AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AT PATCHAM FAWCETT SCHOOL, CARDEN AVENUE, BRIGHTON, EAST SUSSEX

(TQ 317 091)

by

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INTRODUCTION

During 1991 South Eastern Archaeological Services of the Institute of Archaeology, University College London was notified of proposals for residential development on land immediately to the east of Patcham Fawcett School, Carden Avenue, Brighton, East Sussex (NGR TQ 317 091), hereafter referred to as Site A.

Site A lies on a south-west facing hill slope, between the 90m O.D. and 101m O.D. contours on the northern edge of modern Brighton. It is situated in an area of chalk downland which is now largely covered by 20th-century construction. However, the parts which remain undisturbed are known for their archaeological diversity and quality, and are particularly rich in evidence of a funerary or ritual and settlement nature, dating from the Prehistoric and Romano-British periods. Indeed, because of the known archaeology in the region, the area of the South Downs encompassing Patcham Fawcett School has been defined as archaeologically sensitive by East Sussex County Council.

During the excavation in 1956, of an Early Bronze Age bowl barrow (NAR TQ 30NW48; TQ 531571 109068) on the site now occupied by school buildings, evidence for 13 burials was recorded. (Holleyman and Yeates 1960, 136-43). In addition to four cremations with collared urns and three un-urned cremations, which were contemporary with the barrow, six crouched inhumations inserted from the surface, that it after the construction of the barrow, were located.

The excavations also uncovered the apparent remains of a Late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement encroaching upon the site. Two groups of post-holes were recognised and quantities of Late Iron Age to mid-4th-century Romano-British pottery were also recovered. (NAR TQ30NW34; TQ 531570 109070 and 531800 109300).

During construction of the school in 1963, two inhumations were discovered, one of which was confirmed as Romano-British (NAR TQ30NW27; TQ 531560 109040).

It was also noted that a map held by the Sussex Archaeological Society by H.S. Toms, dated 1910 (Toms 1911) shows the site lying at the edge of an extensive 'Celtic' field system stretching eastwards to the Ditchling Road. Romano-British pottery is also indicated across the whole of this area.

In May 1992, Brighton Borough Council commissioned South Eastern Archaeological Services to carry out an archaeological assessment of the development area under the direction of Ian Greig. This took the form of four mechanically excavated trenches, supplemented by ten 1.0m square, hand-excavated test pits to gauge artefact concentrations and a resistivity survey. Various archaeological features were revealed in the trial trenches, including a row of small pits containing Late Bronze Age pottery, which suggested a possible Bronze Age

settlement site. Late Iron Age/Romano-British pottery was also recovered from the test pits (Greig, 1992).

In April the succeeding year South Eastern Archaeological Services supervised machine-stripping of the topsoil over the whole site on to solid chalk natural. This procedure revealed further features of archaeological interest, which were initially investigated to determine their character and date.

Following the evaluation of the site's archaeological potential, a scheme of more detailed work was agreed with Dr. A.G. Woodcock (County Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council), Brighton Borough Council and the developers and sponsors, Llewellyn Brighton Ltd. Accordingly, South Eastern Archaeological Services undertook a full-scale excavation of Site A during May and June 1993.

THE EXCAVATION: SITE A

Site A was represented by datable material in sufficient quantity to enable either a Middle Bonze Age (c. 15th to early 13th century B.C.) or Late Bronze Age (9th to 8th century B.C.) date to be positively assigned to many of the excavated features.

However, unlike several other Bronze Age Downland sites excavated in Sussex, such as Itford Hill and Black Patch to the south-east of Lewes, where the pattern of structures and artefacts 'may reflect the economic activity areas and social organisation' of the settlement (Ellison, 1981, 36), Site A at Patcham Fawcett had apparently been seriously damaged by later ploughing. It is also possible that the chalk surface was 'scoured' during the construction of the school and subsequent landscaping.

During the excavation it soon became obvious that the stratigraphy across the whole of the site had been truncated. Consequently, little survived of the shallower features, making any analysis of their dimensions or profiles problematic. Some features will undoubtedly have been destroyed completely. This truncation may also explain the relatively small number of finds recovered from the excavation.

The Bronze Age activity of Patcham was characterised by post-holes, a series of pits, a large circular scoop and the remains of a possible hearth. Four eroded ditches dating to the Romano-British period were also excavated. In addition to

THE PITS

A total of 28 pits of varying sizes and depths were excavated. It proved possible to divide these into discrete categories defined by their surviving profiles. The large scoop and the 'hearth' are discussed in later sections of this report.

Eleven of the pits were characterised by a 'basin-like' profile with very steep sides often approaching the vertical and virtually flat bases. They were all roughly circular in plan. These pits (contexts 36, 42, 281, 311, 361, 431, 433, 438, 440, 444 and 446) varied in size from 1.70m to 3.60m (maximum diameter) and had surviving depths of between 0.40m and 0.75m. The average diameter of this type of pit was 2.34m and the average depth 0.55m. They occurred mainly in a wide band, running approximately south-west to north-east across the site.

The majority of these pits (36, 42, 431, 438, 440, 444 and 446) contained a single homogenous, friable, light-brown silty clay loam fill. The inclusions consisted of chalk pieces (5-150mm) which made up to 60% of the matrix and occasional angular flint fragments (5 to 50mm). However, a second later fill of light orange-brown silty clay (434) was recorded in pit 433, while in pit 311 three similar, but distinct, friable, light brown silty clay fills were excavated. (312, 442 and 443). The two remaining steep sided pits (281 and 361) both displayed the same unusual characteristic. In the eastern halves of these features light grey brown silty clay loam fills, similar to those located in the pits described above, were found. One of these fills (context 284 in pit 281) yielded seven struck flint flakes. However, the western halves contained deposits essentially consisting of loosely packed chalk fragments (5 to 150mm). No archaeological finds were recovered from the chalk fills.

Mr K. Goodchild, who was involved with the excavations prior to the construction of Patcham Fawcett School, visited Site A and indicated that these two pits may have been roughly sectioned for archaeological purpose during the 1950's. Unfortunately no records exist to confirm or reject this suggestion. It should be noted that the sides of the two pits (281 and 361) would appear to be too steep and the bases too flat for tree-throw holes.

Pit 281 was also unique on site, in having an internal chalk step jutting from its north-eastern side. This was presumably intended to help access in and out of the relatively deep cut (0.70m), perhaps while it was being dug.

No pottery was recovered from these 11 pits, making it impossible to ascertain their date or to dtermine whether they were contemporary. However, a single blade-like flint flake, possibly dating from the Late Bronze Age, was found in pit 311. Fire-cracked flint was collected from pits 281 and 433, while pit 281 also produced an animal bone.

The paucity of midden-type material suggests that these pits were not originally used for rubbish disposal. There was also no indication in the form of waste flint flakes lying on the pit floors, that they had at any time been employed as flint-working hollows. The size and profile of the pits when compared to those excavated on other Bronze Age sites would tend to suggest that they once functioned as storage pits. However, the only direct evidence for grain storage was a single carbonised unidentified cereal fragment, recovered from context 37 in pit 36.

Six of the pits excavated on Site A were shallow scoops with gently sloping, concave sides and rounded bases. These were sub-circular in plan and ranged in size from 1.04m to 3.00m (maximum diameter) with existing depths of between 0.10m and 0.34m. On average they were both smaller in diameter (1.66m) and shallower (0.22m) than the steep-sided, flat-bottomed pits described above. These scoops (contexts 204, 253, 306, 319, 357 and 414) were not clustered, though none was located in the north-western corner of the site.

Pits 253, 306, 357 and 414 were filled by a single silty clay deposit, which ranged in colour from light grey brown to dark brown. The inclusions consisted of angular flint fragments (5 to 200mm) and chalk pieces (5 to 100mm). These comprised of between 5% and 20% of the soil matrix. The fill of pit 253 (context 254) also included occasional charcoal flecks, the majority of which were Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*).

Both pits 204 and 319 contained distinct primary and secondary fills of light grey-brown to dark brown silty clay, with similar inclusions to those found in the scoops described above.

Pits 306 and 414 contained no archaeological artefacts. One struck flint flake and two blade-like flakes, were recovered from 204 and two further flint flakes were found in 253. Fire-cracked flint and animal bone was found in 253, 319 and 357, and 204 contained a single Sarsen stone.

Eighteen large sherds of pottery dating to *c.*15th to early 13th century B.C. were recovered from context 254. This enabled pit 253 to be definitely assigned to the Middle Bronze Age. Pit 319 (fill 320) contained a single Middle Bronze Age sherd, while one sherd of Late Bronze Age pottery, dating to the 9th to 8th century B.C. was found in pit 204 (fill 205).

The function of these six pits is unknown. Even accounting for truncation by ploughing, they appear too shallow for storage or rubbish disposal. The only direct evidence for grain storage was four-hulled barley seeds and two unidentified cereal fragments recovered from pit 357 (context 358), but no artefactual dating evidence was found in this pit. Indeed, there would appear to be too few artefacts in general for these features to have been rubbish pits. These scoops were also too small to be the result of localised chalk erosion, caused by livestock confined in a holding or

pen, while the recovered artefacts give no indication that they were used for, or created by, any particular domestic, craft, or agricultural activity. Certainly, no chaff indicative of cereal processing was recorded.

A group of four small circular pits with steeply sloping concave sides and rounded bases was discovered to the south-south-west of the site (contexts 273, 275, 277 and 279). These pits varied in diameter from 0.35m to 0.65m, and had existing depths of between 90mm and 0.27m. Their average diameter was 0.56m and average depth 0.17m.

Each of these probable rubbish pits was filled with a friable, dark grey brown to dark brown silty clay deposit. These fills contained inclusions of chalk (5 to 80mm) and angular flint (5 to 60mm) which consisted of between 2% and 5% of the soil matrix.

Thirteen sherds of Middle Bronze Age pottery were recovered from cut 279 (fill 280). This allowed a date of *c.* 15th to 13th century B.C. to be assigned to this pit. Two Late Bronze Age sherds were also recovered from pit 273 (fill 274) while cut 275 yielded nine Middle Bronze Age and three Late Bronze Age sherds (fill 276). Cut 279 also contained fire-cracked flint and a fragment of Sarsen stone and a struck flint flake were found in cut 273. Animal bone was recovered from pits 275 and 279. This last feature contained the only examples of dog bone (*Canis familiaris*) recovered from the Bronze Age deposits of Site A.

Two, similarly sized pits, located in the south-east corner of the site, had a distinctive profile of fairly steep sides and rounded, but roughly cut and irregular bases. These features (contexts 251 and 301) were the only two intercutting Bronze Age pits found during the excavation of Site A. Context 251 had a maximum diameter of 2.85m and was 0.70m deep. It appeared to cut and therefore post-date 301, which was 2.20m wide and 0.70m deep.

The top of both pits had been filled simultaneously with a friable, dark brown silty clay deposit (252), containing chalk pieces (10 to 100mm) and flint fragments 10 to 300mm) up to a maximum of 10%. This fill yielded Middle Bronze Age pottery, four struck flint flakes, fire-cracked flint, a fragment of burnt Sarsen stone and animal bone, including the distal humerus of a cow (*Bos taurus*) with chop marks on the shaft. This range of finds would suggest Bronze Age domestic rubbish disposal. In addition to context 252, pit 301 contained a primary fill of friable mid-brown silty clay (302) with a high percentage of chalk pieces up to 50mm in length (20%) and occasional flint fragments (5 to 10mm). Animal bone was recovered from this deposit. Three additional fills were also revealed in pit 251 (contexts 255, 298 and 299). These took the form of friable, light brown to mid brown silty clays containing chalk and flint fragments (1% to 20%) up to 10mm long. Though fill 255 produced a single struck flint flake and fire-cracked flint, no finds were retrieved from either 298 or 299.

A further possible pit was excavated in the south-west corner of the site. This heavily disturbed feature of uncertain form, yielded 11 sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery.

Snail columns were extracted from the fills of pits 251, 301, 311 and 361. However, it was decided after the excavation, that an analysis of this molluscan evidence would give 'no reliable information as to the contemporary environment' (Wilkinson 1993, Appendix 6, ii).

The almost complete skeleton of an immature pig was found in a small concave based, 0.85m wide and 0.25m deep, circular pit, to the west of the excavation (context 77). This was associated with fragments of modern brick and an iron nail and is presumably of recent origin. It is known that this area of Patcham was the site of pig farming until at least 1930. Two other modern pits (contexts 295 and 400) and a tree-throw hole (context 345) were also excavated.

THE POST-HOLES

During the excavation, 140 post-holes recorded which were assigned to possible circular buildings, four-post structures, fence-lines and a 'hearth'.

Two types of post-hole defined by shape, were recognised. The first category comprised of shallow, sub-rectangular post-holes with square edges. These were an average size of 0.35m by 0.29m and an average depth of 70mm. Their fills consisted of light to mid grey-brown silty clays containing up to 30% of chalk pieces (5 to 80mm) plus occasional flint fragments (5 to 30mm).

Eighty-one of these features were allocated to six separate double post-hole alignments and 11 assigned to two single rows of post-holes.

Four of the double post-hole lines were located within a broad band to the north of the site. Each one consisted of two parallel lines of post-holes, an average of 0.60m apart, running across the slope of the chalk at an angle of approximately north-east to south-west.

During localised cleaning of the chalk surface, it became apparent that the two most northerly double post-hole alignments, were in fact the southern and northern sides of a rectangular structure or enclosure. This was indicated by the discovery of a group of six shallow, sub-rectangular post-holes, which apparently formed an eastern end to the two double alignments. At the western end of this structure, evidence of a 50mm wide linear cut was found (Context 500). This possible eroded beam slot was only visible for a very short time during the excavation, as a faint discolouration of the chalk surface.

The remaining two double rows of post-holes were located in the south-west corner of the site, aligned approximately east to west. One of these consisted of lines of post-holes separated by the comparatively large gap of 1.90m. A single central post-hole positioned approximately halfway along and midway between these particular surviving rows, was also revealed.

The two single lines of sub-rectangular post-holes were found to the north of the site, and consisted of four and seven post-holes respectively. Both were aligned approximately north-east to south-west.

The sub-rectangular shape of this type of post-hole suggests that they were cut with metal-edged tools and are therefore unlikely to be prehistoric. This theory was confirmed during the actual excavation. Six of the fills contained undecayed wood, presumably the original posts, and as fragments of both cinder and wood could be seen on the surface of one of the double row of post-holes further investigation proved unnecessary. This established that all the sub-rectangular post-holes at Patcham Fawcett were in fact of 20th-century origin. A number of sub-rectangular post-pipes cut into the chalk were also located within the post-holes, indicating the use of square stakes.

The only archaeologically significant finds recovered from these post-holes were a modern copper-alloy rivet and a few small (up to 15mm) and presumably residual sherds of Late Iron Age or Romano-British East Sussex Ware pottery. It therefore proved impossible to date the rows accurately.

The exact function of these lines of post-holes is unknown. However, they are probably either surviving sections of fences, or as indicated by the rectangular structure to the north of the site, sides of animal pens or sheds related to the fields of pigs and allotments that are known to have existed in this area of Patcham until the 1930s. However, the reason for double, as opposed to single, rows of apparently upright posts remains unclear.

The second type of post-hole found on the site was circular or sub-circular in shape, with rounded edges and an irregular but concave base. These features were filled by friable, mid-brown silty clays, containing between 2% and 10% of chalk pieces (5 to 30mm) and occasional flint fragments (5 to 30mm).

Three possible circular buildings, four 4-post structures and a fence, were identified by the presence of seventeen of this type of post-hole.

BUILDING I

Seven sub-circular post-holes (contexts 200, 202, 207, 209, 211, 416 and 418) forming the remains of a possible post-ring and three associated post-holes (contexts 213, 398 and 410) located just outside the line of this post ring, were revealed.

The only archaeological find recovered from the excavation of these features, was a single struck flint flake, possibly dating to the Late Bronze Age, from post-hole 202. However, a comparison with other downland settlements excavated in Sussex and their proximity to confirmed Bronze Age pits, suggests that these post-holes may represent a later Bronze Age roundhouse. It is assumed that other associated features have been destroyed.

An analysis of the size and depth of each post-hole on the line of the post-ring and the spacing between them indicated that on average post-hole 418 was smaller and shallower than the others and in an atypical position. It appears that 418 was supernumerary to the basic ground plan, of which six post-holes now survive. In assigning a post-hole to a particular phase of building, its position relative to the circumference of the post ring and its spacing should be taken more into account than its size. Depth in particular is an unreliable indication of phasing, as it would have been 'relatively easy to tailor holes to accommodate differences in height of the various uprights' (Moore 1992, 14).

Post-hole 418 was poorly defined and only a maximum of 10mm deep and 0.28m wide. The average size of the six other post-holes on the post ring was 0.32m (maximum diameter) and the average depth 95mm. The largest surviving post-holes were positioned on the northern side, and presumably the rear of the structure. The minimum diameter of the post-ring was 5.20m, while the spacing between the six main posts varied from 1.60m to 1.92m (an average of 1.78m). Cut 418 was positioned between post-holes 211 and 416. It has been suggested that a certain 'Sussex type' of post ring layout in Bronze Age roundhouses had interspaces which were shorter at the back than the front of the ring (Guilbert 1982). However, the original posts of this structure appear equidistant.

The post-ring is interpreted as representing the internal roof supports of the building. No evidence was found for an external wall encircling the post ring, so it proved impossible to determine the overall diameter of the structure from wall to wall.

None of the possible buildings found at Site A was set on hut-platforms or terraces cut into the hill slope. This is probably because the gentle nature of the incline made this type of construction unnecessary.

No central post-hole was revealed, though it is theoretically possible that a central post simply rested on the ground surface, leaving no archaeological trace. Indeed, the only feature found within the post-ring was context 410, a small poorly defined

post-hole, approximately 160mm in diameter and 10mm deep. There was therefore no evidence of any internal storage pits, fittings or hearths.

Many other excavations in Sussex, of Bronze Age downland roundhouse, have revealed south-east facing porch structures consisting of large, deep post-holes. In this case however, the only possible evidence for such a structure was post-hole 213. This feature was positioned outside the projected line of the roof supports and to the south-east, but was only 260mm in diameter and 30mm deep and is unlikely to represent a porch. It should be noted though that extensive cleaning also failed to reveal any internal roof supports on the south-eastern side of the building, so this is presumably where the heaviest erosion and destruction has occurred.

The only other feature associated with the structure was post-hole 398. This was the deepest feature of the building at 250mm and was 150mm in diameter. It is possible that at some point this post replaced that of 200 as a roof support.

The artefacts found within the buildings at Black Patch and Itford Hill have been used to indicate the activities that they were employed for. This can in turn lead to broad conclusions about the social organisation of the community involved. Structures with an absence of domestic finds, such as Building I at Patcham Fawcett, have often been interpreted as calf or lambing huts (for example Hut 5 at Black Patch). However, the truncation of the stratigraphy at Site A had resulted in the destruction of any original floor or occupation layer within Building I. The lack of finds is therefore only to be expected and is not necessarily indicative of any particular domestic or economic activity.

BUILDING II

Cleaning located four further post-holes in a circular setting, approximately 20m west of Building I (contexts 313, 315, 317 and 420). Though the only archaeological finds recovered from the excavation of these features were the animal bone from context 313, it is possible that they represent the remains of a second later Bronze Age roundhouse. It is therefore assumed that the southernmost post-holes of the building have been destroyed and the structure was originally built as a full circle and not as a segment.

The four circular post-holes which formed this post ring were very similar in size and had an average diameter of 0.30m and depth of 0.11m. It was noted that the two slightly deeper post-holes lay towards the north and were presumably at the back of the structure. The spacing between these features was extremely consistent, ranging from 1.70m to 1.74m (an average of 1.73m) while the minimum overall diameter of the post ring was 4.60m; this last measurement can only be an estimate. However, it can be seen that the projected dimensions of this post ring is similar to Building I.

As no other features of this structure survived and no artefacts were recovered from inside the post ring, it proved impossible to draw any conclusions regarding the use of this possible building. Its importance lies in its relationship with context 311, one of the steep sided, flat based pits described previously, and with context 293, a linear feature running approximately north to south down the hill-slope.

Context 311 was located in what was once presumably the interior of the roundhouse. However, as it covered the majority of the original floor space, it would appear to be of later origin than the four surviving features of the post ring. As no accurate dating evidence was recovered from either the post ring or any of the steep-sided, flat-based pits, this is an important proposition which may help to define the chronological development of the site. It is therefore possible that pit 311 destroyed some internal features of the roundhouse.

Context 293, which will be discussed in detail in a later section of this report, was dated by the artefacts recovered from its excavation to the Early Romano-British period. This feature cuts the most western post-hole of Building II (context 420) and therefore provides a *terminus ante quem* for the post-hole fill: in other words, the post ring pre-dates the Early Romano-British period. This is significant, as it is the only relative stratigraphic dating evidence for a structure on Site A.

Considering the similarity between Buildings I and II, it would seem reasonable to suggest that Building I is also earlier than the Early Romano-British period. This stratigraphic evidence supports, but does not prove, that these two structures are of later Bronze Age origin.

BUILDING III

Three, sub-circular post-holes were located in a circular setting, approximately 5m south-west of Building I (contexts 286, 289 and 291). These features averaged 0.32m in diameter and 65mm in depth. There was an average spacing of 1.30m between the posts.

No archaeological finds were recovered from the post-holes and the evidence is obviously extremely limited. However, it is possible that these features do represent the heavily eroded remains of a third Late Bronze Age roundhouse, with an original diameter of 5.30m.

Due to the absence of any direct dating material, it was not possible to determine whether the three possible buildings were contemporaneous. However, the evidence as described does not suggest the existence of any consecutive settlement phases. These structures may therefore represent a broadly contemporaneous 'building-cluster'

FOUR-POST STRUCTURES

Four possible four-post structures were located in the north-eastern area of Site A. Structure A was the smallest of these, with dimensions of 1.35m by 1.40m. It consisted of four sub-circular post-holes (contexts 353, 404, 406 and 408) with an average diameter of 0.28m and depth of 90mm.

Only three post-holes of Structure B were revealed, though a fourth post-hole had presumably been destroyed. These features (contexts 355, 359 and 422) were an average of 0.25m in diameter and 0.13m deep, and would have formed a structure approximately 1.70m by 1.80m in size.

Structure C measured 1.75m by 1.75m and consisted of four sub-circular post-holes (contexts 215, 217, 219 and 221) with an average diameter of 0.23m and depth of 80mm.

The largest of the four structures was D, at 2.0m by 2.10m. Its four main post-holes (contexts 225, 227, 229 and 231) were an average of 0.24m in diameter and 50mm deep. However, a fifth, 0.22m wide and 50mm deep post-hole (context 223) appeared to be associated with Structure D. This feature could have been an additional external support for the first four posts, or may indicate that originally D was in fact a six-post structure measuring approximately 2.0m by 3.30m.

All 16 of these post-holes were filled by a similar homogenous, compact, mid grey-brown silty clay deposit, which contained up to 10% of chalk pieces (5 to 30mm) and 5% of flint fragments (5 to 30mm).

No archaeological finds were recovered during the excavation of these features. Although any construction details must remain a matter of conjecture, this type of structure is usually associated with above-ground prehistoric grain storage. However, the size of the post-holes at Patcham Fawcett may suggest smaller scale racks for curing hides, drying cereals and leaves or perhaps skinning or butchery frames. At Site A though, it is probable that this type of evidence has been lost through relatively modern ploughing.

Due to the lack of dating evidence, it was not possible to ascertain if these four-post structures were in use simultaneously, or more importantly, if they were contemporaneous with the three possible roundhouses. This is unfortunate, for the apparent demarcation of a possible domestic or agricultural activity area, approximately 65m away from the nearest discovered roundhouse, may be an attribute of the economic organisation of the site. For example, it may perhaps indicate long-term grain storage rather than grain stored close to the roundhouses for immediate daily use. Alternatively of course, the two types of structure may not be associated or contemporary. It is unfortunate that, due to the limited available

archaeological evidence, no interpretation of the economic organisation of Site A can be developed.

A FENCE LINE

An apparent fence line consisting of five, circular post-holes aligned approximately east to west was found in the southern part of the site. (Contexts 188, 190, 192, 194 and 196). These post-holes were an average of 0.38m in diameter and 90mm deep. Each one was filled by a compact, mid brown silty clay deposit, containing up to 20% of chalk pieces (5 to 50mm).

A single struck flint flake from post-hole 196 was the only archaeological find recovered from the excavation of these features. The fence line was therefore impossible to date directly. However, the position of the post-holes, just 7m south of possible Building III, and their shape and profile, may suggest that the fence line was originally associated with the possible roundhouses.

On other Bronze Age sites excavated in Sussex, most notably Black Patch, both individual buildings and 'building clusters', have been found situated within fenced enclosures. These served not only to safeguard young animals, but also to 'underline independence' (Drewett, Rudling and Gardiner 1988, 102).

Though the exact purpose of the short alignment at Patcham Fawcett is unknown, it is possibly the only surviving section of a fence demarking, or even surrounding one or more of the roundhouses. However, the paucity of evidence makes any interpretation purely subjective.

UNASSIGNED POST-HOLES

A number of unassigned and artefactually undated post-holes were located across the site. The function of these is unclear; however, some may in fact belong to other unidentifiable structures.

A LARGE CIRCULAR SCOOP

A large circular scoop, approximately 6.50m in diameter and a maximum of 560mm in depth, was located to the south-east of the site (context 166). This probable Late Bronze Age feature had an asymmetric shape that was deeper with a steeper profile on the downslope side. It contained four distinct deposits.

The primary fill (272) consisted of a compact, mid grey-brown silty clay with 30% chalk pieces (5-50mm) and 10% flint nodules (20-200mm). This deposit was stratigraphically positioned directly below context 297, a friable, dark grey-brown

silty clay containing 20% chalk fragments up to 5mm in size. This fill was in turn stratigraphically below context 199, a compact light brown silty clay loam derived from natural hill-wash, with inclusions of chalk (5-50mm) (5%) and occasional flint nodules (50-100mm). The top fill of this feature (167) consisted of a compact but friable dark brown silty clay, containing chalk fragments (5-200mm) (2%) and flint nodules (5-150mm) (20%).

Fourteen sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery were recovered from context 167, while 199 contained one sherd of Middle Bronze Age pottery. Struck flints were found in all four fills. These included 82 flakes, 1 blade, 3 cores and a scraper from 167. Context 167 also contained an animal bone and one fragment of Sarsen stone.

Bowl-shaped depressions displaying characteristics similar to those of cut 166, have been recorded at previously excavated Late Bronze Age downland settlements in Sussex, including New Barn Down, Blackpatch, Itford Hill and Plumpton Plain. These features have traditionally been interpreted as catchment ponds. However, it is difficult to envisage that cut 166 at Patcham Fawcett would have performed this function, due to the porous nature of the chalk bedrock, into which it was dug. Certainly, no evidence was found for either a clay lining or a rammed chalk base to the feature. Ratcliffe-Densham (1953, 80) suggested that the water-holding capacity of depression A in cutting VI at Blackpatch may have been increased by the presence of large quantities of organic material, for example straw or rushes, at its base. Unfortunately any organic matter will have decayed and left no recoverable trace under the alkaline conditions produced by the chalk.

Other interpretations concerning the purpose of cut 166 are also problematic. No evidence was recovered to suggest that any agricultural or domestic activity such as cereal threshing or the storage of organics (e.g. a haystack) took place within the scoop, while the absence of post-holes in or around the feature certainly excludes its use for animal confinement. It is possible that this feature was in fact a quarry, though there is no obvious reason why chalk would have been extracted from this downland site in the Late Bronze Age.

Following a site visit to inspect feature 166, the Geoarchaeological Service Facility of the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, concluded that it would not be profitable to sample the deposits within the cut, as little data relating to the nature of the feature, as opposed to the character and source of the infilling sediments, would be obtained.

Context 166 was cut by an oval-shaped feature with gently sloping sides and a roughly cut flat base (400). This contained sherds of glass and is assumed to be of 20th-century origin.

THE 'HEARTH'

A shallow, circular feature with gently sloping concave sides and base (372) was located approximately 8.0m north-east of cut 166. This pit, which had a maximum diameter of 520mm and depth of 70mm, contained a loose mid brown-grey silty clay with charcoal flecks (10%) and an extremely high percentage (50%) of fire-cracked flint. In total, 408 pieces of fire-cracked flint were recovered, ranging in size from 5 - 60mm and weighing 5825g.

Similar features found at the Late Bronze Age downland sites of New Barn Down and Blackpatch have been interpreted as 'cooking pits'. Though this theory is not universally accepted, it has been suggested that these were deliberately situated a safe distance away from any timber buildings.

On both the eastern and western sides of the pit, an approximately 1.0m long, 20mm wide and 10mm deep slot, aligned roughly north to south was located (contexts 380 and 390). Together with three associated sub-circular post-holes (contexts 378, 386 and 388), with an average diameter of 290mm and depth of 70mm, these features may have served to support a windbreak or even a framework over pit 372. Indeed it has been suggested (Wiltshire, pers. comm.) that pits containing a high concentration of fire-cracked flint, such as cut 372 at Patcham Fawcett (Site A) could possibly have been used for 'steam cooking'. By supporting a type of griddle over the pit and applying water to the heated flints below, it would appear possible to 'steam cook' any food, such as fruit, placed on the griddle itself.

It should be noted that the chalk bedrock into which feature 372 was cut, displayed little sign of burning. This may indicate that the flints were placed in the pit after heating and not before.

Contexts 378, 380, 386, 388 and 390 were each filled by a friable, dark grey-brown silty clay with up to 10% chalk pieces (5-30mm), 10% flint fragments (5-30mm) and occasional charcoal flecks. Post-hole 379 showed evidence of post-packing in the form of flint nodules up to 50mm in length.

The finds recovered from the excavation of these features consisted of fire-cracked flint from cuts 372, 378, 380 and 390. One sherd of abraded Late Bronze Age pottery was recovered from 390 (fill 391).

The complete fills of both pit 372 and post-hole 378 were flotated and examined for environmental evidence. Unfortunately, this failed to recover any charred seed remains, however the analysed charcoal was found to consist of a mix of common shrub species.

ROMANO-BRITISH ACTIVITY

Two pairs of Romano-British parallel ditches were discovered. These were separated by a distance of approximately 7.0m and ran down the hill-slope, aligned roughly north-west to south-east. Though these features were heavily eroded and in places

destroyed by 20th-century disturbance, a total of six lengths of the four original ditches were revealed (contexts 247, 249, 293, 430, 448 and 450). These had roughly cut, gently sloping concave sides and bases. They varied in width from 220mm to 750mm (average 440mm) and in depth from 20mm to 360mm (average 130mm). All four ditches were filled by a compact but friable, light grey-brown to mid-brown silty clay loam, containing up to 10% chalk pieces (5-30mm), 15% angular flint fragments (5-150mm) and 5% chalk flecks.

The excavation of these features yielded struck and fire-cracked flint, Sarsen stone, animal bone and first-century A.D. Romano-British pottery. The flintwork, which included two retouched flakes from cut 247, was almost certainly residual. A single segment of a Greensand, probably Upper Greensand, quernstone, dating to the Late Iron Age or Early Romano-British period was also recovered from cut 293. This was part of the upper stone of a rotary quern, with a diameter of approximately 280mm.

Flotation and subsequent analysis of the ditch deposits, produced a single charred cereal fragment from the fill of 430 and two weed seeds from the fill of 451.

The lack of concrete evidence has led to difficulties in assessing the exact nature of these four ditches. It is possible that they represent a series of redefined boundaries, perhaps part of a much larger Romano-British field system. However, it can also be argued that they demark an eroded first-century A.D. trackway or drove-road. The presence in the area of 'several well defined tracks' (Yeates, 1951, 379), has been noted before, and the position of the ditches running down the ridge of the villagey is typical of other later prehistoric or early Romano-British double lynchet trackways found in the vicinity. Excavations undertaken by South Eastern Archaeological Services within the nearby Eastwick valley (Barber forthcoming) investigated a number of similar trackways which may be associated with that found at Patcham Fawcett.

Ditch 293 provided the only relative stratigraphic dating evidence for a structure on Site A by cutting the westernmost post-hole of Building II (420). It is also possible that ditch 430 cut a poorly defined circular feature (466) located to the south of the site. However, due to modern disturbance and partial destruction during the original trial trenching, the correct relationship between these two features was unclear.

THE FINDS

THE BRONZE AGE POTTERY by Sue Hamilton

Introduction

Some 600 grammes of Bronze Age pottery (147 sherds) were recovered from a total of 18 features. This Bronze Age pottery comprises both Deverel-Rimbury type Middle Bronze Age (MBA) and Late Bronze Age (LBA) sherds.

All radiocarbon dates quoted in the text have been calibrated according to data published by Pearson and Stuiver 1986 and method A as published by Stuiver and Reimer 1993. Dates are quoted at one sigma.

The pottery is stored in Brighton Museum

Methodology

The pottery was analysed using the pottery recording system recommended by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (1992). All sherds were ascribed a fabric type on the basis of macroscopic examination and the use of a binocular microscope. The sherds were then counted and weighed to the nearest whole gramme. Diagnostic sherds were additionally assigned to form, decorative, and technological types.

The stratigraphic context of the Bronze Age pottery

Table 1 lists the presence of Bronze Age sherds from the Patcham Fawcett excavations according to context and fabric categories

Pit 251 (Context 252) and Pit 253 (Context 254) produced large sherds of MBA pottery and are likely of that date.

LBA pottery was stratigraphically mixed with Romano-British and later pottery in the topsoil and six fill contexts (Test pit 9 and Contexts 120, 167, 248, 250, 294: see Table 1). The sherds from Contexts 120, 248, 250, 294 and 391 are all abraided LBA sherds and are probably residual. Probable LBA features comprise Feature 166 (a circular scoop) which contained (Context 167) part of a LBA shouldered bowl (Fig.

TABLE 1

Patcham Fawcett Bronze Age Assemblage: Sherd Counts According to Context and Fabric Categories

Feature Fill	FABRICS							
	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	IO1	Q1	Wgt gm
Test pits								
9	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	15
Assessment								
Pits:								
3 8	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	17
Site								
Topsoil 1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	8
Postholes								
67 68	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
119 120	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	11
Circular scoop								
166 167	0	0	14	0	0	9	0	48
166 199	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	8
Linear ditches/slots								
247 248	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	20
249 250	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4
293 294	0	0	0	6	0	0	3	30
390 390	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	8
Pits:								
28 29	0	0	7	0	4	0	0	27
204 205	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
251 252	4	33	0	0	0	0	0	253
253 254	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	87
273 274	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	4
275 276	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	18
279 280	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	27
319 320	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
Totals	**22**	**44**	**34**	**20**	**4**	**13**	**10**	**600**

Bronze Age fabrics

All inclusion/temper sizes given below are classified using the Wentworth sedimentary scale and descriptive terms (Krumbein and Pettijohn 1938, 30; Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group 1992, 35). Density charts (Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group 1992, Appendix 3) were used to standardise assessment of the quantity of inclusion/temper present in fabric matrices.

The association between fabric and form (see below) suggests that Fabrics F1 and F2 are MBA and that Fabrics F3-5, IO1 and Q1 are LBA.

Fabrics

Thick-walled flint-tempered fabrics

F1 *Very coarse flint-tempered*

Sparse (7% density) flint tempering comprising pebble (*c.* 9-12mm), granule (*c.* 3mm) and very coarse sand (*c.* 1mm) size pieces; matrix colour/firing - thin, red/orange oxidised exterior and interior surfaces with evidence of light fingering/smoothing, unoxidised black core; sherd thickness -*c.* 18mm.

F2 *Coarse flint-tempered*

Moderate (15% density) flint tempering comprising some pebble size pieces (*c.* 6mm) together with granule (*c.* 3mm), very coarse sand (*c.* 1mm) and coarse sand (*c.* 0.5 mm) size pieces; matrix colour/firing - often unoxidised, dark grey throughout, but some sherds/vessels have oxidised orange coloured exterior surfaces; sherd thickness - *c.* 12 mm.

Thinner-walled flint-tempered fabrics

F3 *Medium-coarse flint-tempered*

Moderate (15% density) flint tempering comprising granule size pieces (*c.* 2-3mm) together with very coarse sand (*c.* 1mm) and coarse sand (*c.* 0.5mm) size pieces; matrix colour/firing -generally buff/orange oxidised surfaces and black unoxidised core; sherd thickness - *c.* 9mm.

F4 *Medium-fine flint-tempered*

Common (20% density) flint temper mostly comprising very coarse sand and coarse size pieces (*c.* 0.5-2mm) and very occasional granule (just over 2mm) size pieces; matrix colour/firing - patchy brown/red oxidised to dark grey unoxidised surfaces and unoxidised dark grey core; sherd thickness - *c.* 6mm.

F5 *Fine flint-tempered*

Common (20% density) flint tempering comprising medium sand to very coarse sand size pieces (*c.* >.0.5-<2mm); matrix colour/firing - dark grey, unoxidised exterior surface and dark red/buff partially oxidised core and interior surface; sherd thickness - *c.* 5mm.

Iron oxide fabric

IO1 *Iron oxides, quartz sand and occasional flint*

The fabric is dominated by the presence of common pisolithic iron oxides of medium sand size (*c.* 0.4mm) mixed with moderate (10% density) medium quartz (*c.* 0.5mm) sand. Rare (2% frequency) coarse and very coarse sand (*c.* 0.5-1.5mm) size flint temper is also present; matrix colouring/firing - dark brown surfaces and core, or leather-brown partially oxidised exterior surface with dark brown unoxidised interior surface and core; sherd thickness - *c.* 9mm.

Quartz sand fabric

Q1 *Quartz sand and occasional flint and shell*

Moderate (10% density) medium quartz (*c.* 0.5mm) sand, together with sparse (3% frequency) coarse and very coarse sand (*c.* 0.5-1.5mm) size flint temper and occasional granule (just over 2mm) size pieces of friable (fossil?) shell; matrix colouring/firing - oxidised orange throughout; sherd thickness - *c.* 10mm.

Forms and decoration

Table 2 summarises the main elements of of form, decoration and technology present in the Parcham Fawcett Bronze Age assemblage. Both MBA and LBA forms are present and appear to be associated with separate stratigraphic contexts (see above).

TABLE 2

Patcham Fawcett Bronze Age Pottery: Form, Decoration and Technology Elements

	FABRICS				
FORMS	**F1**	**F2**	**F3**	**F4**	**IO1**
MBA bucket urns					
Rim sherds:					
Flat-topped	3	0	0	0	0
Finger-tip impressed cordon sherds:					
Horizontal cordon	0	4	0	0	0
Horse-shoe shaped cordon	2	0	0	0	0
LBA shouldered jar/bowl					
Rim sherds:					
Squared	0	0	0	0	2
Out-turned rounded	0	0	1	0	0
Finger-tip impressed 'pie-crusted'	0	0	0	2	0
Finger-tip impressed 'cabled'	0	0	2	0	0
Plain shoulder sherds:	0	0	1	0	2
LBA hemispherical bowl					
Rounded rim sherds:	0	0	0	1	0
LBA decorated body sherds					
Finger-nail impressed	0	0	1	0	0
Sherds with evidence of technology/surface finish					
Finger-furrowed	0	0	3	0	0
Combed	0	0	0	0	2

Patcham Fawcett MBA pottery

Diagnostic sherds from two MBA bucket urn types are present. Several cordon sherds (Fig. 17) belong to a Ellison Type 10 bucket urn(s) with flat-topped rim, and decorated with an applied horizontal, finger-impressed cordon (Ellison 1978, 1980). These bucket urns are common in Sussex MBA assemblages (Ellison, 1980).

Three sherds come from a flat-topped rimmed bucket urn decorated with applied finger-impressed 'horse-shoe' bands (Fig. 17).

The best regional parallel for 'horse-shoe' decorated urns is the Ardleigh group of SE Essex (Erith and Longworth 1960, figs 6 and 7). This type has only recently been recovered in Sussex MBA assemblages and Patcham Fawcett adds to examples from the Mile Oak and Downsview MBA assemblages (Hamilton forthcoming (a), Type BU1).

Patcham Fawcett LBA pottery

The Patcham Fawcett LBA assemblage is typical of the largely undecorated assemblages of Lowland Britain dating to the beginning of the first millennium BC. In Sussex similar securely contexted assemblages occur at Bishopstone (Hamilton 1977), Thundersbarow Hill (Hamilton 1993) and Yapton (Hamilton 1987).

Shouldered jars and bowls

A LBA shouldered jar with a rounded, out-turned rim was recovered from Context 280 (Fig. 18,11). A finger-nail impressed 'pie crusted rim (Context 274, Fig.18) and one 'cabled' rim (Fig. 18) may also come from shouldered jars or shouldered bowls. Shouldered jars and shouldered bowls are components of *c.* 10-8th century BC assemblages from Lowland Britian. In the Lower Thames valley shouldered bowls regularly occur in 8th/9th century BC assemblages such as those from Coombe Warren, Kingston, Surrey (Field and Needham 1986) and Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton, Surrey. The latter includes shouldered bowls with 'pie-crusted' rims (Adkins and Needham 1985, fig. 4:4,6). In Sussex shouldered jars with finger-nail-impressed, 'pie-crusted' rims occur in a stratified context at Thundersbarrow Hill, Shoreham (LBA pre-hillfort enclosure assemblage, Hamilton 1993) and at Knapp Farm (Hamilton forthcoming (b)), and in stratigraphically mixed assemblages from Selsey (White 1934, fig. 2), Highdown Hill (Wilson 1940; 1950) and Rustington (Hamilton 1990, fig. 6:3m), and as residual pottery in a Middle Iron Age context at Carne's Seat (Hamilton 1986, 43).

The shouldered bowl with flat-topped, 'squared' rim from context 167 (Fig. 18,1) is another characteristic Sussex LBA form (Hamilton 1993; 1982). The combed decoration however is more unusual, although combing does occasionally occur on some Sussex LBA pottery (e.g. Hamilton 1988, fig. 5:6).

Hemispherical bowls

The Patcham Fawcett sherds from a single hemispherical bowl concurs with the presence of similar bowls in other stratified Sussex LBA assemblages from Bishopstone (Hamilton 1977, fig. 47), Yapton (Hamilton 1987, fig. 5:9,14) and Thundersbarrow Hill (Hamilton 1993).

Technology

The finger furrowing on the angular bowl for Context 167 (Fig. 18,1) is a technological feature which is sometimes associated with slab construction methods, the finger-furrowing being a biproduct of smear-bonding adjacent, over-lapping slabs. The same smearing technique can also be used, however, to bond coil-constructed pottery. Finger-furrowing has Deverel-Rimbury antecedants in East Sussex assemblages such as that from Plumpton Plain A (Hawkes 1935 figs 1 and 2), and is a recurrent trait in Sussex LBA assemblages including Thundersbarrow Hill (Hamilton 1993), Heathy Brow (Hamilton 1982) and Yapton (Hamilton 1987).

Dating

MBA assemblages from Sussex have a limited number of associated radiocarbon dates. The radiocarbon dates obtained from the Downsview assemblage indicate a date range of cal BC *c.* 15th to early 13th centuries (Hamilton forthcoming). These overlap with the cal BC *c.* 14th-11th century dates associated with the Black Patch MBA assemblage (Drewett 1982b) and the cal BC 13th and 11th century dates (GrN-6167) for the Itford Hill MBA assemblage (Holden 1972). The small MBA assemblage from Patcham Fawcett has shared characteristic with the Downsview assemblage and may therefore fall within a similar date range.

The Patcham Fawcett LBA assemblage has some similarities (shouldered jars and hemispherical bowls) with the Bishopstone and Yapton LBA assemblages. The latter has a thermoluminescent date of 1270-650 BC (Bell 1976), and the former a date of cal BC 824-777 (Hamilton 1987). Sussex LBA 'pie crusted' rims however lack absolute dates, but on the basis of the 9th/8th century BC dates available from the Thames valley (discussed above), the Patcham Fawcett LBA pottery might be narrowed down to a 9th or 8th century BC date.

Conclusion

The Patcham Fawcett Bronze Age pottery evidences both MBA and LBA onsite activity. Sussex has several 'mixed' MBA and LBA assemblages. The possibility of settlement and production continuity between these two ceramic phases is of interest. Precise stratigraphic information is often lacking (e.g. the Kingston Buci and Highdown Hill 'mixed' assemblages, Curwen 1931; Wilson 1940). Although the Downsview Bronze Age assemblage is also stratigraphically disturbed it is possible to

argue for the existence of two discrete and successive on-site assemblages. A similar case has been made for the Patcham Fawcett assemblages.

Illustrated sherds

Fig. no.	Context no.
17,1	254
17,2	252
17,3	276
17,4	254
17,5	252
18,1	167
18,2	280
18,3	274
18,4	8
18,5	29

THE ROMANO-BRITISH POTTERY by Luke Barber

The excavations produced 122 sherds of Romano-British pottery weighing 393g. Most of this material consists of small abraded sherds from topsoil and residual contexts and is typical of the condition of pottery spread on fields during manuring. All have been recorded on pottery summary forms which form part of the archive.

A number of fabric types are present, the most common being East Sussex ware (91 sherds). Oxidised medium sand tempered ware (12 sherds), grey medium sandy ware (10 sherds) and black medium sandy ware (five sherds) are also present as are four sherds of oxidised silty wares. With the exception of a jar with thickened out-turned rim in East Sussex Ware and a lid in grey medium sand-tempered ware (Context 1), both of which are of first-century A.D. types, no rim-sherds are present.

Only two larger groups are present. The first is from context 294 (ditch fill) and consists of 16 sherds. Most of these are small and abraded, however, one sherd of East Sussex Ware with incised eyebrow decoration is larger and less abraded suggesting a mid-first century A.D. date for this context. Context 248 (ditch fill) contained 18 sherds of East Sussex Ware (14 from the same vessel) and six sherds of sandy wares. The 14 sherds from a narrow-method jar are large and unabraded and are decorated with a horizontal double line of rouletting from which rises eyebrow decoration in a similar decorative form. This vessel is undoubtedly of early to mid first-century A.D. date and suggests that ditches (248) and (294) may be contemporary.

Contexts 250 and 283 each contained one abraded sherd of oxidised sandy ware and, although it is likely they post-date contexts 248 and 294, this is far from certain based on the scant ceramic evidence.

THE WORKED FLINT by Chris Place

A small collection of struck flint, 158 pieces, in total was recovered from Site A. The artefacts are recorded by context in Table 3. No large groups suitable for detailed statistical study are present and only general comments may be made.

The collection is dominated by debitage and only four tools have been noted, two end scrapers and two retouched flakes. Both scrapers are on thick secondary flakes with abrupt retouch at the distal end. The majority of the flakes have thick platforms with no evidence for preparation prior to percussion, usually with a hard hammer. Blades and blade-like flakes form a small minority.

The collection contains no chronologically diagnostic pieces. However, there is no reason why it should not be Middle to Late Bronze Age in date.

Table 3 The Worked Flint

Context No:	Flakes	Blade-like Flakes	Blades	Cores	Scrapers	Retouche d Flakes	Totals
167	81	1	1	3	1		87
197	1						1
199	6						6
203	1						1
205	1	2					3
222	1						1
248	7	1				2	10
252	3	1					4
254	2						2
255	1						1
272	1						1

284	7						7
294	10				1		11
297	9						9
312		1					1
451	10	1					11
PF92 TP8	1						1
PF92 7(274)	1						1
Totals	143	7	1	3	2	2	158

THE GEOLOGICAL MATERIAL by Luke Barber, incorporating comments by John Cooper, Booth Museum, Brighton.

Ten of the eleven pieces of geological material discovered at Patcham Fawcett (site A) was Sarsen sandstone. These weighed 6770 grams. Sarsen boulders occur naturally in the Brighton area and thus this material would have been locally available to the site (Mantell 1822; Dixon 1878; Young and Lake 1988). The excavated Sarsen has a colour range from off-white to dark grey. Some purple iron-rich examples were also present. A number of the Sarsen pieces were very friable and patchy in colour suggesting they had been burnt. A full list of the Sarsen by context forms part of the archive.

Although no Sarsen quern fragments were found the excavations yielded a single piece of a Greensand, probably Upper Greensand, quern stone (Context 294).

Illustrated material.

19 Part of upper stone of a rotary quern with smoothed grinding surface and approximate diameter of 28cm. Light to dark grey fine grained compacted sandstone. Probably Upper rather than Lower Greensand. Rough tool-marks are apparent around the outside vertical edge. Probably of Late Iron Age or Early Romano-British date.

FAUNAL REMAINS by Wendy K. Wood

Introduction

A total of 810 bone fragments were recovered from the site, of which 591 could be identified according to bone type and species. Table 4 lists species present:

TABLE 4: TO SHOW SPECIES PRESENCE DEFINED AS NUMBER OF FRAGMENTS (N), AND PERCENTAGE OF OVERALL SAMPLE

SPECIES PRESENT	N	%
Equus caballus	5	0.6
Bos taurus	320	39.5
Ovis aries/Capra hircus	46	5.7
Sus domesticus	214	26.4
Canis familiaris	3	0.4
Oryctolagus cuniculus	3	0.4

As can be seen, there are relatively high numbers of cow (*Bos taurus*) and pig (*Sus domesticus*) in the sample. These numbers are probably biased by the recovery of a highly fragmentary skull of Bos. from pit fill (302), and a modern burial of immature pig from pit fill (78).

The excavated area revealed deposits both of the Bronze Age and the Early Roman periods. Cow and sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*) were represented in deposits from both periods. Dog (Canis familiaris) was present in a Bronze Age pit fill (280). Horse (*Equus caballus)* and pig were recovered only from the Romano-British contexts.

The only small mammal evidence recovered was that of rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*). This was represented by an immature innominate bone from context (467), a disturbed pit fill of unknown date. This is likely to be intrusive. No other small mammal bone was recovered, despite sampling of features for sieving. This is likely to be due to the poor preservation of small bones by the chalk soil.

The Bronze Age Deposits

The faunal evidence from the BA deposits suggest that two main food species, cow and sheep/goat, were present on the site. Most of these specimens were mature individuals, with the exception of an unfused *Ovis*. radius from context (167). The only example of butchery was to the distal humerus of *Bos*. (context (252)) which had chop marks to the shaft. It is difficult to draw any accurate conclusions from an assemblage of this nature, save to say that these species were presumably exploited for their yields of meat, milk, wool, leather and fat. *Canis*. was also present as a mature individual in the BA deposits, probably as an aid to controlling stock.

Romano-British Deposits

All bones from these deposits came from the fills of three ditches, (248), (250) and (294), which are interpreted as possible road ditches or boundaries. Adult individuals were represented, with the exception of a deciduous premolar of *Bos*. from (294) which could have been lost *ante mortem*.

Cow and sheep were recovered from (248) and (294). Pig and horse were both present in the latter, with horse being the only animal represented from (250). Dog was indirectly represented from (248): a tibia of *Bos*. showed signs of gnawing by an adult carnivore, presumably *Canis*. Two cases of butchery were noted, both from (248): a radius of *Bos*. showed chop marks to the proximal shaft; a tibia of *Ovis*. showed a chop mark to the medial distal shaft.

Conclusion

It is likely that the majority of skeletal material became incorporated into archaeological deposits as food refuse. However this assemblage is really too small for accurate conclusions to be drawn regarding exploitation of species in either the Bronze Age or Roman periods.

CHARCOAL by David Goode

Though there were only three samples of charcoal submitted for analysis, the total mass submitted was 9.05 grams. Only one sample was larger than 0.5 grams. The sample from context 373 weighed 8.52 grams, this was sub-sampled by randomly removing 35 percent by mass, or 2.96 grams. The total amount of charcoal that was analysed equalled 3.35 grams, or 37 percent of the total sample mass. The results of the analysis are contained in Table 5.

Table 5. Species range, mass in grams and mass percent from Patcham Fawcett charcoal

Species	Mass	% total mass
Acer campestre	0.02	0.6
Alnus glutinosa	0.01	0.3
Betula type	0.10	2.9
Buxus sempervirens	0.17	5.0
Cornus sanguinea	2.15	62.7
Cratageus type	0.37	10.8
Fraxinus excelsior	0.13	3.8
Ilex aquifolium	0.01	0.3
Juglans regia	0.10	2.9
Prunus type	0.10	2.9
Tilia cordata	0.04	1.2
Ulmus species	0.05	1.5
Vibernum type	0.23	6.7
TOTAL: 13 species	3.43	100.1

Cornus sanguinea dominates the sample. This is due to the large quantities of *Cornus* charcoal identified in context 373. As a whole, the variation in the range of species represented does not correlate to a single analogous environment. An examination of the pollen record for the South Downs and surrounding areas suggest that during the Bronze Age the dominant woodland was a mixed deciduous type: *Quercus, Fraxinus*, *Tilia* and *Ulmus* (Scaife and Burrin 1985; Scaife and Burrin 1987; Thorley 1981). The river valleys were dominated by shrub growth of *Corylus*, and trees such as *Alnus* and *Populus/Salix* type. With the transition from Late Bronze Age to the Iron Age the pattern of woodlands is very different due to

extensive clearing for agricultural fields. The result is an overall decrease in the *Tilia* type pollen and an increase in the *Betula* pollen (Scaife and Burrin 1987).

The variation in identified species and the large quantity of dogwood (*Cornus*) identified at Patcham Fawcett suggests that the site inhabitants were deliberately selecting wood from a number of different micro-environments.

Context Descriptions

Context 254 - Shallow pit fill; Middle Bronze Age
(Total sample mass = 0.18 grams)

Although this was the smallest of the three samples analysed, it contained five different species. Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) represented 72.2 percent of the total sample, while *Acer campestre* represented 11.1 percent. The remaining three species each accounted for 5.6 percent of the sample mass: *Alnus glutinosa, Crataegus sp.* and *Ilex aquifolium*. A single fragment was unidentifiable/unknown (5.6%). The dominance of a single species such as *Fraxinus* may simply be the result of an individual randomly selecting a large quantity of Ash from the different fuel wood found within a forest or woodland. It is also possible that *Fraxinus* was deliberately selected. The reasoning behind the selection of one species over another is beyond the scope of this research, nevertheless it does illustrate the possibility that the dominance of *Fraxinus* in the sample is due to deliberate human selection.

Context 373 - Fill of fire pit containing fire_cracked flint; possibly Bronze Age.*
(Total sample mass = 8.52 grams; 2.96 grams analysed = 35%).

Context 373 was the largest sample presented for analysis. A random sample of 35 percent (by mass) was removed and analysed. The most common species present was *Cornus sanguinea* which represented 71 percent of the total mass. In descending order, the remaining species identified were: *Crataegus* type (8.9%), *Vibernum* (6.8%) *Betula* type, *Buxus sempervirens*, *Juglans regia*, and *Prunus* type - each at 3.45 respectively. The three dominant species in this sample are common as shrubs and often found in river valleys and wetlands. The situation in this sample is similar to that outlined in Context 254; *Cornus* may represent either a random selection event, or a deliberate choice. At present there is insufficient data to prove either hypothesis.

Context 379 - Fill of post-hole. No date.

(Total sample mass = 0.35 grams)

Context 379 shows a similar pattern of dominance by shrubby types identified in context 373. *Cratageus* type comprises 28.6 percent of the total mass, with *Buxus sempervirens* representing 20 percent. A third shrubby species is the *Cratageus* type - 14.3 percent. *Ulmus* type charcoal (14.3%) and *Tilia* type (11.4%) are the only true tree species present. The final species identified was *Vibernum*, at 8.6 percent.

As a summary, it is difficult to describe a single environment as represented by the total range of species. However, as one examines each context it is possible to suggest that the range of species, or the prevalent types are representative of given micro-environments. It should be stressed that this type of analogous environmental reconstruction is tenuous, unless accompanied by geoarchaeological, palynological and/or molluscan studies.

CHARRED PLANT REMAINS by Pat Hinton

The samples were received after wet-sieving (mesh av. 1.5mm) and were sorted by stereo microscope at 7 - 40X magnification.

Nineteen of the twenty-four samples contained only snails and some charcoal. These were returned to the excavator and results from the five remaining samples are listed in Table 6.

Cultivated cereals are represented only by hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and a few fragments which are no more closely identifiable than as parts of cereal grains. The other seeds could all occur as crop weeds and probably derived from the processing of cereal crops. The only two samples with dating evidence (Early Roman), from Contexts 283 and 451, unfortunately included only a cereal fragment and two weed seeds. The rather large size of the mesh used for wet-sieving may mean that some smaller seeds and chaff fragments were not recovered.

Table 6

Charred Plant Remains

Context no.	37	283	358	441	451
Sample no.	12	-	3	17	22
Sample volume (litres)	13.5	13.5	12	13.5	13.5
Hordeum vulgare L. Hulled Barley			4		
Cerealia indet.	1	1	2		

Unidentified cereal fragments					
Brassica sp. Turnip/cabbage/mustard	1				
Raphanus raphanistrum L. Wild radish (siliqua fragment)				1	
Viola sp. Violet/pansy			1		
Chenopodium sp. Goosefoot					1
Fallopia convolvulus (L.) Löve Black bindweed					1
Rumex sp. Dock	1				

SEDIMENTS by Martin Bates

Following the Geoarchaeological Service Facility (GSF) site visit of 9th June 1993 the following observations were made:

1. The large circular hollow (context 166) contained three basic stratigraphic units, i) a basal chalk gravel with silt matrix, ii) a thin (*c.* 10 cm thick) silt unit with abundant molluscs and little or no structure and iii) an upper silt unit with abundant flint clasts.

2. Context 166 had an asymmetric shape that was deeper with a steeper profile on the downslope side.

There was no indication of any structure within the sequence that would suggest mode of deposition. The thin silt unit, ii) above, is likely to have derived from natural slope wash depositing fine grained sediments in the trap formed by the hollow. The molluscs present in this unit would not have resolved the nature of the feature as they may have been partially, or totally, derived from areas upslope that form the source of the sediment infilling the hollow.

It is difficult to envisage that this hollow would have performed the function of a pond due to the porous nature of the chalk bedrock into which the feature has been dug. There is no evidence for any lining to this feature, e.g. clay that may have held water within the feature. The water holding capacity of the feature may have

been increased if large quantities of organic refuse were present at the base of the feature however under the alkaline conditions produced by the chalk bedrock all organic matter will have decayed and left no recoverable traces.

It was not felt that sampling the sequence was necessary as little data relating to the nature of the feature, as opposed to the nature and source of the sediments infilling the feature, would be obtained by standard sedimentological techniques - particle size analysis, x-radiography.

PERIGLACIAL FEATURES by Christopher Greatorex

Following the removal of the topsoil from Site A at Patcham Fawcett, a large number of so-called stone stripes, cut into the chalk bedrock, were revealed. These ran down the hillslope, aligned roughly north-west to south-east.

A section was excavated across two of these stone stripes, which were filled by an extremely compact, light-brown silty clay loam. The inclusions consisted of 2% chalk fragments (2 - 30mm), occasional chalk flecks and 2% angular flint fragments (5-50mm).

No evidence for Palaeolithic occupation of the site, in the form of struck flint flakes, was recovered during the brief investigation of these entirely natural periglacial features.

CONCLUSIONS

Due to the truncation of the stratigraphy through erosion, across Site A at Patcham Fawcett, it is difficult to draw any detailed conclusions from the evidence as presented in this report. The main period of occupation of the site was established through the recovered artefacts to the Late Bronze Age. However, the exact duration of the prehistoric activity is difficult to ascertain.

The pottery recovered from the excavation indicated both Middle Bronze Age (c. 15th - early 13th century B.C) and Late Bronze Age (9th - 8th century B.C.) activity. It is therefore possible to argue for the existence of two distinct periods of Bronze Age settlement on the site. Unfortunately, the low number of recovered artefacts and positively dated features, means that the exact duration of prehistoric activity on Site A, is difficult to ascertain.

The period from the middle of the second millenium B.C. was one of major change in the economic system. The economically independent units of the Early Bronze Age, which were linked by small-scale redistribution, were replaced by 'highly organised mixed farming and economically specialised units, linked over long

distances by extensive commercial redistribution networks' (Drewett, Rudling, Gardiner 1988, 87).

The evidence of pits, postholes, four-post structures and possible roundhouses, found at Site A, suggests the presence of a small Downland farmstead, similar in character to Late Bronze Age settlements previously excavated on the South Downs. These earlier excavations indicate that this type of farmstead consisted of small, mixed farming, family units, utilising the roundhouse as the main dwelling type. They were often set within extensive and planned field systems. It should be noted that the limited evidence shows that the Downs had been at least 'partially cleared by the beginning of the Bronze Age' (Tinsley with Grigson 1981, 232). Crop growing and tending livestock, plus hunting and gathering, were the main methods used to procure food. The principle crop was barley, though emmer wheat and small spelt were also cultivated. A range of crafts were practised, including pottery production, weaving and probably wood and leather working.

Although Site A originally lay on the edge of a 'Celtic' field system (Toms 1911) which, though not proven to be contemporary, apparently locates it in a permanent late prehistoric agricultural setting, the detailed socio-economic and environmental evidence recovered from the excavation, is unfortunately extremely limited. However, the discovery of the large circular pits and the possible four-post structures, does perhaps indicate the storage of cereals, if not their on-site processing. Certainly, the recovered charred plant remains include barley seeds, while a number of cropweeds were also identified, which may have derived from the processing of cereals.

The faunal remains assemblage from Site A, is dominated by cow bones. This is repeated on other Downland farmsteads. The low number of individual bones and the fact that only one bone was found with evidence of butchery, may indicate that the animals were not slaughtered and jointed on the site. Unfortunately, the small size of the recovered bone assemblage, prevented any detailed conclusions from being drawn, regarding the exploitation of livestock. No evidence was found for either the hunting of wild animals or the gathering of fruit, berries roots or vegetables. As only three oyster shells were found during the excavation, the utilisation of marine resources also appears to have been limited. It is possible however, that any marine molluscs were shelled at their point of collection on the coast. In this situation, the on-site consumption of shell-fish, would have left no archaeological trace. In addition to this, small fish bones do not survive well in the alkaline conditions created by the chalk.

The only 'craft' activities descernible from the archaeological record at Patcham Fawcett Site A were pottery and flint 'tool' production. It should be noted that none of the Late Bronze Age downland sites excavated in south-east England, have revealed evidence of bronze working. This specialist craft appears to be limited to low-lying areas.

As mentioned in the main body of the text the extensive erosion of Site A and the relative lack of artefacts, means that it is impossible to determine either the function of any of the possible excavated round houses or the social organisation of the site. Indeed, the possibility that these structures are not dwelling places at all, but unoccupied farm buildings, such as animal shelters or stables, must be recognised.

In the light of the above, this excavation at Patcham Fawcett must be seen as part of a wider study of Bronze Age Sussex. The importance of the site, lies in its association with the field systems and other broadly contemporaneous Downland farmsteads located in the vicinity. These include the settlement sites at Varley Halls and Downsview recently excavated by South Eastern Archaeological Services. Indeed, the small Middle Bronze Age pottery assemblage from Site A, has shared characteristics with that recovered from Downsview, and may fall within a similar date range. This apparent concentration of Late Bronze Age activity in the area from the middle of the secondmillenium B.C., may suggest a density of settlement and landuse not previously suspected for the South Downs in Sussex.

In 1994, South Eastern Archaeological Services were commissioned to undertake an archaeological excavation on the western side of the original Patcham Fawcett School building (Site B). This work revealed conclusive evidence of Bronze Age occupation, including an extremely well-preserved double ring roundhouse. Although the post-excavation analysis of Site B is still being conducted, it seems certain that Site A only represents a part of a larger farmstead site or series of later Bronze Age sites, situated on the Downland ridge at Patcham Fawcett.

This density of Late Bronze Age settlement sites on the Downland around modern Brighton, suggests that the land was being fully exploited during this period. The difficult farming conditions of thin downland soils and lack of surface water, suggests that the inhabitants of these farmsteads may have been forced onto peripheral land as a result of pressure on better quality soils in the lower pastures and river valleys. As Drewett (1988, 118) explains, the period of rapid economic and social development that was the Late Bronze Age, led to a 'significant increase in population, causing pressure on the best land in South-East England'. Consequently, during the later Bronze Age (c. 1400 - 500 B.C), an efficient agricultural system, dependent on a high degree of social organisation and cohesion was developed in which large areas of poor quality downland soils were brought under systematic management. This expansion is represented by farmsteads such as Site A at Patcham Fawcett where the archaeological evidence serves to confirm the prominence of highly organised food production.

The possible Early Romano-British double lynchet trackway discovered at Patcham Fawcett, is indicative of a possible nearby settlement of that date. Certainly, this theory is supported by the apparent signs of Late Iron Age and Romano-British occupation excavated in 1956 and subsequently buried under the school buildings (Holleyman and yeates, 1960, 138 - 43) unfortunately it is impossible to ascertain if

the trackway served this probable settlement. Together with the 1963 discovery of the previously described Romano-British inhumation, the archaeological evidence establishes the use of the downland ridge at Patcham Fawcett for both settlement and agriculture in the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. South Eastern Archaeological Services have studied a large block of Later Prehistoric or Early Romano-British field systems within Eastwick Valley, to the north of Patcham Fawcett (Site A). A number of trackways were recorded during the excavations within Eastwick Valley (Barber, L. forthcoming). It is possible that the linear features found at Patcham Fawcett are integral to this network.

The main lynchet trackway sampled in Eastwick Valley runs down the ridge to the west of the valley and originally continued up the steep valley side to the south-west, towards Ladies Mile. The trackways, fieldsystems and the large number of settlement sites in the vicinity of Patcham Fawcett indicate that the Early Romano-British period was one of intense cultivation in the region. This is not surprising, as 'the basis of the wealth of the Roman economy was land and its exploitation by farming had to produce sufficient surplus to support the more sophisticated aspects of Roman life' (Drewett, Rudling, Gardiner, 1988, 204).

The importance of that region of the South Downs encompassing Patcham Fawcett School in terms of ritual, settlement and agriculture, not only in later prehistoric times but also into the Romano-British period has therefore been confirmed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Llewellyn Brighton Ltd. are gratefully acknowledged for fully funding both the excavation and post-excavation work. I would also like to thank Dr. Andrew Woodcock (East Sussex County Council), those specialists who provided the reports cited above and Jane Russell, for drawing the illustrations.

ARCHIVE

The finds recovered from the excavation and the full paper archive will be deposited in Brighton Museum (Accession no. 230631).

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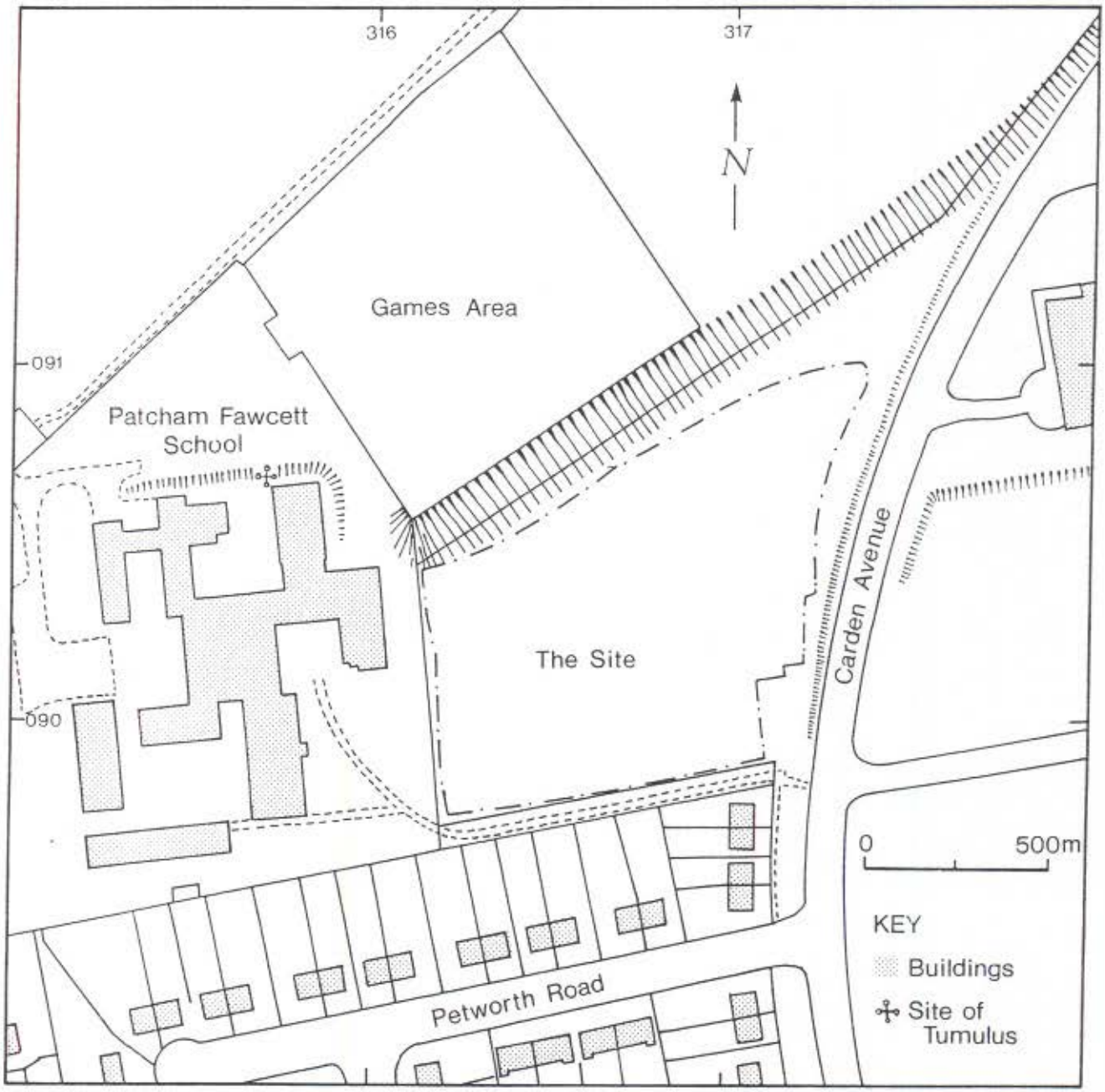

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	Title **Site Location Plan**		
	Date 17.3.95	Ref. 1994/103	Drawing No. Fig. 1

SEAS	Site	Patcham Fawcett		
	Title	Plan of Recorded Archaeological Features		
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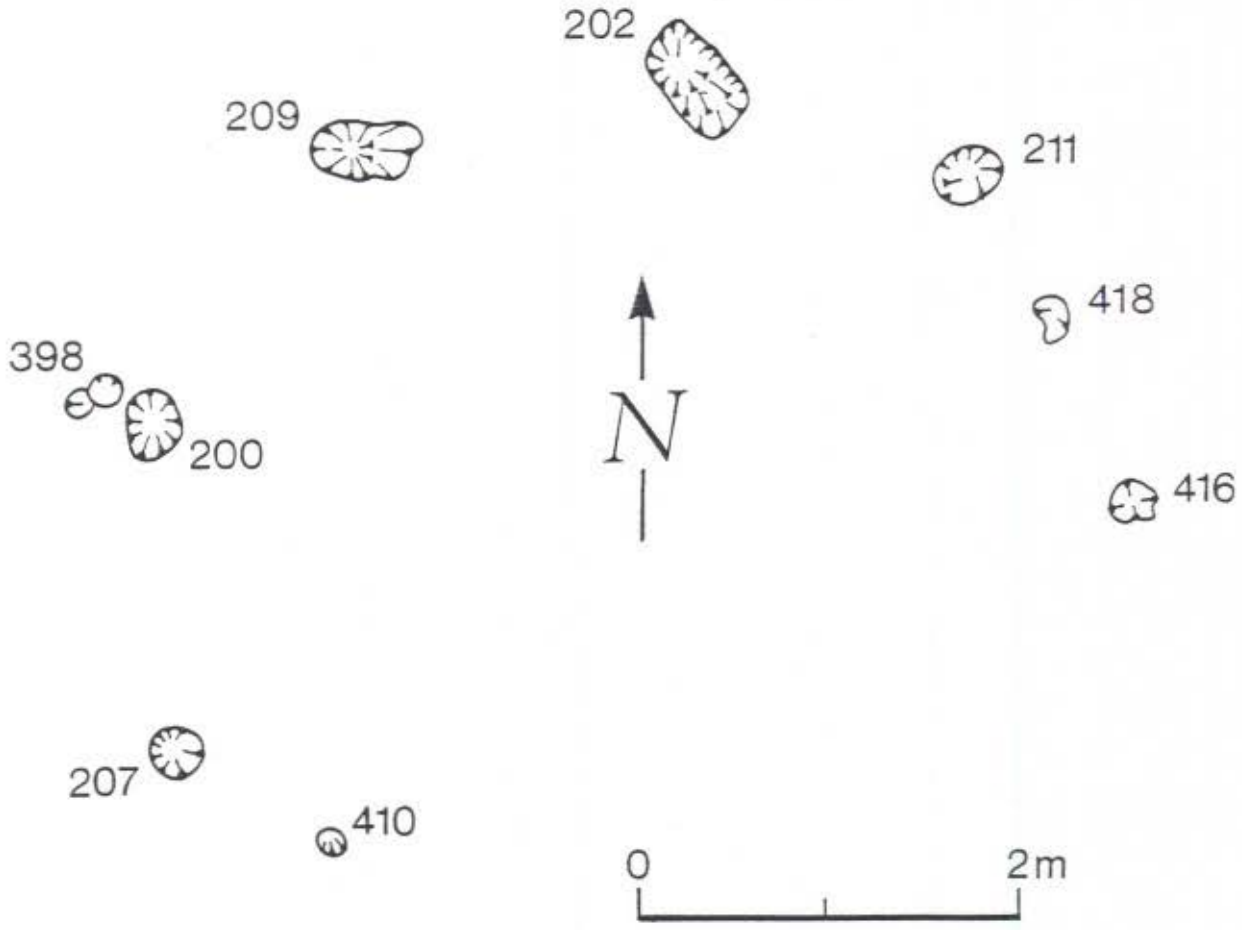

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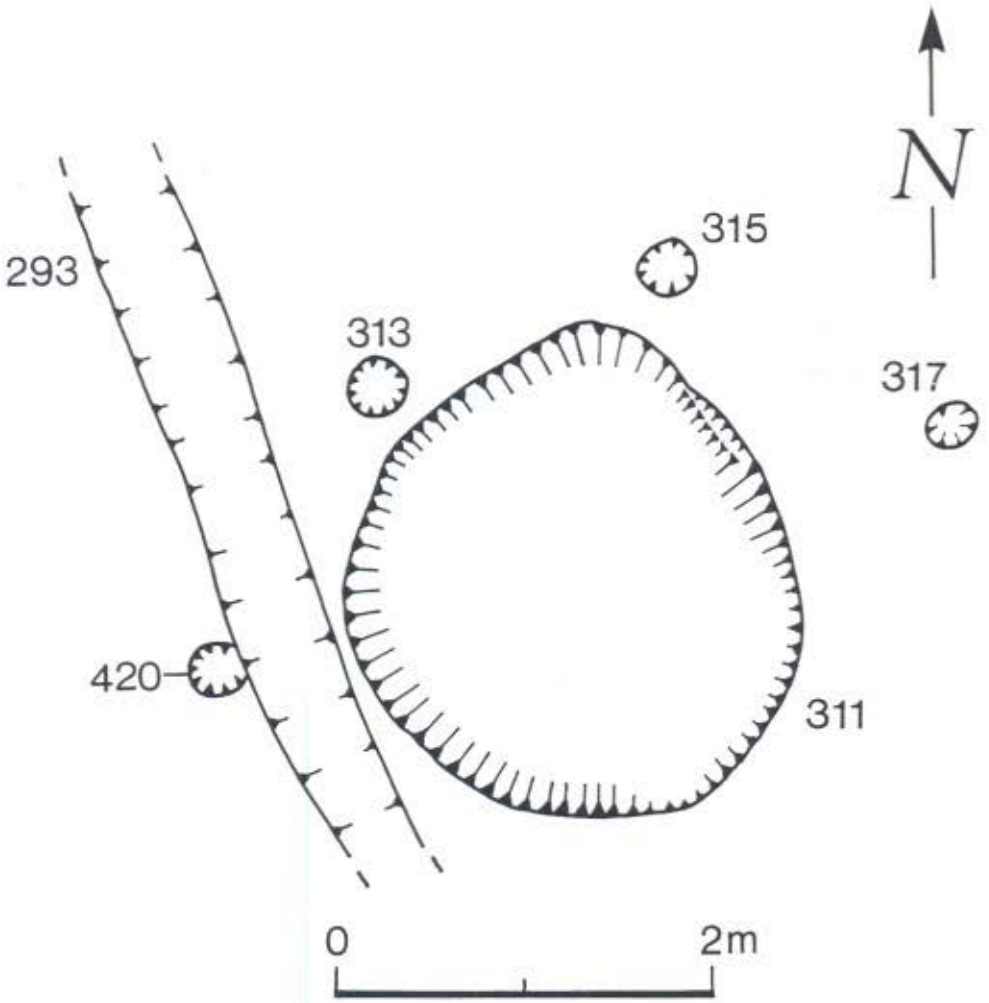
	Date	17.3.95	Ref. 1994/103	Drawing No. Fig. 3



SEAS	Site	Patcham Fawcett		
	Title	Plan of Building 2, Pit 311 and Romano-British ditch 293		
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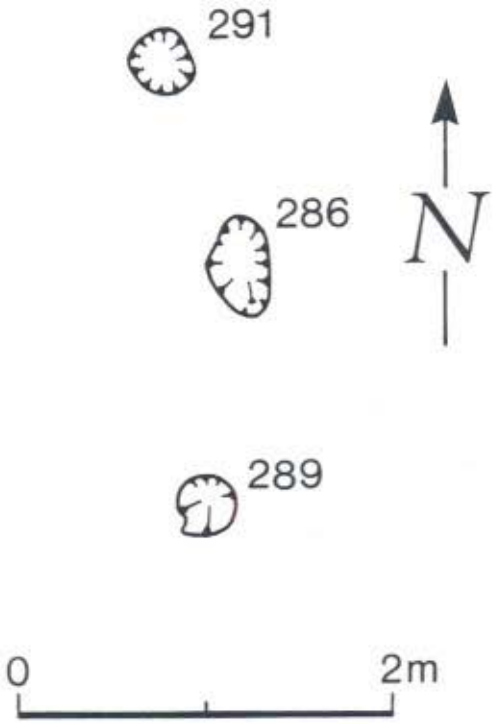

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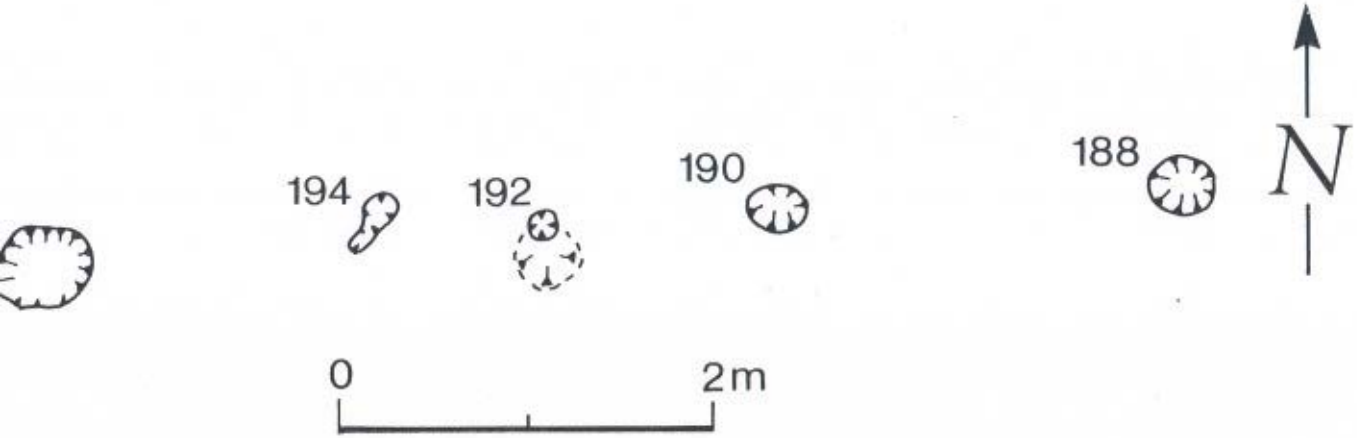

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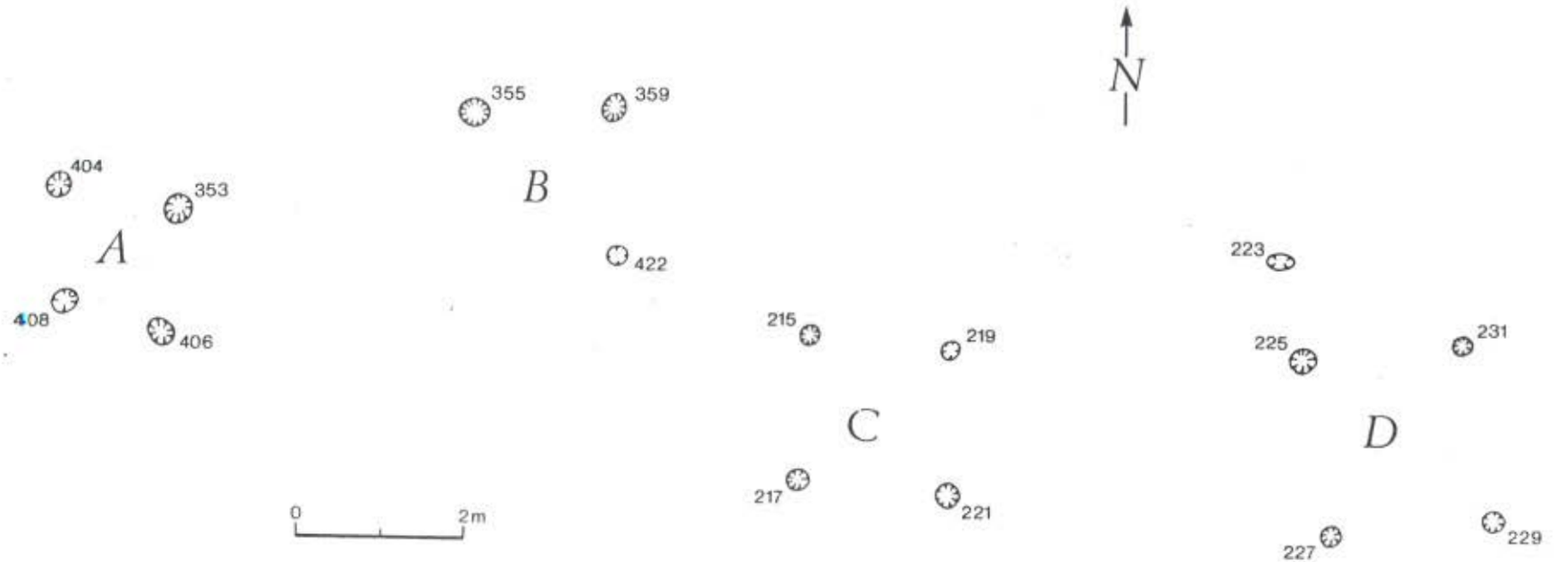

SEAS	Site	Patcham Fawcett		
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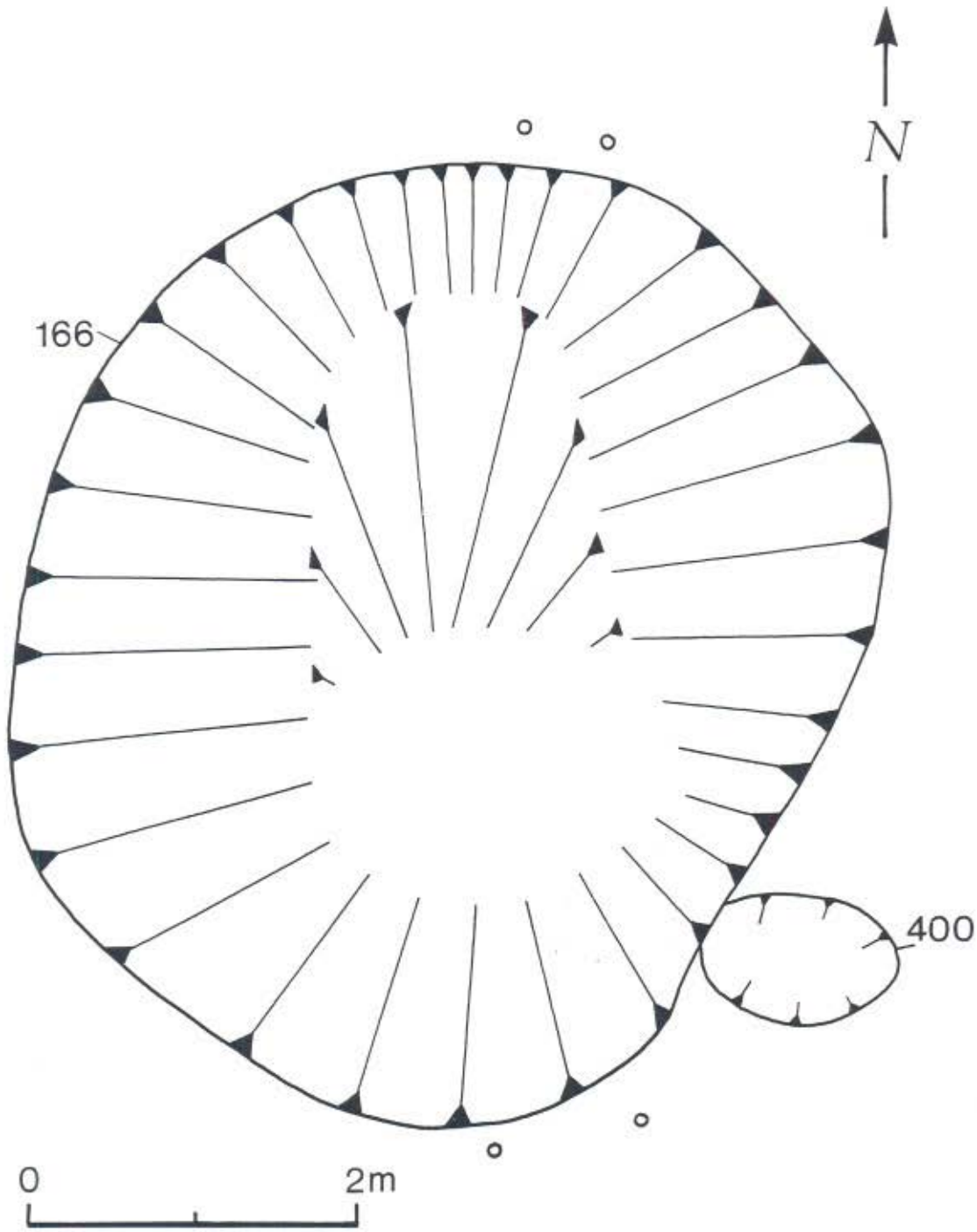
	Date 17.3.95	Ref. 1994/103	Drawing No. Fig. 7	



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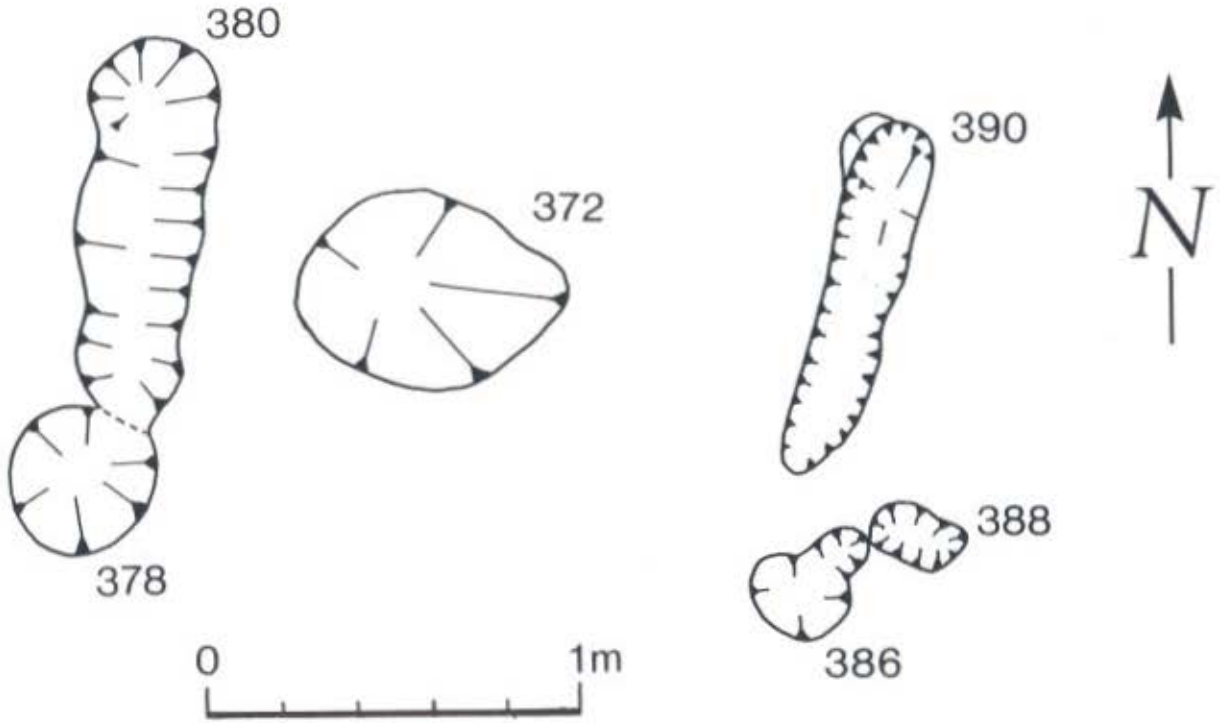
	Date 17.3.95	Ref. 1994/103	Drawing No. Fig. 8



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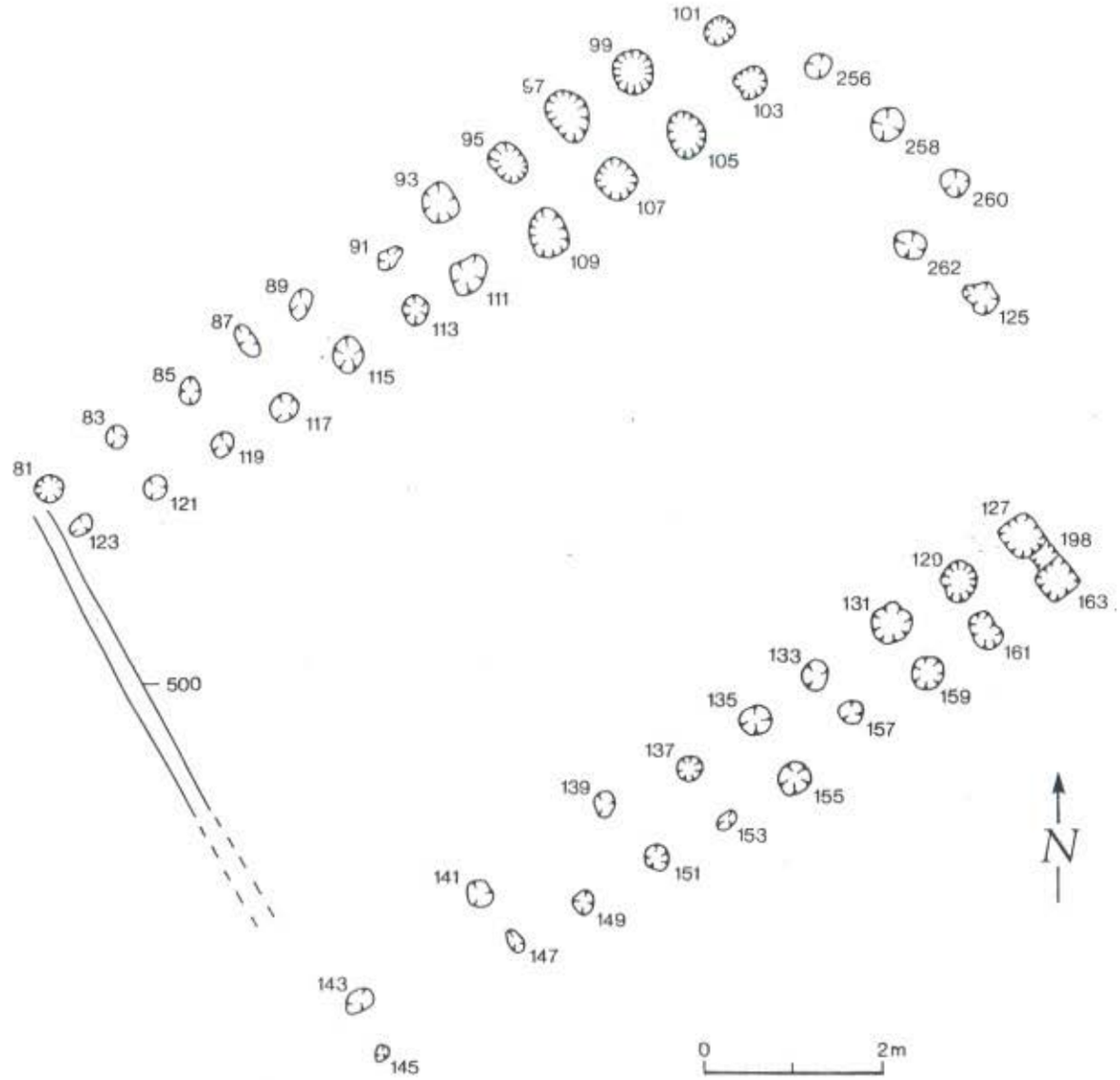

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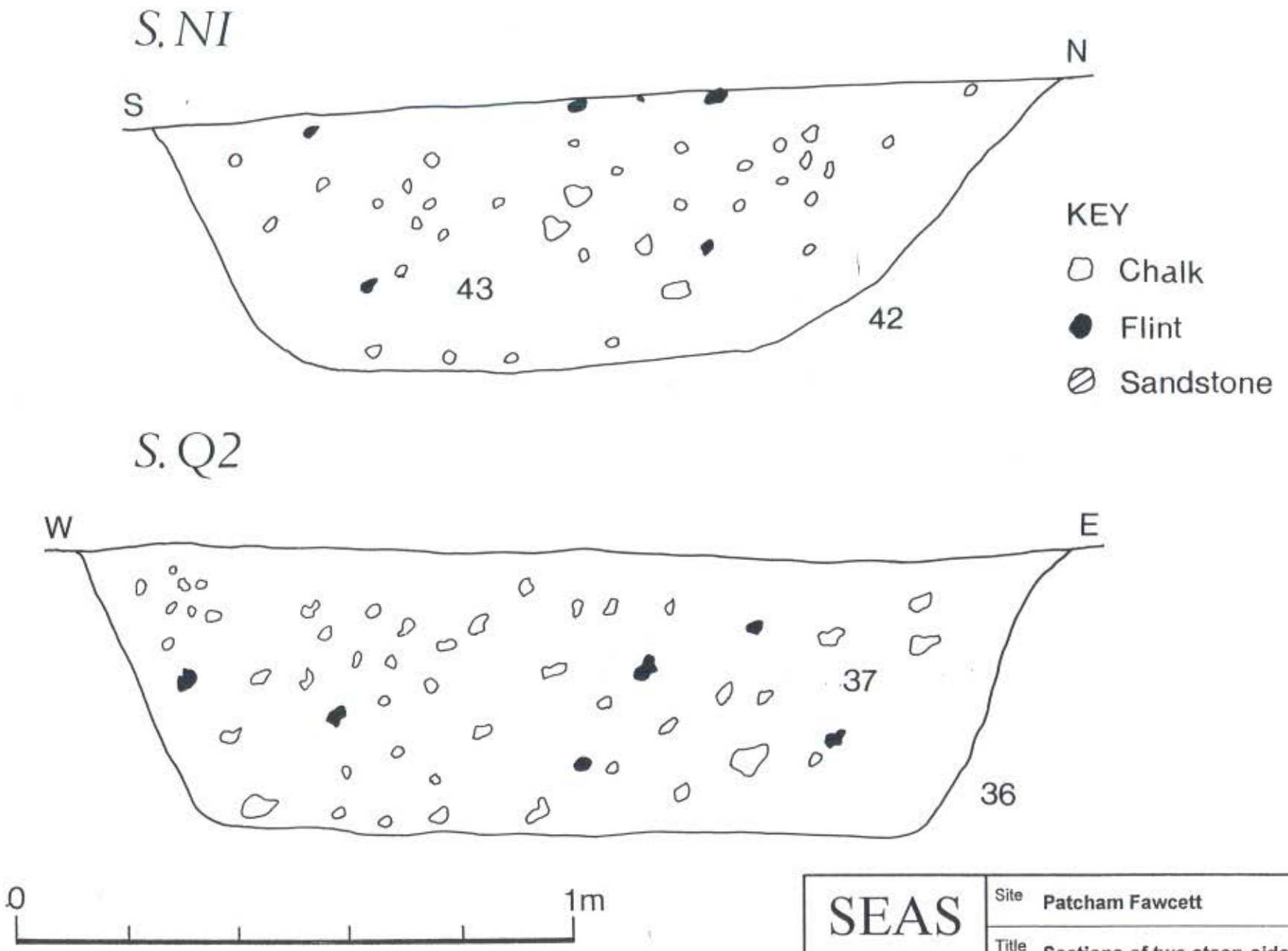
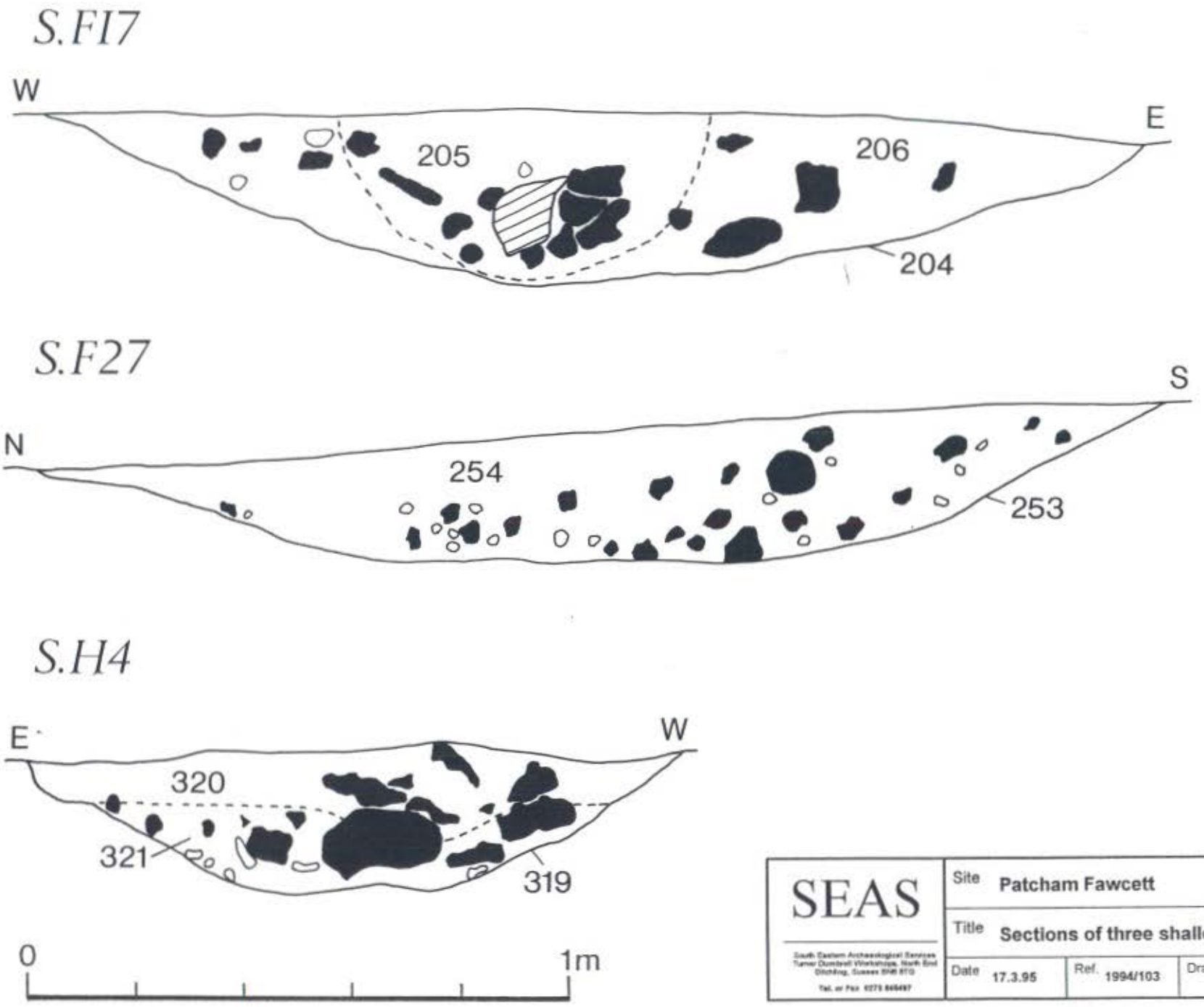
	Date 17.3.95	Ref. 1994/103	Drawing No. Fig. 10	

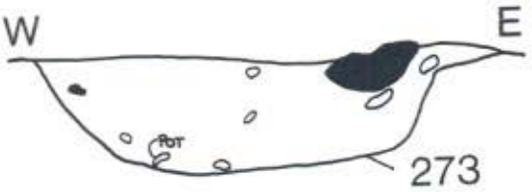


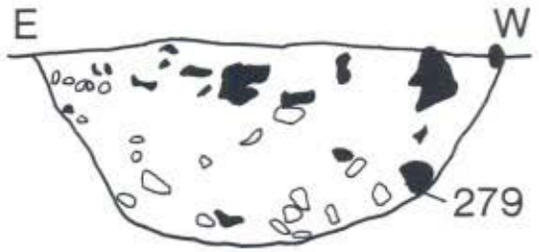
SEAS	Site	Patcham Fawcett		
South Eastern Archaeological Services Turner Dumbrell Workshops, North End Ditchling, Sussex BN6 8TG Tel. or Fax 0273 846497	Title	Sections of two steep-sided pits		
	Date 17.3.95	Ref. 1994/103	Drawing No. Fig. 11	

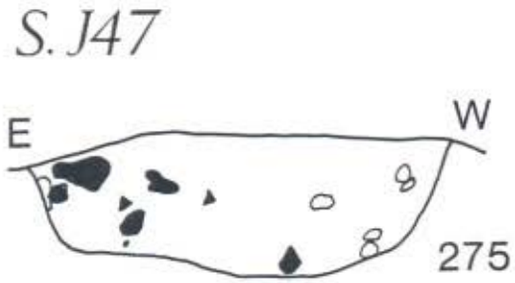


SEAS	Site	Patcham Fawcett		
South Eastern Archaeological Services Turner Dumbrell Workshops, North End Ditchling, Sussex BN6 8TG Tel. or Fax 0273 846487	Title	Sections of three shallow pits		
	Date 17.3.95	Ref. 1994/103	Drawing No. Fig. 12	

1.

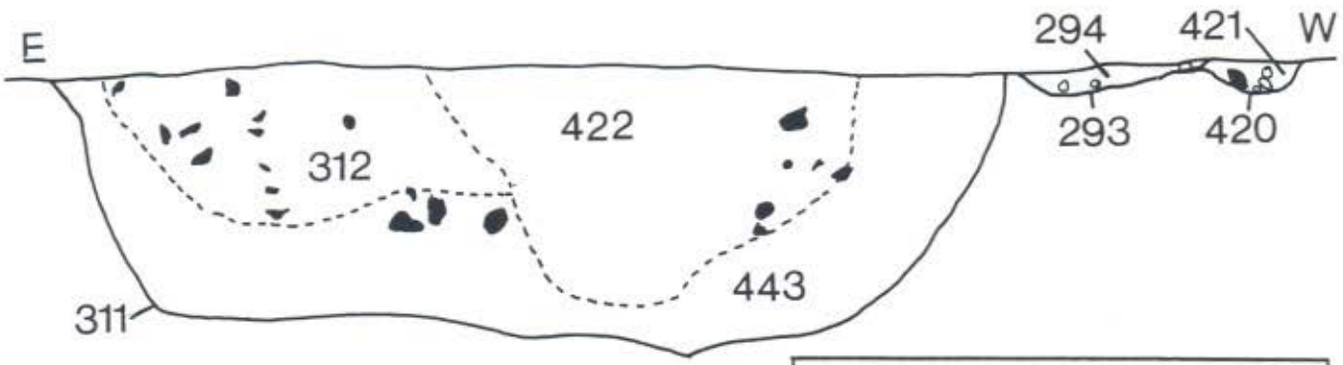






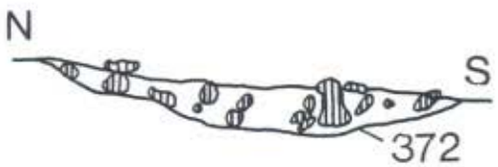
Site	Patcham Fawcett		
Title	Sections of three Bronze-Age pits		
Date 17.3.95	Ref. 1994/103	Drawing No. Fig. 13, 1	

2.



Site	Patcham Fawcett		
Title	Section showing Romano-British ditch 293, cutting post-hole 420		
Date 17.3.95	Ref. 1994/103	Drawing No. Fig. 13, 2	

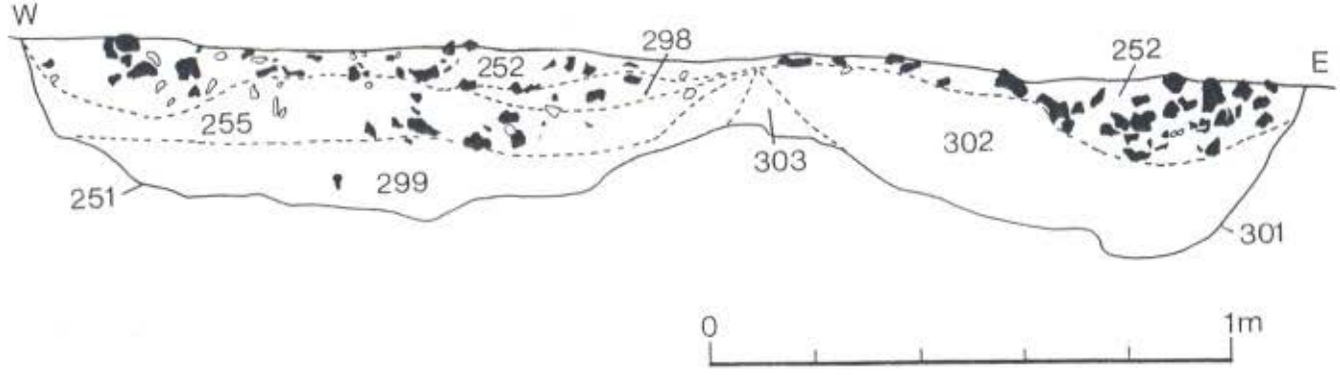
3.



FIRE CRACKED FLINT

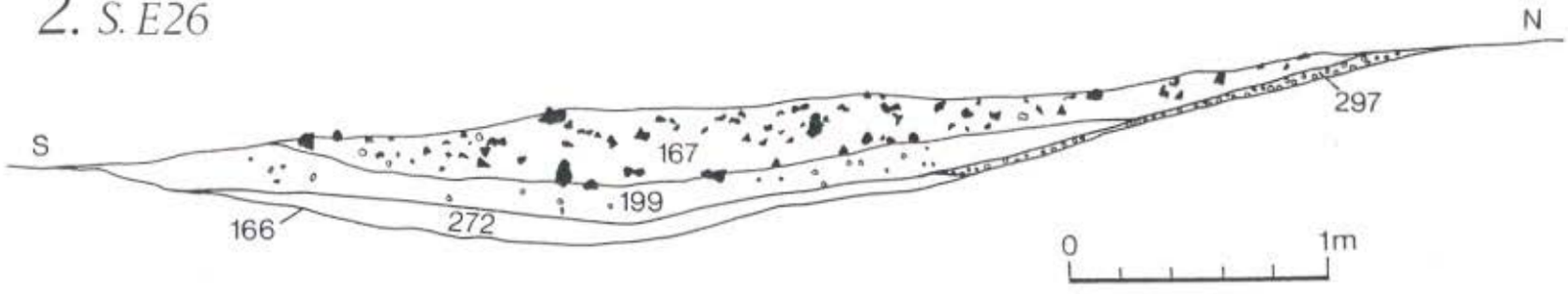
SEAS South Eastern Archaeological Services Turner Dumbrell Workshops, North End Ditchling, Sussex BN6 8TG Tel. or Fax 0273 846497	Site	Patcham Fawcett	
	Title	Section of hearth	
	Date 17.3.95	Ref. 1994/103	Drawing No. Fig. 13, 3

1. S. H1

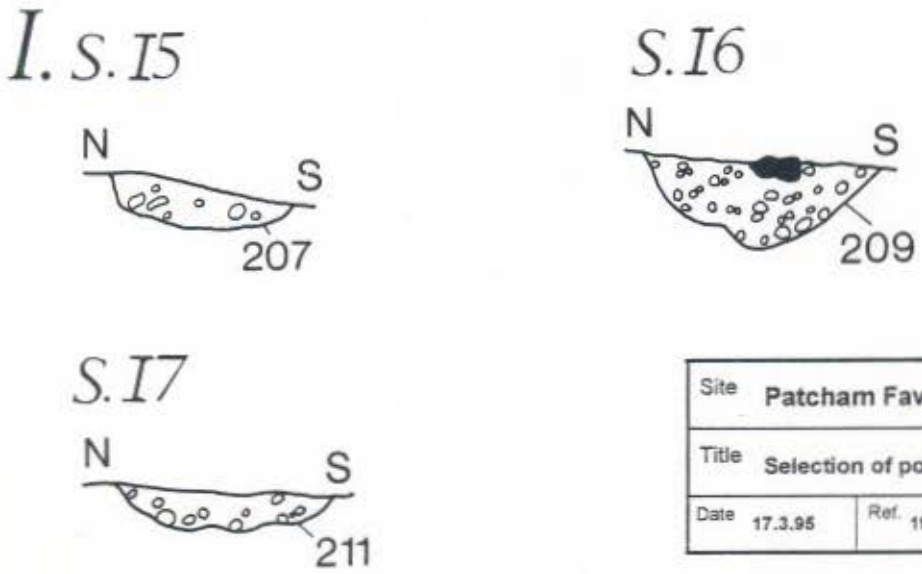


SEAS	Site Patcham Fawcett		
South Eastern Archaeological Services Turner Dumbell Workshops, North End Ditching, Sussex BN8 6TG Tel. or Fax 0273 846497	Title Section of two intercutting Bronze-Age pits		
	Date 17.3.95	Ref. 1994/103	Drawing No. Fig. 14, 1

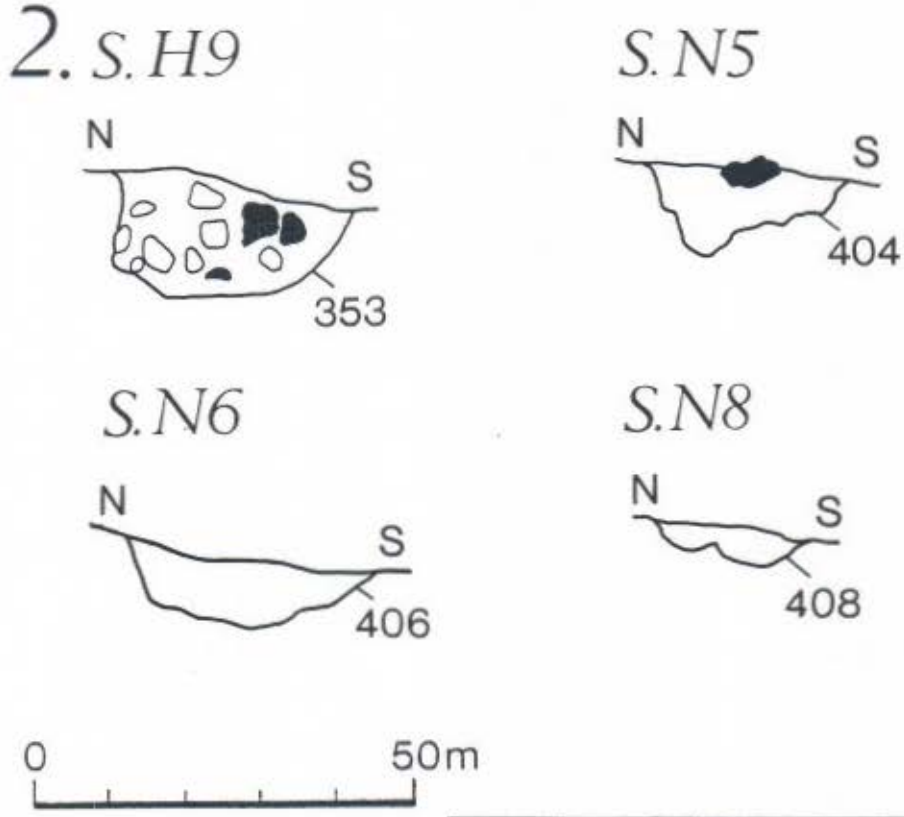
2. S. E26



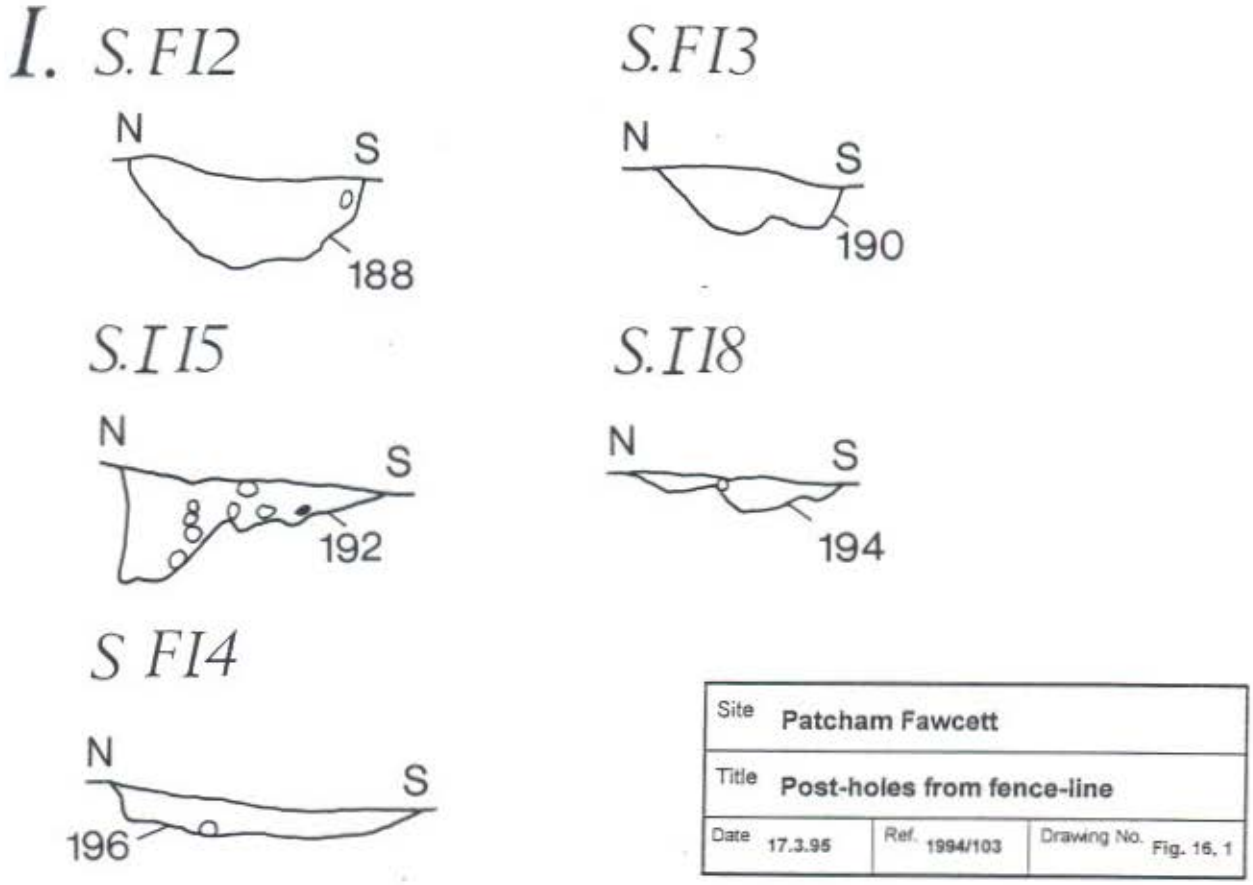
SEAS	Site Patcham Fawcett		
South Eastern Archaeological Services Turner Dumbell Workshops, North End Ditching, Sussex BN8 6TG Tel. or Fax 0273 846497	Title Section of large circular scoop		
	Date 17.3.95	Ref. 1994/103	Drawing No. Fig. 14, 2



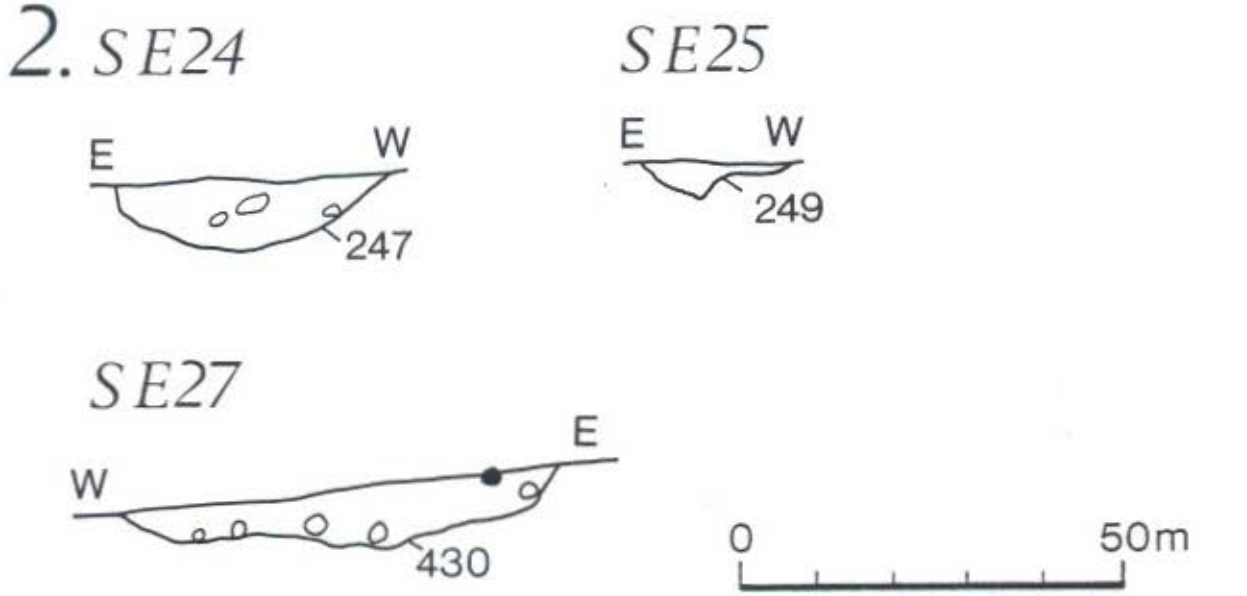
Site Patcham Fawcett		
Title Selection of post-holes from Building I		
Date 17.3.95	Ref. 1994/103	Drawing No. Fig. 15, 1



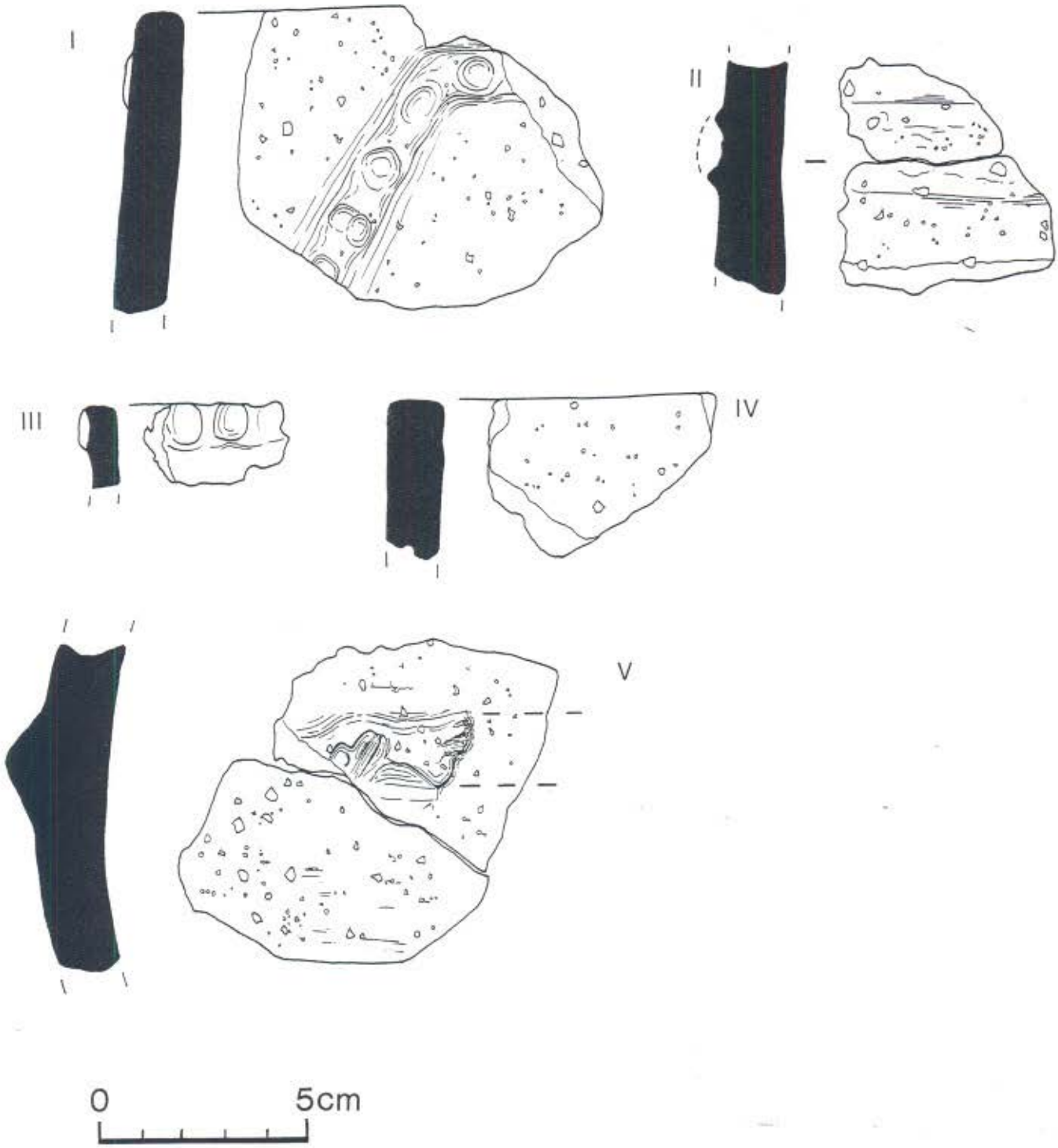
SEAS South Eastern Archaeological Services Turner Dunstall Workshops, North End Ditching, Sussex BN8 6TG Tel. or Fax 0273 846487	Site Patcham Fawcett		
	Title Post-holes from 4-post structure A		
	Date 17.3.95	Ref. 1994/103	Drawing No. Fig. 15, 2



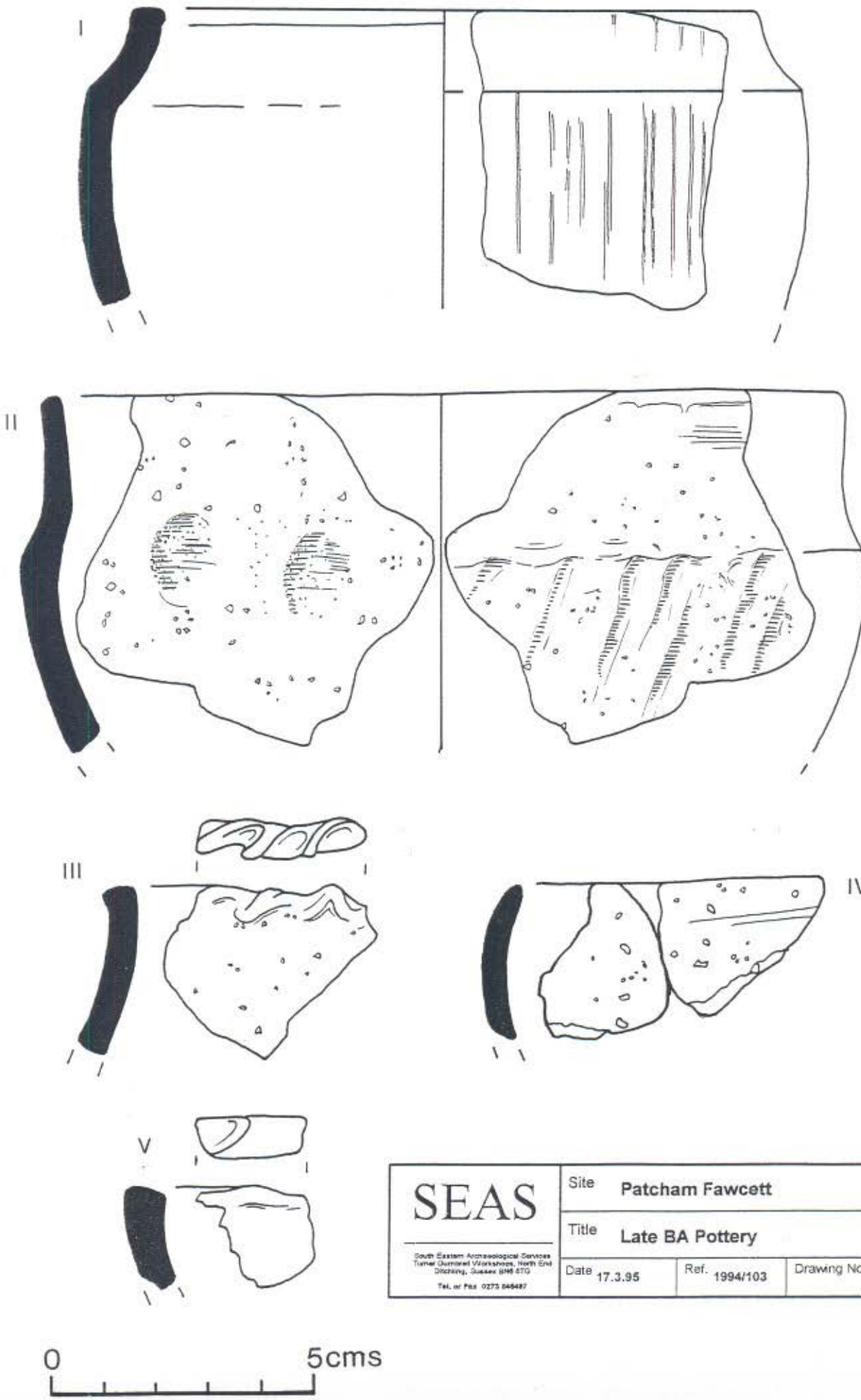
Site Patcham Fawcett		
Title Post-holes from fence-line		
Date 17.3.95	Ref. 1994/103	Drawing No. Fig. 16, 1



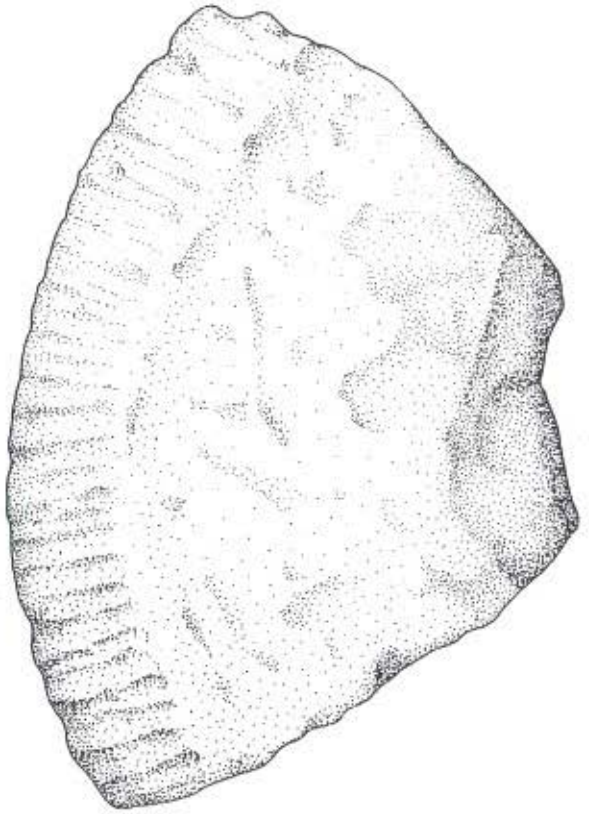
SEAS	Site Patcham Fawcett		
	Title Three sections across the Romano-British ditches		
South Eastern Archaeological Services Turner Dunstanel Workshops, North End Ditching, Sussex BN8 5TG Tel. or Fax. 0273 848487	Date 17.3.95	Ref. 1994/103	Drawing No. Fig. 16, 2



SEAS	Site	Patcham Fawcett	
South Eastern Archaeological Services Turner Dumbrek Workshops, North End Ditchling, Sussex BN6 8TG Tel. or Fax 0273 846487	Title	Middle BA Pottery	
	Date 17.3.95	Ref. 1994/103	Drawing No. Fig. 17



SEAS	Site	Patcham Fawcett	
South Eastern Archaeological Services Turner Dumbrell Workshops, North End Ditchling, Sussex BN6 8TG Tel. or Fax 0273 846487	Title	Late BA Pottery	
	Date 17.3.95	Ref. 1994/103	Drawing No. Fig. 18



SEAS	Site	Patcham Fawcett	
South Eastern Archaeological Services Turner Dumbrell Workshops, North End Ditchling, Sussex BN6 8TG Tel. or Fax 0273 846487	Title	Quern Stone	
	Date 17.3.95	Ref. 1994/103	Drawing No. Fig. 19