

Archaeological Field Notebook 2007

A Record of the Projects of the;

Brighton & Hove Archaeological
Society Field Unit

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Introduction

The 2007 season of field activities proved as busy and eventful as many of the previous years. The activities allowed ample time for educational programmes of new recruits in all aspects of the units endeavours. New faces joined many of the older members of the group with opportunities for training in surveying, resistivity surveying, planning and section drawing. New members to the team were trained in excavation processes by the more experienced field officers and team members. A number of the team are studying various degree and other courses at Sussex University and it is their dissertational projects that are currently being encompassed into the new excavation and research programmes.

The Young Archaeologists Club, were once again, made very welcome at the Rocky Clump excavations. Finds processing was conducted at both the Victoria rooms, Stanmer, which has now closed, and at a new venue at the Patcham Community Centre. Day Schools were organised in Woodland Surveying, Archaeological Illustration, the Study of Bones and Roman Pottery. The day schools were held at a variety of locations including Varndean College and Falmer Village Hall.

The research programme included field walking at Woodingdean (east field), which is part of the large survey of this part of Brighton. The resistivity team conducted surveys at Ferring with Dr David Yates of Reading University, and Old Boat Corner where a field was designated as a possible cemetery location. This decision was later changed.

The Field Unit 'review of the year' has now moved permanently to being part of the BHAS Annual General Meeting, where every member of the society is able to experience what has achieved over the season. Student project leaders have been encouraged to make presentations about their excavations, and this has proved to be very successful.

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

John Funnell 24th August 2008

Excavations at Rocky Clump, Stanmer 2007

(An interim report)

Introduction

The new season of excavations at Rocky Clump, Stanmer began in early April of 2007 (Fig 1.). The excavations were, as in past seasons, excavations but with training in archaeological techniques as part of the function of our endeavours. The BHAS Field Unit was joined by several new members who were placed with more experienced diggers, until they had sufficient confidence to work on their own.

The new season had four areas of investigation, and all of them have produced significantly interesting features and finds. The main concentration continued in the 'north' trench. The north trench was to examine the known ditches that run from east to west across the site and quite apparent in the geophysical survey conducted awhile ago. The same area would also trace and follow a series of post holes found in previous years that had been an extension to the new structure, or probable stockade that had been found in past seasons. The earlier excavations had the post holes continuing westwards into the baulk, and it was uncertain whether these were for another enclosure, building or fence line.

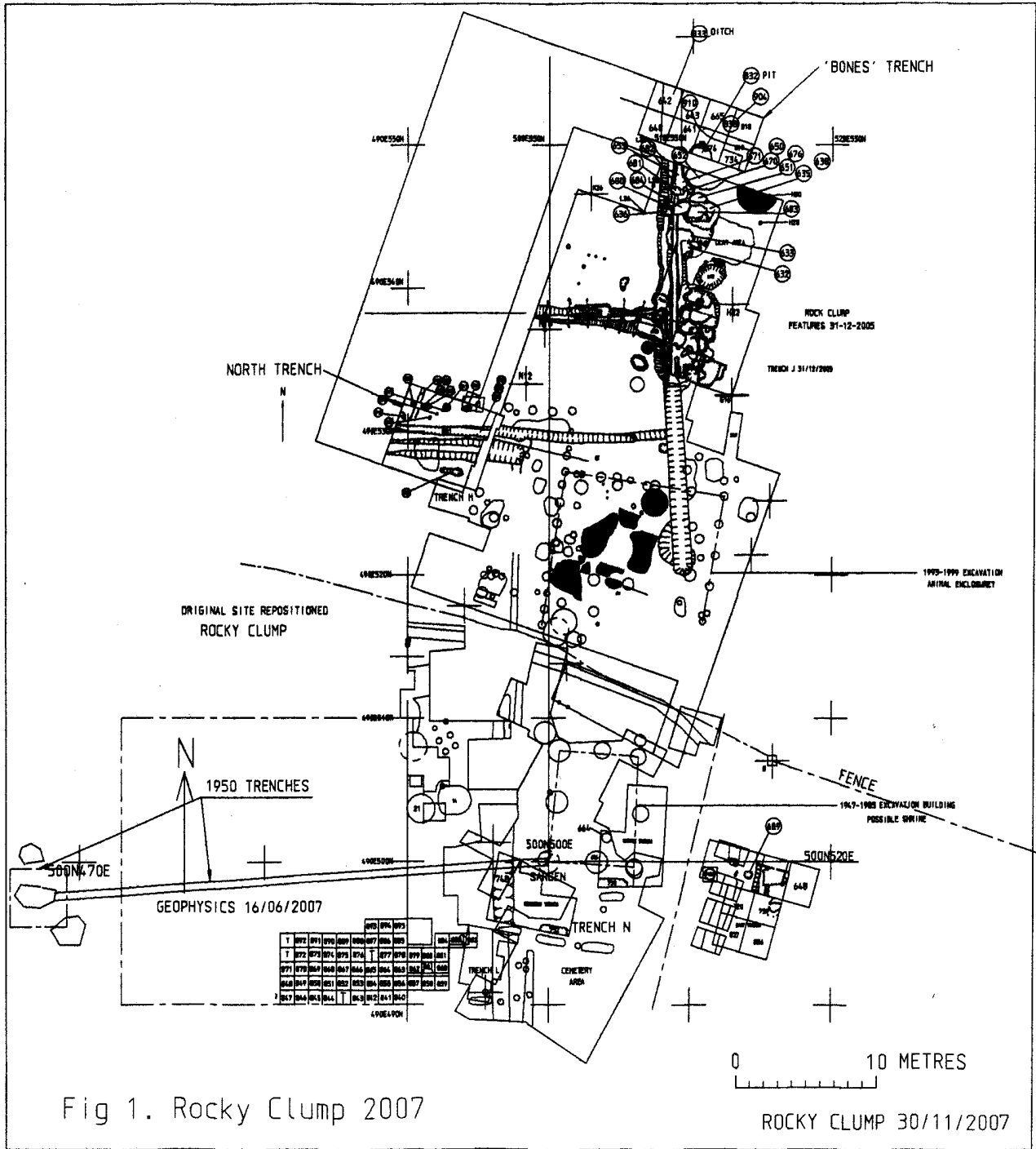
The second area of interest was the 'bones' trench. The bones trench focused on the large north/south ditch running northwards from a terminus found in earlier years. The ditch has produced large quantities of bones from all manner of animals. The bone deposits were to be studied by a student from Sussex University who was using the material for one of her projects. Carol White, the student, is also leader of the BHAS bones team.

The third area lies to the east of the clump of trees that is Rocky Clump. The east area was investigated in the 1960's by a gentleman called Clive Skeggs, who cut four trenches to examine the ditch surrounding Rocky Clump. There is no record of what he found as the excavation has never been published. The east trench was started several seasons ago and has produced what are obviously overburden layers from the earlier excavation, but the nature of finds from large sherds of Roman pottery mixed with a variety of fairly contemporary finds is somewhat perplexing.

A new area was laid out within the trees at Rocky Clump and this was to be used as an overspill area on busy days. The new area is designed to seek out a previously untouched burial for accurate dating material, whether through finds or carbon dating of the bones.

The Young Archaeologists Club (Y.A.C.) visited the site on the 9th June to join in with the digging, apparently something that they really look forward to. The excavations continued at Rocky Clump until the early part of December.

The BHAS Field Unit did move to a rescue site at Ringmer in May for several week-ends, to assist Greg Chuter excavate and record a Roman site found close to the runway of the Ringmer Gliding Club.



The Excavations

The North Trench (Figure 2. and Fig 3.)

The north trench had been partially opened in 2006 with contexts 698-712 being the original 1 metre square top soil locations. The trench was extended in 2007 with another 10 contexts on the west side, contexts 770-782, 3 extra contexts northwards 726, 727 and 728 while additional contexts were added to the east side of the trench contexts 794-805, with 822, 823 and 824 being added later. In-situ pottery had been found in context 698 in 2006 which is quite odd, being as most of this field had been constantly ploughed since the Second World War. The area extended and the known ditches are quite distinct in the images from an earlier geophysical survey. (Fig 4.)

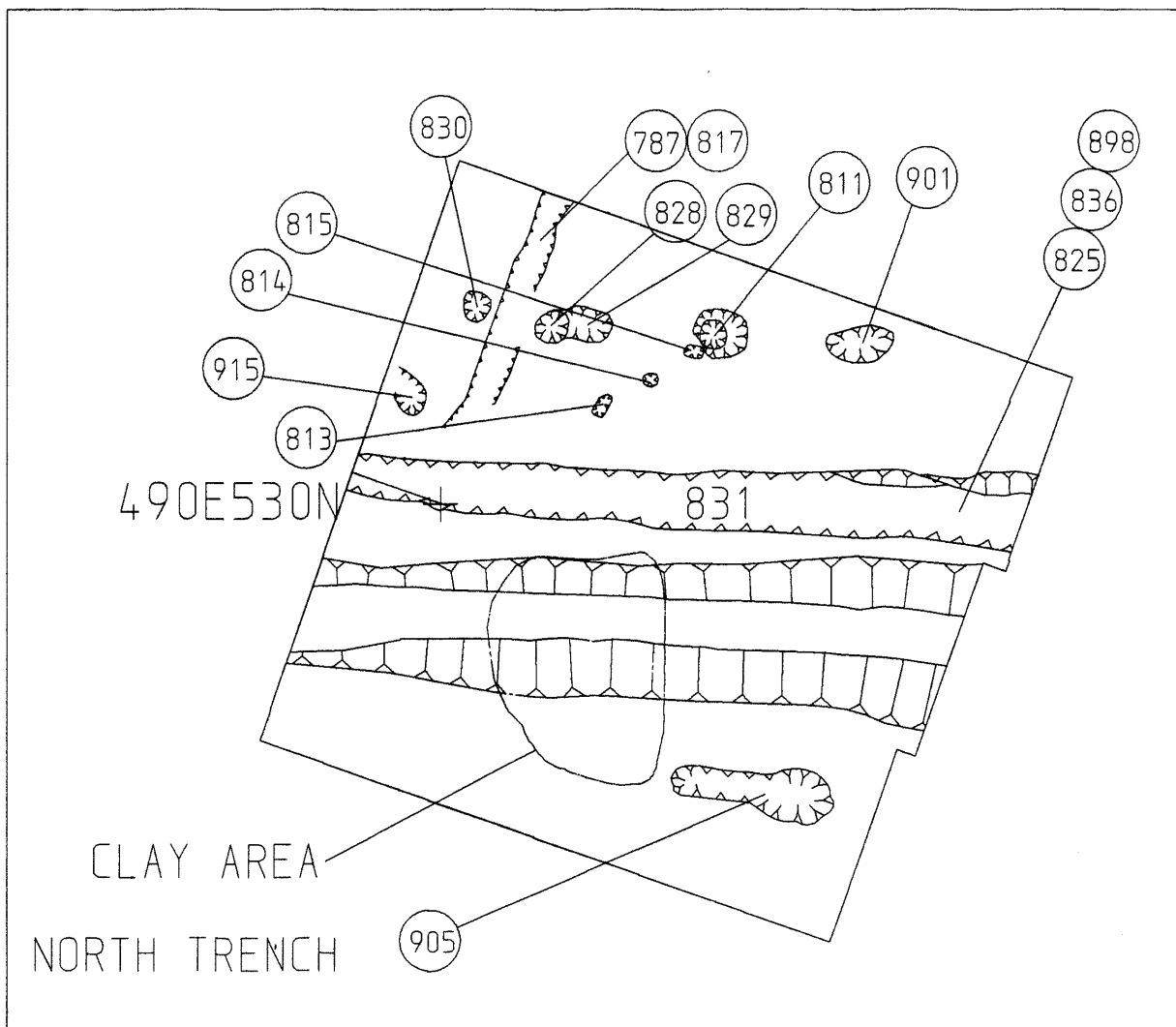


Fig 2. Rocky Clump 2007

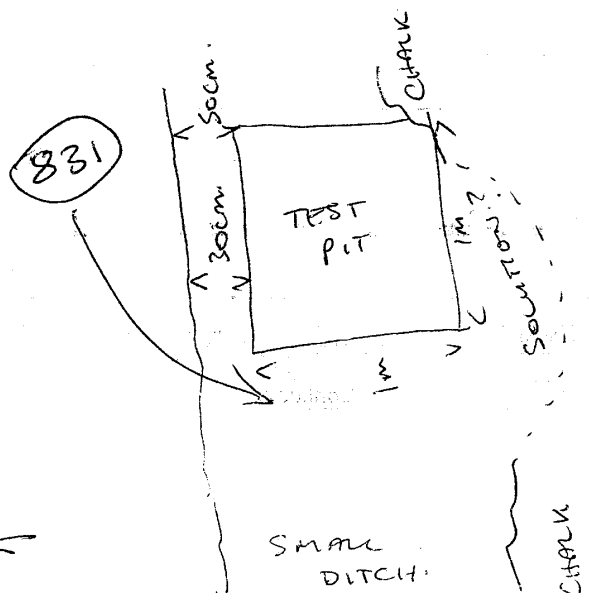
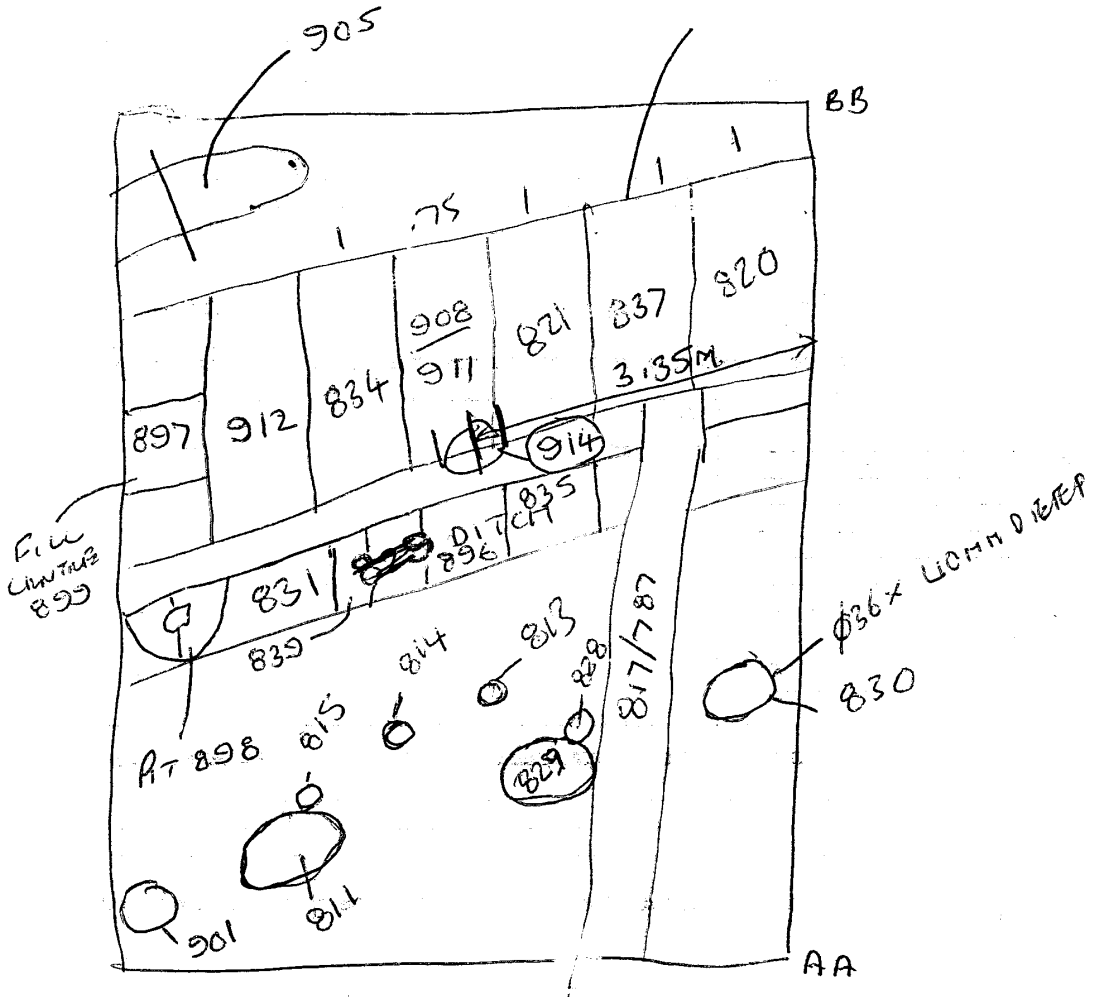


FIG 3. ROCKY CLUMP 2007
SKETCH OF NORTH TRENCH

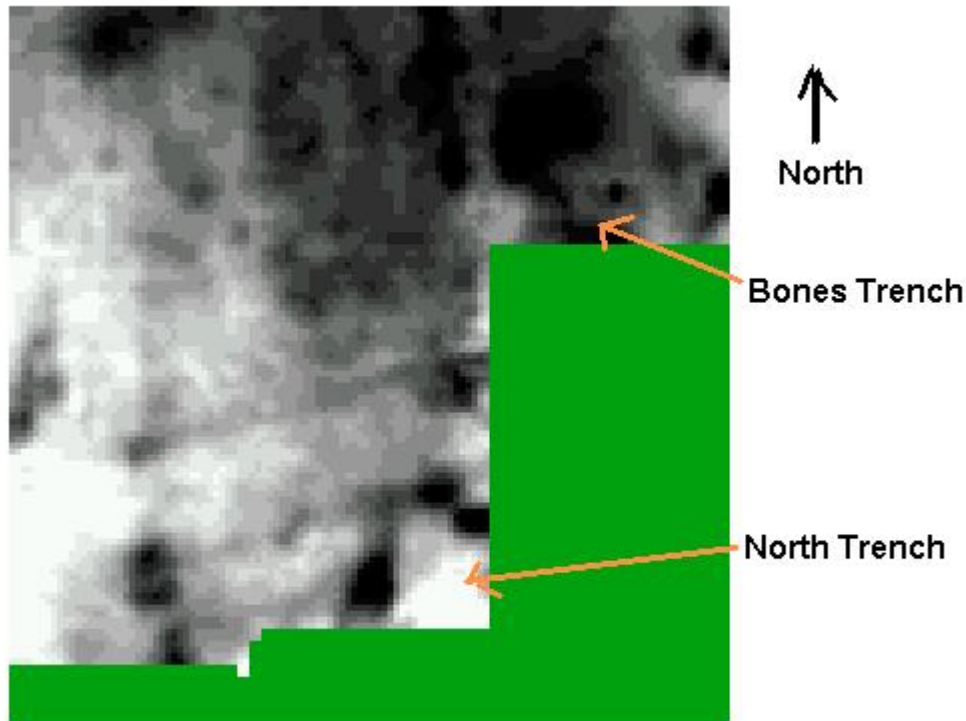


Fig 4 Rocky Clump 2007

The removal of the top soil revealed the main Roman ditch running east/west and known from earlier seasons (Context 820). The ditch was quite wide and quite significant. A known second ditch running east/west proved to be very elusive and early in the season it was considered to have terminated somewhere under the intervening baulk between the old excavation boundary and the new excavation east edge. It was only after a few weeks weathering that the second ditch was revealed (Context 835), along with another shorter east/west ditch observed south of the large man ditch (Context 905). The large ditch appears to have removed a large portion of an earlier pit (Context 914), but so little was remaining of this pit that the excavators were unable to produce any dateable material. The remaining section of this pit was located north of the large ditch.

The area has suffered from plough damage and a large 'medieval' ditch running through Rocky Clump, which continues running northwards towards Flint Heap has been completely ploughed away. (Funnell 1999-2006). The new excavations produced evidence for another ephemeral pair of shallow ditches running south/northward away from the large east/west ditch (Context 787/817). The ditches were only millimetres in depth. There was no evidence for these two ditches south of the large ditch.

The most important aspect of this trench was the observance of an additional 4 post holes running westwards. These post holes show that the fence line, stockade or building still continues in this direction. The post holes have been badly truncated and there was some concern about the one furthest to the west, as so much plough erosion had left only a few millimetre in depth remaining. It was only clearly visible when it had rained. The post holes were given context numbers 811, 829, 830 and 901.

The large ditch was divided into sections for fill removal with ditch sections 820, 821, 834 and 897 being the first sections to be excavated. The remaining section were drawn and later excavated as sections 837, 908/911, and 912.

A similar method of excavation was used when digging the smaller north trench. The contexts in this location were 831, 835, 896 and 839.

Cut into the small north ditch, and located on the east side of the ditch was a later pit context 898. The fill of this pit contained a large packing stone. However, there is at present no significance for this large pit/post hole, as it is not topographically sited with regards the main line of post holes.

A small ditch, running for about 2 metres in length, was located south of the main east/west ditch. It was very interesting seeing all three ditches running in parallel. The small ditch (Context 905) was similar in section to that of the north small ditch.

An interesting collection of stake holes were also uncovered. These four small holes, (Contexts 813, 814, 815 and 828) formed a circular configuration. The latter stake hole cut into the large post hole 829, so are from a different phase.

All of the ditches were fully excavated, with section drawing of the sections created forming part of the archaeological training. The area was fully planned and the details added to the site drawing located on a C.A.D. draughting station.

The Features

The Large East/West Ditch (Contexts 820, 837, 821, 908/911, 834, 912, 897)

The large ditch was a typical vee-shaped Roman ditch, running from east to west. The east terminus of this ditch was found in a previous season, where it joins the large north/south ditch. The east/west ditch was well made and ran evenly across the trench. The ditch was vee-shaped and with a wide flat bottom. The width of the ditch measured 1.10 M and the depth was 0.56 M with a bottom a fairly even 30cms in width.

The ditch contained 4 distinct fills, with some re-cutting clearly visible in the sections. The upper fill was a soft, silty, loam. The second was of a similar texture, it was orange in colour but contained a larger quantity of small chalk nodules. The third lower layer was more of a gritty nature, harder to excavate and containing a fill of larger chalk nodules, small pieces of flint nodules. The final fill was a primary fill of frost weathered chalk nodules. The fills did differ in shape and depth as the ditch progressed across which indicated the random method with which the ditch was refilled during ancient times. The finds from the ditch included pottery, bone and shell, but no special finds of metal work or coins. It was this ditch that had in previous seasons produced the enigmatic cross shaped horse furniture item, currently on display in Brighton Museum. A section in the west facing section at the east end of this ditch contained a fill (context 899) that suggests that the ditch had been re-cut in this location.

The Small Ditch (North of the large Ditch) (Contexts 831, 835, 839 and 896)

The small ditch ran exactly parallel to the main east/west ditch. The ditch had a square section with vertical sides on both the south and north edges. The ditch measured 40cms in width and 32cms in depth. The fill was a predominantly chalky loam with significant amounts of chalk nodules within the fill. It was a completely different fill to the larger feature. The fill was the same throughout the whole length in this section. It is worth noting that in previous seasons the ditch did fluctuate in width as it progressed further east, and cut through an earlier pit that had produced finds of an oyster shell midden layer that in turn had covered several pieces of samian pottery.

The ditch was cut at its eastern end by a large pit, or possible post hole context 836/898.

Small (South) Ditch (Context 905)

This ditch had a similar section to the small north parallel ditch, running east/west, and had a similar square section with vertical sides. The ditch measured 53cms wide and 29cms deep. It ran for only 2.77M from east to west. The fill of this ditch was of a light chalky loam. The east end channelled up in a regular manner, while the west end was less well defined and irregular in shape.

Small Ditch Context 787/817

A shallow pair of ditches were observed during the early phase of excavating this trench. This ditches ran south/north, and there appeared to be two in parallel, although the one furthest to the east was a very ephemeral feature and could possibly be a re-cut. The features terminated at the location of the small north ditch running east/west, and there was no trace of these ditches south of the large east/west ditch. It did, however, disappear under the north baulk and may continue northwards. The ditches were quite shallow measuring 30cms in width but only 7.5cms in depth. The fill was of a medium brown chalky loam.

Post Hole Context 901

This post hole was the most eastern feature of a line of 4 post holes, contexts 901, 811, 829 and 830. The line of post holes is a continuation of those found in previous seasons. The new alignment is an extension of 3 post holes found contexts 431, 432 and 433. The post hole was elliptical in shape being 32cms long and 30cms wide. The depth was about 15cms and it was round based, and not very regular. The fill was of small chalk nodules and small amounts of chalky loam. The feature was only found after weathering and the shape could be discerned.

Post Hole Context 811

Post hole 811 was similar in shape to context 901 being round bottomed. The feature measured 61cms in diameter and was 20cms deep. The fill was of chalky nodules and light amounts of chalky loam.

Post Hole Context 829

The third in this line of post holes was context 829. This was another round and round based post hole measuring 45cms in diameter, but only 4cms in depth. This post hole had been severely truncated by ploughing. The fill was a mixture of small chalk nodules and light chalky loam. Post hole was abutted by a smaller post hole, or stake hole, Context 828 on the south western side.

Post Hole Context 830

The severity of the ploughing regime has eroded away almost all of the post holes as they progress westwards. The last in the series of post holes, the one located most westerly, was only found after rain, when a small puddle indicated the ephemeral remains of a post hole in the chalk. The post hole measured 35cms in diameter and only 5mm in depth.

Pit Context 898

A large block of sarsen stone protruded from a semi-circular feature at the east end of the smaller north east/west ditch. It could be noted that the east/west ditch had been cut by an irregular pit context 898. The pit appeared to be semi-circular with the large sarsen block a prominent feature. It is possible that the pit is a possible post hole, but one that lies outside of the other linear arrangement close by. The fill was a mixture of small chalk nodules, some small flint pieces and chalky loam.

Pit Context 914

During the excavation of the main east/west ditch it was noted that the bedrock, which consisted of both chalk and a solution hollow of clay with flint, had what appeared to be a shallow incursion on the north side. It is possible that a smaller pit may have existed in that location but was virtually destroyed when the later main east/west ditch was created.

Stake Holes 813, 814, 815 and 828

Located between the northern east/west ditch and the line of post holes was a small collection of stake holes contexts 813, 814, 815 and possibly 828. The configuration of stake holes was circular in shape, the curve being predominantly on the south side. Stake hole 813 measured 19cms in diameter and had a depth of 10cms. Stake hole 81 measured 18cms in diameter and 11cms in depth. The third stake hole measured 13cms in diameter and 9cms in depth. The final stake hole in this series was context 828 and this being slightly larger than the other features measured 26cms in diameter and had a depth of 8cms.

The Bones Trench (Fig 5.)

The 'bones' trench is the trench located furthest north in the current excavations. The trench measuring 8 metres long (east/west) and 6 metres wide (north/south) basically chases the path of the large north/south ditch. This year the ditch was the subject of a student project. The student Carol White, who also organises and runs the BHAS bone team, wanted to study the deposition of the bones in an attempt to understand if the bones had been randomly thrown into the ditch as rubbish food waste, or whether there was any evidence for ritual deposition.

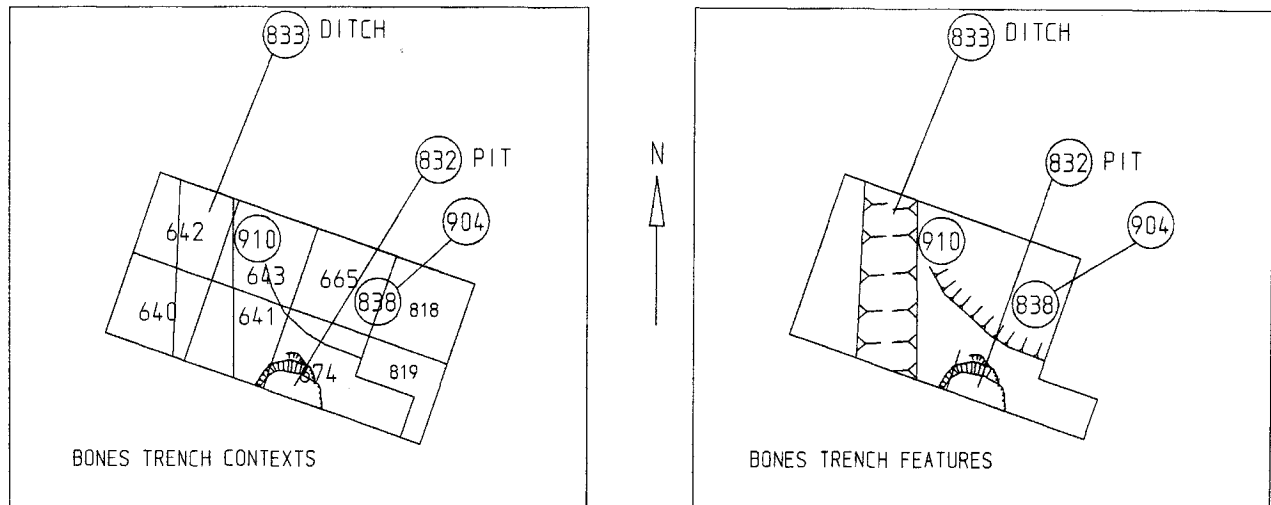


Fig 5. Rocky Clump 2007

The North/South Ditch (Context 833)

The ditch has varied in degrees as it has progressed across the excavated area. In several locations the ditch has cut through several rubbish pits, mostly on the east side of the ditch, but some shallow traces of these pits was also being noted on the west side as well. The width of the ditch has also varied, as has the depth. The sectional shape has veered from a vee-shaped sided to a wide flat bottom to a vee-shaped and thin bottom. There has also been evidence for a deeper, lower shallow ditch section, in some places. Traces of terracing on both side of the ditch suggest possible use of the ditch sides for locating planking or flooring.

The new season noted a dramatic change in the topography, with a sharp drop in the substrate, the chalk has been cut away more deeply and it is very noticeable, especially after being surveyed. (Fig 6.) Earlier excavations in the location of a large pit (Context 832) had noted the difference in the pit on either side of an intervening baulk. The south side of the pit, in the bones trench, is much smaller, so something dramatically happens between. The drop in the 'natural' chalk increases as you move northwards.

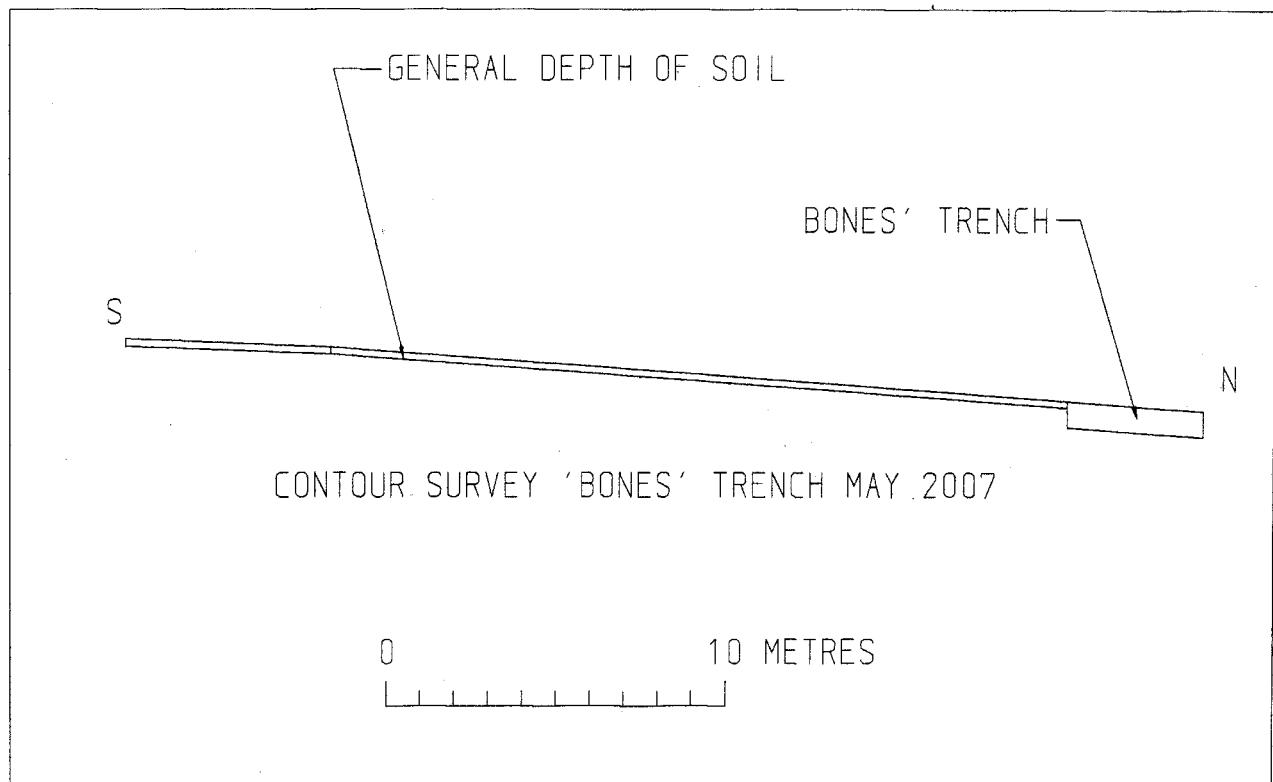


Fig 6. Rocky Clump 2007

The effect of the drop in the chalk has had an impact on the configuration of the north/south ditch. The west side of the north/south ditch rises quite steeply, and is beginning to curve slightly around to the west. The east side of the same ditch drops dramatically down with hardly any vestige of a side on the north/east side remaining. In this same area was noted a concentration of large flint nodules (Context 913). This layer of stones proved to be a shallow deposit, and it did not conceal any other features beneath it.

The north east corner of this trench drops dramatically away and was originally given a separate (Context 838).

The north/south ditch has a regular deposition of fills. The upper fill continues to be a dark, silty, soft and easy to trowel loam layer. The layer beneath is a mixture of small chalk nodules, some small flint pieces and is much harder to trowel. The lowest deposit or primary fill is an obvious chalk layer formed as a result of weathering. The finds from the fills have been predominantly in the lower depths of the upper dark, silty layer. During the latter part of the season significant amounts of animal bone was being found in this context. A report on the collection of bones from this context has been compiled by Carol White. Her comments and conclusions are appended to this report.

The East Trench (Fig 7.)

The east trench has during this season has proved to be quite an enigmatic location. The area has a significant layer of overburden, with numerous subtle layers, including several thin, but distinct, chalk deposits. It is quite obvious that we are uncovering the remains of the spoil heap for the 1960's excavations conducted by Clive Skeggs. The most perplexing and interesting facet of this trench is the vast diversity of finds. Among the pieces collected are interesting pieces of Roman pottery, with some rims and bases, as well as several pieces of samian ware. Other finds from the same sections also include clay pipe and contemporary ceramics, plus some bone and marine molluscs.

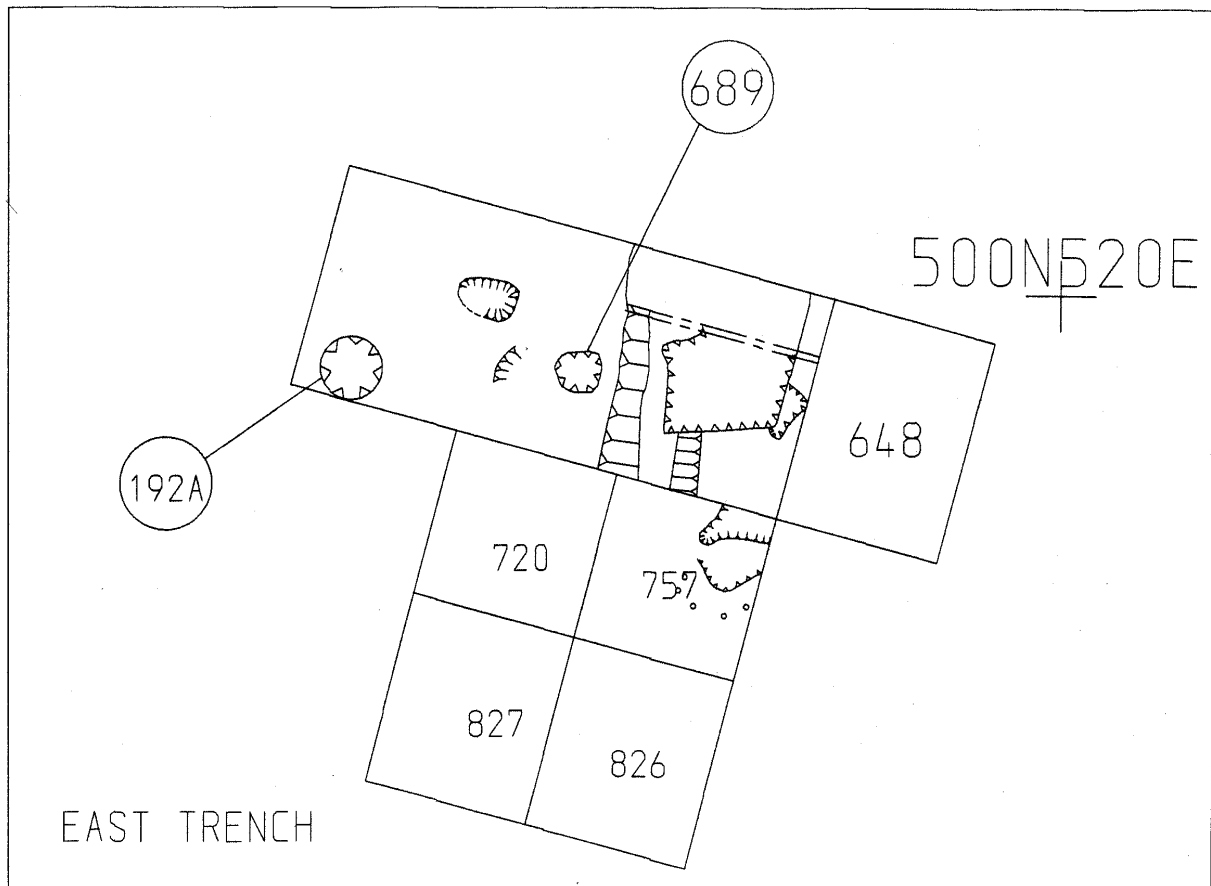


Fig 7. Rocky Clump 2007

The area has been divided into 2 metre square sections, it is deemed to have been previously investigated in some locations by the Skeggs excavations, but no clear definition or boundary has been noted during the current investigations. The contexts are 720, 757, 826/789 and 827. These contexts have now reached the chalk bed rock on the east side. A number of shallow cuts were noted in the chalk surface in context 757. These shallow features were also present in past excavations located in the chalk bedrock west of context 648.

The excavations were stopped in these contexts when it became apparent that while the east side of the ditch surrounding Rocky Clump had been revealed, the west side was not in view. It would appear that another very large pit cuts the surrounding ditch in this location. A possible ditch running westwards from the surrounding ditch was noted in previous seasons, but has not yet been investigated.

In 2007 an extension context was added to the south of the open trench context 916, and another is planned going west from the same location. The object of these additional 2 metre square extensions is to try and determine the extent of the large pit going southwards and westwards.

During the very early excavations it is known that a large pit containing lots of bones was revealed, but the exact location of this pit is not known or recorded. (Pers Comm K. Goodchild). It is possible that this pit is the same as the one lost, but only future endeavours will confirm this.

The Cemetery Trench (Fig 8.)

During the latter part of the 2006 excavations a series of 1 metre square trenches were set out within the tree complex. A resistivity survey measuring 20 metres by 20 metres was carried out in the most accessible part of Rocky Clump, in the south east corner. The geophysical survey found little of archaeological significance. It is apparent from other resistivity surveys, particularly at Ovingdean that this type of survey cannot be deemed to be totally reliable. The back filling of pits with the same material removed often causes the features to blend in with their surroundings. The object of the survey had been to seek the location of any possible new and undisturbed grave cuts. The survey was located immediately west of the known and previously excavated site.

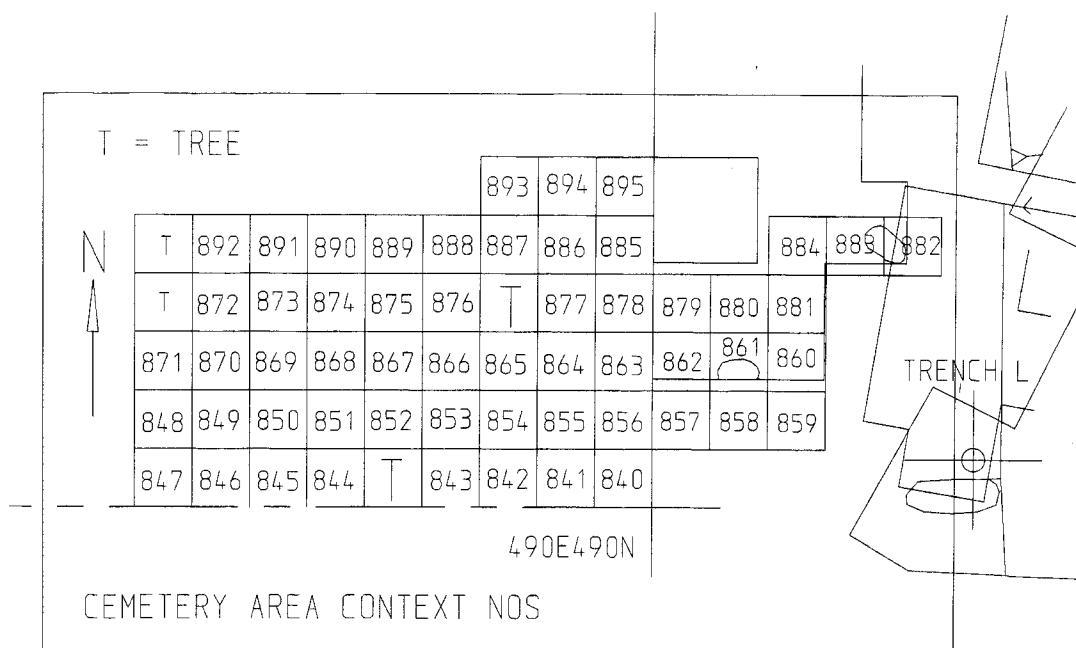


Fig 8. Rocky Clump 2007

The area was given contexts numbers 840-856, 863-878 and 885-895. Some of the contexts lay in the location of earlier excavated areas. This proved beneficial when a feature found in 1993 was found to be re-located even though in the earlier excavation it had proved to be a geological solution hollow of clay with flint. (Context 013). The whole area is a fill of very dark soil, created as a result of years of leaf mould.

Very little excavation was conducted within the trees in the cemetery area as the main focus was on the other trenches. However, one of the first artefacts to be recovered from context 842 was a complete stabbed strap end or handle to a medieval cooking vessel. This is probably derived from the medieval farmstead located in the valley bottom to the south/west where a known farmstead is known to have been located in Patchway Field.

Discussion

The results of the 2007 excavations have once again added greater detail to the panoramic picture of the Romano-British complex at Rocky Clump. The geophysical studies have shown various features, particularly the ditch complex, and excavation has confirmed the dating of the features and their accurate location within the area of interest. It is interesting that we have not two but three ditches running parallel at one instance, and the dramatic variation in their shape. The main ditch is the classical vee-shaped Roman ditch, but the square shaped ditches north and south of the large main ditch raise some interesting questions as to their purpose.

Rocky Clump is known to have several ditches running in different directions. There are now 4 complete and partial ditches running east/west. The function of the ditches has been the subject of much debate. The large east/west vee shaped ditch, as well as the significant north/south ditch, are typical of what are regarded as Roman field boundary ditches. The finds from these ditches are also typical finds of Roman rubbish and discarded household and food debris, with just a few 'special' finds in discrete locations.

The small square shaped ditches are not field boundary ditches. It is possible that they are part of a drainage scheme, but as has often been found at Rocky Clump the water disperses quite quickly throughout the site and does not cause any flooding problems. It is possible that the water was being channelled into some form of collection point and pots or wooden basins that have either been removed or have rotted away. There are a number of large pits, and it may be significant that these all lie to the east of the main north/south ditch. One other function of the square shallow ditch is the possible location of a beam slotted building, but the scale and lack of any evidence must make this a wide speculative alternative function. The small channel to the south has no known function.

The series of post holes associated with a fence line or building, or second stockade do continue westwards. The lack of depth of the post holes to the west may indicate that any final shape or dimension for the feature may have been so badly ploughed away that the archaeological record has now destroyed. A circular configuration of stake holes could possibly be the location of a discrete 'toilet', but there is no associated pit with these features tending to suggest an alternative explanation.

The east trench is proving the most enigmatic of area of the excavations. The wide diversity of finds from both Roman and contemporary periods cannot all be attributed to the Clive Skeggs excavations. This area produces more finds than any of the other areas on the site, and is one area favoured by the Young Archaeologist Club on their annual visits.

The east trench appears to have a number of square shaped pits, the purpose of which is too early to determine with additional excavation. The subject of Second World War activity has been raised, but there is very little local information to suggest that this part of Stanmer was used for a purpose that required the digging of large ditches. Unlike the main area of Stanmer and Pudding Bag Woods the tree cover is very minimal and would be of very little use for defensive reasons.

The small trenches within the 'cemetery' area, as well as the geophysical survey have both failed to find any trace of additional burials. The archaeological records indicate that none of the burials previously excavated had associated grave goods, and only the orientation has been used to date the burials to Saxon times. There is no hard archaeological to confirm this hypothesis. The small number of finds of medieval material have obvious associations with the medieval farmstead located in the lower field at Patchway. A few pieces of green glazed medieval fabrics have been found in the past. A new burial would prove very useful in allowing a more intensive study of the method of burial, but would also provide useful material for carbon 14 dating. A successful dating of the cemetery would clarify the current picture created of a Saxon cemetery associated with a Roman 'shrine'.

The 'bones' trench was originally created as an overspill area for the excavation team. Later the area was used as an opportunity to 'chase' the very productive ditch north/south for finds. This season the focused changed to the 'bones' trench when Carol White, the leader of the BHAS bone specialist team, requested an investigation into the bone being deposited and whether it was ritual or purely dietary debris.

As the excavation progressed and the trench began to drop significantly deeper than the other areas of excavation it was realised that something was happening to the topography. The land to the north of the large pit context 831 dropped steeply, the north/south ditch was severely truncated in the east side, and the ditch began to curve westwards.

The excavation of the whole trench was almost completed at the end of 2007, residual planning was still required. The almost complete excavation had revealed a fascinating stratigraphy in the baulk exposed, of at least 9 distinct layers, with chalk and flint rubble forming the lower layers. The finds from the excavations had been few, but among the few were some extremely interesting items which included samian ware, some pockets of daub and a delightful cup piece and handle. This item came from the lower depths of the excavation.

A result of the excavation in the bones trench has been a re-evaluation of the area about to be extended by examining the geophysical surveying images. The geophysics images clearly indicate a large area of low resistance. This area of low resistance can possibly be reflected in the very deep stratigraphy being uncovered and raise the question as to what exactly is happening. It would suggest from the images that we may be coming down onto a very large platform.

Rocky Clump is proving to be a very intense and meticulous study of a small Romano-British settlement or rural agricultural centre. The site has produced pits, post holes and ditches that are part of a much larger landscape. The activities at Stanmer during the Roman period date from 50 B.C. through to the early 4th century A.D. The finds and features still appear to suggest an intermittent occupation, with not a great level of stratigraphical debris. The features and finds are very limited, and the metal and other finds tend to suggest a low status farmstead. However, very few of these ephemeral complexes have been investigated and so this excavation is regarded by the Society as important for publicising the importance of recording the activities and location of such structures and finds.

The new season of excavations will continue with the extension in the 'bones' trench. The new extension will investigate further the variations in the ditch section and the impact that the deepening platform has on this enigmatic feature. The east trench will be extended to seek the south and west boundaries of what appears to be another very large rectangular pit. It is possible that this is the very large pit that contained large quantities of bones, but which was neither excavated nor recorded and the location lost. (Pers Comm. Ken Goodchild)

The new season of excavation at Rocky clump promises to be quite exciting and eventful. The Society will continue to be part of the archaeological outreach programme allowing virtually anyone access to field archaeology and through its educational programmes continue to educate ordinary people in the techniques of archaeological excavation and recording.

The Finds

Rocky Clump produced fewer finds in 2007, and the quantity appears to diminish as the excavation moves northwards. The exception to this has been the quantity of bones recovered from the north/south ditch. There is still a continuing use of this large ditch for the deposition of butchered bone. A note about the bone studies is appended to this report. The metal finds have been very few and limited to the north/south ditch fills and deepening section in the bones trench. Perhaps the most interesting find was of an East Sussex Ware cup with handle (SF 83). A full updated copy of the SF list is appended to this report.

Acknowledgements:-

The author would like to thank Brighton and Hove City Council, Mr G. Bennett, Mr David West, Mr David Larkin, Jim and Betty Driver and all those members of the BHAS Field Unit who assisted with the excavations.

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Author:- John Funnell 23rd August 2008

Excavations at Ringmer

During May of this year Greg Chuter from ESCC was conducting a watching brief on soil stripping at the Ringmer Gliding Club, where the landing strip is being widened. During the morning it became apparent that the development was on an area that contained a number of archaeological features, and pottery from a survey of the site suggested a date in the Roman period. A call was made to the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Field Unit for assistance with an archaeological rescue excavation. There had been no indication from desk top surveys of there being any indication of archaeology in that area.

The site appears to be an opened ended ditched enclosure. On one part of the site there appears to be a possible ring ditch or drip gully formed from rain falling from the roof of a circular (roundhouse?) building. The site area contained large amounts of iron slag and features resembling post holes. One of the possible postholes was excavated and was found to be a small kiln. A second kiln or metal working area was found close by. A magnetometer survey was also carried out on an area, to the west of the excavation that has yet to be stripped of top soil. The geophysics produced a number of linear anomalies which will justify further examination once the top soil has been removed.

Members of the team working in one ditch found numerous sherds of 1st and 2nd century pottery as well as cremated bone. A large square pit cutting another ditch produced degraded animal skulls including deer and cow, these have been removed for further examination by the BHAS Bones team. This pit also contained large Roman body sherds and an iron blade, possibly a knife.

We were joined, for day, by members of the Brighton and District Metal Detecting Club. Most of their finds were 19th or 20th century in date with some ½ crowns and threepenny pieces. One Georgian coin was found in the same location. Most significant of all was a small bronze Roman brooch found on the re-deposited soil. An iron Roman brooch was later found in one of the ditches and was probably from inside of one of the pots.

The find of the dig was a large nodule of flint covering some bone. As it was late in the day it was left in situ until the following day. On sponging out the water the following day, after an overnight downfall of rain, the flint was washed off to find that it was a fine example of a Palaeolithic handaxe (bi-face) measuring some 22cm x 15cm x 7cm and weighing in at around 2 kilo.

The BHAS Field Unit worked at Ringmer for several week-ends and also on week days when weather permitted. A watching brief will be carried out during the next few weeks as further top soil is removed. The excavation was directed by Greg Chuter from East Sussex County Council who will be compiling the site report.

For further details about the excavation contact Mr Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist at East Sussex County Council.

Author:- John Funnell (Archaeological Co-ordinator Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society) 25th August 2008

Excavations at Peacehaven

(Notes by John Funnell)

Introduction

A common occurrence is the loss of archaeological features by coastal erosion. At Peacehaven in East Sussex one such feature sure to be lost in the not too distant future is a large burial mound. (TQ43 1002). The close proximity of the barrow to the cliffedge was noted some time ago by local resident Roy Pateman, who brought it to the attention of the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society.

A study of the area was made by the Society which included a resistivity survey. A project was organised as a joint initiative with the Mid Sussex Archaeological Field Unit.(MSFAT). The investigation was directed by Susan Birks, a student at Sussex University, and used as part of her MA field dissertations.

In September the BHAS joined MSFAT at Peacehaven for excavations which would focus on the north west quadrant of the barrow.

The Excavations

After the removal of the turf above the barrow it was noted immediately that later features had been cut into the prehistoric burial. Excavation of these darker soil areas revealed a number of Second World War slit trenches and sunken 'Nissan' hut structures.

The barrow was then excavated systematically down onto the lower stratigraphical layers. The time limitation restricted an expansion of the excavation, which then began to concentrate on creating a 1 metre section along the east/west and north/south baulks to determine a precise chronological sequence of layers.

Finds from the excavation included numerous items of contemporary dating, including some clay pipe stems. The most prolific find was flint flakes and flint tools.

The excavation had to be backfilled due to time restraint and the investigations are being planned to continue in the spring of 2008.

Author:- John Funnell 25th August 2008

Peacehaven Barrow

(Notes by Susan Birks)

We managed to locate and record the two World War 2 trenches complete with corrugated iron in situ. The depth of these trenches then gave us a window in to the make up of the barrow although one of them cut through my main South-North section in a big way.

The barrow appears to be made of layers of mounded-up silt but had three distinct layers of flint (both worked and debit age with sandstone and pebbles) running through it at different depths and suggesting different periods of activity.

The very deepest sections revealed a different, stony layer with what seemed to be purely Mesolithic flint work. In section this layer seemed to suggest a smaller mound in the centre of the later larger mound.

We found 7 or 8 very degraded pieces of pot in one small area of what we suspect is a Bronze Age layer, and several pieces of charcoal that will be useful for dating.

As we were excavating the deepest area of the mound to get two complete sections through the barrow we came across charcoal and features buried in the soil at about 70cm depth. One feature (half in our 1m trench and half under the baulk) is big enough to potentially be a grave cut. Unfortunately, finding it on the last day in the afternoon meant there was not time to excavate and record it.

We have put plastic sheeting in all the trenches with the hope of returning at some point in the Spring to complete the excavation of this quadrant.

The ring ditch was still eluding us at 40cm or more depth. But we have hit another flint layer which will require more recording. As we packed up, this area started to crack as it dried which could also indicated the loose soil of the ditch! So we may have found it but again have not had chance to excavate and record it.

In all I think the dig was a great success. We now have a good idea of its make up and dating material to confirm which layer belongs to which period.

The large amount of flintwork (mainly debitage) took a lot of recording and we had to adapt our methodology accordingly. This did slow the process and needs reviewing for before further excavation.

Susan Birks

Excavations at Arlington, East Sussex

(Casual notes compiled by John Funnell)

Introduction

Excavations at Arlington began in November 2007 and continued until Christmas. A new site further east was opened in the New Year (Refer 2008) field notebook. A large contingent of the BHAS Field Unit assisted with the excavations. The excavations consisted of a number of exploratory trenches to investigate geophysical anomalies found in a survey conducted earlier in the year.

The weather was appalling with heavy and persistent rain making excavation extremely difficult, ditches and features continually filled with water, the geology being an extremely claggy Wealden clay.

The excavations

The short season of digging produced more evidence for a settlement and possible industrial area running parallel to the substantial Roman road cutting across the field. The predominant features are a series of ditches some of which produced significant quantities of metal working slag. A number of post holes were uncovered, but as yet no clear definition of timber framed structures has been determined.

There have been some interesting finds of pottery and some Roman coins. A few others finds have been of box flue and roofing tile, but as yet too few to suggest any large buildings. It is worth noting that the acidic nature of the soil has had the tendency to remove the outer slip of any samian ware found.

One feature of particular interest was a possible wall composed of large flint nodules, and incorporating some Roman roofing tile, the features lies within a possible ditch and may prove to be a crossing, an area that may have been created to alleviate local flooding of the Roman road.

Acknowledgements

The site is being directed by Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist, at East Sussex County Council, and any further or more detailed information should be sought from ESCC. The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society would like to thank Greg Chuter for inviting the Society to dig on the site at Arlington.

Author:- John Funnell 22nd August 2008

An Early Bronze Age Burial and Iron Age Ditch at East Brighton Golf Course.

John Funnell

In October 2003 the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society conducted a watching brief on a development at East Brighton Golf Club, Roedean, Brighton. The development revealed an Early Bronze Age crouched burial and a Middle Iron Age ditch.

INTERIM REPORT

with major contributions by Carol White and Dot McBrien

Introduction

In October 2003 the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society were asked to conduct a watching brief at the East Brighton Golf Club (fig 1 & 2). The club had received approval for an improvement to their equipment store which involved demolishing the existing building and constructing a larger one. The new building required cutting into land north of the existing building (TQ34150360).

During the watching brief a dark area was noted cut into the chalk and this feature proved to be a grave cut (Approx. OD 71). The contractors' excavating machinery had cut through and removed the south section of the grave. Small fragments of bone from the skull were recovered from the new level chalk platform created by the contractors south of the burial. The skull was clearly visible in the section and the shape and orientation of the exposed feature indicated an early burial. The whole of the development area was examined and other features were noted with exposed finds of bone and pottery. The areas of archaeological interest were then cordoned off for further intensive investigation.

Topography

Roedean lies on a gentle slope that leads down to the cliff edge overlooking the sea at Brighton Marina. The topography is of gently sloping hills and valleys continuing eastwards towards Ovingdean and Rottingdean. West of Roedean the shallow hills and valleys rise dramatically at Whitehawk Hill. The lands of the golf course rise steeply going northwards towards the western part of Woodingdean and the east end of the Brighton race course.

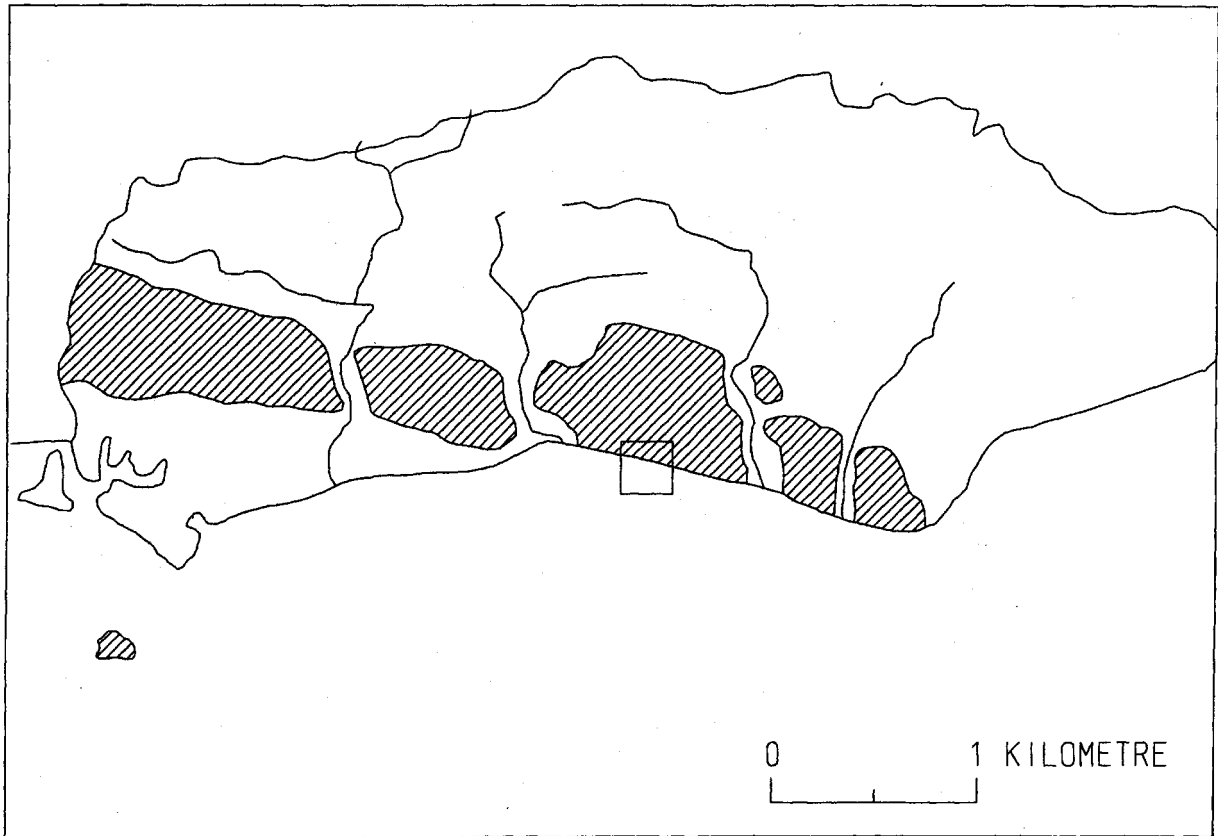


Fig 1. LOCATION OF EARLY BRONZE AGE BURIAL, ROEDEAN, BRIGHTON

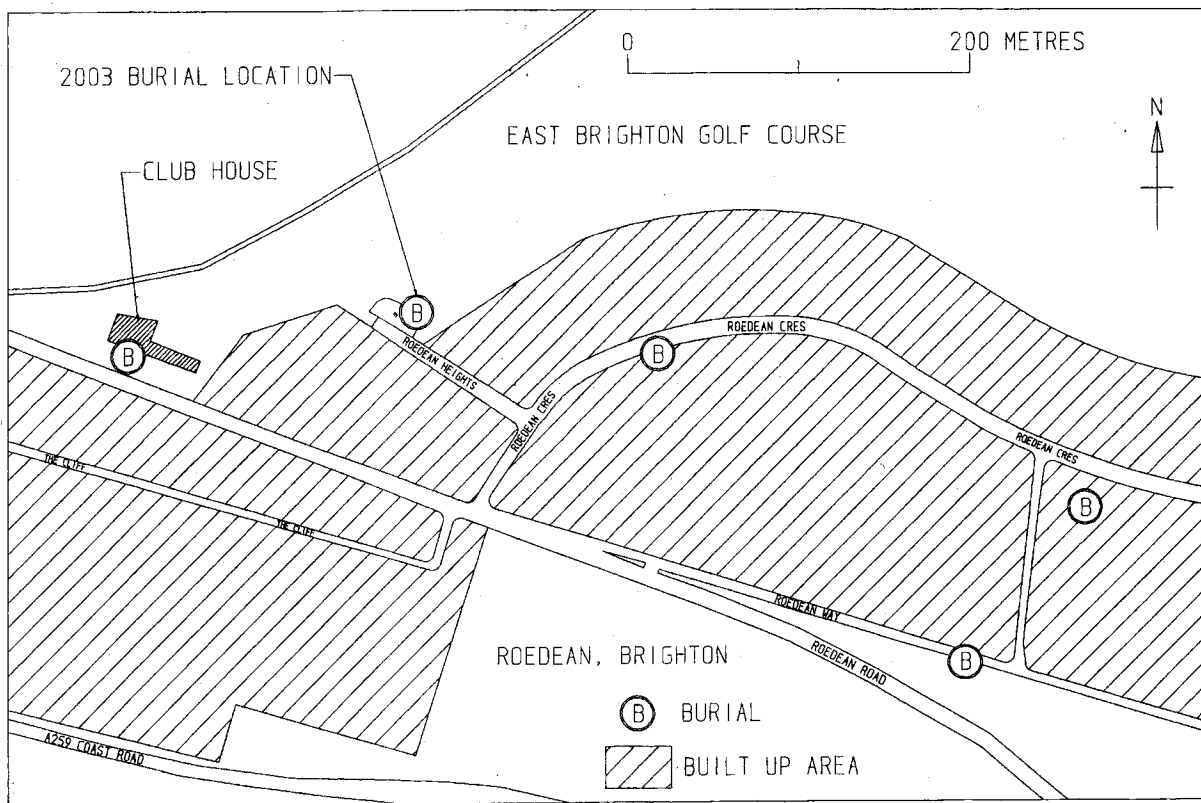


Fig.2 East Brighton site location

The Excavations

The Grave Cut (Fig 3.)

The cutting away of the side of the grave by the contractors had produced, despite the destruction of parts of the bone assemblage, a clear section of the grave, with fragments of the skull clearly visible on the west side of the grave cut. The section was photographed and drawn. The turf above the grave was removed and the layer of top soil was found to contain finds dating from the prehistoric to modern times. The grave had been badly truncated by the contractors' equipment on its south side, but the almost complete skull appeared to remain in-situ. Over one weekend the open side of the grave was sealed, covered and supported while the remaining fill of the grave was removed. The fill consisted of a grey/white chalky loam, containing a mixture of light soil and medium size chalk nodules. There were a few flint nodules and flakes found within the grave context. The grave fill was sieved and a number of clay beads recovered, as well as a number of other artefacts. The finds of pottery were very few, but a piece of very coarse flint calcined pottery was recovered from between the leg bones (SF4). A further three small pieces of pottery were found in the fill of chalky loam immediately above the burial. There was no trace of any metal work found with the burial and copper alloy staining was completely absent.

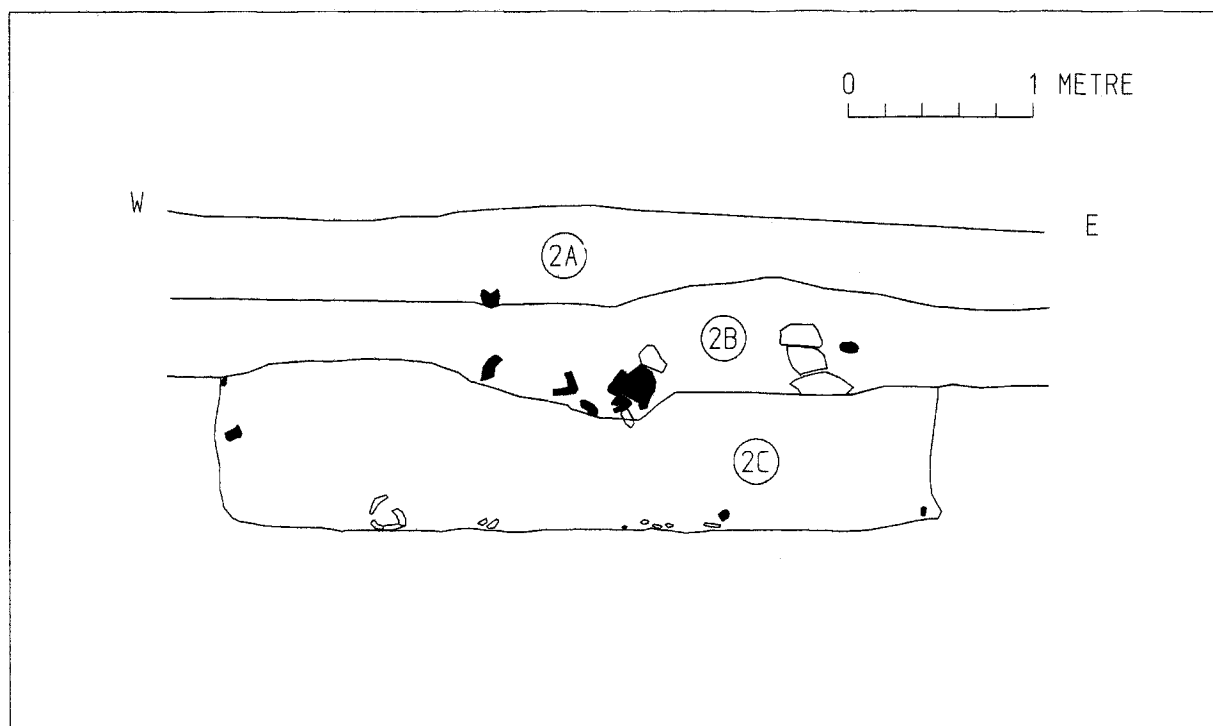


Fig 3. East Brighton golf club grave section

The grave measured 1.75M in length from east to west and 0.75M from the edge of the contractors' cut to the north side of the grave. The grave cut into the chalk bedrock by 0.5M, but the overall depth including the soil and turf above the grave was 0.67M. The grave was found to be flat bottomed and level. Time restrictions placed on the excavation resulted in the northern edge of the grave not being uncovered to its outer limits and a certain amount of chalk rubble was not removed. The careful and delicate removal of the

interment took priority and the lack of remaining daylight on the second day did not allow for the complete removal of all the grave fill.

The Burial

The interment was found lying in a crouched position with the head facing north, the body lying in an east/west orientation with the head to the west. Unfortunately, the vertebrae, pelvis, feet and part of the leg bones had been removed by the contractors' equipment. The remaining burial consisted of the skull, with some minor damage to the rear of the cranium, (caused by the contractors' excavating bucket), the hand bones and several parts of the leg bones. Both of the patella were recovered. The finger bones had been clenched under the lower jaw bone, and it was from this area that a number of squared pieces of chalk were found. The 'dressed' pieces of chalk had small, single perforations or partially perforated holes cut into the pieces. A large piece of chalk lay wedged between the lower mandible and the teeth of the skull and it was initially considered that this might prove to be some form of ritualistic behaviour. However, once the skull had been sufficiently conserved to allow the skull and mandible to be parted it was found that the piece was only a large rough chalk nodule. The chalk nodule had probably lodged in the mouth sometime after the burial and during the decomposition process. The bones were very fragile and required considerable conservation prior to the actual removal from the grave cut. The missing skeletal bones that had been removed by the contractors had been redeposited with a great deal of spoil in a large pit close to the location of the 18th hole teeing off position (TQ34450400), but a survey of this redeposited material failed to recover any of the lost material.

The internal cavities of the skull contained a significant number of snail remains.

The Ditch

While the contractors were clearing an area to the west of the burial pieces of bone were noted on the ground. The area was ringed off from the construction work as it was thought another burial had been found (Fig 4.). The subsequent excavation of this area produced a linear feature measuring 820mm in width and 6.8M in length. The feature proved to be a ditch orientated south/east to north/west across the development site. The ditch had been severely truncated by earlier developments on the golf course and there was very little depth remaining to the feature. The ditch had a deeper, smaller, section on the east side of the main feature measuring 220mm in width and 210mm in depth.

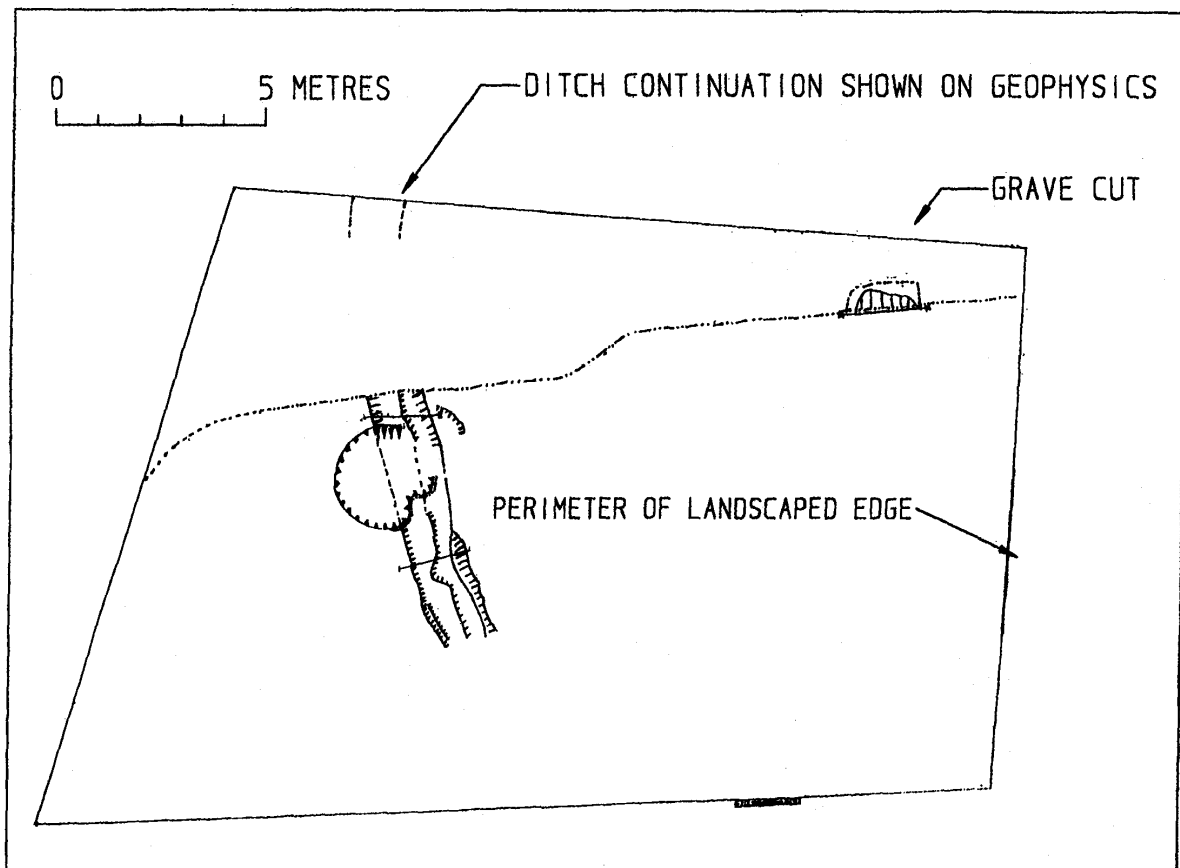


Fig.4 East Brighton site location ditch and burial

The contractors had defined the north perimeter of their development by cutting into the chalk at a steep angle and a number of bone fragments appeared to be lying on the side of this incline, close to the location of the ditch. The feature visible in the newly cut section was initially considered to be a possible pit. The loose soil was removed from the proximity of the bone finds and it soon became apparent that the ditch section crossing the new development was preserved in the side of the north perimeter boundary of the site.

The ditch section was carefully cleaned back a few centimetres as the excavation could only progress back to the boundary of the development. The ditch was found to be 1.75M maximum width at the top and vee shaped to a depth of 580mm. The west side of the ditch was flat bottomed and a small gully ran along the east side taking the ditch to a maximum

depth of 790mm. Cutting into the ditch, on its west side, was a circular shallow pit (EBGC4). No dateable finds were recovered from this pit.

Ditch Fill 1 (EBGC3B)

The upper fill of the ditch contained a dark, medium brown, soft fill of chalky loam. The finds from this upper layer included fragments of bone, flint flakes and a number of sherds of pottery.

Ditch Fill 2 (EBGC3C)

The lower primary layer of the ditch was a fill of beige/white chalky loam containing a preponderance of large and medium chalk nodules within a light loamy soil. The finds from this layer included a number of flint flakes and a whetstone. The ditch section was drawn and photographed (Fig 5.).

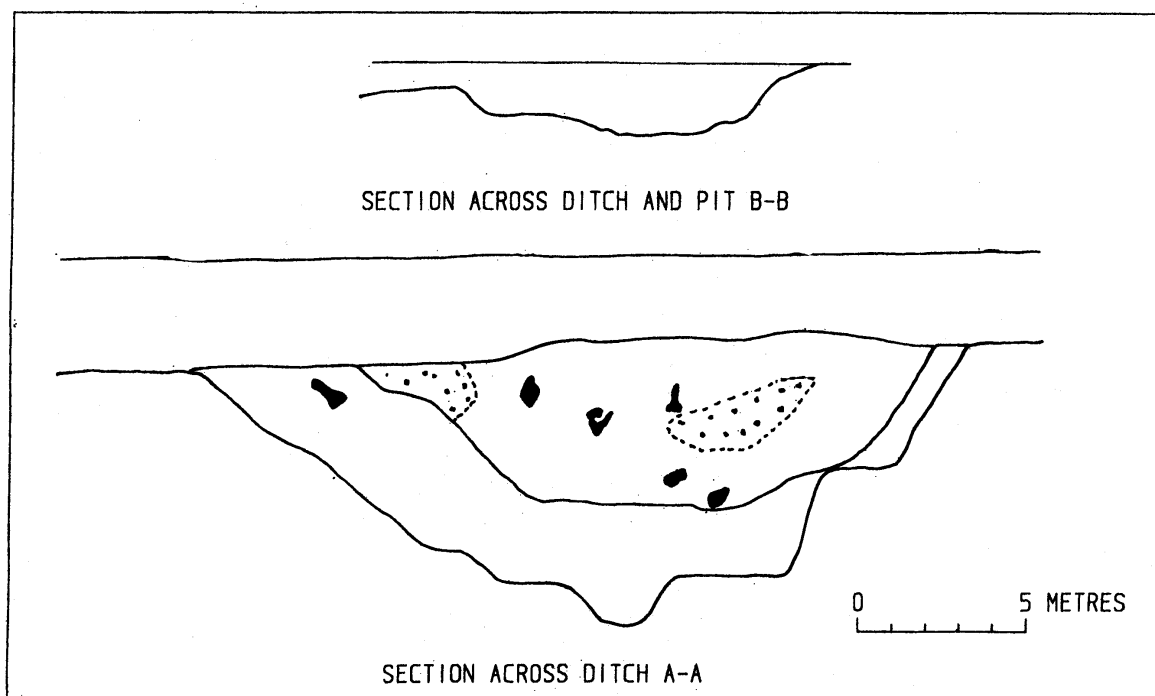


Fig.5 East Brighton ditch sections

The Geophysical Survey

During the excavation a small geophysical survey was conducted to the north of the area of excavation (Fig 6.). A mound of earth from the contractors' excavations lined the north side of the development for about 2 metres in width. The survey was conducted immediately north of this mound. The area examined was a single 20 metre square. The machine used was a TR Systems resistivity machine. The measurements were recorded in Ohms and readings were taken at 1metre intervals.



Fig 6

The results of the resistivity survey clearly show that the ditch feature (EBGC1) continues running northwards across the driveway of the golf course and curves to the east. It is possible that the ditch surrounds the burial area. A number of linear features can also be observed in the results running both east/west and north/south. However, it is not possible, without excavation, to determine the nature of these features and how they relate to the excavated areas.

The Finds (Fig 7.)

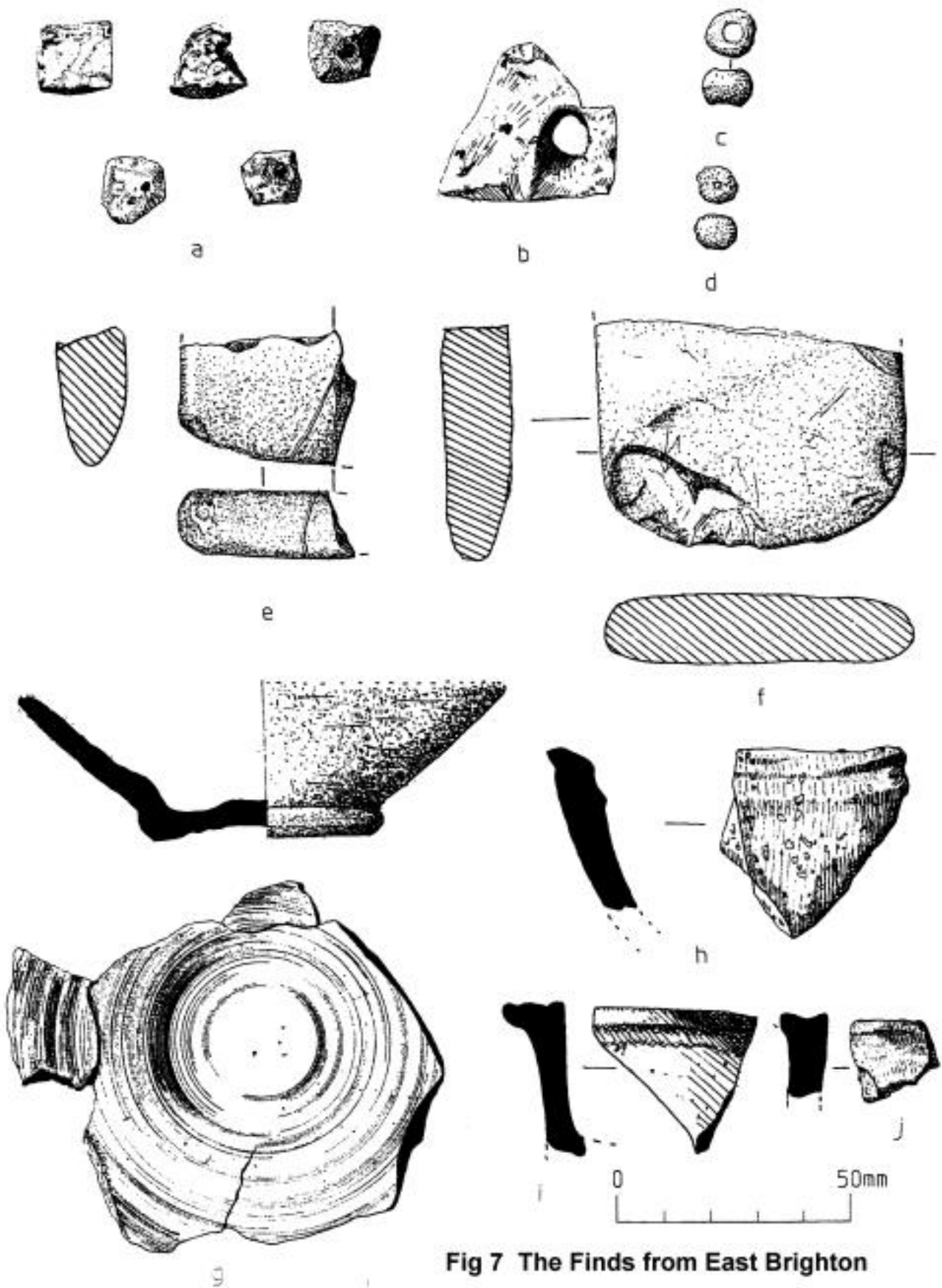


Fig 7 The Finds from East Brighton

Flint Report

The majority of the flintwork is hard hammer struck and virtually all the flakes have a pale blue to white patination. Most of the flakes (95%) have some vestige of cortex remaining. A total of 148 pieces of flint were collected from all of the features examined and of these only 1 piece can be classified as a tool. The scraper is a white patinated side scraper from Context 2A, the top soil layer immediately above the grave cut. A rough core came from the upper pit/ditch fill, Context 3B.

Flint Deposition

Context	Flakes	Fire/cracked Flint	Weight (gms)	Flint tools/cores
1A.	12	7	748	
2A.	15	4	217	Scraper
2B.	35	1	100	
2C.	9	2	43	
3B.	16	8	810	core
3C.	19	9	459	
Spoil Heap	10	1	10	
Totals	116	32	2387gms	2

Pottery

The total number of pottery sherds collected was 50. The 3 sherds from the grave cut were flint calcined and very reduced. A number of other similar sherds were found in the upper top soil layer, above the burial, and a similar piece was recovered from the west ditch fill. The majority of sherds are grog tempered East Sussex Ware and these were mainly recovered from the soil layer immediately above the grave cut. The pottery has been briefly examined by Dr Sue Hamilton who considers that the pottery from the grave cut is Early Bronze Age and she believes that the pottery from the ditch and pit/ditch features, Contexts 1 and 3, probably dates to the Middle Iron Age. The top soil layer produced a single sherd of medieval pottery.

Pottery Fabrics

- Fabric 1. Fine grog tempered ware-bright orange colour, consistent colour throughout the vessel (Fig 7, g.)
- Fabric 2. Grog tempered ware-medium brown exterior surface-light grey interior
- Fabric 3. (Fig 7, h) Grog tempered-very coarse well fired layered sherds
- Fabric 4. Fine grog tempered-pale orange exterior and interior, but grey between.
- Fabric 5. Grey coarse well fired sherd-found in Context 1A
- Fabric 6. Grog tempered coarse structure, rough orange surface badly abraded
- Fabric 7. (Fig 7, j) Flint calcined reduced wares-flint inclusions square edges 0.5-4mm in length. 1 sherd with chevron decoration (located between the knees of the burial), 1 sherd with linear decoration and 1 sherd without decoration. (All of these sherds were found within the fill of the grave cut.)
- Fabric 8. Grog tempered ware, but with 1% small flint inclusions.
- Fabric 9. Coarse sandy ware-orange in colour quite oxidised
- Fabric 10. (Fig 7, i) Well fired sand and flint tempered ware-flint inclusions 0.2-0.5mm in length.

Contexts	1A	2A	2C	3A	3B	3C	SH
Fabric 1.	7	1	0	0	0	0	0
Fabric 2.	1	7	0	0	3	2	4
Fabric 3.	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fabric 4.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fabric 5.	1	3	0	2	0	0	0
Fabric 6.	1	0	0	1	1	1	0
Fabric 7.	0	1	3	1	1	0	0
Fabric 8.	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Fabric 9.	0	3	0	0	0	1	0
Fabric 10.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	13	15	3	4	5	5	5

Total number of sherds 50

Marine Molluscs

The shells recovered all came from either above the grave cut and immediately below the turf or from the contractors' spoil heap. The scallop shells were all observed to have some form of infestation.

Location	Type	Number
Context 1A	Oyster	2
Context 2A	Oyster	3
Context 2A	Scallop	8
Context 2A	Limpet	1
Context 2A	Winkle	3

Geology

Ironstone cube 28x26x23mm (Context 1A)

Chalk Objects

- 1) Irregular shaped piece of chalk with a bored hole 13mm diameter. (Fig. 7, b) The thickness varies from 26mm down to 13mm. A possible spindle whorl. (Context 1A)
- 2) Squared piece of chalk 54mm long 25mm wide and 22mm breadth. (Context 1A)
- 3) 6 pieces of 'squared' chalk found beneath the mandible of the skeleton, or close to the finger bones. (Fig 7, a). The pieces measure 15mm cube and are not all regular in shape, 2 pieces are perforated completely, 2 pieces are partially bored and one piece has no hole in it at all. The items have been examined by John Cooper at the Booth Museum of Natural History and he reports that the holes were probably created by an insect or worm. However, the shape of the items and their location could suggest that they may have been items of interest, and as such buried deliberately with the deceased (pers.comm. D.McBrien).

Metal Objects

Metal Button (Context spoil heap)

1 Meat skewer (Context 2A)

1 Metal button (Context 2A)

1 Nail 35mm long, square headed 13mm (Context 2A)

Clay Pipes

3 pieces of clay pipe were all recovered from Context 2A

1) 7mm dia x 19mm long

2) 6.5mm dia x 24mm long

3) 5mm dia x 24mm long

Glass

6 pieces of glass were collected all from Context 2A. All were contemporary except for one piece that had an opaque finish, which may be 17th or 18th century.

Clay Beads

Context 2B-12mm diameter-hole 2mm diameter (Fig.7, d) (Context 2B)

Context 2B-14mm diameter-hole 5mm diameter (Fig.7, c) (Context 2B)

Stone Objects

2 pieces of flat stone, or beach pebble, were recovered

Flat stone from the burial context measured 65mm long, 90mm wide and 20mm thick (Fig 7, f). It is similar to a stone found in the Amesbury archer burial (pers. comm. Chris Butler) and is possibly associated with metal working. The stone resembles a broken Neolithic polished axe but is wider and has curved edges.

A portion of flat stone was also recovered from the lower fill of the ditch section (context 3C) (Fig 7, e). This was a smaller fragment measuring 48mm long, 35mm wide and 20mm thick. It is a corner section of a similar item to stone 1 and may even have been part of the same artefact.

The Human Remains by C.White

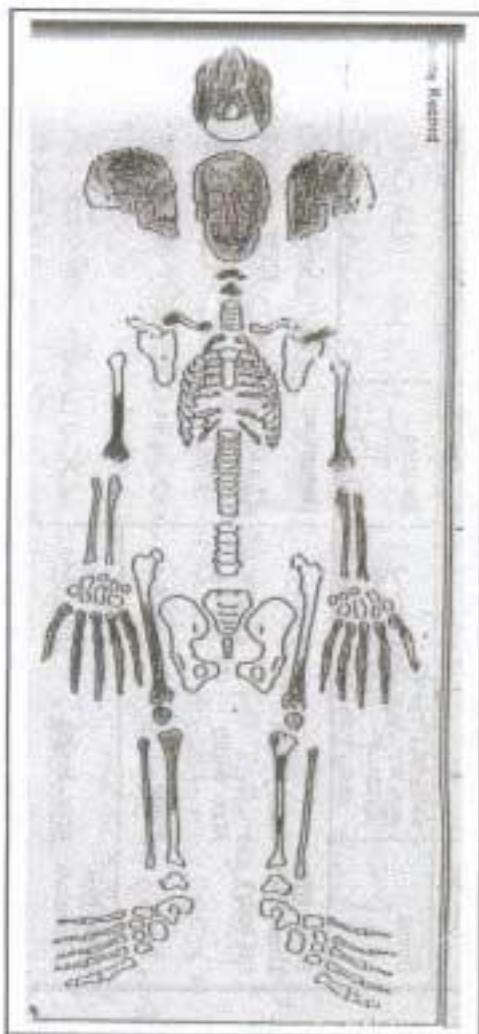


Fig. 1. Illustration of skeleton – bones recovered shaded in black.

The extent of the skeletal remains are as shown in Figure 1 and Photograph 1 (illustrating the remains in situ).

The grave was positioned east/west with the skeleton placed with the skull to the west, laying on the left side facing north, i.e. with the back to the south and the sea. It had been placed in a crouched position.



The Skeleton (Plate 1.)

The remains were brushed to remove any remaining grave fill but otherwise not cleaned. They were extremely fragile and were temporarily conserved during the excavation by Deon Whittaker. The grave fill within the skull was removed off site. As illustrated above, the majority of the vertebrae, the pelvis, feet, ribs and sternum were missing due to the cut. The femur, tibia, fibula and humerus were all damaged, losing either proximal or distal extremities.

Skull

Fusion appeared incomplete but this could be trauma due to the contractors' excavation intrusion. The supra orbital ridge and margin may suggest a male. The nose ridge would appear to indicate quite a prominent nose. The maxilla appears to overhang the mandible (see Photo 2), but this could be a result of the weight of the grave fill slightly compressing the skull.



Photograph 2: skull – illustrating supra orbital ridge , overhang of maxilla, and abscess damage to mandible. Erosion of bone is clearly evident.

Stature

Only three long bones were undamaged and these measured:-

Bone	Side	Measurement
Ulna	Right	260mm
Radius	Right	235mm
Radius	Left	235mm

When these are compared to the following measurements from the inhumation report – Pyecombe Beaker Burial (Butler; Sanderson – SAC 129, p. 18), it can be noted that they are marginally shorter:-

Bone	Side	Measurement
Ulna	Right	285 mm
Radius	Right	264 mm
Radius	Left	263 mm

Pyecombe Man" was estimated to be 1.79m (5'10").



The left ulna exhibited evidence of historic abnormal bone growth to the proximal end

All fused epiphyses were present.

Hands

Only two phalange were missing. Finger nails were present and appeared reasonably long and “cared for”, i.e. were not broken/jagged.

Teeth

All teeth had erupted and this would indicate an age of at least 21 years. However the tooth wear (attrition) would seem to indicate an individual of much older years. (Brothwell, 1981); it is a possible indication of poor diet.

In the mandible, all molars exhibited excessive wear with the first molar on the right hand side lost (only partial root remaining) through a possible abscess; and the first molar to the left hand side exhibiting approximately 60% decay through to the root.

In the maxilla, the molars exhibited moderate to heavy wear (particularly to the first molar right hand side) with the first and second molars to the left hand side exhibiting uneven wear. Premolar 4 showed evidence of “linear” wear in a parallel pattern across the tooth, possibly indicative of breaking thread/yarn.

Tooth wear to the molars in particular could indicate an age range from 21-40+ but, as stated above, could also indicate an inadequate diet.

Discussion

It is not possible to definitively sex the skeleton as the pelvis is missing. None of the bones are particularly robust. From evidence of the skull (after Acsadi and Nemeskeri, 1970, fig. 16) the score would appear to be intermediate. As the pelvis is missing, this data is excluded.

The excessive bone growth to the left radius, together with the unusual wear pattern to maxilla right hand side P4, could be indicative of the use of a bow or some weaving activity, and the breaking of thread with the teeth.

With severe decay to M1 to the mandible right side, and left hand M1 missing with decay evident to the mandible, possibly due to an abscess, this person must have suffered from severe toothache. It is possible that the abscess was a contributory factor to the death of the individual. There were no other indications of illness/cause of death on the bones remaining in the grave.

Animal Bones

A total of 138 bones/fragments and just five teeth and a possible talon were recovered. Only 20 of the bones could be identified and, of these, only 10 came from known contexts.

West Pit

22 bones/fragments were recovered, of which only one was identifiable. This was identified as a metacarpal, probably Equus.

Context 1A

56 bones/fragments and one tooth were recovered. Only six bones were identifiable:

Bos	Metatarsal
Bos	Vertebrae fragment x 2
Bos	Femur fragment
Bos	Rib fragment

The only other identifiable bone was a skull fragment from a large indeterminate mammal. The tooth was identified as an Ovis molar.

Context 3B

Only three bones and one tooth were recovered from this context:-

Bos	Metatarsal
Bos	Femur – section of mid shaft
Ovis	Fibula – section of mid shaft
Bos	Molar

Both the Bos bones in this context exhibited evidence of butchery, in the form of chop marks.

Bone Recovered from Top Soil by JCB

A total of 57 bones/fragments were recovered from the JCB spoil. Of these, 10 were identifiable:-

Bos	5No. vertebrae fragments
Bos	Thoracic vertebrae fragment
Bos	Metacarpal.
Bos	Humerus – left side
Bos	Metapodial fragment
Equus	Metacarpal

Three teeth, unstratified, were identified as Ovis, two molars and one incisor. There was also a possible talon.

General

A large number of the bones recovered from this site exhibited excavation damage from the working of the JCB. Equally a large number of the fragmented bones exhibited signs of butchery, mostly chop marks, presumably to extract bone marrow. The majority of the fragmented bone is probably Bos.

The Snails by D.McBrien

The molluscs were collected from all three areas of the excavated site.

These were the ditch cut into the bank facing south, the same ditch cutting across the site from north to south and the grave cut (including the interior of the skull).

The ditch that cut into the bank contained an abundance of *Pomatis elegans* (1gm), and a few *Cepeae hortensis*. *Pomatis elegans* is common in southern England on archaeological sites but did not become established until about 6,000 B.C. It invariably occurs in Neolithic and post-Neolithic soils. *Pomatis elegans* inhabits scrub, woods and sandhills etc always on highly calcareous soils. In general the species favours shaded and moist habitats with broken ground and loose soil into which it can burrow a few centimetres. Its presence in abundance generally shows some form of disturbance such as forest and shrub clearance.

It is classified as a catholic or intermediate species, as it has also been found in open habitats. Concentrations of *Pomatis elegans* shells sometimes occur at the base of present day grassland soils. Shells such as *P. elegans* can still be in a reasonable state of preservation in the soil after a length of time far in excess of normal sub-fossil components. The concentration of *P. elegans* in the soil horizons of ditch deposits could result from a combination of factors. The soil types this snail prefers are a very loose or broken surface, or where vegetation consisting of scrub or light woodland allowed the snail to burrow.

Most of the *P. elegans* mollusc shells came from above the chalk rubble in the ditch. The habitat had changed but the snail evidence suggests that at the time the ditch was dug, or just after, there had been a changing environment to dry open grassland from a previously shady one, possibly formed by scrub or woodland.

(Helix) *Cepaea hortensis*

There were six whole shells plus several small pieces. This species is one of the largest to occur in pre-historic assemblages in Britain, the other species is *Cepaea nemoralis*. *Cepaea hortensis* and *Cepaea nemoralis* were both able to live during the Neolithic and Bronze Ages in open downland with habitats in elevated locations, probably due to the higher temperatures at that time. *Cepaea hortensis* while being tolerant of the cold, does prefer damp places although it can also occupy dry habitats.

C. hortensis

This is a common species in the Boreal (c 5,300-7000 BC) and Atlantic (c 3000-5,300 BC) periods. It is also frequently found in the Sub-Boreal (c 500-3,000 BC) in Neolithic

deposits. It often occurred on the high plateau areas of downland from which it is now absent.

The progressive clearance of woodland, which took place from Neolithic times onwards, led to the destruction of suitable shaded and damp cover for *C. hortensis* on the downland plateau. Like *P. elegans*, *C. hortensis* is classified as a catholic species as it can live in both shady and open habitats. The presence of both species at East Brighton does suggest that the habitat had changed and forest, woodland, and shrubby areas had been cleared to open downland similar to that which it is now. The same ditch crossing the site, which cut into the natural chalk, contained only *C. hortensis* (2gm). The grave cut contained *Pomatis elegans*, two *C. hortensis* and one *Oxychilus cellarius*. The skull contained *Pomatis elegans* (see earlier) and four *Oxychilus cellarius* shells.

Oxychilus cellarius is a very common woodland species, living under logs and amongst scrub. This snail is also carnivorous. It is found in tall grass and can be found occasionally on the bare chalk downs, where there is no shelter or moisture. It also likes tumbled wall debris, piles of stones and stabilised limestone scree. It is common in cave deposits, cairns and chambered tombs, attracted to the latter by decaying bodies. It has also been found in the skulls and amongst the bones of the Neolithic burials of Waylands Smithy Long Barrow.

This species did not arrive until later in the Atlantic period (c 3,000-5,300 BC), and is not very often found in the subsoil hollows. On Neolithic and later sites *O. Cellarius* is quite often the only species of the genus to occur. (The other two kinds of the same species being, *O. allarius* (Miller) and *O. helveticus* (Blum)).

O. Cellarius is a Hoxnian and Emian fossil, and possibly occurred in the Cromerian. As there are so few of these snails it cannot be said for certain that it is an indicator of previous environments and it is more likely that the snail was attracted by the decomposition of the body.

Cemeteries and the Orientation of Early Bronze Age Burials

Wessex and Dorset possess some of the most documented and visual ancient burial landscapes, with many well preserved Bronze Age cemeteries. Oakley Down in Dorset is just one of this number (Megaw & Simpson). Crop and soil marks can give some indication of where other ploughed out barrow cemeteries may have existed, as at Woodhenge in Wiltshire (Wilson). While the South Downs has numerous tumuli, a great many of them being focused on the crests of the hills that form the north facing scarp slopes of the Downs, few are as dramatic as the Wessex and Dorset complexes. The Devils Jumps and Heyshott, north of Chichester, are perhaps notable exceptions. Some barrows can be observed as singular features, as at Pyecombe (Butler), while others form groups or cemeteries of barrows as at the Devils Jumps, Blackcap near Lewes and West Heath (Drewett). Some barrows could be interpreted as being features preserved in vestiges of ancient landscapes. The barrows located around the Patcham Fawcett School, Ladies Mile and Stanmer Woods would fall into this category and are considered part of a landscape that includes lynchets, cross ridge dykes and settlements known from excavations in the Coldean area of Brighton (Funnell, 2000 forthcoming).

However, very few of these burial mounds have been investigated in recent times, the larger scale analysis at West Heath being the most notable exception. At West Heath, however, only three out of the nine barrows produced human remains (Drewett). Barrows

excavated in the nineteenth century are very poorly recorded, if at all, and there is sparse detail about the orientation of any interment.

Recent papers on the funerary traditions of the Late Neolithic and Bronze Age are very detailed and comprehensive with studies of the burial traditions for these periods in both East and West Sussex (Greatorex et al 1999) and (Garwood et al 2003, 47-68). It can be observed that while the South Downs are the most prominent locations for barrows the plains and slopes to the south of East Sussex still possess a significant number of such edifices. Among those that have been excavated are the Hove barrow in East Sussex, which lay on a flat plain, and the barrow at Crowlink (Greatorex 2001). Two grooved ware deposits at Westhampnett, West Sussex are suggested to be the first evidence for ritual activity on the coastal plains for Sussex. (Garwood 2003, 60).

The new burial found in 2003 at East Brighton golf club is part of a number of other Bronze Age burials that have been found at and recorded during the recent past in this part of East Brighton. The proximity of the burials to each other could suggest that this is the location of an extensive Bronze Age cemetery. The recent landscaping of the hill, so visible in section during the excavations, is possibly the reason why nothing remains of any mounds, if they ever existed.

The recent excavations at West Heath, and the lack of human remains in the barrows there, has provoked some debate as to whether barrows or tumuli can really be regarded as burial mounds and that possibly these features were created for some other purpose. It is possible that East Brighton is a Bronze Age cemetery without mounds. Tumuli are generally regarded as edifices for high status individuals but little is known about the burial traditions for the majority of the people. The number of Bronze Age burials found in this area of East Brighton, over the past century, may justify a more intensive investigation of lands around the recent excavations. The apparent dearth of high status artefactual finds in the interments and the lack of burial mounds may indicate that this is the location of a 'low status' Bronze Age cemetery.

The orientation of Bronze Age burials has been studied to some extent (Garwood 2003, 54). The new burial at East Brighton golf club is east/west with the skull on the west side of the grave and the head facing north towards Whitehawk Hill. The Sites and Monuments Record, (SMR), record a number of prehistoric burials at East Brighton. A Neolithic/EBA burial found in 1937 (SMR Ref TQ 30 SW29-ES202) was lying on its right side with the head on the south west side of the grave and facing south east. Another crouched burial found in 1924 is of a female and child, the female lay on her left side with her head to the south and facing west, (SMR Ref TQ 30 SW30-ES203). A third burial, found in 1931, of a female considered to be 25 years of age, has no record of orientation (SMR Ref TQ 30 SW31-ES204). A fourth burial (SMR Ref TQ 30 SE8-ES237) was also buried in a crouched position with the head to the south and facing east. All of the burials were dated to the EBA period purely by the style of burial being in a crouched position but none of these burials have supportive artefactual remains to confirm dating. There is no record from these earlier burials of mounds or surrounding ditches. A Middle Bronze Age child burial at Varley Hall, Brighton, was orientated east/west with the head on the west side facing north (Greig 1997), whilst the beaker burial at Pyecombe had the head on the north west section of the grave and facing south east (Butler). The orientation of crouched burials in these instances tends to be predominantly facing east or south east, but this is not the case in all of the burials. Some debate has suggested that females were buried on their left side, but at Roedean they have been buried on either side. At West Overton (Megaw & Simpson 190) the burial lay north to south with the head facing east. The

Brighton bypass excavations at Mile Oak produced a contracted female burial with the head to the north and lying on its right side facing east (Russell 2002).

From the evidence known it can be perceived that orientation of interments in the Early Bronze Age does not appear to have any deeply ritualistic significance. Burials were placed on either their right or left side and facing in any direction.

Discussion

The increasing number of burials found in the vicinity, particularly from the Early Bronze Age or Beaker periods, tends to suggest that this area contained an element of ritual and reverence. The visual aspect and panoramic connotations cannot be ignored as the sites of all the known burials are located below the towering prominence of the Neolithic causewayed enclosure at Whitehawk Hill. The ditch found to the west of the burial is a distinct, curved feature and may be associated with the burial. However, the dimensions of this ditch, if centred around the burial, would be approximately 34 metres in diameter, which would be extraordinarily large. Flint flakes found from the primary fill of the ditch suggests that the original ditch may have been created in the Early Bronze Age, whilst the pottery evidence indicates that the feature was later re-used during the Middle Iron Age. There was no evidence for a mound, or tumulus, associated with the burial, but this feature could have been removed during the construction of the golf course, when the hill was landscaped. The original land surface was observed in the section to the east of the excavation site, where the original land surface dropped at a much greater angle towards the sea. This land, immediately east of the new construction work, has been filled with overburden deposits and levelled to create an even surface for a bunker and practice tee.

The skeletal remains in the grave tend to suggest that the interment is of a male, the first found locally except for a much later Roman coffin burial. The excavation produced some artefactual evidence to support Early Bronze Age dating for this crouched burial. The three sherds of pottery found in the grave fill, while being of a very coarse fabric and not of a style usually attributed to the fine pottery found in the Beaker period, are confirmed as being of an Early Bronze Age type of fabric. The traditional location of a Beaker burial pot is usually found at the rear of the skull but at East Brighton this section of the grave had been destroyed by the contractors.

The excavation around the skeletal remains of the burial produced a number of squared chalk pieces. The chalk blocks appeared to have been worked to produce a square or rectangular shape and then partially bored or pierced completely.

Another possibility is that the items were a natural phenomenon and were created by insects or burrowing creatures. However, in view of their shape and location it seems that they may have been deliberately placed in the burial. The pieces were found from around the neck area but, as the fingers were also in the same location lying under the chin, it is possible that they may have been held in the hand. The small blocks could even possibly be interpreted as some form of prehistoric game.

The ditch contained a number of sherds of pottery dated to the Iron Age and the top soil deposits from above the grave produced pottery from the Roman period. The Roedean area has produced a number of discrete finds of both Roman pottery and coins, including a gold stater and a local resident recently found Roman pottery and a Roman coin in his garden in Roedean Crescent. A Romano-British settlement is recorded just north of the excavated area and a Roman coffin burial was found in 1931 (SMR Ref. TQ 30 SW32-

ES205). The Roman burial is located close to the Early Bronze Age burials and it is possible that this part of East Brighton was still revered during this later period. The new finds confirm that both an Iron Age and a Roman presence were well established in this area, but further investigations are needed to discover the extent of the archaeology for these periods.

The geophysical survey, with its anomalies of possible pits and ditches, suggests that the archaeological features are part of a very extensive ancient landscape. Discrete areas of low resistance immediately north of the burial may prove to be other burials forming a significant cemetery. However, further excavation will be required to confirm this, although it is also possible that the low resistance noted in the survey is geological disturbance.

It is generally accepted that in the Early Bronze Age both domestic and ritual activities moved from the hill tops to lower locations. It is possible that this also happened at Whitehawk Hill where the emphasis moved eastwards and down the hill to the gentler slopes of Roedean. It may be somewhat speculative to suggest that an Early Bronze Age 'henge' monument could have been located in this area and that sea erosion has destroyed any evidence of such a feature, but it is possible that one may have existed.

The recording of the ditch and burial at East Brighton golf club is a very useful addition to the data already available from East Brighton. The new finds continue to emphasise the archaeological sensitivity of this area. Unfortunately, it would be difficult to undertake further research into either the Early Bronze Age or Romano- British aspects of East Brighton golf club without some disturbance to the members of the club. However, vigilance over further developments close to this site may produce other finds and features which should help to clarify what is already known about this area.

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The Author:-John Funnell

Field Walking Woodingdean East Field

Conducted February 2007

Introduction

During the past few years the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society have been conducting a programme of research at Woodingdean. The project is focused on field walking a number of fields to the south and east of the Woodingdean cemetery located south and along the Warren Road. (TQ350055). The cemetery was going to be extended southwards into a small area of grass in which were observed a number of earthworks. The field to the south of the new cemetery perimeter has been ploughed for many years and aerial photographs show that the field contains numerous features that probably relate to archaeological features.

During 2005 and 2006 the Society conducted a major geophysical survey on the land that is deemed to become the cemetery extension. The enlargement to the cemetery would destroy any archaeological deposits and features. The geophysical survey produced a number of areas of interest within the field, subsequently used as an initiative for archaeological excavation.

The excavations investigated a number of the earthworks and geophysical anomalies and produced a variation of finds and features. A number of post holes were revealed in different locations across the field, but with no associated dateable finds. There was a general deposition of flint flakes in all of the sections examined.

An area of intensely high resistance was sectioned and proved to be a well constructed roadway comprised of brick and breeze blocks, relatively contemporary materials. The road lay above a metal bicycle indicating that it is of a relatively recent date. A number of local people who visited the excavations were unable to give any insight into when the feature was built and for what purpose?

Field Walking 2006

The field to the south of the cemetery was field walked in 2006. (TQ353050). The field was only partially ploughed and much of the field walking was undertaken with the field still being under stubble. The finds are currently being processed, but there appears to be very little concentration of any finds.

A geophysical survey was conducted on the side of the hill to the west of the cemetery (TQ346051). A number of ancient metal finds have been made in this area in the past, (Ref. HER), which tend to suggest that prehistoric activity was taking place in this location. The results of the survey produced evidence for a possible oval enclosure on the top of the hill. However, further investigation through excavation would be needed to ensure that the feature is archaeological rather than a natural geological item, and if it is archaeological confirm any dating.

Field Walking 2007

In February 2007 the BHAS Field Unit returned to the fields at Woodingdean. There was a limited opportunity to walk the field to the west of the Falmer Road, south of the road junction at the Downs Hotel. (TQ35550570).

The field had been ploughed but a strip measuring 10 metres in width was left down to grass on the east side, abutting the Falmer Road. A base line was set out from the corner junction of the Falmer and Warren Roads. The base line ran down the hill towards the location of the park at Happy Valley. The first line 'A' was measured in 10 metre down from the top north east corner of the field, all the additional lines were spaced out at 20 metre intervals. The lines were broken into transects of 20 metres and finds collected appropriately. A total of 20 lines (A-T) were walked. The lines were walked from east to west, going up the hill towards the school located on the west side of the field.

The field walking was conducted by members of the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society with a mixture of seasoned and expert field walkers and new members undergoing training. The weather was cold but pleasant on both week-ends.

The Finds

The Flint Work

A total of 394 flints were recovered from the field walking. The flintwork collected from this section of the Woodingdean project comprised material mainly dating from the late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age periods with a number of pieces dating possibly belonging to the Mesolithic. The material consisted mainly of hard hammer struck flint flakes with only a few tools. The limited number of flint tools included scrapers, notched pieces, blades and a pair of Neolithic arrowheads (one of which was never used being discarded before final re-touching). The most interesting observation was the collection of flint cores some of which are tentatively dated to the Mesolithic period.

The patination of the flintwork varied in colour with grey (58%), blue (15%), white (12%), black (10%) and brown (5%) being present. The quantity of flint work retaining vestiges of cortex was (50%)

A considerable amount of fire-cracked flint was recovered from the middle section of the field (lines S and T). Lines S and T produced 40% of the fire-cracked collected.

Flint Flakes	394
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Tools	Total
Scrapers	7
Notched Piece	3
Arrow Heads	2 Contexts G3 and S4
Blades	7
Piercer	1
Cores	15

Total Flint Collection	429
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Fire-cracked flint	Total number of pieces 157
Fire-cracked flint	Total weight 4686 gms

Pottery

The walking produced very little pottery or ceramics from any period. A single sherd of pottery with flint calcined temper may date to prehistoric times while 4 sherds of a Roman fabric may be associated with a small Roman settlement known to be located further west over the brow of the hill, but as yet undiscovered. The pottery consisted of a single piece of grey ware and 3 pieces of East Sussex Ware. All of the sherds were badly abraded and none had any diagnostic features.

Iron Age pottery found in transect T7

Roman Pottery Found in transects D3 and T2 (2 sherds)

Marine molluscs

A number of fragments of both oyster and scallop were found. Oyster was the predominant find with a total of 15 pieces (60%), while the pieces of scallop was 10 (40%)

Miscellaneous Finds

The field walking produced very few pieces of contemporary ceramics (35) and only small quantities of modern brick and tile. Glass was observed in quantity (89) and several items of unidentifiable metal work were picked up. A small number of pieces of clay pipe were found (3). One stem was indented with the words 'BURNS CUTTY' on both sides. A number of small animal long bones were recovered (12) and a coin of the 20th century

Results

The material from the field walking has been examined and the results placed onto dot density diagrams (Figs 1-5).

Conclusions

The field walking at Woodingdean in 2007 has raised some interesting questions. The quantity of flintwork and fire-cracked flint ends to suggest that some prehistoric settlement may lie somewhere within the precincts of this field at Woodingdean. The south east facing slope of this down land hillside is similar in aspect to other south east facing settlements known from Downsview (Rudling et al) and Varley Halls, Coldean. (Greig).

It is possible that house terraces are located in the field cut into the side of the hill. The flint and fire-cracked appear to be focused on the lower slopes in a small valley. This could be the location of a possible site, or it could be that the artefacts are hill wash, and that any possible settlement lies further up the hill. A geophysical survey may possibly produce evidence for prehistoric house terraces. A resistivity survey at Varley Halls after the excavation was finished, in areas outside of the perimeter of the excavations, noted a number of clearly defined anomalies that are almost certainly house platform terraces. (Funnell) The single sherd of Iron Age pottery was found in the same area as the flint work.

The number of cores, a large percentage of the tool collection (42%), is interesting as is the various patinations of the flint flakes. The general percentage of tools to waste material is not unusual, but the quantity of cores does tend to suggest a preparation area, possibly associated with settlement. The variations in patination could be deduced as the result of possible trading with Wealden locations indicating movement of artefacts. The geology of Woodingdean does possess some pockets of clay with flint, so that it is equally possible that the brown patination is a local phenomena.

The few sherds of pottery dating from the Roman period could possibly be intrusive and brought from elsewhere. However, local metal detecting people have noted an area of dark soil when the field to the west of this one is ploughed. Some previous finds of pottery and some unrecorded metal work tend to suggest that the feature is a small Roman farmstead. It is possible that the few sherds of pottery found were associated with this site.

The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society are contemplating returning to Woodingdean later in 2007 or early 2008 when access after crop removal would allow the remainder of the field to the south can be examined. Further field walking may enhance the picture by further finds, perhaps giving a greater indication of settlement from the prehistoric and Roman periods.

Acknowledgements

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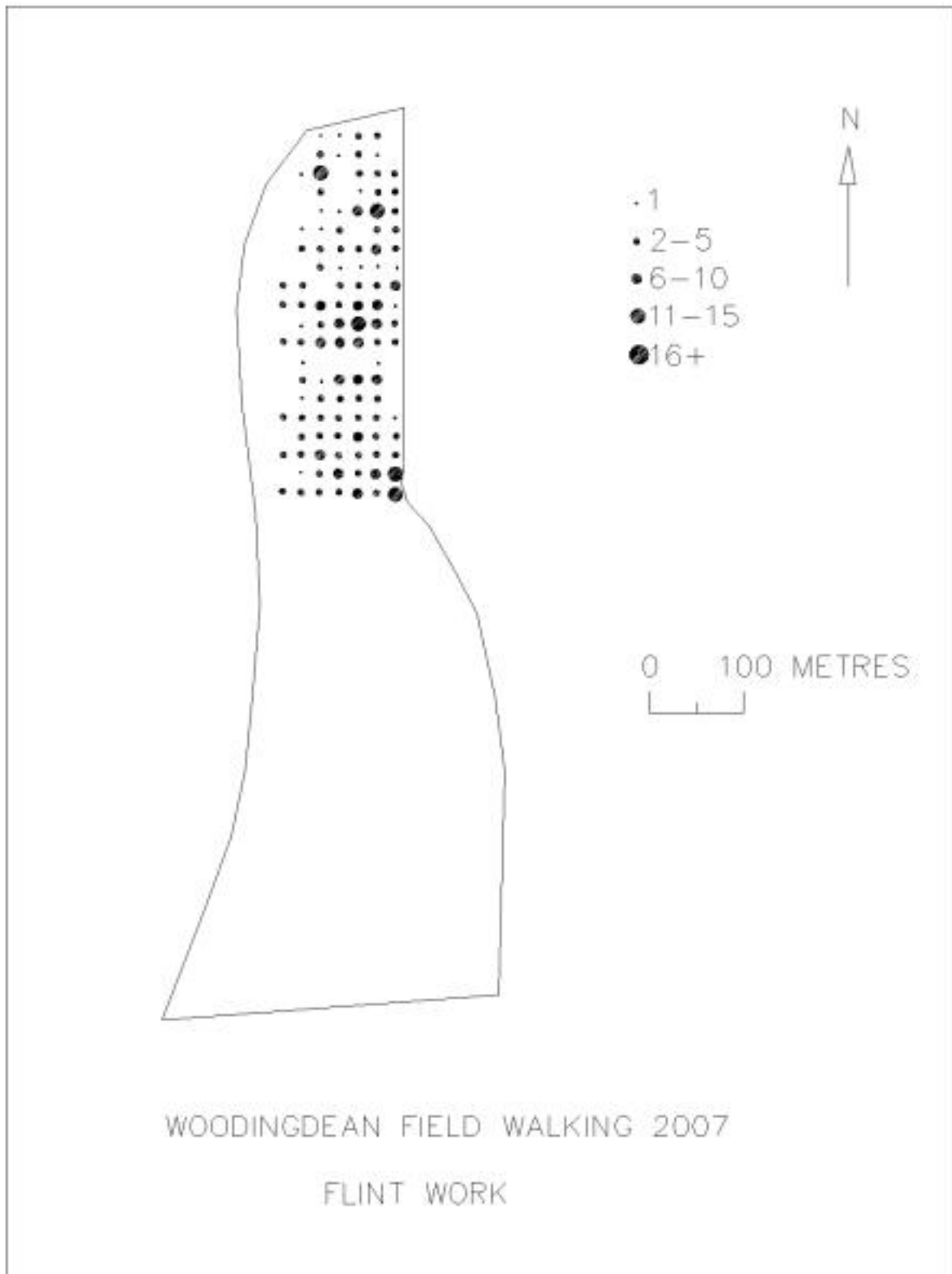
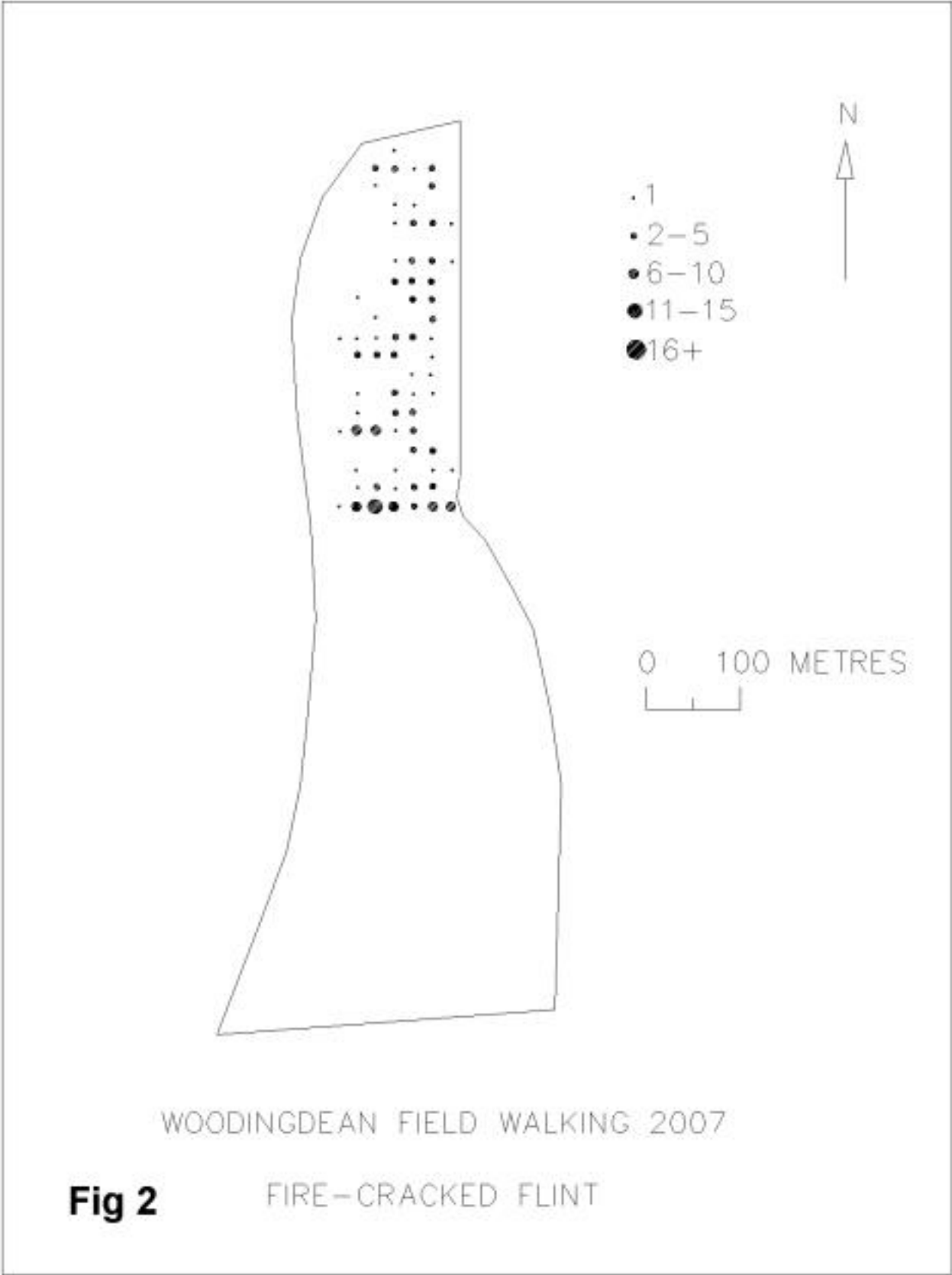


Fig 1. Woodingdean East Field



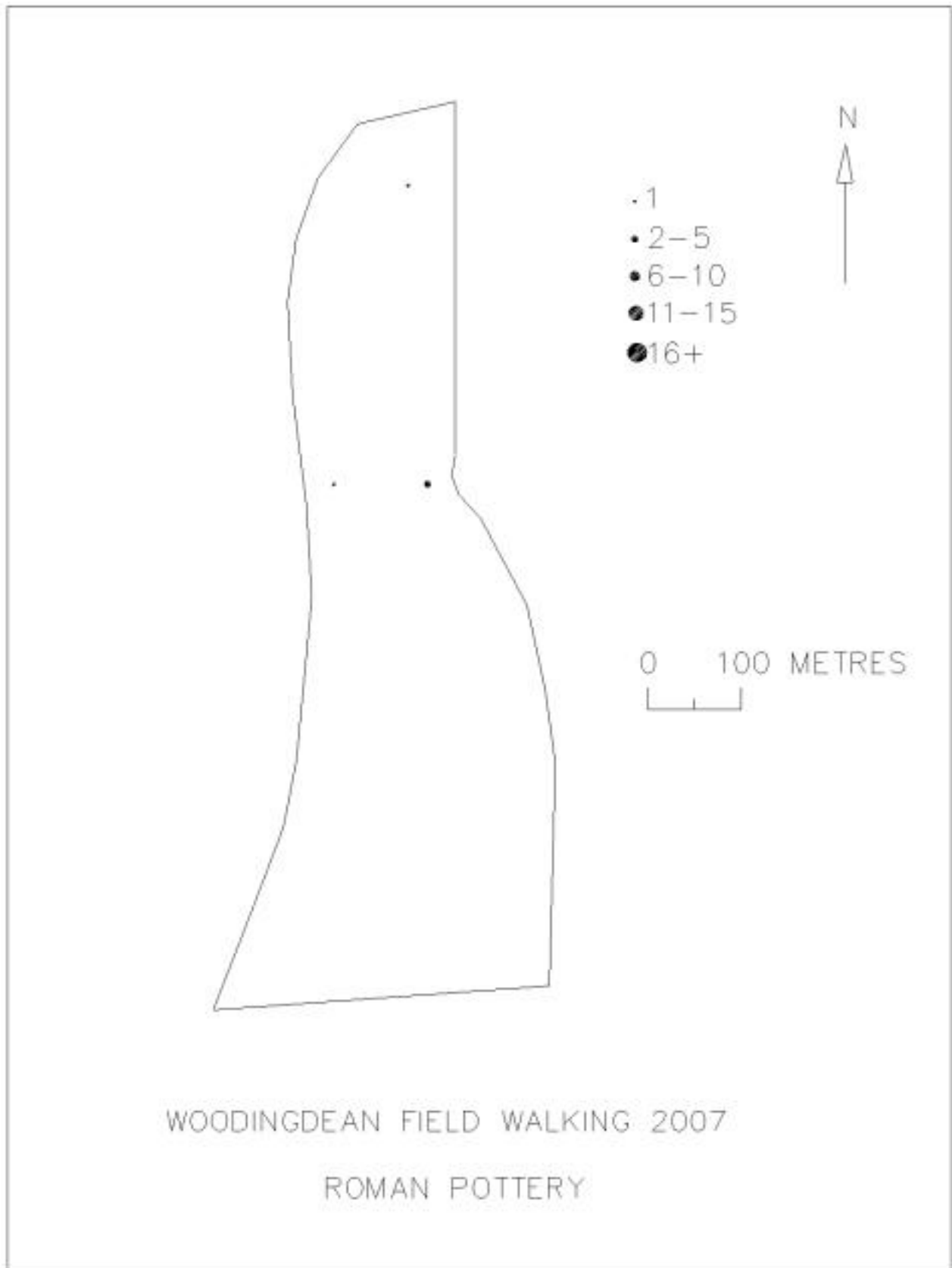


Fig 3. Woodingdean East Field

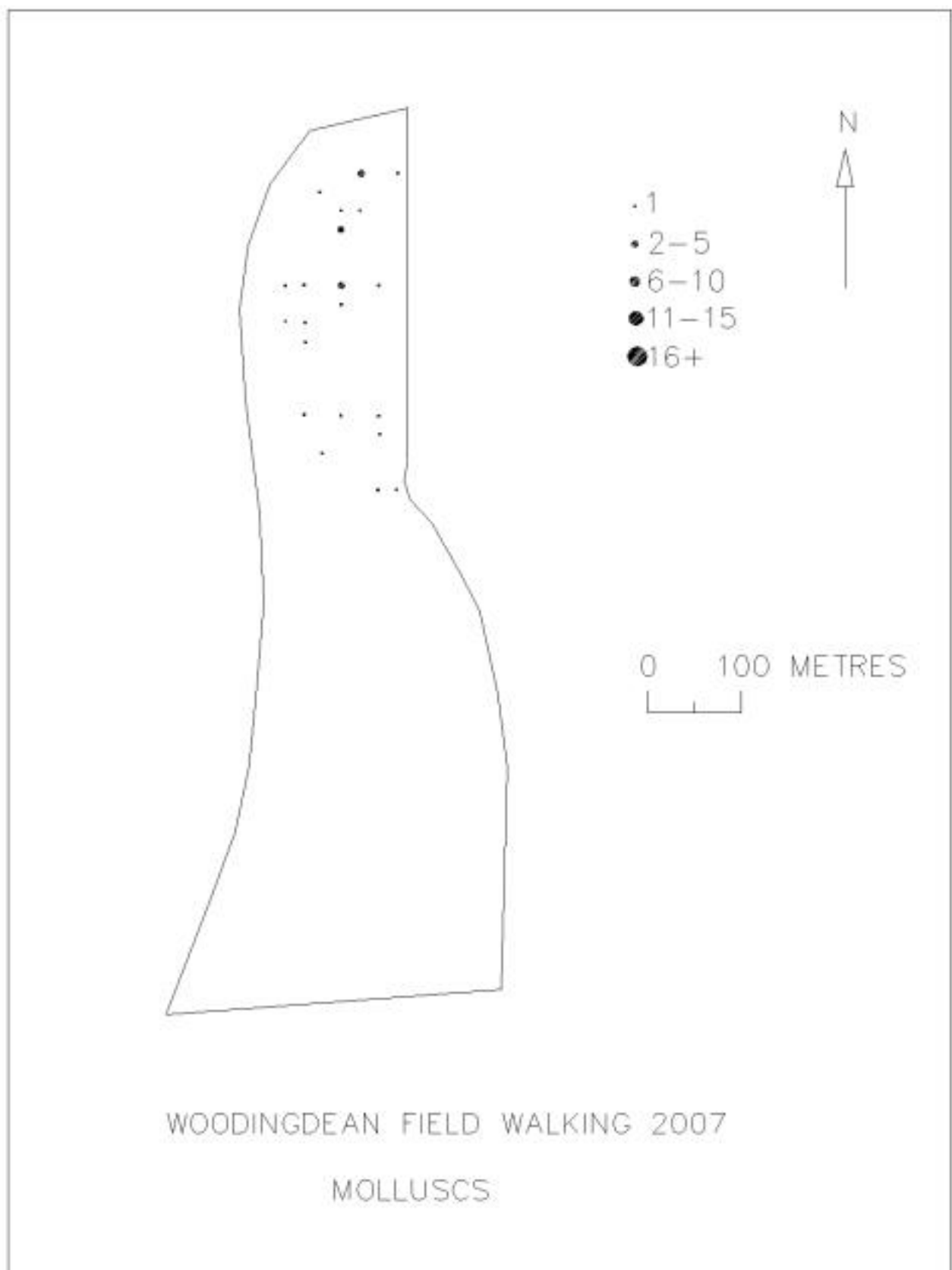


Fig 4. Woodingdean East Field

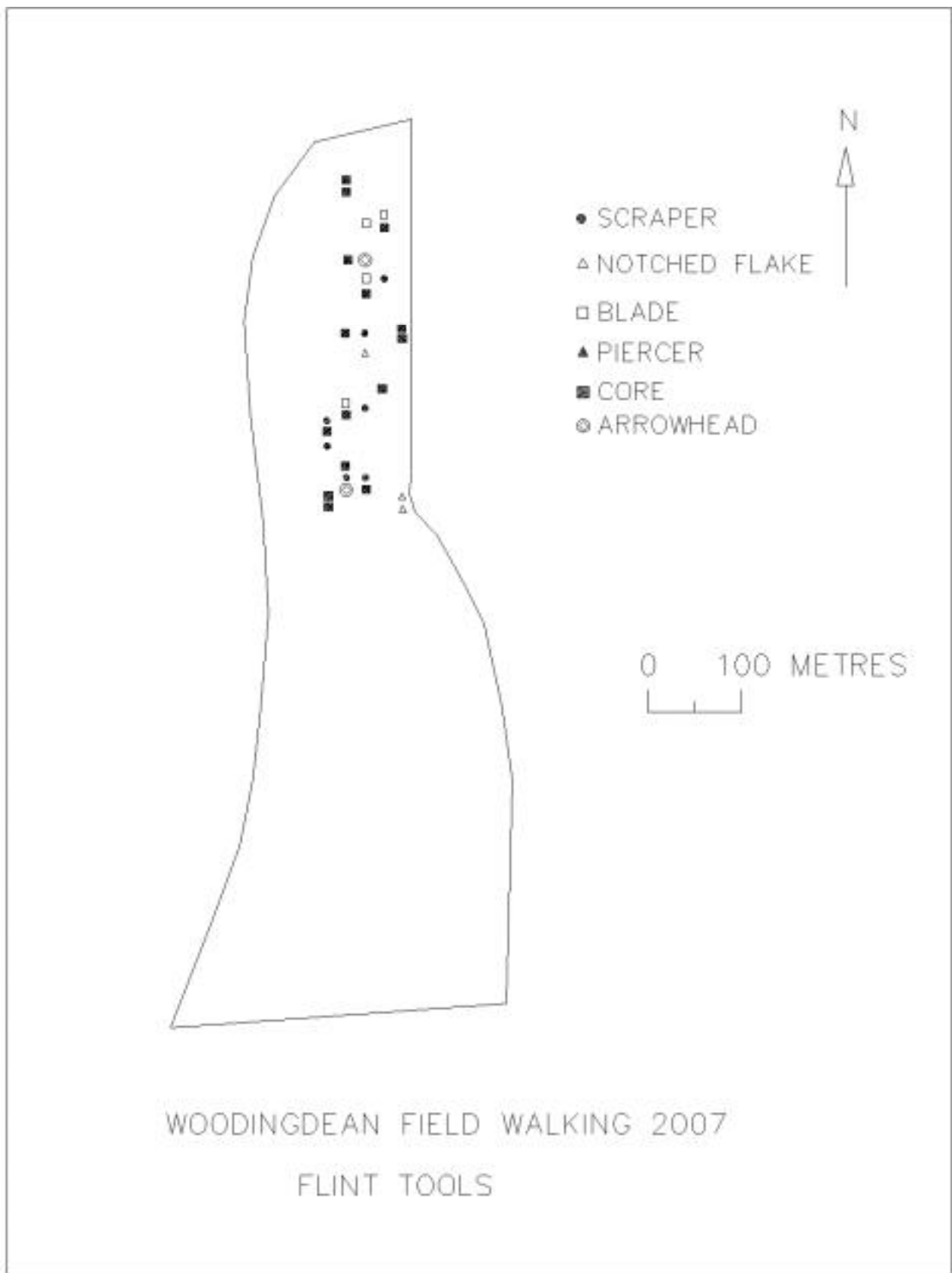


Fig 5. Woodingdean East Field

Geophysics at Ferring, West Sussex

Introduction

In the past a number of finds from the Bronze Age, including a hoard, have been recovered from along the edge of the small stream at Ferring, in West Sussex. It is uncertain as to whether the finds are part of typical Bronze Age ritual depositions. One find spot is very close to the stream edge, which may make it a possible votive deposit. There have been a number of other finds all from the east side of the stream. A fire-cracked flint cairn, frequently associated with Bronze Age activity, is located close by to the north.

Dr David Yates is conducting further investigations with regards Bronze Age ritual deposits. He is currently working with Reading University. Part of this research is to investigate the lands to the west of the location of Bronze Age hoard, and to try and discover whether there are any signs of settlement in the immediate vicinity. The hill immediately north of the survey is Highdown Hill that contains both Bronze Age and Iron Age features, as well as a Saxon cemetery. The survey was conducted west of the stream and south of the little bridge and small weir. (TQ089024)

The Resistivity Survey

The survey ran adjacent to the bank of the stream, and moved westward towards an adjacent ploughed field. A footpath crossed the west section of grid 8. A total of 8 grids were surveyed. Each grid measured 20 metres by 20 metres. The machine used was a TR Systems resistivity meter. The readings were measured in Ohms and were taken at 1 metre intervals. The weather had been rainy the previous week and the ground was exceptionally boggy. The survey was conducted over part of a possible levee or mound where dredging and clearing of the stream may have been deposited in previous years. It is expected that this will be reflected in the results of the images. The survey focused on the centre of the hoard location, moving 30 metres north and south of the known find spot. The survey then moved westwards.

The results were produced using 'Snuffler' data processing. (Fig 1 & 2)

Conclusions

The results of the survey appear to find little to support evidence for other prehistoric settlement or activity, although a possible Palaeolithic channel may have been detected.

For further details about the project contact Dr David Yates at Reading University.

Author:- John Funnell 25th August 2008

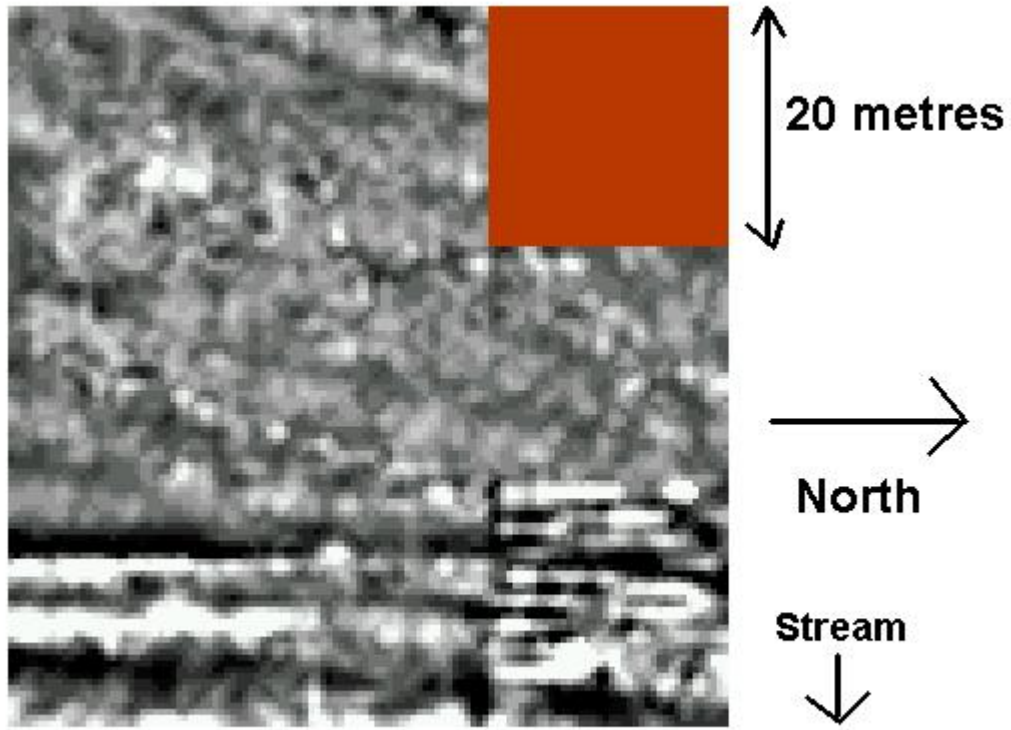


Fig 1 Ferring 2007

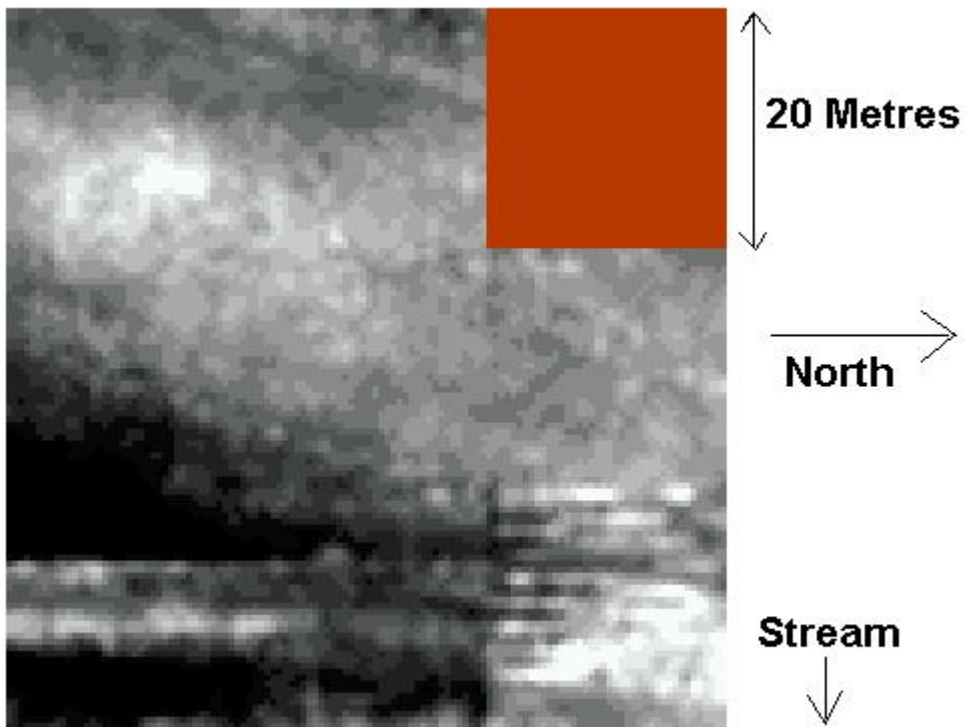


Fig 2 Ferring

A Geophysical Survey at Old Boat Corner Stanmer, Brighton 2007

Introduction

The BHAS Field Unit was informed that a field to the north east of Old Boat Corner, Stanmer, near Brighton was the possible location for a new cemetery on the outskirts of Brighton. (TQ32450965). A cemetery would destroy any archaeological deposits and features. Permission had already been given by Brighton and Hove City Council to the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society to conduct a resistivity survey in the field.

The survey examined an open area located between the Scheduled Ancient Monument at Eastwick Barn, destroyed by the construction of the Brighton bypass, and the ancient landscape preserved at Pudding Bag Wood. Eastwick Barn contained lynchets, field systems and trackways. Finds from the excavations conducted prior to the construction of the bypass included pottery and metal work from the Bronze Age and Iron Age (Rudling). Excavations conducted on earthworks within Pudding Bag Wood produced finds dated from the later Neolithic and Early Bronze Age (Funnell). The earthworks have subsequently been scheduled. The woods to the east of the field contain a number of deep depressions but these as yet remain undated. Other sites in close proximity include a Roman farmstead and possible shrine at Rock Clump and a 13th century medieval farmstead in Patchway field. The Bronze Age sites of Downsvie and Varley Halls are located close by on the east slopes of this hill.

The field lies immediately south of the Upper Lodge car park with the Ditchling Road abutting on the west side. The survey was conducted by members of the BHAS Field Unit and the weather was bright and sunny. The weather had been predominantly dry for a number of weeks before, but did not appear to affect the results.

Methodology

A base line was set out along the east side of the field and 10 metres west of the remains of the flint wall that surrounds this part of Stanmer. A second base line, at right angles to the first, running from east to west was sighted in line with the north side of the new gate located in the flint boundary wall.

The survey used a pair of resistivity machines. One machine was a Geoscan RM15 while the other was a TR Systems. The details were transferred to computer using 'snuffler' software.

The machines were kept at a minimum distance of 40 metres, any distance shorter than this appears to confuse the data logging devices.

The readings were taken at 1 metre intervals and measured in Ohms. A total of 11 grids were surveyed on the first day and another 6 grids on the following day covering an area of 6,800 square metres.

Conclusions

The use of both resistivity machines allowed a significant study of the field at Old Boat Corner.(Fig 1.) The results produced very clear images and highlighted a number of areas of interest. The images indicate an area of irregular high resistance in the north/west corner of the field and an interesting circular configuration of low resistance, which could possibly be archaeological features. A number of other areas of low resistance could be either archaeological features or geological solution hollows.

There are no visible indications of residual evidence for ditches that could be associated with the Eastwick Barn Celtic field system. A number of ditch features have been noted on aerial photographs within the field that is located between the excavated sites of Downsvie (Rudling) and Varley Halls (Greig). This field was investigated by field walking in 2001 (Funnell). There is also nothing visible on the results of the new survey to indicate that other unrecorded tumuli are present close to those already known in Pudding Bag Wood (Funnell). It would be anticipated that any residual ditches from ploughed out or destroyed barrows would have been found during the survey, the results tend to suggest that only the pair or burial mounds already recorded are present at Old Boat Corner. Others may, however, be secreted within the woods.

Prehistoric sites are often very difficult to identify in geophysical surveys. Many of the subtle features relating to such sites are often ploughed away resulting in confusing data. The field at Old Boat Corner is part of a rich and partially preserved panoramic landscape dating back to the Bronze Age and Iron Age. It is possible that features and artifacts are still lying below and within the disturbed top soil, but only excavation will confirm this.

The assistant County Archaeologist visited the location recently and has suggested that a programme of trial trenching might give a greater insight into whether vestiges of archaeological remains do lie beneath the soil at Old Boat Corner. The BHAS is planning to produce a brief to conduct such a project and present it to Brighton and Hove City Council.

Acknowledgements:-

The author would like to thank Mr G.Bennett of Brighton and Hove City Council for allowing access to the land at Old Boat Corner, and to David Staveley and all of those members of the BHAS Field Unit who undertook the survey.

References:-

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Coldean Lane

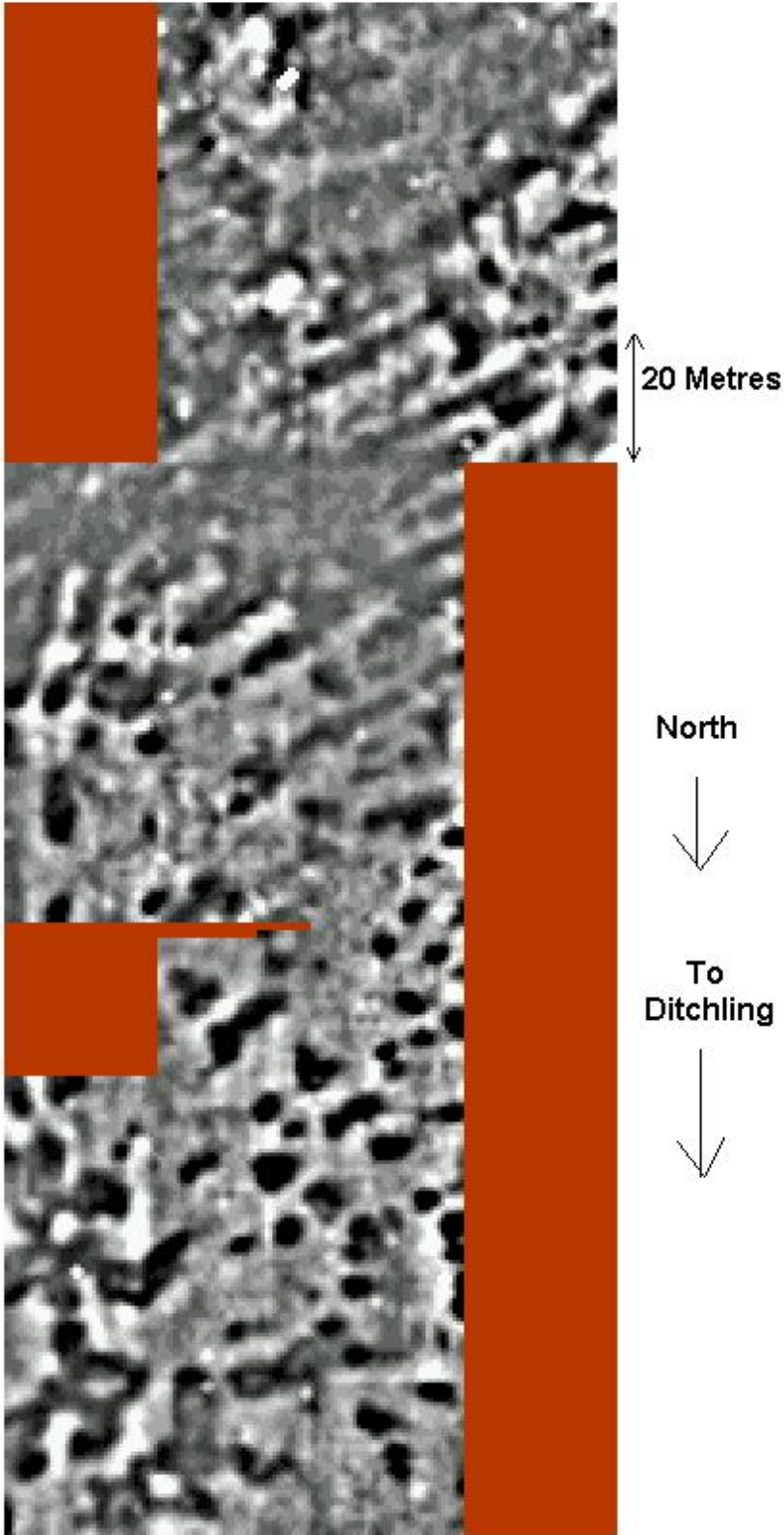


Fig 1 Old Boat Corner 2007

Coldean Lane

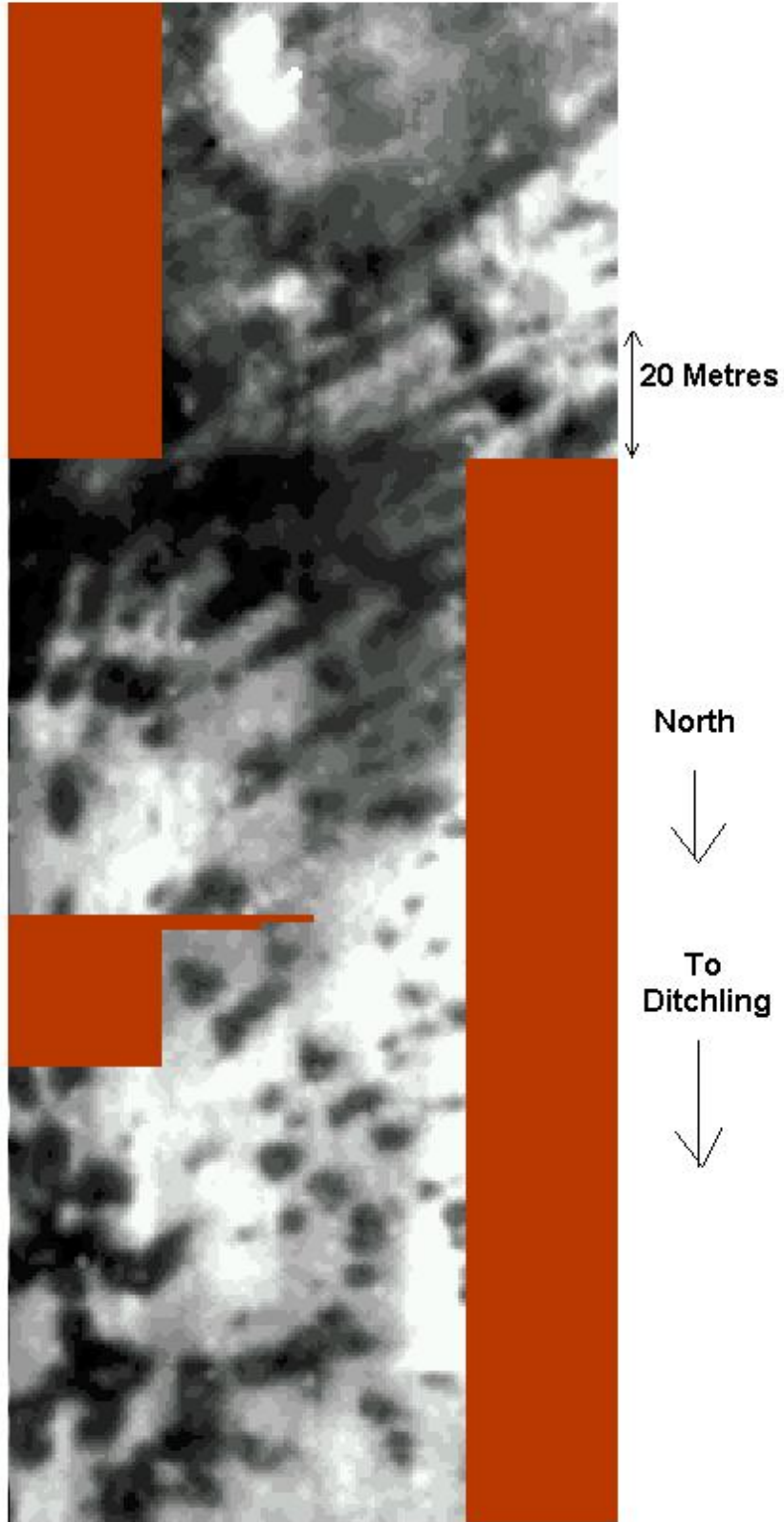


Fig 2 Old Boat Corner 2007

Walkover Survey Survey at Ovingdean

(Casual notes by John Funnell)

Carol White is a student at Sussex University doing an MA. One of her projects was a walkover survey of fields at Ovingdean. This is a note about the finds and features that members of the BHAS Field Unit noted on this bitterly cold day in December 2007. The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society have conducted a number of projects at Ovingdean including field walking and geophysical surveys. The results of these projects have shown many forms of activity particularly in the Neolithic, Roman and Medieval periods. The new project is a general study of the fields surrounding the village, but with particular reference to the known medieval complex in Hog Croft field, immediately north of St. Wulfran's 11th century church. (Funnell)

- 1) A study of the sea shore found very little other than contemporary items of flotsam and jetsam. It is possible that one or two large pieces of timber could have been from older wrecks, but only a specialist would be able to appreciate any dating difference. The survey being conducted did not warrant or justify any further investigation. The predominant features noted at the low tide were the large concrete blocks along the sea shore at Ovingdean that are the remaining vestiges of the Volk's 'Daddy-long legs' railway track that ran from Black Rock to Rottingdean. (Calder).
- 2) Cattle Hill- Cattle Hill becomes more predominant as it rises inland. The east facing slope has a dramatic drop and a large chalk quarry has been cut into the side of the hill on this face, possibly associated with the creation of a chalk platform for the medieval complex located in the valley below.(Funnell). The west slope down into the Roedean valley is almost as steep. The south slope is quite gentle and it was in this lower field (TQ3553030) that earlier projects had found significant quantities of Roman and Iron Age pottery. The field has a number of lynchet style earthworks, one of which may prove to be some form of enclosure. A number of subsequent resistivity surveys have failed to find any supportive information for buildings or structures associated with the amounts of pottery being found in this area. This new survey of the same area found, once again, sherds of Roman pottery and a number of marine molluscs.
- 3) The north/east section of Cattle Hill is under pasture.(TQ355034) The field slopes gently northwards and dramatically drops on the east side. A small resistivity survey was conducted in 2006 (Funnell) but the survey results suggested the contour anomalies were geological rather than archaeological. The new walkover survey noted a number of platforms and incursions into the natural land surface, particularly close to the south west corner of the copse of trees that runs down south from above Ovingdean church yard.
- 4) Looking from Cattle Hill eastwards and down into the valley bottom (TQ357034) were observed a number of floral anomalies. The formations of bramble and scrub appeared to be a succession of rectangular areas. It is possible that these are associated with contemporary rural activity, but they may equally indicate earlier medieval locations. When this valley has been ploughed in the past numerous concentrations of oyster shell have been brought to the surface. (Pers. Comm. John Davies, local historian). A

small field walking survey conducted in 2002 found mainly medieval, but also some Roman finds. (Funnell). There is no knowledge of the location of any settlement associated with the church, but it is possible that these floral anomalies could be associated with the medieval period of Ovingdean's history.

- 5) Cattle Hill- south/west side. This particular field (TQ348038) had been recently ploughed and advantage was taken of this and an impromptu random field walking exercise was undertaken. The casual research initiative produced a number of finds of Roman pottery including rim, and some flint work. A more detailed field walking survey is planned for 2009.

The BHAS Field Unit are planning to return to Ovingdean in 2008 to continue their investigations into the medieval complex in Hog Croft Field. A copy of Carol White's dissertation is appended to this report.

Acknowledgements:-

The author would like thank Brighton and Hove City Council, Mr G.Bennett and the tenant farmer Mr David Baker for allowing access to their lands, to Mr Casper Johnson and Greg Chuter of ESCC for assistance and to all those members of the BHAS Field Unit who assisted with the project.

References:-

- Calder T.** 1990 'The Encyclopaedia of Brighton' 157, c
- Funnell J.D.** 1999 'Field Notebook of the Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society'
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Author:- John Funnell 22nd August 2008

INTRODUCTION

The walkover survey was undertaken on the last three Saturdays of December 2007 with the assistance of members of the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit.

The report is presented in two parts:

Part One - The Survey

Part Two – Sample Excavation Strategy for Dating Features

and in accordance with the field names used on the Ovingdean Tithe Map of 1839 (Appendix 1) although it is noted from the O.S. Map 1:20000 (Appendix 1) that *Wick Laine* (Tithe Map) is now known as *Wick Bottom*; *Wick Bottom* and *Part of Roundhill* (Tithe Map) are now known as *Mount Pleasant*.

All measurements are approximate and any further investigations of features identified should include a full measured survey. Record sheets of identified features are attached (Appendix 2).

METHODOLOGY

A Transect Survey was undertaken using parallel lines (Drewett, 2001, p.44). However, the area covered varied dependent on the number of volunteers on site; with the larger open fields to the north of the site, which could be viewed from neighbouring vantage points, the decision was taken to undertake a transect of 20% of the area.

The survey was undertaken systematically in accordance with the desk top evaluation of the area previously undertaken, although this has been adapted due to on-site limitations at the time of inspection.

The Ordnance Survey Landranger Map, scale 1:50,000 was utilised to calculate the grid references annotated on each recording sheet.

PART ONE – THE SURVEY

1. Ovingdean Village

St. Wulfran's Church dates from the 12th century and likely replaced the church mentioned in Domesday Book (Ed. J. Morris; p. 26), particularly as St. Wulfran was a Saxon saint (Coppin, p.9). It sits within a small churchyard. Directly to the east of the Church are a group of Victorian dwellings, including the Rectory. During excavations within Hog Croft (directly to the north of the Church) members of the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit who had undertaken the CCE course *Understanding Historic Vernacular Buildings* (author included) were invited to inspect the cellar area of one of the houses. This area was considered to predate the Victorian structure by approximately three hundred years.



The Rectory and St. Wulfran's Church, Ovingdean viewed from the East.

Situated to the east of the Church and with its front elevation facing west is Ovingdean Grange. This building was recorded by David and Barbara Martin with its earliest phase dating to the early 16th century (Martin, 1993, p.2). A false front was added at some time during the 19th century (Martin, 1993, p.3).



**Ovingdean Grange –view
from the west**



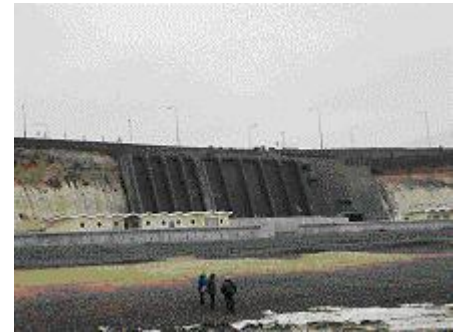
**Ovingdean Grange – view
from the south-east.**

St. Wulfran's Church and the Rectory are Listed Buildings and are included on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). Despite its great age, Ovingdean Grange is not a Listed Building, neither is it included on the SMR.

With the exception of the buildings mentioned above, Ovingdean village today is predominantly of modern, inter and post War construction.

2. The Beach and Cliff Area

The beach is accessed from a series of concrete steps constructed directly against the cliff face, a large area of which has been faced in concrete, presumably in order to stabilise the cliff in this area.



The geology in this area is predominantly Upper and Middle Chalk with areas of Head Clay (fig. 1 below).



Fig 1 Extract from British Geological Society Sheet 318/333 Brighton & Worthing 1:50,000 , 1984



Cliff Face

The cliff face to the west of the access steps exhibits what appears to be a cut (OV07/Cliff/1).

At low tide historic cliff collapse is evidenced by a horizontal layer of chalk with bands of vertical flint corresponding with the vertical cliff, illustrated below.



At the beginning of the 20th Century a railway line ran along the seafront from approximately the site of Volks Railway today east to Rottingdean. The position of this can be seen as parallel grooves in the chalk at very low tide.

The beach was *combed* for flotsam washed up in recent rough seas but only a couple of pieces of coloured glass were recovered.

3. Fields to the west of Greenway up to Roedean School's eastern boundary

This area is divided by a lynchet (OV07/Lynchet/1) which runs south/north for the entire width of the field. The field to the east of the lynchet has been extensively discussed by Hazell (2006. unpublished M.A. dissertation) and was under the plough at the time of inspection.

The field to the west of the lynchet exhibits a smaller lynchet (OV07/Lynchet/CM/2) running east/west and north/south towards the southern boundary.

These lynchets may be indicative of an historic open field system (Rackham, 2002; p. 166).

There is an area of crop mark (OV07/Lynchet/CM/2) evidenced by discolouration of the crop in this area compared to the rest of the field. This may therefore denote the presence of a wall or floor (Drewett, 2001, p.38)

In the vicinity of the crop marks, fragments of Iron Age, Roman and Victorian pottery were recovered from the surface, together with firecracked flint.

4. South Lane

This field is located to the south of the village. It has been sub-divided along its north/south length and the eastern portion was under the plough during the second site visit.

When viewed from above, the western portion exhibits areas of crop marks (OV07/CM1), indicative of disturbed ground. As the site of the medieval settlement, as opposed to the manor, has not been identified, this area is worthy of further investigation.

5. Cattle Hill Lane

Several features were noted and recorded, both photographic and drawn, in the south east portion of this field below Cattle Hill (see Tithe Map). Cattle Hill Lane has been sub-divided in recent times (see Digimap extract).

5.1 Mound

A shallow mound (OV07/Mound/1) measuring 14m x 14m was noted 64m from the platform noted below. It has been heavily ploughed in the past and is barely discernible.

This area should be further investigated; a barrow or mill mound should not be discounted.

5.2 Platform No. 1

To the east of this mound was identified a platform (OV07/PLF/1), sited 48m from the fence line.

5.3 Platform No. 2

This platform (OV07/PLF/2) is located by a footpath running north/south across the eastern part of the field. It is situated 36m from the ridge and along the scarp overlooking South Lane and Greenway.

Further investigation is required to ascertain the nature of the feature, or whether it is visible soil creep in this vicinity. (Drewett, 2001, p.27)

5.4 West Field – formerly part of Cattle Hill Lane

This field situated behind Roedean School grounds, had been ploughed at the time of inspection. We therefore undertook an unsystematic fieldwalk of the eastern portion of the field, with five walkers at 20m intervals, and only a sample was collected. This sample collection produced Iron Age, Roman and post-Medieval pottery, Roman tile, flintwork and a possible Roman tesserae.

6. Cattle Hill

6.1 Disused Pit

Further along this footpath, and overlooking Hog Croft, is an area which annotated on modern maps as *Pit (Disused)*. (OV07/Pit/1)

Identification of this area as a bomb crater can be discounted as it clearly identifiable on the above map published in 1879. A quarry (J.Funnell, pers. comm.) is a possibility. However, no record of a quarry was apparent from historical records and further investigation should therefore be undertaken.

This pit is located to the west of the Church and Hog Croft, the site of the medieval manor, pictured below. The earthworks visible relate to the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit's ongoing excavations in this field.

6.2 Linear Features

Situated 24m within the south fence line were identified a series of linear features, a sample only of which was measured. (OV07/Lin/1)

6.3 Mound

A mound (OV07/Mound/2) was identified 44m from the southern fence line and measured 20m across. This mound was again shallow and subject to continual plough erosion. It is particularly visible when viewed from a distance.



6.4 Depression

To the north of Cattle Hill is sited a depression (OV07/Dep/1) in the soil, demarcated by an area of lush foliage. This depression measured 19m x 14m. This may be a bomb crater or the remains of a dewpond.

7. Wick Laine and North Laine

No features were evident when the walkover survey was undertaken in this area. However, when viewed from Cattle Hill a line of lynchets (OV07/Lynchets/3) was noted running east/west either side of the track which runs north/west.

These lynchets are also visible running into North Laine when viewed from the east facing west.

North Laine was under the plough at the time of inspection.

8. The Seven Acres, Part of Roundhill and Wick Bottom

No features were visible from a walkover survey. Although part of Roundhill was used as sheep pasture at the time of inspection, the entire area has been extensively ploughed historically and any features are no longer visible.



To the north, the boundary between The Seven Acres and Part of Roundhill is demarcated as a narrow ditch or track (OV07/BL/1) in an extensive area of scrub.



As evidenced above, the area has been intruded by burrowing animals, although the burrows do not appear to penetrate into the hillside.

9. Home Laine, The North Laine, and fields marked 28 and 29 on Tithe Map

These areas have been sub-divided in recent years and in excess of 50% of this area is not accessible, being mostly used as paddock areas for horses.

Home Laine was under the plough at the time of inspection. Only a couple of pieces of firecracked flint were identified.

Within the lower portion of the field formerly known as The North Laine, were identified either lynchets or the remains of ridge and furrow (OV07/Lynchet/4). No access was available in order to pace out their extent.

Evidenced in the southernmost portion of the field formerly known as Home Laine, is an area of crop marks and shallow linear features (OV07/CM/LF/1). Further investigation is required.

PART TWO – SAMPLE EXCAVATION STRATEGY FOR DATING FEATURES

This section of the report will discuss strategies for each type of feature found under the relevant heading.

Mounds

Geophysical survey should be undertaken to ascertain the nature of the feature. If proven to be Bronze Age barrows, then a measured survey should be undertaken and the County Archaeologist notified.

If not barrows, then a quadrant could be excavated to ascertain the nature and age of the features.

Ploughed Fields

All fields under the plough should be fieldwalked utilising equally spaced lines, say at 20m intervals.

The fields directly to the north and east of Roedean School should be particularly targeted in areas of dense artefact deposits and fieldwalking should be recorded by whole squares rather than lines. Resistivity should be undertaken in the area of crop marks in an attempt to pick up the feature apparent in aerial photographs. If resistivity proves inconclusive, 1m test pits randomly sited in the area of the crop marks should be dug for dating evidence.

To the field bordering the A259 and Greenways (Hazell, 2006) an evaluation trench of 4m x 2m should be dug, as recommended in the desk top evaluation. This also applies to recommendations in respect of a rectangular feature and possible pits evident in an aerial photograph of this field.

Platforms

A section should be cut through the platforms to ascertain whether they are formed by natural soil slip or are archaeological features. If archaeological, then soil samples taken randomly through the section for magnetic susceptibility testing to check for evidence of human activity.

Lynchets

A one metre section should be cut through each lynchets and any artefacts recorded stratigraphically.

“Depression”

This area should be metal detected to ascertain if it is a bomb crater (i.e. the presence of shrapnel). If this proves negative than a core sample could be taken to check for soil composition. A small 1m test pit could also be placed to the edge of the feature to ascertain the presence (or not) of a clay lining usually found in dewponds.

Wick Bottom

Although known to have been arable in the past, this field is currently used as sheep pasture. If an arable use returns, then a transect survey should be undertaken when ploughed.

“Quarry”

A measured survey could be undertaken, also collecting any artefacts noted. Resistivity would be inconclusive in the area due to the presence of trees.

Cropmarks to the North and South of the Village

Resistivity should be undertaken through the crop marks. Artefact scatters should be recorded and dated. If features are found, then the County Archaeologist should be consulted given that the site of the village, rather than the manorial complex, of Ovingdean is unknown.

CONCLUSION

From this survey, it is evident that the area has been utilised by man over the millennia and in particular during the Iron Age and Roman period. From aerial photographs and artefact scatters any settlement dating to these periods would seem to be to the north and east of Roedean School and these areas should be further targeted.

The site of the medieval village, rather than the manorial complex, is unknown and the areas highlighted within the report should be further investigated.

Stanmer Great Wood Cross Ridge Dyke Scheduled Ancient Monument

Introduction

The cross ridge dyke that lies within Stanmer Great Wood (TQ332093) has remained relatively free of damage or vandalism for the past three millennia. The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society conducted a small excavation in 2000 to determine a date for the linear earthworks. Pottery and flint work was recovered from the small section cut through the feature. The excavation showed that a ditch associated with the construction of the bank lay on the south side of the arrangement. Pottery found in the lower fills of the ditch had tentatively been dated the Iron Age. The pottery is currently being analysed by Barbara McNee from Southampton University and she has already suggested that the earthworks may be of an earlier date, possibly the later Bronze Age. The result of the excavation in 2000 was that the feature was declared a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM).

In the later part of the autumn of 2006 David Larkin, a Brighton Council Ranger, noted that the earthwork had been the subject of vandalism. A BMX cycle track had been created in this part of Stanmer using earth and soil from the south and eastern parts of the scheduled monument. The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society were contacted by Brighton and Hove City Council and English Heritage and asked if they were willing to remove the ramps and re-instate, where possible, the earthworks with the soil from the ramp construction. The soil on the ramps had obviously originated from the side of the monument. The society was asked to record the damage and the extent of the area affected.

The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society visited the site on Saturday 3rd February 2007 and effectively removed all of the BMX ramps that had been constructed. After recording the damaged area an examination of the soil from the ramps was examined for artefacts and returned to the depressions left as a result of the vandal activity.

The BMX ramps were substantial and were well engineered, they consisted of logs cut to a defined length and pack into triangular arrangements. The pyramidal structures were then coated with sediments taken from the monument ramparts. It is possible that the act was a result of lack of education regarding archaeological features and not a wanton act of destruction of an ancient site. A notice has since been posted making the public aware of the importance of this site in Stanmer, and the penalties for deliberate damage to Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

The Damage to the Earthwork

The cross ridge dyke in Stanmer Great Wood was effectively cut into half when a footpath was created through this part of Stanmer wood. The highest section of the mound is to the west of the footpath, and the excavation in 2000 was in this section. The damage to the mound was to the east of the footpath. The damage was confined to two areas. The smaller of the incursions was immediately east of the footpath and was an elliptical incursion measuring 3.5 metres north to south and 1.5 metres east to west.

The major incursion was to the south flank of the mound on the eastern side of the pathway. It was in this area that a number of ramps were created immediately south of the mound, but not actually on the mound. There were a number of other smaller incursions into the wood around the area, but away from the scheduled section. A tree hollow, probably a vestige of the 1987 gales and with the root still intact, was also observed and included in the planning record. The damage to the south flank measured 11 metres in length and about 3 metres in width, although some of the damage may be outside of the scheduled monument boundary.

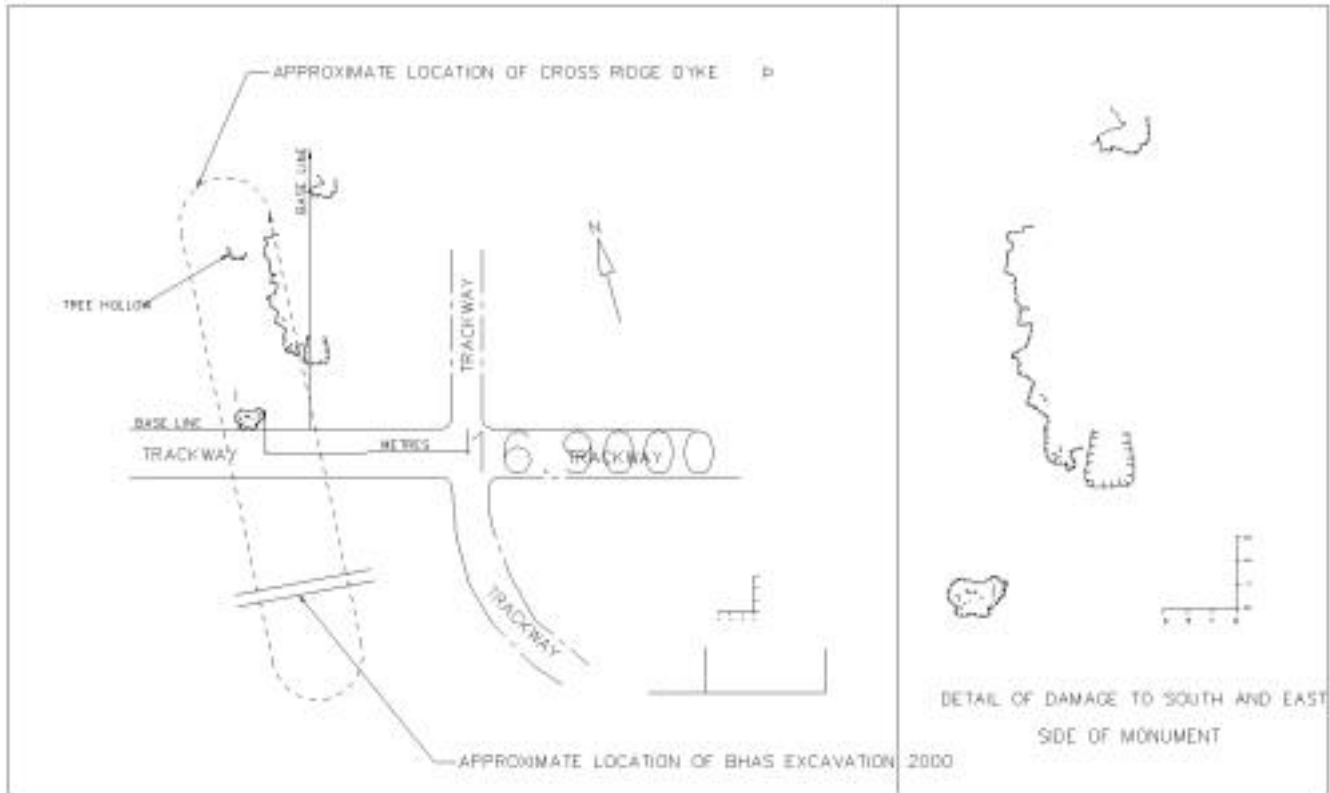


Fig 1. RE-INSTATEMENT OF SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT
STANMER GREAT WOOD 2007

The Recording and Re-instatement of the Earthworks

- 1) The monument was inspected, and after the winter leaves had been cleaned away, photographs were taken.
- 2) A base line was created along the track way that divides the monument into two sections and a right angle base line set out at right angles and running eastwards down the hill toward the village of Stanmer. This right angled base line was located 13.25 metres from another foot path that runs down the east side of the monument. (Fig 1.)
- 3) The area was planned. The incursions revealed a clay fabric to the mound and only a few large flint nodules. The material that had been removed, and which formed part of the BMX bunding, consisted of sandy clay.
- 4) Once the planning had been completed the small incursion was back filled with the material removed from it, this was located in a small ramp on the west side of the path way.

- 5) The BHAS team dismantled all of the BMX ramps and returned the soil back to the vandalised sides of the monument.
- 6) Finds from the thin layers of soil on the ramp were collected and consisted of a few hard hammer struck flint flakes and some fire-cracked flint. No pottery was recovered during this operation. During the 2000 excavation very little pottery was found in the bank fills, with almost all of the pottery recovered coming from the lower depths of the ditch on the south side of the earthwork.
- 7) The warning notice was relocated close to the junction of both track ways.

Conclusions and Comments

The re-instatement of the prehistoric earthwork at Stanmer gave the society a rare opportunity to re-examine this monument. However, the investigation of the incursions found very little new evidence to add to that already recorded during the 2000 excavation (Funnell). A plan of the affected areas has been created and a complete survey of the earthworks could prove beneficial for future reference. The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society are unaware at present as to whether English Heritage have already carried out this procedure or are planning one for the near future.

During the works carried out on February 3rd members of the public stopped to enquire about the nature and purpose of the activity, and were generally interested in the monument and the history of the area. A number of cyclists stopped and expressed concern about the damage caused by the BMX people and emphasised that the majority of the cycling fraternity did not support this abuse of our heritage. It is hoped that the warning notices will produce the desired effect, but both the Brighton rangers and the archaeological society will endeavour to police this part of Brighton and by doing so hope to alleviate the threat of any future similar acts of vandalism.

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

5th March 2007

BRIGHTON AND HOVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - WATCHING BRIEF

PLANNING APPLICATION No:- BH2005/06267

ADDRESS:- **1 Cliff Road & 8 Cliff Approach, Brighton**

PLANNING OFFICER:- Pete Johnson

NAME OF APPLICANT:- Mr Paul Harland , Martin Landivir

DATE OF FIRST CONTACT FROM CONTRACTOR:- 21st June 2007

DATE OF WATCHING BRIEF:- 29th June 2007

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

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

Mr Landivir, the contractor, had contacted the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society to inform them that the development would begin in about 5/6 weeks time. He informed the Society that the existing buildings had already been demolished and that we were welcome to visit the site with a view to conduct an early evaluation of archaeological potential.

The site was visited on Friday 29th June by J.Funnell and W.Santer. The area was flattened and large quantities of demolition debris was deposited over the whole site. It was immediately noted that a large percentage of the site had been largely terraced in the past, with even deeper sections in the south which were probably the old gardens. A number of garden retaining walls were noted.

The north face and east sides of the site had been recently quarried out with clean chalk cuts made by excavating equipment. The north east quadrant of the development site, about 25%, would have had potential for archaeological remains, but these had been removed. An examination of the north and east faces produced only features, including pits and ditches, that were associated with modern development, with cables and pipes still in-situ.

An examination of the demolished debris produced significant amounts of contemporary building materials, but no finds of antiquity.

There is very small area on the north/west corner, approximately 8 metres x 3 metres, that may be free of recent impact, but has minimal potential. The BHAS watching brief team will return to examine this area once the construction begins.

John Funnell & W.Santer (Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society)

BRIGHTON AND HOVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - WATCHING BRIEF

PLANNING APPLICATION No:- Not known

ADDRESS:- **43 Dorothy Avenue, Peacehaven**

PLANNING OFFICER:- Ref Mr G.Chuter ESCC

NAME OF APPLICANT:- Mr Paul Jackson

DATE OF FIRST CONTACT FROM CONTRACTOR:-7th February 2007

DATE OF WATCHING BRIEF:- 10th February

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

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

The above address was visited between 12.30 pm and 14.00 pm on Saturday 10th February 2007.

The surface area had been machined away leaving a smooth sandy surface into which foundation trenches approx 750mm deep had been dug around the perimeter of the site, with another central trench cut dividing the site into two long narrow sections, leading away from the road frontage.

During the previous 2 or 3 days much heavy rain had fallen which had the effect of washing out many flints, which showed up in profusion all over the site. The geology is a distinct red and yellow sandy clay.

The trenches were examined but no archaeological features were observed cut into the various sections. A study of the stripped area found no evidence for any archaeological features cut into the geology. A number of artefacts were recovered during the examination.

Finds	Total
Flint flakes	22
Cores	3
Blade Frag.	1
Fire Cracked Flint	12 (Weight 184 gms)

The flint work consisted of mainly hard hammer struck flakes with only 2 pieces possibly being soft hammer (10%). The patination was predominantly blue/black with 3 pieces having a lighter colour. The flakes found were a mixture of those with and without cortex. A total of 9 pieces had cortex retained (45%).

The cores were well defined pieces, but were all single platform. The cores varied in length from 50mm to 34mm. All of the cores showed signs of several flakes having been removed.

The flakes were a mixture of both large and small pieces, with a single blade fragment. The pieces are probably Neolithic or early Bronze Age with a small number of flakes and the cores possibly being Mesolithic.

Peacehaven continues to produce evidence for both Mesolithic and Neolithic activity on both the coastal hill top ridge and the deep valley to the north. The new finds enhance the earlier research material produced from field walking in this part of Sussex.(Funnell). The recent excavations at Piddinghoe Avenue have revealed a number of flint pieces that may date to the Palaeolithic suggesting that Peacehaven has been important in flint processing and manufacturing for an extremely long period of time.

W.L.Santer. & J.D.Funnell 20th February 2007

Reference:-

Funnell J.D. 'Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society Field Notebook 2003'

BRIGHTON AND HOVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - WATCHING BRIEF

PLANNING APPLICATION No:- BH2007/03097

ADDRESS:- **25 Grand Crescent, Rottingdean**

PLANNING OFFICER:- Ms Karen Tipper

NAME OF APPLICANT:- Mr Peter Booth

DATE OF FIRST CONTACT FROM CONTRACTOR:- 23rd October 2007

DATE OF WATCHING BRIEF:- 12th and 14th November 2007

BHAS OFFICER CONDUCTING WATCHING BRIEF:- W.Santer

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

The watching brief conducted at 25 Grand Crescent, Brighton noted no archaeological features in the excavated areas.

The finds from the small excavation consisted of 3 flint flakes. Two of the flakes possessed a white patination, while the third was light blue. All flakes retained vestiges of cortex, and are primary struck pieces. The flakes probably date to either the late Neolithic or Bronze Age periods.

The Society would like to thank the owner and contractor for allowing access to the site.

John Funnell & W.Santer (Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society)

BRIGHTON AND HOVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - WATCHING BRIEF

PLANNING APPLICATION No:-

ADDRESS:- **Hollingdean Lane, Brighton**

PLANNING OFFICER:-Mr Greg Chuter ESCC

NAME OF APPLICANT:- Northco Ltd

DATE OF FIRST CONTACT FROM CONTRACTOR:-13th August 2007

DATE OF WATCHING BRIEF:- 14th August 2007

BHAS OFFICER CONDUCTING WATCHING BRIEF:- J.Funnell

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

A visit was made to the site on Tuesday 14th August. The development had already undertaken large scale excavations of the plot of land that was once the location of the Brighton abattoir. Vestiges of bricked wall were noted in various locations associated with this building.

A large trench had been cut on the south side of the site which has produced large quantities of ceramic vessels, both glass and stoneware. (TQ31650500). The site office contained a large wheel barrow full of stoneware vessels of similar design. The glass vessels were fewer in number. The developer is planning to organise a display of some of the items after the completion of the construction.

A visit was made to the south section of the development where the items had been found. The area contained significant deposits of glass ware, stone ware, broken ceramic dishes, including numerous pieces of willow pattern plate and scallop shells.

The south wall of this trench had a number of stratigraphical layers and suggestions of a possible edge on the west side of what appears to be a very large pit. The large quantity of finds are being moved out and above this south section and a request has been made to return and photograph the complete side if possible. The pit appears to be at present 2/3 metres in depth and may go deeper. The area being created is a large drainage ditch and will be filled with drainage materials and then surrounded by concrete.

The pit is almost certainly a Victorian rubbish pit, and the sample collection of ceramic and stoneware, along with a single piece with Germanic markings may be able to produce a possible date for its use.

The Society would like to thank Mr Greg Chuter from ESCC for bringing the brief to our attention and to the developers for allowing access to the site.

John Funnell 14th August 2007

Note

About 40% of the bottles and stoneware vessels were collected from the Northco site office and deposited with Richard Butler at Kings House, Grand Avenue on Friday 28th September 2007.

BRIGHTON AND HOVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - WATCHING BRIEF

PLANNING APPLICATION No:- BH2007/03181

ADDRESS:- **23 Roedean Crescent, Brighton**

PLANNING OFFICER:- Ms Liz Holt & Ms Nicola France

NAME OF APPLICANT:-

DATE OF FIRST CONTACT FROM CONTRACTOR:- 5th October 2007

DATE OF WATCHING BRIEF:- 7th October 2007

BHAS OFFICER CONDUCTING WATCHING BRIEF:- W.Santer

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

The development had no archaeological conditions attached to planning approval, despite being in a highly sensitive area.

Mr W.Santer of the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society visited the development on Sunday 7th October 2007. The house at 23 Roedean Crescent has been visited before with regard earlier applications.

It was obvious that the works were in an advanced state and a study of the area failed to note any archaeological features or finds. It is possible that items had been destroyed during the recent changes, but the majority of the development was in an area altered some time in the past.

The Society would like to thank the owner for allowing access to the site.

John Funnell & W.Santer (Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society)

Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit 2007 Attendance Record

John Funnell (Director)	45 Days	Brighton
Alarna	1 Day	Brighton
Donna Angel	7 Days	Brighton
Judith Billingham (G)	24 Days	Brighton
Bob Bird (MD)	1 Days	Peacehaven
Susan Birks	14 Days	Burgess Hill
Mr Birks (Dad)	4 Days	Burgess Hill
Lawrence Blair	10 Days	Brighton
Fran Briscoe	10 Days	Brighton
Dawn Burns(F)	10 Days	Littlehampton
Martin Burns	1 Days	Worthing
Keith Butler	3 Days	Shoreham
Greg Chuter	10 Days	Eastbourne
Brenda Collins (G)	35 Days	Lancing
Paul Collins	25 Days	Lancing
Cali Coquet	4 Days	Hove
Eva Corbett (S)(G)	44 Days	Eastbourne
Steve Corbett (Director)	44 Days	Eastbourne
Bob Crowhurst (F)	31 Days	Brighton
Wayne Crowhurst	3 Days	Brighton
Keith Edger (G)(S)(L)(SP)	2 Days	Southwater
Jane Elliott(P)(S)	2 Days	France
Lisa Fisher	2 Days	Brighton
Kiera Funnell	1 Day	Brighton
Mary Funnell	11 Days	Brighton
Maria Gardiner(E)(SP)	21 Days	Hove
Mark Gillingham	31 Days	Hove
Merryn Greening	2 Days	Leatherhead
Andy Hazell	1 Day	Nutley
Averil Huggins	7 Days	Polegate
Clare Jackson	2 Days	Brighton
Leo Jago	3 Days	Brighton
Ginette Leech	18 Days	Brighton
Val Lowton	4 Days	Brighton
David Ludwig	46 Days	Rustington
Dot McBrien (S(SP)(G)	40 Days	Sompting
Joan MacGregor (G)	15 Days	Brighton
Barbara McKnee (S)P)	8 Days	Shoreham
Mark Melvin	15 Days	Worthing
Joe Miller	1 Day	Ringmer
Nadia Khalili-Nayer	22 Days	Shoreham
David Packham	1 Days	Brighton
Derek Page (MD)	1 Days	Saltdean
Scarlet Palles-Landells	1 Day	Cambridge
Norman Phippard (Director)(S)(G)	36 Days	Brighton
Caroline Poole	2 Days	Brighton

Helen Poole	2 Days	Brighton
Charlotte Riding	20 Days	Hove
Geoff. Robinson	7 Days	Brighton
Linda Robinson	6 Days	Brighton
Fionnuala Rose	1 Day	Worthing
Mr Rose (Dad)	1 Day	Telscombe Tye
Caroline Russell	2 Days	Belfast
Jane Russell	4 Days	Brighton
Russ Russell	2 Days	Brighton
Bill Santer (G)(Q)(M)	22 Days	Saltdean
David Smith (MD)	1 Day	Brighton
Pamela Smith (G)	15 Days	Brighton
Paul Smith	1 Day	Brighton
David Southwell (MD)	1 Day	Brighton
David Staveley (Director)(P)(S)(L)(G)	19 Days	Eastbourne
Richard Symonds	1 Day	Horsham
Mrs Symonds	1 Day	Horsham
Gill Taylor	3 Days	Brighton
Liz Tripp	5 Days	Sompting
Bob Washington	10 Days	Bexhill-on-sea
Carol White (SP)	26 Days	Newhaven
Alan White	3 Days	Brighton
Harriet Williams	2 Days	Brighton
Sue Worth	17 Days	Brighton
Linda Wright	23 Days	Southwick

Total Attendance (Excluding Barcombe) but including Arlington

Total Days, 792 (Male 46%) (Female 54%)

Total Number of Participants 71 People, not including the Young Archaeologists Club (YAC)

Codes

(P) Planning

(S) Section drawing

(G) Geophysics

(L) Surveying & levelling

(E) Educational Officers

(Q) Quarter master

(F) Finds processing (Although finds processing carried out by much of the team, those with (F) process considerable amounts of site material)

© Conservator

(SP) Specialist Field

(MD) Metal Detectorist).

Updated 27th December 2007

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 2007.

Brighton and Hove City Council

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

Mr David West, Home Farm, Stanmer.

Mr Casper Johnson, County Archaeologist

Mr Greg Chuter, East Sussex County Council

Mr David Rudling University of Sussex

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

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

Mr W.Santer-Watching Brief Officer

Mr David Larkin Brighton and Hove Countryside Ranger

Mr Jim and Mrs Betty Driver

The Stanmer Preservation Society

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