ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD NOTEBOOK 2010

A RECORD OF THE PROJECTS OF THE;

BRIGHTON AND HOVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD UNIT

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Introduction

2010 proved once again to be a very active year for members of the BHAS Field Unit. The season started in late March and continued until early December. The team were involved with excavations at Rocky Clump in the final year of the investigations into the north field. The excavations at Rocky Clump will be moving to the south field in the New Year, and under a new directorship. The report on the excavations in the north field have already commenced, but with much post excavation still to be completed. Other excavations supported by the field unit this year included a return to Varley Halls with Lisa Fisher and another return to Peacehaven to look at the north/east quadrant of the Peacehaven barrow with Susan Birks.

Geophysical projects were planned for 2010 on Beacon Hill, Rottingdean and in the south field at Ovingdean, but the various excavations did not allow enough time or have available resources for other activities to take place. A geophysical survey was planned for Ovingdean in the late autumn, but this was marred by the extremely bad weather. These projects have been postponed until 2011. David Staveley has, however, been very busy working with the Roman Culver Project at Barcombe and with a metal detecting group in East Sussex.

The Young Archaeologists Club (YAC) joined the BHAS diggers at Rocky Clump and Varley Halls and training for new members of the BHAS field unit continued throughout the year.

Finds processing has been a continuing part of the educational process and post excavation, but day schools were left to Sussex University to organise. Good numbers of people turned up for the finds processing at the Patcham Community Centre venue with finds from Peacehaven, Ovingdean and Rocky Clump being marked and catalogued.

It has been an extremely eventful year for the BHAS Field Unit and 2011 promises to be just as interesting and active.

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 18th December 2010

Excavations at Rocky Clump, Stanmer.- Interim Report 2010

Introduction

The 2010 season of investigations at Rocky Clump, in the north field was quite a short period (Fig 1.). BHAS had committed themselves to supporting other projects at Peacehaven and Varley Halls, supporting directors Sue Birks and Lisa Fisher. The Rocky Clump season began in late March and ended in late June when the excavating team moved to the first phase of digging at Varley Halls.

The site had weathered badly over the cold winter and the sides of the sections had crumbled through severe frost damage. The site was tidied up and made safe leaving only the lower fills to the north of the flint cobbled surface, found in 2009, to be removed (Fig 2.) The east end of the trench still had fill to be removed and as this progressed in 2 metre square contexts 818, 921 and 940 more vestiges of the flint floor were uncovered. The floor is lowest in the central zone, south of contexts 937, 938 and 939 and then rises as it moves eastwards. At its lowest depth on the west side of the trench the flint floor terminates at a large sarsen stone. A 2 metre extension was added to the east end of the trench, contexts 944, 945 and 946 to chase the flint cobbled floor. The floor became less concentrated with fewer flints, but a small section did disappear under the baulk on the south eastern side. This area was not investigated. The new section opened produced a Roman coin, a barbarous radiate, but it was too eroded to give greater detail or accurate dating.

The Features

The Well

The lower, west end of the trench, and the location of the large sarsen stone, was a large area of cobbled flint, with a number of ironstone pieces forming a circular pattern. During a visit by David Rudling, senior lecturer in Archaeology at Sussex University, in 2009 he had suggested that the feature might be a well. It was also possible that the layer of flints were a later capping. As digging continued on the north side a circular or elliptical shaped feature emerged with natural chalk being found a couple of metres to the north, context 950. The lower fill of this feature was a light coloured soft, silty material lying above the flint cobbled floor. Quantities of butchered bone were uncovered lying at the bottom of the silty layer on top of the flint lower surface. The Assistant County Archaeologist also visited early in 2010 and suggested that a quarter of the feature be preserved for future analysis (Fig 3.). It was decided to remove the south/west section of the flint floor to examine the underlying fills and seek evidence for a possible well.

The cobbled floor was removed and beneath was revealed a large area of natural clay, with some large stained flints. There was no evidence for a well Roman or otherwise. It had been noted that during the winter the snow and subsequent thawing water did produce a very small pond in the bottom of this 'well' like feature.

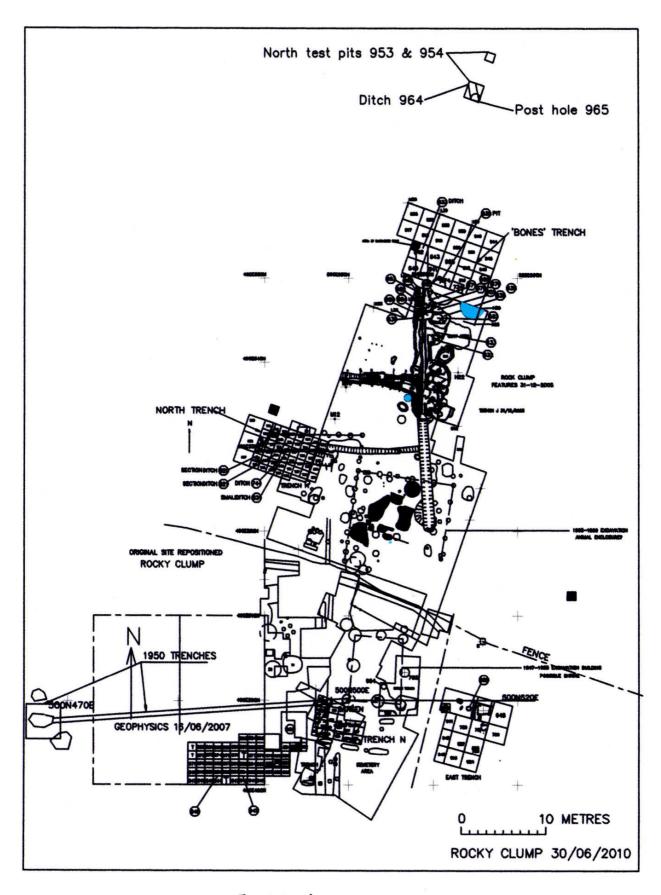
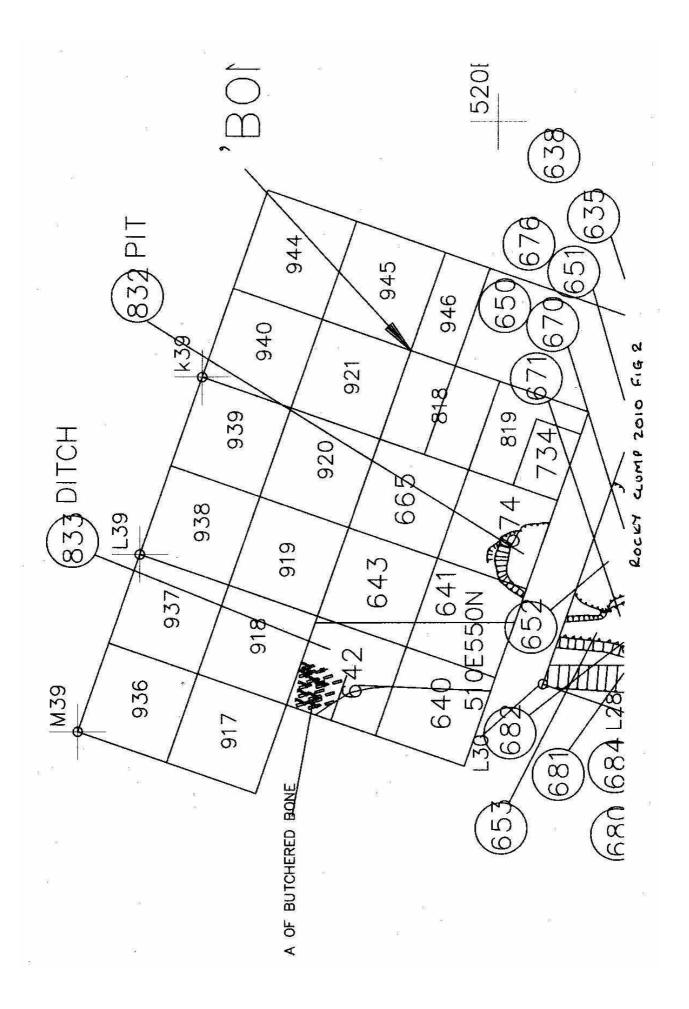
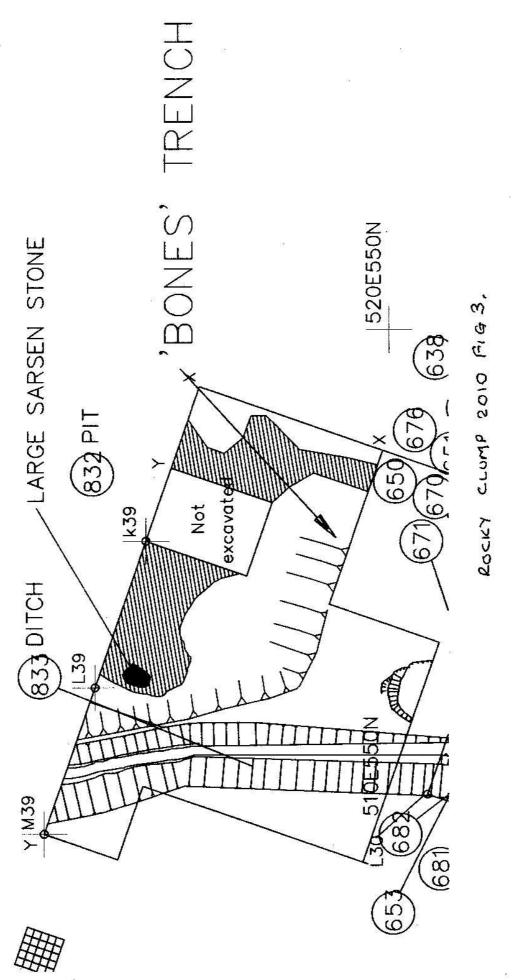


Fig 1





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Geophysical Survey

A new resistivity survey, totalling 4 grids 1,2,3 and 4 with each measuring 20 metres square, was conducted north of the excavations. A number of potential features were observed, (Fig 4.) including a possible rectangular feature to the east of the large north/south ditch seen still running northwards across the field.

Test Trench in North Field

Test pits were cut to investigate the anomalies found during the resistivity survey and given context numbers 953 and 954. The small trench was extended northwards, context 956, and Romano-British pottery was found. The trench finally revealed another small vee shaped ditch running northwards. The ditch, context 964, was cut by a large post hole context 965. The ditch was 90cms wide and 36cms deep at its lowest point. Finds from the small test trench included some pieces of samian pottery. The trench was back filled by hand after recording.

The Cemetery Area (Fig 5.)

As the excavations were winding down a number of new areas were opened up within the copse of trees at Rocky Clump seeking new burials. The areas within the tress had been the subject of a resistivity survey in 2009, but no real evidence for features was forthcoming from the images produced. The new areas contexts 947 and 948 measured 4 metres square and were located immediately west of the known cemetery area found in the 1960's. The surface proved to be a very shallow layer of leaf mould with little or no substance. The areas revealed only natural chalk and were subsequently back filled. The only other possible area for burials lies in the south east corner of Rocky Clump close to a large beech tree.

The East Trench (Fig 6.)

Excavations continued in the trench located to the east of the clump, and affectionately called 'old gits corner' as the diggers were generally of a very mature age. The finds from this location had been a mixture of Roman pottery, including samian ware, and oyster shells mixed in with a varied mixture of contemporary finds. As the excavation progressed a rich and varied section was revealed in the east facing section. Several distinct deposits could be observed in the section including what were obviously dumps of chalk. One of the features was a pair of large sarsen stones. At the bottom of the section and lying above a layer of natural yellow clay was an in-situ fire-place, nestling between smaller sarsen stones and flint nodules, context 951. Oyster shells were found among the fill.

Steve Corbett, one of the current site directors had been browsing through the notebooks of the late Norman Norris and came across some photographs. Among the photographs was the same section that had been excavated in the east trench, with both the large sarsen stones in the same place. The fire-place was accurately dated to the 1950's when the previous excavation had taken place. It provided evidence that not all of the earlier excavations have been recorded in the subsequent publications.

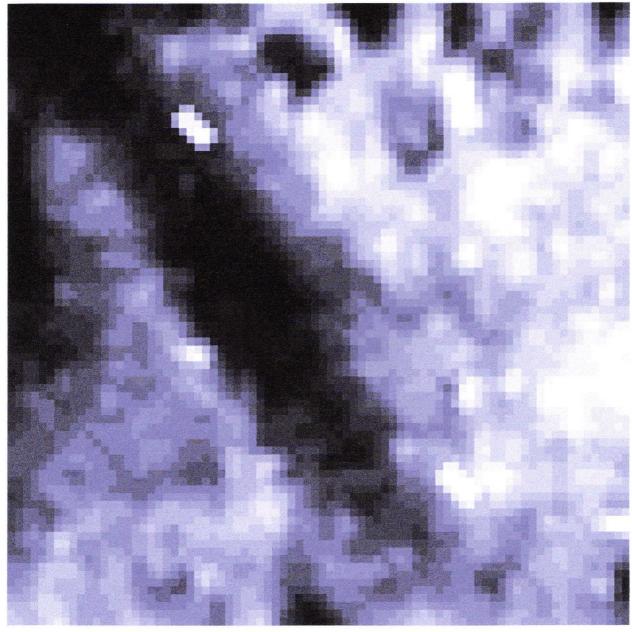
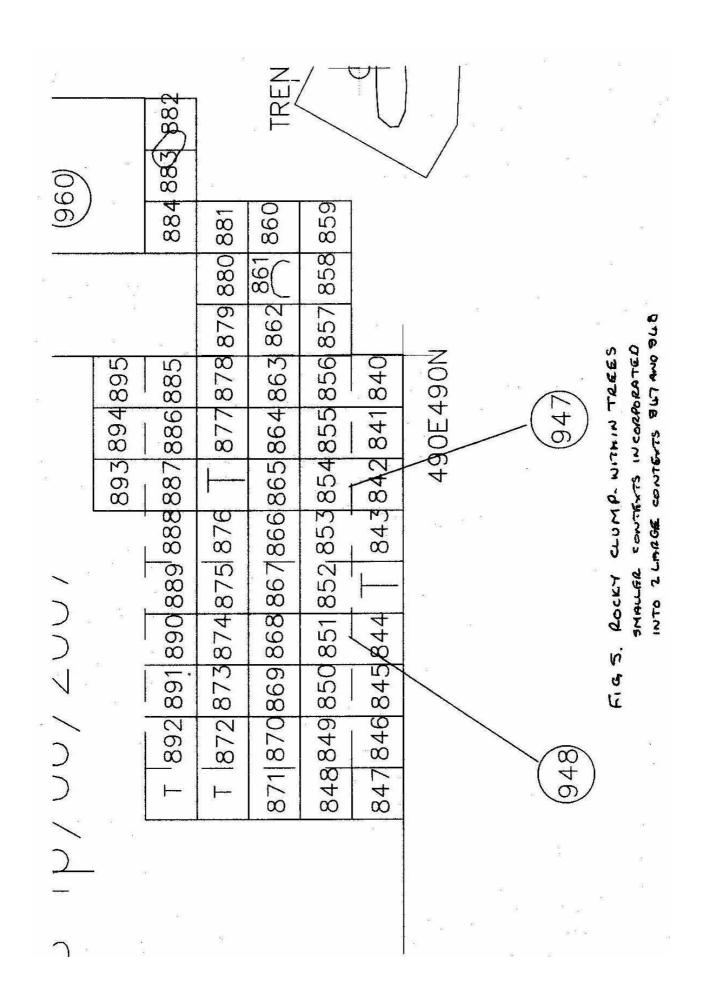
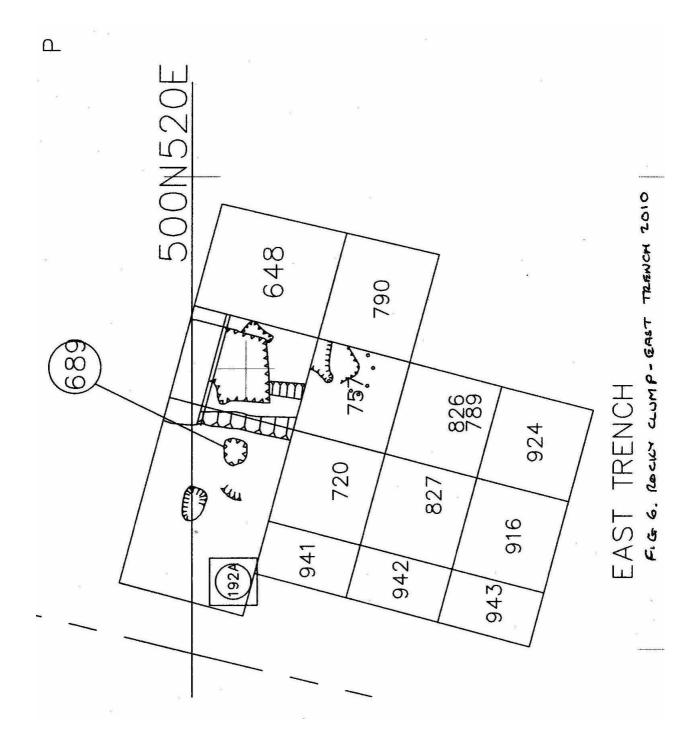


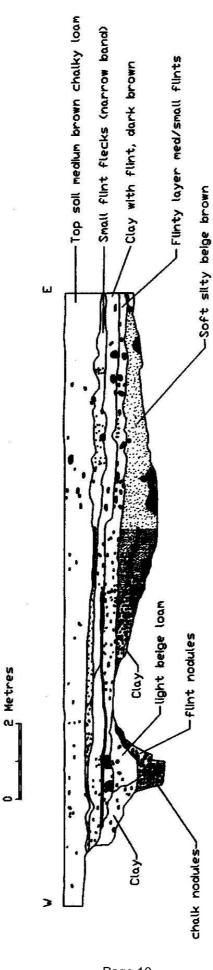
FIG L ROCKY CLUMP GROPHYSICS 2010
CLEARLY SHOWING N/S DITCH
AND OTHER FEATURES
CHOMETRES × LOMETRES)

N

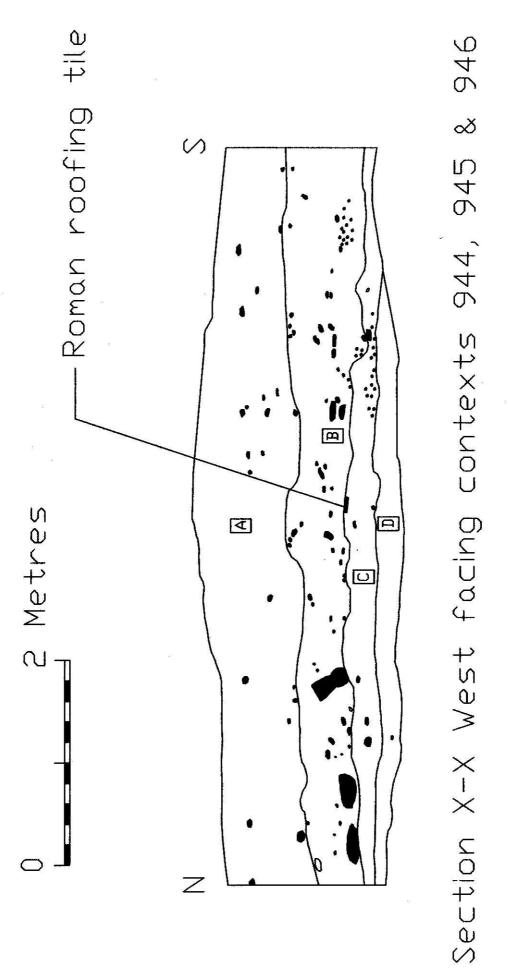
* EXSISTING EXCAUATION LOCATED HERE







Section Y-Y South facing contexts 936, 937, 938 & 939



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Conclusions

The short season of excavations at Rocky Clump 2010 had provided new evidence for activities at the location from both the Roman period and the 1950's. The resistivity survey shows that there is still untouched and recorded archaeology beneath the soil in the north field, with the test pits showing post holes and ditches. The cemetery found during the 1950's clearly does not extend westwards, and the east trench provided visual evidence for unrecorded trenches cut during the 1950's.

The excavation of the Romano-British farmstead at Rocky Clump has, over the past two decades, shown that from the 1st century BC through to the early part of the fourth century AD a period of ancient farming activity. The features have included pits, post holes, ditches and flint cobbled floors. The purpose for many of these features is still to be determined. The post holes tend to suggest an animal enclosure of some description, with a possible tethering post. The early phase of the site consists of a series of ditches, including the large ditch running north/south that had the upper fills packed with butchered animal bone. Earlier than these ditches was the cobbled floor surface that dropped dramatically down and provided evidence for butchery with the floor being littered with butchered animal bones. The surface above this floor was covered by the upcast from the digging of this section of the large north/south ditch clearly pre-dating it.

The ditches would tend to suggest the use and channelling of water, but no evidence has been found for tanning or similar processes. During heavy rain it has been noted that water percolates into the surrounding chalk very rapidly. It only during the cold winter period that snow and water is retained at the bottom of the deep cobbled floor, and this was because of the underlying clay deposits. It is highly unlikely that this feature was created for water usage, and is probably a Roman abattoir. The floor is located immediately east of the large north/south ditch, but the floor is lower than the ditch and would not allow drainage into what is clearly a later feature.

The site obviously extends further north, with features unexplored or recorded. It is now felt, however, that pursuing ditches is not really a productive enterprise and that the future policy should seek evidence for any settlement associated with the archaeology found from the past years. The excavations will move to the south field in 2011. The resistivity surveys conducted in the south field will be studied and test trenches cut to investigate a number of anomalies.

The excavations at Rocky Clump in 2010 were considered to be the end of an era. At the end of the short season the excavations were back filled. The focus will now be on post excavation, the processing and recording of the finds and the writing of the archaeological report for publication in the Sussex Archaeological Collections.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank all of the people involved over the past 18 years or so. Mr Geoff Bennett of Brighton and Hove City Council, tenant farmers Mr David West and Mr David Robinson, and Brighton Countryside Ranger Mr David Larkin have all given support throughout the enterprise as have the county Archaeologist Casper Johnson and Assistant County Archaeologist Mr Gregory Chuter, their support is deeply appreciated. The members of the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit have over the past

decades numbered into the hundreds. They have worked enthusiastically and dedicatedly through heat and cold, in summer and winter. Without the support of so many people it would have been impossible to conduct such an operation. I would like to thank everyone who has been out in the field over the past years, and in particular Mr David Ludwig and Mrs Dot McBrien who have been with me for the whole of that period, how can one not acknowledge such stupendous support. Finally, I would like to thank all of those who have taken on the responsibility of running the site in my frequent absences and these include Mr Gary Bishop, Mr Norman Phippard, Mr Steve Corbett and Mr Mark Gillingham and to those that have looked after and carried the vast array of equipment to site Mr and Mrs Jim Driver and Mrs Brenda Collins and Mr Paul Collins.

References:-

Funnell J.D. Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Notes Books 1999-2006 1997 'Excavations at Rocky Clump, Stanmer, Brighton' 1951-1981. Sussex Arch. Colls. 135, 113-127.

Gorton W.C.L. 1988 'Rocky Clump, Stanmer, A Forgotten Shrine?'

John Funnell 28th August 2011

Varley Halls Excavations 2010

BHAS continued investigations into the Bronze Age landscapes at Varley Halls in 2010; a summary report has already been published in 'Flint' last year, by myself as site Director. A full report is forthcoming and should hopefully be published in the Sussex Archaeological Collections and in the meantime a synopsis of the flint finds is presented here as an interim measure.

At the time of writing this I have fully analysed the 3-D recorded flint from the site which we dug at Varley Halls in 2010 and this is included below. In addition I have condensed the finds from the topsoil in all trenches but have not finished analysing them thoroughly, in terms of length/breadth analysis and the overall curation processes such as cortex removal and core rejuvenation. This work will be forthcoming in the final site report. However, a cursory look at the topsoil finds proves to be of interest, with more flint finds being contained within the top 20 cms or so of modern soil resting over the site than flint finds which have been 3-D recorded and lie within the prehistoric deposits. This has huge implications as is discussed below. It is not my intention to discuss fully the overall archaeology of the site but to simply discuss the flint finds and put them into context in relation to the excavations from 2008 and 2010.

Geology

The site lies on a steep hillside which slopes NW-SE approx. 110m above OD to approx.100m OD, centred on TQ329091 off Coldean Lane in Brighton, East Sussex .The geology of Coldean in Brighton, East Sussex (see fig.1) consists mainly of chalk, with some clay-with-flint outcrops in Stanmer Great Woods. The geography is predominantly that of a dry valley, with Coldean estate built upon the western slopes of the valley with Stanmer woods on the ridge to the north of the valley and Varley Halls on the eastern slope of the valley. Further to the south-west lies the ridge-top of Hollingbury with its associated Iron-age hill fort, which postdates a Bronze Age enclosure.

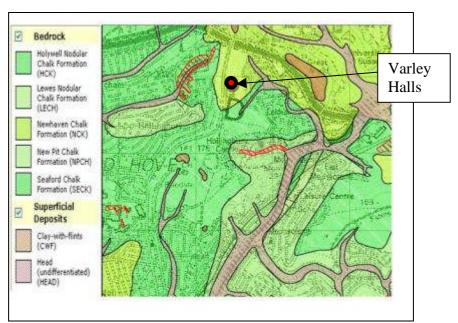


Fig 1. This geology map shows that the area of Coldean consists mainly of chalk bedrock with small caps of clay with flints shown in brown, in Stanmer Great Woods. Reproduced from Edina Digimap

Known archaeology

There is a high concentration of prehistoric monuments in the area and several excavations were conducted in the 1990's prior to the construction of the A27 Brighton by-pass. A number of key areas were sampled and excavated by local contractors Archaeology South-East. The results of these excavations were published by UCL and EH (Rudling, 2002) and included sites such as Downsview, a Bronze Age settlement, Eastwick Barn a Bronze Age settlement site and Patcham Fawcett, yet another nearby Bronze Age domestic location.

As well as the archaeology of the A27, other notable excavations (notably that of Varley Halls

As well as the archaeology of the A27, other notable excavations (notably that of Varley Halls in 1992) also link into the Bronze Age period. To the north of Coldean Lane lies the Great Woods of Stanmer, which continues this tradition of prehistoric activity in this area. Continuity from the Neolithic into the IA/RB period is marked by 32 known sites and find spots in the SMR/HER listings and includes:

- at least ten barrows, probably of BA date
- · four BA settlements
- four IA/RB settlements
- two cross ridge dykes
- two IA/RB track ways
- three IA/RB field systems
- an IA roundhouse

What emerges is a fascinating picture of prehistoric Brighton; previously unknown sites of domestic occupation were unearthed (Fisher, 2009) and the time has now come to bring together this information to help re-construct a picture of the people and their landscape. The area was recently observed by the English Heritage surveying officer, David Omish, who regarded the area as an entire surviving prehistoric landscape.



Fig.3. Main excavation site in Coldean Lane with geophysics overlying map (reproduced courtesy of Brighton and Hove City Council)

Contexts

There were two main sites excavated in 2010, the main trench 1 which was 12m square in the lower field with another trench 2 (Fig. 4) being 1m x 8m in size. Test trenches 3,4,5 (all 3m sq. but not fully excavated as they were fairly sterile) and 6 (12 x 1m) were excavated in the upper field. Soil Contexts are as follows:

- 100 Topsoil in trench 1
- 101 Second spit in trench 1(negative lynchet) very shallow but older colluvium
- 102 Base of shallow negative lynchet feature in trench 1
- 103 Topsoil in modern feature in trench 1
- 104 Colluvium under 103 in modern feature
- 106 Disaggregated chalk in modern feature
- 107 Soil below chalk in modern feature
- 108 Bottom layer of disaggregated chalk in modern feature
- 200 Topsoil in trench 2
- 201 Second spit in trench 2, deep negative lynchet
- 300 Test trench, top field
- 400 Test trench, top field
- 500 Test trench, top field
- 600 Long test trench, top field
- 700 Topsoil in extension 7 in main trench 1
- 701 Second spit in extension 7, older colluvium profile
- 800 Topsoil in extension 8 in trench 1
- 801 Second spit in extension 8, older colluvium profile
- 802 Final spit in extension 8, chalk and flint interface with cut of negative lynchet

The southern half of trench 1 remained un-excavated as did a portion of the western side of the trench (Fig. 4).

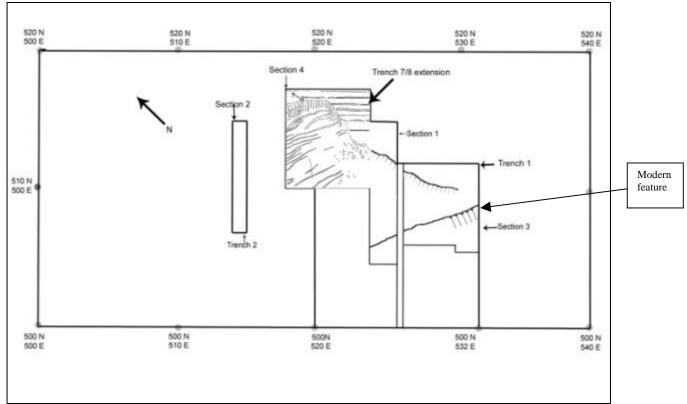


Fig.4. Main trench plan locating trench 1,2 and 7/8 extension and showing plan of the field corner

Topsoil finds

A total of 693 flints were found in the topsoil across all trenches ((Table.1) .The majority of struck flint was predominantly patinated white/blue debitage, less than 1% were tools with only 5 pieces recognizable as retouched tools consisting of only 2 scrapers (Fig.5) and 3 re-touched cutting flakes (Fig.6) one of which was notched.

Table 1. Flint finds from topsoil

Context number;	Total debitage:	Total tools:	Tool type:
100	364	2	Scraper and re-touched flake
101	3		
102	7		
103	11		
107	3		
200	32		
300	1		
400	-		
500	19		
600	64	1	Retouched flake
700	26		
800	149	2	Scraper and cutting flake
Sondage	5		
Spoil heap finds	4 (including 1 core)		
Total	688	5	

As this assemblage is not completely analysed yet, we can only surmise some basic facts. What is interesting is that there were more struck flint flakes found in the modern topsoil than in the older prehistoric features below. A total of 599 flakes were found in topsoil in the main trenches 1, 2 and extensions 7/8 in the lower field with only 85 flakes found in the

topsoil from the top field. Also worth noting is the lack of flint flakes in the modern cut that went through trench 1, with only 2% of the total flakes from the whole site located here (contexts 103 and 107 had 14 flakes in total).

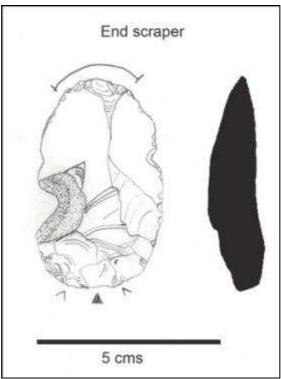


Fig.5. End scraper from the topsoil in trench 8 (extension of trench 1)

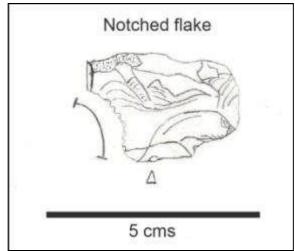


Fig.6. Notched flake from topsoil in the main trench 1

3-D recorded flint assemblage

A total of 545 struck flint pieces weighing 9.06 KG were 3-D recorded (Table.2) in the main trenches 1 and 2 and in the extension 7/8 in trench 1, all of which are patinated white/blue typical of downland assemblages. A total of 89% of these were HH struck and only 3% were core rejuvenation flakes which would suggest little curation of cores. It is likely that the rejuvenation flakes were a result of turning the cores at 90° to create a new platform, rather than 'true' rejuvenation flakes used as a curation process in the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic period, as there is no evidence of platform preparation on these flakes. During the Later

Bronze Age the traditional skills of flint knappers were thought to have diminished and with this the curation and method of production changed so it is likely that cores were used to strike a few flakes from with the core then being discarded. Only 8 cores were found and 50% had two striking platforms turned at 90° to create the second platform with on average only 3-7 removals, one core was turned at 45° with 6 removals and only three cores had one platform with 4-6 removals. These cores on average, had between 40-50% cortex with only one having as much as 90% of the cortex removed.

Table 2. Total record of 3-D recorded flint assemblage

Context	Total pieces	Weight	НН	SH	Core re-	Primary	Secondary	Tools	Cores
					juvenation flake	flakes	flakes		
101	9	121g	78%	22%	-	-	33%	-	-
103	4	91g	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-
107	2	43g	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-
201	93	1685g	90%	10%	5% (5)	7%	14%	3%	2
701	117	2152g	80%	20%	0.85% (1)	10%	8%	11%	2
702	7	89g	100%	-	14% (1)	-	-	-	1
801	260	4010g	82%	18%	1% (4)	2%	11%	7%	3
802	53	875g	85%	15%	5%	-	9%	7%	1
Total	545	9.06kg	89%	11%	3%	2.3%	9.3%	3.3%	8

This 'disposable' method of production is also more prevalent amongst sedentary communities with ample access to the raw material. Located on the Sussex Downs the settlements would have ease of access to flint sources and the nearest flint source to Varley Halls is likely to have been in the Clay -with -Flint deposits in Stanmer Great Woods and elsewhere in the locale. Another diagnostic of later flint work is the percentage of cortex remaining on the flakes as this is also an indicator that few flakes are being removed from a core. The more flakes that are removed, the less cortex remains but with this assemblage an average of 12 % of flakes were primary or secondary flakes with the majority of the assemblage having only 3-4 removals and occasional 5-6 removals and anything above this being rare. Only 6 flakes in this assemblage are thought to be residual Mesolithic flints with the rest a likely Later Bronze Age date, consisting of mainly debitage (96.7%) and only 3.3% tools. These tools types are listed below in table 3.

Table 3. Tool types in 3-D recorded contexts

Context	End	Side	Piercers	Notched	Digging	Blade	Retouched	Cutting flake
	scrapers	scrapers		flakes	point		flakes	
101		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
103		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
107		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
201		1	-	1		1	-	-
701	1	-	1	4		1	6	-
702		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
801	1	-	1	1	1	3	8	2
802		-	-	2			2	-
Total	2	1	2	8	1	4	16	3

Of note was a 'mystery' tool which appears to have been fire-cracked (Figs. 7 and 8) and may have had some flakes removed by wear rather than humanly struck. Use-wear does show striations consistent with some kind of activity and it may be that this flint was used either as a digging tool or possibly as an ard tip for the plough. However, Chris Butler has looked at this and is sceptical; unfortunately the fire-cracked surface does render identification that bit more

difficult but Mike Allen from Bournemouth University has suggested that it might have been utilized as a digging implement of some kind.

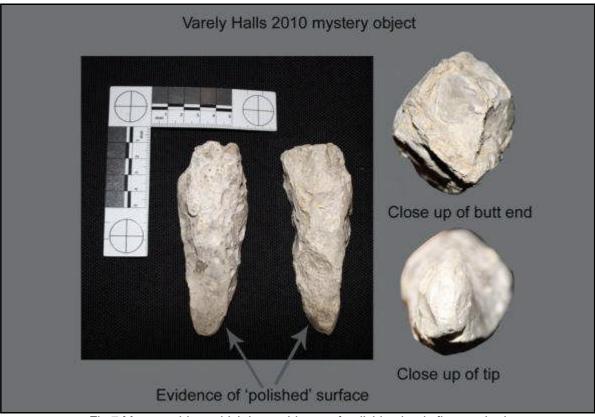


Fig.7 Mystery object which has evidence of polishing but is fire-cracked

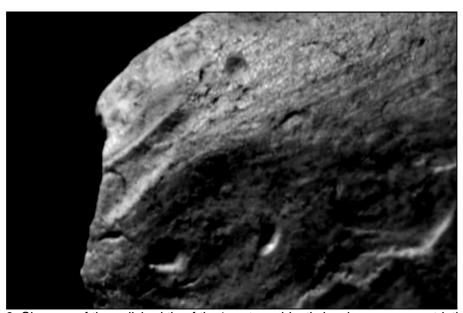


Fig.8. Close up of the polished tip of the 'mystery object' showing use-wear striations

Given that 89% of the flakes were hard hammer struck and that only 3.5% of the total assemblage of 3-D recorded flints were tools, this gives us a fairly indicative collection of Later Bronze Age flints, which compares favourably with the Later Bronze Age site at Black Patch (Drewett, 1982a). Here the main tool types (3% in total) were also scrapers, notched flakes and retouched flakes although this assemblage was just over twice as large in quantity. By this

period few tools were being made, with some in-determinate tool types such as cutting flakes and re-touched flakes (Fig.9) of which both types are represented in the assemblage.

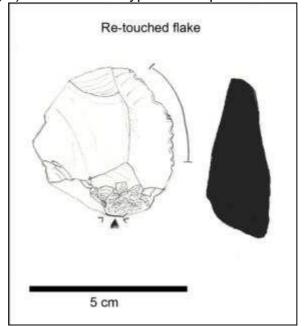


Fig.9. Retouched flake tool from trench 2, layer 201

Length/breadth analysis

A length breadth analysis was undertaken on the larger assemblages from separate contexts as some were too small to create a successful data set (Table 4).

Table 4.	Length/breadtl	h results of 3-D	recorded flint
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Context	Broad flakes (L/B index <1.0)	Medium flakes (L/B index 1.1-2.00)	Narrow flakes (L/B index 2.1-2.6>)	Total flakes	% of context assemblage
201	27 (36.5%)	39 (53%)	8 (10.5%)	74	79% (21% snapped and not measureable)
701	34 (42%)	43 (53%)	4 (5%)	81	69% (31% snapped and not measureable)
801	70 (41%)	86 (51%)	13 (8%)	168	64% (36% snapped and not measureable)
802	16 (42%)	19 (50%)	3 (8%)	38	71% (29% snapped and not measureable)
	40.5% average	51.5% average	8% average	361 total	70% average

There is a remarkable consistency across the contexts with the majority of flakes (51.5%) being of medium size with a length/breadth index of between 1.1-2.0 and 40.5% being broad with a length/breadth index of <0.5-1.0 with few long, thin flakes. Short, squat flakes are a diagnostic shape typical of the Bronze Age, which this assemblage fits nicely into. There are just 8% of long, thin flakes but some of these are residual Mesolithic blades (with parallel sides) as well as some core rejuvenation flakes which have no evidence of platform preparation and are larger in size than most Mesolithic rejuvenation flakes so it is likely that these are Bronze Age.

Fire-cracked flint analysis

A cursory look at the quantities of fire-cracked flint found on site reveals a similar pattern to the struck flint record, in that more were found within the topsoil than the lower prehistoric contexts. In total 8184g came from all contexts and trenches and a total of 6554g (80%) came from the topsoil across both fields with only 1630g (20%) from the lower contexts. Only 3% came from the top field and then it was only from one test trench (context 500) with no other finds from the other three trenches. 17% came from both contexts in trench 2 and 53% came from all contexts in trench 1 extensions (700, 701, 800, 801, 802) across the prehistoric feature and a further 27% came from elsewhere in trench 1.

Table 5. Fire-cracked flint present in some contexts

Context:	100	101	102	103	200	201	500	700	701	800	801	802
Weight (g)	2250	16	17	29	993	439	26	1260	360	2025	701	68

Conclusion

The excavations carried out by the University of Sussex in conjunction with BHAS in the neighbouring field in 2008 uncovered what was provisionally interpreted as the badly truncated remains of a positive lynchet (Fisher, 2008), dated to the Prehistoric period by means of a few sherds of pottery found lying directly underneath the bank and some copper alloy fragments. Later ploughing has removed the top of this lynchet which is now levelled and barely recognizable from the ground. Further down the profile was a buried prehistoric argylic soil (110) which was virtually sterile of any artefacts. There was no negative lynchet and so this site cannot easily be interpreted or compared to some of the other well known BA lynchet profiles in Sussex, such as Bishopstone (Bell, 1977) and Bullock down (Drewett, 1982b), where both positive and negative lynchets are evident. However, the continuation of excavations in the adjacent field in 2010 discovered another lynchet but one that was substantially different in both formation and consequent function. This contained the typical profile of a negative/positive lynchet, formed by the continued action of ploughing across the slope thus creating a bank on the top part of the profile where eroded soil had accumulated against a possible fence (although not enough was excavated to provide fence/stake holes) and a dip in the original ground level where erosion in the leeside of the bank had occurred through repeated plough action. It is likely that this field formed part of a series of lynchets across the valley on this side, which were cultivated for agrarian purposes. The neighbouring field, however, lacked a negative lynchet and contained ancient intact soils, which pre-dated the Bronze Age, down slope of the truncated bank which would suggest a rested soil; one that was more likely used for pastoral activity such as cattle or sheep/pig husbandry. Certainly it is known that cattle, sheep/goat and pig bones were excavated in the 1990's at both Varley Halls (Grieg, 1997) and nearby Downsview (Rudling, 2002) and with access to a possible watering point I would suggest a demarcation of fields were borne out over a long period of time. The relic soils suggest this field was never ploughed and the type of tools found at Varley Halls last year is very representative of activities associated with animal husbandry. Tools such as scrapers and both cutting flakes and piercers indicate use for hide working and food preparation. The size of the negative lynchet in the 2010 excavations would suggest a protracted length of time during which this field was ploughed. Unfortunately we will never know the extent of the positive bank which once was in existence as this has been ploughed out long ago, possibly during the medieval period.

It is interesting to note that the VH10 dig unearthed 1,238 flints in both topsoil and 3-D recorded layers in the corner of a Bronze Age field, whereas Black Patch unearthed 2,772 pieces in a complete settlement. This begs the question; why were so many flints found in a lynchet? What the flint tells us is that the majority of the finds came down slope and therefore suggest further activity upslope, possibly a Later Bronze Age settlement which is yet to be discovered. Sue Hamilton (1997) also suggested this might be the case as she had discovered Later Bronze Age pottery sherds in the topsoil, further down slope at the original Varley Halls excavations. So where are the finds coming from? Initial excavations in the 'top field' proved un-successful in finding any likely domestic sites responsible for the flint and ceramic deposits but there has to be an answer; preliminary analysis of the pottery from VH10 suggest a depositional pattern which has resulted in Later Bronze Age accumulations lying underneath the Middle Bronze Age deposits which, as we all know, is the complete opposite to what we might expect! As I mentioned in my previous article, it was a topsy-turvy dig and the only explanation for that is a further settlement up-slope, with later deposits nearer the surface having been eroded down slope before the earlier deposits. This is echoed in the flint spatial patterning; more flints in the topsoil indicate increased activity in a lower deposit further upslope which is also the same pattern for the fire-cracked flint as discussed above. The firecracked flint analysis showed that some contexts had none at all and these were 104, 105, 106, 107, 108 (all of which were from a modern feature cut through trench 1) pus top field contexts 300, 400 and 600 which were devoid of features and had few finds of any description (although some of these test trenches were not completely excavated except by sondage which does bias the results in this area). The diagnostics of the flint assemblage are clearly later prehistoric in date, with the majority of flakes having a high percentage of cortex (above 50%) and being of a medium size (51.5%) measured through length/breadth analysis, and the remainder being mostly broad, squat flakes (40.5%). This compares favourably to Later Bronze Age assemblages, such as Crowlink barrow (Butler, 2005) where 58% were medium and 40% were broad and Black Patch where the percentage of types and quantity of tools present are almost identical. In addition the average weight of a single flake was quite heavy, weighing approximately 16g although basing dating evidence on weight alone can be problematical but gives credence to the likely date of this assemblage. Given all of the diagnostics presented above I would be confident in saying that this is a Later Bronze Age flint assemblage, most likely from a settlement site rather than expedient tools fashioned and discarded after use, which has been eroded down slope for a likely settlement site which is yet to be discovered. Further geophysical investigations will take place this winter in the hopes of establishing the missing Later Bronze Age link.

Lisa Jayne Fisher University of Sussex

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Excavations at the Peacehaven Barrow 2010

Members of the BHAS Field Unit once again joined Susan Birks and Keith Butler for the last phase of excavation on the Bronze Age barrow on the cliff edge at Peacehaven Heights. A noticeable amount of ground had slumped and been lost either side of the barrow in the two years that had passed making its excavation more pressing. The excavation commenced after approval by English Heritage and the new landowners.

The multi-phase excavation in 2007 and 2008 investigated the northwest quadrant and artefactual evidence had confirmed that the monument was raised in the Bronze Age. It comprised a mound with a flint capping, covering various burnt deposits and containing pottery from the Bronze Age. It also revealed that the monument was cut by two slittrenches and one gun placement trench, dug during the Second World War. However, evidence of a ring ditch and any burial or human remains was lacking, so further excavation was planned.

In September 2010, the northeast quadrant was investigated. An area approx 10m by10m was to be excavated. This area revealed the same flint capping layer and similar burnt (or red) sand stone deposits under the capping. With persistent digging, and finally the help of a mechanical digger, the ring ditch on the eastern side of the mound was uncovered on the last day. Samples of charcoal were recovered from the lower of the fill of the ditch. The main evidence for the ditch was the cut dug into the natural clay. It was not visible from above as the fill was virtually indistinguishable in colour and texture from the surrounding fills. No ditch layers were visible either suggesting it was filled in soon after. It is possible, however, that some of the flint debitage above the ditch recorded at an oblique angle had slumped in along with the fill of the ditch at some point in time. The dig conditions were once again very difficult as the weather was dry but very windy, at times and forcing work to be abandoned and making excavation and recording of the features difficult. Four features containing burnt/red sandstone were found. The clearest one was half-sectioned and turned out to be a shallow cut containing burnt/red sandstone, fire-cracked flint and flint debitage but no bone.

Some finds found close by were likely to be connected with these features. They included what could be described as flint and clay spindle whorls and loom weights. Similar size and style clay items were recorded in a Bronze Age barrow on the Isle of Thanet. Further processing of the flint debitage has produced a further (grey metal alloy) loom weight similar to others dated as Roman or medieval. However, the metal object is so crudely made it is possible it could have been produced in earlier times.

The excavation produced a small amount of pottery of various periods Bronze Age, Roman and Iron Age (still to be analysed).

Once again 100% collection of flint debitage led to a huge amount of flint being retrieved that is still being washed and marked. The flint included a handful of Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowheads and several other worked pieces of flint dating from earlier periods, including a possible Mesolithic point of fairly early date (pers. com. Chris Butler). Unlike the northwest quadrant, this (down-slope) north-eastern side of the barrow appeared to show little disturbance by the military. However, a very large piece of sandstone found below the flint capping layer and possible Roman or iron-age pottery (yet to be confirmed) found along side it suggests intrusions may have taken place at more than one period in time. Again no cut was visible in the stratigraphy.

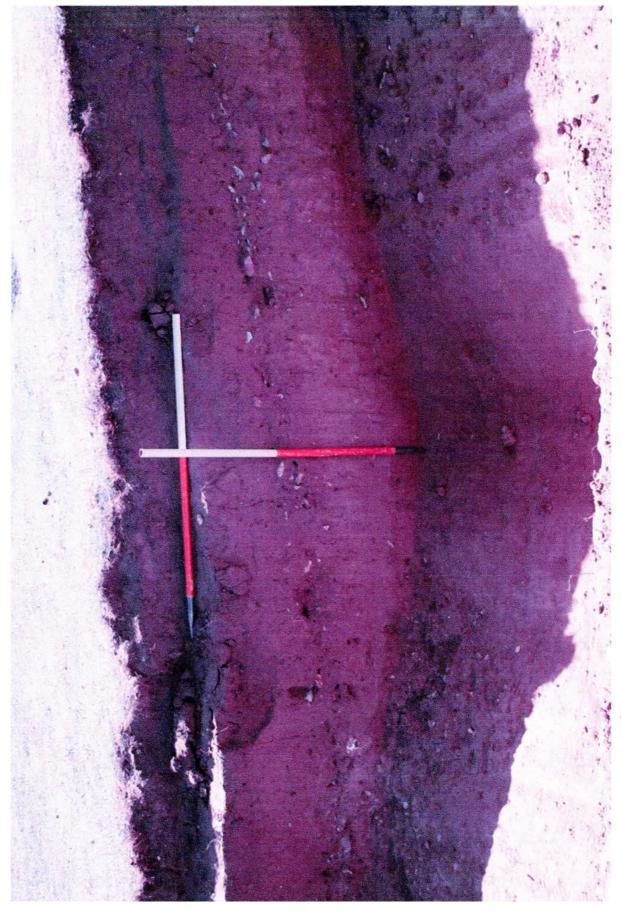
It is hoped that charcoal samples collected from the lower layers during this excavation may provide some clearer dating evidence for the earliest activity on the mound.

As this was probably the last opportunity to explore the barrow safely. English Heritage agreed that the mechanical digger could cut a trench through the southern quadrant to see if it had the same stratigraphy and to aid interpretation of the mound's shape and construction. This trench also cut through the fourth unexcavated depressions in the mound. The previous three had turned out to be military trenches and this fourth one proved to have similar layers of black fill and military artefacts which, on this occasion, included numerous spent bullet casings, barbed wire and a bone handled iron knife of, as yet, undetermined date.

Once again the dig went on for longer than planned as the weather slowed progress and not all the deepest layers were explored. Plastic sheeting was laid to indicate the levels reached should anyone be able to return again and finish the excavation. However, the exercise did confirm that the mound was a Bronze Age round barrow with a ditch. Large areas of the mound, especially towards the centre had been disturbed throughout time but other areas appeared to be largely untouched. No bones/burial were discovered. The finds are still being processed and will be analysed and written up in due course.

More work on the exploring the surrounding area and stratigraphy may be undertaken in the future.

Author: - Susan Birks 8th November 2011



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Field Walking at Ovingdean 2010 - (Interim report)

Introduction

In February 2010 the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society was given the opportunity to field walk at Ovingdean. The field is a long thin acreage running down from Ovingdean village towards the sea and terminating at a boundary opposite the road called Beacon Hill. The field lies west of and parallel to the road called Greenways (TQ358033). The field walking would be the fourth of a number of similar exercises that commenced in 2000. (Funnell)

Recent excavations conducted by BHAS to the north of the church at Hog Croft field have revealed buildings, ditches and pits associated with a 13th century medieval complex. Past field walking in fields along the coast road at Ovingdean have recovered numerous finds dating from the Neolithic (flint flakes and tools) as well as Roman and medieval pottery. Fire-cracked flint and marine molluscs have also been found in considerable quantities, with the fire-cracked flint suggesting that a ploughed out flint cairn may have existed in the area in the past. Roman coins were recovered during a previous field walking training day and metal detecting exercise carried out in the field west of St. Dunstans.

The object of the new field walking was to bring together a number of dot density diagrams from all of the previous field walking and examine the results to seek concentrations of finds that could possibly indicate the location of habitation and settlement. Viewed from the top of Cattle Hill the unploughed section west of the field walked this year has a number of rectangular 'crop' marks which could be the location a possible medieval hamlet associated with the manorial complex located north of the church.

Methodology

The field was broken up into a series of lines running east/west and spaced at 20 metres apart. The first line 'A' was located 10 metres south of the trackway that runs east/west south of the allotments. A total of 24 lines 'A - X' were set out running parallel east/west. The lines were divided into transects measuring 20 metres in length. Finds were collected and marked in separate bags for each transect. The lines were walked from west to east. The weather had been particularly wet in the weeks previous to the field walking.

The Finds

Flintwork

A total of 211 flint pieces were collected and 516 pieces of fire-cracked flint making an overall total of 727 items. The majority of the flint work is waste flakes with an interesting percentage (10%) consisting of tools and cores. There was a variation in the patination with most being blue/grey in colour (50%), white patinated pieces were second in number (38%) followed by black (9%) and brown being the least (2%). The amount of flint retaining vestiges of cortex was (63%).

Flint Work	Totals	% of total collection
Flint Flakes	211	
Scrapers	8	2.3%
Blades	6	1.7%
Notched Pieces	2	0.58%
Cores	5	1.4%

Fire-cracked flint totalled 516 items weighing a total of 19,409gms.

Pottery

A varied selection of pottery was recovered from the field walking with sherds having both Roman and medieval fabrics and glazes.

Fabrics

- 1) Flint tempered Wares Blue and grey rounded flint inclusions of 0.2mm to 0.5mm in length.
- 2) Sand Tempered Wares
- 3) Grog Tempered pottery East Sussex Wares
- 4) Fine sand tempered pottery well fired pottery with a consistent pink coloured oxidized finish.
- 5) Black reduced flint tempered Ware
- 6) Hard, coarse well fired grey wares
- 7) Green Glazed medieval wares

Pottery Fabric	Total	% of total collection
1.	105	38%
2.	54	19.7%
3.	44	16%
4.	29	10.6%
5.	13	4.8%
6.	6	2.2%
7.	22	8%

Diagnostic Pieces

Diagnostic Items	Total	% of total collection
1. Rims	20	7.3%
2. Bases	9	3.2%
3. Handles	3	1%

Marine Molluscs

A total of 332 marine molluscan fragments were collected. The types found were oyster, scallop and limpet.

Туре	Total	% of total collection
Oyster	316	95%
Scallop	11	3.5%
Limpet	5	1.5%

Clay Pipes

A total of 20 clay pipe stems were recovered from the field walking, but no bowls of any description. The diameter of the stems varied from a minimum of 5.5mm to a maximum of 8.0mm. The larger diameter stems tend to suggest a 17th or 18th century dating for these items. It is possible that the stems have been lost over an extended period or are part of a single pipe moved about by the action of ploughing.

Stone Objects

A number of elongated or elliptical pebble 'rubbing' stones were found and several fragments of medieval whetstones.

Rubbing Stones were found in locations E1, E5, K2 (2x), L1, L5, O1 (2x). W1 and X7.

Whetstone fragments were found in locations F1, N2, U1 and V4.

Conclusions

The number of people field walking allowed the project to be completed in a single day, but an examination of the pieces collected clearly indicates that one or two members of the group appear to have problems with the identification of flint-work. The field produced a significant amount of archaeological items (Figs 1-7). The finds collection is similar to those found on several previous Ovingdean field walking projects, conducted in earlier years in fields to the south of this one (Funnell). The dot density diagrams of all of the field walking has been brought together to give a more panoramic picture viewed over a larger area (Figs 8-12).

The most noticeable feature in the new north field walk was the large quantity of oyster shells which appear to be focused in one area, and which may prove to be the location of a medieval midden or rubbish pit (Fig 5.) This concentration of oyster shells lies south of the church and the known medieval manorial complex.

The flint work consisted mainly of hard hammer struck flakes with most pieces retaining vestiges of cortex, suggesting that any tools produced in this location were moved onto other locations (Figs 1 & 7). The quantity of flintwork may indicate that there was a local access to the veins of flint in the seaward side of the cliff, and that in Neolithic times there was a viable easy access to the seashore. The nearest current access to the shore and cliff face is about a kilometre away at Rottingdean. It is possible that heavy flint nodules were carried that far for flint knapping. The observation from the overall picture of flint flake distribution clearly indicates that while a significant amount of struck flint was found in the north field, the real concentration of flintwork is located further south and nearer to the cliff face.

A similar concentration can also be discerned in the fire-cracked flint. (Fig 2.) The north field produced a general distribution of fire-cracked flint. It is when reviewing the larger picture that concentrations of fire-cracked appear focused in two locations to the south and west. (Fig 9.) The quantity of fire-cracked in the south section has already noted as the possible location of a ploughed out flint cairn. This is a feature commonly associated with Late Neolithic and early Bronze Age activities.

The number of flint tools was relatively small in relationship to the total flint work collected. Once again the main focus of flint tools was in the south field. (Figs 8 & 9)

The pottery in the new field walking survey is a mixture of Roman and medieval sherds almost of equal quantity with the medieval finds being the slightly larger collection of sherds. (Figs 3 & 4). The grog tempered pottery and sand tempered wares along with hard grey wares clearly maintains the strong Roman presence noted in earlier field walking, but on this field there is a complete lack of samian ware. The new field walking in the north field noted two possible concentrations in the centre of the field, but the main focus of the Roman presence remains in the west section of the south field. (Fig 10.) Resistivity surveys in this part of Ovingdean around a number of shallow earthworks have failed to find any evidence for Roman structures or post holes. A recent survey on Google Earth has revealed the location of an enclosure located in the east section of the south field. It was in this location that during the 1970's and 1980's numerous metal detecting finds of Roman coins were removed but never recorded. Several gold coins are believed to have been among this collection.

The considerable amount of 13th century glazed wares are undoubtedly associated with the medieval manorial complex identified north of the church. The medieval pottery finds in the north field are certain most prolific in the north section, close to the church. (Fig 4.) It is possible that the medieval village of Ovingdean may lie within the fields to the south of the church, but as yet any rubbish pits have yet to be located. The ephemeral nature of medieval buildings constructed of timber, wattle, daub and thatch would certainly leave no trace in this ploughed out environment, but possible shrub and bramble concentrations in the field to the west of the field walked could possibly be indicators of ancient disturbance or house platforms. It is equally possible that the medieval village of Ovingdean lies beneath the modern houses. A watching brief conducted in 2010 on a extension to the most southerly of the village houses produced finds of Neolithic flint work and pottery dated to both the Roman and medieval periods, but no features.

The new field walking venture in the north field at Ovingdean has added additional archaeological details to that already known from previous researches. The recent

excavations at Ovingdean and the field walking are bringing together quite a detailed picture of the extent of medieval influence and activity in Ovingdean. Further excavations in the field to the north of Ovingdean would undoubtedly produce more evidence for structures and timber framed buildings. The question remaining unanswered is whether there was any medieval village associated with the higher status manorial complex. It will require more research in the field to the south of the modern village, probably with geophysics, to determine whether this field retains any vestige of the village noted in the Doomsday Book.

The main outstanding question at Ovingdean is the location of the Roman site hinted at and emphasised by the large quantity of Iron Age and Roman pottery found in all of the fields at Ovingdean. The resistivity surveys so far conducted have drawn a blank, but it possible that the enclosure noted on Google earth is the location for what must have been a significant Roman presence. The large amounts of coins previously removed, and the significant amount of pottery still being found certainly indicate that a villa or large trading place was being lived in or used in this part of Ovingdean.

The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society will continue to seek permission to research and possibly excavate in futures years. The new projects will produce even more valuable information which will allow an even greater picture of the archaeology of Ovingdean. Any new information will greatly enhance the picture already produced by the field walking and excavations already completed.

Acknowledgements:

The author would like to thank all those members of the BHAS Field Unit that conducted the field walking and Mr Geoff Bennett of Brighton and Hove City Council and Mr David Carr the tenant farmer for allowing access to the lands.

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of the Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society'

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of the Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society'

John Funnell 17th November 2010

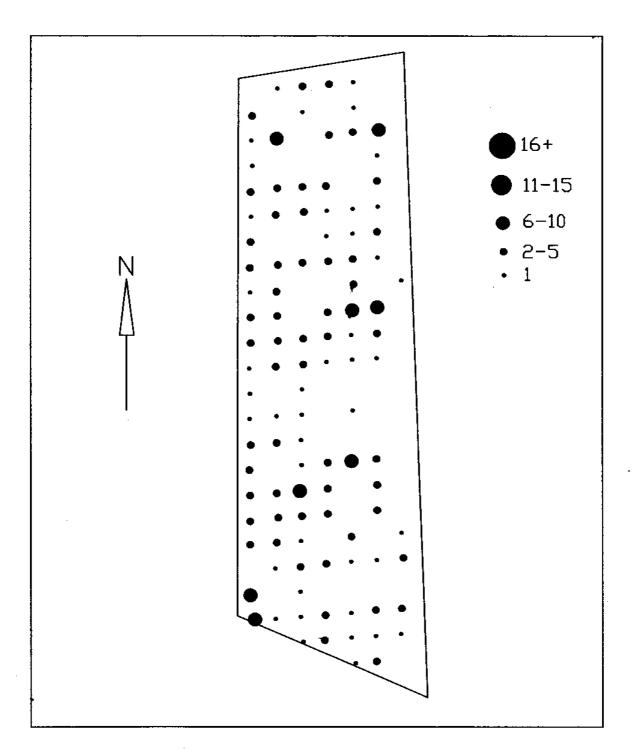


Fig 1. Flintwork North Field Ovingdean 2010

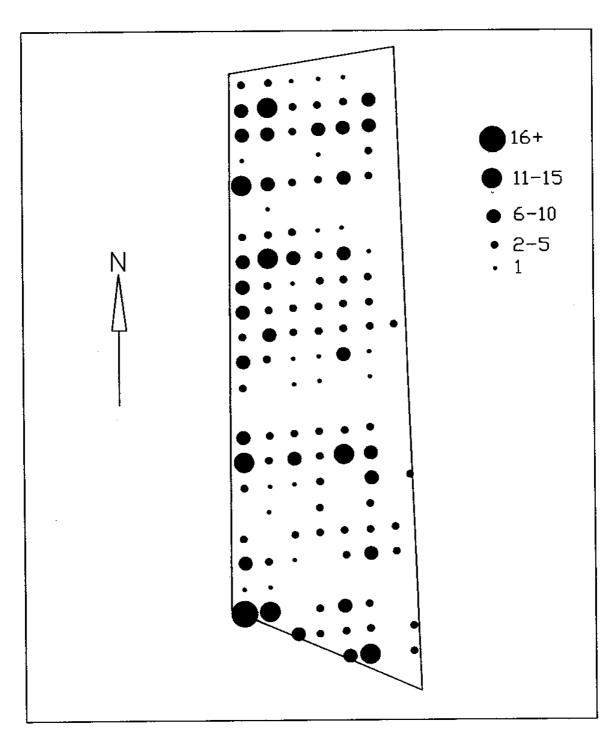


Fig 2. Fire-cracked flint north field Ovingdean 2010

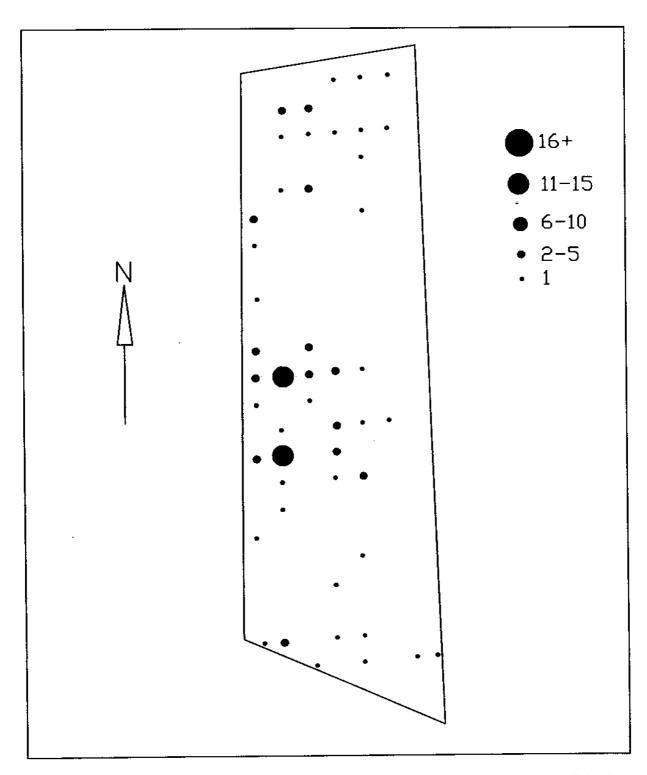


Fig 3 Roman Pottery north field Ovingdean 2010

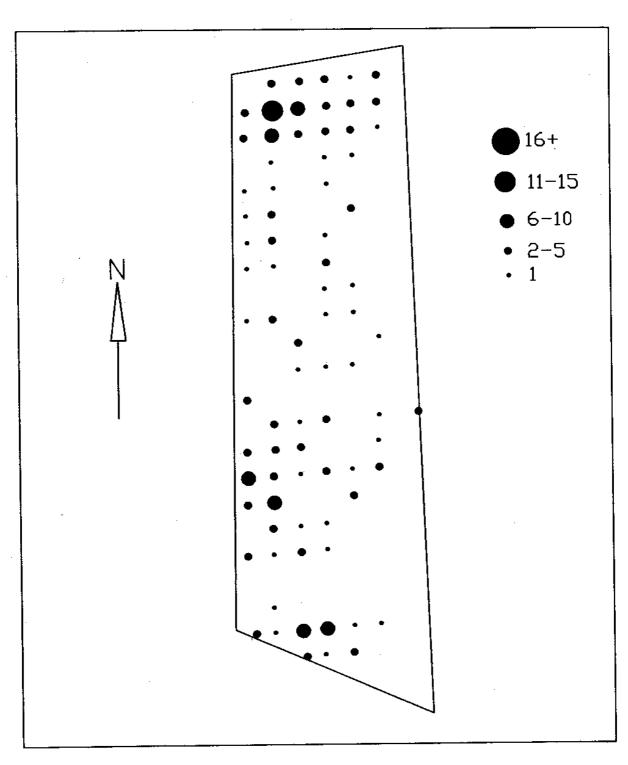


Fig 4. Medieval pottery north field Ovingdean 2010

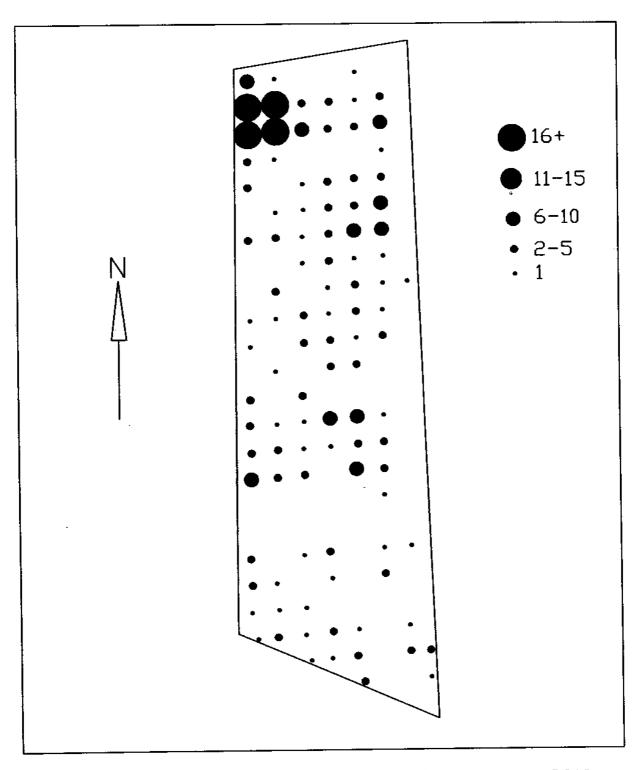


Fig 5. Dyster Shell north field Dvingdean 2010

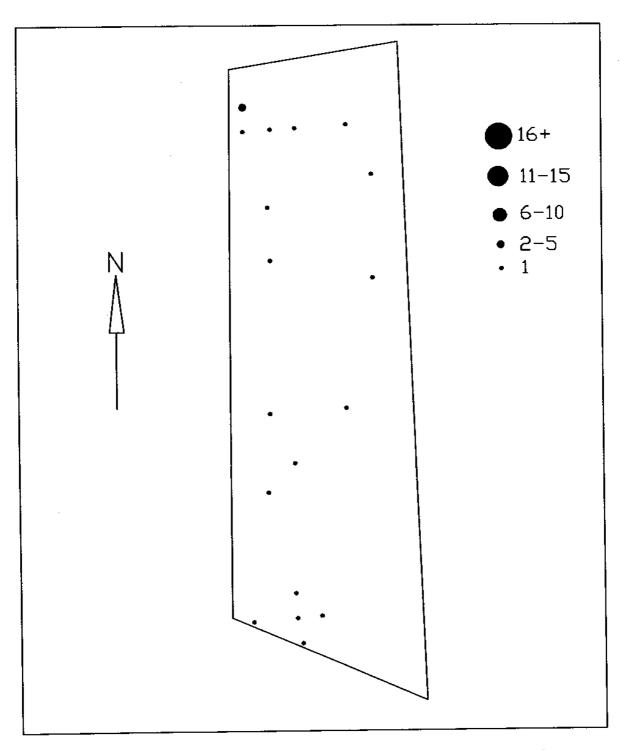


Fig 6. Clay pipes north field Ovingdean 2010

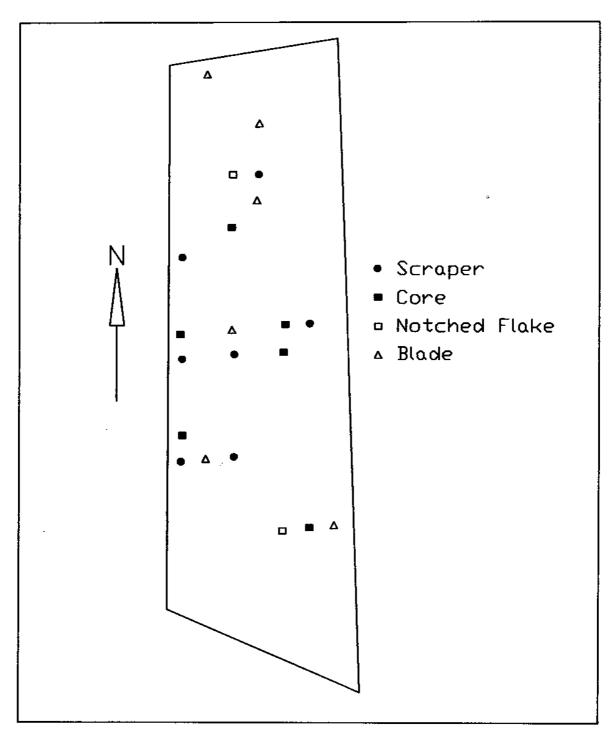


Fig 7. Flint Tools north field Ovingdean 2010

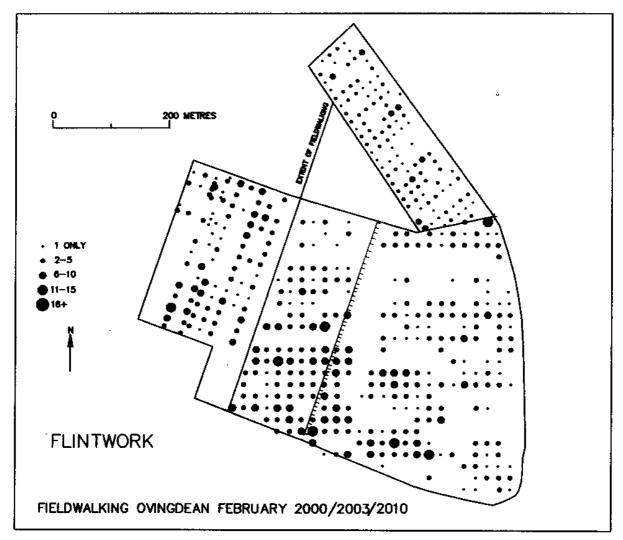


Fig 8. Flintwork north field Ovingdean 2010 — Overall picture

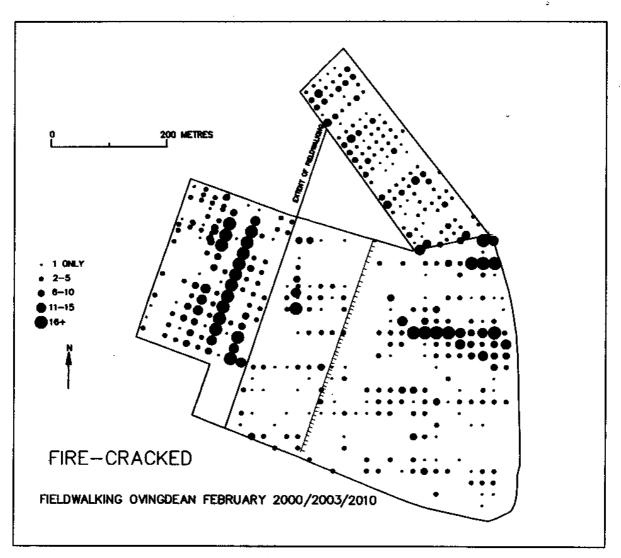


Fig 9. Fire-cracked flint north field Ovingdean 2010 - Overall Picture

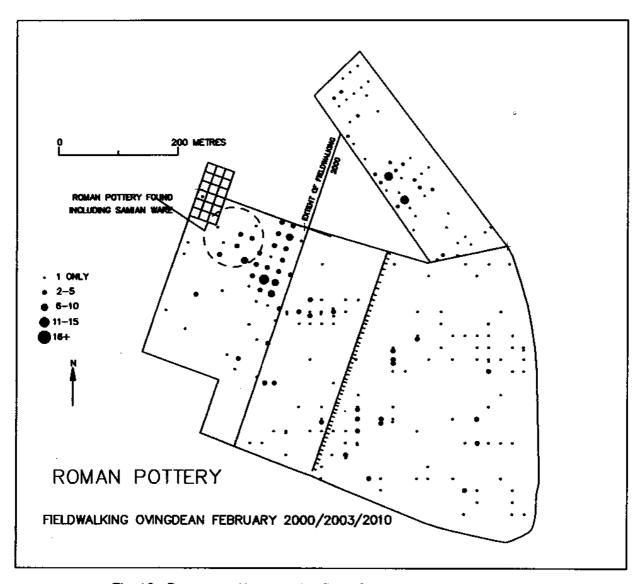


Fig 10. Roman pottery north field Ovingdean — Overall Picture

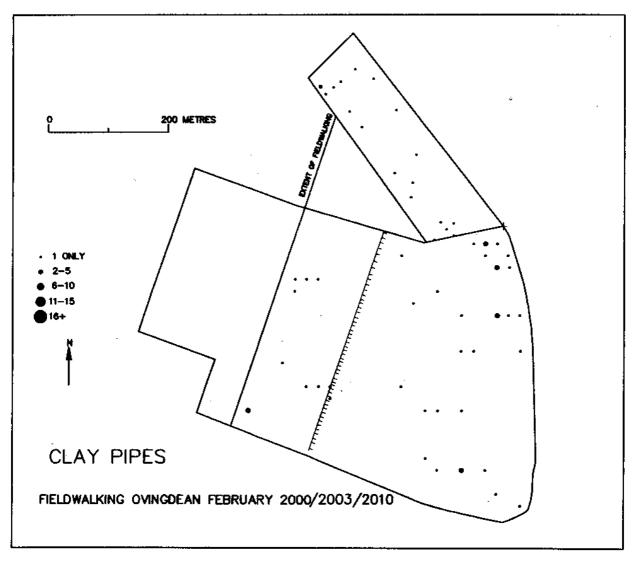


Fig 11. Clay pipes north field Ovingdean 2010 - Overall Picture

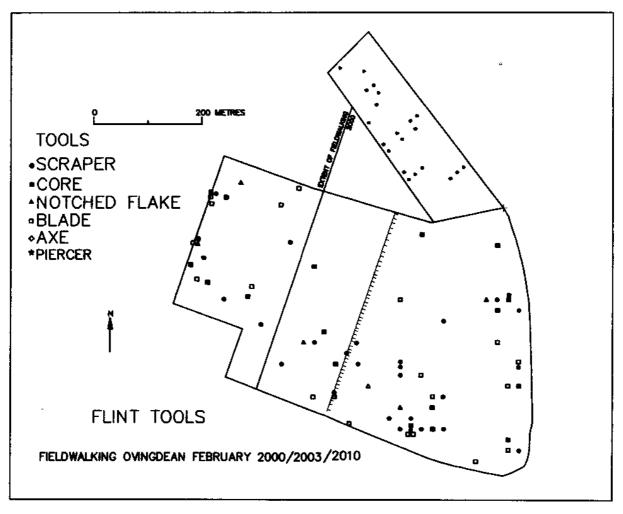


Fig 12. Flint tools north field Ovingdean 2010 - Overall Picture

Watching Brief - 67 Middle Street, Brighton

PLANNING APPLICATION No:-

ADDRESS:- 67 Middle Street, Brighton

PLANNING OFFICER:-Mr Greg Chuter, ESCC

NAME OF APPLICANT:-

DATE OF FIRST CONTACT FROM CONTRACTOR: - 10th September 2010

DATE OF WATCHING BRIEF:- 15th September 2010

BHAS OFFICER CONDUCTING WATCHING BRIEF: - J.Funnell & W.Santer

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

Historical Back Ground

The land between West Street and East Street and bounded on the north by North Street is the original location of the upper town of Brighton, formerly Brighthelmstone. The area is depicted on a map of 1545 showing a raid by a fleet of French ships. The area was known as the 'Hempshares' where probably rope and netting was manufactured for the local fishing industry. This part of Brighton also retains part of the Brighton raised beach that runs from Black Rock to the Boxgrove area, and which may contain Palaeolithic deposits.

The Watching Brief

The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society were contacted on Friday 10th September and the watching brief was conducted on the 15th September. The development was a pipe laying exercise from the road, Middle Street, along a narrow passageway to a new building or renovation at the back. (Photographs 1, 2, 5 and 6). The length of the passageway was approximately 25 metres with the width of the passageway being about 1.4 metres maximum. The trench top be dug was originally going to be by hand but this changed to a small digging machine. On the day of the watching brief a small 50cms wide sondage was sunk by the workman to determine whether any archaeology was likely to be present. Some bone consisting of a large rib fragment and a canine tooth was found during the first survey of the upper layer that had been removed.

The Stratigraphy (Figure 1.)

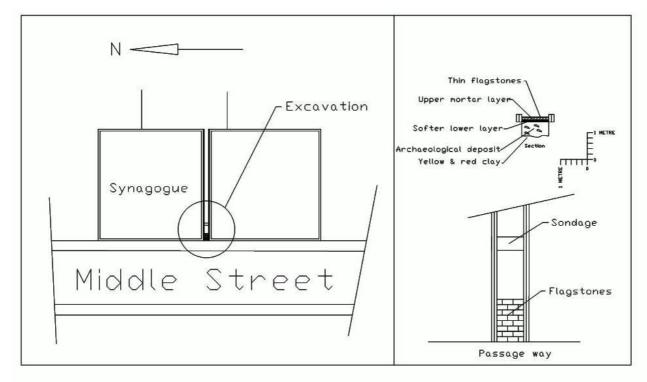


Fig 1. Watching Brief at 67 Middle Street

Layer 1 – This consisted of a pavement of thin flagstones measuring 15-17mm thick.

Layer 2 – This layer consisted of soft mortar bedding mixture, white in colour and measuring 80mm in thickness.

Layer 3 – This was the archaeological deposit and consisted of a very wet and soggy loam filled with various artefacts. The thickness of this deposit at the sondage location was 520mm.

Layer 4 – Determined to be the natural layer was a red and yellow hard clay.

The Finds

- Bone A total of 6 bones were recovered which were one tooth, one rib and 4 long bones which had obvious cut marks. The bones will be passed to a specialist for possible identification.
- 2) Oyster Shells A total of 13 complete shells were recovered and 3 fragments. The section was quite full of oyster shells and a few were kept were for sampling. The collection included both upper (4x) and lower (9x) shells. It is notable that only 5 of the shells (38%) showed only faint traces of parasitic infestation.
- 3) Clay Pipe A single piece of clay pipe stem was found measuring 9-11mm in diameter, the piece measured 45mm in length and the bore was off-set and measured 2.5mm in diameter. The item has been dated to the mid to late 17th century.
- 4) Pottery A single piece of pottery was recovered from the excavation. It was a poorly made vessel being a base that was elliptical in shape measuring 150mm in

- length and 65mm in width. It is some form of plate or platter and has a brown/green glaze on the inside surface. The platter/plate has been dated to the mid to late 17th century.
- 5) Chalk object (Photographs Find-1,2 and 3) The chalk object possesses an irregular shape and is perforated by a series of holes ranging from 8mm in diameter to finger size 20mm diameter. The holes have been drilled from various directions. It has a partially circular section and a flat area that may indicated a fractured face.

Conclusions

The small excavation at 67 Middle Street produced an interesting collection of finds that may be a discrete pit or a possible layer of 17th century or later rubbish. The finds consisted mainly of food debris, probably associated with the numerous inns, taverns and eating places that have always dominated this part of Brighton. The 'pottery' and clay pipe have been examined and have been dated to the mid to late 17th century. The chalk object is quite fascinating and may be a tool used in the process of net or rope making during the time when the location was called the hempshares. It would be useful to examine any small excavations in this part to try and determine whether this small sample of archaeology persists, and is part of larger layer of rubbish perhaps dispersed into what would have been at one time an open environment.

A visit to the site was made on the 20th September by Mr W.Santer of BHAS but by then the trench had been dug and back filled. The workman using the digging machine said that he had only noticed modern building material in the trench as he was digging, but that may be due to his lack of archaeological experience.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Luke Barber, Research officer for the Sussex Archaeological Society, for examining and dating the clay pipe and pottery and to Carol White for her bone report.

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

Watching Brief - 14 Petworth Road, Patcham

PLANNING APPLICATION No:- BH2009/01870

ADDRESS:- 14 Petworth Road, Patcham

PLANNING OFFICER:-Ms Sonia Kanwar

NAME OF APPLICANT:- Mr Chinchen, 58 Carden Hill, Patcham

DATE OF FIRST CONTACT FROM CONTRACTOR:-20th July 2010

DATE OF WATCHING BRIEF:- 20th July 2010

BHAS OFFICER CONDUCTING WATCHING BRIEF:- J.Funnell

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

Historical Back Ground

The development lies close to the site of a large Bronze Age barrow, or burial mound that covered 7 burials and the site of a Bronze Age settlement excavated in the 1990's by the professional unit of Archaeology South East. The report was published in 'Downland Settlement and Land Use- The Archaeology of the Brighton By-pass'. Other factors are the location of a Roman burial and a report published in 1915 by H.S.Toms about the settlements in the Carden Avenue valley. The lands in this part of Brighton are extremely archaeologically sensitive.

The Watching Brief

The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society were contacted on Tuesday 20th July by the contractors who unfortunately were in an advanced stage of construction (photographs attached). The foundations had been cut and the footings and lower walls already built. However, the contractors were extremely helpful and allowed an inspection of the areas that remained untouched. They assured the officer that the construction work had cut through only previously disturbed layers of an earlier constructed house extension and garage floor.

An examination of the area surrounding the new development revealed a single feature, which was rectangular in shape. The contractors removed the fill of this feature which contained a large shrub root and modern ceramics and roofing tile. It was an uneven configuration and was probably an early garden feature. No archaeological features were noted in the surrounding cuttings, although a new large garden retaining wall obstructed the view of much of the chalk incursion, and the area behind the walls had been back filled with chalk rubble.

An examination of the garden behind the newly constructed wall revealed some artefacts which could be associated with the Bronze Age settlement.

The Finds

- 1) Fire-cracked flint 7 pieces weighing a total of 103gms
- 2) Single white patinated hard hammer struck flint flake

Conclusions

The Petworth Road watching brief produced small fragments of archaeology that are probably associated with the Bronze Age settlement, which clearly indicates that vigilance with regards planning development in this area requires continual monitoring.

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

Watching Brief - 40 Windmill View, Brighton

Planning application number: BH2010/00685

Address: 40 Windmill View, Brighton BN1 8TU

Planning Officer: Ms Helen Hobbes

Name of Applicant: Mr & Mrs Yeates, 117 Valley Drive, Brighton

Dates of watching brief: 27 July, 29 July and 5 August 2010.

BHAS officer conducting watching brief:-Mark Gillingham

RESULTS

The property was visited on three occasions during the watching brief as follows:-

27 July 2010

A side trench 3m long had already been dug to a depth of 1.4m to begin the construction of a rear extension on the site of the existing patio. However, it appeared that the trench had been dug entirely through chalk fill mixed with some sand and a few pieces of builders' rubble indicating that the patio was on "made-up" ground. This is confirmed by the garden immediately to the rear of the patio being over one metre lower than the patio. Nothing was visible at the foot of the trench where the chalk natural had just been reached.

29 July 2010

The side trench had been dug deeper down to approx 2m with the base of the trench cutting well into the chalk natural. A second trench parallel to the rear wall of the house had been started to a length of 2m and had been dug to the same depth as the side trench. No features were visible in the chalk natural at the base of both trenches or in the sides of the trenches.

5 August 2010

By the third inspection, the rear trench had been extended by a further 6m and the other side trench had also been dug. As before, it was apparent that both trenches had been dug through chalk backfill. This was confirmed by a drain being exposed at the foot of the new side trench with the drain running westwards under the existing patio. Again, no features were revealed nor were there any finds.

As seemed likely from the first day, all three trenches had been dug almost entirely through ground which had been made up to level the site when the estate was developed in the mid 1990's. This had substantially reduced the possibility of any features or finds being found and this proved to be the case.

Watching Brief - 63 Coventry Street, Brighton

Planning application number: BH2010/01456

Address: 63 Coventry Street, Brighton BN1

Planning Officer: Ms Liz Arnold

Name of Applicant: Mr Matthew Knott

Date of watching brief: 15 September 2010

BHAS officer conducting watching brief: Mark Gillingham

BACKGROUND

The property is in an area where a number of Saxon graves have been found in the last 20 or so years when extensions have been built at properties in neighbouring roads. As with the other roads in the immediate neighbourhood, the houses in Coventry Street were built over 100 years ago.

RESULTS

The builders removed the paving slabs from the whole of the small rear patio measuring 3.3m x 1.8m. This exposed chalk rubble with some earth and a few pieces of builders' rubble. This apparent backfill was then also removed revealing an extremely smooth and hard chalk surface at a depth of approximately 17cm. There were no cuts in the chalk which was completely undisturbed and had presumably dug out in this way when the ground was levelled prior to construction of the house.

This was confirmed by the garden to the rear of the patio being approximately 90cm higher than the patio.

It is therefore quite clear that the patio was well below the original land surface with the archaeological features, if any, being totally destroyed when the site was levelled.

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

Watching Brief - 140 Woodland Drive, Hove

Planning application no: BH2009/02980/01999

Address: 140 Woodland Drive, Hove

Planning Officer: Mr Steven Lewis

Name of applicant: Mrs. Gill Langley

Date of watching brief: 14 January 2010

BHAS officer conducting watching brief: Mark Gillingham

Results

The property was first visited at 10.30 am on Thursday, 14 January 2010.

The paving stones of the patio at the rear of the property were being removed prior to the erection of a sun room with the same dimensions, i.e 7.3 m x 3.1m.

The first few paving slabs had already been removed revealing solid chalk only a few centimetres below the surface. It was therefore agreed to return later that day to give time for the remaining paving slabs to be removed.

A further inspection was therefore made at 12.45 pm that day by which time all the slabs had been removed again revealing the natural chalk just a few centimetres below the surface. The exposed chalk was trowelled to confirm that there were no features cut into the chalk. This confirmed that this was the natural chalk undisturbed except for a pipe cut through leading to a soakaway to the rear of the patio. There were no finds.

The house had been built, probably in the 1930's, on a steep sloping site. The site had been levelled by cutting into the slope at the rear of the property thus creating a level platform for the property. However, this resulted in a considerable amount of top soil and chalk being removed, possibly up to a metre in depth.

Therefore, there seems very little doubt that the patio area is well below the original land surface with the archaeological features, if any, being totally destroyed when the site was levelled.

Watching Brief - Field End, Greenways, Ovingdean, Brighton

PLANNING APPLICATION No:- BH2010/00406

ADDRESS:- Field End, Greenways, Ovingdean, Brighton

PLANNING OFFICER:-Ms Liz Arnold

NAME OF APPLICANT: - Ms Jennifer Phillips

DATE OF FIRST CONTACT FROM CONTRACTOR:- July 2010

DATES OF WATCHING BRIEF:- 5th and 6th August 2010

BHAS OFFICERS CONDUCTING WATCHING BRIEF:- J.Funnell, B.Collins, P.Collins and M.Gillingham

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

Historical Back Ground

Field End lies at the north end of a field that was field walked by the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society in February 2010. The finds from this investigation produced finds of Neolithic flint work, fire-cracked flint, oyster shells and pottery from both the Roman and Medieval periods. The development is located south of the church of St Wulfran's and the field immediately north of the church contains a medieval manorial complex which includes a substantial masonry building that contained a cellar or undercroft. The site of the medieval village, mentioned in Domesday is yet to be located.

The Watching Brief

The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society arrived at Field End on Thursday 5th August when the initial laying out was meant to have been completed, but due to weather this was behind schedule. The actual digging of the new extension footings commenced about lunch time. A layer of paving slabs and concrete mix were removed and the footing trenches then started. The fill was a colluvial loam deposit of medium to dark brown soil. The depth of this deposit was 450mm on the west side of the extension to 800mm on the west side or where the new extension abutts the existing house. The colluvial deposit overlay a white coomb rock or chalk. The upper surface of this layer was not smooth but contained small shallow circular pit features which were natural. These features were similar to those found in excavations at Stanford Avenue, Brighton. (Funnell). The footing trenches measured 600mm wide and up to 800mm in depth. The finds from the excavation were all recovered from the first 400mm. No archaeological features were observed in the trenches after final excavation depth was reached.

The Finds

Flintwork

The excavation produced 23 pieces of struck flint. Among the collection is a fine Mesolithic core. All of the flakes are hard hammered with 18 pieces (90%) retaining vestiges of the outer cortex. The patination of the flakes was predominantly blue/grey (82%) with the others being black. There were 2 pieces of fire-cracked flint weighing a total of 54gms.

Pottery

A total of 10 sherds were recovered

Fabric 1 – (1x)	Flint tempered reduced pottery – very black. Iron Age pottery
Fabric 2 – (1x)	Medieval sand tempered vessel
Fabric 3 – (3x)	Medieval fine ground flint tempered ware
Fabric 4 – (2x)	Medieval sand tempered, brown glazed 13 th century rim sherd
	andbody sherd from different vessels.
Fabric 5 – (3x)	Black glazed pieces from 2 vessels. 19 th century or contemporary
	Vessels.

Metalwork

There were 2 pieces of metal found one measuring 65x35x12-5mm in thickness. The item could be either a broken axe head, or a large door hinge corroded together. A smaller piece measure 35x25x5-3mm thickness and is unidentifiable without further conservation.

Bone

A single slither of unidentifiable long bone was the only item found.

Conclusions

The finds from the small excavation at Field End are extremely interesting in both the quantity and diversity of artefacts found. The field walking in previous years at Ovingdean has produced evidence for Neolithic activity all along this narrow strip of land, and obviously this activity continues northwards under the houses built in the village. It is possible that the flint work is in hillwash deposits and that any associated activity centre is further up on Cattle Hill. The Mesolithic core is of importance showing the presence at some time of hunter gathers. The pottery found is similar in style and fabrics to that found during the excavations in Hog Croft field. The pottery is probably the result of either rubbish deposition or manuring of ancient fields from that complex. The single Iron Age sherd is probably associated with an Iron age or Romano-British enclosure believed to be located in the south side of the Ovingdean valley. The excavation produced no evidence in the form features, such as ditches or pits, from either the Neolithic or Medieval periods. However, from the significant quantities recovered it would be important to maintain vigilance and continue watching any developments around the village of Ovingdean for traces of archaeological activity as Ovingdean has proved to be inhabited over a long period of time.

References:-

- **Funnell J.D.** 2001 'Stanford Avenue, Brighton Excavations' Field Notebook of the Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society'
- **Funnell J.D.** 2000 'Ovingdean-St Dunstan's Field-F/Walking' Field Notebook of the Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society'
- **Funnell J.D.** 2003 'Ovingdean-St Dunstan's Field-F/Walking' Field Notebook of the Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society'
- **Funnell J.D.** 2002 'Ovingdean- Hog Croft Field Excavations –Assessment (Interim Report)' Field Notebook of the Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society'
- **Funnell J.D.** 2003 'Ovingdean- Hog Croft Field Excavations The Manor House' (Interim Report) Field Notebook of the Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society'
- **Funnell J.D.** 2006 'Ovingdean- Hog Croft Field Excavations Manorial Complex' (Interim Report) Field Notebook of the Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society'

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

Watching Brief - Our Lady Of Lourdes School, Rottingdean

Planning application number: BH2009/02278

Address: Our Lady of Lourdes School, The Green, Rottingdean BN2 7HA

Planning officer: Ms Liz Arnold

Name of applicant: Our Lady of Lourdes School

Dates of watching brief: 19 January 2010, 21 January 2010 and 26 January 2010

BHAS officers conducting watching brief: Brenda Collins, David Ludwig and Mark

Gillingham

Introduction

The site forms part of the grounds of Our Lady of Lourdes School which was built in the 1960's behind the house now known as Pax but which was for some years used as part of the school belonging to the adjacent St Martha's Convent. It is understood that originally Pax was a shepherd's cottage.

Much of the site comprised part of the existing playground with just a comparatively small triangular area probably largely undisturbed by building work when the school was built. This triangular area measured approximately 6m x 6m x 8m.

Results

The site was visited on the above three dates.

On the first visit on the 19 January 2010, it was seen that the builders had already dug two trenches through the existing playground, one to a depth of 60 cm and the larger one to a depth of 80 cm, From the sides of the trenches, it was clear that much of the material removed comprised hardcore and other fill from when the playground was constructed. Only a comparatively small proportion of the trenches had been dug through fresh ground. No features were visible in the sides of the trenches below the level of the modern fill or in the bases of the trenches.

The builders had also already removed a thin layer of top soil from the triangular area to the north of the playground. This area is bounded to the NW by a bank and on the NE by a school building.

Nothing was visible on the surface of this exposed area and the builders said that nothing further would be removed from this area until the 21 January.

Accordingly, the site was visited again on the 21 January 2010 but the builders then said that there would be a further delay before anything further was removed from this area. However, they did say that they would be clearing back the bank to enable a wall to be built immediately adjacent to the bank and forming the NW boundary of the triangular area. The surface of the bank appeared to comprise largely of building material and other fill deposited there when the school was built. It was therefore agreed that the builders could proceed with the clearing of the surface of the bank without archaeological supervision.

The site was visited for the third and final time on the 26 January 2010 by which time the bank had been cleared back with no features visible in the bank.

The builders then machined off the surface of the triangular area to a depth of 22.5 cm below the level of the adjacent existing playground. Although some disturbance and burning was seen at that depth, this appeared to be comparatively recent as trowelling revealed only some small pieces of modern pieces of building material, a few pieces of late 19th /early 20th century ceramics and a single struck flint flake.

There was no indication of any depth to this disturbance as the trowelling soon came down to undisturbed chalk, particularly in the southern part with undisturbed sandy clay soil towards the north.

The builders then machined out a further 25 cm to form a trench 47cm deep and 50 cm wide immediately adjacent to the bank. The length of this trench was approximately 8m and the additional 25 cm in depth was cut out almost entirely from the natural chalk with no features exposed in either the base or the sides of the trench.

Finds

In addition to the few small pieces of modern building material and ceramics, there was the one large hard hammer struck blue patinated flint flake, probably dating to the late Neolithic/ early Bronze Age.

Conclusion

Whilst not far from the centre of the village, the very limited extent of the site gave little opportunity to reveal evidence of earlier occupation. This proved to be the case as no evidence was revealed that the site had been other than once part of the rear garden of the property known as Pax and previously downland.

Watching Brief - The Chattri

PLANNING APPLICATION No:- BH2010/00812

ADDRESS:- The Chattri

PLANNING OFFICER:-Ms Helen Hobbes

NAME OF APPLICANT:- Commonwealth War Graves Commission

DATE OF FIRST CONTACT FROM CONTRACTOR:-21st July 2010

DATE OF WATCHING BRIEF:- 21st and 22nd July 2010

BHAS OFFICERS CONDUCTING WATCHING BRIEF:- J.Funnell, M.Gillingham, B.Collins and P.Collins

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

Historical Back Ground

The Downs around the Chattri have been under grass for a century or more. The fields to the west of the Chattri have been ploughed and field walking has produced flintwork dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods, indicating the possibility, albeit small, that some form of ancient remains may lie beneath the turf.

The Watching Brief

The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society were contacted on Wednesday 21st July by the representative of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to say that the turf had been removed from the site of the new monument that was to be erected. BHAS responded immediately and visited the site but found no artefacts in the plough soil. BHAS returned to the site the following day and watched as the top soil was removed down to chalk level. The area was cleaned back and it was found that only natural chalk was showing. There were no archaeological features.

An examination of the soil removed produced a small collection of artefacts

The Finds

- 3) (2x) Fire-cracked flint small pieces
- 4) (4x) White hard hammer struck flint flakes

Conclusions

The watching brief at The Chattri produced a collection of finds typically found on downland locations. The fire-cracked flint could be associated with prehistoric settlement and hearths, and the south east facing hillside was a popular location for Bronze Age settlements at both Downsview and Varley Halls.

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

Watching Brief - The Outlook, Roedean Path, Brighton

PLANNING APPLICATION No:- BH2010/00435

ADDRESS:- The Outlook, Roedean Path, Brighton

PLANNING OFFICER:- Jonathan Puplett

NAME OF APPLICANT:- Ms Andria Bennett

DATE OF FIRST CONTACT FROM CONTRACTOR: - 27th May 2010

DATE OF WATCHING BRIEF:- 3rd June 2010

BHAS OFFICER CONDUCTING WATCHING BRIEF:- W.Santer

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

The site was visited by Mr Bill Santer of BHAS on Thursday 3rd June when a total of 22 post holes were dug for fencing. The fill from the holes excavated recovered various amounts of contemporary finds which included glass, window and vessel, modern ceramics, butchered animal bone and (2x) metal meat hanging hooks. The ground has obviously been affected by the creation of the adjacent road. No finds of ancient archaeological remains were found during the watching brief.

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

Attendance Record

Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit 2010

John Funnell (Director)	43 Days	Brighton
Donna Angel	1 Day	Brighton
Christopher Allen	1 Day	Burgess Hill
John Atkin	5 Days	Uckfield
Ann Barrow	2 Days	Hove
Millie Bath	1 Day	Brighton
Lorranie Bathurst	1 Day	Brighton
Clive Bean	62 Days	Portslade
Tom Bell	3 Days	Brighton
Christine Bien	3 Days	Worthing
Judith Billingham (G)	31 Days	•
Grace Blaker	•	Brighton Lewes
	2 Days	
Fran Briscoe	33 Days	Brighton
Margaret Burrows Martin Burns	5 Day	Hove
	3 Days	Worthing
Keith Butler (P)(S)(L)	22 Days	Wilmington
Susan Birks (P)(S)(L) (Director)	23 Days	Wilmington
Greg Chuter (Director)	1 Day	Eastbourne
Beth Clements	12 Days	Brighton
Brenda Collins (G)(W)	49 Days	Lancing
Paul Collins (W)(M)	41 Days	Lancing
Rachel Collins	1 Day	Brighton
Eva Corbett (S)(G)(W)	14 Days	Eastbourne
Steve Corbett (Director)(W)	14 Days	Eastbourne
Bob Crowhurst (F)	10 Days	Brighton
Wayne Crowhurst	3 Days	Brighton
Brian Darney	19 Days	Worthing
Chris Davidson	1 Day	Brighton
Keith Edger(G)(S)(L)(SP)	1 Day	Southwater
Les Edwards	1 Day	Brighton
Lisa Fisher (Director)	47 Days	Brighton
Hayley Forsyth	7 Days	Willingdon
Clair Freeman	1 Day	Brighton
Inga Freimane	14 Days	Lithuania
Mary Funnell	2 Days	Brighton
Maria Gardiner(E)(SP)(G)(W)	9 Days	Hove
Mark Gillingham (Director)(W)	74 Days	Hove
Nick Groat	1 Day	Brighton
Chris Keeley	2 Days	Brighton
Ginette Leech	6 Days	Brighton
Robert Levy	7 Days	Brighton
David Ludwig	44 Days	Rustington
Dot McBrien (S)(SP)(G)(W)	5 Days	Sompting
Joan MacGregor (G)	15 Days	Brighton
Clare McKenna	6 Days	Colchester

Barbara McKnee (S)(P)(SP)	1 Day	Shoreham
Mark Melvin	3 Days	Worthing
Nadia Khalili-Nayer	13 Days	Shoreham
Steve Nelson	2 Days	Brighton
Elaine O'Neill	5 Days	Brighton
Alison Partridge	10 Days	Newhaven
Norman Phippard (Director)(S)(G)	6 Days	Findon
Flora Pottinger	4 Day	Honiton
Jennifer Reeves	2 Days	Caterham
Charlotte Riding	14 Days	Hove
Frances Roberts	1 Day	Brighton
Linda Robinson	24 Days	Brighton
Alison Sanders	1 Day	Rotherham
Bill Santer (G)(Q)(M)(W)	14 Days	Saltdean
John Skelton	40 Day	Hove
Kate Skelton	13 Days	Hove
Charlie Skilton	1 Day	Brighton
Pamela Smith (G)	3 Days	Brighton
Paul Smith	1 Day	Brighton
Christian Soenen	1 Day	Paris
David Staveley(Director)(P)(S)(L)(G)	3 Days	Eastbourne
Barbara Stroud	1 Day	Patcham
William Yuhill	15 Days	Brighton
Rosie Eatwell White	1 Day	Brighton
Carol White (SP)(Director)	17 Days	Newhaven
Sue Worth	2 Days	Brighton
Linda Wright	16 Days	Southwick

Total Attendance (Excluding Barcombe)

Total Days 861 (Male Days 444 51%) (Female Days 417 49%)

Total Number of Participants 72 People, not including the Young Archaeologists Club (YAC)

Dated 18th December 201

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).

Acknowledgments

The Archaeological Co-ordinator of the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit would like to express appreciation to those who assisted with the Society's field projects during 2010.

Brighton and Hove City Council

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

Mr David West, Home Farm, Stanmer.

Mr David Carr, Tenant Farmer Ovingdean

Mr David Robinson, Tenant Farmer, Stanmer

Mr Casper Johnson, County Archaeologist

Mr Greg Chuter, Assistant East Sussex County Council

Mr David Rudling University of Sussex

Mr K.Edgar, Ms C.White (Leader of the BHAS Bones Team), Ms M.Gardiner

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

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

Mr W.Santer, Mrs B.Collins & Mr M. Gillingham -Watching Brief Officers

Mr David Larkin Brighton and Hove City Countryside Ranger

Mr Jim and Mrs Betty Driver

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

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Note that the dates shown (1993-2010) are an indicator of when the work was carried out, and not the date of publication.

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Hard copies of the above reports and Field Notebooks were deposited at Barbican House Library, East Sussex County Council, Brighton and Hove City Council Planning Department and Brighton Museum. A number of copies were deposited at Brighton Library, the National Monuments Records Office, Swindon and at the East Sussex Records Office.

John Funnell 27th December 2010