Zews

email ct.news@sussexnewspapers.co.uk

USSEX 0003

by Paul Deacon

paul.deacon@sussexnewspapers.co.uk

EXCITING new evidence about life in West Sussex 4,000 years ago has been unearthed in a field in the grounds of Brinsbury College, near Pulborough.

Volunteer archaeologists and students investigated the site during a week-long dig and ended up calling in national experts to take a closer look at what they had discovered.

thought that Bronze Age people only lived up on the Downs but recent discoveries, includ-ing a dig near Sainsbury's at Pulborough, were making archaeologists think again in

"It seems there's far much more going on in this area during the Bronze Age period than we have previously known about."

In a nice connection between the past and the future, one of the arrowheads was dis-

three possible fire sites from 2000BC.
He told the County Timees: "It's an extremely exciting site. The arrowheads are some of the finest examples of what you can do with a piece of stone. They've all survived remarkably intact. "It's very unusual to be able to find evidence of Bronze Age occupation, particularly where we are on the South Coast. This area was thought to have been heavily wooded and not occupied. This could be a very important site in understanding how they used the landscape in the Bronze Age period."

He explained that it had been previously Ian Robertson, one of the project managers from Worthing Archaeological Society, reported there had been a 'huge number' of finds - 71 early Bronze Age flint arrowheads plus a piece of decorated Bronze Age pot and

the field and reported the exact locations up Foskett.

They used GPS to record the exact locations up where they found the arrowheads so further investigations could be carried out.

Mr Foskett decided to introduce an element in of archaeology into the course and got in touch with the Worthing for the course and got in touch with the worthing the course and got in touch with the worthing the course are several touch with the worthing the course and got in touch with the worthing the course are several to the course and got in touch with the worthing the course are several touch with the worthing the worthing the course are several touch with the worthing the course are several to the course are several touch with the worthing the worthing the course are several touch with the worthing the

Initially, nothing more was found on the site but in 2010 a field walk was organised, with 40 vol-Archaeological (WAS). part of the local community and is pleased to work with groups such as Worthing Archaeologi-



A fragment of Bronze Age pottery found on the dig.

covered by four year old Horsham girl Beth, daughter of Brinsbury tutor Paul Foskett she had been brought along to take a look at the site with her older sister Holly.

Recalled Ian: "They got here and immediately his daughter bent down and picked up an arrowhead, straight from the ground!"

Despite all its history, nothing of archaeological interest had ever been discovered on the field until 2008, when students on a Brinsbury landscape conservation course discovered some arrowheads while walking across the field and reported it to their tutor, Mr The spots where arrowheads had been found in 2010 were plotted on a map and a trench was dug along the biggest cluster. The team were all volunteers, including Ian, aged 39, who lives in Chichester and works in company pension schemes.

Some are retired and others made use of their annual leave and the extra bank holiday to take part. Ian said there were 25 to 30 WAS members on site for most of the time, backed

up by 25 college students.

He added: "Students have been coming in on their days off, which is fantastic, and turning up for early morning starts as well."

Steve Millam of Chichester College confirmed that they were delighted that Brinsbury campus students had been able to get involved. He said: "The college has made significant efforts to make itself

cal Society."

THE FOLK who made the Pulborough arrowheads in around 2000BC would have principally been farmers, growing food and keeping livestock, while living in roundhouses with wattle and daub walls and tall conical thatched roofs.
They are thought to have lived Farmers who hunted wild cattle in family groups, occasionally congregating in larger gatherings at hill forts and other sites. Their cleverly constructed arrows would have been used for hunting the likes of wild cattle, deer and wild boar.

Fiint tools were used by human beings for at least half a million years.

so archaeologists have ruled out any suggestion of a Bronze Age battle site.
But Ian added that some of the arrowheads had been broken deliberately, suggesting the possibility of some kind of ritual.

unteers covering the whole field and picking up everything they found in the soil.

This proved a great success, with 48 arrowheads from the Bronze Age period being found. This was "a very large number", said Ian, and it was decided to carry out a proper Although the digrevealed three burnt areas thought to have been sites of fires from 4,000 years ago, no trace was found of any houses or other materials like leather or bone.

Ian explained that this did not necessarily mean there was no permanent settlement there - just that they had not yet discovered it, with only one per cent of the field so far

The flint would have been mined from the South Downs, possibly the Findon area. The Brinsbury people may have carried out some initial work on the flint, preparing 'blanks' on the Downs, before bringing their supplies back to their base to 'knap' them into shape, flake by flake.

Said Jan: "It is possible they were making arrowheads at the site. It's a really developed skill they've used to produce these tools."

The Brinsbury dig, which was supported by English Heritage, started on Wednesday April 27 and continued until Thursday May 5, when Bronze Age experts from around the country were invited over for an open day, where they were shown the finds and discussed the implications with the team.

Then on the Friday the site was backfilled by the college to protect it from treasure hunters and curious members of the public.

But the archaeologists have carefully recorded all the locations of the finds using the Total Station system which records the location in 3D, with the height above sea level as well as the precise map reference.

This means it will be easy for them, or other archaeologists, to take another look at the evidence.

Said Ian: "It's a very exciting site and we feel priviliged to help out, but it's going to need a lot of work in the future."

One key to the quality of the Bronze Age find is the Weald clay that makes up the field. Its unsuitability for cultivation means that it would not have been ploughed during mediators. aeval times.

It also means that it may be possible to keep it unploughed in the future, thus helping to keep its historical treasures intact for anoth-er few thousand years.

Examanition flint heads to arrows that had been fired, they were not of the shows not fitted that

Society with a Bronze Age arrowhead found on at the dig.

DEREK MARTIN DM11195116 DEREK MARTIN DM111951168

Left: Ian Robertson of Worthing Archaeological i Brinsbury land. Above: Volunteers hard at work a

volunteer archaeologists and students investigated the site during a week-long dig and ended up calling in national experts to take a closer look at what they had discovered.

Ian Robertson, one of the project managers from Worthing Archaeological Society, reported there had been a 'huge number' of finds - 71 early Bronze Age flint arrowheads plus a piece of decorated Bronze Age pot and three possible fire sites from 2000BC.

He told the County Times: "It's an extremely exciting site. The arrowheads are some of the finest examples of what you can do with a piece of stone. They've all survived remark.

dence of Bronze Age occupation, particularly where we are on the South Coast. This area "It's very unusual to be able to find evi

was thought to have been heavily wooded and not occupied. This could be a very important site in understanding how they used the land-scape in the Bronze Age period."

He explained that it had been previously thought that Bronze Age people only lived up on the Downs but recent discoveries, including a dig near Sainsbury's at Pulborough, were making archaeologists think again in this remove.

"It seems there's far much more going on in this area during the Bronze Age period than we have previously known about." In a nice connection between the past and

the future, one of the arrowheads was dis-

A fragment of Bronze Age pottery found on the dig.

unteers covering the whole field and picking up everything they found in the soil.

This proved a great success, with 48 arrowheads from the Bronze Age period being found. This was "a very large number", said lan, and it was decided to carry out a proper

would have principally been farmers, growing food and keeping livestock, while living in roundhouses with wattle and daub walls and tall conical thatched roofs.

They are thought to have lived

hill forts and other sites. Their cleverly constructed arrows would have been used for hunting the likes of wild cattle, deer and wild boar.
Filnt tools were used by human beings for at least half a million years.

Although the dig revealed three burnt areas thought to have been sites of fires from 4,000 years ago, no trace was found of any houses or other materials like leather or bone. Ian explained that this did not necessar-

excavated

uid Ian: "It is possible they were making wheads at the site. It's a really developed

skill they've used to produce these Examanitic flint hea

xamanition of the flint heads shows they were not fitted to arrows that

to arrows inchad been fired,

up by 25 college students.

He added: "Students have been coming in on their days off, which is fantastic, and turning up for early morning starts as well."

Steve Millam of Chichester College confirmed that they were delighted that Brinsbury campus students had been able to get involved. He said: "The college has made

9

The flint would have been mined from the South Downs, possibly the Findon area. The Brinsbury people may have carried out some initial work on the flint, preparing 'blanks' on the Downs, before bringing their supplies back to their base to 'knap' them into shape, flake by flake.

Said Ian: "It is possible they were making ily mean there was no permanent settlement there - just that they had not yet discovered it, with only one per cent of the field so far Lly developed se tools." Said Ian: "It's a very exciting site and we feel priviliged to help out, but it's going to need a lot of work in the future."

One key to the quality of the Bronze Age find is the Weald clay that makes up the field. Its unsuitability for cultivation means that it would not have been ploughed during medi-27 and continued until Thursday May 5, when Bronze Age experts from around the country were invited over for an open day, where they were shown the finds and discussed the implications with the team.

Then on the Friday the site was backfilled by the college to protect it from treasure hunters and curious members of the public.

But the archaeologists have carefully recorded all the locations of the finds using the ton in 3D, with the height above sea level as well as the precise map reference.

This means it will be easy for them, or other archaeologists, to take another look at the evidence.

Said Ian: "It's a very exciting site and we aeval times.

It also means that it may be possible to keep it unploughed in the future, thus helping to keep its historical treasures intact for another few thousand years.

Left: Ian Robertson of Worthing Archaeological Society with a Bronze Age arrowhead found on Brinsbury land. Above: Volunteers hard at work at the dig.



covered by four year old Horsham girl Beth, daughter of Brinsbury tutor Paul Foskett she had been brought along to take a look at the site with her older sister Holly.

Recalled Ian: "They got here and immediately his daughter bent down and picked up an arrowhead, straight from the ground!"

Despite all its history, nothing of archaeological interest had ever been discovered on the field until 2008, when students on a Brinsbury landscape conservation course discovered some arrowheads while walking across the field and reported it to their tutor, Mr The spots where arrowheads had been found in 2010 were plotted on a map and a trench was dug along the biggest cluster.

The team were all volunteers, including lan, aged 39, who lives in Chichester and works in company pension schemes.

Some are retired and others made use of their annual leave and the extra bank holiday to take part. Ian said there were 25 to 30 WAS members on site for most of the time, backed

Foskett,
They used GPS to record the exact locations where they found the arrowheads so further

investigations could be carried out.

Mr Foskett decided to introduce an element of archaeology into the course and got in touch with the Worthing Archaeological Society

(WAS)

Initially nothing more was found on the site but in 2010 a field walk was organised, with 40 volsignificant efforts to make itself part of the local community and is pleased to work with groups such as Worthing Archaeologi-cal Society."

BUY A HIGH QUALITY PRINT OF THIS PHOTO TODAY - SEE PAGE 14 DEREK MARTIN DM11195051A

A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR

× SOUTHERN 西西 00 曰 NAD

Horsham's Beth Poskett, aged four (left), with the arrowhead she found and her older sister Beth.