PROJECT DESIGN FOR INVESTIGATION A SITE NEAR BRINSBURY COLLEGE, WEST SUSSEX
April 2010

1 Introduction

This project design details the planned investigation of a site near Brinsbury Campus (part of Chichester College). The investigation will be an on-going project of which this brief deals with the second phase, April 2010.

2 Site Location & Geology

At present the exact location of the site is being withheld.

The site is located the Lower Greensand ridge at a height of between 15 and 20 metres above sea level. Whilst the solid geology is known, there needs to be an investigation of the drift. Evaluation trenches dug in December 2009 showed about 350mm of soil above a mottled orange clay which appears to be the natural.

Following the initial phase of investigation and discussions with the farm manager, it is likely that the site will be taken out of arable cultivation and laid down to pasture.

3 Archaeological Background

This site has been used for crops for a long time. Traditionally it has been ploughed to a depth of about 9 inches. There is no history of artefacts being recovered from the site prior to 2008. In spring 2008 the site was prepared for planting using an agitator, this disturbed the soil to twice the normal depth, i.e. 18 inches. Subsequent to this, casual field walking by staff and students of the College recovered an extensive collection of flint artefacts, including 28 barbed and tanged arrowheads. A date of Early Bronze Age has been ascribed to the majority of the collection, although Mesolithic artefacts are also present. The artefacts have been looked at by Chris Butler, and a full report will be produced.

Although the collection is the result of casual field walking, the finders did record the positions of their finds using GPS. The distribution of the finds was not random across the site, there are definite concentrations, most notable two areas near to the southern boundary of the site.

These concentrations, along with the absence of previous finds, suggest that an archaeological feature may have been recently disturbed, mostly probably as a result of techniques used to prepare the site this year. This is supported by the condition of much of the flintwork, several of the arrowheads are in almost

pristine condition and certainly show no sign of wear due to movement within the soil, as would be expected in a site that has been ploughed numerous times.

In December 2008, a small team from WAS, working with students from the college, carried out a limited resistivity survey and dug two small evaluation trenches to test the results of the resistivity survey.

In summary, what we potentially have here is a previously unknown Early Bronze Age site, and from the condition and number of artefacts it could possibly be a burial site, the artefacts being the grave goods of the deceased.

Subsequent to that work, discussions were held with the College, the outcome of which is this Project Design.

3.1 Objectives - Phase Two

Given the completely unknown nature of the site, the first phase of the investigation was to carry out a preliminary, and rather cursory, investigation of the site. Building on this, our current objectives :

a) To systematically investigate the distribution of artefacts across the whole site.
b) To carry out a resistivity survey over a wider area of the site, concentrating on the known concentrations.

4 Site Methodology for Phase Two

Using the previously established grid, the site will be divided up in 20x20 metre squares. Each square will be walked by a team of at least 14 people, who will collect all artefacts observed. Any artefacts identified as tools at the time of the field walk will be marked with a flag, and their position recorded using the total station.

At the same time as the field walk there will be a resistivity survey of selected squares from the grid. This will be carried out at 0.5m intervals between readings.

Personnel for this phase will include WAS members and students from the College. We will also invite members of other, local archaeology societies (CDAS, BHAS and HDAS) to participate in the field walk and resistivity survey.

5 Timetable

This phase of the investigation will take place between Friday 16th and Monday 18th April, 2010.

6 Post-Excavation Analysis

It is envisaged that where possible all artefacts will be identified and reported on by a local specialist (Chris Butler). The initial work will be carried out by WAS members working with students from the college.

7 Written Report

1. A series of interim reports will be produced for the land owner 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:
   - The land owner;
   - 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 land owner. Where relevant some material will be kept off-site if conversation standards require it.
2. A copy of the site archive will be offered to the following:
   - The land owner;
   - Chichester College;
   - West Sussex County Council;
   - Chichester District Museum

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.