

## PROJECT DESIGN FOR INVESTIGATION OF THE NE PARK FIELD AT CHICHESTER COLLEGE, BRINSBURY CAMPUS, WEST SUSSEX APRIL/MAY 2011

### 1 Introduction

This project design details the planned investigation of the field known as NE Park at the Brinsbury Campus (part of Chichester College). The investigation is an on-going project of which this brief deals with the potentially third phase, between April 2011 and May 2011.

### 2 Site Location & Geology

The site is part of the Brinsbury Campus adjacent to the A29, north of Pulborough. The field known as NE Park is at the northern edge of the campus and has an area of 7.27ha. It is situated on a low ridge with small streams to the north and south. A contour survey was carried out in 2010 (see Figure 1). The site is underlain by the Wealden Beds and has clay soils.

The site has been under cultivation, but is currently fallow.

Stane Street is approximately 1km to the east of the site; a full list of all other known sites in the area is being compiled.



Figure 1. Map of NE Park showing contours and the grid used for the fieldwalk in April 2010

### 3 Archaeological Background

This particular field has been used for crops for as long as anyone at the Campus can remember. Traditionally it has been ploughed to a depth of about 9 inches. There is no history of artefacts being recovered from the field prior to 2008. In spring 2008 the field was prepared for planting using an agitator, this disturbed the soil to twice the normal depth, i.e. 18 inches. Subsequent to this, casual fieldwalking by staff and students of the College recovered an extensive collection of flint artefacts, including 28 barbed and tanged arrowheads (see Figure 2). This was reported to the county archaeologist, Mr John Mills, who asked Worthing Archaeological Society (WAS) to visit the site.



Figure 2. A selection of the artefacts recovered during casual fieldwalking of the site by Chichester College students.

As a consequence of this visit, a joint project was set up between Chichester College and WAS to investigate the site. The first phase of this project took place in October 2008 with a resistivity survey of a small part of the field (see Figure 3). This was essentially a training exercise with the college students. In December 2008 a second training exercise took place (phase 2), when two small (3x1m) trenches were excavated by the students (under WAS supervision).

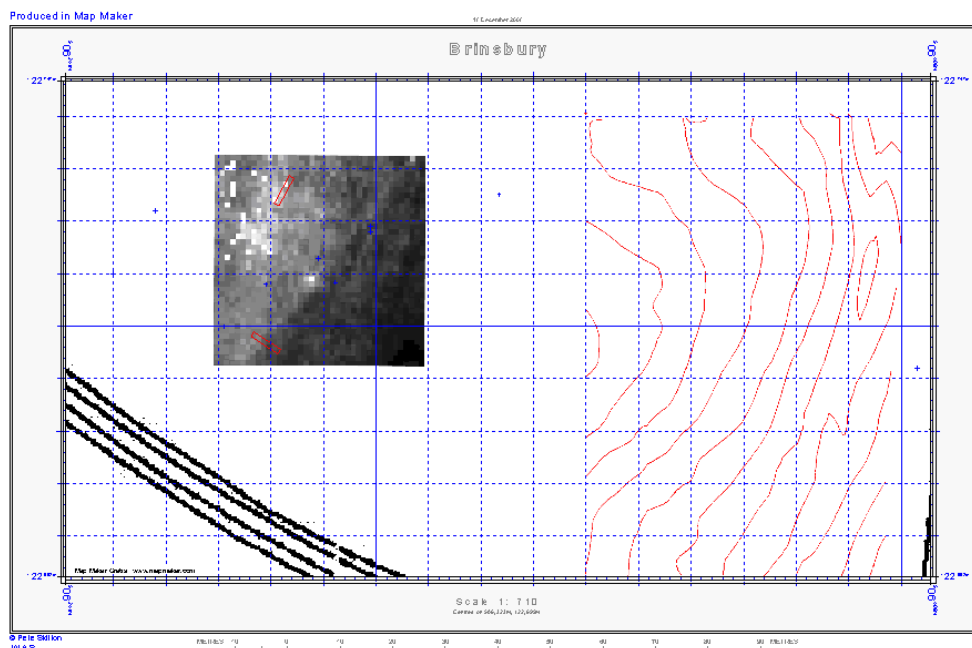


Figure 3 Resistivity survey carried out in 2008, the positions of trenches A & B are outlined in red.

Phase 3 occurred in April 2010 when a fieldwalk was conducted. Members of HDAS, CDAS & BHAS also participated in this activity, bringing together 4 local archaeological societies. A 20 x 20 metre grid was used for the fieldwalk and total finds collection was undertaken. Flint tools and any prehistoric pottery were targeted as 'small finds', three-dimensionally recorded and recovered and all other finds were collected and bagged for each grid square. The artefacts recovered were then sorted, cleaned, marked and recorded, again by college students under the supervision of WAS members. They were then analysed by WAS members, who assigned provisional dates to them. The finds range from Upper Palaeolithic, through Mesolithic to Neolithic and Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. They were then plotted onto distribution maps. The former three categories are likely to represent a random scatter of material, typical of many fields in the Sussex Weald. However, the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age distribution showed a definite concentration, and it is this that this phase of the project is designed to investigate.

As far as the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age is concerned, the fieldwalk resulted in the recovery of a further 17 barbed-and-tanged arrowheads and 1 fragment was found during finds processing, bringing the current total to 48. A very few are perfect and most have some damage to the barbs, tangs or tips. Their condition is fresh indicating that they were deposited in the ground and only exposed in the ploughsoil for a very short period. A small number show evidence of burning in the form of fire cracking.

Five arrowhead blanks were also recovered making a total of 8 including 3 from 2008. These blanks were produced from specialist cores using a Levallois method. It is likely that they were curated in the same way as Arrowheads. Other tools recovered from this period include:

17 (2008: 9) scrapers – side, end, thumbnail/buttons and ‘Y’ shaped, 10 Knives – discoidal, plano-convex and invasively retouched, 3 fragments (2008: 3) from either knives or daggers, 11 piercers, 4 combination tools – scrapers/piercers, piercers/notches, 1 notched flake and 2 retouched flakes.

No obvious knapping debitage from this period was recovered in 2010 and only 2 cores in 2008. This assemblage, including the Arrowheads, amounts to 71 for 2010 and 47 for 2008, making a total of 118 from the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age.

The distribution of the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age artefacts is shown in Figure 4. As can be seen, the majority of these were found within a small valley in the south-eastern corner of the field. The difference between this and the random pattern exhibited by earlier ages suggests that this is not coincidence and that this small valley represent a focus of activity during the period in question.

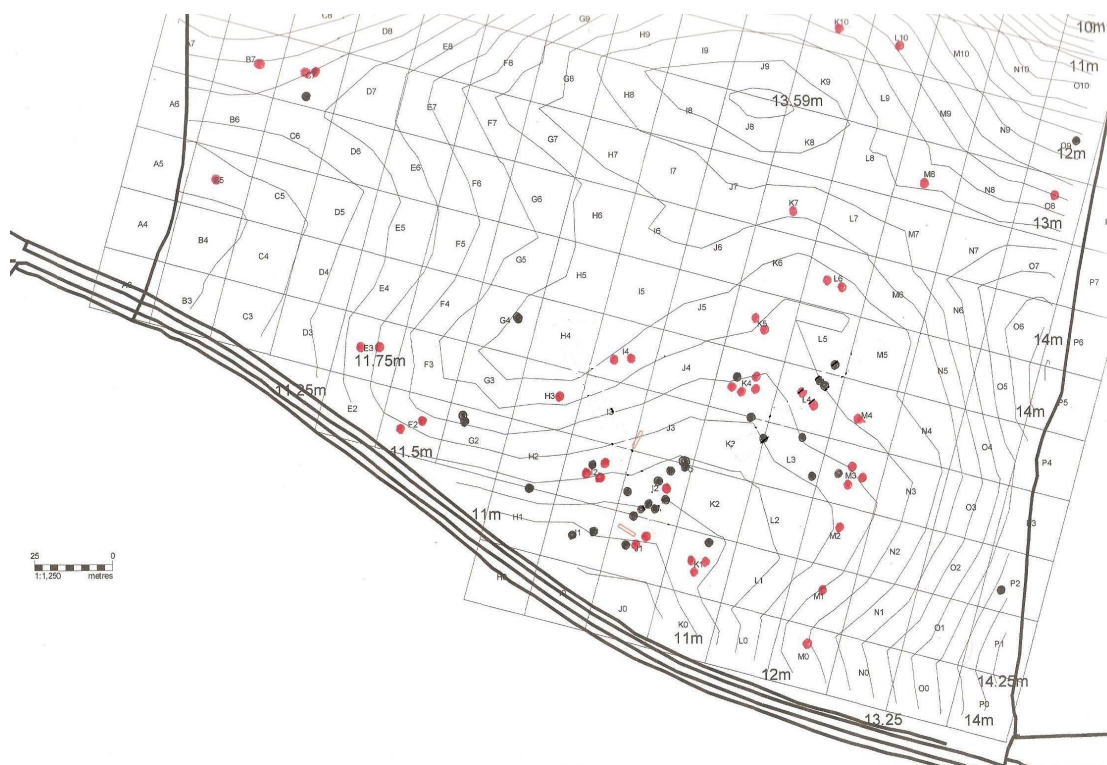


Figure 4. The distribution of the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age artefacts. The positions of trenches A & B (2008) are outlined in red.

### 3.1 Objectives - Phase Four

The objective of this phase of the project is to investigate the distribution of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age artefacts. As noted above the majority of these were recovered from a relatively confined area of the site. It is now intended to excavate two evaluation trenches within this area to test the subsurface archaeology. The position of these trenches is shown in Figure 5.





Figure 5. Proposed Trenches 2011

Trench C will be 75m by 2m. It runs from the lower ground, north-westerly across the western slope of the valley. It also cuts across an area of high resistance noted during 2008. The purpose of the trench will be to evaluate any surviving archaeological contexts in order to try to locate the source of the artefacts already recovered. Should any structural evidence be located there may be scope to extend the trench.

Trench D will be 50m by 2m and will cut across the north-eastern slope of the valley. Its purpose will be the same as Trench C, but this trench will be the lower priority during the excavation.

The excavation will take place in the period Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April to Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011; a timetable is attached (Appendix 1)

#### 4 Field Methodology for Phase Four

A grid is already established across the field marked by permanent markers. All measurements taken will be measured in from those markers.

The top 20 to 30cm of each trench will be removed by machine. Trenches A & B, excavated 2008, show that all material above this depth is plough soil. The spoil will be placed 2m away from the trenches and will be trowelled through in order to recover any artefacts in the plough soil.

Once machined the trenches will be dug by hand using mattocks (where necessary) and trowels. All spoil will be checked before being put on the spoil heap and a sample sieved. The size of the sieved sample will depend on the conditions at the time. Previous experience has shown the soil in the field to be either very wet or very hard, neither condition being conducive to sieving. Ideally 1 in 10 buckets will be sieved in order to ensure that we recover any small debitage that may be present.

The trenches will be excavated by a team of WAS members and Chichester College students. The latter will be thoroughly briefed prior to, and continuously supervised during the excavation. Should archaeological contexts of a particularly delicate or important nature be found, these will be excavated by experienced WAS members.

All small finds will be measured in three dimensions before lifting.

At least 20 litres of material will be collected from each sealed context encountered.

## **5 Timetable**

This investigation is part of a long-term project. It will be carried out between Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April and Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

## **6 Post-Excavation Analysis**

It is envisaged that where possible all artefacts will be identified and reported on by local specialists.

## **7 Written Report**

1. A series of interim reports will be produced for Chichester College and the County Archaeologist.
2. A final report will be prepared, which will include details of the excavation method, a description of the archaeological features, details of artefacts and an assessment of environmental evidence. The report will also include site location, trench details and feature plans tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and sections showing levels above Ordnance Datum.
3. Copies of the final report will be submitted to the following:
  - Chichester College;
  - West Sussex County Council;
  - Chichester District Museum;
  - Sussex Archaeological Society.

## **8 Deposition of Archive and Finds**

1. Artefacts remain in the ownership of the Chichester College, and it is anticipated that there will eventually be a permanent display of some of the artefacts at the College. Where relevant some material will be kept off-site if conservation standards require it.
2. A copy of the site archive will be offered to the following:
  - Chichester College;
  - West Sussex County Council.

**9 Other**

1. A Risk Assessment will be carried out prior to the archaeological excavation and all relevant Health and Safety regulations will be complied with during the excavation.
2. WAS are fully insured (as arranged through the Council for British Archaeology) to undertake all aspects of archaeological fieldwork. The Chichester College students will be insured through the College.

**Appendix 1 Timetable for the Evaluation Excavation**

Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Extended briefing for Brinsbury Students on excavation technique and site etiquette
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Trenches to be positioned Tools and equipment taken to Brinsbury campus. Site tent erected
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Briefing for all participants Excavation through until
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Final day of excavation Visits by outside archaeologists
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Trenches backfilled by machine Site dismantled Tools, equipment and tent returned to Slindon store