

# Short articles



## Evidence for the prehistoric occupation of the Upper Cuckmere Valley

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### INTRODUCTION

A large assemblage of prehistoric flintwork (some 670 items) has been brought to the attention of the society by Mr Richard Channing, who collected it from two fields just east of the Cuckoo Trail near his home in Hellingly. Both fields had been under pasture until recently. The Cuckoo Trail assemblage adds significantly to a small body of evidence which shows that the locale, on and just above the flood-plain of the River Cuckmere, was exploited during prehistory. Present is material of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Early Bronze Age date. The assemblage, which adds to the range of implement types known locally, shows a continuity of interest in the area through all three periods. Mr Channing continues to monitor the site and will retain the finds.

### THE FLINT AND ITS FINDSPOT

The two fields are situated either side of a minor, westward draining tributary of the Cuckmere (NGR TQ 5850 1155). Key to understanding the distribution of the assemblage is the geology underlying the two fields. The south-west corner of the field to the north is on alluvium, the field to the south is on iron-rich river terrace deposits. Neither contains *in-situ* natural flint. When Mr Channing collected the assemblage, he made no attempt to separate flint from the two fields, but it contains both heavily and slightly iron-stained material. On visiting the site I observed that flint on the field to the south was heavily iron-stained and that flint on the field to the north was less so. Damage to some of these showed that the staining is superficial and relates, not to the original source of the material, but to a difference in post-depositional environment. Thus, with a few exceptions, it has been possible to divide the finds between the two fields.

The bulk of the assemblage comes from the south-west corner of the field to the north, where a concentration of undiagnostic debitage is visible today. Two typological groups are distinguishable within it, one early and one late. The early group includes a large obliquely-blunted point of Early Mesolithic type and many blades, blade tools and small blade and flake cores of undifferentiated Mesolithic/Early Neolithic type. Characteristic of this group is core preparation, visible both on the cores and the blades struck from them. The later group includes a bi-facially flaked laurel-leaf point, a thumbnail scraper, part of a flaked axe and several barbed and tanged arrowheads. These are of

Neolithic and/or Early Bronze Age date. Also present are many flakes, flake cores and flake tools. Mr Channing notes that most of the blades, the flaked axe and the butt-end of a polished axe come from one part of the field and that the barbed-and-tanged arrowheads come from another. The much smaller quantity of material from the field to the south includes a roughly flaked Neolithic adze and a handful of flake tools.

Typologically, the extent of the two groups is blurred by uncertainties among specialists regarding the chronological attribution of some tool types, particularly flake scrapers. Blade technology and core preparation, however, are thought to be diagnostic of the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic period, while assemblages of large flakes, especially if they include tools with invasive retouch (Fig. 2:30), are thought to be later. This allows a number of chronological attributions to be made (Table 1; Figs 1 & 2). Apart from enabling me to identify the difference between the flint from the two fields, my visit broadly confirmed the dating suggested above by adding a Late Mesolithic scalene triangle, a further blade core and a sherd of flint and grog-tempered Beaker pottery to the assemblage from the field to the north, and a flake-end scraper to the assemblage from the field to the south.

### RAW MATERIAL

The origin of most of the flint is the Downs. A few frost-shattered surfaces deeply patinated prior to knapping recommend a source in a secondary deposit, such as the Clay-with-flints, over one on the chalk (*see* Appendix). The flint used for the adze, which is more deeply iron-stained than the rest of the assemblage and was probably iron-stained prior to manufacture, derives from the Clay-with-flints or nearby plateau gravels. The remainder is beach-battered: it comes directly from the seashore or indirectly via Wealden river gravels.

### PREHISTORIC ACTIVITY

Although Mr Channing's method was unsystematic, the assemblage was collected by him over many visits to the site, and there is every reason to suppose that it is representative of the activities which took place there. The cores are the waste product of tool manufacture. The very large number of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic examples indicates repeated visits to, if not long-term occupation of, the site during this period. An unusual find associated with this period is a group of hollow scrapers fashioned from early blade and flake cores (Fig. 1:19). All show clear evidence of heavy use-wear in the hollow. They were probably used in the manufacture of arrow shafts (*cf.* Clark 1927). The remaining early material is typical of the lightweight tool kits conventionally associated with mobile hunter-gatherer groups. The later material is rather different. As well as lightweight tools, it includes three heavy core-tools. Putting aside any possible ritual considerations, this implies

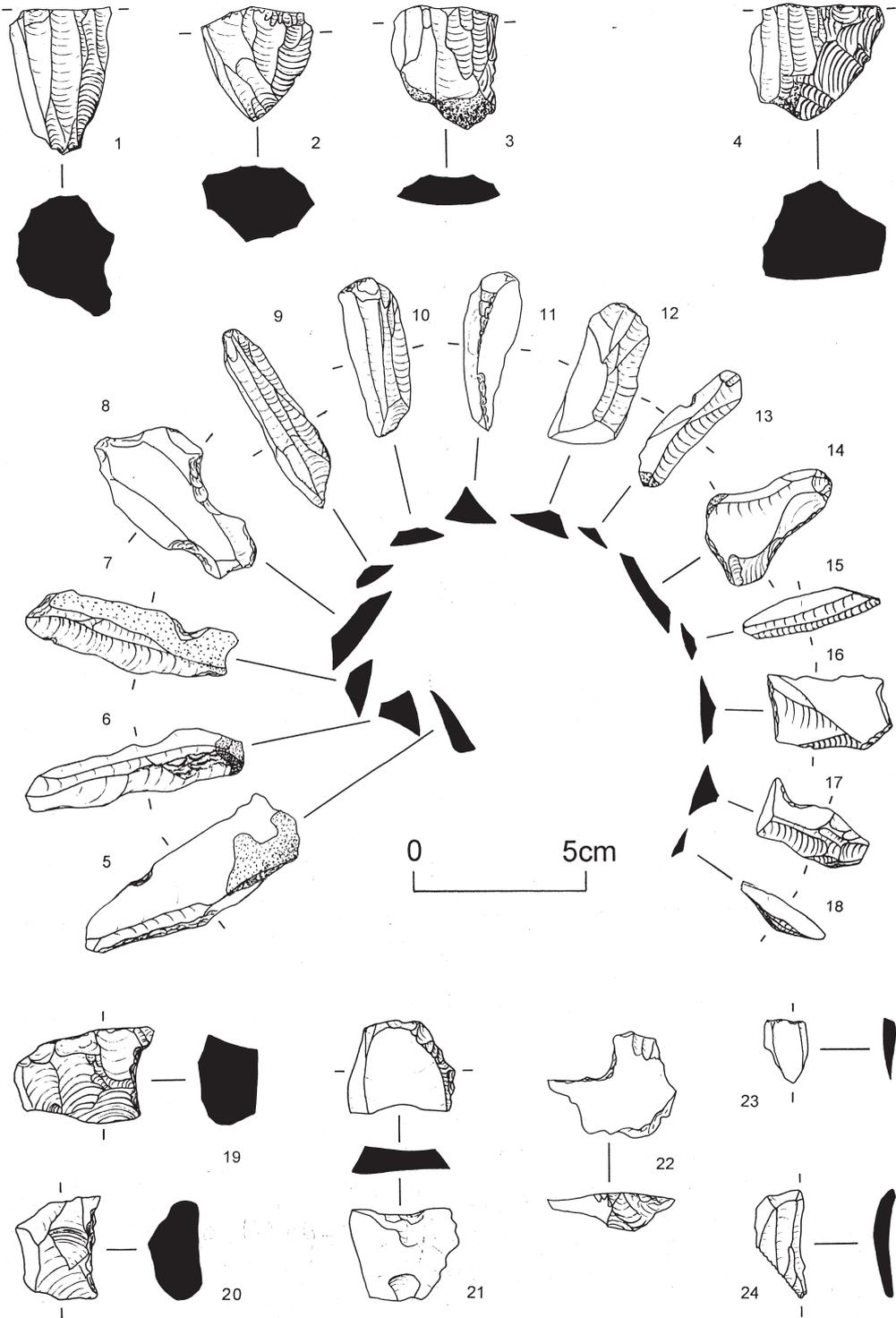


Fig. 1. Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flintwork.

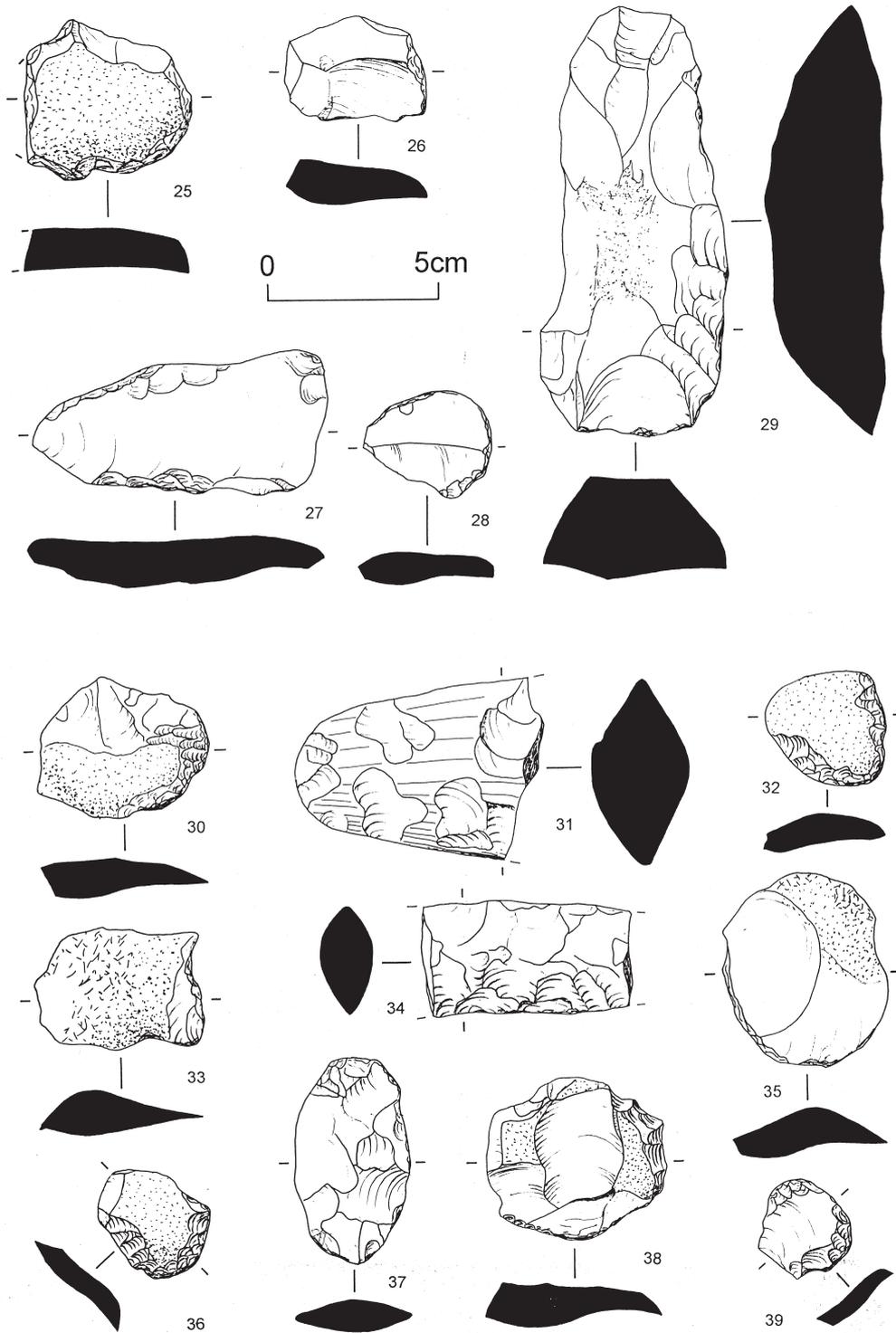


Fig. 2. Probable Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flintwork (25-9); Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flintwork (30-39).

Table 1. Flintwork in the Cuckoo trail assemblage.

Category/technology	Quantification					Date	Illustration (Figs 1 & 2)
	Total	Re-touch	Core preparation	Stained	Water-rolled		
Blade core	24		18	1	1	Mesolithic/early Neolithic	1, 2, & 4
Flake from blade core	27	7	17	6			3 & 22
Blades >3:1	11	1	7	4			9 & 10
Backed blade	2	2	2	1			5
Broken ?blade	53	5	17	14			N/I
Micro blade	14		4	1			N/I
Microolith	2	2					15 & 19
Blade <3:1	85	12	26	15	1		12
Notched blade	17	2	5	3			7 & 13
Crested blade	6		1	1			6
Notched crested blade	2	2	1	1			N/I
Blade-end/side scraper	4	4	3	1			14 & 21
Blade-end scraper/truncated blade	2	2	1				16
Waisted blade-end scraper	1	1					8
Blade-side scraper	3	3	2				N/I
Hollow blade scraper	3	3	1	1			N/I
Blade burrin	1	1					N/I
Blade piercer	1	1	1				17
Blade saw	1	1	1				24
Flake and blade core	17		9	3			N/I
Flake and blade core/hollow scraper	6	6	1			19	
Fabricator	4	4		2		11	
Flakes <25 mm	98	4	40	15	2	23	
Flake-end/side scraper	7	7	1	4		25, 28, 32 & 36	
Flake-end scraper	3	3		2		26 & 33	
Flake-side scraper	2	2		1		N/I	
Hollow flake scraper	7	7		1		N/I	
Notched flake	2	2		1		N/I	
Adze	1			1		29	
Thumbnail scraper	1	1				39	
Polished axe	1			1		31	
Flake >25 mm	134	28	1	51	8	35	
Flake core	16			1	1	N/I	
Flaked axe	1					34	
Laurel leaf point	1					37	
Flaked knife (broken)	1					N/I	
Barbed-and-tanged arrowhead	4			1		N/I	
Flake piercer	1	1				N/I	
Chips	102	4		6	5	N/I	
Hammer-stone fragments	2				2	N/I	

a very different subsistence strategy for the site during this period, possibly including woodland clearance and permanent settlement. Other finds from the locale indicate a similar range of activities for the area as a whole during the two periods. These include lightweight Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flintwork from three Hellingly locations just upstream of the present site (Holden & Row 1974, 6; Garwood 1984, 64; Unpublished), and two Neolithic axes, one from an unknown location in Hellingly (Holden & Row 1974, 6), and one from a few hundred metres of the present site (Holden 1967, 321).

sourcing of flint requires the survival of traces of its original surface and its original interior colour. With a few exceptions, conforming flints from these sites are grey to black in colour and have thick un-battered white or creamy white cortices. There are four sources of flint which meet this description locally, all of them on or near the Downs. Flint with an unstained cortex comes from the surface of the chalk (that from depth tends to be blacker and to have a much thinner cortex) or coombe rock, and flint with an iron-stained cortex comes from the Clay-with-flints or decalcified coombe deposits.

## CONCLUSION

The Cuckoo Trail assemblage is important because of the long-term interest it shows in the area during prehistory, because of its findspot in the Cuckmere Valley, and because of the different subsistence strategies it represents. A recent paper by the Chairman suggests a link between the Neolithic use of the Downs, in the form of long barrows either side of the Cuckmere, and mutually intervisible Mesolithic sites such as Endelwick Farm which were located upstream of them (Drewett 2003, 44–5). In support of this view he appeals to recent archaeological theory which sees the difference between the two periods as ideological rather than economic (Drewett 2003, 42, 44; Thomas 1991, 13–14). While tending to confirm a direct link between the two periods, by re-emphasizing a difference between the economic strategies employed by them, the Cuckoo Trail assemblage does so within a more traditional interpretative framework.

## APPENDIX: SOURCES AND TAPHONOMY OF FLINT FROM THE WEALDEN MESOLITHIC

I have examined Mesolithic assemblages from seven sites in the Weald: Broadstone Warren (Tebbutt 1974), Butcher's Wood, Uckfield (Seager Thomas 1997), Endelwick Farm (Garwood 1984), Eridge Rocks (Greatorex & Seager Thomas 2000), the Hermitage (Jacobi & Tebbutt 1981), Selmeaton (Clark 1934) and now the Cuckoo Trail. The



At first sight the assemblages examined by me appear to fall into one or other of these two groups. Those from the High Weald have unstained cortices and those from the Low Weald have stained cortices. But it is evident from my examination of the Cuckoo Trail assemblage that burial environment can blur such distinctions post-deposition, and, when we look at the burial environments of the assemblages from the two areas — iron-free and iron-rich, respectively — it seems certain that this is what we are seeing. The High Wealden assemblages have been leached of iron and the Low Wealden assemblages have been iron-stained. The exceptions referred to above are beach-battered and arrived on site directly from the seashore or indirectly via Wealden river gravels. They come from the Hermitage (Jacobi & Tebbutt 1981, 9) and Selmeston (Clark 1934, 141). With two possible exceptions, beach-battered flints in the Cuckoo Trail assemblage are all of later date.

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## Excavations east of London Road, Ashington, West Sussex 1999

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In 1993 excavations on the route of the Ashington bypass at America Wood revealed a medieval settlement site, probably a farmstead, and evidence of Late Bronze Age activity. In 1999, in advance of development, a small-scale excavation found further evidence, including a hollow containing Late Bronze Age pottery probably derived from the results of plough action on deposits further upslope. Other features included a post-hole alignment with a right-angled return, a possible building; severely truncated ditch and a cluster of stake-holes around a post-hole. The latter feature and the ditch both contained Bronze Age pottery. Most other features were isolated and are difficult to interpret, although one small pit with fills indicating at least two burning events was found in the south-east corner. It is likely that more features exist undisturbed to the south, outside the excavation area.

## THE SITE

In 1993 excavations on the route of the Ashington bypass were carried out at America Wood by South Eastern Archaeological Services on behalf of West Sussex County Council, and revealed a medieval settlement site, probably a farmstead. In addition, a small pit containing sherds of Late Bronze Age (9th century BC) pottery, a quern and a hammerstone was associated with two gullies and a number of post-holes found (NGR TQ 1343 1636. West Sussex SMR number 5020).

Observations on groundworks have taken place on several developments in the village, including Ivy Close, Rectory Close, Mill Mead and Chanctonbury Meadow (Higgins 1997a,b; 1998a). These have largely provided only negative evidence, although small fragments of bloomery slag were recovered from truncated ditches in both Ivy Close and Rectory Close.

The study site lies to the east of London Road and is bounded to the east by the A24 (Ashington Bypass), to the north by The Lawns bungalow, and to the south by the Bryant Homes Chanctonbury Meadow development. The line between the two developments runs approximately east from the middle of the former bungalow, Sunglow. A field evaluation identified archaeological features in the northern field (Higgins 1998b; 1999), and the subsequent excavation was designed to ensure the recording of archaeological remains within the area of development. Vegetation cover before development was permanent ley in several former fields, which were generally bounded by hedges, some with banks and ditches. The hedges were generally species-poor and not more than 90 to 120 years old; most were considerably younger.

## THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSEMBLAGES

The finds assemblage is similar to that from the America Wood excavation (Priestley-Bell 1994), but sparser, the pottery sherds being smaller and more abraded; certain categories of artefacts, e.g. quernstones, were absent from the latter site.

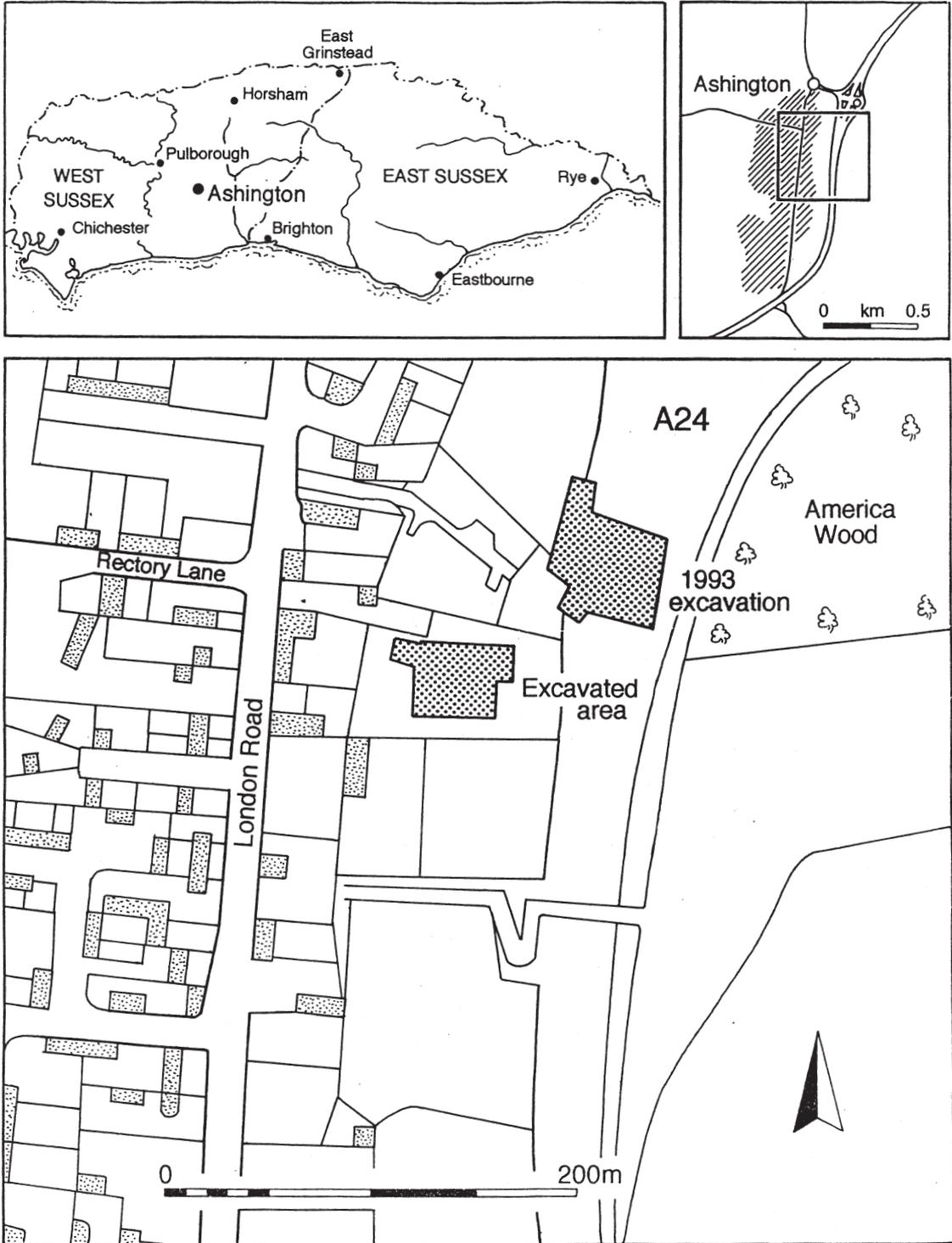


Fig. 1. Site location.

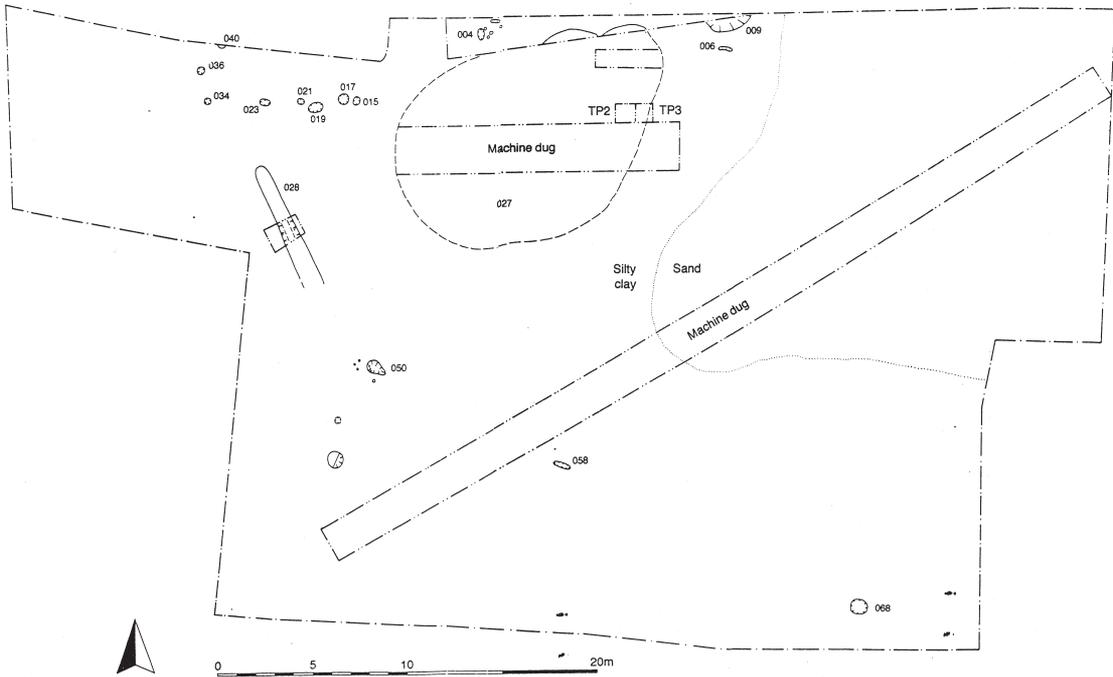


Fig. 2. Plan of excavated area.

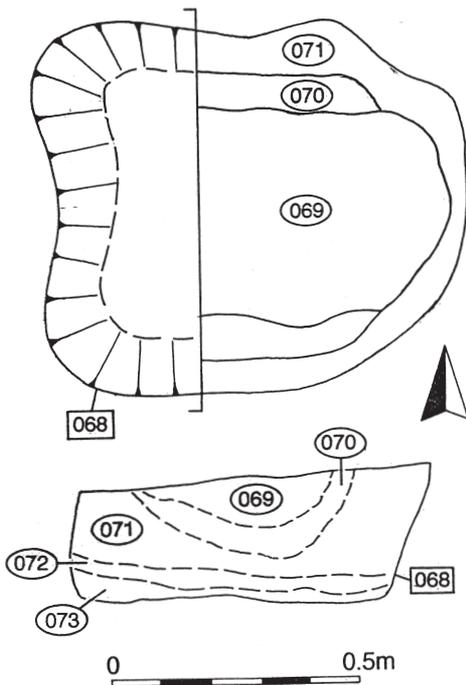


Fig. 3. Detailed plan and section of feature 068.

Seven bulk soil samples were taken. They were processed by immersion in dilute hydrogen peroxide solution, followed by wet sieving (flot sieve size 250 $\mu$ , residue sieve size 710 $\mu$ ), drying, and sorting under low magnification. The results were not particularly enlightening and are not presented here. The general paucity of environmental information of any kind is thought to reflect the post-depositional conditions.

## DISCUSSION

The site has evidently been the scene of several phases of activity, which are listed and described below. It should be noted that the division of the results into phases is a partly subjective process, and the results are open to different interpretations. In particular, the dating evidence is in some cases slender, sometimes no more than a single worked flint, and the assignment of contexts to phases, and of phases to chronological periods, is thus often tentative.

### PHASE 1. NATURAL DEPOSITS AND ANIMAL DISTURBANCE

The natural deposits comprise Wadhurst Clay: lenses of sand and clay. The sands predominate at the upper parts of the slope, the clays at the lower (Fig. 2). The dotted line demarcating the two areas do not represent a clear distinction, the two types of natural deposit shaded gradually into one another.

Common irregular natural features were noted in the clay area. One such linear feature (42) was sectioned to establish its nature and to stand as representative of the type. No artefacts or ecofacts were present, and it does not appear on any figure

in this report. A certain amount of animal disturbance was also found.

### PHASE 2: LATE BRONZE AGE

Several features contained Bronze Age pottery. A small sloping-sided feature (8) was filled with material similar to that in fill 27 (see below); it appears to be a small scrape of uncertain purpose.

Linear feature 28, probably a ditch, ran approximately north-west to south-east. The sides were parallel and steeply sloping. The feature was only 200 mm deep and had been severely truncated: it faded out to the south-east. The north-western extremity was a terminus, and the ditch thus appeared to respect a post-hole alignment (see below).

A shallow, truncated post-hole (50) contained Bronze Age pottery. It was isolated from other large features except for scatter 47, and was surrounded by six stake-holes (54, 56, 60, 62, 64 & 66), all filled by a material almost exactly similar to the topsoil. Although their fills appear modern, it is possible that they were associated with post-hole 50, possibly from a screen or windbreak, since they are on the south-west.

### PHASE 3: POSSIBLE BRONZE AGE

The fill (27) of a large hollow in the central northern part of the excavation area was investigated by a machine-dug sondage to determine its extent and profile, and three hand-dug test-pits to enhance artefact recovery. The pottery recovered was abraded and the fill (27) appeared to be an accumulation of material eroded from higher up the slope, implying a significant degree of Late Bronze Age activity there. The date of deposition of this fill may have been considerably later than the Bronze Age, and could even have occurred during ploughing in the last few centuries. However, it is felt that the abundance of moderately large charcoal fragments and burnt flint in fill 27 is more likely to indicate erosion and deposition soon after the formation of whatever upslope deposits were being eroded, i.e. during or soon after the Bronze Age. Two small stake-holes, (30, fill 31 and 32, fill 33) were cut into the bottom of the hollow and were sealed by fill 27. These features may represent some use of the hollow; by analogy with Little Woodbury, it may be that the hollow was not natural, but was the result of human activity such as clay extraction, and that the stake-holes represent a re-use of the hollow as a working area.

A layer of colluvium (12) spread over part of the east of the excavation area, running from the north-east corner to a point just east of feature 68 (Fig. 2). Increasing in depth downslope, layer 12 contained very few inclusions and only one artefact: a worked flint of possible Bronze Age date. The inclusions in layer 12 and fill 27 were very different and it is assumed that they were formed at different dates, with layer 12 probably resulting from post-medieval ploughing.

A scatter of features in the south-west of the excavation area, a truncated small pit or large post-hole (47), an irregularly-shaped short linear feature which contained large amounts of burnt flint (58) and a small sub-circular feature with a fill containing burnt clay flecks (74), were all associated with burning and contained either Bronze Age pottery or possibly Bronze Age flint work.

In the south-east corner of the site lay a circular pit (58) with almost vertical sides and several fills (Fig. 3), of which fills 70 and 72 contained frequent *pinus* charcoal flecks and fragments, indicating two burning events, the latest *in situ*. Most of the identifiable charcoal fragments are from largish pieces of wood, minimum 300 mm diameter and possibly larger. The burning

events are thus not simply brushwood clearance, although their exact nature and purpose remain obscure. The function of this pit is not known, but its presence near the southern limit of the excavated area suggests that more features may exist to the south.

### PHASE 4: UNDATED AND MODERN

In the north-west of the excavation seven small post-holes (15, 17, 21, 23, 34, 36 & 40) formed an alignment consisting of a straight line and a return (Fig. 2) This alignment closely resembles a building, although the return is not normal to the line of the longer axis, and may in fact be curved. None of the fills contained dating material. It is possible that, because ditch 28 appears to terminate short of it, and thus to respect it, the alignment too is of Bronze Age date. It is perhaps equally likely that the alignment is associated with post medieval or more modern activity in the backlands of development along London Road.

A small sub-circular feature (25) cut by a land drain, a stake-hole (39) and a shallow feature (45) filled largely with charcoal (46) are all undated and are not associated with any other features, so are included in this phase.

The topsoil (1) consisted of a well-mixed, loamy sand (locally varying to clayey sand, sandy loam and sandy clay) to a depth of approximately 300 mm. It appeared to be the result of occasional, non-intensive and fairly shallow recent ploughing. Below the topsoil a sandy silty loam with occasional charcoal flecks (2) was recorded over the whole excavation area. This is a subsoil derived from intermittent deeper ploughing, and varied locally where, for instance, ploughing had truncated archaeological features. It is therefore believed to be of recent formation.

## CONCLUSIONS

The main archaeological interest of the site is centred on the evidence of Late Bronze Age activity. In particular, context 27 fills a hollow which appears to have trapped Late Bronze Age artefacts eroded from a locus higher upslope, and probably on the ridge line of the hill. These are almost certainly linked to the discoveries at America Wood (Priestley-Bell 1994) immediately to the north-east, and it is therefore likely that further evidence of this settlement may survive along the ridge to the north-west of the site. Any cut features within the excavation area have been eroded, probably by ploughing, which has had a more severe effect on the sandy natural deposits in the upper part of the site than on the more clayey deposits lower down.

Priestley-Bell recorded a hollow (his context 190) similar to that containing fill 27. Taken in conjunction with the presence of two stake-holes (30 and 32) in the bottom of the hollow, it is possible that these hollows were manmade and were later re-used as working areas.

The ditch (28) and the post-hole alignment (15, 17, 21, 23, 34, 36 & 40) may also date from the Late Bronze Age.

The exact nature of the Late Bronze Age activity cannot be characterized from the evidence recovered from this site. Taken with the artefact assemblage from America Wood, the activities represented are mainly of a domestic nature, suggesting occupation. Such direct evidence is rare in the Weald, despite pollen and valley fill studies which tend to suggest that the Weald was extensively used during the Bronze Age.

All cut features recorded had been truncated, and the overall impression of the site formation processes is one of erosion, almost certainly by plough action.

### Acknowledgements

Southern Archaeological Services Ltd would like to thank the following people and organizations: Hillreed Homes (Sussex) for funding the project; Duncan Hawkins of CgMs for acting as intermediary; John Mills, Assistant County Archaeologist for West Sussex County Council, for his help and support throughout the project. The project was managed by Pete Higgins on behalf of SAS. Fieldwork was by Pete Higgins, Tony Molloy, Nick Molteno, Andy White and Ian Barnes. Finds work was by Sue Higgins and environmental work by Pete Higgins and illustrations by David Williams and Pete Higgins. This report was prepared by Pete Higgins and edited by the collective.

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'Greenfields' is approximately 400 m inland on the West Sussex coastal plain at a height of c. 5 m above Ordnance Datum. It is clear from early maps that substantial erosion has caused the coastline to move inland by around 0.5 km within the historic period. The coastal plain is predominantly of brickearth, and the site lies on orange-brown brickearth, which overlies Upper Chalk (Sibun & Jones 1999).

The initial evaluation located a single undated pit (1) filled with a dump of oyster shells, together with a Roman linear feature (2), which was thought to be a continuation of a pattern of Roman ditched fields discovered on the adjacent site of Nalgo Lodge (Griffin 2000).

The excavation consisted of four small areas (A–D) (Fig. 1), positioned to relocate ditch 2 and to ascertain its dimensions, alignment and extent. This ditch was excavated in three further sections (3, 4 & 5) across Areas B and C (Fig. 2) but did not continue to Areas A or D. In Area B it was 2.27 m wide and 0.89 m deep. Further north, in Area C, it was similar, at over 2.00 m wide and 1.24 m deep and at the extreme north of Area C, apparently beginning to curve to the north-east, which is confirmed by its absence from Area D. All three sections showed a stepped profile and three fills (Fig. 3). The top fills of the ditch contained 2nd-century Roman pottery, 282 g of undiagnostic fired clay and 376 g of burnt flint. Only one lower fill (61: Fig. 3, section 2) contained pottery, not noticeably different from that in the top fills. The various ditch fills also contained eight undiagnostic flint flakes. A small fragment of Mayen lava quernstone (6 g) came from the spoil in Area C.

Trench D contained a single shallow gully (6), 0.55 m wide and 130 mm deep, following the same alignment as the much larger Roman ditch. The gully contained a single undiagnostic flint flake, tiny scrap of Roman pottery, a small quantity (46 g) of burnt flint, a sherd of Saxo-Norman pottery and a medieval sherd dating from AD 1250–1350; it is probable, therefore, that the gully is medieval. No continuation of this gully had been seen in the evaluation trench just to the north.

Of four possible features in Area A, feature 8 was a small, shallow, undated pit; features 9 and 10 were probably not archaeological; while feature 7 was approximately 2.94 m in diameter and relatively shallow (360 mm deep), with gently sloping sides and a flat base. No finds came from the single fill of this feature, which could be a pit or the terminal of a ditch heading off the site to the south. Two fragments of Roman *tegula* (700 g) were recovered from the spoil in Area A.

### THE POTTERY by Malcolm Lyne

The bulk of the pottery (127 sherds, 1844 g) came from the fills of the Roman ditch and can be dated to the early 2nd century (Table 1). There is a predominance of sherds in the distinctive Rowlands Castle-type ware: 'type' because of increasing suspicions that there were other centres of production in West Sussex, including Fishbourne Palace.

The Hazel Road site, at North Bersted near Middleton, has large numbers of likely waster sherds in oxidized Rowlands Castle-type ware and it is noticeable that 34 out of the 90 sherds in this fabric from Greenfields are also oxidized. This may indicate production of 'Rowlands Castle' wares at both Middleton and North Bersted, but another possibility is that brine boiling was taking place on both sites.

The Pulborough samian fragment comes from a Dr.18/31

## A Roman field boundary at 'Greenfields', Middleton-on-Sea, West Sussex

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with contributions by  
Malcolm Lyne &  
Sheila Hamilton-Dyer

An archaeological excavation was carried out from 5th–13th June 2000 by Thames Valley Archaeological Services at 'Greenfields', off Penn Close, Middleton-on-Sea, West Sussex (SU 97378 00327) (Fig. 1) in advance of a housing development. A desk-based assessment and field evaluation confirmed that the development area had archaeological potential and an excavation followed, to a brief prepared by Mr John Mills, archaeological adviser to Arun District Council. The site code is GMS00/39; the archive will be deposited with Littlehampton Museum (accession number AT441).

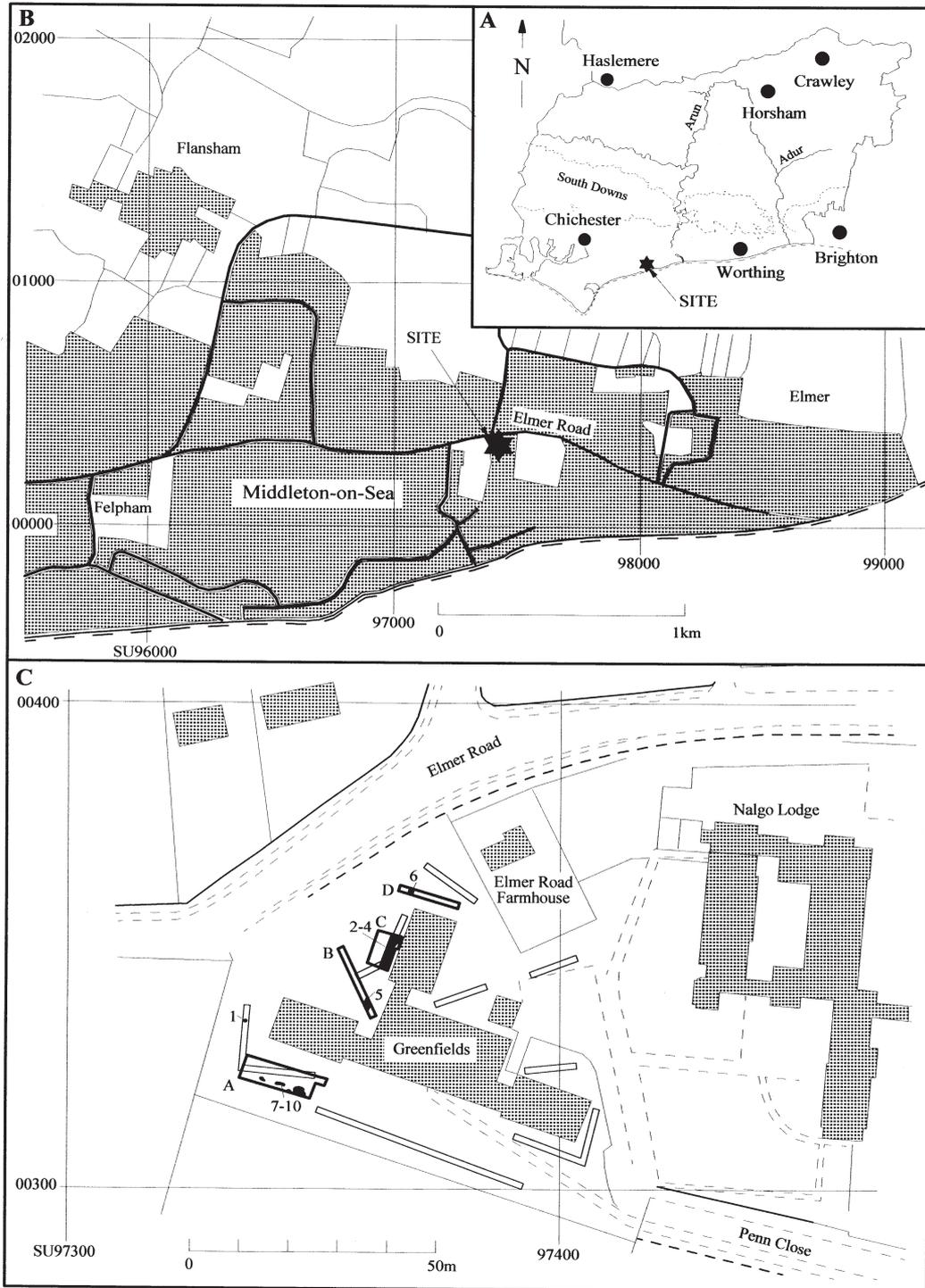


Fig. 1. Location of site within West Sussex (A) and Middleton (B), showing evaluation trenches, excavation areas and location of excavated features (C).

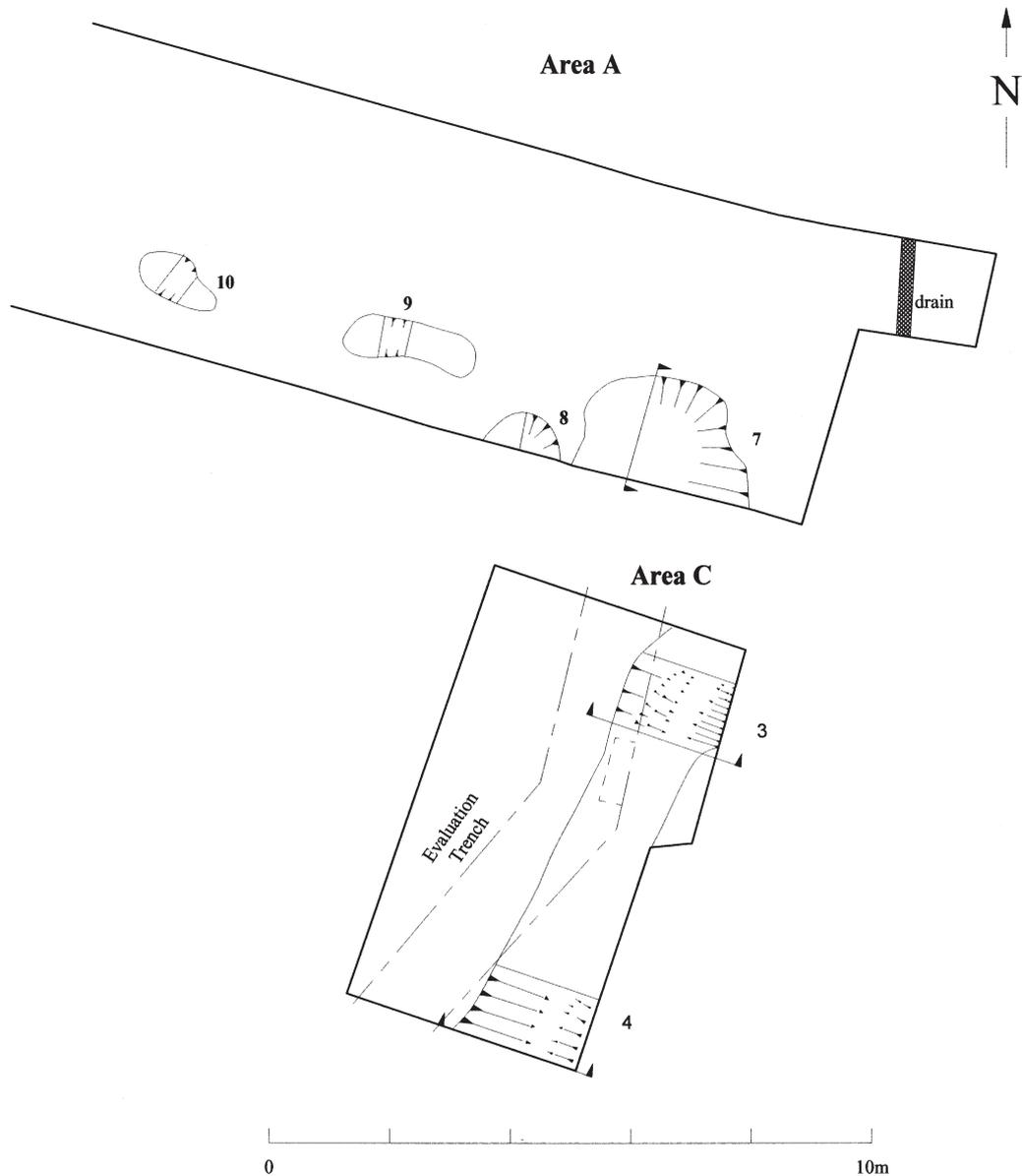


Fig. 2. Plans of Areas A and C.

platter and bears a broken stamp reading ‘..AVOX OF’. The rarity of samian ware from this source indicates that production was very short-lived: Pulborough samian is dated to the early 2nd century and was probably produced by migrant potters from les Martres-de-Veyre in central Gaul. This piece is an important addition to the known fragments in that it bears one of the very few name stamps known.

#### ANIMAL BONE by Sheila Hamilton-Dyer

The small amount of bone (just 16 fragments from seven individual bones) is not well preserved, being eroded, chalky and fragile. The bones were of horse, cattle, sheep/goat and one cattle/horse-sized fragment; details are in archive. These few

Table 1. Pottery catalogue.

Feature	Deposit	Fabric	Form	Date	No.	Wt (g)	Comments
Ditch slot 2	53	R1	Flagon	70–150			Fishbourne Type 303
		R1	Ev. rim jar	100–200+	19	224	Fishbourne Type 332
		R2	Carinated bowl	70–150	3	60	
		R3	Walters 80	160–200			
Ditch slot 3	54	R3	Dr. 33	120–200	9	66	
		Prehist			1	4	abraded
		R1	Jar	70–300	6	173	grey
		R1	Ev. rim	100–200	7	181	oxidized
		R2	Jar	70–150	20	306	
		R4	Platter	100–130	1	112	
		R4	Dr.27	100–130	3	16	
Ditch slot 3	61	R5		LIA–AD 70	2	12	abraded
		R6	Dr.18/31	100–130	1	56	stamp ..AVOX OF
		R7	Flagon	70–150	4	18	
		R1	Jar	70–300	1	6	oxidized
		R1	Jar	70–300	2	74	grey
		R4	Dr. 27	100–130	1	8	
Ditch slot 4	55	R1	Ev. rim	70–150	18	214	grey
		R1	Bowl	100–150	14	130	oxidized
		R2	Closed	50–270	3	6	
		R2	lid	2nd C	1	4	
		R2	jar	2nd C	2	8	
Ditch slot 5	56	R4	Dr. 18/31	100–130	3	104	
		R1	Jars	70–300	3	44	grey
		R1	Jars	70–300	2	12	oxidized
		unident			1	4	
Gully 6	58	R2	Closed	50–270	1	1	
		?Med	Closed	1000–1150?	1	2	
		?Med		1250–1350	1	2	
Area A	Spoil	R1	Ev. rim	100–200+	3	54	oxidized
		Med		1250–1350	4	120	inc. strap handle
Area C	Spoil	R1	Jars	70–300	2	30	grey
		R1	Jars	70–300	10	104	oxidized
		R2			1	2	
		R2	Closed	50–270	2	20	1 oxidized

### Fabrics

- R1: Rowlands Castle-type grey wares  
R2: Arun Valley (Hardham)-type grey wares  
R3: Central Gaulish samian  
R4: les Martres de Veyre samian  
R5: Soot-soaked, very-fine-sanded 'Atrebatian Overlap' fabric  
R6: Pulborough samian  
R7: Wiggonholt cream ware

fragments offer little information. The absence of pig, which can be common at Roman sites, is not significant given the sample size and the condition of the material.

### CONCLUSION

Both of the Roman features are typical of those associated with field systems and appear to be contemporary, dating to the early

2nd century. Pottery includes both items of local manufacture and imports, notably Central Gaulish samian, and the small fragments of quern and *tegula* hint at occupation in the vicinity. The undated dump of oyster shell could also be Roman.

The Roman features at 'Greenfields' seem to form part of the field system excavated immediately to the north-east at Nalgo Lodge, Shrubbs Drive (Griffin 2000). Investigations at Moraunt Drive (Barber 1994), approximately 500 m to the north-west, also showed a main period of activity in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD

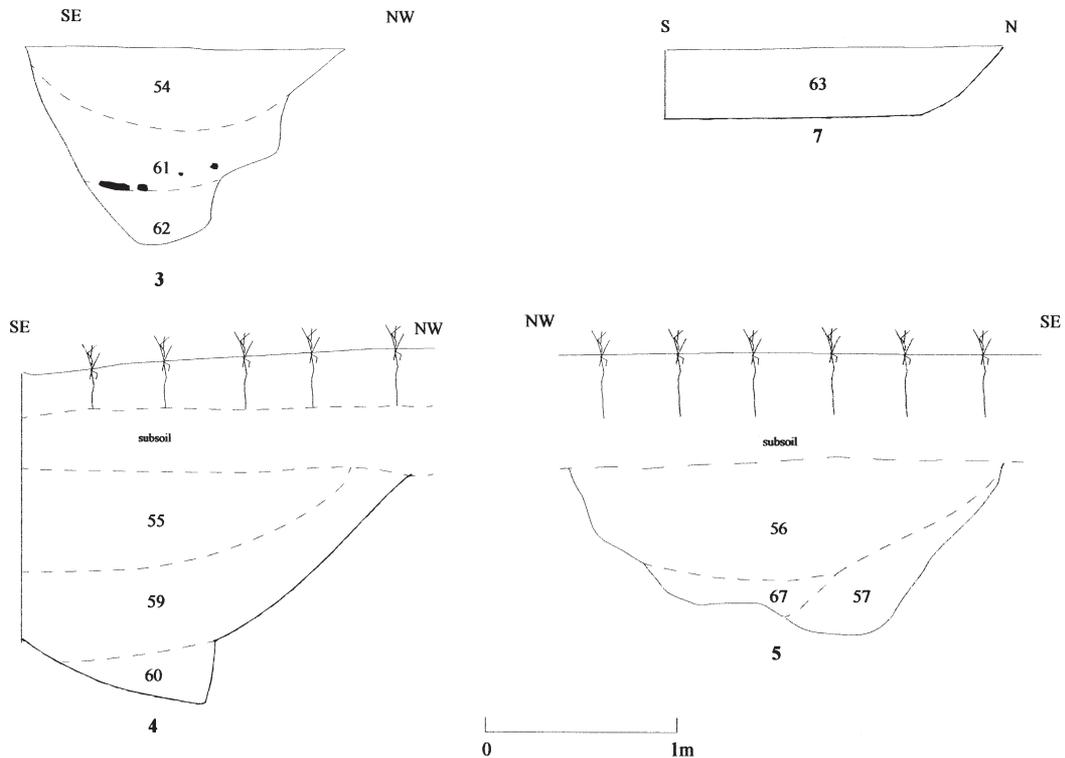


Fig. 3. Sections of the ditch and of feature 7.

and the pottery from all three sites has similar origins. It is likely that the 'Greenfields' site extends to the south-west, beyond the confines of the present excavations.

#### Acknowledgements

The author is grateful to Berkeley Homes (Southern) Ltd for funding this project; to John Mills (West Sussex County Council) for monitoring the investigations; to Leigh Torrance and Steve Ford for the drawings and Steve Preston for editing the text. The fieldwork was undertaken by Ruth Appleby, Stephen Hammond and the author.

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## The London–Portslade Roman road and prehistoric activity at Haywards Heath

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#### INTRODUCTION

Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit was commissioned by Crest Strategic Planning to carry out a series of archaeological investigations prior to and during the construction of the Haywards Heath Relief Road and associated housing development. The site forms part of a larger scheme of development that lies to the west of the main Brighton to London railway line at the western side of Haywards Heath and is bounded to the north by the A272. The approximate centre of the site lies at NGR TQ 32122 23285 (Fig. 1).

The British Geological Survey map Sheet 302 (Horsham, Solid and Drift Edition, 1:50,000 scale) indicates that the underlying geology is of the Hastings Beds, largely of Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand with some Grinstead Clay.

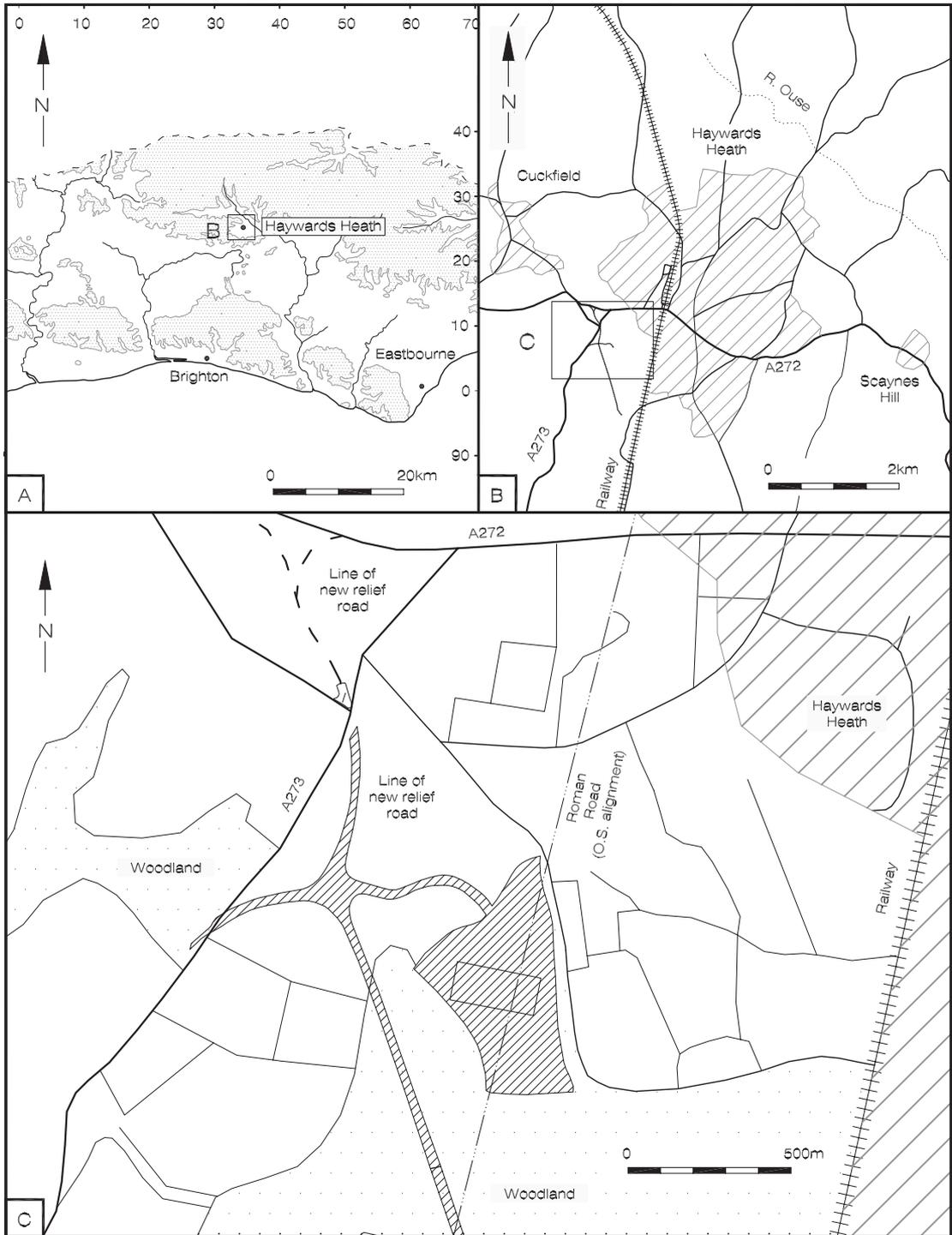


Fig. 1. Location of site and excavated areas.

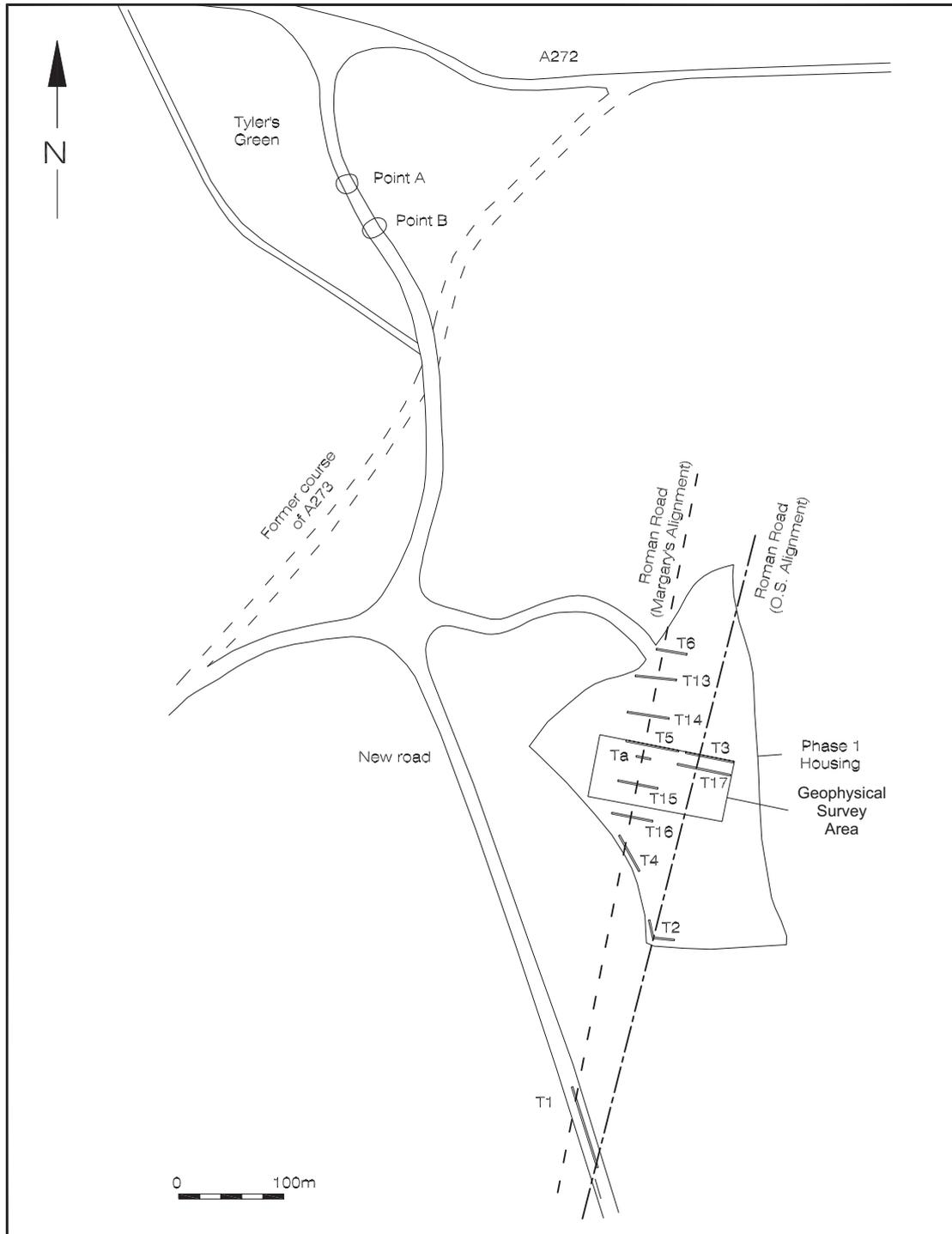


Fig. 2. Locations of watching briefs and trial trenches.

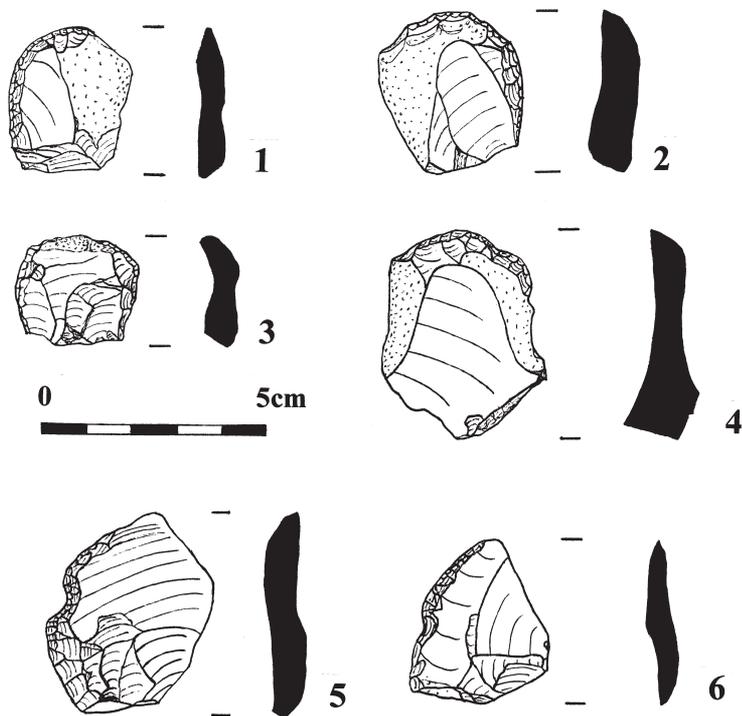


Fig. 3. Flintwork: 1–4) scrapers; 5) notched flake; 6) cutting flake.

Table 1. The worked flint.

	2000 Fieldwork	1989 Survey
Hard hammer-struck flakes	18	2
Soft hammer-struck flakes	7	0
Soft hammer-struck bladelets	2	2
Fragments	5	1
End-scrapers	6	1
Side-scrapers	1	0
End- and side-scrapers	1	0
Cutting flake	1	0
Notched flakes	2	0
Tranchet adze sharpening flake	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>6</b>

Two distinct areas of fieldwork were undertaken by ASE: a series of evaluation trenches were excavated to establish the presence, character and condition of the Porstlade to London Roman Road that crossed the site (*see* R. James, this article), and a watching brief was maintained during specific groundworks in order to identify and record any further archaeological remains (Griffin 2002). The fieldwork was undertaken by ASE between June 1998 and December 2001.

## THE WATCHING BRIEF

The watching brief focused on monitoring the removal of topsoil across the site, which was carried out by either a tracked excavator or by bulldozer. During the course of this monitoring a small assemblage of worked flint was collected, with two notable areas of concentration being identified on the south-facing slope of Tyler's Green within the easement for the new road between Isaacs Lane (A273) and Butlers Green Road (Fig. 2 annotated 'Point A' (centred TQ 31856 23768) and 'Point B' (centred TQ 31806 23814)).

In 1989 members of the Mid Sussex Field Archaeological Team carried out a walkover survey of the proposed route of the Relief Road (Butler 1989), which recovered a further six pieces of worked flint.

### WORKED FLINT by Chris Butler

A total of 44 pieces of worked flint was recovered during the fieldwork, and is listed in Table 1, together with the six pieces recovered during the 1989 walkover survey. The majority of the small assemblage is made up of debitage, but there are also a number of interesting implements. Owing to their having been found in close proximity the flint assemblages are considered together.

The debitage mostly consisted of hard hammer-struck waste flakes, but also includes soft hammer-struck flakes and two bladelets. One flake appears to have been removed from a small hammer-stone, as its dorsal side is covered with abrasion scars typical of such pieces. Two flakes are retouched, whilst one of the bladelets has some retouch on its shoulder. Two of the fragments are fire-fractured. The soft hammer-struck pieces and a few of the hard hammer-struck pieces have evidence of platform preparation on the dorsal side of the butt, and can be diagnostically linked to the Mesolithic period. The remaining debitage could date from the Neolithic through to the Bronze Age.

The implements form some 27% of the assemblage, which is a high proportion, and may simply represent a better recognition and recovery of these items. The scrapers make up the largest group of implements, comprising six end-scrapers, one side-scrapers, and one combined end- and side-scrapers. Four of the end-scrapers were manufactured on soft hammer-struck flakes (e.g. Fig. 3:2 & 3) and two on hard hammer-struck flakes (e.g. Fig. 3:4), whilst the side-scrapers were manufactured on a hard hammer-struck flake, and the end-/side-scrapers (Fig. 3:1) has lost its butt end. Although most of the scrapers retain some cortex on the dorsal side, the abrupt retouch, especially on the soft hammer-struck flakes, is generally finely executed around the convex distal end. Most of the scrapers were manufactured on small flakes, the exceptions being those manufactured on hard hammer-struck flakes.

Two notched flakes are also present in the assemblage, both have a small notch formed by abrupt retouch on one

edge (e.g. Fig. 3:5). A single flake with its butt end removed has been retouched along one edge with semi-abrupt retouch (Fig. 3:6). This form of retouch has sharpened the edge rather than blunted it, and therefore the piece would not be suitable for scraping. Instead, the edge could have been used for cutting, and it is possible that this is how it was utilized. Alternatively, the retouch and thin profile of the flake, together with its overall shape suggests that it could be a later Neolithic transverse arrowhead, although it does not fall into any of the normally accepted categories (Green 1984). The final piece in the assemblage is a sharpening flake from a Mesolithic tranchet adze.

The implements in the assemblage fall into two categories; the small finely executed scrapers are almost certainly Mesolithic in date, whilst the larger end-scrapers and the notched flakes probably date from the later Neolithic or Bronze Age.

### Discussion

The 44 worked flints collected from the site, in addition to the six recovered from the 1989 walkover survey, represent the only recorded examples of worked flint from the immediate area of Haywards Heath. A further 88 examples of worked flint were collected from the route of the Cuckfield bypass (which is some 600 m west of this site) after the removal of topsoil in 1988 (Butler 1990), whilst other flintwork has been found at Burgess Hill to the south (Butler 1998a,b), and at Ardingly and Wakehurst Place to the north (Stevens 1999). These important finds indicate that evidence of prehistoric activity dating from the Mesolithic through to the Bronze Age is present at the site, although seemingly on a small scale. This appears to be consistent with other sites located in this part of the Weald, where there was occasional use of the forested landscape for hunter-gatherer activities during the Mesolithic and into the Neolithic. This was followed by continued resource exploitation during the later Neolithic and Bronze Age, which has left scatters of flint and occasional evidence of forest clearance (Butler 1998b). The elevated position of this site, on a south-facing slope, may have offered advantageous views across the landscape from which hunter-gatherer groups could survey their hunting grounds.

## RECENT INVESTIGATIONS ALONG THE LONDON TO PORTSLADE ROMAN ROAD, BOLNORE, HAYWARDS HEATH

by Richard James

### INTRODUCTION

Two phases of archaeological evaluation were undertaken by ASE in June 1998 and February 1999 in advance of a proposed residential development (Phase 1) associated with the Haywards Heath Relief Road (Fig. 2: Phase 1 Housing). Survey work by

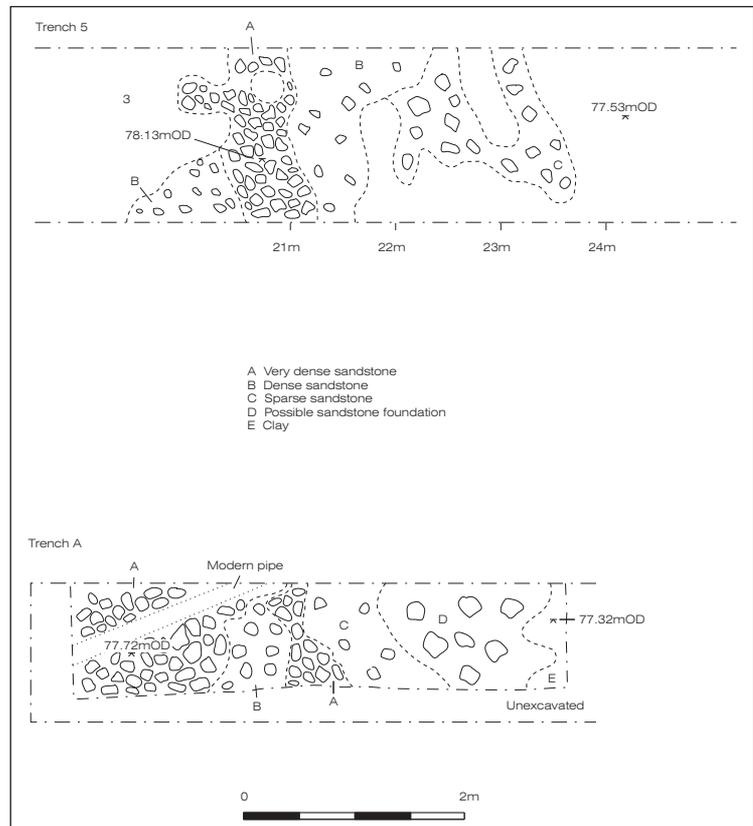


Fig. 4. Plan of excavated Roman Road.

Ivan Margary in the 1950s suggested that the London–Portslade Roman Road (Margary No. 6) ran through the evaluation area, and survived further south in Bolnore Wood as a linear earthwork (Margary 1965, 100–101). The Ordnance Survey (OS) plotted the route on a slightly different alignment, c. 50 m to the east. The aims of the evaluation were to determine which of the two routes was correct, and the extent and condition of any surviving deposits.

### RESULTS

#### 1998 evaluation

The 1998 evaluation (James 1998) involved the mechanical excavation of six trenches across both proposed road lines (Fig. 2, Trenches 2–6 — Trench 3 was abandoned as superfluous). Trench 5 contained a linear band of sandstone (Fig. 4), 4–5 m in width, running across the centre of the trench in line with Margary's projected route and corresponding with a linear anomaly located during a geophysical survey in March 1998 (Barker 1998). It consisted of a basal layer of large angular sandstone blocks set upon the clay subsoil. A narrow strip of smaller, more regular sandstone pieces lay upon the basal layer on the western side. These smaller stones had a smooth, polished appearance, and are interpreted as the remains of a layer of metallurgy. No trace of side ditches was observed and no dating evidence was recovered. A smaller subsidiary trench (Trench A) was dug 10 m to the south and was also found to contain a similar sequence of large

sandstone pieces surmounted by a fragmentary layer of smaller stones (Fig. 4). Further expanses of rough sandstone sat upon clay were identified in Trenches 4 and 6. No such sandstone was recorded in Trench 2, along the OS preferred route.

In addition, Trench 1 was excavated across the linear earthwork in Bolnore Wood, 350 m south of Trench 5, to test Margary's theory that the earthwork represents the remains of the Roman Road *agger*. A low bank, with a maximum thickness of 300 mm, was observed, comprising grey-brown clay-silt with scattered sandstone and manganese inclusions but no trace of any road material or dating evidence.

### 1999 excavation

The aim of the 1999 excavation was to confirm further the alignment of the sandstone feature located in 1998, and to excavate a larger area in the hope of recovering more details regarding the morphology and, crucially, the date of the feature. Four further trenches were machined across the road route (Fig. 2, Trenches 13–16), with a further trench to double-check the OS route (Fig. 2, Trench 17). More examples of small polished sandstone pieces survived in Trench 15 (Fig. 2), although to a lesser extent than previously, suggesting truncation by later agricultural activity. No further evidence for the road was found in any of the other trenches.

### DISCUSSION

The excavations located a linear zone of rough sandstone blocking, approximately 5 m wide, sitting upon the clay subsoil in most of the trenches along Margary's preferred route, following the spine of a north-south aligned ridge. Three trenches in the centre of the proposed development area (Trench 5, Trench A & Trench 15) also contained a secondary layer of small polished sandstone pieces lying upon the rougher sandstone. No dating evidence was recovered from the trenches, but the circumstantial evidence of a linear stone-founded feature perpetuating the line of a linear earthwork does lend support to Margary's identification of this feature as a Roman road.

The excavated evidence can be interpreted as a coarse basal layer of sandstone capped by a layer of smaller stones to form a metallated surface. The survival of the 'metalling' as a localised patch in the centre of the field can be explained by reference to the 1845 Cuckfield Tithe Map, which shows that the large modern field was originally a series of smaller plots. The metallating survives in the lee of a vanished former field boundary which protected it from the plough. Elsewhere in the field, the metallating has presumably been dispersed by ploughing. A similar abrupt change was observed on the geophysical plots. The absence of roadside ditches is explained by the topography. The road runs up the spine of a low ridge, with natural drainage on both sides. In addition, the road was never a first-grade military highway, being rather a second-tier communication route used mainly for transporting agricultural and industrial products up to London, and it may consequently have been built to less exacting standards.

Unfortunately, no dating evidence was located to prove categorically the identification of the feature as the Roman road. However, the excavated evidence, coupled with Margary's extensive field and documentary surveys of the route, lends strong circumstantial weight to the case.

### Acknowledgements

Archaeology South-East would like to thank Crest Nicholson Residential (South-East) Ltd, through the good offices of Andrew

Yeardley, for fully funding the archaeological work and providing help and assistance on site. Thanks are also due to John Mills, West Sussex County Council, for help throughout the project and to the Heaselands Estate. The illustrations were prepared by Justin Russell (site) and Chris Butler (finds).

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## Bronze Age to Roman field systems at the site of the Arunside Industrial Estate, Littlehampton

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### INVESTIGATION SUMMARY

Following the results of an archaeological evaluation (AOC 2003) an excavation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at the Arunside Industrial Estate, Littlehampton, Sussex (AOC 2004). The site was located within the Arunside Industrial Estate approximately 600 m north-west of Littlehampton railway station, and 500 m east of the River Arun. The site was centred on TQ 020026 (Fig. 1). The excavation area was machine-stripped of topsoil and subsoil and the natural geological deposit was

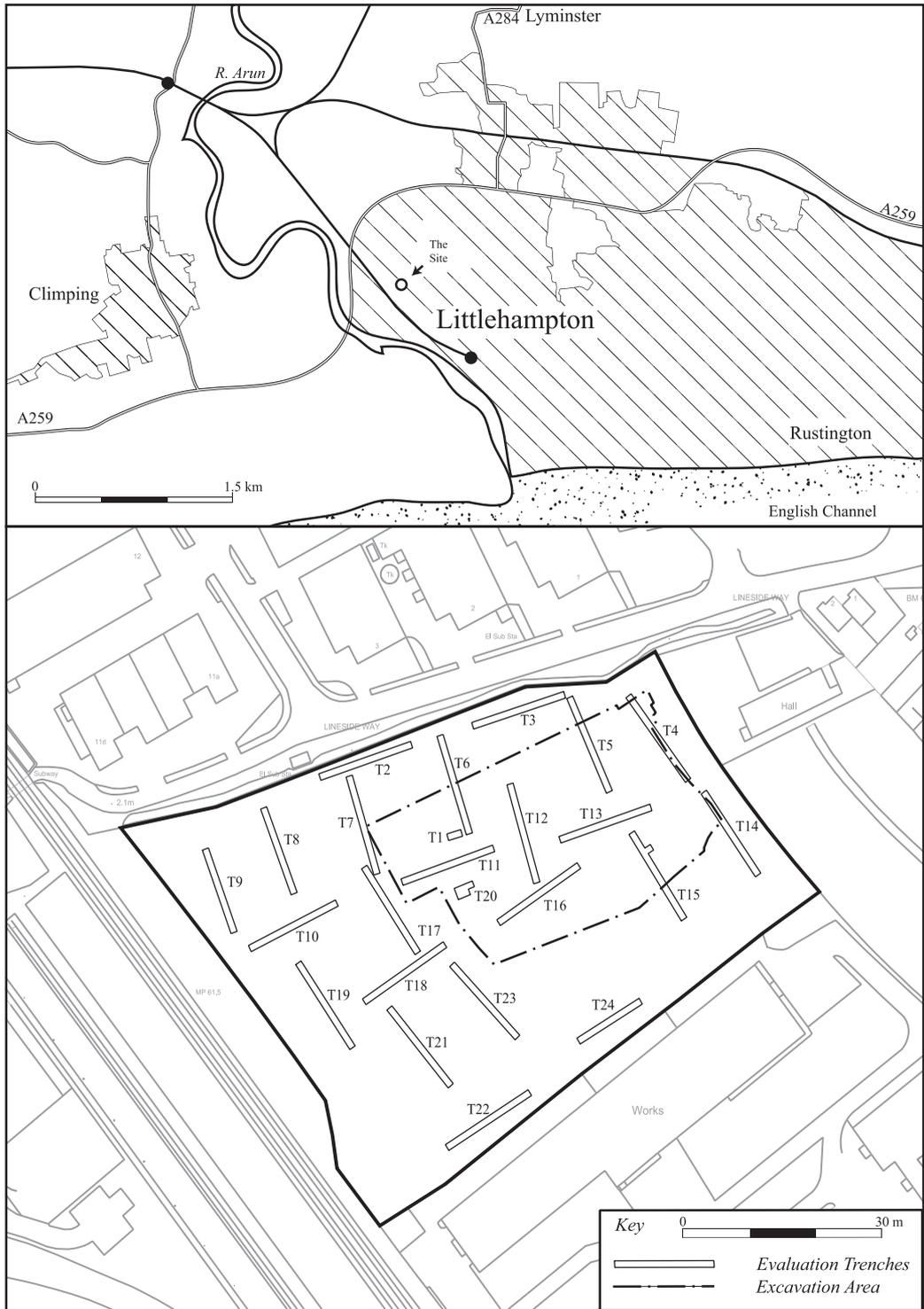


Fig. 1. Arunside Industrial Estate: site and trench location maps.

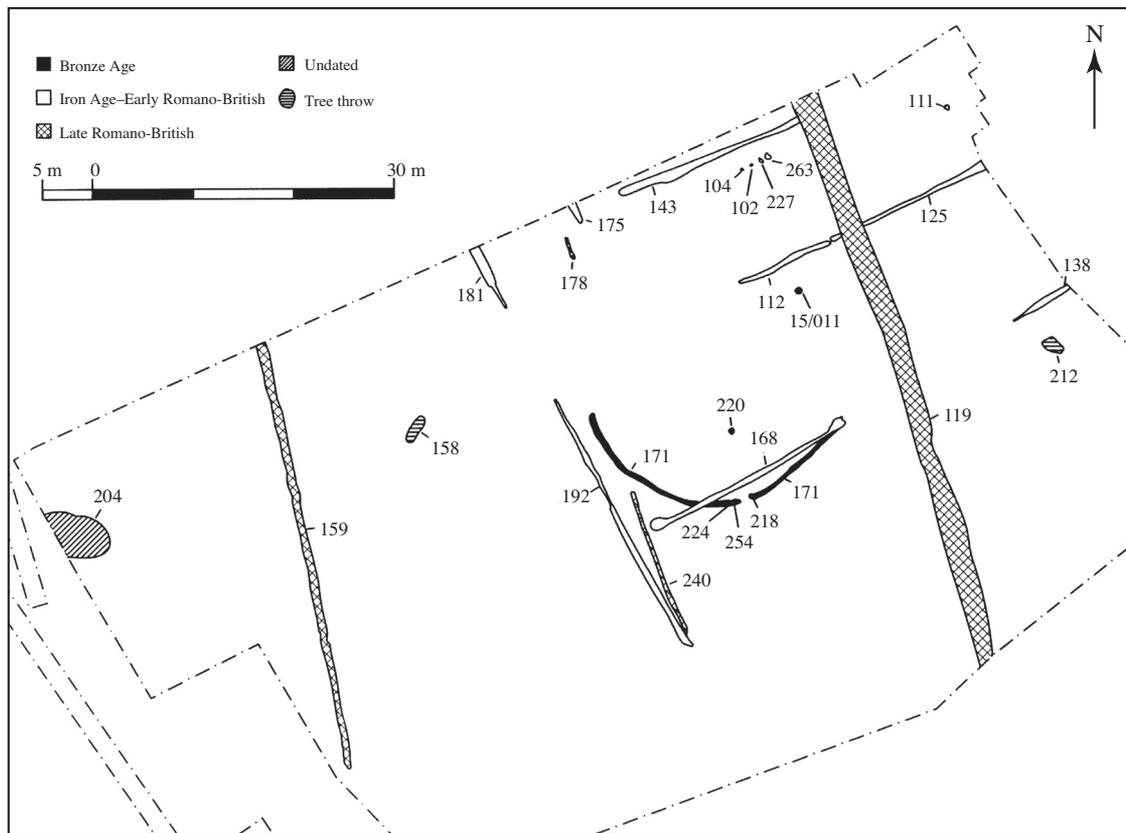


Fig. 2. Phased archaeology plan.

brownish-yellow silty sandy clay, with irregular bands of sand and gravel in a sand matrix. The archaeological features were cut into the top of this deposit. Dating evidence was sparse across the entire site, but the majority of the ditches produced a small amount of pottery sherds and worked flints. The finds and site archive will be deposited with Littlehampton Museum.

## RESULTS

The site revealed evidence of human activity from the Early Bronze Age to the Late Roman period, with some post-medieval intrusions in the form of rubble-filled pits, concrete structures and land-drainage systems. Out of the 24 evaluation trenches only nine revealed any archaeological activity (Figs 2 & 3). The excavation work targeted the area with the highest concentration of features (Fig. 1). The absence of evidence of domestic activity; the small quantity of finds and lack of any actual remains of dwellings indicate that this was not a habitation area. The frequency of ditches and low artefactual evidence is suggestive of an agricultural landscape with bound areas reflecting specific land plots (Fig. 2).

### BRONZE AGE 2100–750 BC

The first activity on the site was dated to the Early Bronze Age. The earliest dateable feature recorded on the site was a

semicircular ditch [171] 23 m long, which curved from the north-west down to the south-east and back up to the north-east. There was a break in the ditch with termini on either side of a 0.90 m gap, three-quarters of the way along the length. The north-west extent of the ditch was marked by a terminus 240 mm deep but the north-east end of this U-shaped cut became gradually so shallow that it disappeared. The feature probably once extended beyond the surviving semicircle, but had been truncated by later ploughing and may originally have formed a curved boundary or possibly a circular enclosure. Both termini contained post-holes that appeared to be contemporary with the ditch: [224] and [254] on the west side and [218] on the east side. The posts that these once contained may have acted as markers at the entry point through the ditch, either supporting some form of gateway structure or as individual uprights, the latter being more feasible as the post-holes were asymmetrically positioned. The fill of this ditch contained Early Bronze Age pottery sherds including a beaker sherd with cord-impressed decoration, Middle to Late Bronze Age pottery sherds and a flint end- and side-scraper. Two, probably associated, small pits of unknown function were found within the enclosed area of the ditch [220] and [15/011]. The absence of larger quantities of material culture and settlement evidence suggests that the ditch was not related to settlement activity and it is probable that this ditch had an agricultural use. Bronze Age activity in

the area was also attested by the presence of residual Bronze Age pottery in several later features. The Bronze Age activity recorded at the Arunside Industrial Estate is likely to have been of agricultural nature and may have been associated with the probable Bronze Age settlement represented by features and cremation urns found on the neighbouring Wickbourne Estate (SMR Number: 2155 – WS5757).

#### LATE IRON AGE TO EARLY ROMAN 75 BC–AD 250

Undiagnostic pottery tentatively dated to the Early Iron Age was recovered from two linear ditches, but no features could be specifically dated to this period. The next major phase of development on the site appears to have occurred during the Late Iron Age and Early Roman periods when the site was developed into a rectilinear field system that survived as parallel, narrow, shallow ditches. Three ditches were aligned north-west to south-east [175, 181, 192] and five at a right angle to them, aligned north-east to south-west [112, 125, 138, 143, 168]. The main north-west to south-east ditch [192] contained small and abraded pottery sherds of Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British date and a few earlier residual sherds. Ditch 181 to the north was probably part of the same feature considering the alignment and the lack of a terminus between the two. More flint flakes and cores were found in ditches 192 and 181 than in any of the other ditches and the location of this ditch at the western edge of the Iron Age features may have been close to the location of a flint tool production area. Late Iron Age pottery was also found in the north-east to south-west aligned ditches 138 and 168. Despite the presence of only unabraded Middle to Late Bronze Age pottery sherds in ditch 112, the position of this ditch supports an Iron Age date for this feature. North of and parallel to ditch 112 and 168 was a more substantial ditch [143]. This was deeper and wider than the other ditches, probably as a result of having been protected to an extent from ploughing damage by deeper topsoil and subsoil layers in this area. A line of four post-holes [102, 104, 227, 263] ran parallel to the southern side of this ditch and were probably part of a fence line that followed or re-established the boundary. The Arunside Industrial Estate site appears to have been agricultural land during the Late Iron Age to Early Roman period as well and may have been associated with settlement evidence from this period recorded during the construction of Wickbourne Estate (Gilkes 1993) to the east and the Littlehampton Bypass development to the north and west (SMR Number 5179 – WS3900 & 5181 – WS3902).

#### LATE ROMANO BRITISH AD 250–400+

In the Late Roman period the general alignment of the field system altered by approximately 20 degrees with three parallel ditches [119, 159, 240] aligned north-north-west to south-south-east. Ditch 178 may have been a northerly section of ditch 240. As with earlier periods, no evidence of domestic or settlement activity was recovered. The most easterly of the Roman ditches 119 was particularly substantial in comparison to the other features across the site and may have formed a boundary between the arable land to the west and settlement to the east. The depth and profile of the ditch varied along its length with apparent evidence of episodes of recutting indicating a prolonged period of use. Seven sherds of Late Roman Oxfordshire Red Colour-coated and Alice Holt/Farnham grey ware pottery were recovered from the lower fill of this ditch as well as residual Late Bronze Age pottery and prehistoric worked flints. The arable land continued towards the River Arun to the west of the site; the exact extent may have been marked by either ditch 159 or

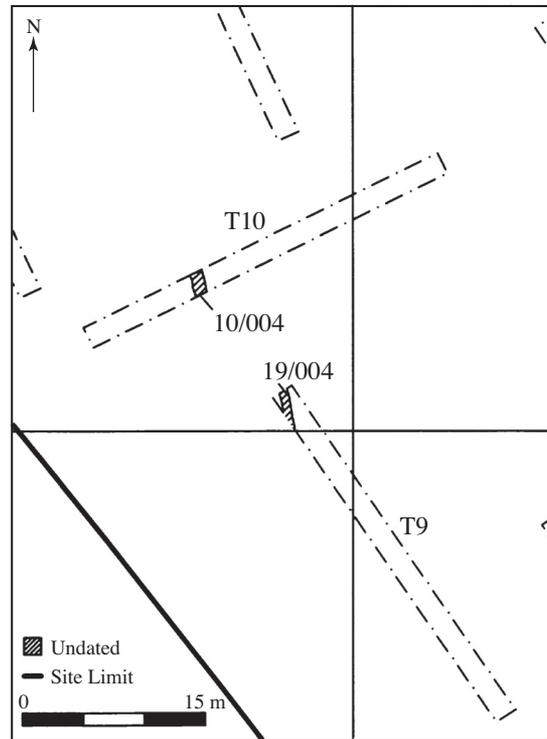


Fig. 3. Archaeological features in evaluation trenches south-west of area excavation.

the more westerly ditch segments 10/004 and 19/004 recorded during the evaluation work. However, these ditches did not contain any dating evidence and could be of prehistoric, Roman or even post-medieval date. Despite ditch 159 containing just a few sherds of Late Iron Age pottery, the alignment of the feature corresponds more directly with the later Roman ditches on the site rather than with the Late Iron Age features. The proximity of the Romano-British ditches to the Late Iron Age and Bronze Age features suggests that there may have been a continuity of use of this area for agricultural purposes throughout these periods. The Roman settlement and industrial activity in the vicinity was concentrated beyond the eastern extent of the site along Wick Farm Road and Belloc Road (WSCC 2002 & SMR Number 2157 – WS5756) and this settlement may have been supported by the agricultural land here. More substantial industrial and settlement evidence has been located 2 km north-east where pottery was being produced (Lovell 2002). Locally produced Roman pottery was in use close to this site as illustrated by the Arun Valley grey ware sherd recovered from ditch [240].

#### POST-ROMAN

Following the later Roman period the ditches silted and the site remained undeveloped with only farming activities continuing into the post-medieval and modern periods apart from some temporary concrete structures that were erected in the 1960s close to the south-east edge of the site. A few tree throws [111, 158 & 212] and one large sterile pit-like feature with a flat base [204] were also found; possibly further post-medieval intrusions.

### Acknowledgements

AOC thank John Wilkinson and Jack Wagborne of Cuckfield Group for their interest and for providing the financial means with which to carry out the project, Patrick Hester of Lamina Dielectrics for his support and John Mills of Sussex County Council for his guidance and advice. Thanks also to Dr Malcolm Lyne for analysing the pottery and to Jonathan Moller for preparing the illustrations.

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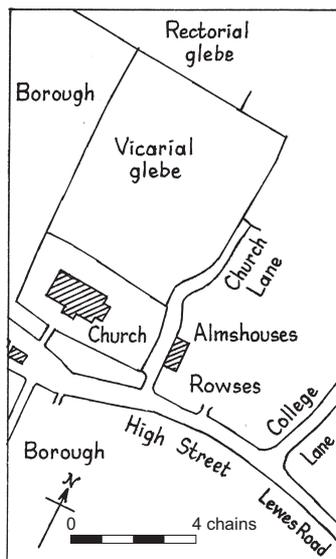
## Church origins at East Grinstead

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This note seeks to establish the location of the first church at East Grinstead and an approximate date for its foundation. In the light of local evidence, it challenges some of the interpretations and conclusions on those subjects put forward by Rushton in 1999, and argues that there was no chapel at Brambletye before 1100 and that the present-day parish church at East Grinstead stands on the site of one with pre-Conquest origins. In doing so it also modifies some of this writer's conclusions in 1991.

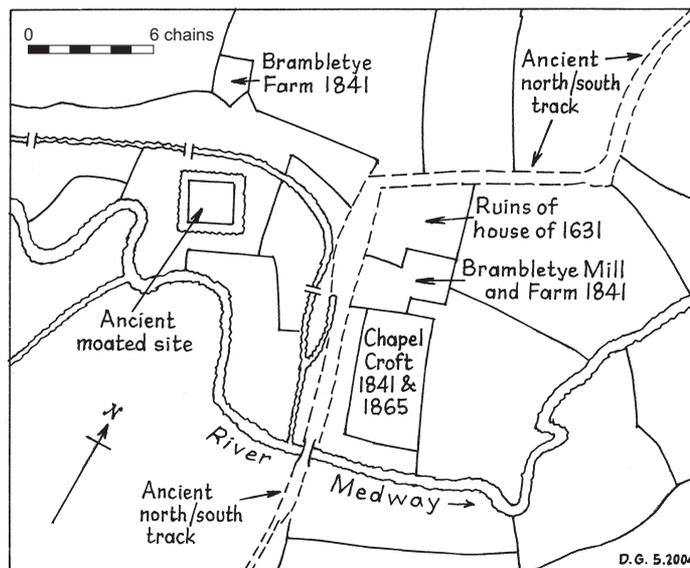
Using documentary, architectural and archaeological evidence, Neil S. Rushton drew up a list of 215 churches and chapels definitely or probably in existence in Sussex before AD 1100 and discussed the patronage of many of them and what could be gathered about the development of parochialization in the period. In the hundred of East Grinstead he concluded that at the time of Domesday Book there was a chapel at Brambletye, where a priest is recorded, and rather later a parish church (presumably on the present site) as recorded in the Lewes Priory cartulary.<sup>1</sup>

The present parish church of St Swithun dates from the late 18th century and contains very little from its 14th-/15th-



### EAST GRINSTEAD PARISH CHURCH AND ITS ENVIRONS

simplified from the tithe map of 1841 (from an original tracing on linen in the writer's possession)



### BRAMBLETYE

simplified from the tithe map of 1841 (from an original tracing on linen in the writer's possession)

Fig. 1. Environs of East Grinstead parish church and of Brambletye, showing places mentioned in the text or relevant to understanding the article.

century predecessor, so we have no architectural evidence for earlier structures, nor has any archaeological evidence for them ever come to light. The earliest documentary reference is William Count of Mortain's confirmation of his man Alvred Pincerna's gift of 'the church of Grenesteda with half a hide of land belonging to it and the tithe of Bremethia' [Brambletye] to Lewes Priory.<sup>2</sup> This cannot be dated later than Mortain's rebellion in 1106.<sup>3</sup> Alvred Pincerna (the Butler) had succeeded the Domesday tenant Ralph as lord of Brambletye (and other manors outside East Grinstead),<sup>4</sup> hence his authority to grant its tithes and, as I hope to show, the church of East Grinstead and the land that belonged to it.

Of the 13 estates recorded in East Grinstead hundred in Domesday Book, Brambletye, one hide with one villein, 14 bordars and a priest, was by far the most populous.<sup>5</sup> P. D. Wood has discussed and persuasively mapped most of those holdings, or at least their demesnes, using topographical, cartographical and documentary evidence, including Brambletye, which he equates with the tithe award's Brambletye and Brambletye Mills farms two miles south-east of East Grinstead church.<sup>6</sup> There can be no doubt about the eponymous site, with its remains of successive habitations of the same name, and the 139 acres of those two farms correspond well with the conventional estimate of the approximate acreage of a typical Wealden hide, but Mr Wood felt unable to identify the land the bordars would have occupied and worked. He did not discuss the relationship of the estate in 1086 to the half hide given with the church a decade or so later.

One would expect that half hide, as the glebe land of the rector, to have adjoined the church. The house and land north of the churchyard reserved for the vicar when the priory appropriated the rectory to itself in 1360<sup>7</sup> can readily be identified as the vicarage grounds and the car park and St Swithun's Close formed from part of them in the 1960s. The lack of any pre-Reformation records of the remaining rectorial glebe and its breaking up soon after secularization make accurate mapping impossible, but field-names indicate that it certainly extended north of the vicar's land.

There is, moreover, a good deal of 16th-century evidence that the authority of Brambletye extended to an area of the town of East Grinstead named Rowses, east of the church in the angle of the present-day High Street and Church Lane. Early in that century Richard Lewkenore of Brambletye and his widow Dame Katherine Gray founded an almshouse for three poor persons,<sup>8</sup> which we can be sure would have been built on their property. It was bequeathed, as 'the Old Almshouses', in wills of the Kidder family from 1599 to 1640, in the latter of which the location is specified, 'in the lane that lies on the east end of the churchyard'.<sup>9</sup> The Brambletye connection is substantiated in 1523 in the will of Henry Duffield, 'my tenement of Rowses lying in the borough [i.e. tithing] of Bramblitie'.<sup>10</sup> Brambletye's authority over this area may well be the reason that it was never included in the borough of East Grinstead, first laid out in the 13th century south-east, south and west of the church.<sup>11</sup> It is reasonable to suppose that it was here, at the site of the town rather than out in the countryside, that the majority of Brambletye's Domesday population was based with its priest and his church. The fact that the priest is listed under Brambletye has to do with the lord who was his patron rather than with his geographical base.

The site, on a hill-top where ancient tracks converged and which I have suggested was the meeting-place of the hundred of East Grinstead,<sup>12</sup> would have been the obvious one for a church

to serve not just Brambletye but the whole hundred. A pre-Conquest date for its foundation is implied in its dedication to St Swithun, bishop of Winchester 852–862, whose cult was at its height following the translation of his remains into his cathedral in 971, the very period when the settlements recorded hereabouts in Domesday are most likely to have been coming into existence. A post-Conquest Norman or Anglo-Norman founder seems less likely to have chosen a Saxon saint. The first reference to it as 'the parish church of St Swithun in East Grinstead' is in 1413.<sup>13</sup> No other dedication is known. As to the founder's identity, all one can say is that he would almost certainly have been a lord of Brambletye, at the latest Cola who held it in 1066.

The existence of a chapel at Brambletye that was dissolved in c. 1545 does not invalidate the arguments above. No archaeological or architectural evidence of it has been found, though a field-name Chapel Croft testified to its site in the 19th century, south of the present-day farm buildings<sup>14</sup>, and the fact that no burials have been found at Brambletye demonstrates that it could not have been a demoted early parish church. The earliest documentary evidence is from the reign of Edward I (1272–1307)<sup>15</sup> and its dedication, to St Mary, was at its most popular in the 13th century.

There seems to be no evidence to suggest when a parish of East Grinstead was first formed. The first explicit references are in the Lewes cartulary, in the heading to a document of c. 1140 and the text of one of c. 1160.<sup>16</sup> No alterations to its boundaries are recorded until the 19th century.

If the argument of this article is accepted, Rushton's churches 40 and 166 are identical and the total number of churches and chapels in Sussex before 1100 is reduced to 214.

One other statement concerning East Grinstead in Rushton's article calls for rewording.<sup>17</sup> Domesday Book's only Sussex *ferraria* (some sort of ironworking site) was not 'at Ditchling' but at an un-named outlier of Ditchling in the hundred of East Grinstead which P. D. Wood has convincingly identified with Lavertye (now Ashdown House).<sup>18</sup>

### Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Mr David Gould for drawing the maps for this article.

### NOTES

Note: Complete sets of *the Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society* (ISSN 0308-8685), cited in several of the endnotes, are held by the copyright libraries, the library of the Sussex Archaeological Society, Brighton reference library and East Grinstead public library. Back-numbers are obtainable from the writer.

<sup>1</sup> Neil S. Rushton, 'Parochialization and patterns of patronage in 11th-century Sussex', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* (hereafter SAC) **137** (1999), 133–52 (hereafter Rushton), specifically 149, 151.

<sup>2</sup> L. F. Salzman (ed.), *The Chartulary of the Priory of St Pancras of Lewes*, part 1, Sussex Record Society **38** (1932) (hereafter SRS 38) 75.

<sup>3</sup> SAC **128** (1990), 261.

<sup>4</sup> L. F. Salzman, 'Some Sussex Domesday tenants, II, The family of Dene', SAC **58** (1916), 171.

<sup>5</sup> John Morris (ed.), *Domesday Book... 2 Sussex* (Phillimore, Chichester, 1976), 10.105.

<sup>6</sup> P. D. Wood, 'Unfinished business: East Grinstead in the Domesday Survey', *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society* **58**

- (Spring 1996), 3–23 (hereafter Wood), specifically 18–19.
- <sup>7</sup> W. D. Peckham (ed.), *The Chartulary of the High Church of Chichester*, SRS. **46** (1942–43), 1097.
- <sup>8</sup> Their brass in East Grinstead parish church (illustrated and discussed SAC **78** (1937) 68–70); her will (PROB 11/14 f34, as printed (in extracts) in SRS **42** (1936–37), 227.
- <sup>9</sup> William 1599 (East Sussex Record Office W/A/10/200), Margaret 1640 (PROB 11/208 F78). I am grateful to Mrs Beth Chase Grey for these references.
- <sup>10</sup> PROB 11/21 f11. I am grateful to Mr L. E. W. Cole for this reference.
- <sup>11</sup> See Patrick Wood & Peter Gray, 'East Grinstead: a borough and its buildings' in John Warren (ed.), *Wealden Buildings* (Coach Publishing, Horsham, 1990), 171–87.
- <sup>12</sup> See M. J. Leppard, 'East Grinstead before the town', SAC **129** (1991), 29–32. Some of its conclusions I would now modify in the light of the evidence and arguments in this article. Evidence for the early tracks is developed and mapped in M. J. Leppard, 'The hamlet of East Grinstead: origins, access and area', *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society* **75** (Winter 2001–02), 7–13.
- <sup>13</sup> *Calendar of Papal Letters* **6**, 446 (cited in *Victoria County History of Sussex*, **2**, 11).
- <sup>14</sup> Brambletye estate auction particulars, 1841 and 1865, field 878; in the tithe award, 1841, it is House Field, no. 878.
- <sup>15</sup> See M. J. Leppard, 'The chantry commission of 1547 and some unpublished chantry records for East Grinstead', SAC **109** (1971), 33 for further details and sources.
- <sup>16</sup> SRS **38**, 73, 75.
- <sup>17</sup> Rushton, 146n33.
- <sup>18</sup> Wood, 10–11, 14.

## The birth date of Thomas Turner



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After the publication in 2000 of my paper about *The Origins of Thomas Turner*, the 18th-century shopkeeper and diarist of East Hoathly, the question was raised as to why it was stated that he was born on 9 June 1729, whereas in the diary, on several occasions, he clearly celebrated the occasion on 20 June.<sup>1</sup> The answer lies with the belated reform of the English calendar in 1752, in order to realign it correctly with the solar year (and indeed to bring this country into line with reforms adopted in many parts of Continental Europe in or after 1582).<sup>2</sup> To accomplish it, under the Calendar (New Style) Act 1750, the dates from 3–13 September 1752 were omitted, so that 14 September immediately followed 2 September (and other changes were introduced).

Turner, a meticulous man, clearly believed that he should not celebrate a new year of his life until he had completed 365 days of the previous year (cf. the entry for 20 June 1758: 'This is my birthday and the day on which I enter into the thirtieth year of my age').<sup>3</sup> It was this 'loss' of eleven days (as some saw it) which caused Turner to record his birth date in his biographical notes as '9 June 1729 O.S.' (old style), but to add eleven days after 1752 to make his birthday henceforth 20 June.<sup>4</sup> In doing this he was adopting a practice followed in other cases: for example, the regnal year of George II (used for various official dating purposes) began on 11 June from 1727 to 1752, but on 22 June thereafter, and the official financial year, which originally commenced on Lady Day, 25 March, began after 1752 (as it still does today) on 6 April.<sup>5</sup> Historians, to avoid confusion, are accustomed to write dates between 1 January and 25 March before 1752 as, e.g., 2 February 1727/8, where 1727 is 'old style' and 1728 'new style', but Turner extended the term 'old style' throughout the year in order to refer to uncorrected dates from before 1752.

### NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> R. Davey, 'The origins of Thomas Turner', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **138** (2000), 191–219.
- <sup>2</sup> For a full discussion of the calendar and its reform, see C.R. Cheney, *Handbook of Dates for Students of English History* (London: Royal Historical Society, 1978), 1–11.
- <sup>3</sup> D. Vaisey (ed.), *The Diary of Thomas Turner 1754–1765* (Oxford: Oxford Univ. P., 1984), 154.
- <sup>4</sup> F. M. Turner (ed.), *The Diary of Thomas Turner of East Hoathly (1754–1765)* (London: Bodley Head, 1925), 105.
- <sup>5</sup> D. Hey (ed.), *The Oxford Companion to Local and Family History* (Oxford: Oxford Univ. P., 1998), 63.