

INDEX

	Page	
1 Editorial	1	Editor Roy Plummer
2 Small Finds	2	Anne Induni & Roy Plummer
3. Slindon Report	4	Keith Bolton
4. Binsted	10	Chris Place
5. Tall stories	12	Anne Induni
6 Young Archaeologist	13	Steven Ackerman
7. Sharpenhurst	14	Mark Phillips
8 Brighton and Hove Report	15	John Funnell
9 Outings and Lectures	16	

The views expressed in the articles contained herein are not necessarily those of the society

1. Editorial

This is the first of a new style of newsletter, which is more up to date, has pictures and diagrams, with both technical and easy to read articles.

We now have an editorial committee to ensure that sufficient archaeological content is available for the newsletter.

Our Society is now much more involved in active field work. We have been conscious for some time that the work we have been doing has not always been professionally organised. Minor changes did not seem to have made a great deal of difference.

It is therefore proposed that we reorganise the Archaeological Subcommittee into The 'WAS Field Unit' under an overall Director (Keith Bolton). You will find further details in the enclosed handout. The object is to enable us to tackle the work we do in a more professional manner. This should raise our Society's credibility in the archaeological world. However we must not lose sight of the fun element enjoyed by so many of us. I came up with the phrase 'Fun with professionalism'. Can you do better?

The detailed proposals can be made available to those who have expressed an interest in assisting with practical work. Please contact Joe Barrow if you wish to receive a copy. Your comments are welcome but please make them as soon as

possible, preferably in writing, so that we may have the system working before the next major work starts in the next few months.

We now move to our perennial plea for people to pay their subscriptions, due on January 1st. 2001. Every year the Membership secretary makes the same plea for prompt payment of subscriptions. Why not surprise and please him by paying before being asked and if you can complete a direct debit and/or a gift aid form, he will be really delighted. Remember if you are not a member our insurance does not cover you for working with us on any fieldwork. We therefore have to insist on membership for all our workers. That is not to say we do not appreciate that some can only attend outings and lectures. Those members we value for the support you give in your own way.

£8 per year must represent one of the better bargains of the year. For your money you get the opportunity to listen to some excellent lectures. take part in coach outings and active fieldwork. All this with the additional bonus of newsletters which are improving all the time.

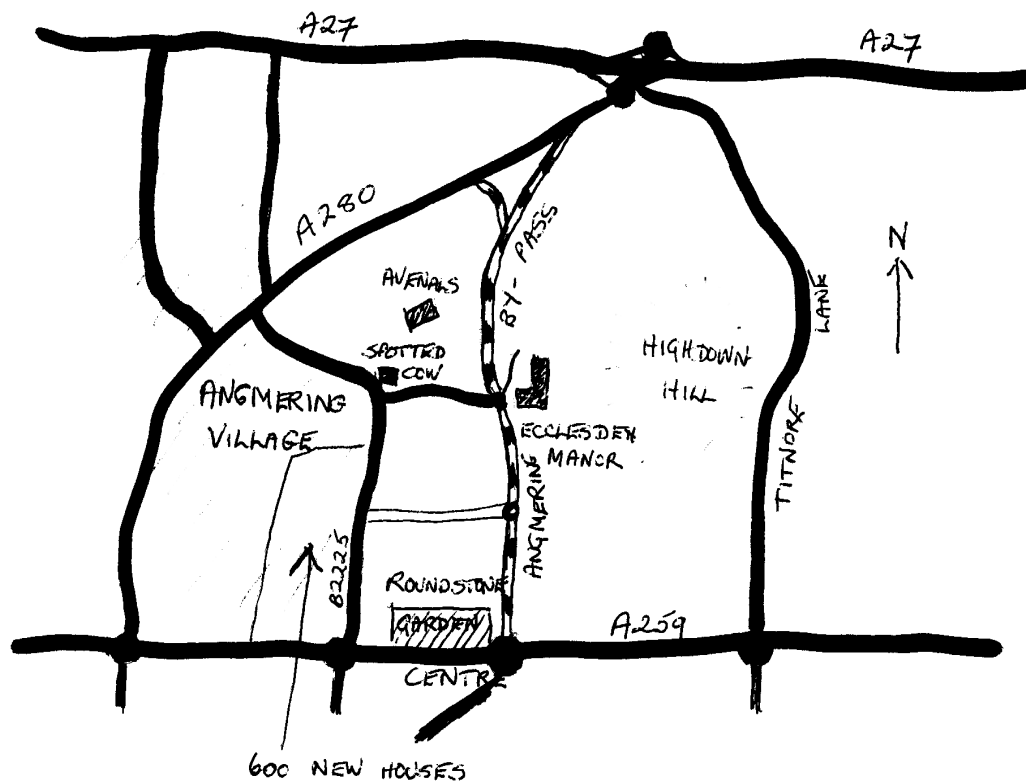
Keep a lookout for anything which may be of interest to the members and then send it as copy for the newsletter. No promises are given re publication but all offerings are considered.

2. Small finds

Anne Induni

Angmering bypass

Work will start in the middle of next year on the Angmering by pass. The route starts from the roundabout just to the east of the Roundstone garden centre and continues north along the line of the track to Ecclesden Manor. It passes between the Spotted Cow and the Manor, and crosses the fields east of Avenals Farm to join the A280 south of the Patching interchange. The northern part of the new road will involve an embankment. Archaeological assessment of the route is due to start very soon.



Stronsay

If any member has the urge to volunteer for a dig on the Orkney island of Papa Stronsay, they may be in for a slight surprise. The 250 acre island belongs to the Monks of the Order of Transalpine Redemptorists. Any women under 30 years old must wear ankle length skirts, long sleeves and cover their heads. If you are over 30 though, it is a little different, "it can be very difficult telling older women what to do" said Father Michael Mary, Vicar General of the Order. No radios or record players are allowed, and anyone who swears is expelled to the mainland. The speaker for the Excavation Company said "It is not easy, but as long as the girls are careful as they climb up and down the ladders, it is OK". It is a bit odd to claim that women

over 30 can't be told what to do but those are the monks rules and we have to fit in with them. For most of the younger women it is their first dig, so they have nothing to compare it to. Given that it is not hot here, there is no great problem. The most awkward thing for them is getting on and off the little boat that takes us to the island.

Michelham Priory

If anyone would like to become a helper at Michelham Priory, the Sussex Archaeological Society is looking for additional volunteers to add to its teams there. If you are interested please contact: Mrs Corinne France, Visitor Services Manager, on 01323 844224

Shinewater

If you remember the talk a couple of years ago about the Bronze Age site of Shinewater near Eastbourne, you may be interested in an exhibition at the Towner Local Museum in Eastbourne. Material from this excavation including items in the care of the British Museum, will be on show. Opening times are:- Tuesday to Saturday 12 noon to 5pm, 2pm – 5pm on Sundays.

Sussex SMRs on line?

John Manley sent the following as an Email
Dear all

I notice that the Northumberland SMR has just been added to the Archaeology Data Service and is available on-line. The current facility allows searches by site name (such as Vindolanda or

Housesteads) and provides fairly full information for each site.

Are there plans for the East and West Sussex SMRs to go on-line in a similar way in the near or distant future?

John Mill's reply

There are no plans for the West Sussex SMR to go on-line in the very near future. In the longer term we are enthusiastic about the possibilities offered by IT for making elements of the SMR available to the wider public; but in the short term we need to give priority to upgrading and updating the current database.

Editors Small finds

Now follows small finds or questions of my own.

Crosses

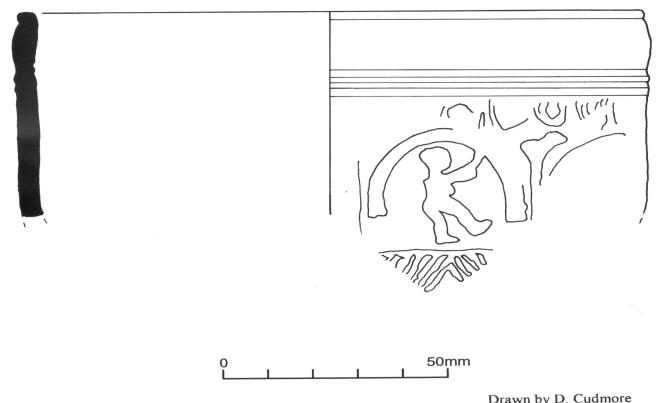
When Queen Elenor died she was transported back to London for a state funeral. Each night at the town/spot where she lay a cross was built to commemorate this. The last cross was at Charing

Cross. Are there any similar crosses in Sussex (or any crosses other than market crosses)? Please let me have the details in the form of an article for the newsletter.

Samian at Slindon

You may like to know that during the last weekend at Slindon a portion of Samian ware was found. It has been tentatively identified, by Cheryl, as Dragondorf 30 - mid 1st century, from South Gaul (LA GRAUFESSENQUE). Dave Rudling has examined it and sees "no reason to disagree".

South Gaul (La Graufesenque) likely form Dr. 30 Mid 1st Century.
SNP.00-25



Quiz questions - a new source

For those who 'enjoy' my quizzes, I have just bought a copy of R A Salaman's - Dictionary of Woodworking Tools. I counted 7 pages with adzes on, and something approaching 90 pictures of axes. So if ever you cannot sleep – don't ring me!

Global warming and floods

Another recent purchase is Tales of the Old Woodlanders by Valerie Porter. I was amused to note of one occasion when Sedgwick Park was flooded, they did not blame global warming but the head keeper for killing off the moles. He was acting under instructions of course, but in my career doing as one was told was not always the best way of getting things done.

3. Slindon report

Keith Bolton

Background

This is the third annual report produced by Worthing Archaeological Society (WAS) for the National Trust and contains the results of the archaeological fieldwork and finds processing carried by WAS on the National Trust's Slindon Estate in West Sussex, during the period June 1998 to May 1999.

Scope

The report covers the following activities:

- A fieldwalk of field 30 (Northwood Paddock);
- Two fieldwalks of field 21 (War Ag 1);
- A resistivity survey of part of field 52 (Slindon Park No 5)

On-Going Activities

- Hedgerow survey
- Barn drawings and descriptions

Detailed analysis of finds for the period covered by the first annual report has begun and will be the subject of specific Find reports.

Sources

Unless otherwise stated, the archaeological information in the "background" sub-sections is taken from "The Upton Collection of Archaeological Artefacts from the National Trust Slindon Estate, West Sussex" report (Southern Archaeology, 1997).

Other sources used are the internal National Trust report "Archaeological Survey - Slindon Estate", (C Whitfield, 1995) and the West Sussex County Council's Sites and Monument Records (SMRs).

Acknowledgements

- James Kenny of Chichester District Council
- John Mills, archaeologist at WSCC for providing SMR information;
- Mark Wardle, Estate Manager for the National Trust;
- Members of Worthing Archaeological Society

FIELDWALK OF FIELD 30 (NORTHWOOD PADDOCK)

Background

Field 30 (NGR SU 2590 1016)

This field contains two National Trust archaeological sites:

- Mesolithic site (NT site 121040P)
- Roman site (NT site 121039) located behind Northwood Cottages. The finds consisted of 35 items.

The Mesolithic site is located in the west and south west side of the field, and in 1997 the finds consisted of a scatter of 1183 flints and Mesolithic axes. This site is part of a large number of Mesolithic and Neolithic sites centred around the dried out courses of two ancient river beds. Rather than many individual sites these are probably representative of a general spread of artefacts demonstrating a concentration of activity over a long period of time in the locality of these two rivers, with finds varying from polished flint axes to ordinary waste flakes (Whitfield).

The Roman site was originally identified by finds of tesserae when a new farm building was erected at Northwood Cottages in 1974. A ditch was seen but no date established for it. The site has produced a selection of late colour-coated fineware of 3rd - 4th century, a sherd of Samian and late 4th century coarse wares. Found nearby was a lead disc of unknown date and use. Other Roman finds include tile fragments and pottery sherds. This plus the tesserae indicates that there is a substantial Roman building in this field (Southern Archaeology)

Method

Due to the uneven nature of the field boundaries, the grid was laid out with the baseline running on a North-South axis through the middle of the field, with the lines at 20m intervals. Each line was subsequently divided into collection areas 20m long. All material likely to be of archaeological interest found one metre either side of the line was collected.

The field walk was carried out in late December 1998, and the finds processed subsequently.

The fire cracked flint was counted and weighed and then discarded, with the remaining material being classified and marked. A further detailed

assessment of the building material will take place at a future date. This assessment will involve identifying the Roman material from the Post-

Medieval material, which is probably from the cottages and drawing the more diagnostic flints.

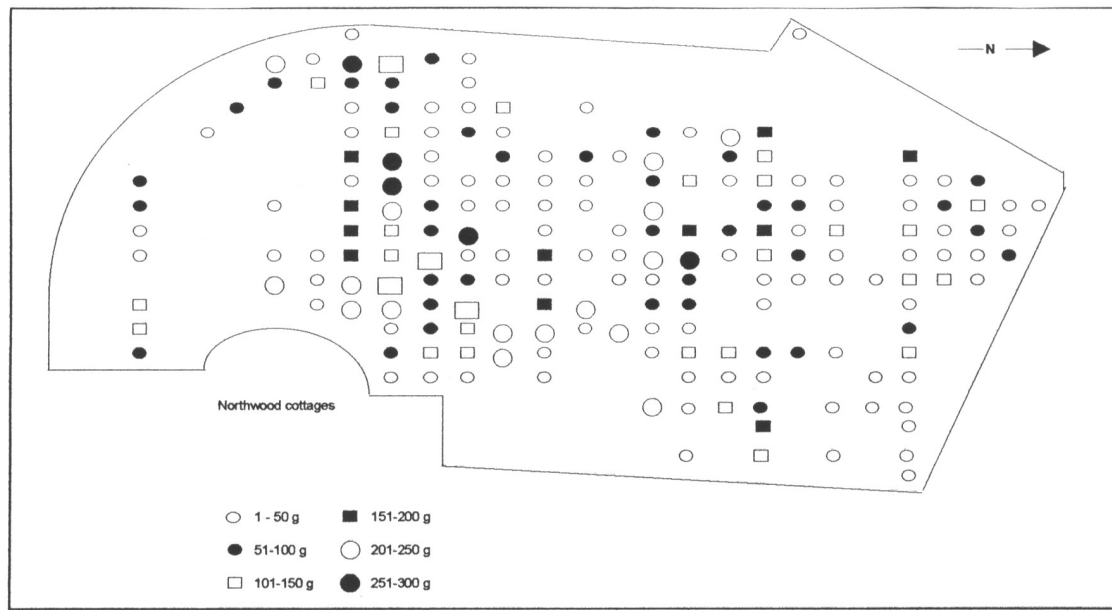


Fig 1 Map of Field 30 showing distribution of fire-cracked flint

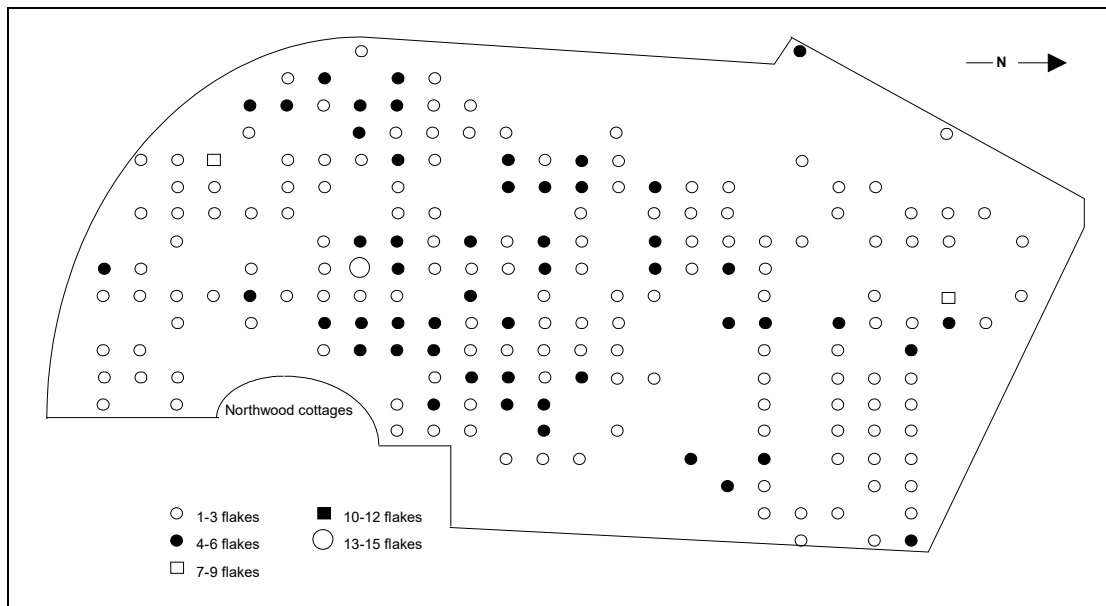


Fig 2 Map of Field 30 showing distribution of worked flint

Field 30 revisited

The National Trust records indicate that there are two archaeological sites (Romano British and Mesolithic) in field 30. Whilst there is no sign of the former, an area of fire cracked flint indicates the

location of the Mesolithic site. Unfortunately this spread fell between the lines being walked in 1999. Therefore, the intention is to return this year and undertake detailed surface collection surveys at both these sites.

Finds

Flint and Other

The initial analysis of the flint has produced the following figures:

- 1 hammerstone;
- 4 cores;
- 41 worked flints
- 475 flint flakes

The analysis of the building material has identified c1950 pieces of brick and tile; the majority of which was located to the south of the cottages.



Fig 3 Map of Field 30 showing distribution of pottery sherds

FIELDWALK OF FIELD 21 (WAR AG 1)

Background

Field 21 contains three National Trust archaeological sites:

- Barrow site and Bronze Age Arrowhead, site 121038;

- Various Mesolithic and Neolithic river sites, 121040;
- Roman building material and pottery, 121041.

The Barrow site (NGR SU 9602 1069) consists of a ploughed down barrow, 21m in diameter and 0.6m in height, noted in 1976. A tanged and barbed Bronze Age flint arrowhead (121038B) was discovered close to barrow site in 1975. (Whitfield).

The large concentration of flintwork (121040F, K) in this field is a typical flint knapping assemblage. The western corner of the field has produced a large

number of these flints and maybe part of the Mesolithic site recognised in the adjoining field. The north corner has yielded few finds but they include a small number of axes and picks. (Southern Archaeology).

Apart from Samian there has so far only been one sherd of Roman pottery recovered. The NT site (121041B) is not confirmed as Roman and more work is required in this area (Southern Archaeology, p6).

Ref	NT Site No	Summary Description
A	121040F	Flint knapping assemblage
B	121040K	Flint knapping assemblage
C	121041B	Samian ware pot sherds found close to the bank of an ancient river course and a levelled area of ground resembling a building platform. No further evidence was recovered on a site visit in Sept '73.
D	121038A	Ploughed out barrow
E	121038B	Tanged and barbed Bronze Age arrow head

Fig 4 Map of Field 21 showing known Archaeological Sites and the two areas fieldwalked

Method

Having walked this field in its entirety in 1997, the opportunity arose in 1999 to undertake a more detailed field walk of two main sites, the barrow and the potential Romano-British site with its associated building platform.

Both field walks were based on collecting all man-made materials from 5 by 5m squares. The first fieldwalk over the barrow is referenced as SL99.21.1 with the second being over the potential building platform is referenced as SL99.21.2. The finds from the surface collection survey were washed, marked, sorted and then recorded.

Barrow Site (SL99.21.1)

Finds

Neither fieldwalk provided conclusive signs of human activity or occupation, with there being virtually no trace remaining of the barrow except for an almost imperceptible rise in ground level.

As for the building platform, there is a levelled platform running parallel to the pre-historic river bed which forms the modern road/track. There was no evidence of human activity apart from struck flint waste which is typical of this field (one of the sites of Mesolithic and Neolithic flint knapping)

The next activity would be to execute a detailed fieldwalk to the south-east of the area already examined.

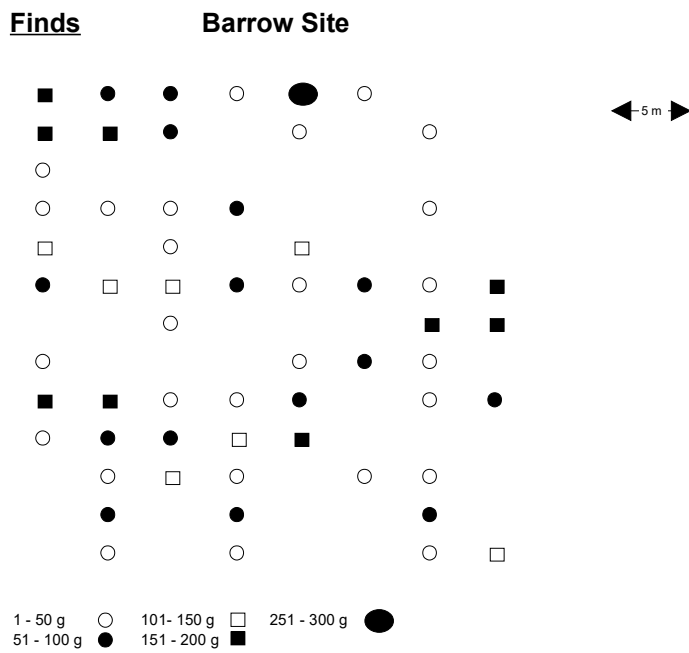


Fig 5 Distribution of Fire Cracked Flint from field walk SL99.21.1

Finds **Building Platform**

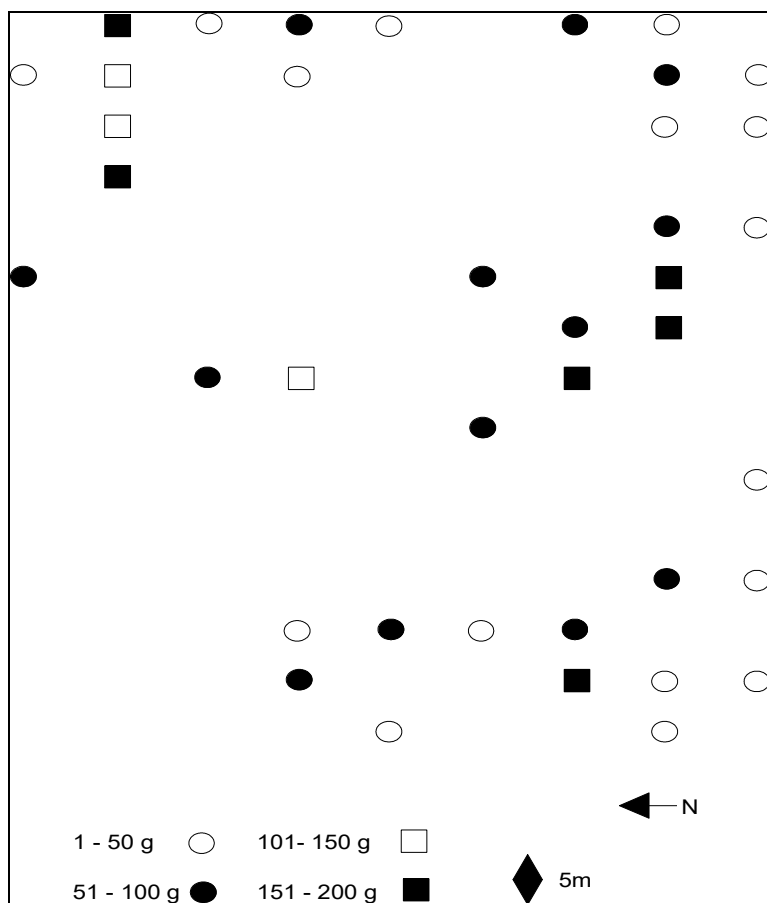


Fig 6 Distribution of Fire Cracked Flint from field walk SL99.21.2

RESISTIVITY SURVEY OF FIELD 52

Background

Field 52 has been the subject of three formal fieldwalks, two of which have been carried out by Worthing Archaeological Society. In 1999, two

resistivity surveys were carried out by Mr James Kenny, one of which with the assistance of WAS members and the other with Southampton University students.

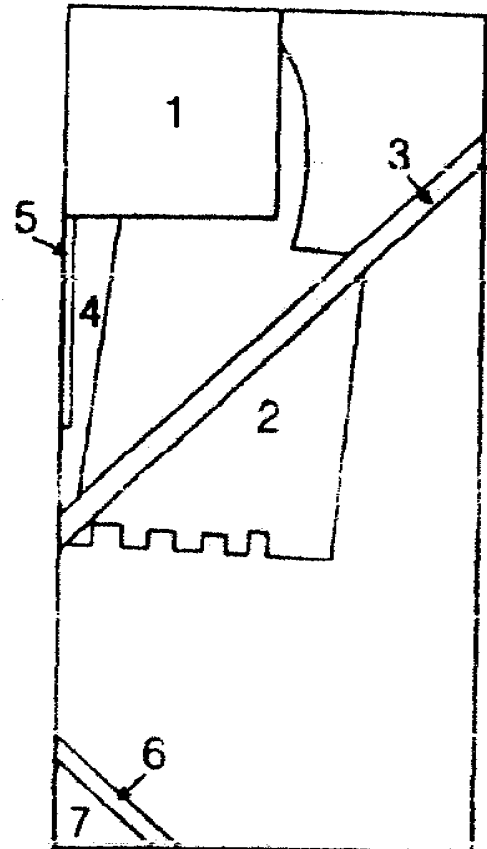
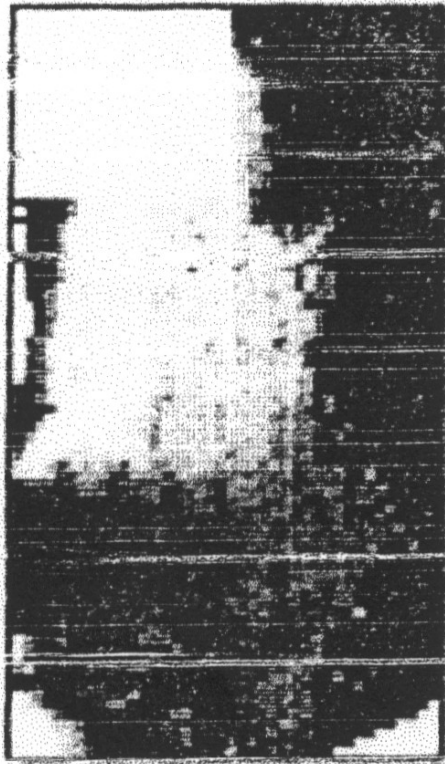


Fig 7 Resistivity survey results from Field 52 and interpretation

1. Last grid surveyed, unfortunately the results are garbled because of a break in electrical continuity.
2. A large rectangular feature of low resistance possibly archaeological
3. A linear, low resistance feature, either archaeological (ditch?) or a modern pipeline.
4. A linear high resistance feature possibly archaeological (wall?)
5. A linear, very low resistance feature. A modern fence line
6. A linear high resistance feature, possibly archaeological.
7. A low resistance area, possibly marking a change in the geology.

Discussion

The most likely candidate for being part of a Roman villa is feature 4. This being so it is particularly frustrating that the remote probes

became detached during the surveying of grid 8 and clearly further survey is essential (see below for outcome of that second survey).

If feature 3 is a pipeline, and area 2 is an archaeological feature, there may be local knowledge of the nature of area 2. If feature 3 is a ditch, it may mark the eastern border of the villa complex. Area 7 and feature 6 may be related. A geological change from chalk to gravel and clay is known to occur in the vicinity (Kenny, 1998).

The second survey showed two square pictures one within the other, and other linear features. The initial interpretation based only on the survey suggested a possible Romano-British temple. However on excavation these features and finds suggest a building associated with a Romano British farmstead.

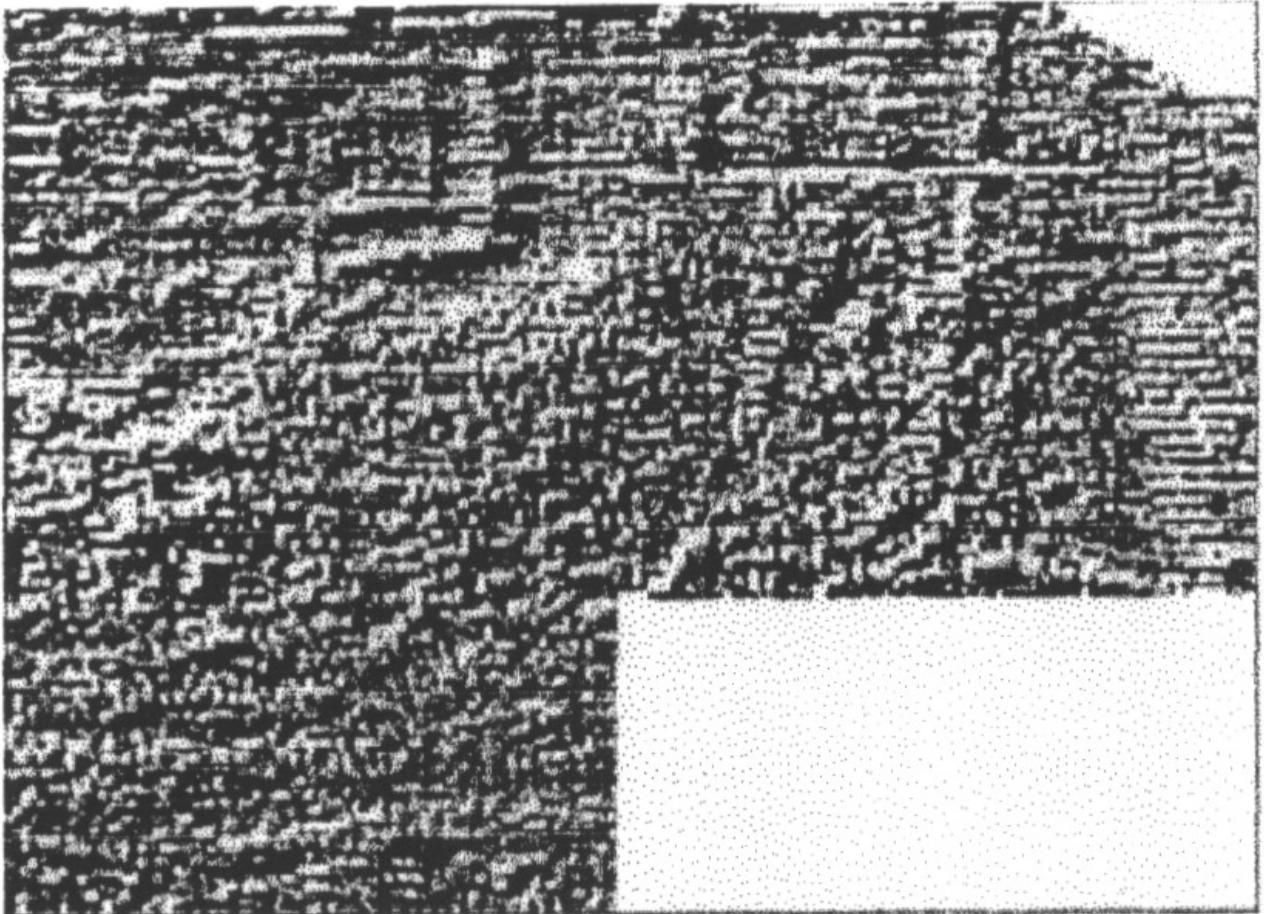


Figure 8 Results of second Resistivity Survey performed in Field 52

4. Report on Excavations at Church Farm, Binsted – August/September 2000

Chris Place

1. Introduction

A second season of excavations has been successfully completed by the Society at Church Farm, Binsted. Following on from last years test pit survey two areas were chosen for more extensive investigations. The first, which measured 10m x 10m, was located to examine the probable drystone flint wall footing revealed in an earlier test pit (Test Pit 32). The second, a trench measuring approximately 18m x 3m, was targeted to provide a section across the bank and ditch of a major linear earthwork of possible late prehistoric date. The removal of topsoil in both areas and the excavation of the bank and ditch fills was undertaken using a JCB.

No assessment or analysis of the findings has yet been undertaken and the following represents only an interim statement of the results.

2. Results

2.1 Trench 1

Some of our members at work on trench 1



No evidence was recovered for the drystone wall and it seems likely that it lies between the trench and the hedge to the west. Several probable shallow post holes or post pads were excavated, which, taken with the wall, may indicate the presence of a structure. A significant quantity of unabraded pottery recovered from one of the post holes is consistent with products of the Binsted kiln and strongly suggests the presence of a structure contemporary with pottery/tile production. The pottery is conventionally dated to a period of 25 years either side of AD 1400. A shallow scoop contained tight packed tile fragments, although these were not set on edge and did not suggest a hearth.

Further associated structures and features may be present within close proximity to Trench 1, and establishing their extent and character as well as the duration and Further associated structures and features may be present within close proximity to nature/zoning of activity would be tasks well within the capability of the Society. At the moment, however, it would be difficult to target such work and resources could be wasted without a better focus for the investigations. It is suggested, therefore, that any further excavation be based upon the results of a geophysical survey now that it has been established that detectable features are present on the east side of Binsted Lane.

2.2 Trench 2

The excavation successfully exposed a section across the ditch and bank of the linear earthwork. The ditch was approximately 2.5m deep and 7m wide at the top. The bank was 7m wide also and 600-800mm high. Mindful that the ditch was not visible on the surface and the bank only preserved as a scarp, the trench may not have been perpendicular to their axis and thus the section may give a false impression of the collective width. The ditch was, however, cut into soft Pleistocene sand over gravel and thus the width may reflect erosion of unconsolidated sides. Elsewhere, the excavated width has been shown to be about 5m at the surface.

No dateable material was recovered from the ditch silts or bank material. The absence of pottery or tile from the ditch is surprising given its proximity to the medieval kilns and perhaps suggests that at this location the feature was already substantially infilled prior to the fourteenth century. Ditch silting appeared to have been rapid, there was also no evidence for a buried soil beneath the bank. It appeared that the natural flinty head had been removed prior to construction of the bank, which was then emplaced on the exposed surface of the underlying sand. This quarried material might have been used to strengthen an otherwise unstable bank made of unconsolidated sand, although this is surmise. No environmental samples were retrieved from the ditch, although charcoal was recovered from beneath the bank. This was associated with small lumps burnt clay and appeared to have been redeposited. Radiocarbon dating of this material is possible, but will depend on the advice of English Heritage.

The Pleistocene sands and underlying 'storm' beach was examined and sampled by Mark Roberts. The top of the gravel formation (23.64m OD.) appeared to have been sorted, suggesting erosion prior to the deposition of the overlying sands.

Other than the analysis to be undertaken by Mark Roberts and submitting the charcoal sample for dating there appears to be little likelihood of additional information being extracted from the earthwork. No further fieldwork is recommended.

3. Conclusions

Most importantly, fieldwork has established the presence of structures on the east side of Binsted Lane contemporary with tile/pottery kilns on the west side. Further work could be undertaken to establish, *inter alia*, the extent and character of this activity, although this should await the findings of a geophysical survey. A mixture of magnetometer scanning and detailed survey is recommended.

The work on the linear earthwork has proved inconclusive. The recovery of dateable material from the ditch, and palaeo-environmental evidence from a hoped for palaeosoil, was not forthcoming. AMS dating of the recovered charcoal may be a possibility but must await expert advice.

5. Tall Stories? Anne Induni

In the far North of Scotland and the islands there are hundreds of the strange circular towers known as Brochs. In fact almost the only thing known about them is that name. At a Conference on Shetland in July the present state of knowledge about their use, purpose, and the social culture that produced them was discussed.

Dr Mackie gave the introductory lecture outlining some of the main questions, beginning with the problem of definition. Is a Broch only a tall double walled dry stone tower of considerable height with galleries within the walls and a wall walk on top, or is it just one of a group of structures defined as complex Atlantic round houses? One current view is that inside the Brochs there

was a multi-storey wooden round house, with a complete conical roof. This may have rested on the inner tower wall with a higher outer wall. The fire would be on the ground with ring shaped floors above. There are alternative versions of lower towers with the roof resting on the scarcement ledge [a ring of stones protruding from the inside wall of the Broch].

Some Brochs like Gurness and Midhowe have internal stone structures, but there are also examples where there is evidence for post holes underneath these structures. It may be that some Brochs had timber floors supported on posts, but the problem is that very few Brochs have ever been excavated down to base level. The finds from

different regions indicate that there were strong regional factors affecting the material culture of the people of the Brochs, although the actual Broch towers are virtually identical. The richest material finds came from the Atlantic areas of islands and mainland in the North West, with a marked contrast between the extreme N.E. mainland, and further south, which appeared to be a transitional zone.

Many of the towers are built on top of much earlier sites, and some have been altered and adapted in various ways before they are eventually abandoned, but some sites like Jadshof and Scatness show clear evidence of almost continuous occupation until late medieval times.

There is also a contrast in location, many Brochs are coastal towers, but others are well inland in the centre of farmland. It is clear that at this point of time there are no real answers, only more questions. What were Brochs for, If they were defensive, why are so many inland, and against who were they a defence? If they were not for defence, why did the people devote so much time and energy to such elaborate structures? Status symbols? In the 1890's someone estimated that it would take 60 men 7 months to build one. This did not take into account the collecting of building materials first, and the people needed to look after those doing the building. Sources of basic timber were severely limited on the islands. Large timber roofs and complex internal structures would need a

considerable amount of timber, which was not available on the islands except as driftwood. There is evidence that the large neolithic building at Stanydale on Shetland had 2 large timber posts made of Spruce, a wood which did not occur in Scotland at that time.

A major problem in understanding Brochs has been the lack of a really up to date excavation. That is until the recent work at Scalloway and Scatness. The latter site has a major excavation in progress, with extremely important discoveries. It is a multi-period site which appears to have been in continuous use since bronze age farmers left their arid marks in the soil. The site is slowly being "peeled" back in time with a complex series of wheel houses, pictish houses and other buildings. It was discovered in the 1970's when an access road to the airport control tower was being cut and part of the Broch wall was exposed. At the moment three phases of the Broch have been identified, the original tower, then a pierced structure, and then a "cloverleaf phase, but there are probably a further 3 metres of the Broch to excavate. There are great hopes that this may answer some of the questions, but at the moment the only answer to the enquiry

"What were they for?" is simply -
"We do not know".

6. Bignor Young Archaeologists Day Steven Ackerman

A friend of mine was persuaded to take her grandson to Bignor. He was a little reluctant to go. I give below his report (almost verbatim).

Bignor Roman Villa - Simply the Best



Steven with Eric checking finds from wet sieving

As soon as I got there I was shocked. I thought it would be rubbish, but as soon as I got here I thought it was fabulous and amazing. I do not know what to say. It was so good.

They had a drop spindle to make some wool. I drew a roman pot and I used dowsing rods to find walls underground, and I used a resistance machine to show things that were under the ground and did some scrubbing with a toothbrush to find what was in the bag they emptied then looked at a roman vase and

something about central heating and hot water and baths.

I scraped away in a ditch to find some stuff in a house about 2000 years old, which had a heating system, hot water and a bathroom and grounded

some corn to make flour and Roy showed us how to measure the earth.

I had a good time and it was an interesting day. I look forward to going again.

Steven Ackerman, age 9

oooo

An apposite quote passed to us by Mark Phillips - .
"We must always remember, today's young volunteers are the future custodians of our past."

Mark was born in Arundel and his family have lived in the area for generations. No surprise then that he has a great love of this region especially its history. He has assisted us by running the excavation training at the Young Archaeologists open weekend at Bignor for the last 3 years, and is currently studying part time for a BA in Landscape Studies at The University of Sussex.

Mark has given us the following preliminary report on excavations he directed at Sharpenhurst.



Young Archaeologists at work at Bignor

7. Sharpenhurst Mark Phillips

Background

It was whilst I was carrying out a survey on the 13th Century manor house at Sharpenhurst in Barnes Green that I was approached by the owner, John Prince (who had discovered that I have excavation experience) who asked me if I would carry out a small scale rescue dig in the area where he wanted to expand his garden. This commenced in the summer with a small number of volunteers. However, the rescue dig quickly took on the status of a full-blown excavation once John, who is fascinated in history, saw the amount of finds we were unearthing. Clearly we had dug our first test trench through the centre of a medieval midden.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION OF THE SHARPENHURST SITE (TQ137 276)

Preliminary Report Autumn 2000

*M Phillips
Southern Counties Archaeology*

During the months of July and September 2000, an archaeological excavation in the grounds of Sharpenhurst House, Barnes Green, West Sussex, was conducted under the direction of Mark Phillips from Southern Counties Archaeology. The excavation centred mainly on the lawn in front of the south facing wing of the house to explore the possibility that buildings existed on this site either prior to or in conjunction with the existing 15th Century house. Records show that the current house was at one time known as Four Wells House

and there was a possibility that one of these wells would have been situated in this area. The final (and most important) reason for deciding on this particular area for the first exploratory dig is that it is shortly to be landscaped into an extension of the owners existing garden.

Many pottery fragments from the late medieval period (c. 1400-1500) were unearthed, such as Green glazed ware, rough kitchenware, and other smaller fragments of assorted glazed and unglazed

pottery. As well as an abundance of animal bones (mainly horse & cow) Post Medieval through to Victorian and 20th Century pottery fragments were unearthed in large amounts. Two Jetons from around 1550 were a welcome find as it is known that similar tokens have previously been found inside the house. These finds represent ongoing occupation of the site from the early 15th Century up to the present. It was unfortunate that any natural context had been destroyed through ploughing and bioturbation; however, dating evidence would confirm that a large clay deposit 60cm below the surface is towards the end of the 16th Century. This coincides with the period the

cellar is known to have been built (1595) and it is therefore reasonable to assume that this clay deposit was excavated from the cellar. Below the clay deposit, a large number of pieces of rough Horsham stone cover the bases of trench 1 & 5. It is known that this base extends metres from the house although its overall width or indeed purpose is as yet unknown.

All trenches have now been closed down, a preliminary report is in the process of being written and the excavation will resume in the spring of 2001.

8. Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society John Funnell

Archaeology Report Autumn 2000

FIELD WALKING AT OVINGDEAN

The finds collected from the fieldwalking at Ovingdean earlier this year have been washed and identified. There are several concentrations of, flint flakes, tools and fire-cracked flint. The majority of flintwork has a white patination. The quantities of material found suggest some exploitation of the resources from the cliffs at Rottingdean and Ovingdean. One concentration of fire-cracked flint suggests the possible location of a flint cairn. Oyster shells provide evidence for utilisation of local marine resources.

Pottery dating from both the Roman and Medieval periods was collected. The medieval pottery, from nearby, raises the possibility of a hamlet or village close by associated with the church of St. Wulfrans. The Roman pottery points to some form of Roman settlement in the area.

A geophysical survey is planned for the near future. Finds are being plotted on dot density diagrams to determine the concentrations and to provide information for future fieldwork. An adjacent field will be walked this autumn

FIELD ACTIVITIES IN STANMER

The BHAS Field Unit has undertaken a number of Projects within Stanmer parish this spring and summer. At the request of both, Brighton and Hove Council and English Heritage, investigations involving surveying, geophysics and excavation have been carried out.

GEOPHYSICS AT COLDEAN LANE CAR PARK

A small area surrounding the car park in Coldean

Lane was the subject of a geophysical survey in June. The project was also used to train members of the BHAS unit. The object being to examine the lands to the east of the Downsview Bronze Age site found during the building of the Brighton bypass. The survey included an examination of a Scheduled Monument - a possible Bronze Age tumulus. Permission being granted by English Heritage. An area of almost 1600 m² was covered. The results highlighted a circle of low readings surrounding the tumulus suggesting the remains of a ditch. New discreet areas of low readings were found but little evidence for a continuation of the Bronze Age site known from the earlier excavations

SURVEYING AT PUDDING BAG WOOD, STANMER

Linear earthworks, (sometimes called cross ridge dykes), are the focus of attention for some features in this area. A number of depressions lie to the north east of the linear feature in Pudding Bag Wood. An ancient Scheduled Monument of a tumulus is found close by. Other depressions are located close to the Stanmer boundary walls and at the southern end of the linear earthworks. The features were included in a complete survey of this area.

Local information is that, the wall surrounding Stanmer, was built by Napoleonic prisoners of war. The depressions may be the result of flint extraction. Further excavations are required to attempt to date the features accurately.

The depression to the south of the cross ridge dyke cuts into the dyke itself and must be of later date. The tumulus surveyed is considered as being a pond barrow, but closer examination would suggest it is probably a robbed bowl barrow. English Heritage are anxious to Schedule the features from both Pudding Bag Wood and Stanmer Great Wood. The BHAS Field Unit was asked to date the features prior to scheduling. Walter Gorton and Charlie Yeates cut a section through the Pudding Bag Wood linear feature in the 1960s by, but little was found.

The old excavation was easily located and the soil removed down to natural clay with flint and chalk outcrops. It was found on examination, that while the bank of the earthworks had been sectioned the associated ditch was never excavated. The section was drawn and photographed and then cut back a further 50 centimetres. Individual finds were recorded in three dimensions to identify discrete stratigraphy, the information provided being transferred to computer graphics. A broken barbed and tanged arrowhead was found in the upper levels of the ditch. Initial examination of the flint material by Chris Butler has raised the possibility of Neolithic rather than Iron Age, construction, but a complete report will be required before final conclusions are drawn.

EXCAVATIONS AT STANMER GREAT WOOD

A similar excavation of a linear feature in Stanmer Great Wood is in progress. This linear earthwork is significantly smaller than the Pudding Bag Wood feature. The ditch from this excavation has again produced flint material but more pottery from the central layers. The pottery is flint tempered and initial examination would suggest an Iron Age date. The pottery will be the subject of expert investigation for confirmation. The finds are again being recorded with individual locations being recorded and placed into computer graphic images.

EXCAVATIONS AT ROCKY CLUMP, STANMER

An area of 72 square metres has had its topsoil removed, north of the existing excavations. Features including a ditch, post holes and a possible floor layer have been revealed. Excavations continue until late October.

STRETHAM MANOR

Mark Gardiner has examined the new pottery found from Stretham and has selected pieces he considers require illustration. He has amended his original report to include the new pottery. Once the drawings are complete the report on the Stretham Manor moated site will be ready for submission to the Sussex Archaeological Collections.

8 Outings and Lectures

West Sussex. BN42 4NT

Summer Outings 2001

May 6th Cost £16.50 including ferry
Isle of Wight Visiting Brading Roman Villa and
Carisbrooke Castle

June 10th Cost £11
Butser Ancient Village. Tour with Dr Peter
Reynolds plus Selborne Village with the home of
Gilbert White and the Captain Oates Museum

July 15th Cost £11
Oxford Tour of the City and visits to Ashmolean
and Pitt Rivers' Museums

August 19th Cost £11
Porchester Castle and visit to Fort Nelson

All visits will include guided tours where possible. Tickets will be on sale from December and can be reserved at any time by phoning Rodney Gunner on 01273 887399 or writing to him at 10 Old Barn Way, Southwick,

Please make cheques payable to W A S
and include a stamped addressed envelope

Lectures in 2001

Feb 13th THE JOHN PULL LECTURE
Dr Miles Russell The Work of
John Pull

Following the lecture there will be an opportunity to partake of a glass of wine or a coffee. This is a chance to socialise with other members and the Committee.

Mar 13th A G M Followed by
Mr Rodney Castleden Chalk hill
figures

Apr 10th

Mrs Caroline Wells
in prehistory

Wetlands