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**A BARROW GROUP SOUTH OF JUGGS ROAD,
KINGSTON-NEAR-LEWES, EAST SUSSEX**

**An Earthwork Survey by
The Royal Commission on the
Historical Monuments of England**

January 1995



**A Barrow Group South of Juggs Road, Kingston-near-Lewes, East Sussex: an Earthwork Survey by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England
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INTRODUCTION

In mid-January 1995, the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England carried out an earthwork survey of a barrow group comprising two Bronze Age and some forty probable Anglo-Saxon barrows (respectively National Monuments Record numbers TQ 30 NE 16, 64). The site lies to the south of a trackway known as Juggs Road, in Kingston-near-Lewes parish, in the Lewes district of East Sussex (National Grid Reference TQ 3742 0747). The survey followed a request from English Heritage and is intended to inform future management of the site, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (East Sussex 256).

The barrows lie on the summit of a prominent downland hilltop at a height of 200m above OD, and are now preserved in an isolated remnant of rough pasture, 0.8ha in area, surrounded by arable. The earthworks are generally slight, having been disturbed to some extent by flint diggings (TQ 30 NE 65), looting and possibly by ploughing.

The more prominent of the Bronze Age barrows was recorded on the Ordnance Survey First Edition 25-inch map (surveyed 1873, published 1874) and subsequent editions. Eight smaller barrows were recorded on the Third Edition (surveyed 1928, published 1930), probably following identification by Grinsell, whose gazetteer of Sussex barrows was approximately contemporary (Grinsell 1934 and second edition 1979). Three more smaller barrows were identified by Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division in 1952 and a second Bronze Age barrow in 1972 (NMR a). The tithe map is the only large scale representation of the area prior to the Ordnance Survey, and this does not indicate anything except the course of Juggs Road (Sussex CRO a). There has been no documented excavation and there are no stray finds to confirm the supposed Anglo-Saxon date of the smaller barrows; the only supporting evidence for the assumption is the morphology of the site and the individual barrows, which is closely comparable to known excavated examples.

DESCRIPTION

For the location of the site, see map 1 at 1:2500 scale; for letters and numbers used in the text see plan 2 at 1:500 scale. The English Heritage lettering system of identification has been retained, but the numbering of the Anglo-Saxon barrows has been revised. Large-scale aerial photographic coverage of the site is poor and contributes little to the understanding of the site.

The Bronze Age Barrows

(TQ 3742 0747) Barrow **a** is a relatively well-preserved bowl barrow with no trace of an external ditch. It lies on the highest point of the hilltop and measures 14.5m in diameter, with a maximum height of 0.9m. A central depression 3.0m in diameter and probable spreads of spoil on the sides of the barrow suggest that antiquarian excavation or looting have taken place.

(TQ 3734 0741) Barrow **d** is a second simple bowl barrow which lies 100m to the south-west at the extreme edge of the scheduled area. It has dimensions of 14.5m west to east by 16.0m transversely, with a maximum height of 0.6m, but is heavily disturbed, again indicating probable looting, and considerably spread, suggesting that it may have been degraded by ploughing at some point. The current ploughing regime has slightly affected the western edge of the barrow, revealing a concentration of relatively large flint rubble. During the RCHME survey, two struck flints, both primary flakes, were observed at this point.

Two other irregular mounds **b** and **c** (not recorded by Ordnance Survey) have been identified as possible bowl barrows (English Heritage Inspector's Report 1992). In view of the size and irregularity of mound **b**, it seems more likely that it is associated with the flint diggings. Mound **c** has been reinterpreted as a possible conjoining pair of Anglo-Saxon barrows (34 and 35).

The Anglo-Saxon Barrows

A total of 41 probable Anglo-Saxon barrows were recorded by the RCHME survey, including the eleven identified by Ordnance Survey and a further seven by English Heritage (Inspector's Report 1992). Due to the proximity of the flint diggings and the superficial similarity of some of the associated spoil heaps, not all the mounds identified are certainly barrows, but the dimensions of those identified as probable barrows are given in Table 1. In general, they are circular or oval and fairly regular in form but much smaller than the Bronze Age examples, ranging from 4.0m to 7.0m in diameter and 0.1m to 0.6m in height. Two mounds, 22 and 23, which are not certainly barrows,

are more elongated. The distribution of the group as a whole is approximately linear from south-west to north-east, with a concentration around the Bronze Age barrow **a**, and one possible barrow (**13**) built up against its north-eastern side (alternatively this may represent a mound of spoil from looting). Approximately half of the barrows appear to be arranged in pairs with similar dimensions, for example **1** and **2**, **3** and **4**, which are linked by slight earthworks or lie within a few metres of each other, or such as **5** and **6**, **34** and **35**, which actually adjoin resulting in a 'figure-of-eight' form. There are no traces of ditches surrounding any of the barrows.

Three of the barrows, **4**, **12** and **20**, have central depressions which may also indicate looting or antiquarian excavation.

Flint Diggings

The fringes of the site are disturbed by comparatively recent flint diggings, as noted by Ordnance Survey (NMR **a**), which extend for at least 500m along the crest of the hill to the north-east. The diggings are generally characterised by shallow vaguely linear depressions no more than 0.2m deep. Low mounds of spoil, which lie alongside the depressions, are slight and occasionally sub-circular and are therefore in some cases impossible to distinguish from the slighter Anglo-Saxon barrows. Mound **e** was recorded as disturbance by English Heritage, and it is likely that one of the irregular mounds tentatively identified as a Bronze Age barrow (**b**) is also a spoil heap, but some of the dumps of spoil may mask earlier features. Elsewhere on the hilltop, the flint diggings reach a maximum depth of 0.6m and their linear form is more obvious.

Juggs Road

This trackway extends from north-east to south-west along the crest of the Downs between Lewes and Brighton, continuing the alignment of the Roman road on the course of the modern *B 2192*. Although the origins of the track are Roman, the route was used as a droveway into the Medieval period, and the name 'Juggs' is thought to be an early nickname for a Brightonian (Coates 1980, 321). The trackway was not investigated in detail by RCHME.

INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION

The Bronze Age Barrows

The form and highly visible location of barrows **a** and **d** is typical of the vast majority of Bronze Age burial monuments. Two more bowl barrows, which lie on the crest of a spur some 320m to the south-east but are not visible from the summit of the hill, are

also situated in relatively close proximity to each other. Other single barrows in the vicinity, for example those at NGR TQ 3676 0663, TQ 3823 0789 and TQ 3660 0735, are clearly visible from the site and possibly indicate the existence of contemporary settlements on the hillsides.

The exposure of relatively large flint rubble in the plough-damaged section of barrow **d** may indicate that the core of the barrow was constructed as a cairn, over which soil, probably quarried from a surrounding ditch of which no trace survives on the surface, was piled in a domed mound. This technique may have been used in the construction of the two barrows to the south-east (see map 1), which have been degraded by ploughing to a maximum height of 0.3m, also revealing concentrations of flint rubble. The evidence of looting damage makes it highly unlikely that the primary burials have survived intact.

The Anglo-Saxon Barrows

Approximately forty Anglo-Saxon barrow cemeteries (i.e. clusters of three or more barrows) are known to have existed in England, of which fewer than ten now survive in fairly good condition. While many sites were extensively dug by antiquarians, notably Bryan Faussett and James Douglas, modern excavations have been few and generally of poor quality - only five sites have been excavated since 1945 - allowing only limited comparative study. Surviving records of antiquarian excavations and anecdotal evidence are sufficient to show that the smaller graves were generally poorly furnished inhumations, normally with pottery and weapons, but in some cases with nothing at all. At Farthing Down in Greater London (TQ 299 583), the remains of spears and a shield were found, and at Breach Down in Kent (TR 207 207 490) there were three sword burials. Rich goods were recorded at Beddingham in East Sussex (TQ 459 060) and Sibbertswold in Kent (TR 266 490), where disc brooches, glass vessels, garnet and amethyst jewellery were recovered. Although at Kingston the visible evidence for looting is limited, many of the barrows may have been disturbed, either by antiquarian investigation or by looting.

The distribution of Anglo-Saxon barrow cemeteries is concentrated in Sussex, Kent, Surrey and Greater London, with outliers in The Midlands and the east of the country; the prominent hilltop location of the Kingston cemetery is typical. While the association of Anglo-Saxon barrows with Bronze Age barrows is paralleled in a only few other cases, such as Breach Down in Kent (TR 207 490), The Bostle in East Sussex (TQ 371 054), and Firle Beacon in East Sussex (TQ 488 057), secondary inhumations in Bronze Age barrows are widespread, and the possibility of an Anglo-Saxon barrow adjoining the larger Bronze Age monument at Kingston is consistent with this practise. Two other

barrow cemeteries, both in Kent, at Bishopsbourne (TR 191 531) and Kingston (TR 203 519), are located in close proximity to Roman roads, and in this context the continued use of Juggs Road into the Medieval period is important.

The number of barrows which originally existed in each cemetery ranges from three to about two hundred, although about half contained fewer than twelve barrows, making the Kingston group relatively large. The size of the individual Kingston barrows is typical of the lower end of the range recorded elsewhere; the best known Anglo-Saxon barrow cemeteries, Sutton Hoo and Snape, appear to be sites of much higher status, given the exceptional size of the barrows and the richness of the grave goods. The dating of barrow cemeteries is seldom precise, but seems to cover the Late Pagan Anglo-Saxon period, with an overlap into the Early Christian period, c. 550 - 750 A.D. and the phenomenon of barrow building may even have arisen as a reaction against Christian monuments (Van de Noort 1993).

The apparent pairing of a number of the barrows is almost unique in England. It is probable that there are flat burials (or levelled barrows) interspersed with the surviving barrows, since the two normally occur together on other sites which have been excavated, and the presence of these may modify the apparent pattern. Where used in conjunction with earthwork survey, geophysical prospection has proved effective in identifying graves not visible on the surface (eg. NMR b). If the pairing is genuine, it may signify ties of blood, marriage or succession. It has been suggested that groupings in the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Norton Cleveland may represent family units (Sherlock and Welch 1992). While 'husband and wife' is perhaps the most obvious pairing, it cannot be assumed automatically. There are cases of pairings of the same sex - for example, grave 40 at Spong Hill in Norfolk contained two adult males side by side, possibly beneath a single low barrow (Hills, Penn and Rickett 1984, fig 1) - and twelve of the barrows excavated by Faussett at Sibbertswold in Kent covered pairs of graves apparently containing related individuals (including male/female, female/child, child/child) (Roach-Smith 1856). However, these are all cases of paired burials beneath single barrows rather than paired barrows.

Flint Diggings

There appears to be no documentary evidence for the flint-digging which has taken place along the summit of the hill. The form and scale of the operation suggests a Post-Medieval date, and the comparatively shallow depth of the diggings may indicate that building material, rather than gunflint, which required less weathered flint from greater depths, was the intended product.

TABLE 1 - DIMENSIONS OF ANGLO SAXON BARROWS

| RCHME number and possible pairing | English Heritage identifier | Max diameter (metres) | Max height (metres) | Description |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--|
| 1\ | 1 | 6.1 | 0.5 | Circular, well preserved |
| 2/ | 3 | 6.2 | 0.5 | Circular, well preserved |
| 3\ | 2 | 6.6 | 0.5 | Circular, well preserved |
| 4/ | 4 | 6.4 | 0.5 | Circular, well preserved, but possibly looted |
| 5\ | 6 | 6.0 | 0.4 | Circular, one of a conjoining pair |
| 6/ | 6 | 8.1 | 0.3 | Oval, one of a conjoining pair |
| 7\ | 7 | 5.5 | 0.5 | Circular, well preserved |
| 8/ | 5 | 5.9 | 0.6 | Circular, well preserved |
| 9 | | 3.6 | 0.2 | Very slight mound, possibly not a barrow |
| 10\ | 9 | 6.7 | 0.3 | Oval, well preserved |
| 11/ | 10 | 4.3 | 0.4 | Circular, well preserved |
| 12 | 8 | 6.8 | 0.5 | Oval, well preserved, possibly looted |
| 13 | | 6.5 | 0.5 | Sub-circular mound adjoining Bronze Age barrow - possibly not a barrow |
| 14\ | 11 | 6.3 | 0.3 | Oval, one of a conjoining pair |
| 15/ | 11 | 6.5 | 0.5 | Oval, one of a conjoining pair |
| 16 | | 5.2 | 0.3 | Circular, well preserved |
| 17\ | | 5.0 | 0.3 | Oval |
| 18/ | | 4.0 | 0.3 | Circular, relatively small |
| 19 | 12 | 6.1 | 0.5 | Oval, well preserved |
| 20 | | 4.5 | 0.4 | Circular, well preserved but possibly looted |
| 21 | 13 | 8.2 | 0.4 | Oval, well preserved |

| RCHME number and possible pairing | EH identifier | Max diameter (metres) | Max height (metres) | Description |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---|
| 22\< | 14 | 11.4 | 0.5 | Irregular, elongated mound, relatively large, possibly not a barrow |
| 23/ | | 10.3 | 0.1 | Oval mound, relatively large and low, possibly not a barrow |
| 24 | | 7.9 | 0.4 | Oval, well preserved |
| 25 | | 3.8 | 0.5 | Circular, relatively small |
| 26 | | 3.6 | 0.1 | Circular, relatively small |
| 27 | | 5.5 | 0.3 | Circular |
| 28 | 15 | 7.0 | 0.4 | Circular, well preserved |
| 29 | 18 | 4.2 | 0.3 | Circular mound, possibly not a barrow |
| 30\< | | 7.0 | 0.4 | Oval, well preserved |
| 31/ | | 4.7 | 0.3 | Circular, relatively small |
| 32\< | | 5.1 | 0.2 | Circular |
| 33/ | | 5.1 | 0.3 | Circular |
| 34\< | | 5.2 | 0.4 | Oval, one of a conjoining pair |
| 35/ | c | 6.4 | 0.4 | Oval, one of a conjoining pair |
| 36\< | c | 3.6 | 0.1 | Very slight mound, possibly not a barrow |
| 37/ | | 3.6 | 0.3 | Circular, relatively small |
| 38 | | 8.0 | 0.4 | Kidney shaped, possibly not a barrow |
| 39\< | 16 | 7.0 | 0.5 | Oval, well preserved |
| 40/ | 17 | 4.8 | 0.4 | Circular, well preserved |
| 41 | | 3.6 | 0.1 | Very slight and relatively small |

METHOD

The earthwork survey was carried out by Alastair Oswald and Paul Pattison of the RCHME. Hard detail and the majority of the earthworks were surveyed using a Wild TC1610 Electronic Theodolite with integral EDM. Data was captured on a Wild GRM 10 Rec Module and plotted at 1:500 scale via computer on a Calcomp 3024 plotter. Minor details of the earthworks were supplied with Fibron tapes using normal graphical methods. The report was researched and written by Alastair Oswald and edited by Paul Pattison. The site archive has been deposited in the National Monuments Record, Kemble Drive, Swindon SN2 2GZ (reference TQ 30 NE 64).

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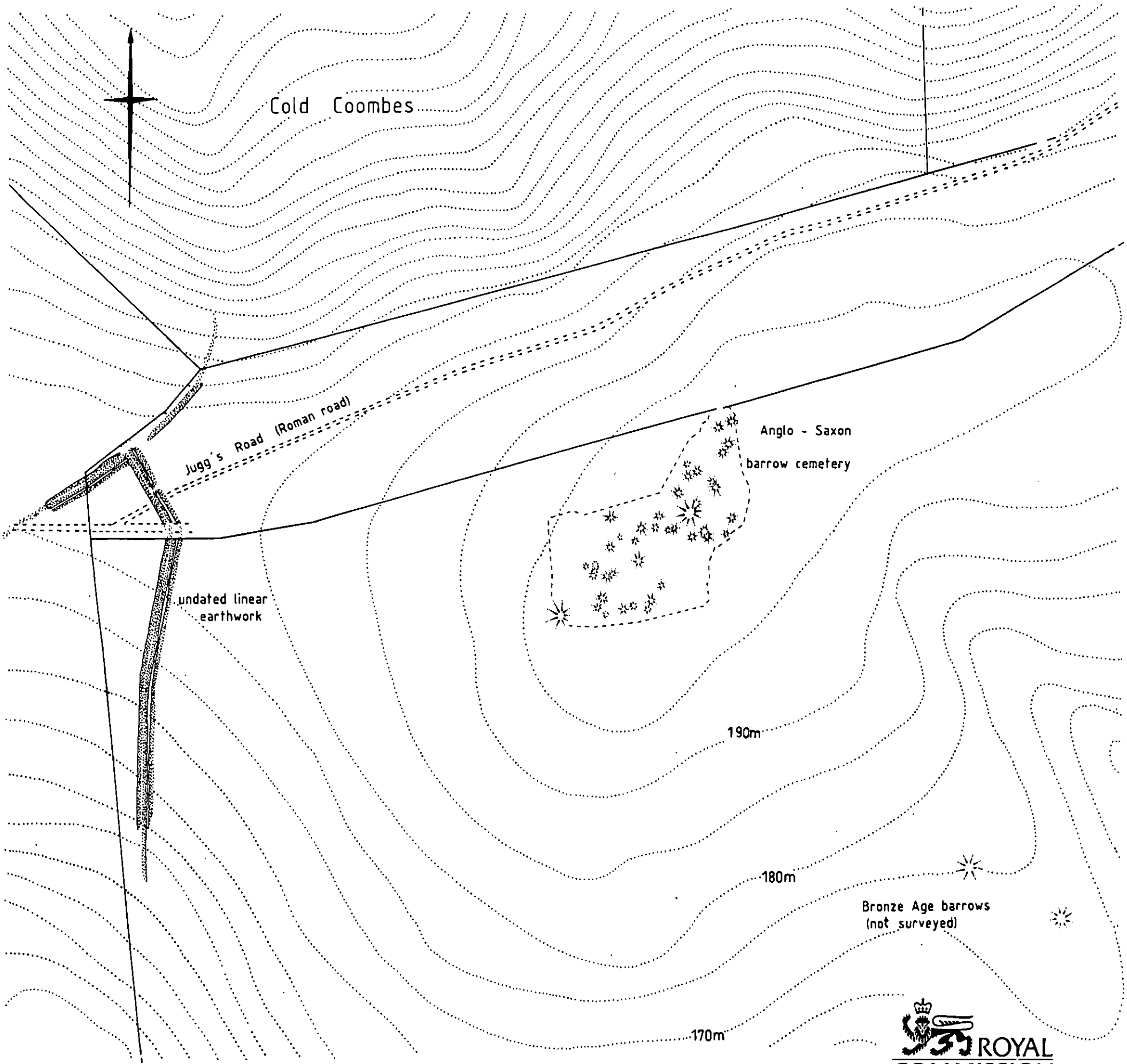
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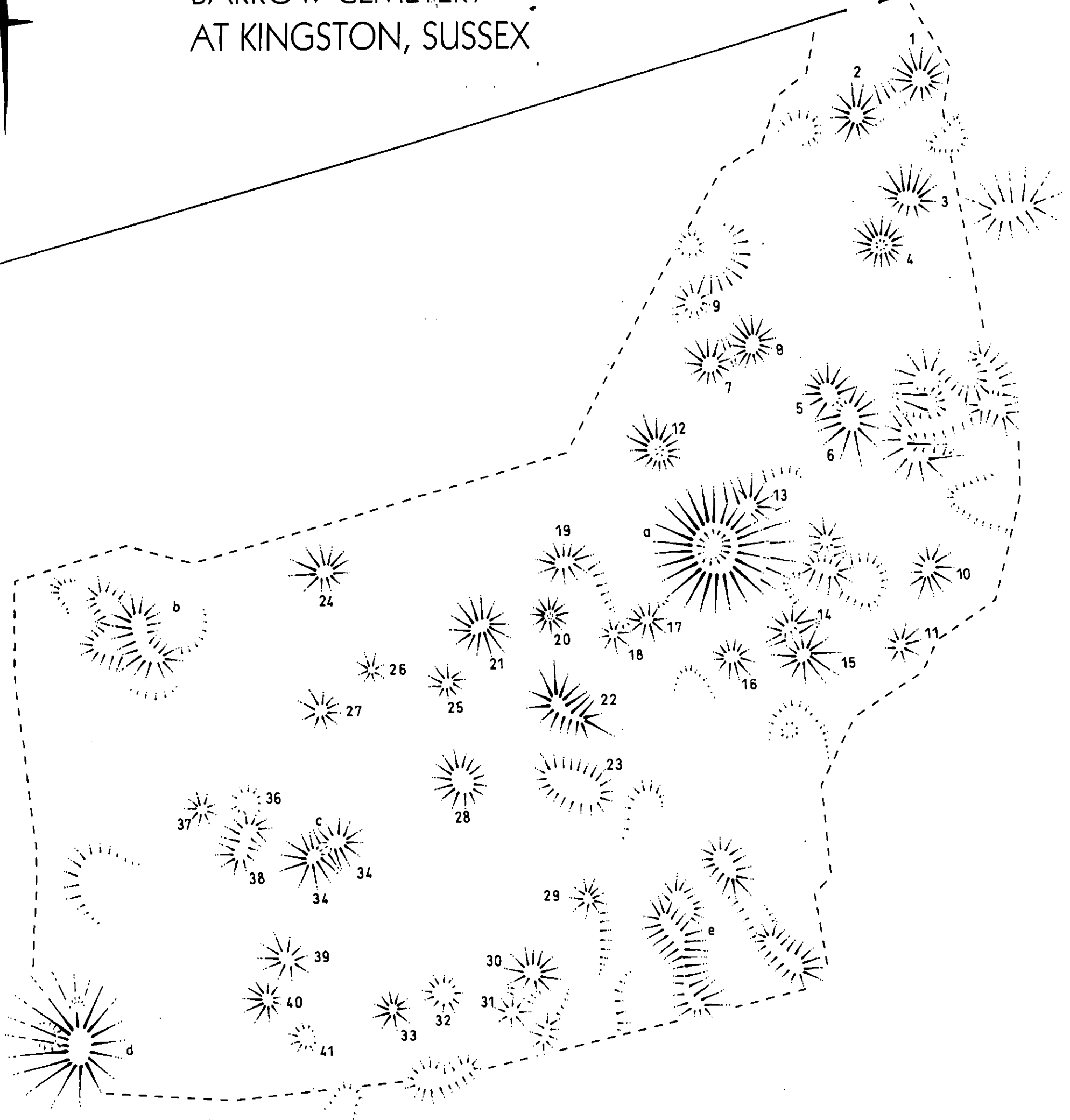
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| OFFICE OF ORIGIN CAMBRIDGE | COUNTY EAST SUSSEX | SCALE OF SURVEY 1 : 2500 | METHOD TOTAL STATION (CONTOURS FROM OS 1:10000) | OS MAP No. TQ 30 NE |
| PROJECT NAME KINGSTONBARROWS | DISTRICT LEWES | DATE OF SURVEY 10-JAN-95 | ASSOCIATED PLANS SITE PLAN AT 1:500 | NAR No. TQ 30 NE 16 |
| SITE NAME KINGSTON BARROWS | PARISH KINGSTON-NEAR-LEWES | SURVEYOR(S) A.O. PP | | SAM No. E SUSX 256 |
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BARROW CEMETERY AT KINGSTON, SUSSEX



BARROW CEMETERY AT KINGSTON, SUSSEX



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