10th February 2005 the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit (BHAS) received a request to assist in providing an archaeological watching brief during landscaping in the rear garden of 23, Roedean Crescent, Roedean, Brighton, with the general objective of monitoring excavation of groundwork to ensure that any feature or artefact revealed of archaeological or historical interest should be recorded.

The site is located within an area of intense archaeological sensitivity, nearby finds have been made of burials dating from the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods, and the location of a Roman coffin burial.

Other recent discoveries include Roman coins and pottery found in the garden of a house in Roedean Crescent, and a large underground chamber, possibly associated with Royal Navy activity during the Second World War.

The Roedean Estate which was developed from the mid 1930's, is located to the East of Brighton and is now one of the areas most exclusive residential districts. Development was interrupted by WW II and No. 23 Roedean Crescent appears to have been built in the early 1950's. The house is a large building-22m x 15m approx- standing on a platform terraced into the slope of the Downs, looking South towards the Channel. The ground rises to the North, and the rear boundary fence, approximately 26 metres from the rear wall, is almost level with the upper windows of the house. In the fence there is a gate opening onto the perimeter of the East Brighton Golf Club.

The planned landscaping consists of forming a terrace at ground-floor level to contain a covered swim-pool and patio adjacent to the rear wall, with another two terraces for gardens both having brick or stone retaining walls. The topsoil is to be retained, and excavated chalk building debris removed from site.

Work had commenced before BHAS could attend on the 11th February when it was discovered that topsoil had been removed to form a spoil heap and a mechanical digger with a 1m. toothed bucket had started removing chalk eventually down to a depth of 1m. Discussion with the digger driver and subsequent observation of the spoil heap revealed that the majority of the topsoil had probably come from the excavations for the house during its construction.

Exploration of the spoil heap led to the recovery of: Five struck flints, 20th century pottery sherds, Clay pipe stems, a small glass bottle-probably for perfume, slate, broken brick, glass, nails, screws and typical modern building debris.

CONCLUSION:

Nothing of archaeological or ancient historical significance was seen.

Contacts: Contractor, Craig Howard (digger driver and site contractor)
Owner (?) Mrs Kellinda Foolheea, 23, Roedean Crescent, Roedean, Brighton, BN2 5RG Tel. 685414 - To whom a copy of report should be sent

Addenda:

In the North wall of the excavation for the lower terrace a cutting was seen which turned out to be a "dunny" having newspaper and other *material* in it, possibly a campsite facility or the 1950 house builders?

BRIGHTON AND HOVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

WATCHING BRIEF

PLANNING APPLICATION No:- BH2004/01331/FP

ADDRESS:- 23 ROEDEAN CRESCENT, BRIGHTON.

PLANNING OFFICER:-Mr PETE JOHNSON

NAME OF APPLICANT:- Mr B. FOOLHEEA

DATE OF FIRST CONTACT FROM CONTRACTOR:- 10TH FEBRUARY 2005

DATE OF WATCHING BRIEF:- 10TH-17TH FEBRUARY 2005

BHAS OFFICER CONDUCTING WATCHING BRIEF:-Mr W.SANTER & Ms J. MACGREGOR

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

Ref TQ 345036 (OS Pathfinder 1307 TQ 20/30)

On the 10th February 2005 the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit (BHAS) received a request to assist in providing an archaeological watching brief during landscaping in the rear garden of 23, Roedean Crescent, Roedean, Brighton. The general objective was the monitoring of the excavation of groundwork and to ensure that any feature or artefact revealed of archaeological or historical interest should be recorded.The site is located within an area of intense archaeological sensitivity, nearby finds have been made of burials dating from the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods, and the location of a Roman coffin burial.

Other recent discoveries include Roman coins and pottery found in the garden of a house in Roedean Crescent, and a large underground chamber, possibly associated with Royal Navy activity during the Second World War found at 9, Roedean Crescent.

The Roedean Estate which was developed from the mid 1930's, is located to the East of Brighton and is now one of the areas most exclusive residential districts. Development was interrupted by WW II and No. 23 Roedean Crescent appears to have been built in the early 1950's. The house is a large building-22m x 15m approx- standing on a platform terraced into the slope of the Downs, looking South towards the Channel. The ground rises to the North, and the rear boundary fence, approximately 26 metres from the rear wall, is almost level with the upper windows of the house. In the fence there is a gate opening onto the perimeter of the East Brighton Golf Club where in 2003 there was a find druing an archaeological watching brief of a burial dated to the Early Bronze Age.

The planned landscaping consists of forming a terrace at ground-floor level to contain a covered swim-pool and patio adjacent to the rear wall, with another two terraces for gardens both having brick or stone retaining walls. The topsoil is to be retained, and excavated chalk building debris removed from site.

Work had commenced before BHAS could attend on the 11th February when it was discovered that topsoil had been removed to form a spoil heap and a mechanical digger with a 1m. toothed bucket had started removing chalk eventually down to a depth of 1m. Discussion with the digger driver and subsequent observation of the spoil heap revealed that the majority of the topsoil had probably come from the excavations for the house during its construction.

Exploration of the spoil heap led to the recovery of: 5 struck flints, probably of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date, 20th century pottery sherds, Clay pipe stems, a small glass bottle-probably for perfume, slate, broken brick, glass, nails, screws and typical modern building debris.

Finds

4 Flint flakes, 3 flakes with a white patination and 1 with a blue.grey patination, all bore traces of cortex and no sign of retouch. Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date

5 Clay pipe stems- very small sections 6-7mm in diameter probably of late 18th/19th century dating.

1 Piece of butchered and knawed bone

6 ceramic pieces of contemporary or 19th century vessels

2 Glass vessels of unknown date

Conclusions:

Other than a few flint flakes nothing of archaeological or ancient historical significance was observed.

Signed on behalf of Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society

John Funnell (President)

BRIGHTON AND HOVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

WATCHING BRIEF

PLANNING APPLICATION No:-BH2004/03570/FP

ADDRESS:-ST MARY'S HALL, EASTERN ROAD, BRIGHTON

PLANNING OFFICER:-MS M. ROBERTSON

NAME OF APPLICANT:- MILLER BOURNE PARTNERSHIP

DATE OF FIRST CONTACT FROM CONTRACTOR:- JANUARY 2005

DATE OF WATCHING BRIEF:- 7TH-8TH April 2005

BHAS OFFICER CONDUCTING WATCHING BRIEF:- W.SANTER & J.FUNNELL

History of site

St Mary's Hall was opened in 1836 as a boarding school for the daughters of clergymen. (Carder 1990). The construction of this large Victorian house would have removed any archaeological features in that part of the south facing slope of the South Downs.

A number of excavations between 1905 and 1922 produced finds of both features and artefacts dated to the Iron Age and Roman periods. One large pit contained a hypocaust, suggesting that a significant site may be located somewhere in the area. (Gilkes 1989).

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

The development at St Mary's Hall was confined to the demolition of an existing flint constructed storage shed. The shed, and numerous other developments within the St Mary's complex, had over the past century, included substantial terracing. The shed construction and terracing would have destroyed any archaeology and no archaeological features were noted during the visits to the site. However, the road leading into St Mary's is probably along the original contour of the hill and untouched areas to the north of the tennis courts could be considered as having the potential for archaeological features.

References:-

Carder T. 1990 'The Encyclopedaedia of Brighton' Item 168

Gilkes O. 1989 'Iron Age and Roman Features at Kemp Town' SAC Vol 127 236-240

John Funnell (President Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society)

13th April 2005

BRIGHTON AND HOVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

WATCHING BRIEF

PLANNING APPLICATION No:-BH

ADDRESS:- 30 Nanson Road, Coldean, Brighton

PLANNING OFFICER:-MR David Vickers

NAME OF APPLICANT:- MR Clive Voller

DATE OF FIRST CONTACT FROM CONTRACTOR:- 4TH April 2005

DATE OF WATCHING BRIEF:- 16TH APRIL-19TH APRIL 2005

BHAS OFFICER CONDUCTING WATCHING BRIEF:- W.Santer, S. & E. Corbett, J.MacGregor & J.Funnell

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SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The Coldean housing estate is located in a small valley which is part of the South Downs. The east end of the valley opens out onto the junction of the Brighton to Lewes road. The house site being developed lies on a slight incline towards the south west corner of this valley. The geology is predominantly chalk loam overlying a bed rock of upper and middle chalk**.**

HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The Coldean housing estate was constructed during the 1950's. During the house building workman uncovered a number of archaeological features. The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society, who were excavating a tumulus along the Ditchling Road close by, were invited to investigate the features.

It became quite evident that Coldean is an extremely archaeologically sensitive area as features examined included Roman ditches and an Iron Age round house. Finds included a Roman gold 'stater' and a Bronze Age collared urn.

The archaeological investigations prior to the construction of the Brighton bypass produced evidence for a significant Middle to Late Bronze Age Settlement. The site was located on the steep sided hill that lay to the west of Coldean Lane. Another excavation at Varley Halls, on the east side of the valley produced a number of Bronze Age round houses that may relate to another settlement. Field walking the fields around the Coldean area has produced finds of Neolithic and Late Bronze Age flint work, fire cracked flint and pottery dated to the Iron Age and Roman periods.

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society approached the land owner, Mr Clive Voller, with regard conducting a small excavation within the garden of 30 Nanson Road, prior to the commencement of the development. The garden had been terraced in a number of places and the west side consisted of large quantities of contemporary soil deposits from possible dumping. With Mr Vollers approval the BHAS Field Unit excavated a trench measuring 3.5M x 1.5M and 1.4M in depth. The section produced three distinct layers producing contemporary finds in the upper fill with worked flint and Iron Age pottery in the lower fills. A single, flint packed, post hole was revealed and two small concentrated deposits of small flint nodules.

A watching brief conducted after the trenches had been cut for the construction footings failed to reveal any additional features or finds.

A complete report of the excavation and finds will be compiled and sent to the appropriate bodies.

Acknowledgements:-

I would like to thank Mr Voller for allowing access to the garden area and to all the members of the BHAS Field Unit who conducted the excavation.

References:-

Yeates C. 1951 'Prehistoric Man in the Cold Dean Area' Sussex County Magazine Volume 25 Number 8

D.Rudling el al 2002 'Downland Settlement and Land-Use, The Archaeology of the Brighton Bypass'. Archetype Publications**.**

Greig I. 1997 ' Excavations of a Bronze Age settlement at Varley Halls , Coldean, Coldean Lane, Brighton'. Sussex Arch Colls. 135, 7-59

John Funnell (President Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society)

28th April 2005

Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society
Field Unit 2005 Attendance Record

Name	Days	Home Town
John Funnell (Director)	36	Brighton
Donna Angel	1	Brighton
Au BuliLough	2	Brighton
Trish Ballard	1	Croydon
Judith Billingham (G)	14	Brighton
Bob Bird (MD)	14	Peacehaven
Pauline Bird (MD)	2	Brighton
Martin Buck	6	Haywards Heath
Rosalind Buck (Roz)	5	Haywards Heath
Dawn Burns (F)	13	Littlehampton
Martin Burns	11	Worthing
Laura Bush	2	Heathfield
Jeff Chadwick (MD)	1	Brighton
Beth Clements	3	Brighton
Paul Ciements	3	Brighton
Brenda Collins (G)	34	Shoreham
Graham Cooper	7	Brighton
Eva Corbett (S) (G)	35	Eastbourne
Steve Corbett (Director)	35	Eastbourne
Jo Crocott	8	Brighton
Bob Crowhurst (F)	12	Brighton
Wayne Crowhurst	1	Brighton
India Dardsley	5	Cambridge
Jane Donlan	2	Brighton
Keith Edger(G) (S) (L) (SP)	1	Southwater
Jane Elliott (F) (S)	1	Brighton
Maria Gardiner(E) (SP)	12	Hove
Mark Gillingham	19	Hove
April Gates	5	Cambridge
Karette Green (Marie)	2	London
Merryn Greening	4	Leatherhead
Beckie Hale	5	Brighton
Lee Hamilton	2	Brighton
Andy Hazell	1	Burgess Hill
Daniel Hill	1	Hove
Phillipa House	1	Hove
Avril Huggins	11	Polegate
Leo Jago	1	Brighton
Sarah Keilier	3	Cambridge
Clive Langan (G)	4	Uckfield
Ginette Leech	15	Brighton
David Ludwig	37	Rustington
John Mansfield	6	Sompting
Dot McBrien (S(SP) (G)	29	Sompting
Joan MacGregor (G)	18	Brighton
Barbara McKnee (S)P)	17	Shoreham
Mark Melvin	5	Worthing
Sarah Mills	1	Overton

Frankie Mills	1	Overton
Cormac Mills	1	Overton
Cohn Miller	1	Hove
Nadia Khalili-Nayer	17	Shoreham
David Packham	10	Brighton
Derek Page (MD)	5	Saltdean
Lynda Penfold	1	Brighton
Norman Phippard (Director) (S) (G)	30	Brighton
Becky Pollard	1	Heathfieid
John Rich	1	Chichester
Bill Santer (G) (Q) (M)	23	Saltdean
David Smith (MD)	6	Brighton
Howard Smith	5	Cambridge
Marlene Smith (MD)	1	Brighton
Pamela Smith (G)	13	Brighton
Paul Smith	2	Brighton
David Southwell (MD)	2	Brighton
David Staveley (Director) (P) (S) (L) (G)	17	Eastbourne
Richard Symonds	1	Horsham
Rosalind Wallduck	5	Cambridge
James Walker	5	Cambridge
Kymm Walker	5	(California)
Carol White (SP)	13	Newhaven
Owen White	12	Sussex Univ.
Deon Whittaker (G) (S) (P) ©	4	Worthing
Matthew Wood	5	Cambridge
John Woodall	4	Tunbridge Wells
Sue Worth	14	Brighton

Total Attendance (Excluding Barcombe) 659 Days
Total Number of Participants 76 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
(MD) Metal Detectorist)

Updated ~ January 2006

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 2005.

Brighton and Hove City Council

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

Mr David West, Home Farm, Stanmer.

Dr Andrew Woodcock, County Archaeologist

Mr Greg Chuter, East Sussex County Council

Mr David Rudling Archaeology South East

Mr K.Edgar, Ms C.White (Leader of the BHAS Bones Team), Ms M.Gardiner, Ms A.Huggins, Ms D.McBrien for their specialist reports.

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

Mr S.Corbett-Assistant Director of the BHAS Field Unit

Mr W.Santer-Watching Brief Officer

Mr D. Whittaker-BHAS Conservator

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