ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD NOTEBOOK 2016

A RECORD OF THE PROJECTS OF THE :

BRIGHTON AND HOVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD UNIT

Contents

Editor's Notes

I have made minor alterations to report titles, changed fonts and re-arranged the order of the contents (mainly Figures and Photos) to aid the legibility and flow of the report, my apologies to the Report contributors

Martin Devereux, BHAS Webmaster

Introduction

2016 proved to be a very busy year for the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society. The main focus of digging activity continued at Hog Croft Field, Ovingdean with some members of the team also joining other excavations at Bridge Farm and at the Plumpton Roman villa during the summer months. BHAS were involved in many outreach ventures this year visiting various schools in the Brighton, Hove and Shoreham. Other outreach locations visisted were at Michelham Priory and the Bentley Woodfair. Among the many activities of outreach were small excavations and geophysical surveys at Preston Manor and in the gardens of the Royal Pavilion, Brighton. BHAS are now regular exhibitors at Brighton Museum on the last Friday of the month as part of the Brighton museum lab events. The outreach team display their collection of archaeological finds at these days, where visitors to the museum area allowed to view, and handle, archaeological finds such as pottery and flintwork. Team members are able to talk about the archaeology of Brighton and Hove and encourage people to join the Society. The public can also view other museum conservation projects in progress.

The number of geophysical projects expanded this season under the leadership of Pete Tolhurst. The BHAS team conducted surveys at Preston Manor, the Royal Pavilion, Burwash and Rottingdean.

The digging team were joined this year by a number of new faces including people from Germany, Italy and Spain. The BHAS site director John Skelton organised two complete weeks of digging in May and August. This initiative produced new diggers including some from Surrey and Oxford.

The excavations at Ovingdean continued working in the two large trenches already opened New sections were opened revealing even more features. In the south trench the flint surfaces, walls and floor were removed down to a layer of daub and charcoal. Other pits, gullies and post holes were revealed. In the north trench the chalk mound was removed and more daub and charcoal was found underneath. These features are obviously linked to those similar ones in the south trench.

Training in archaeological techniques was once again a feature of the excavations, with several of the team enhancing and using the expertise gained at other training courses. Pete Tolhurst the BHAS Training Manager is monitoring the progress of those interested in training. Pete also conducted some training of BHAS people on the setting out of grids for geophysics and the use of the RM 15 resistivity machine,

Post excavation activities have included finds washing, marking and cataloguing and these events have been supported by a number of archaeological day schools. All of these post excavation processes have proved popular with the BHAS field unit. This season up to 26 people attended each finds processing sessions held at the ASE workshops in Portslade and at the Patcham Community Centre, with all of the appropriate finds being both washed and marked.

Once again Archaeology South East (ASE), the local professional Unit, opened their doors and allowed BHAS members to use their finds washing facilities and complete the washing of all of the pottery from this seasons excavations.

The BHAS bones team, lead by Carol White, continue with the processing of all of the bone material from the excavations, and this is conducted at Carol's home at Newhaven.

BHAS were asked by County Hall to conduct watching briefs on a number of occasions and these included visits to excavations at Mile Oak, Portslade and Palace Gardens, Brighton.

This field notebook includes a major report on the field walking and excavations conducted by the late Norman Phippard. Luke Barber, editor of the Sussex Archaeological collections, has read the report and has suggested that it be published in the BHAS field notebook. The Woodingdean report is detailed and lengthy but the article sadly reports that both the field walking and excavations failed to find anything of significance that would justify publication in SAC.

Hard copies of the BHAS Field Notebook are now passed to Barbican House library, the East Sussex Records Office at The Keep, 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. CD copies are passed to Ms L.Johnson at Brighton and Hove Planning Department, Casper Johnson, the County Archaeologist and Brighton Museum,

John Funnell 31st August 2017

Excavation at Hog Croft, Ovingdean – Interim Report 2016

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Director	**John Skelton**
Site Code	**500209**
Organisation	**Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society**
Prepared	**April 2017**

Contents

Introduction

Following successful excavations in 2014 and 2015 excavations continued in Hog Croft, Ovingdean in 2016. This report gives preliminary observations from that year's excavation. Further excavations have already started in Hog Croft to further develop our understanding of the site based on these observations

Hog Croft is a field situated to the North of St. Wulfran's Church, Ovingdean (Fig. 1) and it is believed to contain the remains of a medieval manorial complex dating from at least 1200 AD. This site has been a frequent subject of geophysical investigation and excavations by the Society between 1986 and 2015. The 2016 excavations were intended to build on the previous findings. The objectives of the 2016 excavation are a continuation of the 2015 objectives and included:-

a) Further investigate the structure of the northern bank with particular reference to the nature and extent of the cobbled surfaces.

b) Extend the area of excavation at the eastern end of the bank out into the surrounding field to see if archaeological features extend beyond the known medieval complex and if they do to establish their relative phasing.

c) Better understand the extent and significance of the archaeology to inform future management and protection of this site.

d) Provide facilities for public engagement in archaeology by providing training, accommodating site visits and presenting talks to local interested parties.

All of the four trenches proposed in 2015 have now been started and all will be subject of further study in 2017.

Location Map

Fig. 1 Site of excavations in Hog Croft, Woodingdean

Aerial view **©GoogleEarth**

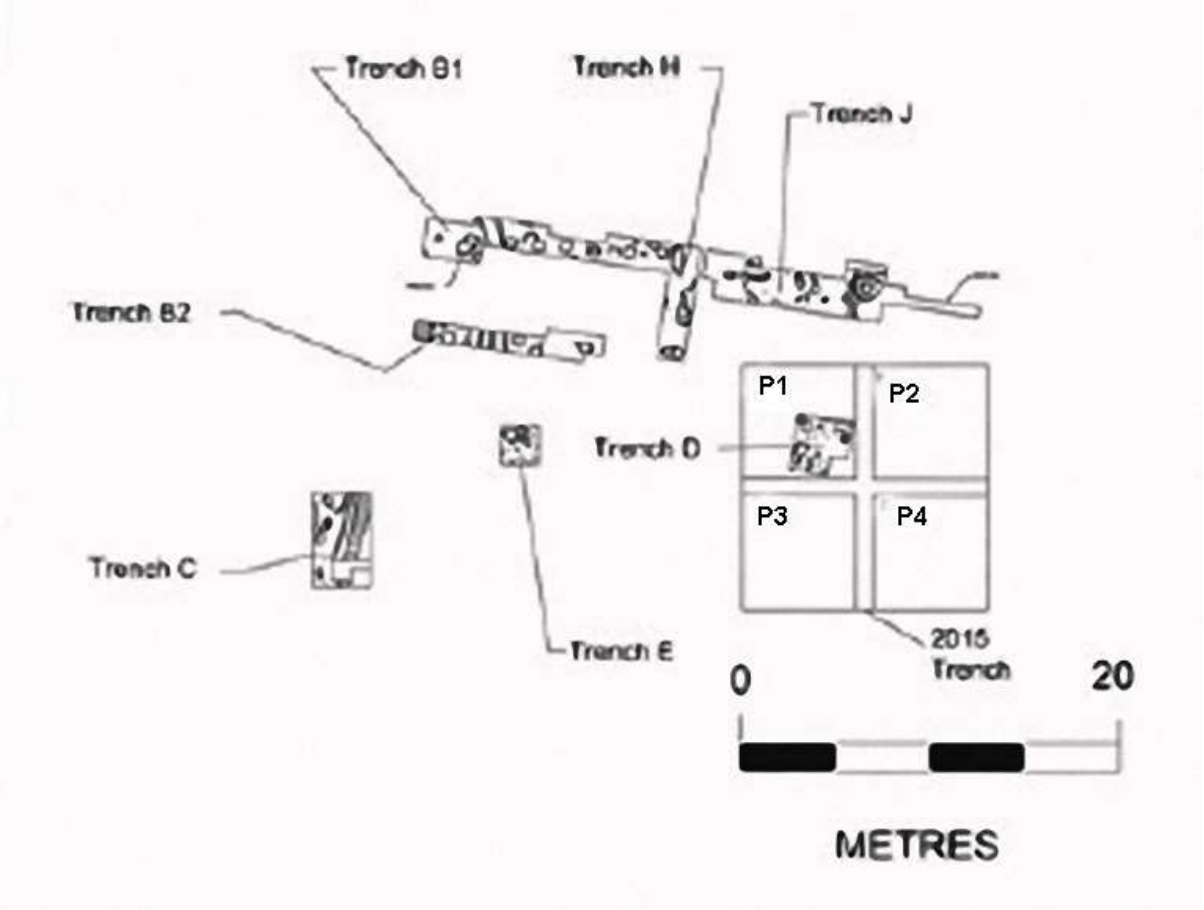
Plan view **©BHCC**

Archaeological Work Undertaken

Excavation of four 6x6 m trenches being continuation of trenches P1 and P2 and the start of trenches P3 and P4 (see Fig. 2). All work was undertaken by members of BHAS and short term community volunteers and students under the supervision of John Skelton (Site Director) and John Funnel! (Deputy Site Director).

Site Plan

Fig.2 Plan of proposed trenches P1 - P4 in relation to 2014 trenches. (SW to top).



Preliminary Results

A number of features were recorded during excavation mostly consisting of cuts into the chalk bedrock, cuts into the surrounding earthworks and flint structures. The overlying strata are typically composed of a silty clay loam topsoil (Context A) with very few inclusions, under which was a layer of gravel (Context B) of varying thickness but typically only a few centimetres thick. The gravel was composed of a poorly sorted mixture of well rounded flint pebbles and angular flint stones up to 5 cm in size. Unless archaeology was present below context B the next stratum was a variable thickness of silty/sandy clay loam with abundant, poorly sorted inclusions of flint (up to about 20 cm in size) and chalk (up to about 10 cm in size) (Context C). A similar context constituted the fill of most of the cuts into the chalk. There were some exceptions and variations and these will be described and discussed in the final report.

Artefacts recovered from context A were typically "modern" and ranged from glazed pottery, nails and pieces of roofing tile.

Context B produced mixed finds but included green glazed pottery sherds, beads, copper alloy objects, iron arrow heads, marine shell and small bones. Many of these finds were spot dated as "medieval".

Context C produced a similar array of finds to the gravel layer except that large pieces of bone were often found, mainly of pig, sheep and cow.

Very few datable artefacts were recovered from within postholes and other features other than the buried soil beneath the earthworks.

Trench P1

The location of trench P1 is on the presumed outside of the terminus of the earthwork bank bounding the North West of the complex (trench P2 is on the presumed inside).

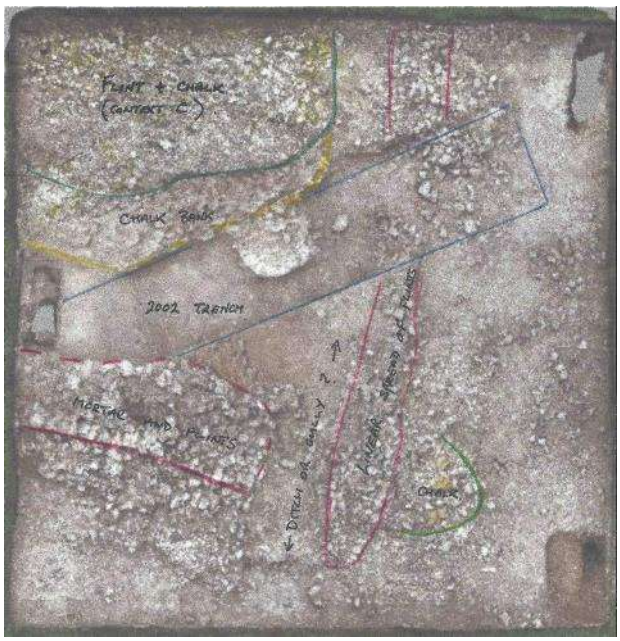
In 2015 the removal of contexts A and B revealed flint structures and flint scatters as illustrated in Fig 3. The chalk bank has now been removed and finds of pot and bone recovered from the buried soil below. There were three substantial postholes cut into the underlying chalk in this area and, in the northeast corner a pit was uncovered. The upper fill of this pit was rich in large flints and very large amounts of burnt clay. The lowest 5 cm or so of fill appeared to be almost wholly composed of charcoal. Extending from this pit and up onto an erth bank are what appear to be lines of raked out material - charcoal and burnt clay (Fig. 4). This feature had been incorrectly identified as a ditch at the end of 2015. Further excavation is required but it may now be the stoke hole of a furnace or oven or even a charcoal producing pit kiln.

On the outer NW edge of the bank there appears to have been a number of ditches cut parallel to the bank at various times in antiquity producing a very complex stratigraphy. These features may represent foundation trenches for a fence line or drainage ditches.

At the end of 2015 a feature thought to be a large post hole was identified adjacent to a short chalk built wall or butress. Further excavation has revealed this to be a well cut into a sub-rectangular cut that encloses the well and chalk wall. The well appears to have had a wooden lining and the bore is about a metre in diameter. The upper fill of the well is dominated by large flint nodules some of which are mortared and may represent part of a flint wall (described in the 2015 interim report) built over the filled in well which has sunk into the well as the fill settled (Fig. 5). Further excavation is required.

The flint wall has been completely removed and the structure was found to be consistent with previous observations in that there was a foundation platform about a metre wide composed of three layers of flints separated by several centimetres of earth upon which a mortared wall about 0.5 metre wide was built.

Fig. 3 Photogrammetric plan of trench P1 (South to the top left)



North

Fig. 4 Pit with charcoal and burnt clay rake lines extending up an earth bank.

Fig 5 A short section of flint wall has sunk into fill of a well

Trench P2

The flint wall, detached "buttress" and tumble running Northeast/Southwest that remained at the end of 2015 was removed from the West corner of trench P2. It was removed layer by layer and planned at each stage. Several features were noted within the flint structure including a short section that appeared to have collapsed and been repaired. The flint structure was built up to the chalk bank much as a revetment may be. It was clear that the structure respected the edge of the chalk bank and was constructed later than the bank.

Beneath the flint structure and chalk bank was a buried soil presumably contiguous with that found in trench P1 however the inclusions are quite different. Relatively large amounts of domestic food waste (bones and marine shell) and charcoal as well as some burnt daub were found. Several metal objects, including a ferrous arrowhead, were also discovered.

Numerous post holes and stake holes continued to be revealed in this trench as well as traces of a linear array of gullies. These gullies, close to the charcoal pit in trench P1, were not fully excavated and remain for work in 2017 (Fig. 6).

Fig. 6 Array of putative gullies and post holes in trench P2.

Trench P3

The large ditch discovered in trench P1 in 2015 runs Northeast/Southwest along the Northwestern edge of trench P3. Unfortunately the outermost edge is truncated by the modern water mains trench running up the field. Little datable material was recovered from the ditch. In the North corner of P1 a small, flat area of compact chalk and flints, only a few centimetres thick was found at a depth of about 20 cm. It is interpreted as the floor of a building or a path surface. It was not removed but preserved as it may be the only remaining segment due to truncation by the water mains ditch.

Running Northwest/Southeast is a shallow gully cutting into the Southeast edge of the large ditch. It is an asymmetric gully with an abrupt, straight Southwestern edge but a broken Northeastern edge truncated by several shallow, subcircular cuts (Fig. 7). A priority for 2017 will be to track this gulley into the interior of our excavated area. Only about half of trench P3 has been excavated.

Fig 7 Asymmetric gully in trench P3. The nearer edge is distinct and vertical, the father edge is indistinct and gradual.

Trench P4

A small area of this trench has been excavated to a depth of about 40 cm and has proved to be rich in bulk finds of oyster shell, bone, pottery sherds, nails and fire cracked flint. These finds have tended to be concentrated in the West corner. We have not yet excavated to bedrock chalk and no cuts have been observed.

Registered Finds

Registered finds were limited but included two more ferrous arrowheads, a lead token, a possible knife blade and several ferrous items of indeterminate function. Few copper alloy items were found. Fig. 8 shows a sample of registered and bulk finds.

Fig. 8a Vessel base found in well fill.

Fig. 8b Ferrous arrow head.

Fig. 8c Lead token.

Fig. 8d Apothecary's bottle?

Preliminary Conclusions

Progress has again been slower than anticipated so conclusions based on this year's excavations are again limited. We have continued to reveal some features such as postholes and possible wall foundation gullies that are not inconsistent with an early medieval (Saxon?) origin. The "charcoal" pit in trench P1 intimates that some light industrial processes were being conducted and the well suggests that there was adequate water supply.

Further Work Required for Preparation of Final Report

Excavations will continue in all four trenches in 2017 exposing more features. More of the buried soil under the chalk bank will be excavated and samples taken for flotation and sieving analysis. The "charcoal" pit and well will be explored further and trenches P3 and P4 will be fully excavated.

Acknowledgements

With thanks to all members of the field unit who have shown considerable patience and perseverance with my supervision and continued to work hard.

Particular thanks are due to John Funnell and Mark Gillingham for their expert guidance and encouragement.

All plans are by John Funnell.

All mistakes are by me.

John Skelton

Excavations at Hog Croft Field Ovingdean 2016 (personal thoughts and memories)

By John Funnell

Introduction

The 2016 season at Ovingdean commenced n April with some cold and wet weather, and during the year the weather did not improve that much. Despite that a good number of volunteers came along to the excavations including new faces from Italy and Spain. The site director John Skelton also opened the site for 2 complete weeks of excavation, one week in May was an awfully wet week, and another happened in August where the weather was much kinder.

The excavations focused mainly on the trenches opened in 2015 called P1, the north trench, and P2 the south trench. A third trench was partially opened in the north east section for the site to chase the large boundary ditch revealed in 2015 and small area opened in the south east section as an area for the Young Archaeologists Club (YAC) to conduct some digging when they joined the excavations in June (Fig 1.) The trenches were divided into 1 metre square contexts to allow for accurate relocation of the finds (Fig 2.)

Recording by planning and section drawing was an essential part of the season's activities with a number of the BHAS team keen to learn these techniques and implement them on their various individual activities, whether digging a post hole or removing a large baulk section. The BHAS training officer is Pete Tolhurst and he has organised a training plan with documentation which will record any training undertaken by the BHAS field unit. A location drawing shows the position of the section drawings recorded. (Fig 3.)

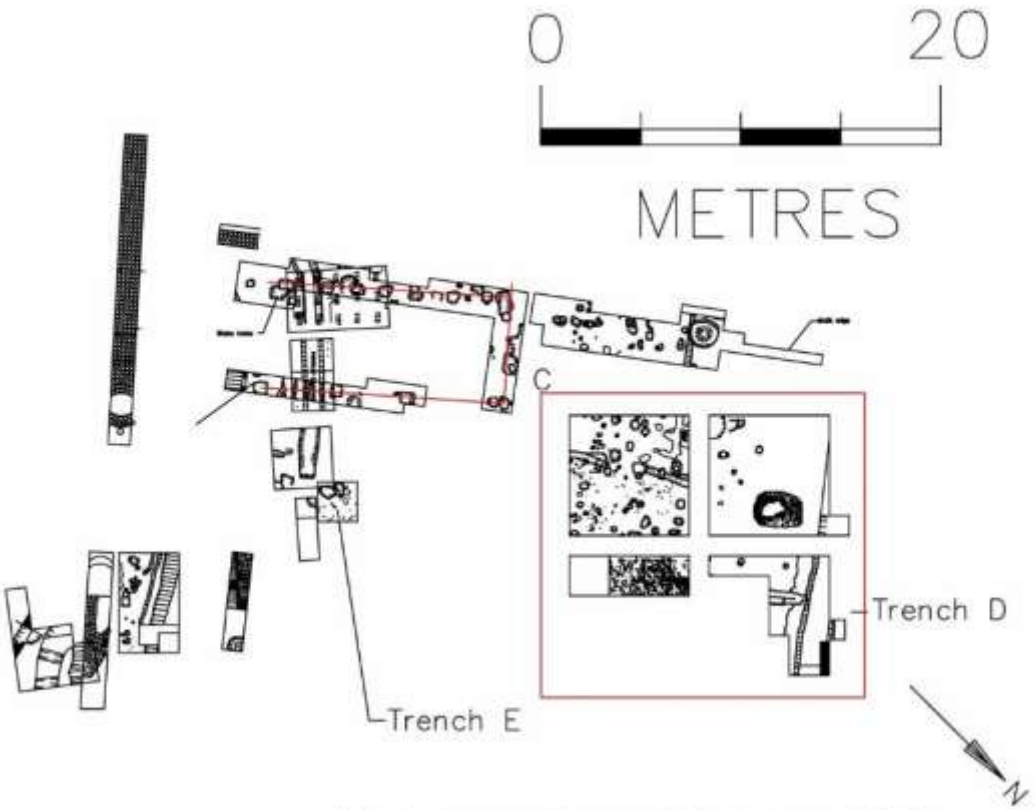


Fig 1. Excavations at Ovingdean 2016

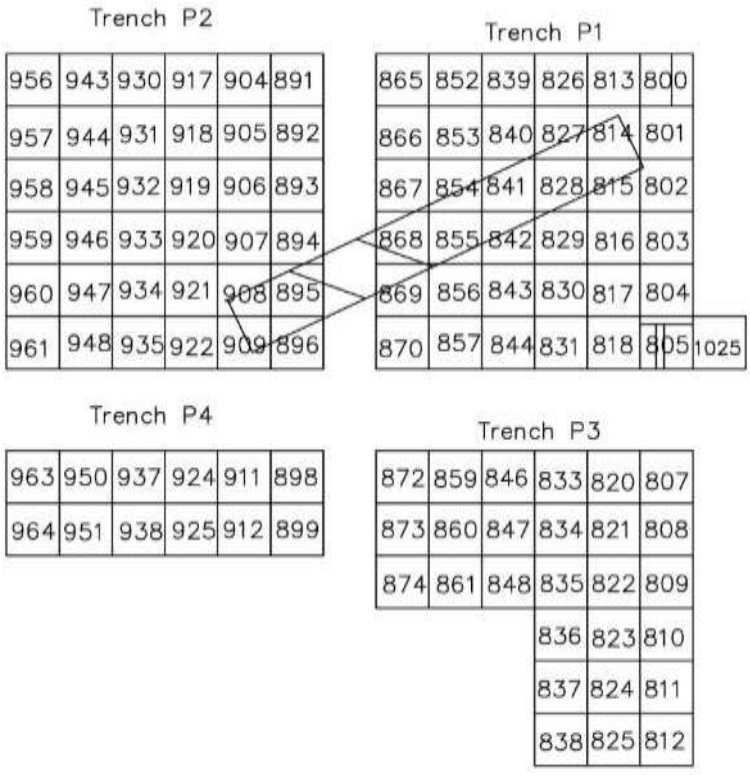


Fig 2. Top Soil Contexts

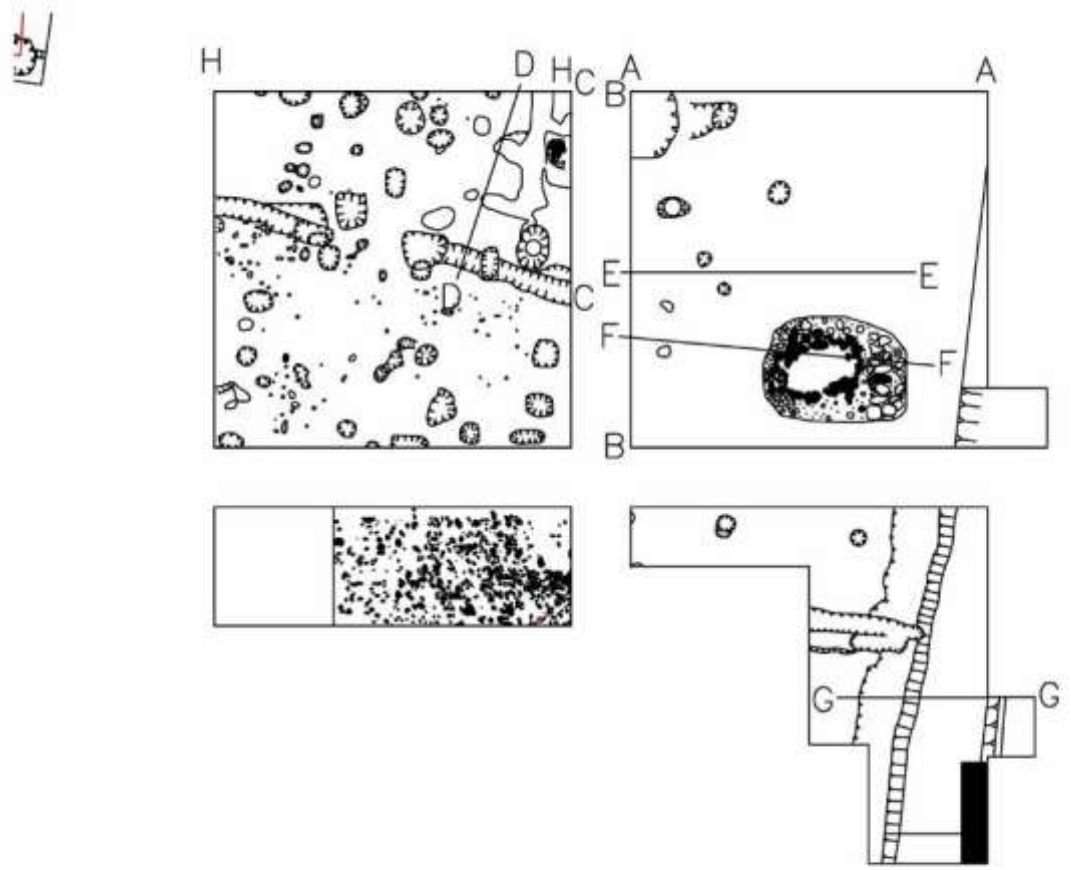


Fig 3. Section locations at Ovingdean

The South Trench P2 (Fig 4)

The whole of the excavation site had been covered with protective blue plastic at the end of 2015 The previously excavated post holes and gullies had been back filled to prevent any side collapse. In the south trench the plastic covering was only partially removed in the north west corner, this being the only area that had not been completely excavated. The north/west corner of this trench had a large area of large flint nodules, some with mortar adhering creating a floor and possible wall surface. The flint section was divided into two areas by a gully running between. The gully had been excavated down to the natural chalk in 2015.

The south section of this flint conglomeration had a southern edge, after this was a small area of compact chalk before it reverted into chalk loam. This small area was carefully excavated with any overburden of soil removed revealing a lower layer of compact large flints. This layer was recorded by drawing and photography. This upper section of flints was later removed and came down onto a chalk loam below. The removal of this loam layer revealed a dark area consisting of charcoal and daub, which contained a collection of oyster shells. The area was recorded in detail at each

level, until finally the natural chalk bedrock appeared. Cutting into the bedrock were a number of features including post holes, contexts 1085, 1146 and 1154.

The north side of the small dividing gully was a much more complex collection of features and layers. The area were removed of any soil overburden revealing large flints that appeared to be part of a floor originally revealed in 2014. That section had been excavated down to bedrock that year. The flints appear to be in a linear arrangement running west to east, and a subtle edge was noted on some of the flints suggesting that they may have been part of a wall.

While the wall was of an ephemeral nature the underlying floor was quite substantial. As the flints were excavated and removed an edge was found on the north side of the concentration, possibly associated with later post holes. Below this layer was a chalky loam, similar to that found on the smaller south section. After this loam was removed a deeper layer of charcoal, daub and reddened earth was uncovered. This series of layers was similar to those on the south side, and had been very visible in the gully sides, clearly indicating that the gully was a later feature.

Once the daub and charcoal layers had been removed the natural chalk beneath revealed that it had been cut by a number of post holes and gullies, contexts 1187, 1188, 1190 and 1191. These features were not excavated but covered up for investigation in 2017.

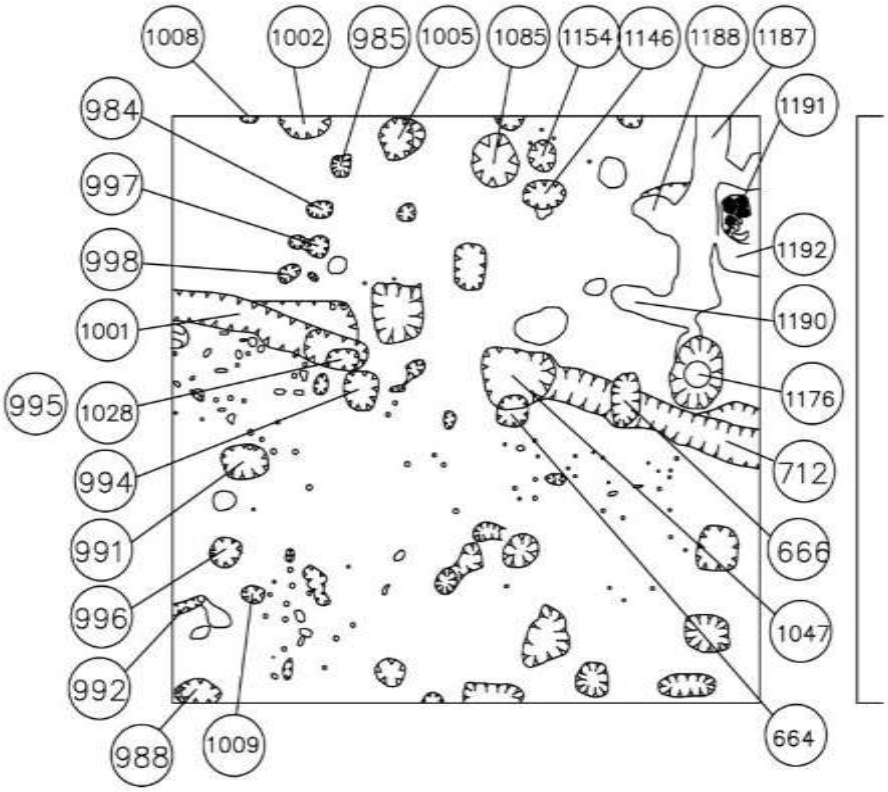


Fig 4. The south trench P2

The section remaining in the south facing baulk produced a clear definition of the various layers of chalk, loam, charcoal and daub (Fig 5.). The daub and reddened area appear to lift upwards going eastwards, and may be associated with a pit feature revealed on the north side of the remaining baulk. The east facing section of the south trench revealed a large pit cutting into the lower layers at the north end close to the dividing baulk (Fig 6.). The east facing section shows a complex series of fills and later cuts.

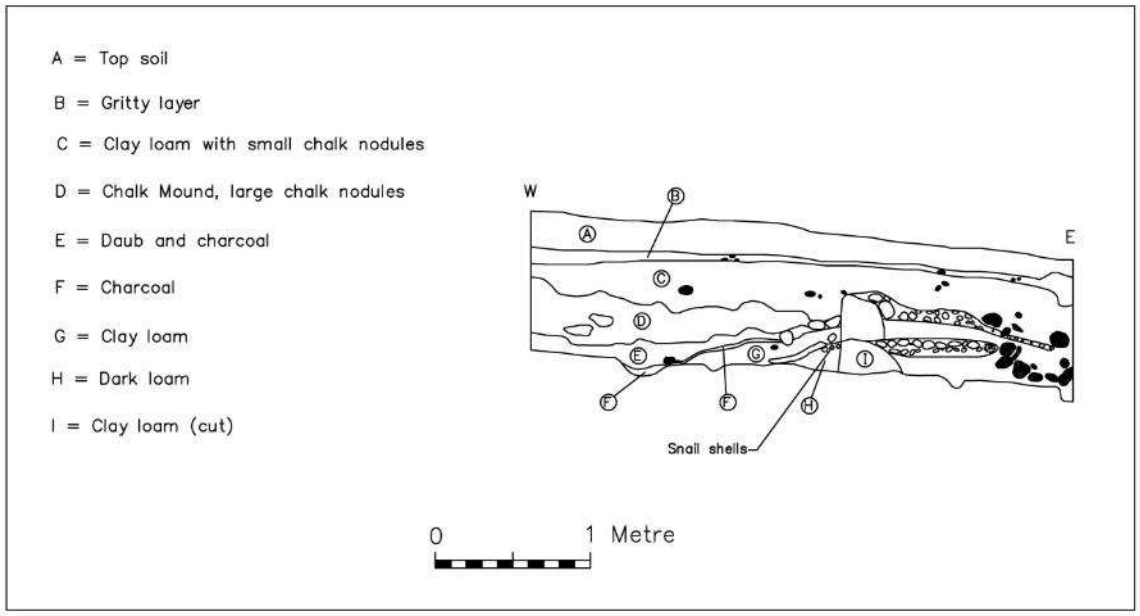


Fig 5. South Facing Section C – C South Trench P2

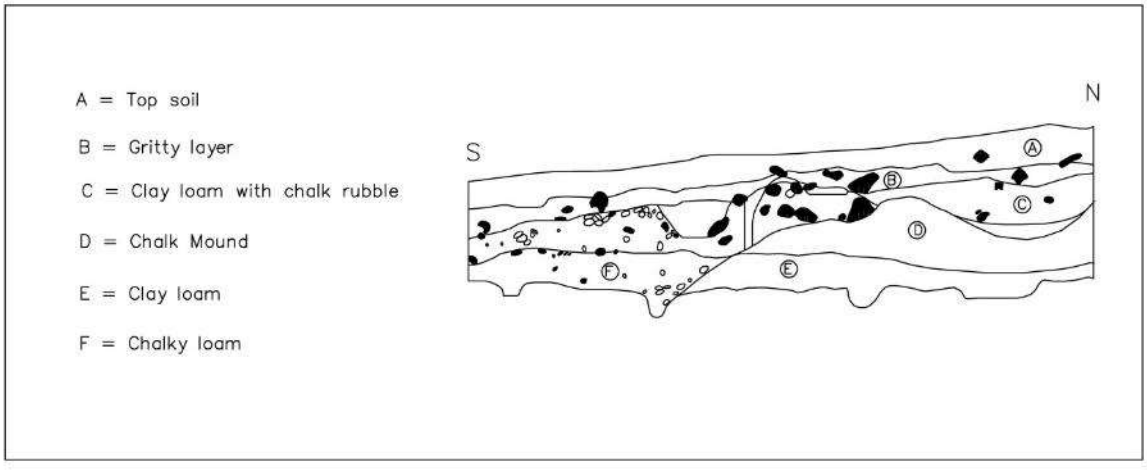


Fig 6. East Facing Section H – H South Trench P2

The removal of most of the fills from this trench revealed the section cut by the excavations in 2003, with that section clearly defined. It was while cleaning back this south facing surface early in the season that another armour piercing style arrow

head was removed eroding out of the baulk, and several sherds of medieval pottery had also eroded out onto the blue tarmac covering.

The North Trench P1 (Fig 7.)

The north trench had been started in 2015 with 1 metre wide sondages cut on both the west and east sides of the trench. A central trench which had been excavated in 2003 had the old back fill removed (Fig 8.)
. The central trench was then excavated down to natural chalk, revealing just a single post hole. The west sondage had some of the large chalks removed in 2015. These blocks of chalk were the basic components for the construction of the north bank of the enclosure. Beneath this chalk was a clay loam containing some animal bone. The east sondage came down onto a complex arrangement of fills. This sondage was east of the large flint wall, and this mixture of fills was regarded as tumble from the flint wall construction. The east sondage also contained a large feature which looked very much like a large pit. At the end of the 2015 season this feature had been filled with bags of soil to prevent it from collapsing during the winter months, and damage by frosts.

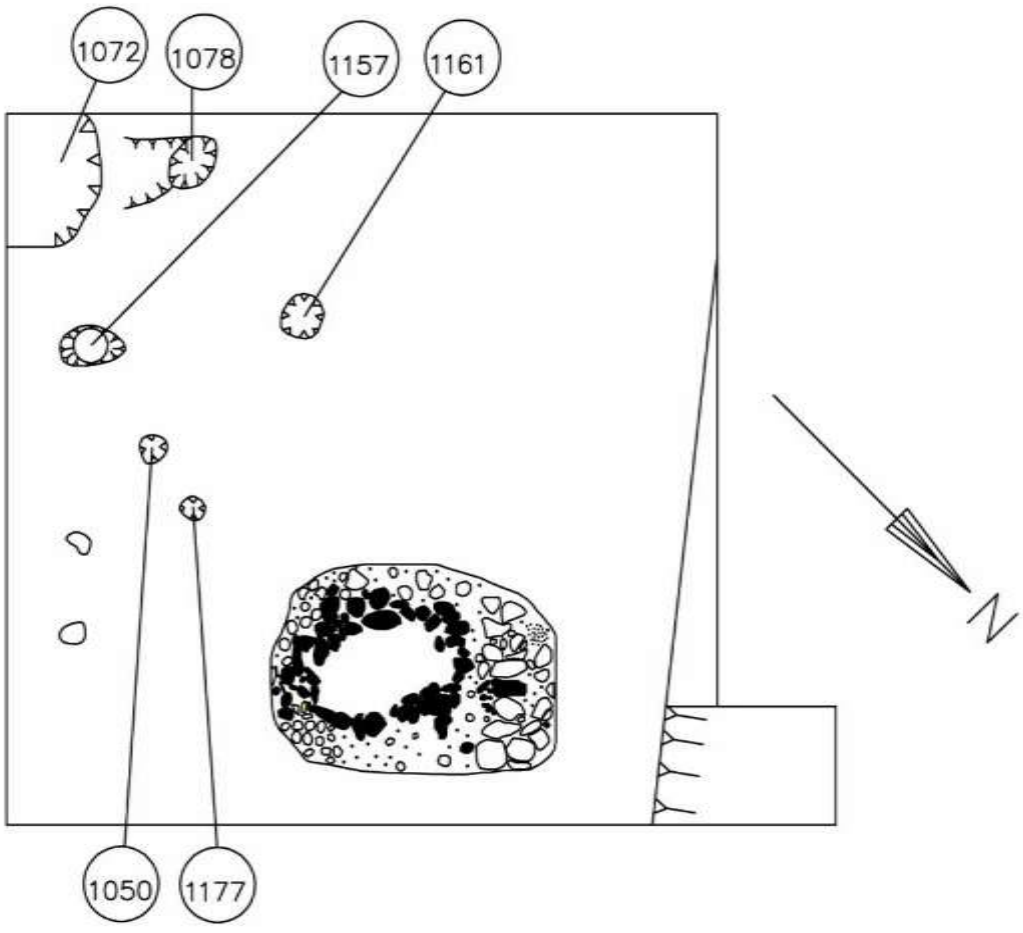


Fig 7. The north trench P1

Fig 8. Trench P1 2015 before sondage cuts (Photograph J.Skelton)

Work commenced immediately on both of the sondages in the north trench, and another sondage was added at the north end of the excavation running west to east. The new sondage was seeking evidence for the north boundary ditch found, and sectioned, in 2015. In the west sondage work commenced removing the clay loam previously revealed last season and was excavated down to the chalk natural. There were a number of finds mainly of bone and oyster shell. The section revealed showed that a number of cuts had been made running west to east (Fig 9.). These cuts could possibly be various phases of north boundary ditches. The south end of this sondage came down onto a possible ditch, packed with large flints. At the north end there appeared to be some form of chalk wall, but it was ephemeral in nature and not that well defined. The finds tended to peter out the further northwards the excavation progressed.

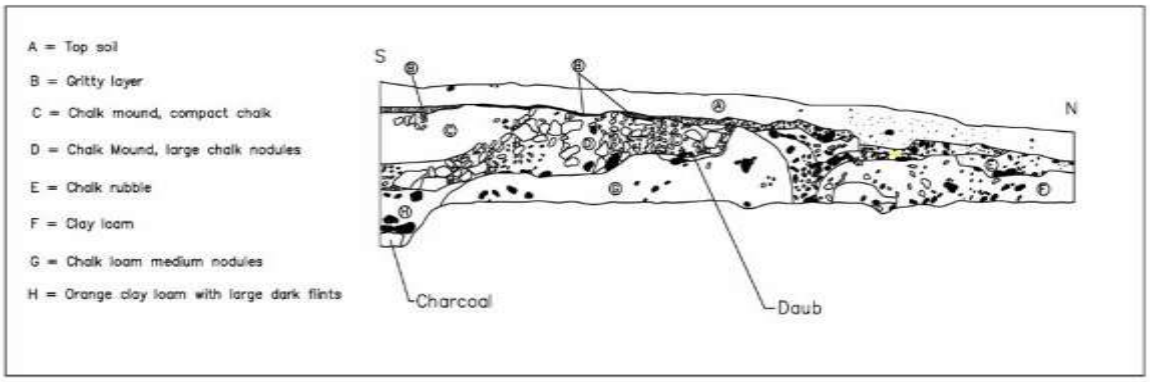


Fig 9. East Facing Section A–A North Trench P1

The east sondage was a mixture of complex fills, chalk, clay loam, and flints both small and large. It looked very much as if a ditch or beam slot trench had cut across the area containing a clay loam fill, and the sections revealed confirmed that vestiges of ditches were in that area too (Fig 10.). As the excavations continued the pit feature found in 2015 was uncovered and this feature proved to have even more complexity. The fills around the north end of the flint wall were gradually removed and at the north end of the flint wall a short layer of clay loam was uncovered. The excavations, a little further north in the same area, revealed a wall running east/west comprising of large chalk blocks. The fills to the east of the flint wall were removed down to chalk bedrock. The fills to the west of the flint wall were also removed until only the flint wall itself and the lower fills below it were left standing (Fig 10a.)

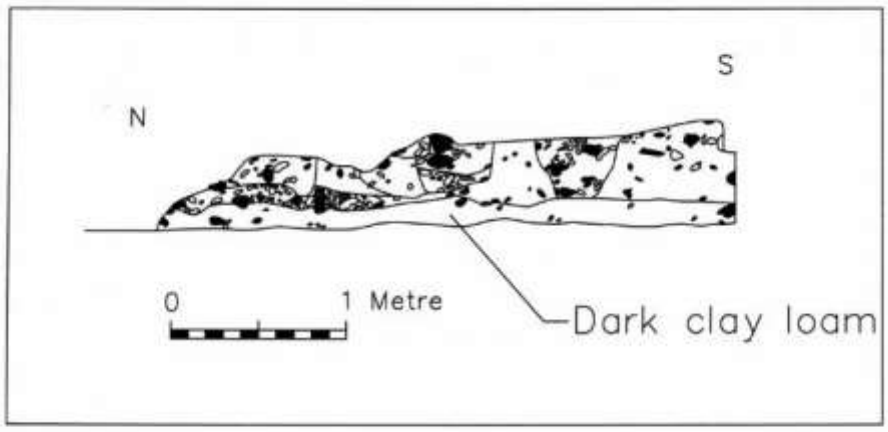


Fig 10. West facing section East Baulk P1 section E–E

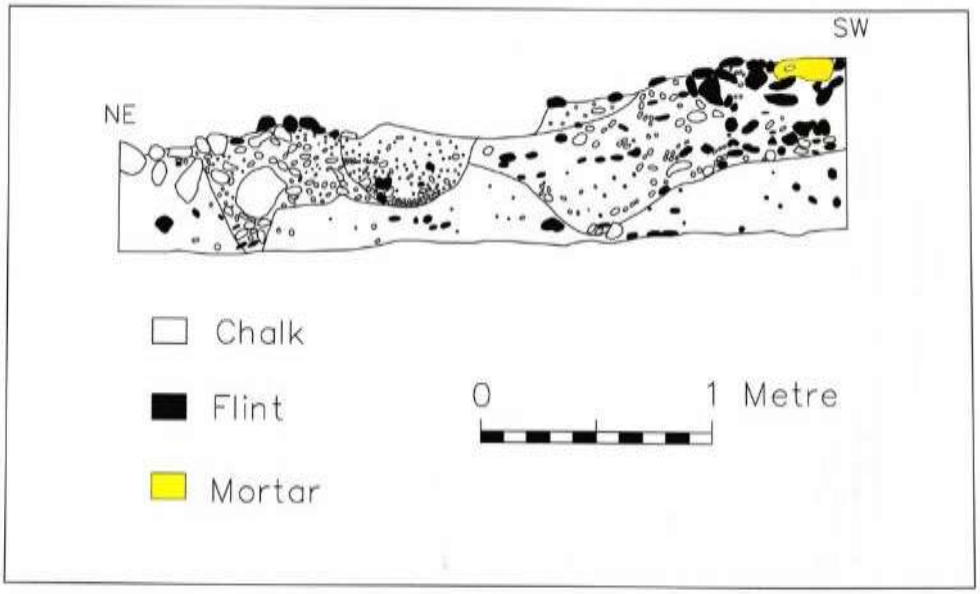


Fig 10a. West Facing Section F – F East Baulk P1

The flint wall was recorded in plan and section and then the large flints were carefully removed. At the north end of the wall the clay loam area was excavated and at the north end the chalk blocks were removed. At an even deeper layer more large chalk blocks were revealed, and an edge that showed that the wall of chalk penetrated into the natural chalk below. As the area between the flint and chalk walls was removed it became clearer that there was indeed a large pit below. As the excavation continued the large pit became more circular with a central fill of loam and an outer surround of large flint nodules. The feature was looking more and more like a well.

The flint wall was removed and also the lower layers, which were a mixture of clay and chalk loams. Excavation continued down to the natural chalk. This process finally revealed that the large pit was indeed a well, but not a simple structure. The well had been cut into the natural chalk with a wall of chalk blocks on the north side. The well centre consisted of a fill of dark loam, with many voids. This central area was surrounded by an outer layer of large flint nodules.

The remaining baulk left between the west sondage and the 2003 excavation trench was removed in stratigraphical sequence. The upper layer comprised of a mixture of large chalk blocks and compact chalk rubble. This was the east end of the north boundary earthwork. Between the end of the chalk mound and the flint wall to east was a complex of loamy fills. A small peninsular of chalk penetrating out into this loamy layer was again revealed and confirmed that the trench still contained vestiges of archaeological features revealed in 2003.

The large chalk blocks and compact chalk deposit was removed with no finds, and the clay loam area below removed afterwards. A post hole found in 2015 was re-exposed and the feature found earlier at the south end of the trench was revealed to be a pit filled with charcoal, and was not as first suggested a ditch. The lower clay loam had traces of charcoal in its lower fill and there appears to have been a ‘floor’ of some description.

The north facing baulk section clearly showed a good stratigraphical sequence. The large chalk nodules of the chalk mound covered the lower loam deposit but this in turn covered a layer of charcoal and daub. This lower deposit dropped down sharply westwards towards the charcoal filled pit in the south west corner. The trench cut in 2003 was also very visible, and both this section and that of the south facing baulk in the south trench P2 had striking similarities. It was obvious that the features in both trenches continued through the intervening baulk.

One interesting factor revealed after the east sondage had been completed was the lack of any gully running northwards. This gully is a significant feature in the south trench. It is now certain that this gully terminates somewhere under the baulk.

The well was now fully exposed and planned. It was decided to quadrant the well with the ideal method of recording being to section the large chalk block wall at the north end, and the main well feature at the south end. This would produce a complete section of both features.

The chalk block area was sectioned and other layers of large chalk block were revealed below, but eventually the natural surface was found. It was about 60cms

below. The main well feature was then sectioned and was excavated down to about 1 metre in depth. The circular configuration of flints appears to have formed a wall but as excavations deepened so a thin inner layer was exposed of what appears to be a wood lining for the well. The fill of the well had numerous voids and a harness attachment was fitted to those excavators venturing to dig in this area as a safety precaution. The east side of the well showed tool marks and a hard, solid surface in the exposed chalk. The legal safety limit of excavations was not reached, so at the end of the season the feature was sealed with planking and covered with a tarpaulin for protection against frost.

The north trench was excavated completely to the north side and exposed a little more of the north boundary ditch, which was planned. The new area of this ditch, not being that wide, was not excavated. Both the east facing section (Fig 9.) and the north facing section (Fig 11.) show a complex arrangement of various fills and cuts.

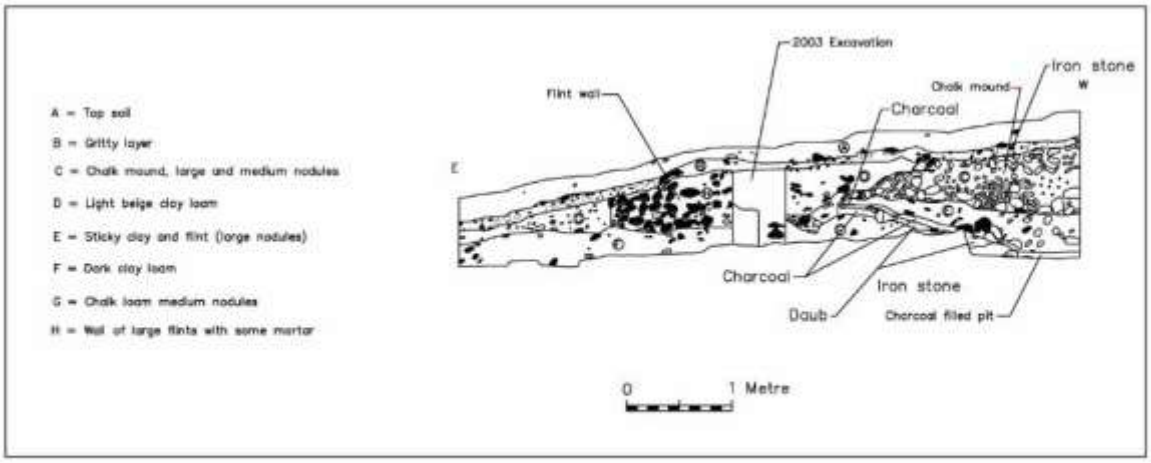


Fig 11. North Facing Section B – B North Trench P1

It was very noticeable that while the south trench is filled with poles holes and gullies the north trench had very few features. This area contained the well and the large pit in the south west corner, but other than that only 4 additional post holes. The north end contained no features other than the north boundary ditch. The only significant features visible in the north trench were a number of plough marks carved into the chalk running north/east to southwest indicating that this area had been farmed before the chalk earthwork had been created. These plough marks were the oldest features on the site.

The North East Trench P3 (Fig 12.)

The north east trench was opened as more people arrived to dig. The primary objective was to open the north end and expose more of the north boundary ditch with a view to obtaining dateable evidence for its construction. An area measuring 3 metres in width was opened and later a 1 metre wide sondage was opened on the west side of the trench. Both areas ran the full length of the trench.

The main north section was divided into 1 metre square grids, a process conducted over the whole site, and the soil removed down to natural chalk. The north boundary ditch was gradually exposed and once planned a ½ metre width section was cut at the east end. The fill produced was a chalky rubble, which is probably why it is not noted in any geophysical surveys. The ditch fill produced very few finds, and the section did not expose the north side of the ditch.

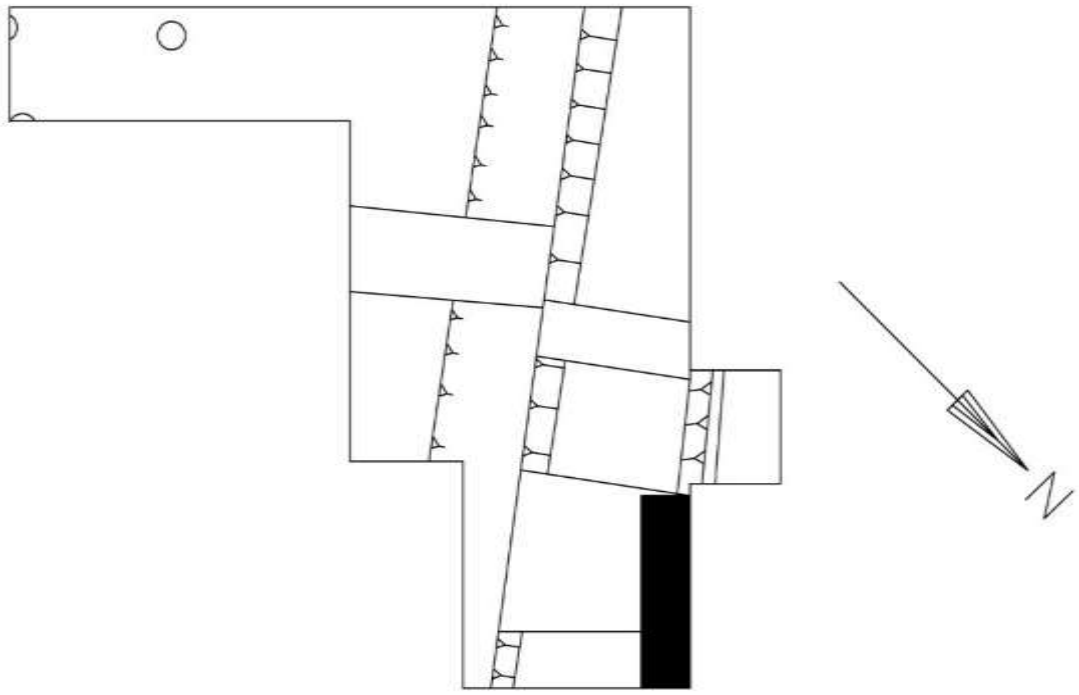


Fig 12. The north east trench

A second section was cut a further 2 metres to the west, and a 1 metre wide extension northwards was added to the main trench in an attempt to find the opposite side of the ditch. The new area revealed a wide steep sided ditch with a flat bottom. The north side was found to have still been truncated by a later ditch cut by Southern Water for a mains water pipe back in the 1980's. The second section was recorded by drawing and photography (Fig 13.)

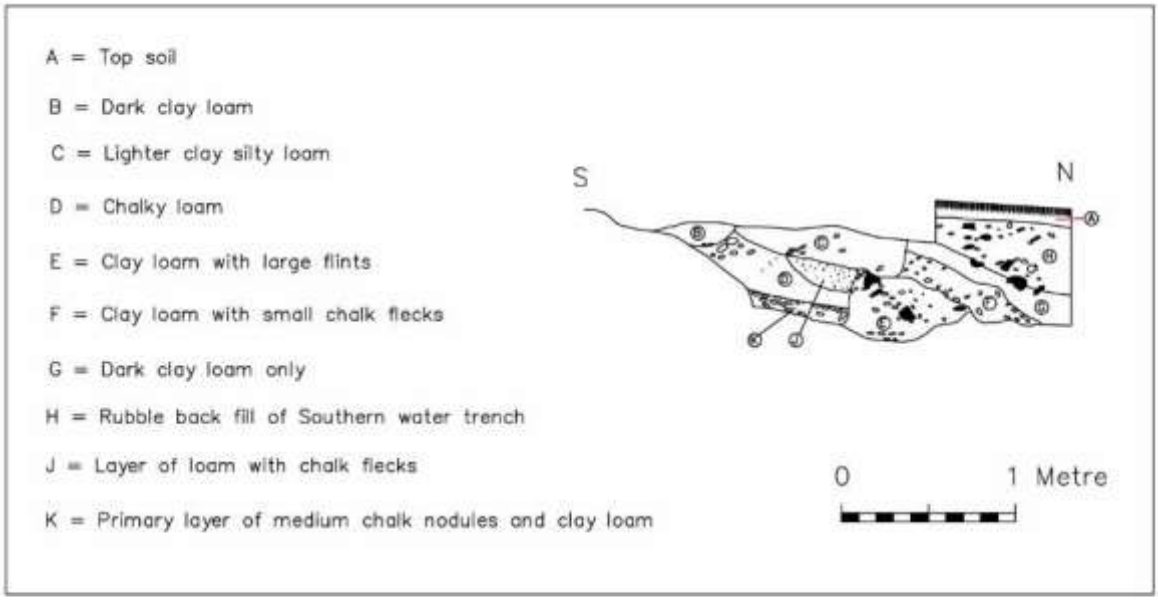


Fig 13. Section G–G Through north boundary ditch

The remaining ditch on the west side was completely excavated down to natural chalk, leaving a 1 metre baulk between the previous section and that going westwards. The excavation of the ditch found it to be divided into two distinct fills, one a soft loam and the other a loose rubble. It is likely that the loose rubble is a remnant of the trench cut by Southern Water. The fills were investigated separately by sieving and both produced only a few finds.

The only other notable feature noted in trench P3 was the revealing of another smaller ditch running southwards. This ditch had a square sided section on both the east and west sides and had a flat bottom. In the north section of this ditch close to the junction with the large north boundary ditch, and on the east side of the new ditch, it had been cut away down to only a few millimetres above the ditch bottom. The two ditches were excavated together and it was noted that the large north boundary ditch was the later feature as it cut the small ditch. An attempt will be made in 2017 to cut another section north of the trench to see if this small ditch continues northwards or terminates at the north boundary ditch. A large sherd of pottery was recovered from the north end of the smaller ditch which appears to be of a black burnished pot that had grass tempered.

The small sondage cut running along the west bulk of this trench produced a significant collection of fire cracked flint, and excavation down to the natural chalk revealed two small post holes contexts 1147 and 1183. A pair of small post holes may have been partially exposed at the south end of the trench, but further work will be needed to confirm this.

The South West Trench P4

During the month of June the Young Archaeologist Club (YAC) were due to visit and participate in the excavations. A new trench measuring 8 metres in length and two metres in width was opened in anticipation of their visit. The area was later used more intensively as other sections of the dig were completed. The top soil was excavated and the next level below consisting of a gritty layer. This lower layer produced a significant collection of finds including fire-cracked flint, pottery, bone and oyster shells. In fact more pottery was collected from this small area than the rest of the excavation this season. The area was planned before being covered for the winter. It is anticipated that the small ditch found in the north/east trench continues in this area. The geophysical survey conducted in 1999 shows a linear anomaly running north to south and it is believed that the small ditch is this feature.

During the winter months the section drawings of the various pits and post holes were transferred to C.A.D. (Fig 14.) A plan drawing was also made of the medieval flint layer, it is focused on the large concentration of flint in the south trench and the flint wall that runs down to the possible well in the north trench (Fig 15.)

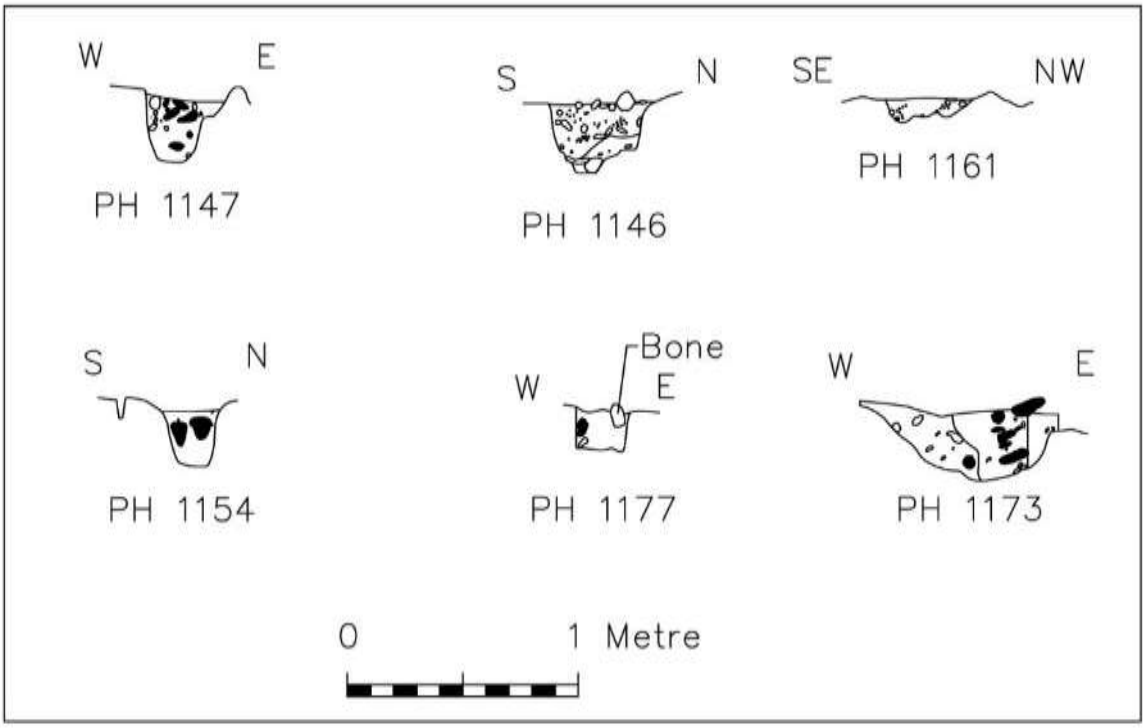


Fig 14. Post hole sections 2016

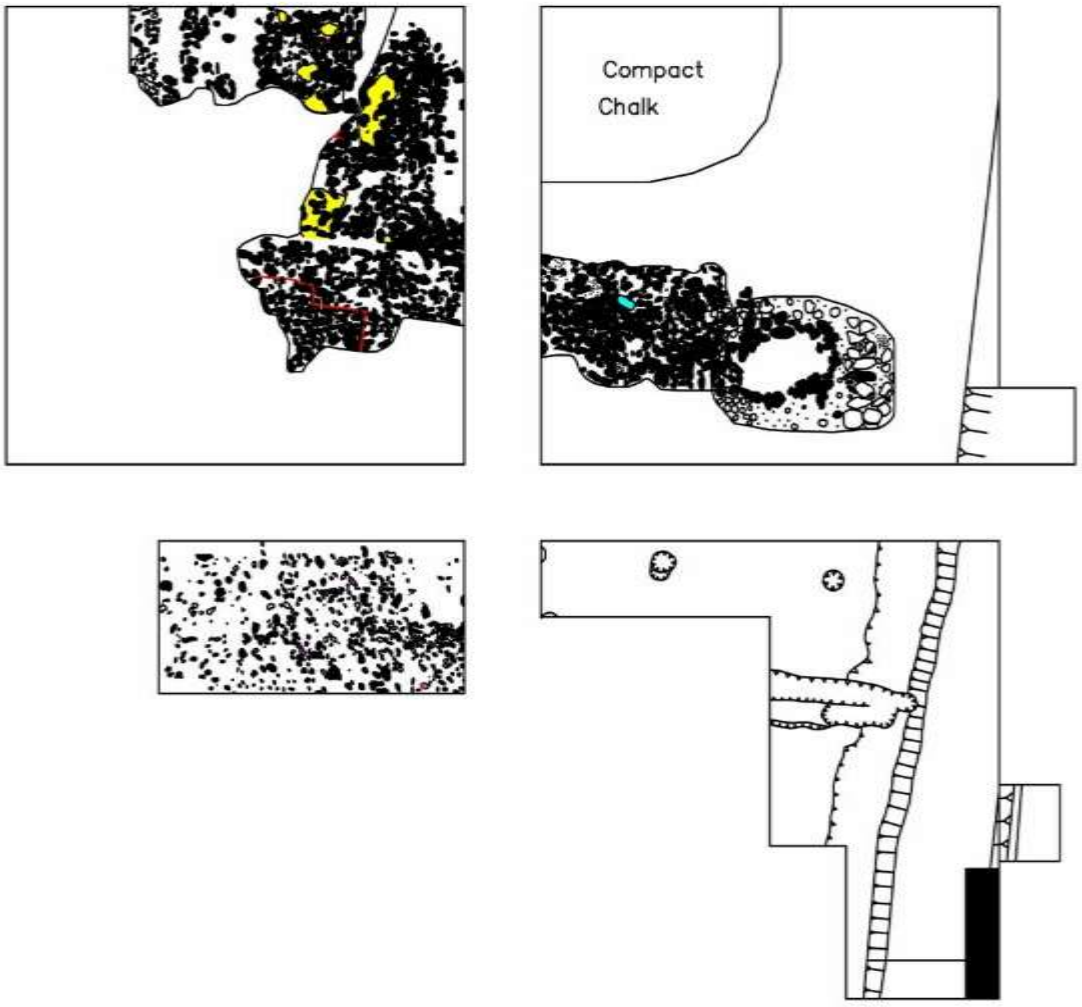


Fig 15. Medieval Layer with well

The Finds

The 2016 season of excavations has produced a varied collection of finds including pottery dated to the medieval period. The upper layer still produced some Victorian ceramics in places, and from the lower levels there have been isolated finds of Roman pottery, including a single small piece of samian ware. A number of sherds of East Sussex Ware have also been recovered, but as this type of fabric was created from the Iron Age through to the Saxon period, only a further examination of the sherds by a pottery expert can determine an accurate dating. There have been a few fragments of 13th century green glazed wares, but in general other than trench P4 the pottery finds have been few in number.

Other finds have included fragments of butchered bone and oyster shell. A number of complete oyster shells were recovered from the upper fills of the well. There have been some finds of nails and flint flakes, but the numbers have again been fewer than in past seasons. The finds from the north end of the excavation and particularly north of the earthwork are noticeable by their absence.

The only significant metal find this season was the armour piercing arrow head found eroding out of the south facing baulk in the south trench.

The Features

Post Hole 1050 North Trench 20cms diameter x 25cms deep
Post Hole 1079 North Trench 40cms N/S x 50cms E/W and 12cms deep
Post Hole 1085 South Trench 48cms N/S x 56cms E/W x 32cms deep
Post Hole 1146 South Trench 47cms N/S x 31xms E/W x 32cms deep
Post Hole 1147 N/E Trench 25cms diameter x 28cms deep
Post Hole 1154 South Trench 32cms N/S x 28cms E/W x 22cms deep
Post Hole 1157 North Trench Oval shaped 60cms N/S x 30cms E/W x 14cms deep
Post Hole 1161 North Trench 39cms diameter x 8cms deep
Post Hole 1172 South Trench 24cms diameter x 24cms deep
Post Hole 1173 South Trench 54cms diameter x 30cms deep
Post Hole 1176 South Trench 29cms N/S x 37cms E/W
Post Hole 1177 North Trench 20cms diameter x 18cms deep
Post Hole 1183 N/E Trench 27cms diameter x 8cms deep
Post Hole 1186 South Trench – Not excavated
Post Hole 1188 South Trench – Not excavated
Post Hole 1190 South Trench – Not excavated
Post Hole 1191 South Trench – Not excavated

Pit Context 1072 North Trench S/W corner 1 metre E/W x 50cms wide x 28cms deep

Well Context 1048 North Trench 1.2 Metres N/S x 88cms E/W

Gully Context 1187 South Trench running E/W

Discussion

Ovingdean is proving to be a very complex excavation. The area is extremely interesting and its archaeology is multi-layered, but at present secure dating and chronological sequencing of the features is yet to be accurately determined. The south trench was almost completely excavated in 2015 and the numerous post holes and possible beam post gullies suggest a number of timber framed buildings in that area.

This season the focus has been on the large area of compact large flint nodules. We know that this feature continued a little further to the east. This segment was removed at the end of 2014. The flint forms a right angled corner and has several layers of flint, some bonded by mortar, but there is no real solid evidence for a house or barn or similar structure. The area of flint links up to the solid wall of flint that runs north/eastwards and which terminates at the south side of the well. The plans from this area clearly show a right angle of flint, but with additional deposits on the south side and the east side, which may be tumble. The concentration of flint and its defined shape is reflected in the geophysics images produced form the 1991 survey. There is no evidence at present of similar walls on the west or north sides which does raise the question about the purpose of the visible walls and floor. On the south side of the flints one layer did suggest a possible elevated section which could be a wall foundation, and this could link to the east wall, but where are the other sides?

The flint walls did appear to respect the large dump of chalk which is part of the earthwork construction. The wall is located at the east end of this chalk deposit, but on the south side it partially overlays it, so some peculiar building practises in that location. There is a small deposit of loam between the east end of the chalk mound and the flint wall. The area to the north of the chalk mound and wall is a very mixed collection of fills with loam, both chalk and clay, and small and large flint deposits indicating a lot of activity or dumping of material.

The sondages cut into the north trench have revealed a number of features. Observed in the sections are at least two phases of ditch construction running north/west to south/east. One particular clay loam deposit was considered as a possible beam post feature, as it did appear to run parallel to the flint wall in the south trench.

The geophysics shows another similar linear shape further north, which was considered to be another possible wall. This feature is about 10 metres further north and would if found to be a wall be outside the new feature now considered to be the north boundary ditch.

Below the flint surface is the clay loam and below this is the layer of daub and charcoal. This lower layer has produced some interesting finds and is obviously associated with some activety. It appears to be focused around a large elongated pit filled with charcoal. The surface has produced a good number of oyster shells. At present the charcoal pit is considered as being some form of oven, with the charcoal being raked out from the central hearth. It may be a charcoal burning pit. The area is divided in two unequal sections with a later gully running between them. The purpose of this gully is unknown at present.

Below this surface and cut into the natural chalk are yet more post holes and gullies. One large gully running east/west was also recorded in the 2014 excavations located in the section cut through the earthwork. This gully continues in the south trench and terminates on the west side of a large post hole. The gully and post holes are almost certainly associated with the other numerous post holes found earlier. Hopefully some identification of a structure may be forthcoming soon. One interesting observation was that the well defined gully running north/south through the south trench was not revealed in the north trench, so that feature must terminate somewhere under baulk.

Perhaps the most intriguing feature this season was the finding of a second well. The first was found further south in 2003 and recorded. They are both of similar construction having an inner layer constructed of large flint nodules, and an outer wooden wall. The new well is a very complex feature with a number of facets. The north side has a wall constructed of large chalk blocks, originally considered to be a buttress for the north end of the flint wall. The chalk wall is built on a surface cut into the natural chalk. The south side of the wall is on the north edge of the deeper well and the flint wall running up from the south respects the south side of the well. The layer between them, and over the well itself, is a mixture of fills and rubble. One clay loam section could be associated with the beam post ditch running from the west, mentioned earlier. Evidence for the remains of the well did protrude above the natural chalk

On the north and east side of the earthworks the paucity of finds tends to confirm that other than dumping of rubble and soil there was very little activity. This is also reflected in the scarce finds from the north east/section of the excavation. The lack of any archaeology was also noted in the north boundary ditch. The north boundary ditch did contain two distinct fills, one of loam and the other rubble, probably associated
with the digging of the Southern Water trench. Both of the layer were sieved completely and despite this very few finds were forthcoming, which is unusual as ditches were frequently used a rubbish dumps in antiquity. The north east corner revealed some post holes, but too few to suggest any structures.

A new ditch was revealed in the north east area and this was anticipated as a linear feature had been recorded in the geophysical survey. However, the high resistance reading in the survey really indicted a wall rather than a ditch? The ditch is quite small in width and was vertical sided and flat bottomed. It is possible that it is a beam slot ditch linking the east boundary to the wide north boundary ditch. The east side of this small ditch was severely eroded on the east side suggesting the digging away of the side possibly to ease the removal of any remaining timbers. This idea is only conjecture and cannot be proven.

In the south west corner of the north east trench there was a noticeable amount of fire-cracked flint found and this concentration continues on the other side of the dividing baulk between the north/east and south/east trenches. Although the south east trench was only tentatively used this season as digging extension it did produce a concentration of finds which included pottery, with a number of green glazed wares, bone fragments and marine shell. At present there are no features visible and

while theories abound it is much too early to suggest that it is the location of the medieval kitchen. The proximity of this find collection to the well location does give the possibility some credence, but more finds and a nice oven or hearth could confirm this tentative supposition.

It is interesting that the site at Ovingdean has two wells. It is possible that one was somehow tainted, but equally there is the possibility that the north well is associated with a kitchen while the south well, located nearer to the house, was solely for the use of the owner.

The most intriguing features revealed were cut into the natural chalk and were a number of striations showing that at some the field at Hog Croft had been ploughed. The plough marks run from north/east to south/west and must be the earliest features on the site. They are located immediately north of the numerous post holes, and did not appear in the south trench among the post holes or gullies.

There were 4 new post holes found in the north trench and only one could be aligned to post holes in the south trench. The most westerly post hole in he north trench could not be aligned with any other post holes as these would be located in an unexcavated area to the west of the existing excavations.

It is now possible to start creating a chronological sequence for the finds and features at Ovingdean. The earliest finds have been flint flakes but these are few and randomly deposited all over the excavated site. There is certainly no evidence for any prehistoric activity at Hog Croft field Ovingdean, but there were flint and fire-cracked flint concentrations in the fields to the south of Ovingdean church. An Iron Age enclosure ditch is also recorded from the field immediately south of the cemetery wall.

There have been a number of sherds of Roman pottery but similarly to the flint work they are too few in number, and are spread over different areas. It is likely they these few fragments of pottery have travelled northwards from a possible Roman or Iron Age enclosure observed on Google Earth. It is possible that the plough marks could be associated with prehistoric farming, but there is no supportive evidence.

The collection of post holes, gullies and pits does strongly suggest that a Saxon village may have existed in Hog Croft field, and the plough marks could equally be associated with this period. It is also possible that the large north boundary ditch could also be Saxon, but the lack of dateable finds makes it difficult to prove. The new excavations revealed a few more post holes but too few to clearly establish a pattern suggestive of Saxon buildings. The well could have been constructed in the Saxon period but again there is a lack of dateable evidence. The finds from the well fills tend to suggest a medieval date for at least its back filling.

The well is an interesting collection of features. There is the wall of chalk blocks on the north side and the flint wall on the south. It is possible that these were linked by some missing archaeology, possibly a wooden structure that could have drawn water from the well. It is well known that medieval innovation could provide all manner of contraptions and devices. Another possibility is that the flint wall is not a wall at all

but a metalled trackway, to allow ease of access for a cart or contraption when back filling the well, but the wall is really too substantial for that purpose.

There is a good chronological sequence in the south trench and associated features in the north/west corner of the north trench. The large chalk mound, effectively the north boundary of the medieval enclosure, was created by the deposit of large chalk nodules almost certainly drawn from the quarry at Cattle Hill. The chalk dump sealed the clay loam below. This deposit in turn lay above the curious pit and its surrounding area of charcoal and daub. It is obvious that some ancient activity was being undertaken, possibly charcoal burning. This activity sealed a whole series of features below with gullies and post holes being covered over and hidden by the later activities.

We cannot be certain about the events in Hog Croft field. Was there a small Saxon village in Hog Croft field? And was it removed after the Norman conquest? Local historian John Davies has suggested that the lands to the west of Greenways lane transferred into Norman ownership, while those to the east remained in Saxon hands. Was it at this period that the village was abandoned or removed, readily or by force? Hog Croft field still has many secrets, and the revealing of more features and finds may provide evidence for a more detailed appraisal of what happened during those turbulent times. Hopefully the 2017 season of excavations may come up with some answers to the many questions being asked.

Rough Chronological Sequence

- Neolithic and Bronze Age - Presence indicated by flintwork
- Iron Age - An enclosure boundary ditch found in the field south of the church.
- Roman - Pottery found in small amounts, possibly from an enclosure further down the valley.
- Saxon - Timber framed buildings in Hog Croft field north of Saxon church?
- Medieval - Earthwork created and possible revetment
- Medieval - Buildings constructed dated up to the 13th century
- Abandonment - of the site by at least the 14th century
- Stuart, Georgian and Victorian periods – The use of the house cellar as a rubbish dump.
- Victorian Period – Use of Hog Croft field and Cattle Hill for military manoeuvres
- 20th Century – Use of the field for village events, and as a maternity field for young cows. Loss of the village pond by Southern Water cutting through the protective lining.

John Funnell 4th September 2017

Excavation of a Test Pit at Preston Manor, Brighton

(TQ 30400630)

A Project organised by Brighton Museum and Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society

By

Lisa Jayne Fisher
Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society
June 2016

SUMMARY

On 28th May 2016 the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society were invited by Brighton Museum to excavate a small test pit in the grounds of Preston Manor, in Brighton, East Sussex. A test pit 2.0m x 3.5m wide was excavated by hand to a total depth of 400mm.

No features were uncovered but a surprisingly wide range of dateable finds were recovered from the topsoil. The artefact collection spanned the prehistoric period , represented by five worked flint flakes, to the present day and included a single sherd of 13th century green glazed pottery. Given the small scale of the trench it is considered that it was successful in the meeting the aims.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 As part of a proposed Open Day event at Preston Manor in Preston Drove, Hove, Brighton, BN1 6SD, Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society (BHAS) were asked by Brighton Museum to conduct the excavation of a small test pit within the grounds of the Manor, centred on TQ 30314 06386.

1.2 As well as providing potentially useful archaeological information the project encouraged public access to archaeology.

1.3 The test pit investigated land adjacent to the manor house which is currently in use as a garden (Fig. 2).

1.4 The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 scale geological mapping (BGS 2015) shows the Site lies over Upper to Middle Chalk with Quaternary head deposits in the valley bottom. The west side of Preston Park drops down to the Wellesbourne Stream, a feature that is now running below ground level.

1.5 The excavation was part of Brighton Museum's open day held at Preston Manor and Preston Park and forming part of the Museum's and the Society's outreach programmes.

1.6 All work was carried out in accordance with the Sussex Standards for Archaeological Field work (2015) as well as the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014).

1.7 The excavation was carried out on Saturday 28th May 2016 and supervised by Lisa Fisher.

2.0 Archaeological Background

2.1 Preston Manor dates back to the medieval period and the church is mentioned in Domesday (1086). About 500 m to the South of Preston Park is the site of a 1st century AD Roman villa.

2.2 The following information is taken from a Desk-Based Assessment using information from the Historic Environment Record (HER) by Brighton University for a geophysical survey conducted in Preston Park in 2015, and has been reproduced with their permission.

2.3 Little is currently known of pre-Neolithic occupation in the vicinity of the Park but a single Mesolithic scraper was found at 26 Stanford Avenue.

2.4 Numerous flint implements of Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date were recovered from the former fields opposite the Booth Museum (now Dyke Road Park and the site of the Brighton Hove and Sussex Sixth Form College buildings and playing fields). These included fragments of three polished axes and four chipped axes, hammerstones, choppers, cores, worked flakes and scrapers, (TQ 30030571) (TQ 30020556) (TQ 30250556).

2.5 A long mound interpreted as a possible long barrow formerly stood at the junction between Preston Drove and Havelock Road. Orientated east-west its dimensions are estimated to have been 80m long, 10m wide and 3.5-4.5 m high. Scattered human bones were reportedly found when it was levelled c1891-2.

2.6 A bronze hoard weighing about 50kg was found to the south west of the Park at Highdown Road, Hove, and destroyed.

2.7 There is no evidence for Iron Age activity recorded on the HER in the immediate vicinity of the park.

2.8 Significant evidence for Romano-British occupation has been found c.50m south of the southern gate of Preston Park. Here the remains of a Roman corridor type villa comprising foundations, walls and pavements were found during building work in 1877 under the gardens of 94 and 96 Preston Road, and 1 Springfield Road, (TQ 30930573). The villa appears to have been constructed in the 2nd century and destroyed by fire soon after 270AD.

2.9 A beaten clay floor and a considerable number of Romano-British tiles were found at 10 Springfield Road in 1878 (TQ 30980568).

2.10 An oval grave with a cinerary urn containing burnt bones, and several pottery vessels of late 2nd or early 3rd century date were found about 35m east of the villa at 5 Springfield Road in 1877 (TQ 30960574).

2.11 A second cinerary urn was found approximately 55m SW of the villa at 115 Preston Road in 1880 (TQ 30850571).

2.12 The construction of Springfield Road in 1876 led to the discovery of six or seven Romano-British pits containing pottery, glass and two coins of Hadrian and Lucilla. Two partial skeletons were also found in the pits.

2.13 A coin of Otacilia, c.AD 248, was found in 1909 on the site of what was then the Duke of York's Theatre (now a cinema), Preston Circus (TQ 31180549).

2.14 A coin of Arcadius (AD 395-408) was found at Bates Road allotment gardens (now flats), to the north of Preston Park.

2.15 Unspecified Roman finds have been recovered from the 'Rookery' across the London Road to the west of the Park.

2.16 Evidence for an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery has been recovered on higher ground to the west of the site. The cemetery extends between Dyke Road, Stanford Road, Port Hall Road, and the old Shoreham Road and was discovered in 1883-4.

2.17 The village of Preston is located immediately north-west of the site. Thought to be of 9th or 10th century origin, Preston is valued in the Domesday survey at £25, with 12 ploughs, a church, the manor house and an unspecified mill.

2.18 A manor house (Preston Manor) was built c.1250, but was substantially rebuilt in 1738. In 1905 the house was altered and enlarged to designs by Charles Stanley Peach. The building is of stucco with Welsh slate roof.

2.19 St. Peter's Church immediately north of the park was built in the 13th century. The nave was heavily restored in 1872 by James Woodman with the rebuilding of the north porch and addition of the south vestry; further restoration of the nave occurred in 1906-7 after it was gutted by fire.

3.0 Aims and Objectives

3.1 The excavation did not target any particular feature and was conducted as a demonstration exercise. This forms part of a wider project using geophysical and other techniques to investigate gardens and other green spaces in Brighton being conducted by Brighton Museums, Brighton University and BHAS.

3.2 This was a Society exercise to demonstrate to the public how excavations are conducted and to enable wider community engagement by discussion about the archaeological heritage within Brighton and the wider vicinity. It was also hoped that new recruits would also be encouraged to join.

4.0 Methodology

4.1 The test pit measured 1.0m N-S x 3.5m E-W and was situated within the previously disturbed gardens to the East of the house and beyond the grade II listed boundary walls. All excavation was conducted by use of hand tools.

4.2 The test pit was laid out using hand tapes and the exact position of the area has been located on a sketch plan by means of triangulation (Fig.1).

4.3 The demonstration excavation took place within a fenced area (Fig.2). The weather was stormy at times with torrential rain but the trench was protected by a waterproof gazebo.

4.4 Initially the turf was stripped to a depth of approximately 100mm and placed back to back nearby.

4.5 Excavation began by hand in controlled spits by trowelling (Fig.3) and extended to a maximum depth of 400mm (Fig.4) in two small sondages but on average reached 200mm below ground levels (Fig.5).

4.6 Finds were bagged up according to context number.

4.7 The site code was PMB16.

4.8 The finds were subjected to minimal post excavation analysis, as they were retrieved from the topsoil context only. Finds will remain the property of Brighton Museums.

4.9 Two sondages were excavated in opposing corners to test the depths of the topsoil but this continued for at least 400mm in depth and was not fully excavated. The NW corner sondage measured 380mm N-S and 430mm E-W and the SE corner sondage measured 380mm N-S and 430mm E-W.

5.0 Results

5.1 Only one context was encountered during the excavation, which was topsoil (1), a loose to firm dark brown silty clay with <10% small, brown water-worn pebbles <15mm in size. Also present was <2% sub-angular of-white to grey flint <30mm in size.

6.0 Finds from the excavation by John Funnell

6.1 Flintwork
In total there were 5 Flint flakes recovered weighing 22g. : 1 blue, 3 black and 1 grey patinated, probably of late Neolithic to early Bronze Age date, and a total of 3 Fire cracked flints weighing 35g.

6.2 Medieval ceramics
Just one sherd of abraded 13th Century Green glazed pottery was recovered from the trench which weighed 6g.

6.3 Animal Bone
There were 5 fragments of bone in total, weighing 7g, which included 2 unidentifiable fragments, one long bone fragment and a rib fragment probably from a sheep or lamb.

6.4 Late post-medieval ceramics
In total there were 78 sherds of later pottery weighing 225g which span the 19th-20th century. 6 sherds of Victorian ceramics were present which represents 7% of the total assemblage and includes 4 white ware sherds, 1 iron glazed sherd and 1 sherd of dark brown iron glazed Keymer ware. There were 72 sherds of 20th century ceramics which represented 93% of the assemblage and consisted of 1 black sherd, 1 blue sherd plus 4 fragments of stoneware and 66 pieces of flowerpot.

6.5 Ceramic building material
Just 5 fragments of modern ceramic roofing tile weighing 39g were recovered plus 16 fragments of brick weighing 50g.

6.6 Glass
42 pieces of glass in total were recovered from the excavations, weighing 75g as follows: 23 clear, 4 brown, 1 green, 11 Opaque, 2 black and 1 unknown, 8 of these were decorated. The glass sherds were a mixture of abraded and fresh. There were 3 pieces of brown glass decorated with a number of lines of dots, possibly all from the

same vessel. One green sherd was decorated with a single line of dots. The clear glass sherds all had horizontal lines. One vessel had a single line and the other three had two lines. The shape and depth of each design clearly showed that they were from different vessels.

6.7 Metal

In total there were 10 iron nails of various sizes plus 1 unidentified fragment of metal , 1 copper alloy 8mm shell case and a small unidentified object of copper alloy.

6.8 Miscellaneous

1 fossil of a cockle
1 piece of concrete
27 pieces of coal/coke
3 pieces of roofing slate, colour dark blue

7.0 Interpretation of results

A general mixed garden soil was excavated as might be expected. A surprisingly high amount of finds were retrieved from the trench which gave a wide date spanning the prehistoric period through to the medieval period and the present day.

8.0 Conclusions

The excavation was success in meeting the aims and objectives and proved that some form of domestic activity was occurring at Preston Manor during the prehistoric period, but this may well have been intrusive and the result of deposition within the locale from the naturally occurring alluvial silts within this valley bottom. During the medieval period, more activity has been proven by the recovery of a single sherd of 13th century pottery.

9.0 Archive

Copies of the report will be passed to the County Archaeologist and will be included in the 2016 BHAS Field Notebook, which will be deposited at the East Sussex County Records Office at the Keep, and the Barbican House Library at Lewes.

10.0 Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to the staff at Preston Manor and Brighton Museum for allowing BHAS to conduct this work. Thanks are also due to Dr.Jamie Kaminski from Brighton University for allowing us to use the archaeological background data. Thanks to all the volunteers who turned up on the day in torrential conditions to excavate keenly and thanks to John Skelton and John Funnell for laying out the trench and de-turfing prior to excavation.

References:-

ClfA 2014, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey
ClfA, Code of Conduct
WSCC, ESCC and CDC 2015 Sussex Archaeological Standards
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Funnell J. 1999 ' Preston Manor South Side' — Geophysics — BHAS Field notebook 1999

Fig. 1 Preston Manor with proposed area of excavation in garden shown in red.

Fig.2 The Site location and trench under excavation

Fig.3 Hand excavation by members extended to approximately 200mm in depth

Fig.4 The trench at the end of the day shot facing west (Scales 1m)

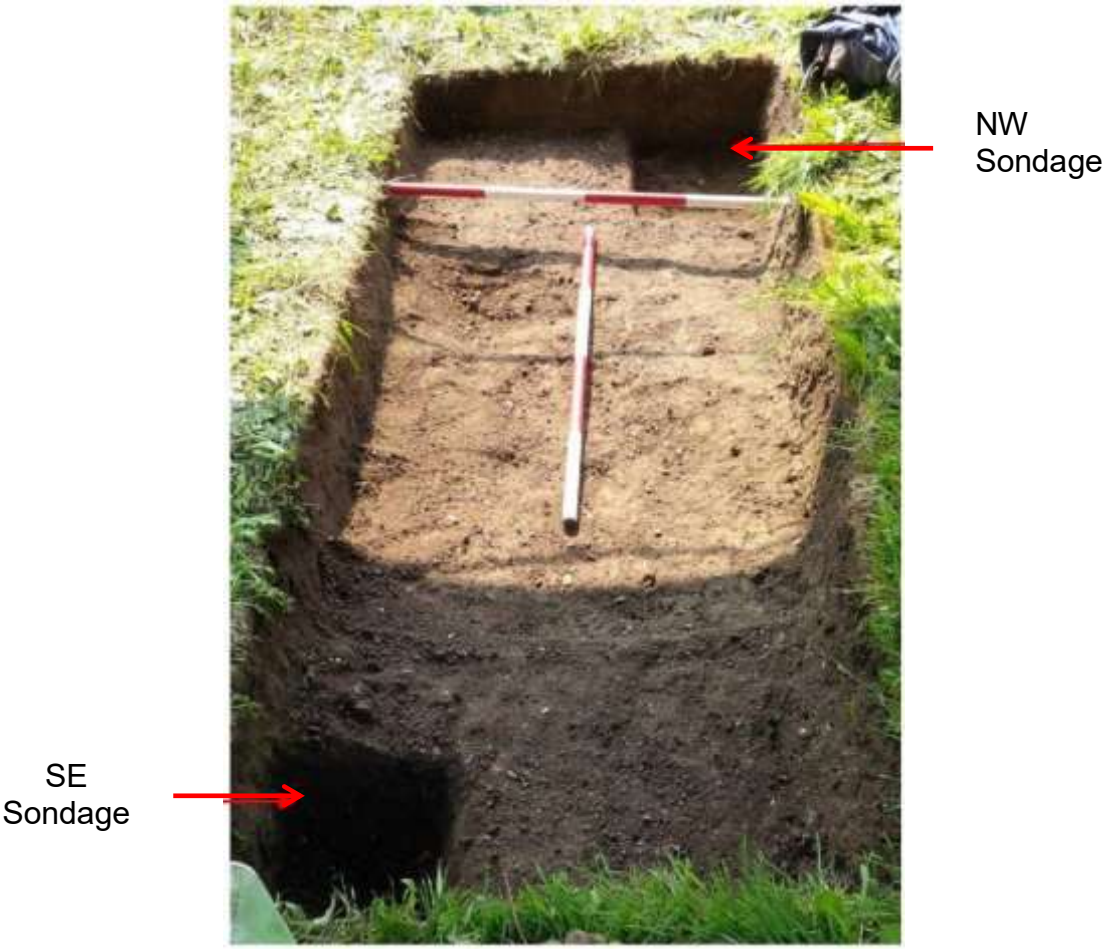

Fig.5 Sondage in SE corner extended to 400mm depth (scales 50cm) shot facing east

Site Code.	**PM16**
Site identification and address	Preston Manor, Preston Drove, Hove, Brighton, BN1 6SD
County, district and / or borough	East Sussex, Brighton
O.S. grid ref.	**TQ** 30314 06386
Geology.	Upper to Middle Chalk
Project number.	**–**
Fieldwork type.	Demonstration test pit
Site type.	Garden to rear of property
Date of fieldwork.	28th May 2016
Sponsor/client.	Brighton Museum
Project manager.	John Funnell/John Skelton
Project supervisor.	Lisa Fisher
Period summary	Prehistoric to present day
Project summary. **(100 word max)**	On 28th May 2016 the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society were invited by Brighton Museum to excavate a small test pit in the grounds of Preston Manor, in Brighton, East Sussex. A test pit 1.0m x 3.5m wide was excavated by hand to a total depth 1 400mm. No features were uncovered but a surprisingly wide range of dateable fmds were recovered from the topsoil. The artefact collection spanned the prehistoric period , represented by five worked flint flakes, to the present day and included a single sherd of 13th century green glazed pottery. Given the small scale of the trench it is considered that it was successful in the meeting the aims

Excavation of a Test Pit within the grounds of the Royal Pavilion, Brighton

(TQ 31250420)

A Project organised by Brighton Museum and Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society

BHAS members (from left to right) Janice, Mary, Margaret, Lisa and mascot Jasper Drewett)

By

Lisa Jayne Fisher
Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society

July 2016

SUMMARY

On 16th July 2016 the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society (BHAS) were invited by Brighton Museum to excavate a small test pit within the grounds of The Royal Pavilion, in Brighton, East Sussex. A test pit 2.5m long x 1.0m wide was excavated by hand to a total depth of 250mm.

No features were uncovered but a surprisingly high amount of dateable finds were recovered from the topsoil. The artefact collection spans the 18th century to the present day, represented by a small amount of Late Georgian pottery, and dated 21st century coins. The biggest surprise was the recovery of over 2KG of fragmented clay pigeon targets, along with the plastic liners from shotgun cartridges that probably found their way into the garden through imported soil or manure. Given the small scale of the trench it is considered that it was successful in the meeting the aims.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 As part of the Open Day event at the Royal Pavilion in Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society (BHAS) were asked by Brighton Museum to conduct the excavation of a small test pit within the grounds of The Royal Pavilion,4/5 Pavilion Buildings, Brighton BN1 1EE, centred on TQ 31250420

1.2 As well as providing archaeological information the project encouraged public access to archaeology.

1.3 The test pit investigated land adjacent to the Palace which is currently in use as part of the publicly accessible gardens but avoiding areas of earlier buildings (Fig. 1).This was located north of the pavilion building and north of the tunnel that runs from the Royal Pavilion to the museum (Fig 2).

1.4 The excavation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which was prepared in advance and agreed with the ESCC Archaeology Team (Funnell, J.; Maxted, A.; Redford, F.; Skelton, J., and Tolhurst, P., July 2016. Resistivity Survey and Demonstration Excavation at The Royal Pavilion Brighton. A Project organised by Brighton Museum and Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society).

1.5 The Site lies in an area of flat land in the Old Steine Gardens in Brighton, which once formed part of the route of the Wellesbourne stream which is currently diverted and runs below ground. The stream still outlets into the sea.

1.6 The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 scale geological mapping (BGS 2015) shows the Site lies over Upper to Middle Chalk, covered by alluvial deposits from the Wellesbourne Stream, a feature that is now running below ground level.

1.7 The excavation was part of Brighton Museum's open day held at Brighton Museum and Royal Pavilion and forming part of the Museum's and the Society's outreach programmes.

1.8 All work was carried out in accordance with the Sussex Standards for Archaeological Field work (2015) as well as the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014).

1.9 The excavation was carried out on Saturday 16th July 2016 and supervised by Lisa Fisher.

2.0 Archaeological and Historical Background (sections 2.2 – 2.9 are taken from the Palace web-site; http://brightonmuseums.org.uk/royalpavilion/history/history-of-the-royal-pavilion/)

2.1 The Royal Pavilion was built during the latter part of the 18th century and the early part of the 19th century. Earlier buildings are known to have existed prior to that time (Fig 1.) A number of Roman coins have been found along the path of the Wellesbourne stream.

2.2 In the mid 1780s George, Prince of Wales, rented a small lodging house overlooking a fashionable promenade in Brighton. Brighton was developing from a decayed fishing town to an established seaside retreat for the rich and famous, being close to London. The prince had been advised by his physicians to benefit from Brighton's fortunate climate and to try out the sea water treatments, which included 'dipping' (total body immersion into the salt sea water).

2.3 George hired architect Henry Holland to transform his Brighton lodging house into a modest villa which became known as the Marine Pavilion. With his love of visual arts and fascination with the mythical orient, George set about lavishly furnishing and decorating his seaside home. He especially chose Chinese export furniture and objects, and hand-painted Chinese wallpapers. In 1808 the new stable complex was completed with an impressive lead and glass-domed roof, providing stabling for 62 horses. Brighton Museum is now within this building.

2.4 In 1815, George commissioned John Nash to begin the transformation from modest villa into the magnificent oriental palace that we see today.

2.5 This stage of the construction took a number of years. Nash superimposed a cast iron frame onto Holland's earlier construction to support a magnificent vista of minarets, domes and pinnacles on the exterior. And no expense was spared on the interior with many rooms, galleries and corridors being carefully decorated with opulent decoration and exquisite furnishings. George became king in 1820. However, due to increased responsibilities and ill-health, once the interior of the Royal Pavilion was finally finished in 1823 he made only two further visits (in 1824 and 1827).

2.6 William IV was a popular and affable king and continued to visit Brighton and stay at the Royal Pavilion. As George IV had become reclusive towards the end of his life, the people of Brighton were reassured by William's visibility and openness. However, the Royal Pavilion's accommodation was not suitable for a married sovereign and extra room had to be found for Queen Adelaide's extensive household. Further buildings were added to the Pavilion estate, virtually all of which have since been demolished.

2.7 King William IV died in 1837 and was succeeded on the throne by his niece Victoria.

2.8 As her family grew and the Royal Pavilion failed to provide her with the space and privacy she needed, she finally sold her uncle's pleasure palace to the town of Brighton for £50,000 in 1850. As it was thought the building would be demolished, she ordered the building to be stripped of all its interior decorations, fittings and furnishings, for use in other royal homes.

2.9 From 1851 to the 1920s the admission fee to the Royal Pavilion was sixpence. At this time the Royal Pavilion was also used as a venue for many different events and functions from fetes, bazaars, and shows to balls, exhibitions and conferences. The Royal Pavilion Gardens were opened up and made accessible to both residents and visitors.

2.10 During the First World War a number of buildings were constructed in the grounds when the Royal Pavilion was being used as a hospital for the wounded from the front in France.

3.0 Aims and Objectives

3.1 The excavation did not target any particular feature and was conducted as a demonstration exercise. This forms part of a wider project using geophysical and other techniques to investigate gardens and other green spaces in Brighton being conducted by Brighton Museums, Brighton University and BHAS.

3.2 This was a Society exercise to demonstrate to the public how excavations are conducted and to enable wider community engagement by discussion about the archaeological heritage within Brighton and the wider vicinity. It was also hoped that new recruits would also be encouraged to join.

4.0 Methodology

4.1 The test pit measured 1.0m N-S x 2.5m E-W and was situated within the previously disturbed gardens to the East of the house and beyond the grade II listed boundary walls. All excavation was conducted by use of hand tools.

4.2 The test pit was laid out using hand tapes and the exact position of the area has been located on a sketch plan by means of triangulation (Fig.2).

4.3 The demonstration excavation took place within a fenced area (Fig.3) and there was no public participation (See risk assessment, appendix 2.)The weather was extremely hot and sunny throughout the duration of the day.

4.4 Initially the turf was stripped to a depth of approximately 100mm and placed back to back nearby.

4.5 Excavation began by hand in controlled spits by trowelling and extended to a maximum depth of 250mm in two small sondages but on average reached 200mm below ground levels (Fig.4).

4.6 Finds were bagged up according to context number.

4.7 The site code was RPB16.

4.8 The finds were subjected to minimal post excavation analysis, as they were retrieved from the topsoil context only. Finds will remain the property of Brighton Museums.

4.9 Two sondages were excavated in opposing corners to test the depths of the topsoil and this continued for at least 250mm below ground but was not fully excavated. The south-east sondage measured 370mm N-S and 220mm E-W (Fig.5) and the south-west sondage measured 360mm N-S and 400mm E-W (Fig.6). Exact locations for the sondages as well as the trench position have been measured and sketched onto the context sheets which will be retained in the archive. The trench was measured using triangulation from the piers of the main museum porch.

5.0 Results

5.1 Three contexts were encountered during the excavation, which was the turf (1), with topsoil (2) directly below and (3), a slightly different topsoil on the west side of the trench.

5.2 The turf was a firm, dark-medium brown clayey silt which was stone free and <50mm thick. Directly below this were two different contexts: (2) on the east side of the trench and (3) on the west side.

5.3 Context (2) extended across the trench for approximately 900mm east-west from the far western boundary. This may have been a former flower bed. This was a firm to loose medium brown, clayey silt with <8% water worn brown, grey and white flints <70mm in size with <5% small flecks of chalk <20mm. The full extent was not excavated and a small sondage proved this layer to be a minimum of 150mm thick. It contained small fragments of clay pigeon targets.

5.4 Context (3) was adjacent to (2) gradually appearing at approximately 900mm east of the far western edge of the trench. This was a firm, mid-yellowish brown silty clay which was stone free and a minimum of 200mm thick, containing a large amount of fragmented clay pigeon targets (or target clays) within. A small sondage was excavated in this corner to a total depth of 250mm below ground,

which proved that a thick layer of target clays were present as a lens in the top of (3). The soil below was exactly the same but contained few target clays, excepting a small amount of worm sorted pieces. This may suggest that the lens of target clays was *in-situ* rather than re-deposited. However this was still topsoil and was not fully excavated.

6.0 Finds from the excavation (Table 1 in appendix)

6.1 Late post-medieval ceramics

There were eleven sherds of pottery recovered from the trench weighing 47g. The majority of these (81%) were earthenware flowerpot sherds from contexts (2) and (3) and all likely 19th century to 20th century in date. The earliest pieces came from (2) which were a single sherd of cream ware (5g), possibly the flat rim of a chamber pot and a single sherd of blue and white transfer printed pottery (less than 5g) which was too small to identify the pattern. Both of these sherds date to the late 18th century to early 19th century and were very crazed and abraded.

6.2 Animal Bone

There were three fragments of bone in total, weighing 3g. A single animal tooth was recovered from (2) which was probably from a sheep. Two bone fragments from (3) were unidentifiable and very small.

6.3 The Metalwork

Six pieces of metalwork weighing 29g were recovered from all contexts. A single 20p coin dating to 2006 was recovered from (1), a single round headed iron nail from (2) and four 20th century coins were recovered from (3), dating between 1989 and 2002.

6.4 Ceramic building material

Nineteen fragments of abraded CBM weighing 297g were recovered from all contexts. A larger piece from (2) had a marly but fine fabric with lime mortar applied to all surfaces, even though it was a fragmented brick. It was mostly oxidized apart from the marl streaks, with occasional ironstone inclusions and may be 19th century or earlier in date. A larger piece from (3) had burnt out inclusions within with occasional (rare) piece of shell inclusions, one piece of burnt flint and some chalk. This was very abraded and could be 19th century or earlier.

6.5 Marine Shell

Only five fragments were recovered, all from (3) which consisted of four fragments of very fragmented Oyster (*Ostrea Edulis L.)* weighing 17g and one tiny fragment of mussel (*Mytilus edulis*).

6.6 Glass

Five fragments of glass were recovered (3g) from contexts (2) and (3), which were all sherds of thin, 20th century window glass, all fairly fresh apart from one piece from (2) which was slightly patinated and may be 19th century.

6.7 Clay Pigeon Targets (Fig.7)

In total there were over one hundred and twenty tiny fragments of clay pigeon targets, weighing just over 2kg. Sixteen (25g) came from (1), eleven (15g) from (2) and the majority (over 100) from (3) weighing 1.96kg. The types of clays varied; some had ridged sides and others were plain and flat sided and one had traces of fluorescent orange paint on. Some had raised trade names on as follows: 'ATION'; 'TIONAL'; 'H TARGE'; 'TIO'; LEICE'; 'INTERNA'; '49' and 'C'. From this evidence it is clear that some of these targets were 'CCI International Targets'. These have been made since 1982, with the standard targets being 110mm diameter (http://www.cci-international.com/HomePageBoxes/clay-targets). Some of the fragments had a world symbol on them with large C letters and these are a definite match. One of them, which was a slightly larger piece measured 110mm diameter, which is a standard size with medium diameter usually 90mm and small being 60mm diameter. Such larger targets are usually 105g in weight so the assemblage would represent in the region of a minimum of twenty clays, but more if smaller targets are represented.

6.8 Plastic

There were 27 pieces of plastic weighing 107g from all contexts. The majority of these were plastic liners from the inside of shotgun cartridges which are thought to have been used from the 1960s onwards. Two came from (2) with twenty from (3) which mirrors the high percentage of clays from (3).

6.9 Miscellaneous

Just one piece of fire-cracked flint came from (3) which cannot be dated; four fragments of slate from (2) and (3) are likely to be late 19th or early 20th century in date; two pieces of burnt coal/shale came from (3), as did a small fossilized shell (Oyster?).

7.0 Interpretation of results

A general mixed garden soil was excavated as might be expected. A surprisingly high amount of finds were retrieved from the trench which gave a narrow date, mostly dating to the 20th century, but with a background spread of a few artefacts dating from the 18th century, which were few in number. The high amount of activity relating to clay pigeon shooting is perplexing; it may well be that such activity occurred during the war years when tourism at the Pavilion was not an option but the recovery of plastic shotgun liners dating from the 1960s onwards would not back this theory up. It is possible that these fragments come from brought in soil used for the flowerbeds within the grounds, but it is not clear why that would be necessary. The grounds contain rich alluvial silty soils so it may be possible that the fragments came from farm manure but it does not explain the lens of clay targets with the same soil below.

8.0 Conclusions

The excavation was success in meeting the aims and objectives and proved that some form of leisure activity may have occurred at Brighton Pavilion during the middle of the 20th century, but this may well have been intrusive material and the result of deposition from further a field.

9.0 Archive

Copies of the report will be passed to the County Archaeologist and will be included in the 2016 BHAS Field Notebook, which will be deposited at the East Sussex County Records Office at the Keep, and the Barbican House Library at Lewes.

10.0 Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to the staff at The Royal Pavilion and Brighton Museum for allowing BHAS to conduct this work. Thanks to all the volunteers who turned up on the day to excavate keenly and thanks to the staff at Brighton Museum for providing refreshments. Thanks also to Mr Michael Winkworth who provided details of the standard sizes and weights of clay targets.

References:-

CIfA, Code of Conduct

WSCC, ESCC and CDC 2015 Sussex Archaeological Standards

Carder T. 1990 ‘The Encyclopaedia of Brighton’ East Sussex County Libraries

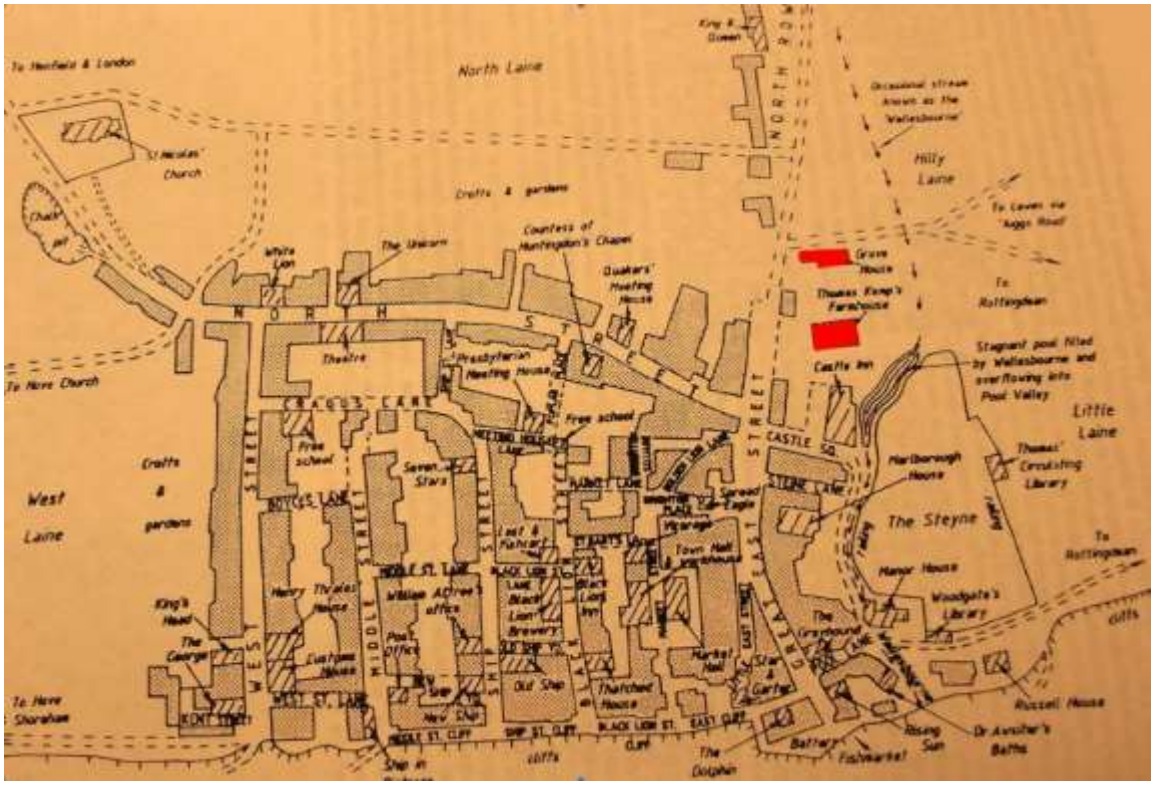

Fig. 1 Early Brighton showing earlier buildings(coded red) in the location of the Royal Pavilion (Carder)

Fig. 2 The Approximate Location of the Excavation (outlined red)

Fig.3 Area fenced off with public onlookers

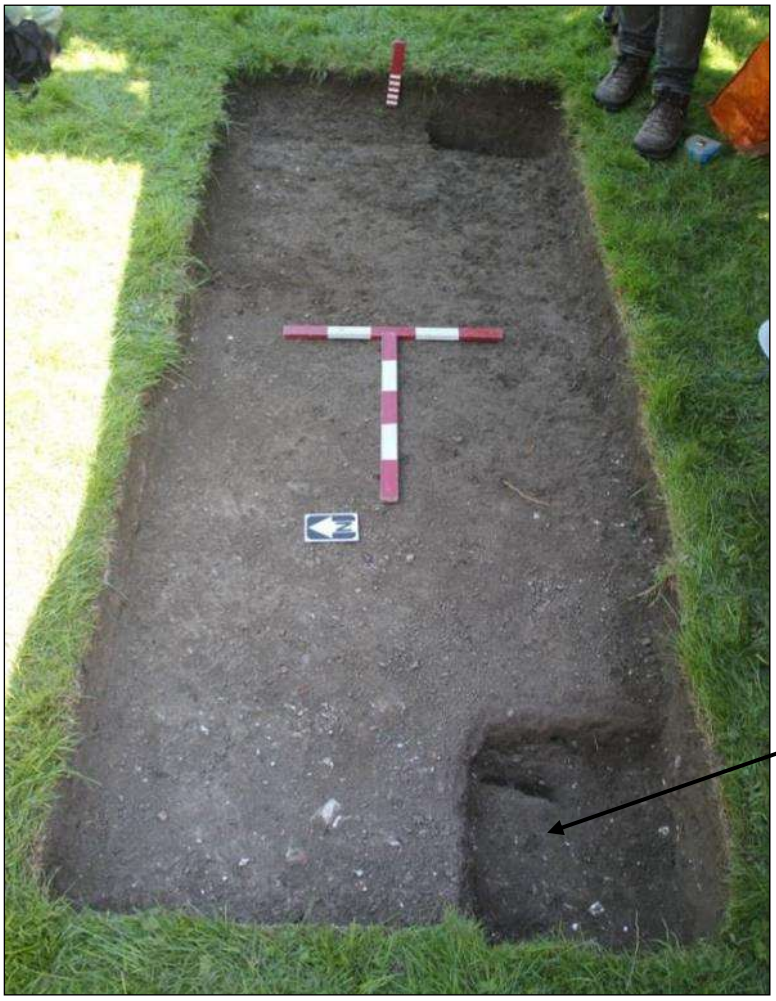

Fig.4 Trench overview at end of day (scales 50cm)

Fig.5. West facing section of SE sondage (scales 20cm and 50cm) stone-free (3) evident

Fig.6. North facing section of SW sondage (scales 20cm and 50cm) stonier context (2) evident

Fig.7 Selection of target clays (ruler in 10mm sections)

HER summary

Site Code.	RPB16
Site identification and address	The Royal Pavilion,4/5 Pavilion Buildings, Brighton BN1 1EE
County, district and / or borough	East Sussex, Brighton
O.S. grid ref.	TQ 31250420
Geology.	Alluvial deposits over Upper to Middle Chalk
Project number.	RPB16
Fieldwork type.	Demonstration test pit
Site type.	Gardens to rear of palace
Date of fieldwork.	16th July 2016
Sponsor/client.	Brighton Museum
Project manager.	John Funnell/John Skelton
Project supervisor.	Lisa Fisher
Period summary	18th century to present day
Project summary. (100 word max)	On 16th July 2016 the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society (BHAS) were invited by Brighton Museum to excavate a small test pit within the grounds of The Royal Pavilion, in Brighton, East Sussex. A test pit 2.5m long x 1.0m wide was excavated by hand to a total depth of 250mm. No features were uncovered but a surprisingly high amount of dateable finds were recovered from the topsoil. The artefact collection spans the 18th century to the present day, represented by a small amount of Late Georgian pottery, and dated 21st century coins. The biggest surprise was the recovery of over 2KG of fragmented clay pigeon targets, along with the plastic liners from shotgun cartridges that probably found their way into the garden through imported soil or manure. Given the small scale of the trench it is considered that it was successful in the meeting the aims.

Lisa Jayne Fisher
July 2016

Table 1 All finds from all contexts

Context		Number	Weight (g)	Sub-division	Date	Condition	Comments
	Pottery						
2		1	5	Refined earthen ware	18th-19th century	Very crazed	Flat wide rim of pot, possible chamber pot
2		3	15	Earthen ware	19th/E20th century	Fresh and abraded	One modern sherd and two more abraded
2		1	Less than 1g	Transfer printed	18th-19th century	Crazed refined earthenware, very small sherd	
3		6	27	Earthen ware	19th century	Fresh breaks but slightly abraded	3 rims present; all likely Victorian
Total		**11**	**47**				
	Metal						
1		1	5	Coin	2006	Slightly corroded	
2		1	6	Iron	20th century	Slightly corroded	Round headed nail
3		4	18	Coins	20th century	Slightly corroded	2 x 1p (1993 and 2002); 1 x 20p (1989); 1 x 10p (1992)
Total		**6**	**29**				
	Fire cracked flint						
3		1	5				
	Slate						
2		1	8		19th century?	Abraded	1 piece of purple
3		3	6		20th century?	Fresh	Very small thin grey fragment
Total		**4**	**14**				
	Bone						
2		1	3				Sheep tooth
3		2	Less than				Very small un-identifiable fragments
Total		**3**					
	Marine Shell						
3		4	17	Oyster		Abraded	Small fragments
3		1	Less than	Mussel		Abraded	Tiny fragment
Total		**5**	17				
	CBM						
1		1	26		19th/20th century?	Abraded	Small and un-diagnostic fragment
2		2	225		19th/20th century	Abraded	Larger piece is marly with lime mortar on all surfaces
3		16	46		19th century?	Highly abraded	Tiny abraded fragments
Total		**19**	**297**				
	Glass						
2		1	Less than		19th century	Patinated	Thin, flat window glass
3		4	3		20th century	Fresh mostly	Thin, flat window glass; just 1 fragment slightly patinated
Total		**5**	3				
	Clay pigeon targets						

1		16	25		20th century		Fragments of ridged sided and plain sided, no marks
2		11	15		20th century		Fragments of ridged sided and plain sided, no marks
3		Over 100	1,968		20th century		Fragments of ridged sided and plain sided, with marks
Total		**127 plus**	**2,008**				
	Plastic						
1		1	5		20th century		Fragment of flat black plastic; seed tray?
2		2	9		20th century		Shotgun cartridge liners
3		20	93		20th century		Shotgun cartridge liners and fragments thereof
3		3	Less than		20th century		Coca Cola (with orange) bottle lid
3		1	Less than		20th century		White plant label
Total		**27**	**107**				
	Miscellaneous						
3		2	10				Burnt coal/shale fragments
3		1	8				Shell fossil?
Total		**3**	**18**				

Excavations at 39 Old Shoreham Road, Brighton

Introduction

On September 16th 2016 a visit was made to the garden of 39 Old Shoreham Road, Brighton. The tenant had called the previous week saying that he had been digging a hole in his garden and had uncovered a wall and some pottery. A visit was made to the garden where the small excavation had taken place. The small hole was located in the south section of the garden. The excavation measured 1 metre in length and 40cms in width and was about 30cms deep.

The lower surface was quite hard but trowelling proved that it was not a wall but merely a compact soil layer below a layer of leaf and garden mould. The small excavation had revealed a number of large loose flints, some animal bones and a collection of Victorian or early 20th century pottery and ceramics.

The area was being dug to remove dandelion roots. The tenant of the house, named Steve, will be removing more dandelions and it was suggested that he call again if he finds anything else.

Conclusions

The garden is similar to many town gardens and full of rubbish deposited by previous owners or tenants. However, the garden is not too far from the Saxon burials found In Stafford Street so an interest in the area should be maintained. The tenant said that he would call the Society again in the spring when he will once again commence work on the garden.

John Funnell 16th September 2016

Geophysics at Preston Manor

Introduction

The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society were invited to conduct a resistivity survey at Preston Manor as part of an open day planned by the venue. The area to be surveyed was south of the manor garden complex (Fig 1.) A large magnetometry survey had been conducted over most of Preston Park the previous year by the Brighton University. There were a number of locations with too much metal to allow them to be surveyed using this equipment and so BHAS and their resistivity machine were asked to participate. During December of 2015 the BHAS team conducted a small survey just north of the Rotunda Café in an area once the site of the bowling greens. The report of this survey was published in the 2015 field notebook (FunnelI). The new area to be surveyed at the Preston Manor event was south of the manor complex and at the extreme north of Preston Park (TQ 30400630). The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society have previously conducted resistivity surveys in the grounds to the north of Preston Manor with some interesting reports (Funnell 1999).

Fig 1. The Area Surveyed south of Preston Manor (Google Earth).

The History

The current Preston Manor dates mainly to the 18th and 20th centuries, but its origins date back to the 13th century. There are the remains of a two roomed building of that date in the basement (Carder). During the 16th century the house belonged to the Bishops of Chichester. The Preston church dates to about 1250 and probably has associations with the manor. During the 19th century the north side of Preston Manor had major extensions for various purposes, and these were later demolished. There was also a gate house, also knocked down. Traces of some of these buildings were revealed during the 1999 survey. The west boundary wall of the church may also have been moved. In 1999 gardeners working at Preston Manor found human remains in the flower beds to the west of the church wall and it is possible that these are ancient burials, as the soil depth in the churchyard is almost 6 feet higher than on the Preston Manor lawns.

The Geology

The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 scale geological mapping (BGS 2015) shows the Site lies over Upper to Middle Chalk with Quaternary head deposits in the valley bottom. The west side of Preston Park drops down to the Wellesbourne Stream, a feature that is now running below ground level.

The Topography

A survey of Preston Park by Brighton museum concludes that much, if not most, of the park has been terraced and changed in recent times, probably during the Victorian era. There are some small pockets that appear to have not been touched by landscaping and the plot of land between a footpath running along the north side of Preston Park and the boundary wall of Preston Manor still appears to have a number of subtle landscape features. These may be small vestiges of ancient field systems, or features associated with the earlier phase of Preston Manor and St Peter's church, Preston.

The Resistivity Survey

The survey encompassed 4 grids each measuring 20 metres square. Some of the terrain included shrubs and flower beds that required some negotiating. The weather had been showery during the previous few weeks and on the day of the survey there was a thunderstorm and torrential rain for a short while. This may have affected the resulting images. The machine used was an RM15 resistivity machine, the lines were spaced at 1 metre apart and readings taken at 1 metre intervals. The measurements were in Ohms. The resulting images are shown in Fig 2. and Fig 3.

Conclusions

During the survey the machine appeared to have a functioning problem with the battery showing requiring charging. However, despite this anomaly, a number of images were produced. The results show a number of linear arrangements running in both east/west and north south alignments. Consultation was made with the software designer David Staveley. In his opinion the east/west features he regards as having archaeological potential, while the north/south linear features are probably from a misalignment of the grids during processing. Exactly what the features are can only be proven by excavation. The survey was in too small an area to obtain a good overall picture of what lies beneath the surface in this part of Preston Park.

The day was a useful exercise but mainly a PR application for Preston Manor, which allowed members of the public to have a go at surveying if they wished. There were a number of interested parties, but the poor weather curtailed too much activity.

Acknowledgements:-

The author would like to thank BHAS members Pete Tolhurst (team leader), Stefanie Freiling, Owen O'Donnell, Fran Briscoe and Linda Wright who set out and ran the survey, and to Andy Maxted, Paula Wrightson and Preston Manor Museum for allowing BHAS access to the lawns to conduct the survey.

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Funnell J.D. 1999 ' Preston Manor North Side – Geophysics 1999' *Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Notebook 1999*

Funnell J.D. 1999 'Preston Manor South side – Geophysics 1999' *Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Notebook 1999*

John Funnell 19th July 2016

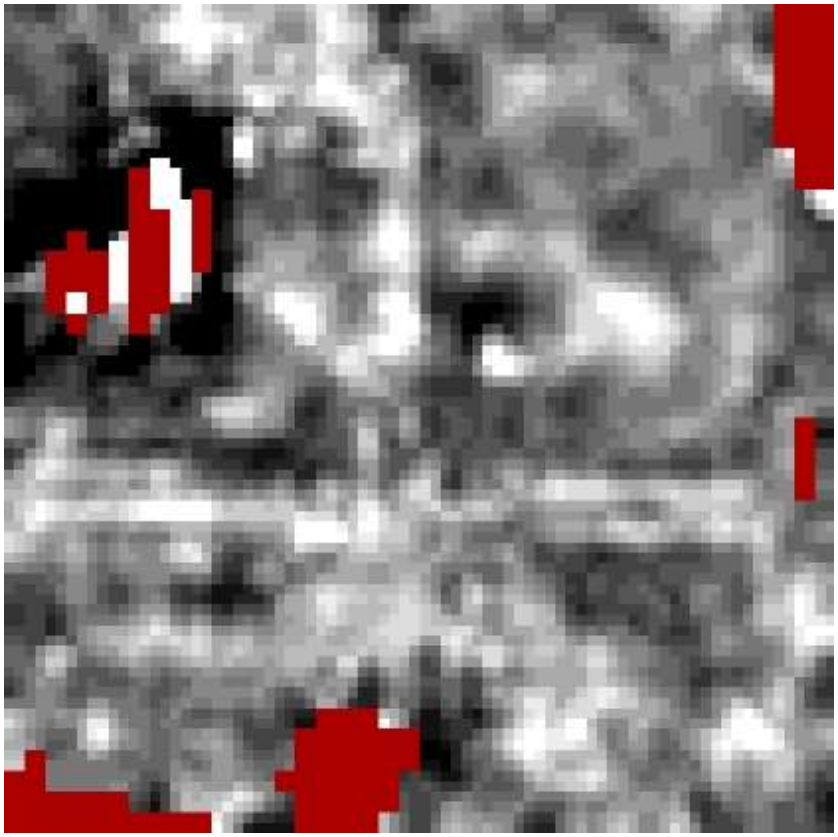

Fig 2. The Resitivity Survey at Preston Manor

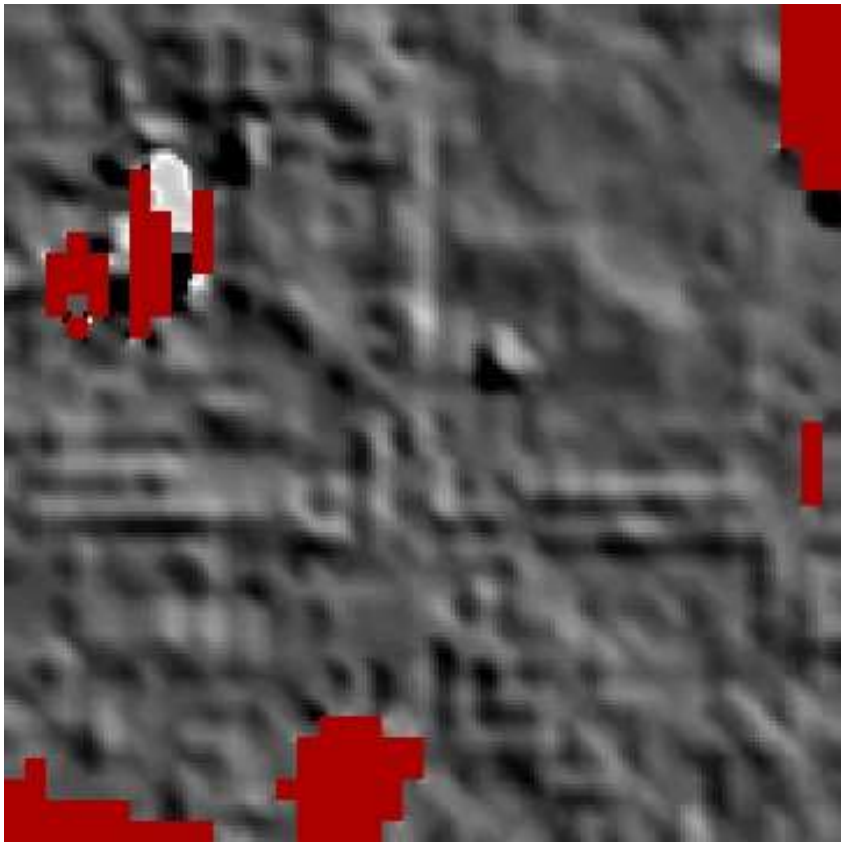

Fig 3. The Resistivity Survey at Preston Manor

Geophysics at the Royal Pavilion

Introduction

The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society were invited to conduct a resistivity survey at the Royal Pavilion as part of an Archaeology Heritage day planned by Brighton Museum. This event would also include a small excavation in the Royal Pavilion lawns. The survey would allow members of the public an opportunity to use the resistivity machine while at the same time record areas that have not been investigated before (Fig 1.)

Fig 1. The Royal Pavilion Grounds (Google Earth)

The History

The Royal Pavilion has a well documented history with it's original construction commencing about 1787. The building had several phases of development with the Prince Regent, now George IV, finally moving into the palace in 1821.

It is known that earlier buildings lay in that location before the Royal Pavilion was built including Grove House located somewhere near the north end of the pavilion gardens and the Thomas Kemp farmhouse which was demolished to accommodate the new building (Fig 2.) Other buildings are shown running along the east side of New Road, now under the gardens in that area

During the First World War it is known that a number of other temporary structures associated with the hospital for wounded Indian soldiers lay in the grounds of the palace.

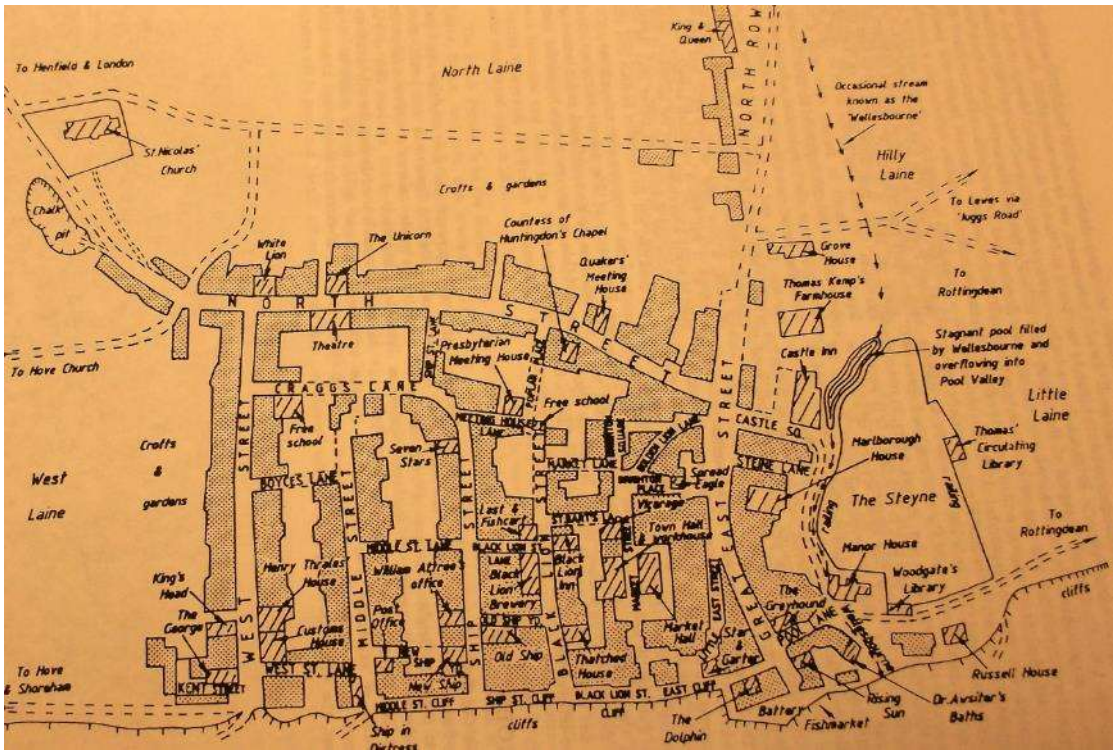

Fig 2. Brighton 1779 (Carder 1990)

The Geology

The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 scale geological mapping (BGS 2015) shows the site lies over Upper to Middle Chalk with Quaternary head deposits in the valley bottom. On a map of 1779 the Wellesbourne Stream, now running below ground level, was a visible feature shown running into a stagnant pool which overflowed into the Pool Valley. (Fig 2.)

The Topography

The ground around the Royal Pavilion is quite flat on the east side of the lawns, but has subtle undulations on the west side, near the café. It is highly likely that there are overlying deposits emanating from the huge amounts of fill that would have been produced when the large trench was excavated to construct the tunnel that runs between the Royal Pavilion and the Brighton Museum, originally the royal stables. There is also a section of one of the large Victorian sewers running to the south of the tunnel. This construction would have also displaced a considerable amount of soil and geology.

The Resistivity Survey

The survey encompassed 4 grids each measuring 20 metres square (Fig 3.). Some of the terrain included shrubs and flower which did require some negotiating. The machine used was an RM15 resistivity meter, the lines were spaced at 1 metre apart and readings taken at 1 metre intervals. The measurements were in Ohms.

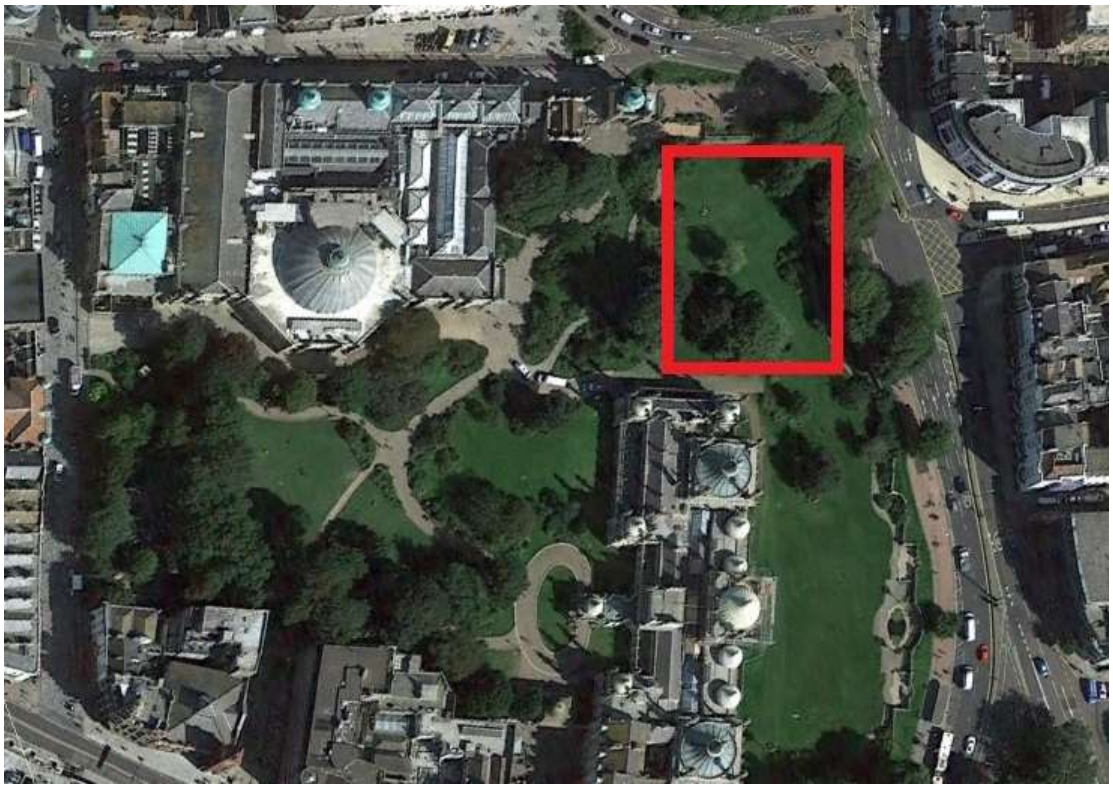

Fig 3. The Approximate location of the Resistivity Survey

The resulting image was produced using ‘Snuffler’ software (Fig 4).

Fig 4. The Resisitivity image

Conclusions

The images produced indicate an interesting number of anomalies including some linear features running north/west to south east and a possible rectilinear feature of a pair of lines at right angles on the south west corner. It is possible that these are associated with some of the old buildings but only some small excavations for confirm their antiquity. A small ridge of high resistance also in the lower right hand corner of the image is where the area north of the Royal Pavilion building has been paved. However, there should be some caution in the interpretation of the results. During the re-excavation of the Royal Pavilion tunnel in 2013 (Funnell 2013) a number of utility pipes of various descriptions were revealed, and it could be that the linear features revealed are associated with other more recent utility interventions.

The resistivity survey was much too small to clarify or confirm the existence of any vestige of earlier buildings remaining under the royal Pavilion lawns. A larger survey of the east lawns might prove beneficial and add to the already existing images revealed. The resistivity survey at the Royal Pavilion was a useful exercise, but it was mainly a PR project for the museum open day, allowing public participation of some of the equipment used in archaeology.

Acknowledgements:-

The author would like to thank BHAS members Pete Tolhurst (team leader), Stefanie Freiling, Owen O'Donnell and Linda Wright who set out and ran the survey, and to Andy Maxted, Richard Le Saux and Brighton Museum for allowing BHAS access to the lawns to conduct the survey.

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Carder T. 1990 ' The Encyclopaedia of Brighton' East Sussex County Libraries

Funnell J.D. 2013 'A Watching Brief at the Royal Pavilion- with appendix' *Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Notebook 2013*

John Funnell 26th July 2016

Geophysics at Waterloo Farm, Burwash

Introduction

The owner of Waterloo Farm, near Burwash, East Sussex visited the BHAS display at Bentley Wild Fowl in the September of 2016. They had noted a curious circular feature in the field to the east of their farmhouse and asked if the Society would be interested in conducting a resistivity survey of the area. They wanted to know if there was any archaeology in their field. The farmer and his wife had already had a small excavation across the feature but had found nothing of interest. They had metal detected around the farm and in the adjacent field and had recovered coins, metal objects and some buckles, including medieval items. The coins varied in date but were mostly Georgian and Victorian.

A visit was made to the farm on Thursday 3rd of November by members of the BHAS geophysics team and a small survey was conducted.

The Location

The field did contain a curious circular feature still visible, and another pair of crop marks in the meadow, close to the larger feature. A large oak tree appeared to be the central focus of the area and with this as the survey centre 4 grids were set out. The grids would encompass the main circle and also the pair of smaller features. The grids were measured into the landscape, including a gate going into the next field.

The Survey

The grids each measured 20 metres square. The lines set out were 1 metre apart and readings were taken at 1 metre intervals. The machine used was an RM15 Geoscan resistivity machine, and the measurements were in Ohms. The weather had been predominantly dry in the previous few days. The results were downloaded using ‘Snuffler’ software. The results are shown in Figure 1.

Conclusions

The survey at Waterloo Farm revealed a number of interesting anomalies including a number of curving low resistance areas. The large circular feature is, considered by Geophysics expert David Staveley, to be a possible natural fungal apparition generally called ‘Fairy Rings’. The curved anomalies in the results do not align with those visible in the field?

The field has produced some interesting metal work finds which does tend to suggest that features may lie within its precincts. A survey of the remaining area of field may be worthwhile to seek evidence for activity, possibly from the medieval period or later. There are too many metal finds concentrated in one location to discount the field as being barren of archaeology.

The team were given a tour of the surrounding area by the farmer's wife, and a number of earthworks were noted in the landscape including another large circular feature. The terrain is quite flat with a distinct boundary where the ground rises, and much of the lower, flatter area is often flooded in winter. This would make the large circular feature a possible landscape feature associated with a nearby stream. However, it is also possible that it is something unique and associated with some ancient activity, only a new survey or a small excavation could provide evidence.

It is possible that BHAS my return to Waterloo Farm sometime in the not too distant future.

John Funnell & Pete Tolhurst 10th February 2017

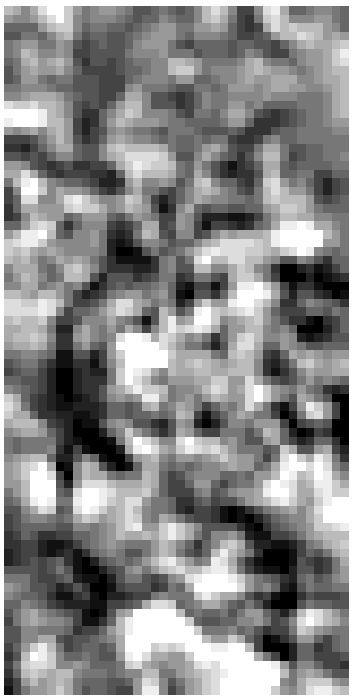

Fig 1. The Results of the Geophysical Survey at Waterloo Farm

Geophysics at the Pepper-Box Queens Park Road, Brighton

Introduction

Th Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society were invited along to a meeting with the Queens Park Pepper-Box preservation group. The building was constructed in about 1830 and the architect was Charles Barry. The structure is originally believed to be for pumping water into the Attree Villa, located close by. Other possibilities are it being an observation tower and a later sewer vent. BHAS members Pete Tolhurst and John Funnell visited the building on Friday 4th November 2016 and met with members of the Pepper-Box preservation team. They were given a tour of interior of the structure and shown a number of interesting features.

Chris Lowe had brought along a number of old plans and elevations from the Charles Barry sketches and drawings, and these indicate a number of tunnels heading away from the tower along Tower Road. The plans also indicate the presence of steps leading downwards and a pair of water tanks.

In Victorian times there had been a large elaborate gate entrance to this part of Queens Park (Carder), but that has all long disappeared. The location of the tunnels and possible pump room now lies buried beneath the surface of Tower Road. There is a very small section of grass land to the west of the Pepper pot but much too small for any useful survey.

The Pepper-Box has a large central metal core surrounded by brickwork at the base. The central core would be where the shaft for the pump was located, and it is believed that the structure overlies a well. The idea for the Pepper-Box was as a structure to house a pump to draw water up to deposit it in the surrounding water tanks, for later use. It is believed that a steam pump was used for this process and the wooden floor structures were keep well back from the central shaft due to potential fire hazards, as when the pump was working it would have generated some considerable heat. The final phase is considered to be the use of the shaft as a sewer event.

Unfortunately there is very little evidence on the ground or in records to show exactly what was created at the Pepper-Box when it was finally completed in the early 19th century.

The task requested is that BHAS conduct geophysics around the small open area of the actual building and seek evidence for vestiges of the Barry gateway, and using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) along Tower Road, now tarmaced, to seek evidence for the existence of any of the tunnels and the steps noted on the plans. A ground survey of the surrounding earthworks could produce some evidence for Georgian or Victorian endeavours.

BHAS would be consulting Ron Martin about steam engines and what possible type would have been used and how large such a machine might have been, and to ask David Staveley about the possibility of conducting a GPR survey along Tower Road.

The interior of the Pepper-Box is paved with concrete slabs as is the surrounding outer elevated surface.

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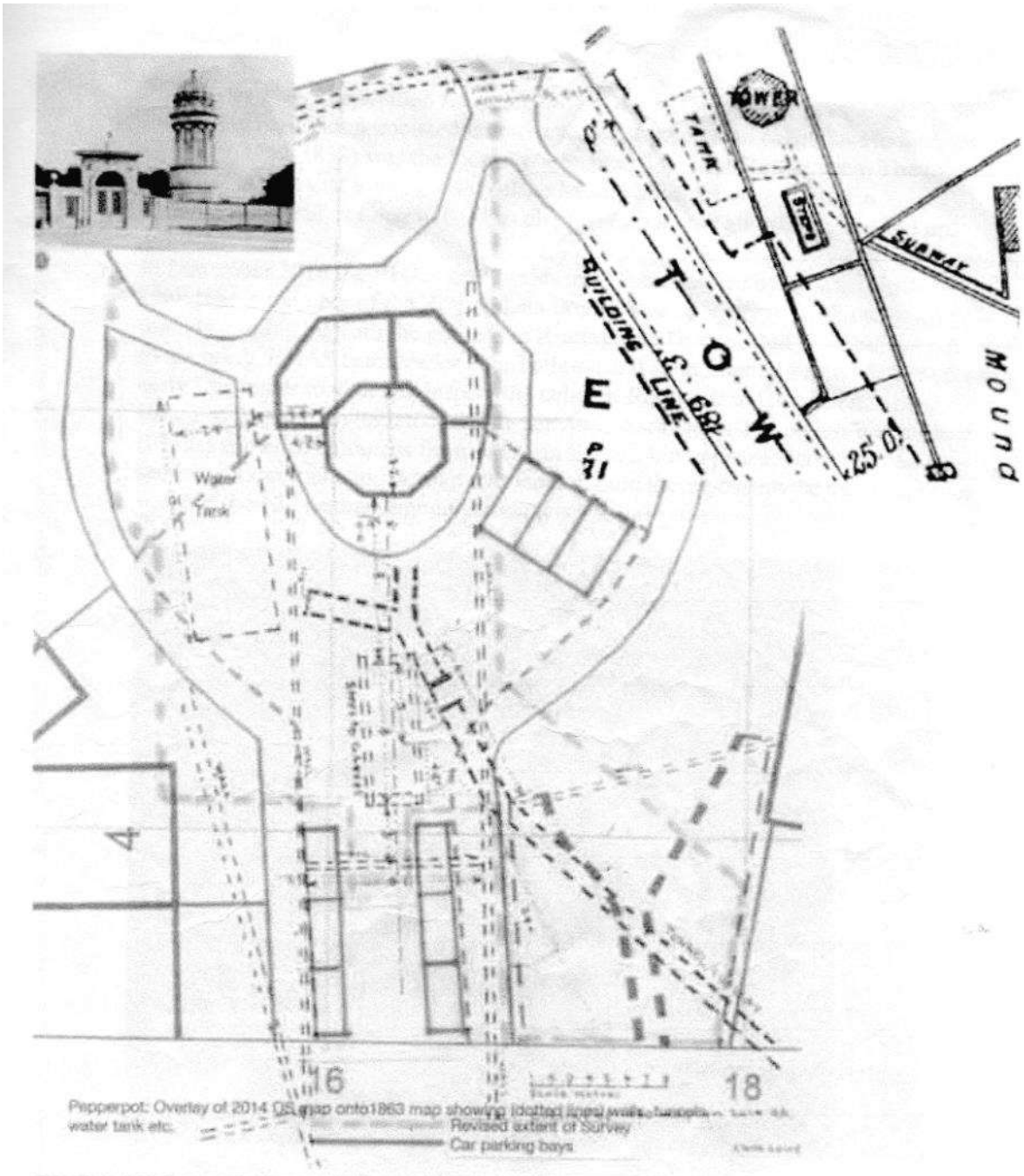
Carder T. 1990 'The Encyclopaedia of Brighton' East Sussex County Libraries

John Funnell 12th December 2016



Pepperpot: Overlay of 2014 OS map onto1863 map showing (dotted lines) walls, tunnels, water tank etc.

Overlay of 1863 map onto present day map showing likely below ground structures (small dotted lines)

The area to be surveyed is indicated by yellow dotted lines. Car parking bays by blue.

Inserts: Atlingworth Gate, Pepperbox and Park perimeter wall circa 1860.

1863 map showing service tunnels for steam powered pump and water tank to hold approx: 50,000 gals/230 m3

Map compiled by Chris Lowe. Enquiries: chrisalowe@btinternet.com

Geophysics at Rottingdean Grange

Introduction

Rottingdean has a reputation for being the haunt of smugglers, and especially smuggling activities associated with a reverential gentleman called Dr Hooker. Dr Hooker (1792-1838) was the local clergyman and lived at Rottingdean. The local legends suggest that Rottingdean village has a number of tunnels hidden below ground and running in various directions, but now all lost and bricked up.

In December 2016 the BHAS geophysics team were invited by Dr Christopher Davidson, a member of the Rottingdean Preservation Society, to seek out possible tunnels running beneath the gardens at Rottingdean Grange, and other adjacent houses to the north. BHAS team leader Pete Tolhurst and John Funnell visited Rottingdean in early December to visit and inspect the cellar at Rottingdean Grange and at Norton House at the kind invitation of the owner Anne-Sara Odor. The cellars are vaulted (Fig 1.) and have entrances from the main houses, but appear to have bricked up sections in the south and north cellar faces. Could these possibly be the location of some of the 18th century smugglers tunnels?

Fig 1. The Cellar at Norton House

The late Norman Phippard conducted a major geophysical survey in the grounds of St Margaret's church, located north of this survey, but found very little evidence in that location for any subterranean features other than obvious grave cuts.

On Saturday December 3rd 2016 the BHAS geophysics team conducted a small resistivity survey in the south garden of North Cottage, and in the gardens to the west of Rottingdean Grange. The survey was quite small and consisted of only partial grids, as the extent of the survey was limited by walls and other obstructions.

The Methodology

Small grids were set out in both locations, to cover as much available space as possible. In North Cottage this amounted to a space of only 5 metres square (Fig 2.).

Fig 2. Surveying the garden at North Cottage

Rottingdean Grange encompassed almost the whole of the west lawns with the exception of a small area at the north end of the garden (Fig 3). In the Rottingdean Grange a complete length of 20 metres was covered but only a width of about 8 metres. The centre section contained an old concrete feature which was not surveyed. The measurements were taken in lines spaced 1 metre apart and readings were taken at every metre. The equipment used was a Geoscan RM15 resistivity machine and the measurements were in Ohms.

Conclusions

The survey in the small garden of the property to the south of Norton House produced no visible anomalies and it was a similar response in the west garden of Rottingdean Grange (Fig 4). The only significant feature was the high resistance of the garden path. A small excavation in the east garden of Rottingdean Grange prior to the survey did reveal a solid feature during an abandonment tree planting venture.

Fig 3. Surveying in the West garden at Rottingdean Grange

There is an area of low resistance in the south east corner of the grange garden which would appear to contradict the evidence for feature found earlier. This was considered to be a possible tunnel. It would be interesting to conduct a larger excavation in that area to investigate what lies beneath the garden. It might be worthwhile conducting a survey of a known tunnel, perhaps at the Royal Pavilion, as it is uncertain at present what tunnel features would be revealed by resistivity. Would it reveal the solid surface of the tunnel walls or indicate the void that would be the tunnel interior. It would be useful to find out what results might be forthcoming.

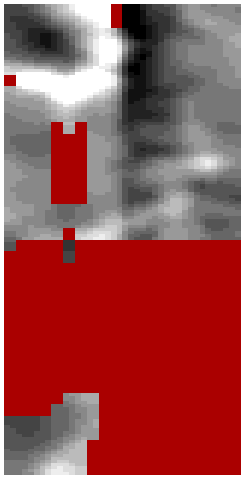


Fig 4. The Geophysics Results (Rottingdean Grange is at the top) and South is at the top of each image. (The top right hand image is to be ignored)

Acknowledgements

The BHAS would like to thank Dr Chris Davidson for inviting the team to conduct the survey, to Ms Odor for allowing access to her garden and cellar and to BHAS members Carol White, Stephanie Freiling, David Ludwig, Clive Bean and Margaret Carey who undertook training in surveying and conducted the survey.

John Funnell 12th December 2016

Field Walking South of the Cemetery at Woodingdean 2005

Introduction

Excavations and field walking took place at Woodingdean, south of the Lawn Memorial cemetery, over a three year period. The finds from both the excavation and field walking were held by the BHAS field director Norman Phippard. Sadly Norman died in 2011 without recording what had been found or details about the projects. The finds were later passed to the author. A team of BHAS members have been sorting and collating the details about the finds from both projects. This report is focused on the field walking material. There does appear to be some recording missing with weights of some items not recorded and the items no longer in the collection. Only the finds passed on from Norman's wife are listed. It can only be assumed that others are lost.

In 2004 the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society conducted excavations in the field to the south of the Woodingdean Lawn Memorial Cemetery. The area is full of earthworks and is going to be used as an extension to the cemetery. The excavation produced very few finds with flintwork being the most ancient and prolific. Most of the other finds were of a contemporary nature (Funnell 2004 and Phippard 2005). A report on the excavations is currently being prepared and will be the subject of a separate article.

The field to the south of the cemetery ((TQ353052) covers a considerable amount of acreage (Fig 1.). In 2005 a field walking project was planned to walk the fields over a number of seasons. Due to excavation activities at Stanmer, and difficulty in gaining access to the fields during a period between harvesting and sowing, only 2 seasons of field walking were ever completed.

A number of important metal finds have previously been found by metal detectorists. Among these finds are a bronze boar and a Bronze Age palstave. One member of the BHAS field unit had detected in the field previously and had observed an area of dark soil which contained Roman pottery. The exact location of this spot is unknown but it was believed to be on the east side of the field close to a footpath that runs down from Warren Road to Ovingdean.

The area walked was to the north west of this very large field, commencing at the northwest corner. The field walking gradually progressed eastwards. The total area covered was approximately 138,000 square metres.

The Geology

The field is part of the downland slope of a hill of the South Downs. The hill top is north of the Warren Road and this hill drops gently down towards the valley in the south called Wick Bottom. It has been ploughed extensively for many years and is upper to middle chalk. The topography is quite bland, with a gentle slope running southwards towards Ovingdean with only a slight undulation in the landscape further south. The hill does drop more dramatically eastwards along the Falmer Road. It is

anticipated that colluvial activity will have occurred in that location, but it would be mostly a gently eroding surface over most of the field walked.

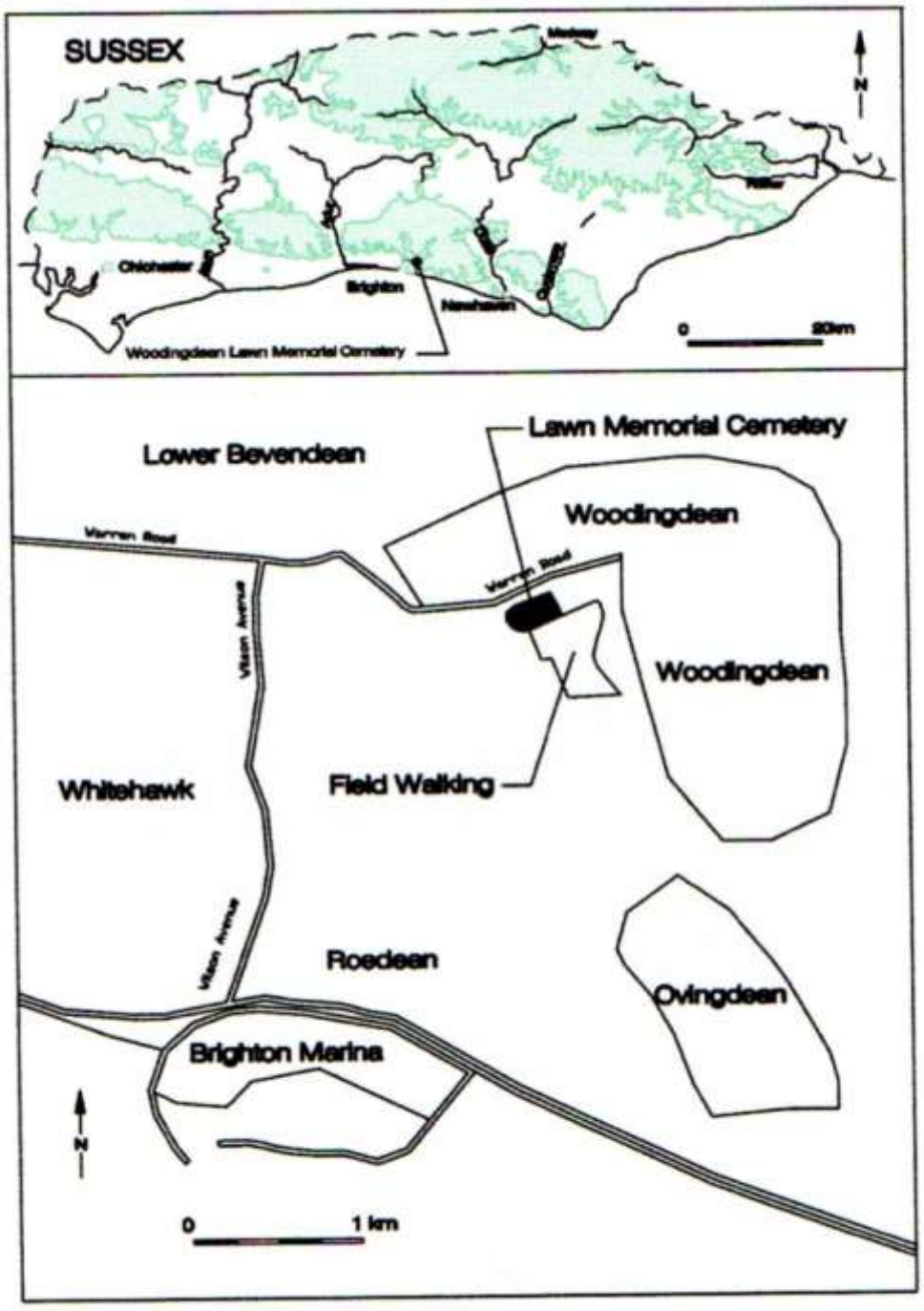


Fig 1. Location map of Excavations and Field Walking at Woodingdean Lawn Memorial Cemetery

The Field Walking Methodology

A base line was set out running along the north edge of the field and lines set out 20 metres apart. The first line ‘A’ was measured in 10 metres from the west corner of the field. In 2005 it is recorded that a total of 15 lines were walked, unfortunately there is no record of the original field walking lay out. A total of 24 lines were walked labelled from ‘A’ to ‘X’.

The lines were subsequently divided into transects each measuring 20 metres in length with finds being collected for each transect. There is some anomalous data as most of the lines have finds from transects 1 – 15, but most lines appear to cease after only 14 transects. Line ‘X’ is even shorter than the other lines with only 5 or 6 transects walked. The field was walked from north to south going down hill. The field had not been ploughed and contained stubble from the previous crop.

The Finds

Flintwork (Fig 2).

The majority of finds from the field walking was flint flakes. These totalled 586 in number weighing in excess of 7,728gm. A number of flint flakes were logged without any weight and having now been lost cannot be fully recorded. The collection also included a number of tools comprising of scrapers, blades, blade fragments, piercers and notched pieces (Fig 3). There were also a number of cores found. The ratio of tools to waste material is quite high even though the area walked was large. Scrapers accounted for (4%) of the flint finds with blades being (2%). Fragments of fire-cracked flint were found all over the area walked (Fig 4).

Flint flakes	586
Scrapers	26
Blades	14
Blade Frags	4
Piercer	3
Notched Flake	7
Cores	8
Total	658

Fire Fractured 386 (Weight 13,692gm)

The Flint Flake Details

Length	Total	Width	Total
10-20mm	3	10-20mm	23
21-30mm	67	21-30mm	95
31-40mm	108	31-40mm	127
41-50mm	109	41-50mm	88
51-60mm	40	51-60mm	33
61-70mm	26	61-70mm	6
70+ mm	13	70+ mm	2
80+ mm	4		
(0+ mm	3		

Thickness Details

Thickness	No of flakes
2mm	2
3mm	7
4mm	15
5mm	22
6mm	23
7mm	40
8mm	41
9mm	40
10mm	27
11mm	40
12mm	22
13mm	11
14mm	21
15mm	13
16mm	12
17mm	9
18mm	8
19mm	4
20mm	4
21mm	4
22mm	3
23mm	1
24mm	2
28mm	1

Patination

White	Black	Grey	Blue	Brown
198	5	126	41	3

Cortex

A total of 373 flint flakes were examined, the residue of the original field walking finds. Of those flt flakes 121 (32%) retained vestiges of cortex. A small quantity of flakes had total or almost total cortex cover indicating these being primary flakes. The other flint flakes had varying amounts of cortex remaining.

The Pottery (Fig 5.)

A total of 39 items of pottery, ceramics and flowerpot were collected. Of this small number only 6 are of any antiquity. There were 5 sherds of a flint tempered fabric (13%) suggesting some slight possibility of Iron Age activity with a single piece of base material that could be a Roman fabric. The majority of items found were Stoneware sherds (33%), one with decoration and one being a spout. The stone wares were predominantly of a light brown colour. Other Victorian or 19th century pottery pieces included 5 pieces of a blue and white decorated ceramic all with some form of floral motife (21%). There were also 3 brown glazed 'Keymer' ware sherds (12.5%). Two pieces of contemporary flower pot were among the group collected.

The Marine Shell

The marine shell collected consisted of 3 types with Oyster shell (Fig 6) being the majority find totalling 89 fragments (542g). Other shells were Scallop (Fig 7) totalling 35 (72g) and a single whelk shell (4g). All of the shell found, except for the whelk shell, were small and fragmentary. Two of the oyster fragments contained traces of the parasitic Clionne and single piece had traces of another parasite Hoplura.

The Glass (Fig 8).

Ther was an interesting collection og glass found, mainly vessels with a wide colour range. The total number of fragments collected was 40 weighing 502g. The coloured glass included dark Green (8%) light green (13.5%) blue of varying shades (38%) and black (8%). Clear glass accounted for (24%) of the collection with 3 pieces of blue/green that could possibly be of Roman dating. Most of the glass fragments were small pieces with only two bases of glass bottles and a single bottle spout. The majority of pieces were clear with only 4 pieces having an opaque or glass 'rusting' texture.

Building Materials

There was a mixture of building material recovered:-

Brick 26
Tile 19
Slate 3

The tile was of a modern fabric as was the brick. The building material was from a general spread over the field with no concentrations in any area.

Foreign Stone

Foreign stone consisted mainly of sea pebbles, with a single fragment of sarsen stone being found with a weight of 77g. There were 3 pieces of unidentified stone, possibly from a Wealden location.

The Bone

A single piece of long bone, probably from a sheep, and a small unidentifiable bone fragment were the only bone finds over the while area.

Miscellaneous Finds

There were a few odd finds. One item was a button found in transect (F1), but only the body survived and there was no decoration. It measured 20mm in diameter and had only a plain surface. Another metal find was a large copper alloy rivet (A1). It may have been a decorative item from furnishings

Two pieces of whetstone was collected. One fragment measured 65 x 25 x 23mm thick (Transect A8). It was a very fine fabric and had a rounded edge on one side. The other fragment measured 33 x 33 x25m thick and was of a much coarser fabric, transect (D3).

Coins

Coin were found in lines B3 and V11. Both were Victorian and half pennies. One (B3) was dated to 1886 and the other V11 was dated to 1862.

Conclusions

The type of finds and the quantity tend to show that this area of Woodingdean appears lacking in potential for sites of antiquity. The ratio of flint tools to the waste flake collection is interesting but something that is generally found all over the South Downs. `There is a small concentration of flint tools on the east side of the area walked and this is also noted in the marine shell density diagrams. The flint collection does not contain the large mixture and variation of tools and flakes that was found during the field walking at Peacehaven in 2003 (Funnell 2003 and 2004), but it does show that this field had some prehistoric activity.

The few sherds of Iron Age pottery and a possible piece of Roman base, along with some possible Roman glass fragments, does hint at some activity during these periods. However, the number is too small and dispersed to generate too much excitement. It has been mentioned that possible small Roman farmstead may be located further to the east in an area yet to be walked. Only further field walking and the finding of significant finds of pottery may provide evidence for such a habitation.

The small collection of Iron Age and Roman finds along with the previously recorded metal finds of a bronze boar and palstave do hint that the field has potential for some

prehistoric activity. The flint work is typical of downland fields and any possible settlement has probably been ploughed away eons ago. Additional field walking in area to the south and east of this project may prove beneficial in seeking out ancient sites, including the Roman farmstead hinted at in the past. This project should be pursued with some urgency as the field continues to be ploughed relentlessly.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Mr Geoff Bennett Conservation manager at Brighton Planning at the time, for allowing access to the fields, to Mrs Jackie Phippard for storing and passing over the collection of finds for examination, and to those members of the BHAS field unit that conducted the field walking. Members of the BHAS outreach team sorted and catalogued the finds during numerous Brighton Museum Lab open days, and their support is greatly appreciated.

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John Funnell 23rd August 2016

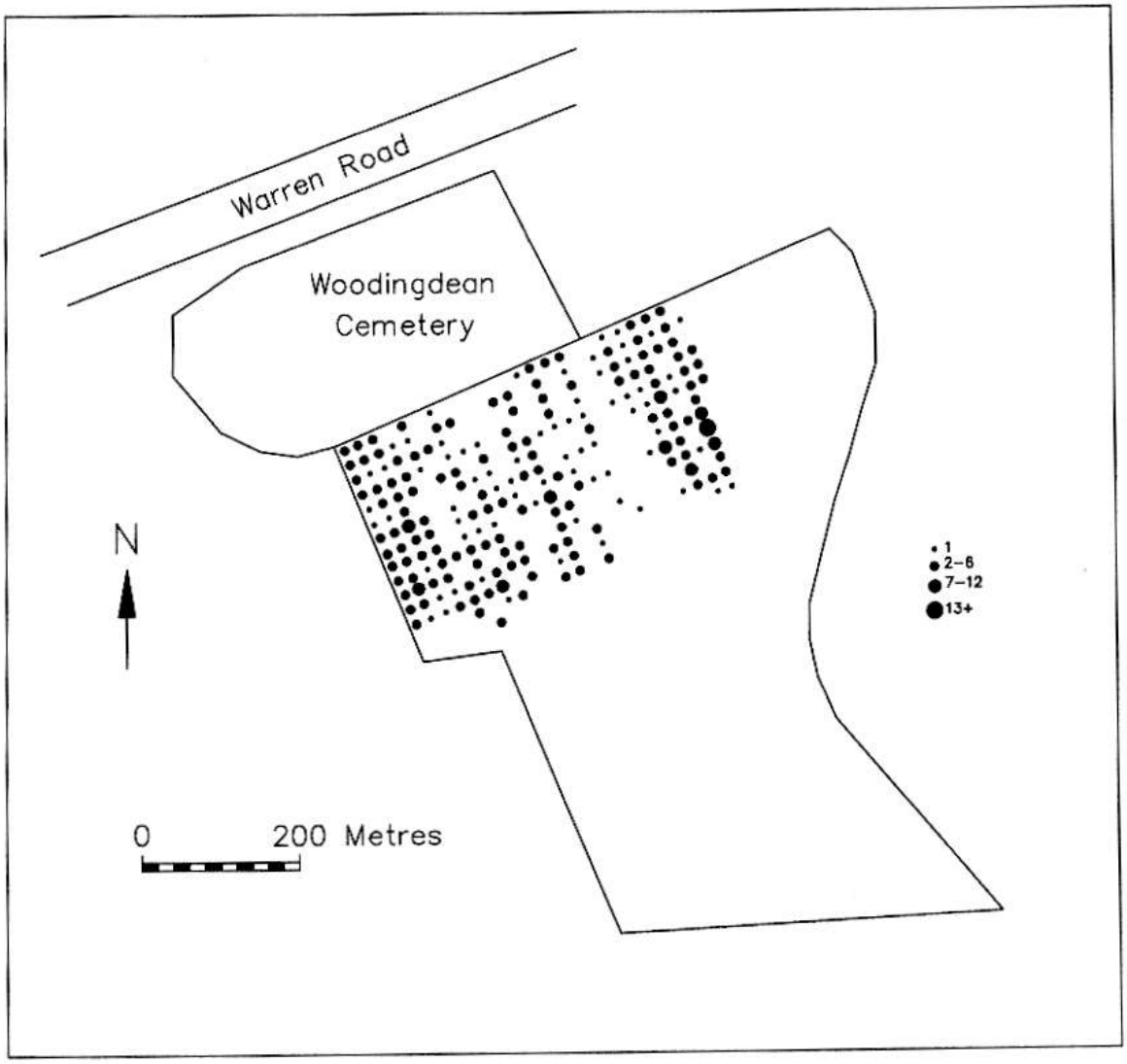


Fig 2. Field Walking Woodingdean. The Flintwork

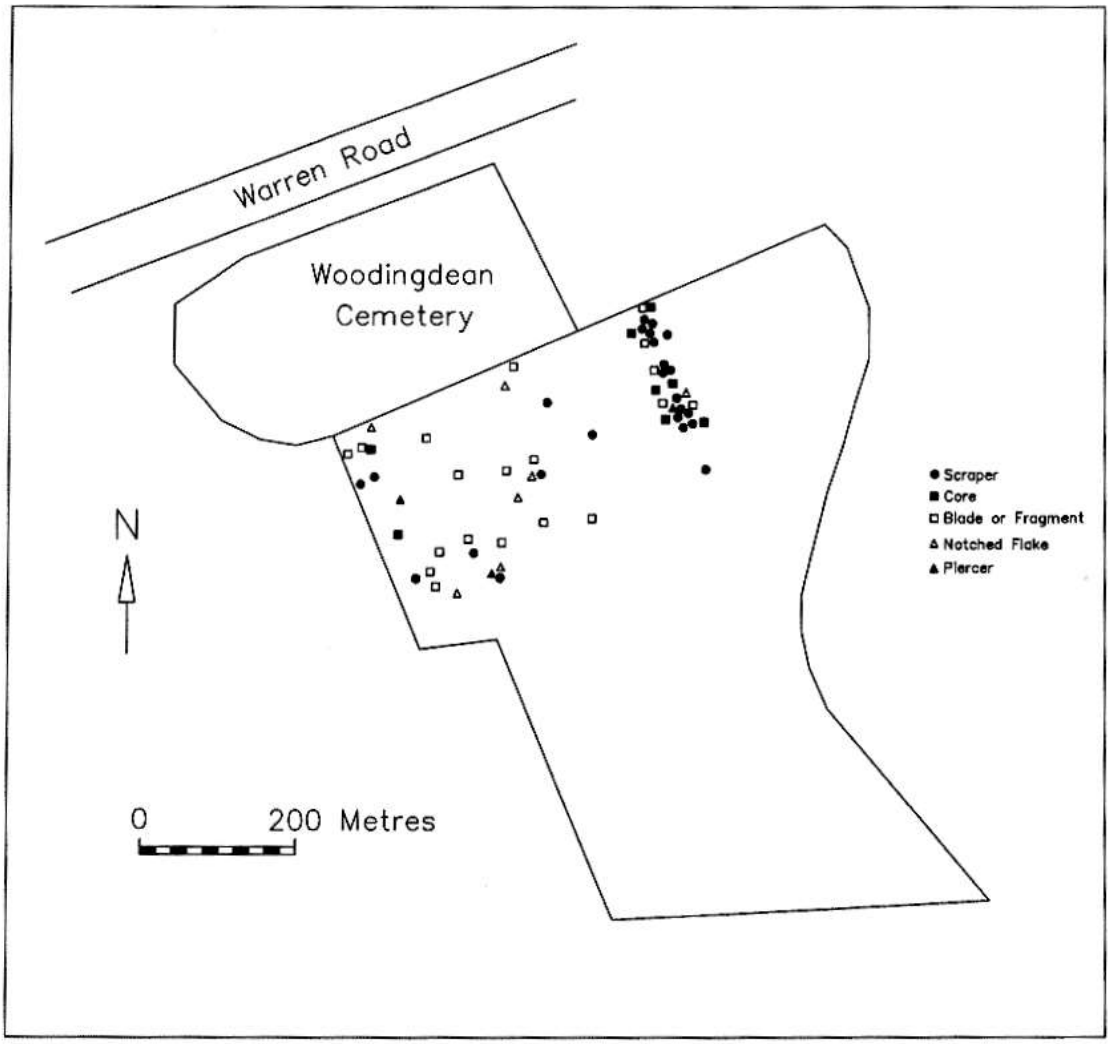


Fig 3. Field Walking Woodingdean The Flint Tools

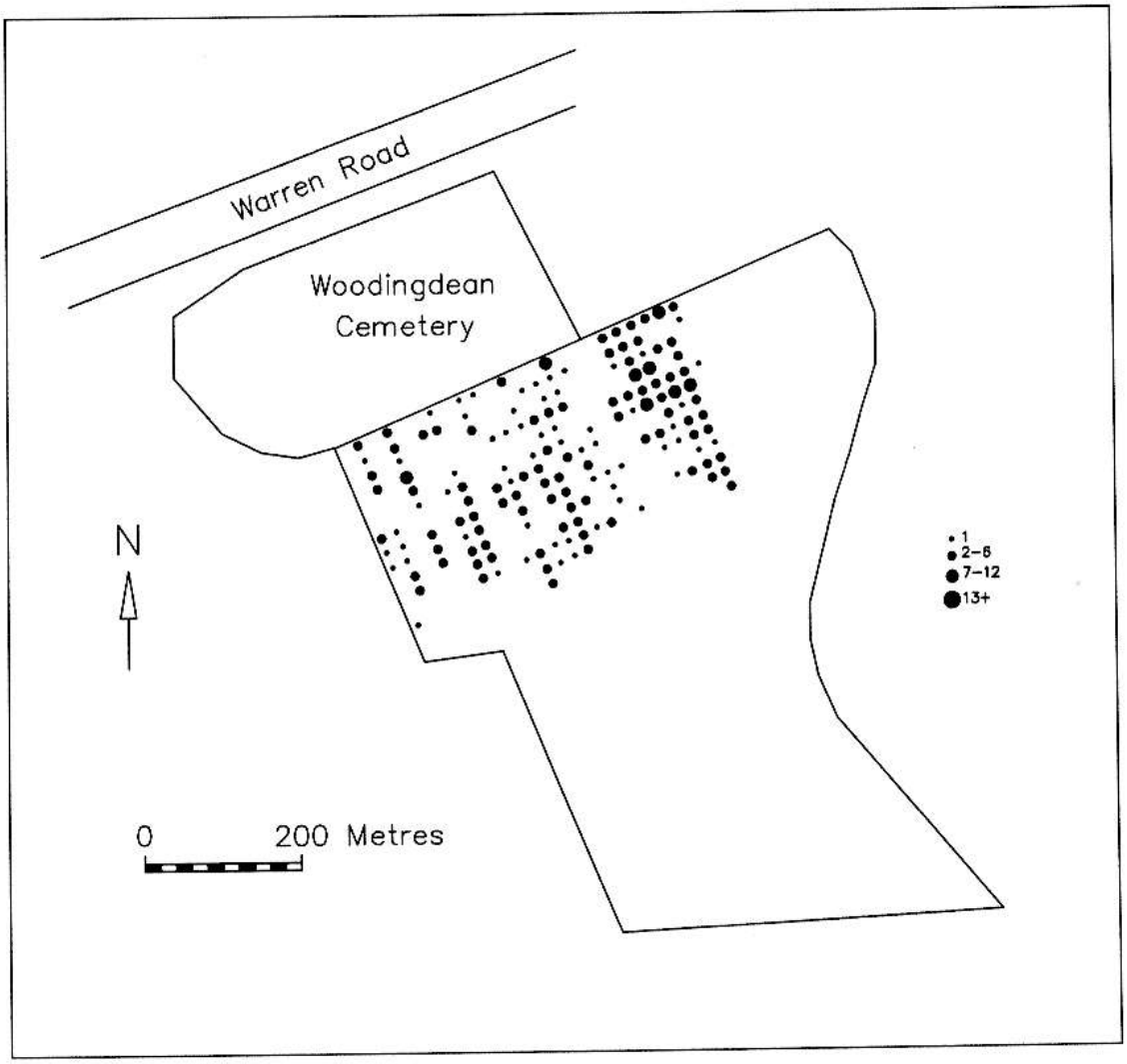


Fig 4. Field Walking Woodingdean The Fire Cracked Flint

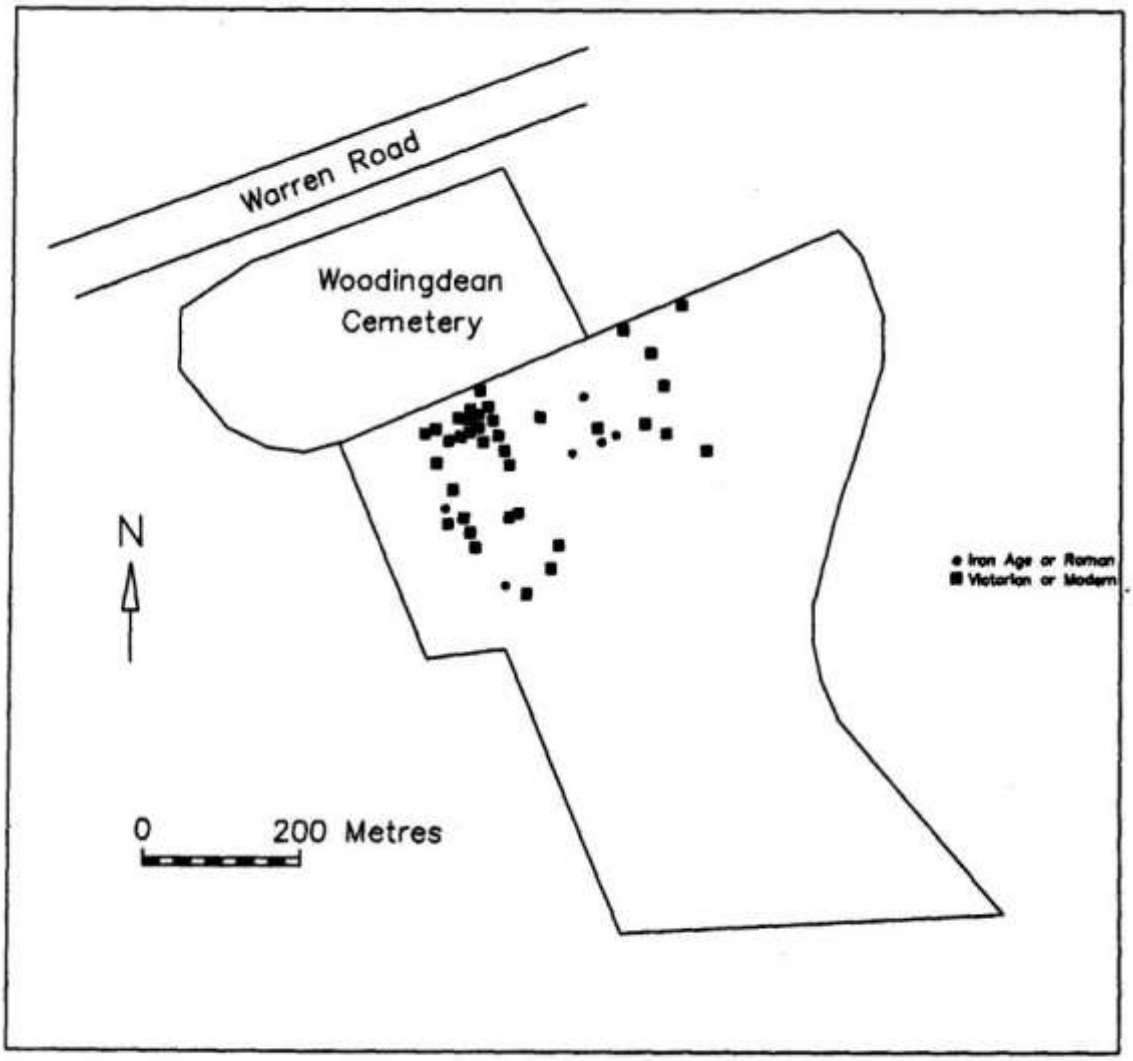


Fig 5. Field Walking Woodingdean The Pottery

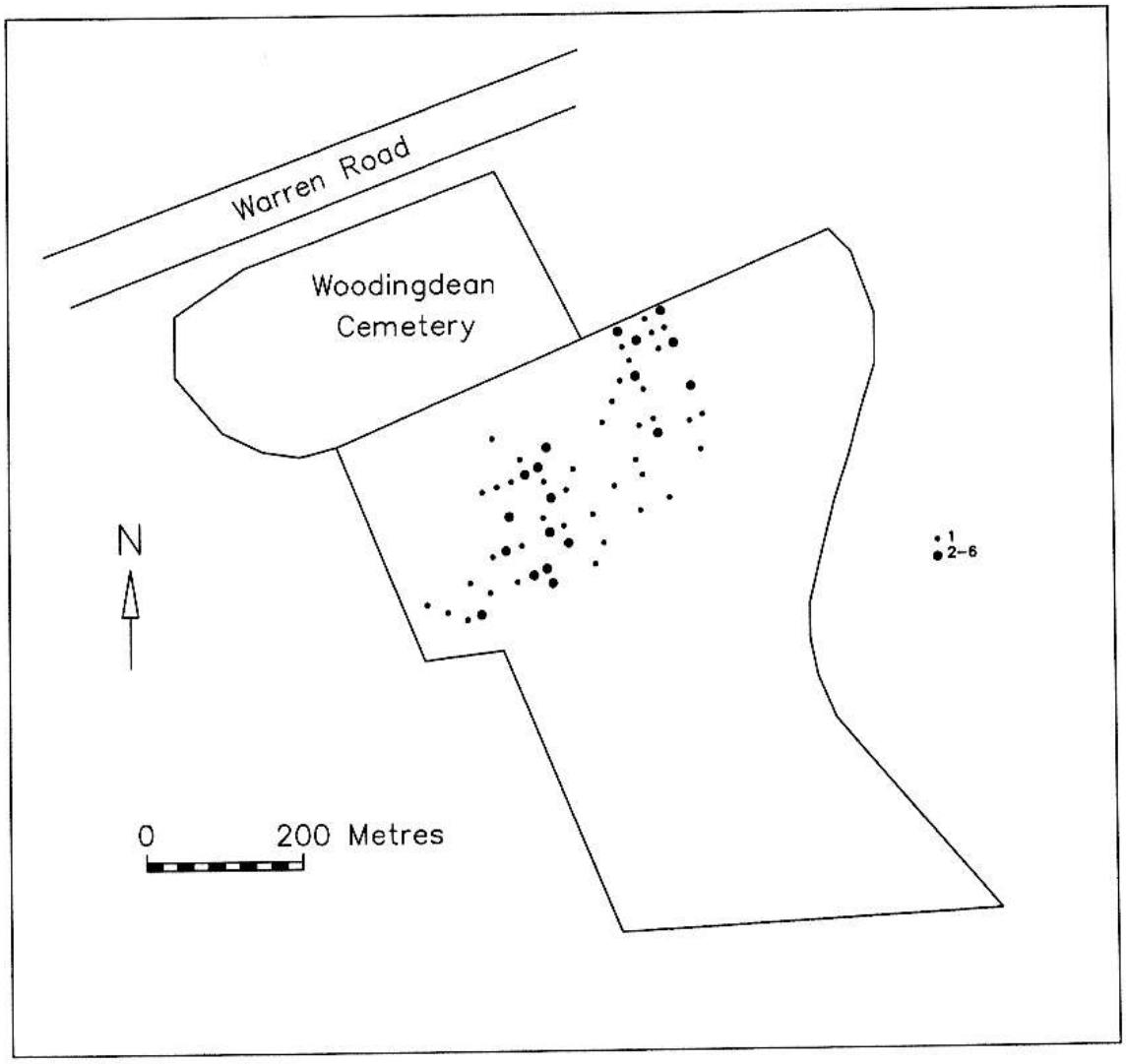


Fig 6, Field Walking Woodingdean The Oyster Shell

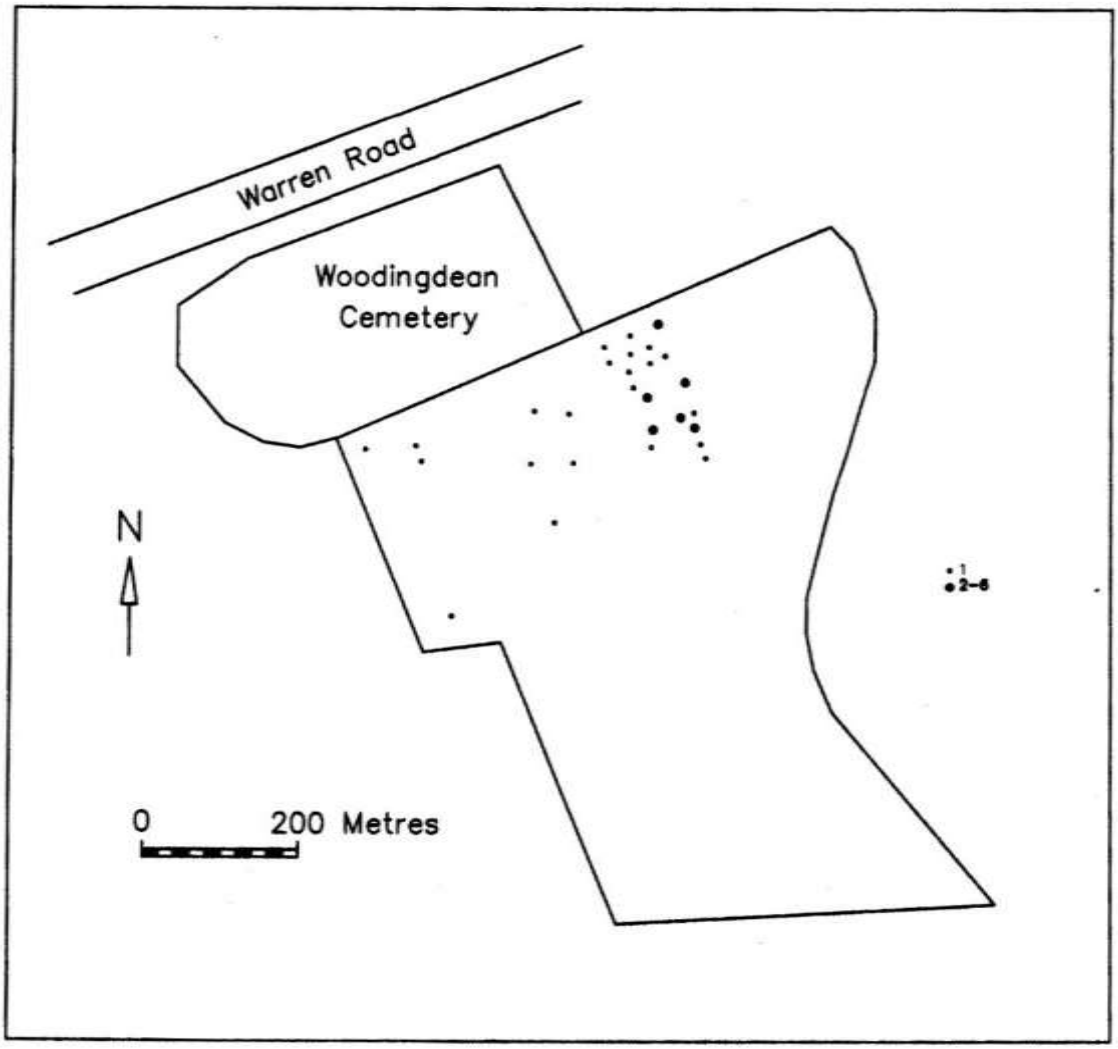


Fig 7. Field Walking Woodingdean Marine Shell

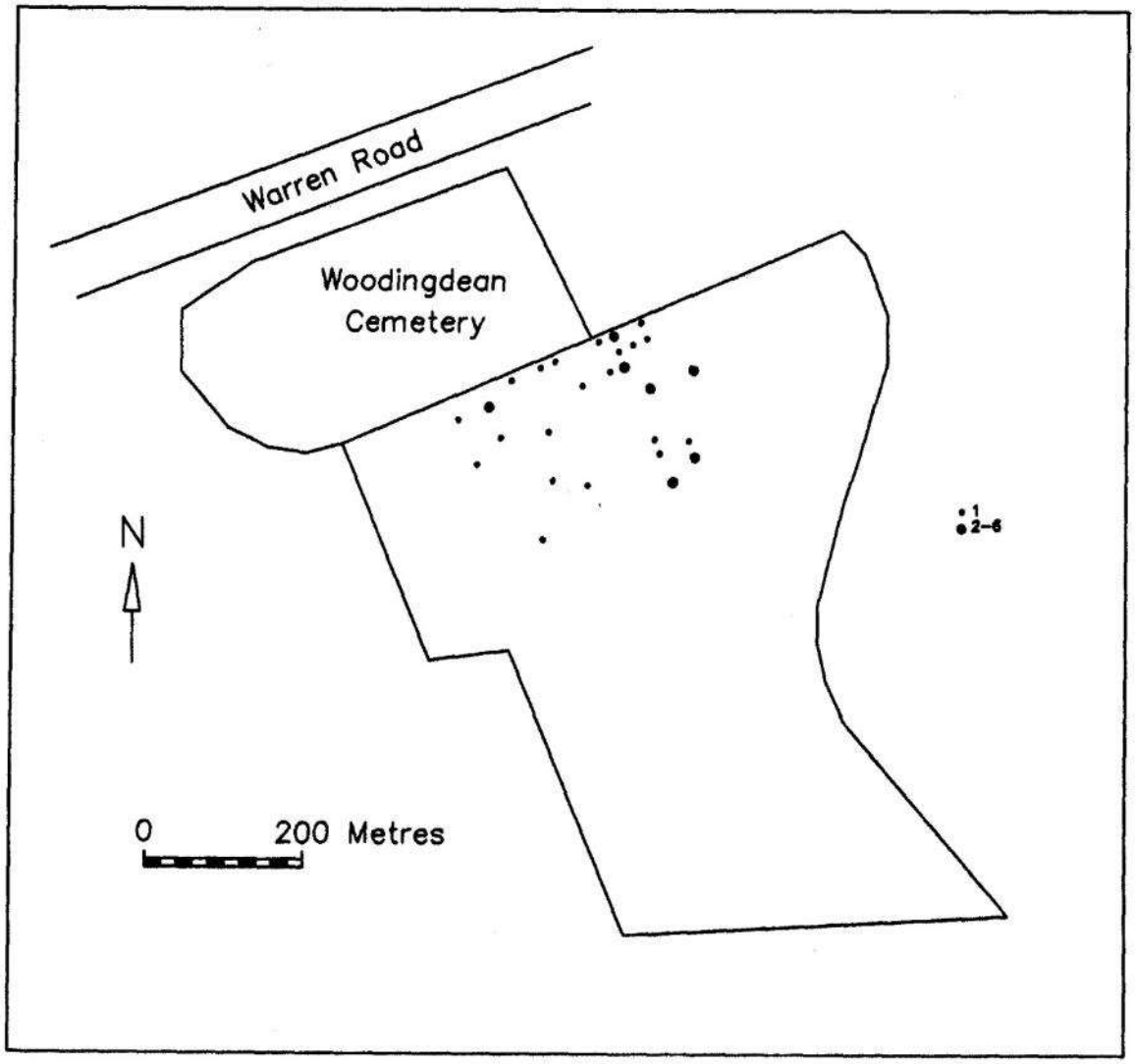


Fig 8. Field Walking Woodingdean Glass

Report on Finds from (A) Edburton Sands and (B) Beak's Marsh. Barcombe

by Mark Gillingham

(A) On two occasions, 25 July 2015 and 2 August 2015, David Bangs collected 19 pieces of flint whilst walking south east of the barns at Edburton Sands (TQ235/6123/4). In addition, another core was found on the 8 August 2015 at the Pershing Sands stream (TQ243126).

The 20 pieces of flint are summarised as follows:-
3 Cores
4 Core fragments
5 Bladelets
3 Flakes
5 Small pieces of flint with no definite evidence of having been deliberately struck

The high proportion of cores and core fragments suggests that some knapping was carried out in the vicinity. However, as very few of the struck pieces have much, if any, cortex remaining, it seems likely that the initial knapping was carried out elsewhere.

The cores all appear to be bladelet cores and all the core fragments, or possible core fragments, appear to be from bladelet cores.
The 5 bladelets are all damaged and none have evidence of parallel ridges and sides, the requirement for "true" bladelets.

One of the flakes is 45 mm in length and 45 mm in width with a large striking platform and pronounced bulb. The other two flakes are much smaller.

As none of the cores or core fragments appear to have been carefully struck or well used and as none of the bladelets is a "true" bladelet, a Mesolithic date cannot be assigned to this small assemblage. An early to mid Neolithic date seems more likely for much of the assemblage with at least one, the largest of the flakes, being later.

(B) On the 3May 2015 , David Bangs collected 12 pieces of flint at Beak's Marsh, south of Barcombe

The 12 pieces of flint are summarised as follows:-
3 Retouched flakes
1 Retouched and notched flake
2 Notched flakes
2 Scrapers
1 Bladelet
3 Flakes

Although this is a very small assemblage, the absence of any cores or core fragments suggests knapping may not have been carried out in the near vicinity. This is borne out by all but one of the pieces of flint having little, if any, cortex remaining.

The bladelet, which is broken, does not have the parallel ridges and sides of a “true” bladelet and is therefore unlikely to be of Mesolithic date.
Many of the pieces of flint have been damaged and none of the flint has been finely worked which makes definite identification of the various possible “tools” much more difficult.
Except for the retouched and notched flake, which is 50 mm long and 35 mm wide, all the pieces are comparatively small suggesting a mid to late Neolithic date. However, the presence of a probable thumbnail scraper, albeit a very crude one, would indicate that at least one piece in this small assemblage is dated to the early Bronze Age.

Mark Gillingham

Earthworks in Stanmer Woods

Introduction

In February 2001 and March 2016 members of the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society conducted a visual survey in Stanmer Woods. The exercise was carried out in an attempt to locate potentially new and unknown archaeological features. In February 2001 Brighton and Hove City Council had asked the Society to try and re-locate, and investigate, the location of a possible depression and tumulus.

Pudding Bag Wood

A systematic search was made of the woods around the linear earthworks in Pudding Bag Wood. The area had been surveyed in 2000 and a plan produced of the linear earthworks, a tumulus (A Scheduled Ancient Monument), and a number of depressions to the north, south and east. The search to the north of the known features, and the footpath running down to Coldean Lane produced no new features. A small ditch, or lynchet was noted close the entrance to the entrance to the Chalk Hill car park, entered from Coldean Lane, and was located immediately west of the car park entrance. A number of white patinated flint flakes of possible Neolithic date were observed in the undergrowth, but were not collected.

Coldean Lane Car Park (Otherwise known as Chalk Hill car park)

The area to the east of the car park consists of a large mound. It is the site of a tumulus, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, but this feature has been covered with debris from the creation of the car park and subsequently by fly tipping. A visit to this tumulus by David McOmish, of English Heritage, a number of years ago had prompted the possible de-scheduling of this feature. A brief survey around this part of Stanmer and Pudding Bag Woods was made by David McOmish, who has suggested that these woods still retain in-situ vestiges of a Bronze Age or prehistoric landscape.

Tumulus at Stanmer Great Wood

A search of the grounds to the south east of the Coldean Lane car park managed to re-locate a 'lost' tumulus. The 'lost' burial mound is approximately 90 metres to the south east of the tumulus, just east of the Coldean Lane car park. The mound is still quite a significant feature in the landscape, but is surrounded on all sides by scrub, making it not very visible. On one side of the features are incursions which suggest Badger activity. A total of 5 pieces of fire-cracked flint were found eroding out from this intervention and a solitary flint flake. The barrow is shown as item 31 on the SMR plan of the Stanmer area..

Stanmer Great wood

A number of earthworks were found in Stanmer Great Wood. The datum for the survey was the major trackway running from the Coldean Lane car park down to and through the cross ridge dyke in Stanmer Great wood, Number 55 on the SMR plan of

Stanmer. There are two depressions around the cross ridge dyke. One is immediately north/west of the feature, but is quite shallow and maybe an old uprooted tree hollow. A second depression is much deeper and lies on the east side of the trackway about 60 metres to the south east. Both features are immediately adjacent to the main trackway.

A linear feature was observed running parallel to the trackway. It is located 60 metres approximately to the east of this main thoroughfare. The feature runs for about 100 metres and may be an older track or lynchet. It is close to where the hill begins to drop down into Stanmer valley and house.. David Larkin, a Brighton Council Ranger has mentioned that on old maps show this as an open area.

One particular area of interest lies at the south east corner of Stanmer Great wood. A number of features including both circular and linear earthworks form a complex configuration. One distinct area contains the well defined corner of two meeting linear features. The area is to the west of the track as it begins its descent into Marquee Brow and onto the Brighton bypass. A collection of fence and wood cutters equipment lies to the east.

A significant linear feature lies to the south east of the cross ridge dyke in Stanmer Great wood. The feature is located 115 metres south east of the known cross ridge dyke and to the west of the large trackway running through the wood. The orientation of the earthwork is east to west. The west end of the feature is higher than the east and there is a distinct ditch on the north side of the mound. There is a particularly visible ditch on the south side, and a depression lies only a few metres away to the west of this feature.

Conclusions

Stanmer Great Wood contains a number of significant earthworks as yet unrecorded or undated. The earthworks may be of great antiquity or associated with Second World War activities. A search through old maps and plans has failed to produce any real evidence for contemporary use of these areas. The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society intend to survey these features at the earliest opportunity. Further research may include excavation if permits are obtained.

John Funnell 15th March 2001 (Updated 10th March 2016)

Moulsecoomb Place, Brighton – Watching Brief

Notes by Ron Martin of the Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society
and John Funnell of the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society

Introduction

Moulsecoomb Place dates from at least the 11th century and part of a 14th century building is still attached to the main building on its west side. The present façade dates to a refurbishment conducted in 1790. Nearby is a large weather board tithe barn dated to the 16thcentury. At west side of the complex was a circular feature called the Prince's Tower, where legend has it that the Prince Regent used to play music (Carder 1990).

In September 1993 the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society were called by a concerned teacher at Brighton University. Apparently a large wall had been uncovered immediately north of Moulsecoomb Place, where a road was in the process of being constructed. The Society was asked to visit the site and record what was possible. A visit was made to the site in September 1993 which confirmed that a substantial flint wall, measuring over a metre in thickness and at a height of over a metre had been revealed. Some measurements were taken and a photograph. (Fig 1.) The road had been constructed up to the wall and it was demolished the following day. It is a feature located close to one of the oldest buildings in Brighton, and possible dated to the medieval period.

Fig 1. The large flint wall at Moulsecoomb Place

It was not the only feature noted and the County Archaeologist made a request to Ron Martin to record a number of other features also affected by the same development. One deep feature was thought to be a possible ice house.

The Watching Brief by Ron Martin

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on the site of a possible ice house to the north of Moulsecoomb Place, Brighton on the 27th September 1993. The site was revealed during construction work in an area of ground landscaped as gardens in the 18th century. Although the sites thick walls, chalk floor and semi-subterranean location contribute to its identification as an ice house its shape and dimensions are not those typical for a structure of this type. (Fig 2.)

The structure included a flint walled chamber with chalk floor showing evidence of re-use and alteration.

The chamber had not been fully excavated, extending northwards beneath the embankment which carries the road. Its excavated area was 3.5m long, north/south and 3m wide east/west. It was 1m deep from ground level on the site, but examination of the section to the north indicated that about 1m of original ground surface had previously bee removed from the site. The chamber had walls of dressed flint and showed traces of having been rendered. A 0.5m wide and 0.6m high section of this
wall survived above ground level at the south/eastern corner of the chamber. A small brick lined cavity or cupboard had been built into the southern end of the western wall. The bricks measured 0.5m x 0.3m x 0.15m: the cavity was 0.4m wide, 0.3m high and 0.3m deep. It also showed traces of rendering. The top of the cavity had been destroyed during site clearance. The chamber was floored with packed chalk: the building contractors considered this floor suitably stable bedding for the development and was not excavated.

The chamber had been sub-divided after sometime its initial construction; a single skin brick wall extended across it from east to west 2m from the chambers south end. The bricks used were modern stock. The area to the north of this wall was filled with chalk rubble and soils, but it was unclear whether this was part of a policy of deliberate in-filling in the past.

At the south-east corner of the site a section of dressed flint wall 0.5m wide stood to a maximum height of 0.6m. At the corner it rises from the retaining wall of the chamber. It turned southwards 0.5m west of the SE corner, extended 1.5m in that direction. It the turned, extending westwards for 2m before its course was obscured by a yew tree which remained standing on site. The line of the wall may be conjectured since a further flint wall emerged from beneath the tree extending northwards. No indication that the wall also continued to the west was found. Although partly truncated by development works this wall appeared to connect with a section of similar flint wall visible in the northern section at the site boundary.

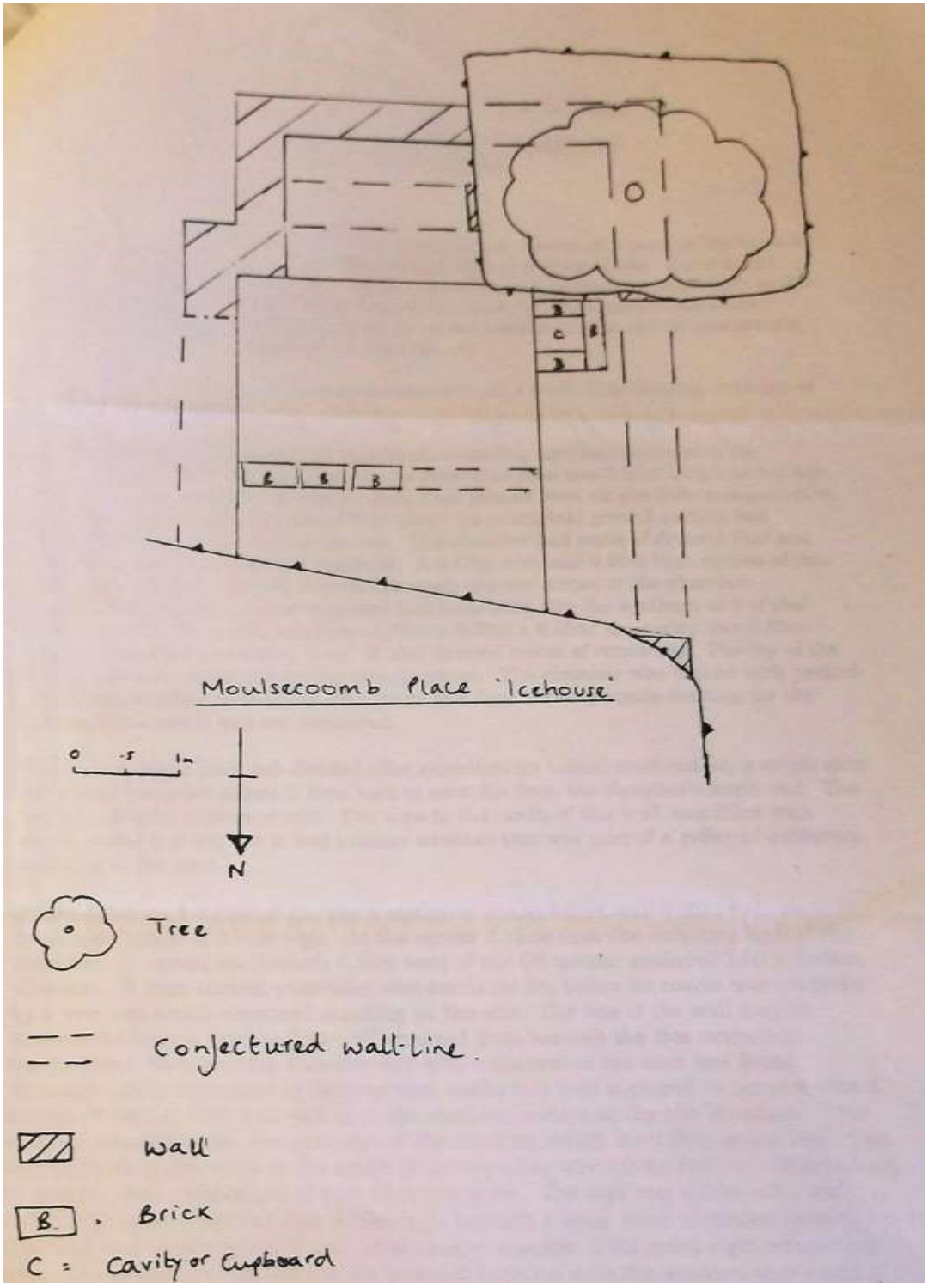


Fig 2. Sketch Plan of the Moulsecoomb Place Ice House

This wall ran parallel to the western edge of the chamber which lay 0.5m to the east. The area defined by the walls to the south of the chamber was sub-divided from east to west by another wall constructed of both flint and brick. The wall was 0.5m wide and 1.4m high with a layer of flint 0.7m high beneath a brick layer of similar height. This wall had been truncated and it is unclear whether it extended right across this area. The presence of the tree at its probable junction with the western wall made it impossible to determine the relationship between the phases of the walls.

Conclusions

Although the large size and unusual rectangular shape of this building do raise some questions about the interpretation of this monument, the evidence suggests that this is an ice house associated with the 18th and 19th century Moulsecoomb Place house. It is typical of this type of structure that it had thick insulating walls, was built into a hill slope, again to create an suitable insulating environment, and that it had a chalk floor which would have aided drainage through the porous rock. Although the flint walls themselves are difficult to date with any degree of accuracy the presence of hand –made bricks in the fabric of the structure suggests that it was erected in the 18th century. This suggested date links with the refurbishment and re-building of the house and with the great period of ice house construction. A ring of hand bricks also suggested as an ice house has been located to the south-east of the house within its grounds. This structure has not been investigated and, hence the identification is tentative.

Ron Martin (Sussex Industrial Archaeological Society)

References:-

Carder T. 1990 'The Encyclopaedia of Brighton' East Sussex County Libraries

Locks Hill - Watching Brief

PLANNING APPLICATION No:- East Sussex County Council

ADDRESS:- Locks Hill, Portslade, Sussex

PLANNING OFFICER:-Mr Greg Chuter ESCC

NAME OF APPLICANT:- Brighton Biosphere Project

DATE OF FIRST CONTACT FROM CONTRACTOR:- February 2016

DATE OF WATCHING BRIEF:- 1st March 2016

BHAS OFFICERS CONDUCTING WATCHING BRIEF:- J. Skelton and Maria Gardiner.

Introduction

As part of the Brighton Biosphere project a development was planned to create a swale on the Eastern edge of the Recreation ground in Locks Hill, opposite Manor Road, Portslade. The swale is a sunken feature to accept rain water from adjacent drains to help prevent local flooding and to permit the water to soak away rather than load the drainage system. The sunken earthwork would be a maximum of about 1.0 metre in depth and about 3 x 8 metres in area.

The History of the Site

A written scheme of investigation was submitted for this work in which the potential for archaeological finds was consider and found to be significant, especially for Roman and medieval periods.

The Geology

The British Geological survey of this area (Sheet 318/333) shows the geology to be part of the outcrop of the Woolwich and Reading beds.

The Watching Brief

The excavation of the feed in gully revealed three layers of soil: topsoil (silty clay loam) over a layer of soil with chalk, fragment inclusions in a loam matrix under which was another layer of brown, silty clay loam. All layers suffered root incursion from nearby trees. The chalky soil was at an average depth of about 40 cm and of a variable thickness from about 30 cm in the East and petering out to the West at about 6 m from the road edge. The excavation at its deepest just touched a layer of reddish brown clay. (see sketch 1 and photos 1, 2). The sloping sides of the swale were cut without creating a vertical surface which obscured stratigraphy in this area

but it appeared to be a uniform brown loam down to the surface of the reddish brown clay. No ancient archaeological features were noted.

The Finds

A metal detecting survey of the spoil from the lower loam layer under the chalky soil produce a large number of nails, a hammer head and a 1930 half penny coin. A visual inspection of this spoil produced two clay, tobacco pipe, stem fragments (photo 3).

An examination of the spoil from the upper layer of soil found finds of modern brick, glass, flowerpot fragments and some glazed ceramics as well as modern metal fragments and a 200? two pence piece (selected items, photo 4).

Conclusions

The watching brief at Locks Hill found no evidence for ancient activity. The soil deposits showed a layer of chalky loam extending into the recreation ground from the road edge and it is suggested that this represents spill of material from when road construction/repair has occurred. The oldest finds were below this spill and represent activity (possibly of "navvies") at the time of or just before road construction/repair.

Acknowledgements

The author would lime to thank R.J.Dance Ltd and their employees Bob and Don who were most helpful during the day, and to Greg Chuter and Rich Howorth for inviting the Society to investigate the interventions.

John Skelton, 22nd March 2016

Sketch 1

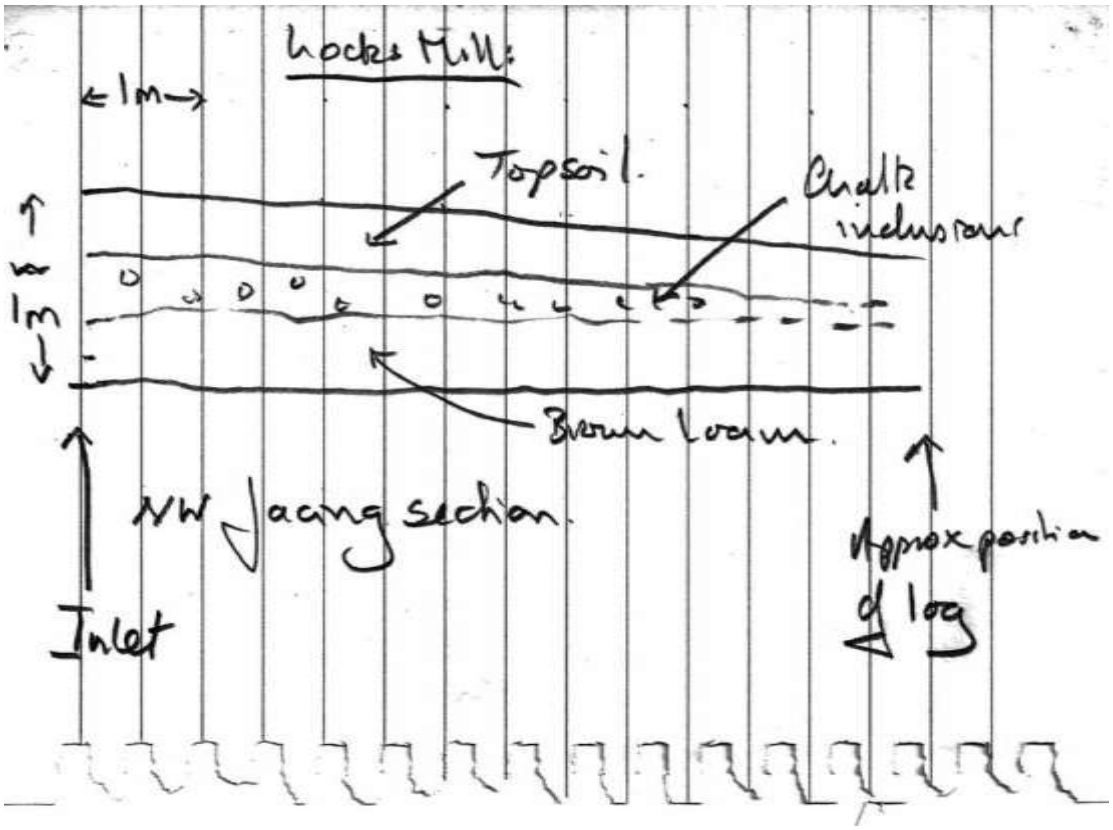


Photo 1 Red clay appearing in bottom of excavation.

Photo 2 Layer of loam with chalk inclusions in Northwest facing section.

Photo 3 Finds from lower loam layer.

Photo 4 Selection of finds from upper loam layer.

Palace Place, Brighton - Watching Brief

Week Commencing 12th December 2016

By The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society

Introduction

The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society were contacted by the Assistant County Archaeologist at East Sussex County Council after an employee at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton had noticed a number of walls exposed during excavation work along Palace Place. The large trench runs almost the length of Palace Place and is adjacent to a number of Royal Pavilion buildings (TQ 3125 0410). The trench being cut is to lay additional pipes and cabling to repair an electrical sub station that has apparently broken down and needs to be replaced (Fig 1). The contractors have been made aware that there are cellars located under the road of Palace Place in a number of locations. British Telecom had partially damaged the wall of one of the cellars in a previous excavation along this road. The new trench was originally intended to be a simple cut about a metre wide running almost the length of the road, but numerous
pipes and cables have initiated an extension in a westerly direction to chase pipes of unknown origin and possibly still 'live'. (Figs 2 & 3)

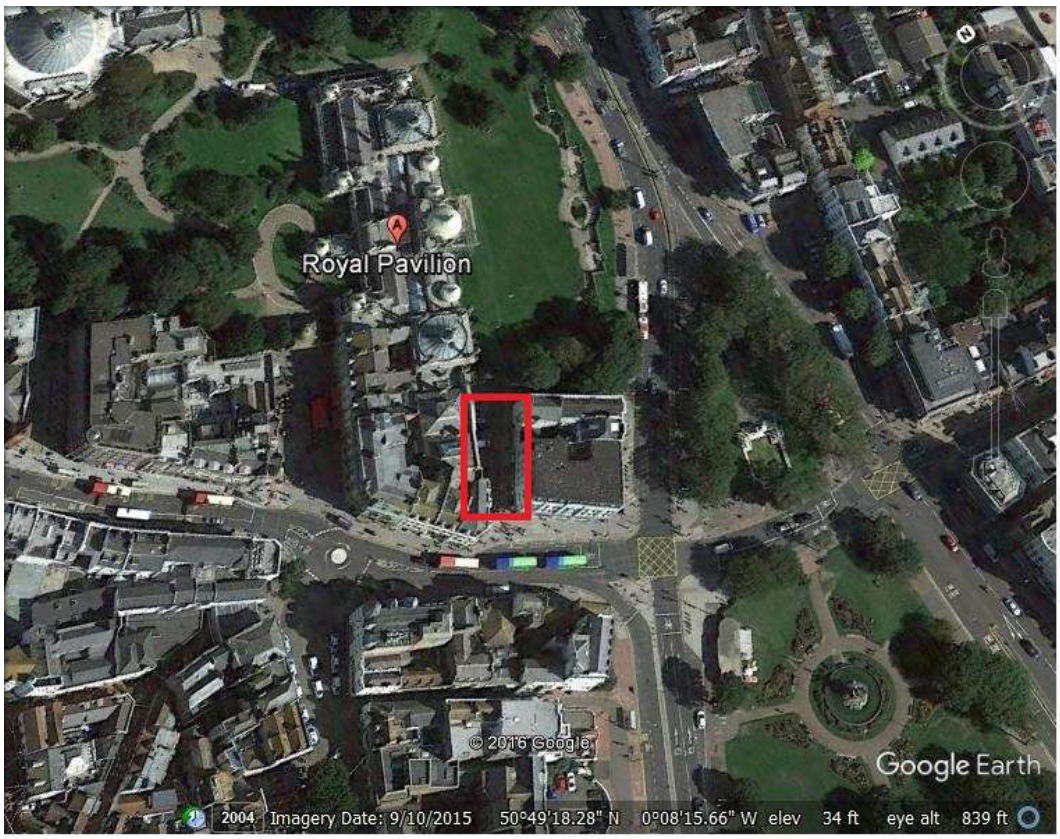


Fig 1. Location of Excavations at Palace Place, Brighton

Fig 2. The complex collection of pipes and cables.

Fig 3. The extension to the west chasing unidentified cables.

The complexity and number of pipes and cables revealed will now warrant an even deeper excavation to allow the new configuration of pipe work to be placed under any existing ones. On Wednesday 14th December the maximum depth of trench had already reached 1.8 metres. (Fig 4.)

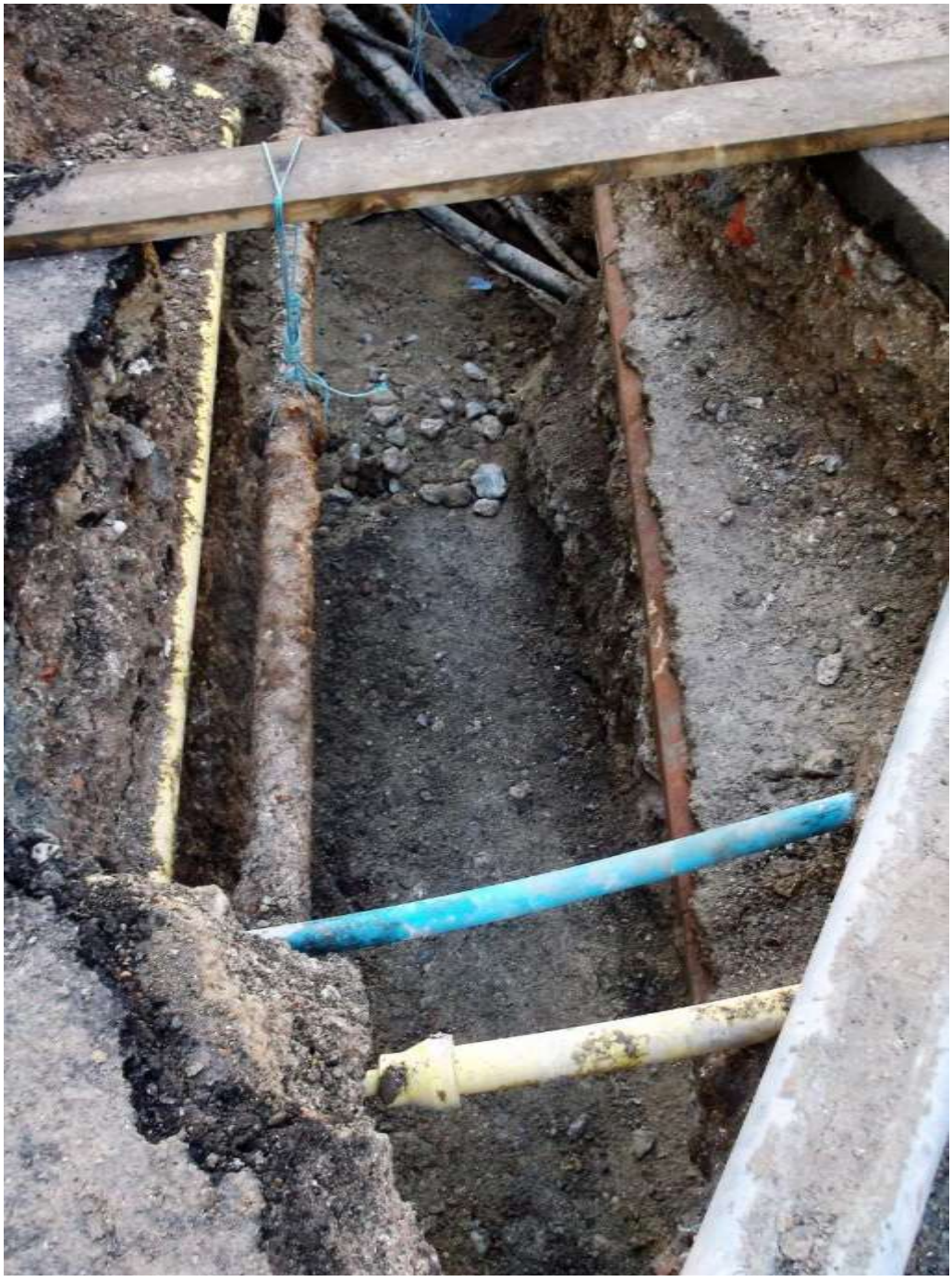


Fig 4. The lower layer, large rounded flints

A number of visits were made to the excavation commencing on Monday 12th December 2016, Wednesday 14th December and Friday 14th December. A sketch plan and measurements were made of the open area on the Wednesday, but new features including a small wall going east/west was revealed during the later phase of digging.

The excavation has revealed a number of archaeological features including culverts, walls and vaulted features. The numerous amounts of previous ground interventions has unfortunately removed large sections of these features, with only vestiges remaining. The various sections created indicate a number of unlinked features and numerous subtle or small pits or ditches.

The History of the Area

Palace Place lies in one of the older Regency parts of Brighton. Castle Square is noted on several old maps (Fig 5.) and on the Yeakell and Gardner map of 1779 a number of buildings are noted in this vicinity (Carder). The Castle Inn, after which the square is named, is shown on this map also with the Thomas Kemp farmhouse, and the stagnant pool of the Wellesborne, which fed down into Pool Valley. This water feature lay to the east of where the Royal Pavilion buildings now stand. The current Royal Pavilion building lies immediately north of Palace Place, and is located slightly to the west of Palace Place. The Royal Pavilion gardens have always been damp and soggy in this location (Pers. Comm. Royal Pavilion gardener).

The Castle Inn was built in the 1740's as a private house and later converted into an inn in 1752 (Farrant & Farrant). It was rebuilt in 1766 with an additional taller structure north of the inn. These were the assembly rooms and consisted of a red brick façade, which faced west into Palace Place. The inn was in fashionable part of Brighton and had a well, its own water supply. The inn had a ballroom measuring 80 feet by 40 feet. The Castle Inn gradually went out of fashion as a other resources became available. The inn was demolished in 1823 and replaced by a four storey row of houses, with Castle Square being widened. The assembly rooms however were not part of that demolition and were converted into a royal chapel. Later a connecting covered passage way to the Royal Pavilion was an added feature. A map of 1779 has details of Castle Square before any development. Documents from the sale of the Castle Inn indicate that the inn had an ice House (Farrant).

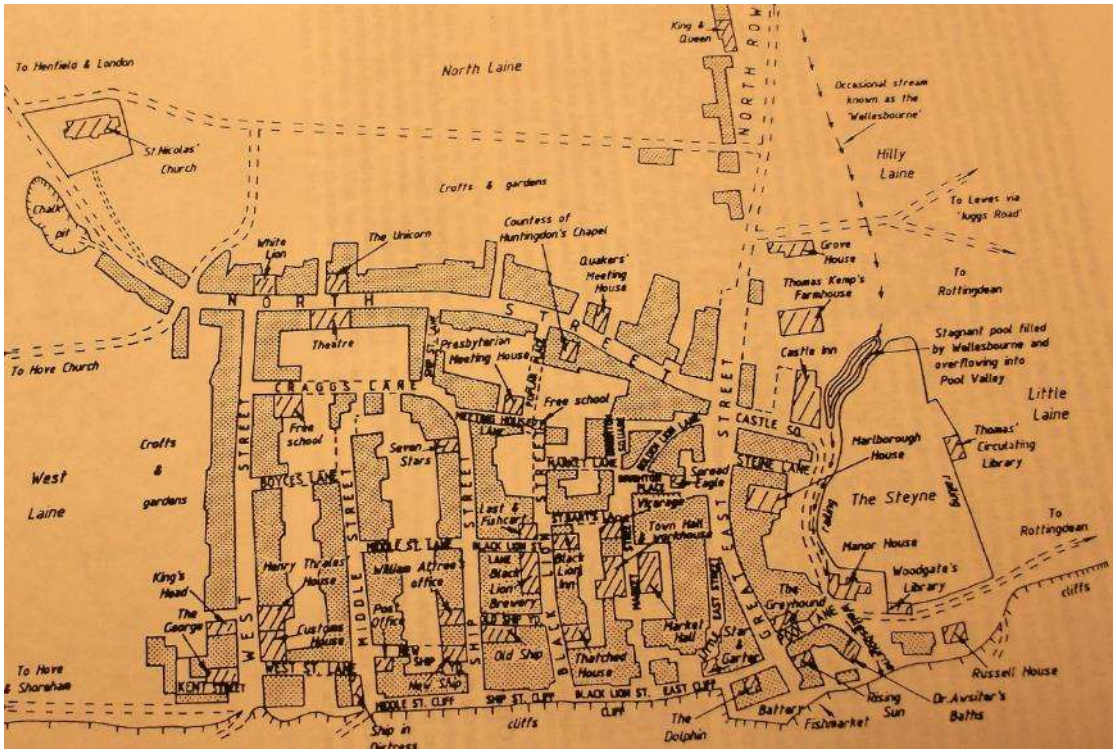


Fig 5. Map of Old Brighton 1779 (Yeakell & Gardner)

During the later 18th century Castle Square was the commercial hub of the town with Castle Inn its focus. After the inn was demolished houses were built called Needham's Corner and the new development consisted of houses and store rooms. This later became Electric House and is now the premises of the Royal Bank of Scotland. It is known that there were buildings to house staff working at the Royal pavilion at the south end of the Royal Pavilion, and these were built of brick and flint.

The Geology

The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 scale geological mapping (BGS 2015) shows the site lies over Upper to Middle Chalk with Quaternary head deposits in the valley bottom. On a map of 1779 the Wellesbourne Stream, now running below ground level, was a visible feature shown running into a stagnant pool which overflowed into the Pool Valley. The excavations revealed numerous re-deposited sections of various materials including a chalk rubble loam, natural chalk and layers of brick and flint asnd general rubble. The new trench was 60cm deep at the north end dropping to almost 1.8 metres about half way along Palace Place. The lower deposits consisted of a white chalky loam, possibly a combe rock, and increasing amounts of large water worn flint nodules.

The Excavations

On the visit of Wednesday 14th December a single trench measuring approximately 1 metre in width had been cut almost the length of Palace Place. It was about 4 metres short of the road at the north end, but the plan was to cut the trench almost to the junction with North Street. The trench was a few centimetres to the west of the pavement on the east side of Palace Place and was entirely cut into only the road

surface. By Friday 16th December a new section of trench had been cut on the west side of the road, still cutting only the road, and whose purpose was to chase an unidentified pipe. This section of the trench curved and cut into the road in a north westerly direction. The trench varied in depth from 56cms at the north end to 1.8 metres about half way along the road. Another visit was made to the site on Tuesday 3rd January. A small area to the south was still to be excavated, but the area to the north had already been partially back filled.

The Features

Culvert or Channel (A) – This feature was a well defined channel with a small opening. It was running southwards on the west side of the trench, heading towards North Street. It consisted of a brick floor and sides and a stone capping. The aperture was exposed and noted to be empty (Fig 6.). The structure had walls of one red brick thick (12cms wide) and had an opening measuring 22cm. The stone capping was about 1" (25mm) thick. The depth of the opening was 18cm. It was probably a redundant cable duct.

Fig 6. The West Culvert (A)

Culvert or Channel (B) – This feature appeared in the south facing section of the trench at the north end (Fig 7.). It was of red brick construction and had a visible opening width of 40cm. There was another brick section visible about 70cm to the east, but it is uncertain if this was the opposite side of a culvert as trowelling showed it to be quit a loose constituent. Between the west and east sides were two later cuts, showing differing types of back fill. The slight curved nature of the west section suggests that it may be the vestiges of a Victorian drain.

Fig 7. A possible Victorian drain in the south facing section (B)

Culvert or Channel (C) – This feature was located on the east side of the trench and about half way down the road. It was a curved section and was constructed of red brick (Fig 8.). It was incomplete and had obviously been destroyed during previous interventions. The curved side of the structure was mortared and well made, but the bottom section consisted of only plain red brick and these had no mortar and were loose, and held together by the limited space (pers, comm. Contractors). This feature had been totally removed before the visit on the Wednesday. Attached to this curved feature was a square or rectangular drain duct. However, this had been totally removed by the contractors before any visits were made, but the contractor was able to provide a description of what had been lost. He suggested that it was probably linked to the curved drain running southwards.

Fig 8. A red brick vaulted feature, a possible Victorian Drain (C)

West Facing Features - Other than the curved feature already mentioned the only other feature in the west facing section was another anomalous collection of red bricks, which was about 4 brick layers thick and about 1.5 metres long, but with no clear definition. This feature was located even further south, and closer to the road surface.

North Vaulted Arch Section (D) – Very visible in the east facing section was the remains of a brick built arch (Figs 9 & 10.). This was located at the north end of the main trench where it joined the second smaller trench running east/west. The edge of the arch was 1.4 metres from the north end of the trench. It consisted of two thicknesses of red brick and was curving southwards. The double brick thickness measured 21cm. The maximum depth of trench at this point was 1.02M.

Fig 9. The North vaulted Arch (D)

Fig 10. The North Arch close up (D)

South Vaulted Arch Section (E) – The second vaulted section was located 5 metres to the south of the first vaulted section (Figs 11 & 12.). This wall consisted of 2 thicknesses of brick, and was curving northwards. At the top section of this curve was a section consisting of large flint nodules. Immediately to the south of this vaulted feature was another anomalous collection of red brick measuring about 1.4M in width (Fig 13.). The contractors did remove some of the loose rubble fill between the arches and found a more solid, compact fill behind.

Fig 11. The South Arch (E)

Fig 12. The South Arch (E) in close up

Fig 13. The south Arch and adjacent red brick rubble.

Buried Wall (F) – Buried beneath the tarmac at the south end of the road and about 65cm below the surface was another fragment of wall (Fig 14.). This wall was running east/west and measured 35cm in width. It went down to depth of 1.6M and was constructed of flint and mortar. However, when the extension to the trench was added on the western side of Place Place there was no trace of this wall. It is possible that the wall had been destroyed during later excavations, or that the feature is not a wall at all but something less substantial.

Fig 14. The Buried Wall (F)

Buried Wall (G) – This wall was revealed when the extra section was being cut to chase the new unidentified pipe (Fig 15.). It was about 30cm in width and only two bricks thick. It was located just below the tarmac surface and was running east/west. The removal of more fill revealed more Victorian brickwork which appears associated with this feature, but without further excavation any relationship could not be determined.

Fig 15. The Buried Wall running East/West (G)

East Facing Features - The east facing section revealed far more features than the west facing side. The section noted the tarmac as being a regular depth of 12cm. Below this was a grit and mortar surface which measured 14cms in depth. There was a shorter, lower section of a grit and mortar fill which was about 6cm thick, but this did not run the whole length of the trench. Another feature noted was a compact chalk deposit running for about 3.9M with a depth of 20cm.

The Finds – The finds from the excavation were few in number and consisted of a single fragment of blue and white porcelain plate, taken away by the Royal Pavilion personnel. It is thought to be a low status item and not associated with any royal activities and dated to about 1800. A pair of spoons was the other find, although one could possibly be a fork as the end of the handle was missing (Pers. Comm. Contractors). The finds were handed to museum staff.

Conclusions

The excavation in this tiny part of Brighton, located just on the outskirts of 'Old Brighton', revealed a complex mixture of features and fills. The historical documentation shows that even during the 18th and early 19th centuries a great deal of building, demolition and re-build had already taken place. The extremely large collection of pipes, cables, ducts and individual pits show that this area continues to be in a very disturbed context.

There are a number of early plans showing the old Castle Inn and its surrounding environment before it was converted into the fashionable Regency facility. There are also later plans showing the conversion into the later Royal chapel and plans of sewer and gas pipe locations, that could be related to some of the features uncovered (Pers. Comm. G. Grant 'Royal Pavilion archive drawings). These early maps also show a number of cellars and stores related to the kitchens in Pavilion buildings, but none appear to be in the central section of the road.

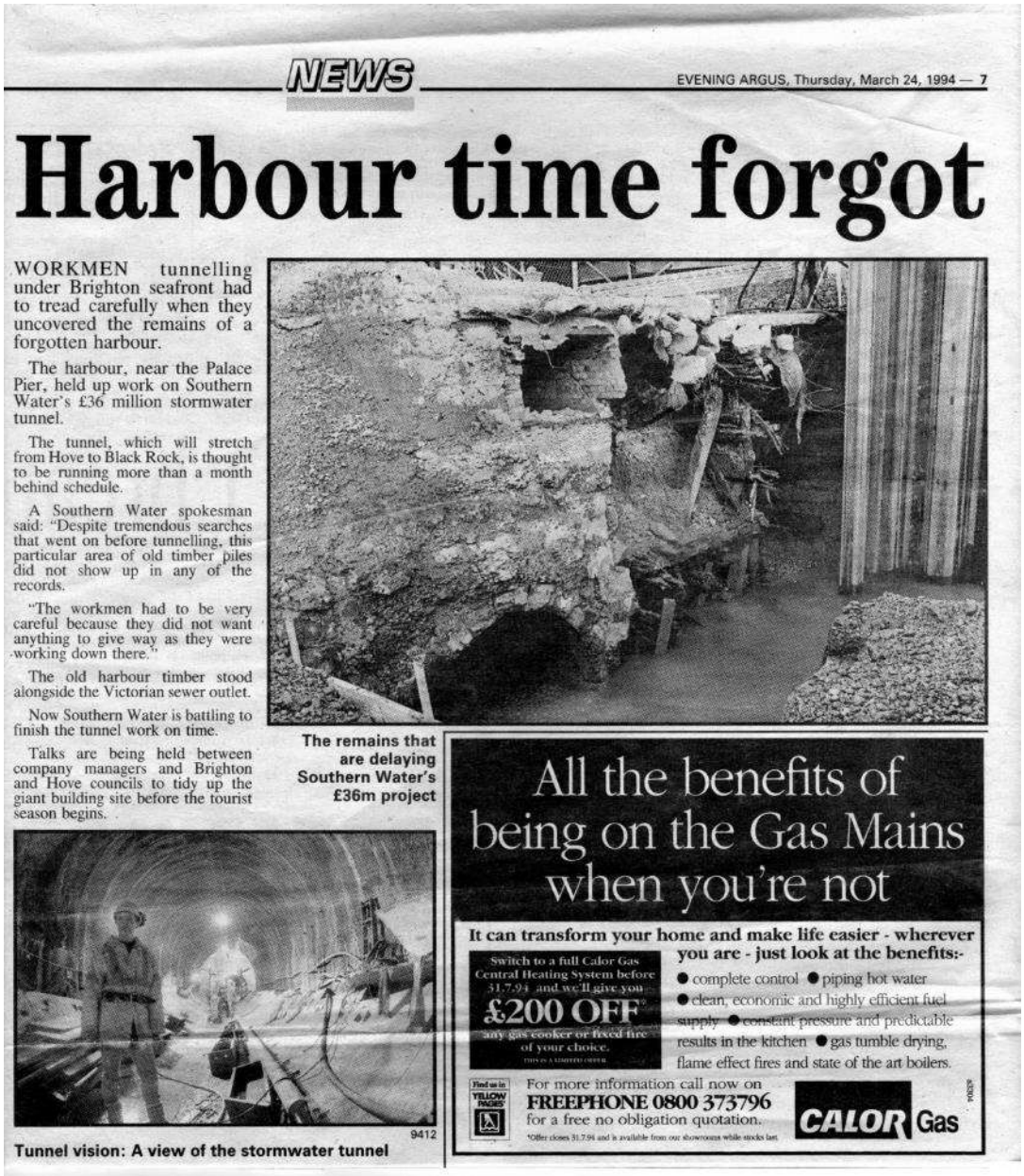
Early plans and maps of the area to the south of the Royal Pavilion show a number of phases of building. The Yeakell and Gardner map of 1779 shows an area of open land between the Castle Inn and other structures, not defined, located to the west (Carder). A later map dated to 1788 indicates some buildings located between the Castle Inn and the buildings to the west at the northern end of Palace Place, but another map shows no buildings at all. A later map of 1822 also shows the north section, between the Castle Inn and the Pavilion buildings as being built upon (Farrant & Farrant). Other maps of 1779 indicate that the buildings north and west of the Castle Inn were a private house belonging to the Prince Regents steward Weltjies, and the Pavilion stables (Farrant). Further confusion is added by a map of 1823 which portrays a complex of cellars at the north end of Palace Place.

The most curious and interesting pair of features are the pair of curved vaulted sections. The area between them is filled with rubble, and they may form part of an unrecorded cellar, possibly part of the old Castle Inn or earlier Royal Pavilion lower status buildings. The arches that remain are only a few centimetres below ground so if completed to their full height must have protruded well above the natural ground surface. There was no trace of any similar vaulted section in the west facing section, which could suggest an associated with the pavilion buildings rather than the Castle Inn. It is also possible that they are part of the Castle Inn complex with any footings and walls destroyed by recent pipe laying activities.

Several of the red bricked vaults and culverts are probably associated with the numerous Victorian sewers and drains constructed below the ground in this part of Brighton. The main Victorian sewers are located only a few metres to the east of this excavation, and they may possibly be redundant feeder channels to the main sewer.

The excavations at Palace Place confirm that Brighton has a great deal of hidden archaeology located just below its thriving and busy streets. In recent years a number of features have been found including a hitherto unknown well in Duke Street.

In 1994 excavations along the sea front close to the Old Ship Hotel revealed a number of red brick vaulted walls, then considered to be part of an ancient port of Brighton (Brighton Evening Argus) (Fig 16) and along Bristol Gardens a development in 2012 also revealed a number of red bricked arched cellar walls and ceilings (Funnell). As more and more developments allow examination of the layers below Brighton's surfaces it may be a possible to link up some of these features. One benefit would be new research and a study of the ancient maps and plans. New research might provide a greater understanding of the chronological sequence and development of buildings related to Regency and Victorian Brighton. A sketch plan of the area and a section drawing have been created (Fig 17).



NEWS

EVENING ARGUS, Thursday, March 24, 1994 — 7

Harbour time forgot

WORKMEN tunnelling under Brighton seafront had to tread carefully when they uncovered the remains of a forgotten harbour.

The harbour, near the Palace Pier, held up work on Southern Water's £36 million stormwater tunnel.

The tunnel, which will stretch from Hove to Black Rock, is thought to be running more than a month behind schedule.

A Southern Water spokesman said: "Despite tremendous searches that went on before tunnelling, this particular area of old timber piles did not show up in any of the records.

"The workmen had to be very careful because they did not want anything to give way as they were working down there."

The old harbour timber stood alongside the Victorian sewer outlet.

Now Southern Water is battling to finish the tunnel work on time.

Talks are being held between company managers and Brighton and Hove councils to tidy up the giant building site before the tourist season begins.

The remains that are delaying Southern Water's £36m project

9412

Tunnel vision: A view of the stormwater tunnel

Fig 16. A possible old harbour at Brighton (Evening Argus)

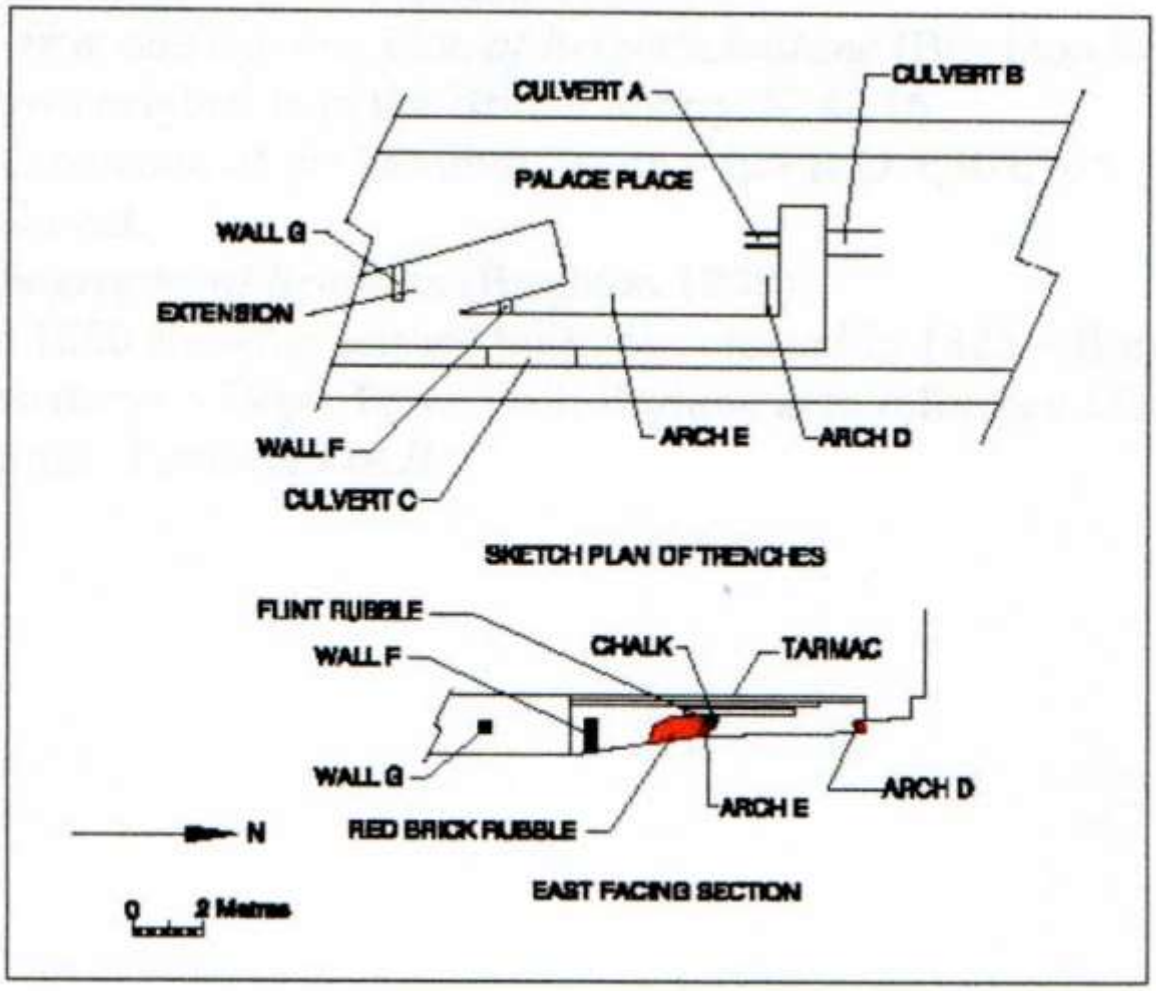


Fig 17. A Rough Sketch of the plan and section of the Trench in Palace Place

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

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the Royal Pavilion personnel for making the Assistant County Archaeologist aware of the archaeology in the trench, and to Gordon Grant for supplying a number of Royal Pavilion utility plans, and to Greg Chuter the County Archaeologist for his consideration of allowing BHAS to conduct the watching brief, and to the contractors for their help and assistance during the site visits.

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Victoria Park - Watching Brief

PLANNING APPLICATION No:- East Sussex County Council

ADDRESS:- Victoria Park, Portslade, Sussex

PLANNING OFFICER:-Mr Greg Chuter ESCC

NAME OF APPLICANT:- Brighton Biosphere Project

DATE OF FIRST CONTACT FROM CONTRACTOR:- February 2016

DATE OF WATCHING BRIEF:- 15th March 2016

BHAS OFFICERs CONDUCTING WATCHING BRIEF:- J.Funnell & J.Skelton,

Introduction

As part of the Brighton Biosphere project a development was planned to create a swale at the north/west end of Victoria Park, Portslade. The swale was a sunken feature to drain water from the surrounding area and prevent flooding to the houses in Beaconsfield Road. The sunken earthwork would be a maximum of 1.4 metres in depth and about 6-8 metres in width, the length would be deeper at the southern end of the feature with a soakaway. The sides would then be sloped outwards and upwards in a gentle incline.

The History of the Site

The brick earth and clays around Portslade are ideal for cultivation and a number of archaeological finds from the Neolithic through to a Saxon cemetery indicate how much this area has been utilised. The potential for archaeology was good, but the landscape around the site tended to suggest that it had been terraced in the past to create the football pitches.

The Geology

The British Geological survey of this area (Sheet 318/333) shows the geology to be part of the outcrop of the Woolwich and Reading beds. The area proved to be quite disturbed with a 20th century ditch, backfilled after an electric cable had been laid.

A number of distinct layers were noted during the excavation. The top soil was comprised of a silty clay loam (Munsell code 7.5YR4/3). The under surface was a dark reddish brown clay (Munsell code 2.5YR2.5/4), while the lower layer proved to be a yellowish red clay (Munsell code 5YR5/6). A small soakaway was cut through this lower clay surface and came down on to a solid flint deposit 0.5 metres below.

The Watching Brief

Several members of the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Field Unit arrived at the commencement of works (Fig 1). An area of one bucket width was cut down to 1.4 metres maximum in depth. At the north it was a very disturbed layer and a electric cable was revealed, This was chased back for about 3 metres towards a known gas pipe, but before it reached this feature is terminated having been cut off in the past. The trench revealed a modern ditch of maximum width of 1.5 metres and this was filled with cinder and modern debris. The central trench was excavated first and produced no finds. The upper layer of clay was of a varying depth measuring from 0.5 metres to 0.7 metres in depth.

On the north side of this trench, and noted in the section, was a very visible thin tarmac layer and this followed the contour of the rising surface. It may have been part of an old pathway, it has been disturbed by the later utility ditch found with the electric cable. As the work progressed southwards a shallow pit containing cinder was noted measuring about 30cms in depth (Fig 2.). As this was removed a number of finds were recovered including Victorian ceramics and scallop shell fragments. No other features were noted and the watching brief continued until the final soil removal had taken place.

A small sondage was cut through the bottom layer of clay, which is the Woolwich and Reading beds, and came down onto a solid flint deposit after only about 50cm. (Fig 3).

The Finds

As mentioned above a small (Victorian?) rubbish dump produced glazed pottery, a bottle neck and scallop shells (Photos 1).

An examination of the soil removed found finds of modern brick, tile, glass, flowerpot fragments and some glazed ceramics. A metal detecting survey produce a number of nails, some modern pierced metal fragments and a key (selected items, photo 2).

Conclusions

The watching brief at Victoria Park found no evidence for ancient activity. The soil deposits suggest that there had been some terracing and levelling with a number of modern items noted in the upper fills, so it is likely to have a more recent event. This upper layer did cover a small, shallow rubbish pit of probable Victorian dating, possibly derived from dumping by the occupants of Beaconsfield Road.

Acknowledgements

The author would lime to thank R.J.Dance Ltd and their employees Bob and Don who were most helpful during the day, and to Greg Chuter and Rich Howorth for inviting the Society to investigate the interventions, and to those members of the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society that conducted the watching brief on the day.

Fig 1. Members of BHAS conducting the watching Brief

Fig 2. The Excavation at Victoria Gardens well under way

Fig 3. The Woolwich and Reading beds are quite shallow at this point.

Photo 1 – Finds from Victoria Park

Photo 2 More finds from Victoria Park

John Funnell 24th March 2016

Notes from Sussex Archaeology Forum (Brighton & Hove area) for March 2016

Brighton: Fabrica Art Gallery, Duke Street, Brighton. (NGR 530974, 104215). (Site Code: DSB 15. Director Catherine Douglas). A watching brief within the early 19th- century church on the northern edge of the medieval settlement. A well-constructed in three phases was exposed and may be as early as the medieval period. Adjacent bungaroosh walls and a fragment of flint cobble wall are likely to pre-date the church. The well appears to have been incorporated into the basement of the church before being reused as a soakaway in the late 19th century/early 20th century (ASE).

Hove: West Hove Golf Club. (NGR 526666 107820: Hove parish). (Site Code: WHG 15. Director Philippa Stephenson). The evaluation of the *c*.2.73 ha site exposed colluvium in the valley bottom and eroded chalk substrate on the eastern flanks of the valley. Four features were identified on the eastern slope of the dry valley including an undated tree-throw, an undated possible ditch terminus and a pit and possible late medieval/early post medieval ditch at the summit. Finds recovered during the work includes three small Roman sherds, retrieved from colluvium on the slope of the dry valley and within made ground deposits on the embankment. Irregular plough scars in the chalk are indicative of early agricultural activity in keeping with the evidence of low archaeological impact within the study area. Watching brief currently in progress (ASE).

***Ovingdean: Hog Croft** (TQ 354 036: Ovingdean Parish). (Site code: 500209, Director John Skelton). Excavation of a 13th Century manorial complex consisting of stone manor house and timber structures bounded by earthwork banks. The digging finished in early November 2015 but as we intend to return to the same trenches the site has been covered with bubblewrap and tarpaulin! When we return we will report on whether this has been successful in mitigating frost damage to the exposed flint and chalk. We plan to return to Ovingdean in April 2016 but with a shorter digging season. When details are finalised they will be published on our website (http://www.brightonarch.org.uk). There will be digging opportunities for all members of BHAS and non-members can visit and join on site if they find that the activities are "for them" (BHAS).

Attendance Record BHAS Field Unit 2016

Dated 30/12/2016

John Funnell (Director)	68 Days	Brighton
Hestor Adams	2 Days	Brighton (Cardiff)
Vanesa Alvarez	5 Days	Spain (Oxford)
Ann Barrow	4 Days	Brighton
Sue Batey	6 Days	Brighton
Clive Bean	46 Days	Portslade
Judith Billingham (G)	9 Days	Brighton
Chloe Bowes	1 Day	Clapham (London)
Fran Briscoe	29 Days	Shoreham
Andy Brooker	1 Day	Lancing
Drew Brooker	**1** Day	Lancing
Margaret Carey	24 Days	Brighton
Maureen Cahalin	8 Days	Saltdean
Duncan Cameron	13 Days	Brighton
Beth Clements	8 Days	Brighton
Paula Cohen	2 Days	Lewes
Brenda Collins	2 Days	Sompting
Penny Cooper	5 Days	Brighton
Anne Cornish	2 Days	Hove
Bob Crowhurst	2 Days	Brighton
David Cuthbertson	1 Day	Brighton
Ian Denyer	2 Days	Brighton
Dalila Di Domenico	20 Days	Hove(Naples)
Elaine Evans	2 Days	Hove
Lisa Fisher	4 Days	Chailey
Hayley Forsythe	2 Days	Eastbourne
Alarna Fowler	6 Days	Hove
Stefanie Freiling	25 Days	Southwick
Mary Funnell	2 Days	Brighton
Maria Gardiner(E)(SP)(G)(W)	12 Days	Hove
Mark Gillingham (Director)(W)	51 Days	Hove
Paul Greenslade	2 Days	Bevendean
Lesley Haines	10 Days	Burgess Hill
Luci Hammond	2 Days	Brighton
Louise Healy	1 Day	Brighton
Andrew Housam	3 Days	Scaynes Hill
John Hynnter	10 Days	Brighton
Jackie Jones	1 Day	Brighton
Glynis Jones (MacCloud)	8 Days	Lancing
Victoria Kam	3 Days	Saltdean
John Lonerhan	1 Day	Pulborough

David Ludwig	23 Days	Rustington
Dot McBrien (S) (SP) (G) (W)	2 Days	Sompting
Joan MacGregor (G)	13 Days	Brighton
Nicky Matthews	8 Days	Newhaven
Andy Maxted	3 Days	Saltdean
David Millum	1 Day	Plumpton
Nadia Khalili-Nayer	7 Days	Shoreham
Jo Miller	9 Days	Ringmer
Bruce Milton	2 Days	Burgess Hill
Sylvia Newman	4 Days	Brighton
Louise O'Connor	3 Days	Hove
Owen O'Donnell	3 Days	Brighton
Marilyn Page	3 Days	Epsom
Alison Partridge	16 Days	Newhaven
Linda Penfold	1 Day	Brighton
Franz Plachy	2 Days	Hove
Donald Richardson	1 Days	Lewes
Neil Richardson	19 Days	Eastbourne
Linda Robinson	8 Days	Brighton
David Rudling	1 Day	Ditchling
Derek Russell	4 Days	Brighton
Jane Russell	12 Days	Brighton
Innes Russell	3 Days	Brighton
Alison Sanders	1 Days	Rotherham
Graham Schakell	5 Days	Hove
John Skelton	65 Days	Hove
Kate Skelton	9 Days	Hove
John Spiller	22 Days	Portslade
Maddie Struik	5 Days	Rustington
Jack Sudds	1 Day	St Albans
Olga Szubert	3 Days	Brighton(Poland)
Pete Tolhurst	47 Days	Crowborough
Sean Vanenort	2 Days	Worthing
Carol White (SP)(Director)	24 Days	Newhaven
Janis Winkworth	22 Days	Brighton
Ned Wontner	15 Days	Brighton
Sue Worth	4 Days	Brighton
Linda Wright	7 Days	Southwick
Indi?	2 Days	California
Devon?	2 Days	California

Total Attendance

Total Days 790 (Male Days 418 53%) (Female Days 372 47%)

Total Number of Participants 81 People, not including the Young Archaeologists Club (YAC)

Dated 31st December 2016

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 2016.

Brighton and Hove City Council

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Mr David and Martin Carr, Tenant Farmers, Ovingdean Farms

Mr Casper Johnson, County Archaeologist

Mr Greg Chuter, Assistant East Sussex County Council

Ms Lisa Fisher

Mr David Rudling University of Sussex

Mr J.Skelton – BHAS Director of the Ovingdean excavations

Mr M.Gillingham – BHAS Assistant Director of the BHAS Field Unit

Mr P.Tolhurst – BHAS Geophyics Team leader

Ms C.White (Leader of the BHAS Bones Team)

Archaeology South East (ASE) for the use of their facilities in post ex.

Mr David Larkin, Acting Manager City Parks, Brighton and Hove City Council

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 (1993-2016) 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 12th September 2017