

## SHORTER NOTICES

This section of the *Collections* is devoted to short notes on recent archaeological discoveries, reports on small finds, definitive reports on small-scale excavations, etc., and also to similar short notes on aspects of local history. Material for inclusion should be sent to Mr. Alec Barr-Hamilton, 226, Hangleton Road, Hove. Those without previous experience in writing up such material for publication should not be deterred from contributing for Mr. Barr-Hamilton will be happy to assist in the preparation of reports and illustrations.

ANCIENT MONUMENTS IN SUSSEX—The following have been Scheduled since publication of the last list in *Sussex Archaeological Collections* vol. 116 (1977-8), 393. The numerals on the left are the county numbers allotted to the monuments.

### *East Sussex*

4	Hastings	Hastings Castle: additional area NE of outer ward (part of Recreation Ground on West Hill).
54	Falmer	Earthworks and lynchets on Buckland Bank and Buckland Hole: additional area to SW of Buckland Hole.
144	Hastings	Earthwork on East Hill: additional area.
395	Buxted	Little Forge, post-medieval ironworks.
432	Seaford	Martello Tower no. 74.
434	Westdean	Barrow in Seven Sisters Country Park.
435	Westdean	Early 19th-century site of barracks.
443	Maresfield	Stumblets Furnace.
444	Isfield	Cattle Pound.
451	Icklesham	Moated site at Old Place.
455	Withyham	Moated site near Blackham Court.
461	Hastings	Site of St. George's church, East Hill

### *West Sussex*

377	Sullington	Group of four barrows additional to five already Scheduled on Sullington Warren.
438	Singleton	Court Hill Iron Age enclosure.
439	Patching	Cock Hill Bronze Age enclosure.
441	Pulborough	Borough Farm Roman Villa.
444	West Dean	Roman Villa, Warren Down (Chilgrove II).
446	Littlehampton	1854 fort.
447	Rogate	Land at Durford Abbey, farm buildings, barn and water-wheel (excluding <i>Listed</i> house).
452	West Dean	Deserted medieval farmstead, remains of later farmhouse and associated land at Monkton Farm, Chilgrove.
453	Kirdford	Site of Wephurst glasshouse.
454	Duncton	Romano-British settlement at Church Farm.
456	West Dean	Site of Chilgrove Chapel.
457	Pulborough	Site of Roman building (?mausoleum) at Broomershill.

E. W. HOLDEN (Honorary Correspondent for Sussex, Ancient Monuments Inspectorate, Department of the Environment)

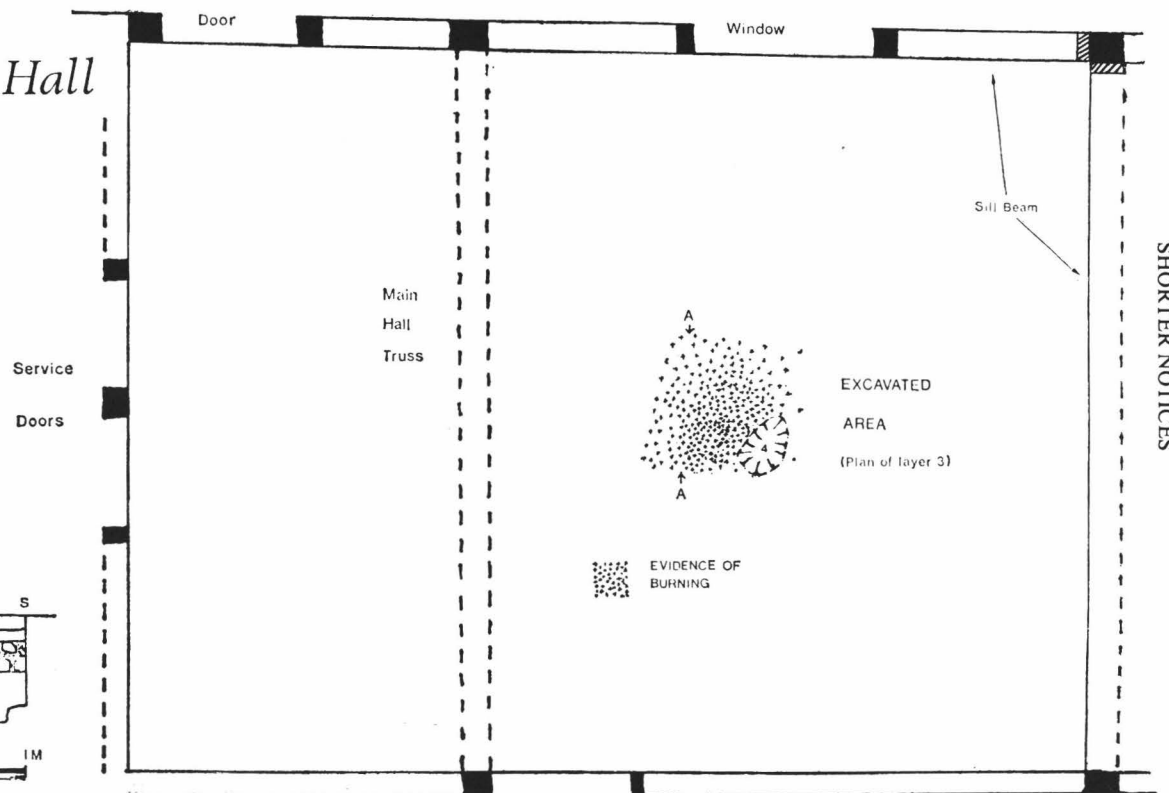
SUSSEX BARROWS—Three more barrows have been recognised by Mrs. H. G. Holden and the writer whilst walking in the Graffham area, though all are actually in East Lavington parish.

# ALFRISTON CLERGY HOUSE 1976

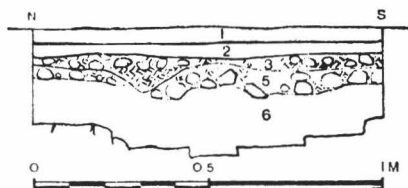
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## Plan of Hall



SECTION AT A-A



Description of features in Fig. 1

1. Rammed chalk, with a little tile and coal ash. Modern.
2. Dirty chalk, surfaced trampled, very few tile fragments.
3. Crumbly chalk with fire-reddened, crumbly clay, a little brick and stone, no surface.

4. Pit.
5. Very red, discoloured chalky clay.
6. Chalk with grey-brown clay seams.

N.G.R.	Type of barrow	Diam. in m.	Height in m.	Remarks
SU 94741862	Bowl	25	1 +	Partly destroyed by later banks and ditches on N. and S. sides. No sign of surrounding ditch. Planted with conifers.
SU 94221895	Bowl	20	1	Revealed by recent tree-felling over and around the barrows. No trace of ditch.
SU 94171896	Bowl	20	1	Ditto as last. Ploughed down on E. side.
E. W. HOLDEN				

#### THE OLD CLERGY HOUSE, ALFRISTON, 1976

The National Trust invited the Sussex Archaeological Field Unit to check the existence of the medieval floor and hearth in the Hall of the 'Wealden' Clergy House, Alfriston, prior to consolidation work. Accordingly, a limited excavation was carried out on September 4th, 1976, in which the author was assisted by Mr. Ian Blair. In February, 1977, service trenches were dug by contractors outside the north wall and across the green west of the church; these were watched by Miss Peggy Norman.

The excavation showed that the floor has, at some time, been lowered below the medieval occupation level. The hearth area was identified by heat-reddened clay and crushed chalk, no more than 20cms. thick (Fig. 1, layers 3 and 5). This was covered by about 8cms. of post-eighteenth century material (layers 1 and 2), but the hearth itself had been removed before these later deposits were applied. There was no charcoal in any of the layers. The natural chalk lay 15-20cms. below the present floor level (layer 6).

A small scoop (feature 4) cut into the discoloured layers produced a few fragments of eighteenth-century tin-glazed earthenware. There were no other datable finds from any of the layers, but there were fragments of Horsham stone. These may be stray fragments brought in from elsewhere to make up the floor, because the service trench near the north wall did not produce any more fragments.

The service trench across the green produced no evidence of occupation.

#### Acknowledgements

I should like to thank the National Trust, Corinne Wilson, B.A.(Arch.), A.R.I.B.A., Kenneth Garrett, Peggy Norman, and Ian Blair for their advice, consultation and practical help.  
D. J. FREKE.

**STOUGHTON RING DITCHES**—It would seem likely that the five or six ring ditches at Stoughton, referred to by Bradley<sup>1</sup> include four recorded by Curwen in 1937.<sup>2</sup> Curwen described four 'dark rings' in a crop of barley, with diameters of approximately 40ft. (12m.: compare Bradley's estimates of between 20 and 30m.), completing his description with a sketch plan and a photograph (taken from the ground). The difference between the diameters given by the two notes suggests the possibility that different crop-marks are being described, despite the fact that the location is the same. It is, perhaps, best to await the evidence of further observation.

As Curwen noted at the time<sup>3</sup> the Stoughton ring ditches were the first archaeological crop-marks to be described in Sussex. Examination of vertical aerial photographs in County Hall, Chichester, taken in 1949 and 1971, has shown the latter to reveal nothing regarding these marks. The whole of the Bow Hill area would seem to be a candidate for systematic observation and photography from the air.

MIKE PITTS

<sup>1</sup> R. Bradley, "Ring Ditches at Stoughton," *S.A.C.* Vol. 112 (1974), p.158.

<sup>2</sup> E. C. Curwen, "Crop-marks on Stoughton Down," *S.N.Q.* Vol. 6 (1937), pp.139-140.

<sup>3</sup> *Op. Cit.*

**EARTHWORKS AT HALNAKER HILL**—The presence (or absence) of Roman or pre-Roman fields in Sussex west of the Arun has long been a subject of interest and several 'Field Systems' appear on Ordnance Survey maps of this area, both on the Downs and on the coastal plain. Work by the writer has suggested that greater study is needed before a prehistoric date can safely be postulated for many of these. One case where this does seem to be a reasonable inference, however, is the 'System' south of the enclosure on Halnaker Hill (SU 921 097).

Halnaker Hill is a southward-projecting spur on the southern edge of the Downs, about 4.5km. east-south-east of the Trundle and 7.5km. north-east of Chichester. Its highest point lies at about 128m. above O.D. In historical times, the hill appears to have remained unenclosed pasture until the beginning of this century. The earliest map with field divisions that the writer has seen is the Ordnance Survey 6in. sheet 49SW, revised in 1910; this shows the three main boundaries, which meet just inside the prehistoric enclosure and which form the basis of the contemporary field pattern. There are a number of earthworks, all ploughed but most still clearly visible on the ground, that appear to bear no logical relationship to this pattern. There are suggestions of an extinct field system aligned on a north-north-east—south-south-west axis. It may be significant that similar features are generally absent outside the area only recently brought under cultivation. The northern limit of the area covered by these earthworks is roughly coincident with the southern edge of a clay-with-flints deposit<sup>1</sup> which extends up the hill as far as the north side of the hill-top enclosure.

When visited by the writer in December, 1975, the fields south of the enclosure were under pasture. The northern half of the enclosure itself is in the corner of an arable field and the earthworks here are ploughed completely flat. A negative lynchet, which appears to have removed the ditch is developing against the enclosure on the west side.

No dating evidence exists for the Halnaker enclosure. Earthworks of similar shape and size are present at Barkhale (SU 976 126) and Court Hill (SU 897 137). Dating evidence for the former has not been published. Although Curwen described it as possessing "the characteristic peculiarities of Neolithic fortification,"<sup>2</sup> it could be argued that it is equally similar to an unfinished hill-fort. Court Hill is also undated. Holden<sup>3</sup> has described evidence for Late Bronze Age occupation behind a crescentic dyke on the spur north of this enclosure and, on morphological grounds at least, it would seem that an early date is likely for both Court Hill and Halnaker—Late Bronze Age or early Iron Age (if the latter, perhaps contemporary with the earliest Iron Age settlement at the Trundle). The fields around Halnaker do not appear to have been systematically walked. Ordnance Survey records note the finding of Roman pottery on the south slope (SU 9206 0926). The trackway which descends this side of the hill has cut down through one of the lynchets. At this point, a waste flint flake and a small, soft flint-gritted potsherd, fired black inside and brown on its outer surfaces (both placed in Chichester Museum) were recovered from the bank.

The marks visible inside the Halnaker enclosure, at first thought to indicate a possible earlier settlement on the same site are, perhaps, more likely to be a product of the considerable, relatively-recent disturbance, beginning at least in the mid-18th century, when the still extant windmill was erected. Ordnance Survey records refer to three possible entrances, on the south, west and north sides. Only one entrance of probable antiquity appears on the air photographs, on the north-west side. The other three are probably recent breaks associated with tracks serving the windmill and a 19th-century cottage, whose occupant owned fields at the bottom of the hill to the south.

It is, perhaps, worth noting in conclusion that, if we accept Bradley's interpretation of the aerial photograph of the Trundle in Barbican House<sup>4</sup> (that the Neolithic settlement extends considerably outside the Iron Age defences), then all of the four settlement centres referred to in this note are partially under plough; Barkhale, Court Hill and Halnaker, in particular, are suffering serious damage.

I would like to acknowledge the help of Mr. B. Wedmore, who assisted the writer in surveying the profiles and that of Mr. F. Aldsworth, who made available aerial photographs in County Hall, Chichester.

MIKE PITTS

<sup>1</sup> As mapped by J. M. Hodgson, *Soils of the West Sussex Coastal Plain*, Soil Survey of Great Britain, England and Wales, Bulletin No. 3 (1967).

<sup>2</sup> E. C. Curwen, *The Archaeology of Sussex*, 2nd ed., Methuen (1954), p. 70.

<sup>3</sup> E. W. Holden, "Earthworks on Court Hill," *S.N.Q.* vol. 13, pp. 183-185.

<sup>4</sup> R. Bradley, "The Trundle Revisited," *S.N.Q.* 17 (1969), pp. 133-134.

**FLINT ARTIFACTS FROM SEAFORD (Fig. 2)**—A small collection of worked flints has been given to the Seven Sisters Country Park, Exceat, by Mr. W. Price-Jones of Seaford. With one exception, all are the result of surface collection by him over many years from a  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile x  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile stretch of ploughsoil south of South Hill Barn and west of Hope Bottom, an area of Clay-with-Flints, in the parish of Seaford. The approximate centre of the area is at TV 503 978. By courtesy of Mr. J. Gascoigne, the Warden of the Country Park, the flints are the subject of this note.

The exception is the artifact shown in Fig. 2, 1, which was found in the topsoil of the grounds of St. Peter's School, Seaford, at about TV 495 996 and given to Mr. Price-Jones some years ago. This is separately described by Dr. D. A. Roe. A flint handaxe (Fig. 2, 2) was found in 1975 by Mr. Gascoigne near the foot of the cliff at Hope Gap at TV 511 974. It was wedged in a crack in the wave-cut platform on the foreshore and appears to have fallen from the soil overlying the chalk at this point. This handaxe, likewise, is described below by Dr. D. A. Roe, to whom I am indebted for his continued interest and advice in matters affecting the very early periods in Sussex.

The arable area between Seaford Head Camp and Hope Bottom has yielded large numbers of humanly modified flints ranging from the Mesolithic to the Neolithic and later periods. Many were found by W. J. Mortimore, the Rev. E. D. Arundell, and H. G. Hurrell.<sup>1</sup> Our member, Martin Bell, has also found Mesolithic and Neolithic flints over the same area,<sup>2</sup> and he draws attention to the fact that an association between Mesolithic industries and areas of Clay-with-Flints has been noted by Cunliffe at Chalton<sup>3</sup> in addition to his own discovery of a similar association on the Downs in the parish of Elsted, W. Sussex.<sup>4</sup>

Description of Fig. 2, nos. 1 and 2, by Dr. D. A. Roe.

The flint artifact shown in Fig. 2, 1 is a somewhat enigmatic object. Some of those who have seen it were inclined to regard it as a Lower Palaeolithic cleaver, and it was for this reason that it was sent to the writer to describe. He is, however, inclined to take a different view, for reasons which will emerge. The dimensions of the artifact, aligned as drawn, are: maximum length 119mm., maximum breadth 78mm., maximum thickness 40mm.

Cleavers are certainly found in Britain, though they are much less common here than in certain other parts of the world, notably Africa and India. The characteristic feature of a cleaver is the rather axe-like working edge at the tip end, set transversely (or sometimes obliquely) to the long axis of the implement. African-style cleavers are very distinctive objects, being made from large flakes, usually of hard quartzite or some volcanic rock; such flakes are often side-struck, and the cleaver is made by a particular technique which establishes its basic shape before the big flake is removed from its parent block. Only the barest trace of this technique of cleaver manufacture is known in Britain, however, British cleavers typically being made of flint and worked very much in the manner of bifacial Acheulian handaxes; indeed, some workers would regard them merely as a special handaxe type—as square-ended handaxes, in fact. They occur in certain British Middle Acheulian industries, such as those of Furze Platt and Baker's Farm in the Middle Thames valley, or Cuxton, near Rochester, in the Medway valley.<sup>5</sup> The only Sussex example known to the writer comes from Bishopstone, not far from Seaford, and is in the British Museum (accession no. 1945, 7-4, 2).



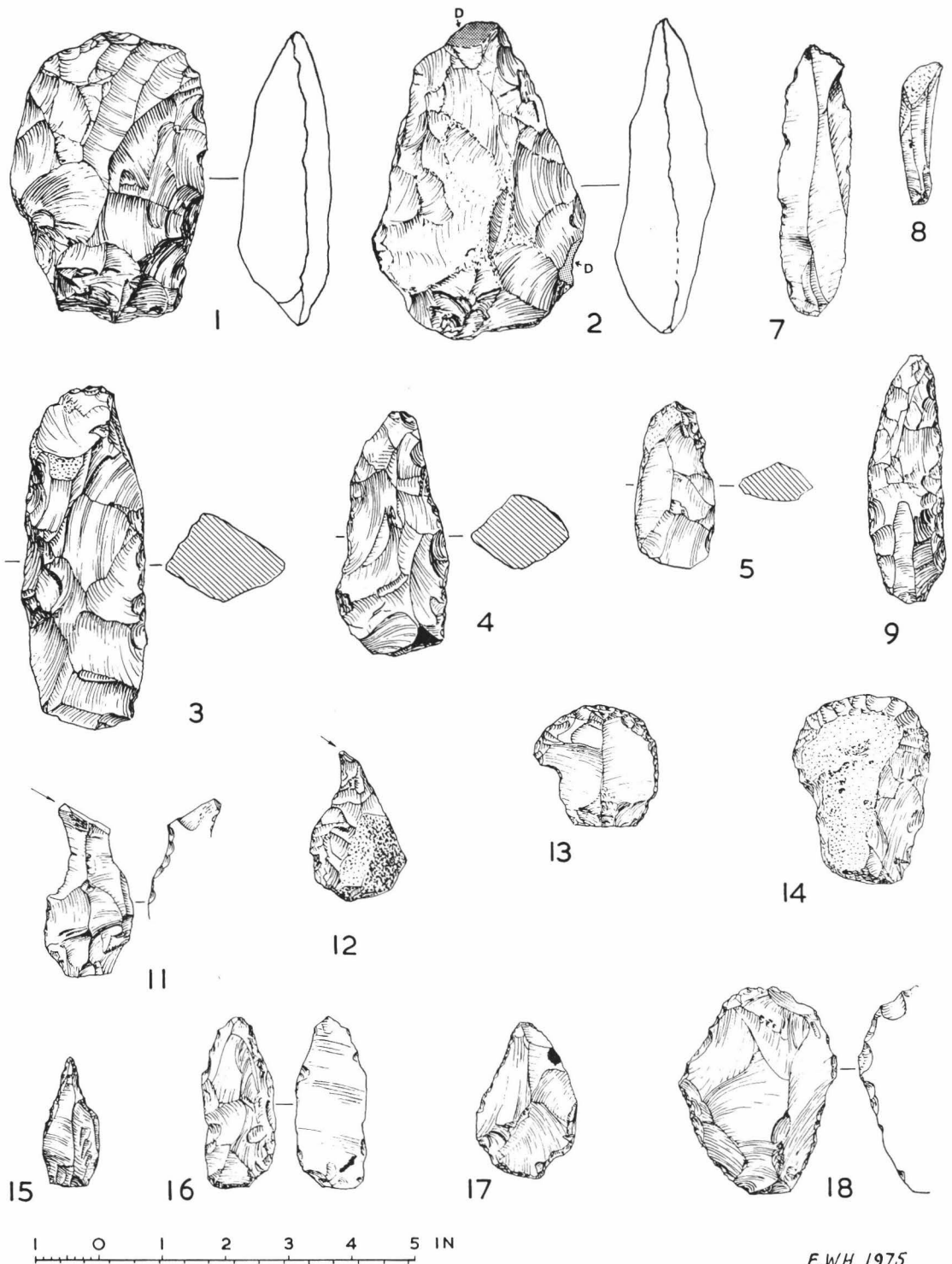


Fig. 2. Flint Artifacts from Seaford. 1. St. Peter's School. 2. Hope Gap. 3-18. From near South Hill Barn.

*E.W.H. 1975*

To such pieces the artifact shown in the drawing does bear a superficial resemblance. However, there are important differences of detail. First, the working edges of British cleavers are typically made in a rather different manner. Sometimes a true "tranchet finish" technique is used—the removal, in the final stages of manufacture, of a long flat flake running transversely right across the top, providing a sharp bevelled cutting edge. Such a tranchet flake may even be removed from both faces of the cleaver, so that the working edge is a double-bevelled one formed by the intersection of the two tranchet scars. Mesolithic axes were often finished or re-sharpened in a closely similar way. When a true tranchet technique is not employed, the cleaver working edges still show only a few large flake scars, which tend to run more or less transversely to the long axis. In Fig. 2, 1, however, the working edge on the face illustrated (at the top of the drawing) shows numerous rather small trimming scars, which tend to run in much the same direction as the long axis, and the same is to be seen on the face not shown.

If attention is next turned to the butt, the latter appears to have been squared off and slightly tapered, not very symmetrically, partly by crude flaking, but mainly by battering of the edges. The view could be taken that the battering is the result of natural processes during the implement's post-depositional history, but if this were so it is curious that the rest of its surface and some potentially vulnerable parts of the side edges should be so little scathed. It seems to the writer therefore that this is an original feature, which represents deliberate modification of the butt end for purposes of hafting the implement. Palaeolithic cleavers may well have been hafted on occasion, but there is not a shred of evidence to demonstrate this in Britain, and British cleavers not uncommonly have butts consisting of cortex, or else are roughly shaped as if to provide a hand-hold, though occasionally they seem to incorporate a second and narrower cleaver edge at the butt end. A battered finish, like that of the artifact under discussion, would not be at all typical.

The condition of the implement—unpatinated, with small spots and streaks of iron-stain and with the ridges only slightly dulled—does not suggest long incorporation in a Pleistocene deposit, and the object seems in fact to have been found in disturbed topsoil (see above). This, however, is no more than circumstantial evidence so far as age is concerned. Any conclusion must be guesswork, but the writer is not averse to making an honest guess, and he therefore rejects the artifact as a cleaver of Palaeolithic age, finds it out of line with the general morphological and technical run of Mesolithic axes, and suggests that it is a not very beautiful Neolithic unpolished axe, which was at one time hafted. To give it the benefit of the doubt, it is not inconceivable that it was once a much longer and therefore more elegant object, which broke during use somewhere just below the middle, so that the rather curious battered and squared butt is actually the result of rough reshaping of the broken object so that it could continue to be used. The working edge certainly has an appearance of heavy use, though the implement's condition is not quite fresh enough for useful microwear study. This idea of reshaping is pure speculation, however, and if a more detailed analysis is required it would need to be supplied by someone with more knowledge than the writer of Neolithic flintwork.

The artifact shown in Fig. 2, 2 presents no such problems of identification, although it has been reduced to a sad state by a combination of almost every kind of damage that could occur: it is the remains of a distinctly well-made Lower Palaeolithic (Acheulian) handaxe. It appears to have been of pointed pyriform shape, and fairly flat: the original length must have been about 14cm., the maximum breadth (aligned as drawn) is 90mm., and the maximum thickness 39mm. The implement is made of pale grey flint, now patinated and deeply stained ochreous yellow-brown. There are several damage scars of various ages, including the recent break which has removed the tip (modern damage marked *D* on drawing). The ridges between the flake scars are heavily abraded and there are small areas of battering, notably at the points of maximum convexity on each face; on the face illustrated, this battering looks very much like beach-rolling, and the provenance of the implement (see above) of course makes this likely. As if these detrimental processes were not enough, there are two further items of evidence for the implement's having experienced more than a fair share of Pleistocene rigours: white pencil-like markings here and there on its surface are the result of some kind of soil movement, most probably solifluxion or cryoturbation during a periglacial phase, while on the face not illustrated there are various ancient frost-cracks, one of which runs the whole way from the butt to the broken tip. Indeed, the mechanical fracture scars left by the breaking off of the tip run quickly into frost-shattering associated with this crack, which certainly contributed to the break.

As the writer has observed before in notes on isolated Sussex handaxes, it is not really possible to be definite about assigning a stray find of this nature to a precise period or cultural stage within the vast length of the Lower Palaeolithic. Implements of this shape and style are probably commonest in the Middle Acheulian, and this one would not look out of place typologically in, for example, the Middle Gravels of Barnfield Pit, Swanscombe, source of the famous Swanscombe hominid find. However, it could just as well be somewhat younger. It thus probably belongs to the later part of the Hoxnian interglacial or to some part of the succeeding Wolstonian cold complex, and in round terms is unlikely to be younger as an artifact than 130,000 years or older than 250,000 years, as our present rather shaky chronometric estimates go.

Lower Palaeolithic material is not particularly common in the Seaford area. In compiling his Palaeolithic *Gazetteer*,<sup>6</sup> the present writer recorded a rather crude handaxe and a retouched flake from Seaford Hill, now in the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at Cambridge; no details of the exact provenance of either appear to be known, the handaxe being described as a surface find. He also recorded a good white-patinated Levalloisian flake from Seaford (again, no further details), now in the British Museum (Wellcome Collection), and noted L. V. Grinsell's report<sup>7</sup> that Seaford was one of the places in Sussex where ovates had been found. The *Gazetteer* also lists a few isolated finds in adjacent parishes (pp. 295-305), but no major site is known. Following the publication of the *Gazetteer*, Mr. A. V. Sheppard, then of Brighton Museum, kindly sent the information that a handaxe had been found on Seaford Head near the barn (TQ 494 979) by John Gould, then of Ardingly College, in whose possession it remained at the time (November 1968). The drawing sent with this information shows a rather damaged pointed ovate, and Mr. Sheppard compared its somewhat twisted edge to that of another ovate from Seaford, in the Brighton Museum collection (R 3920/1), which the writer has not himself seen and did not record in the *Gazetteer*. With the implement described in the present note, it seems therefore that the Palaeolithic finds from Seaford itself now amount to at least four handaxes and two flakes.

DESCRIPTION of Fig. 2, nos. 3-18, by E. W. Holden.

Flints marked \* are not illustrated. A distinctive numeral has been given to each flint, which agrees with the drawing and a register kept at the Seven Sisters Country Park. Each one is prefixed by a letter and a pair of numerals, the letter representing the parish, e.g. S equals Seaford, and the numerals the year of accession, e.g., 75 equals 1975. Most flints are grey or a creamy-grey with touches of iron staining on the flake ridges; some have a natural lustre.

#### Mesolithic

3. "Tranchet" axe, quadrangular section, possessing traces of cortex on the butt and one face.

#### Probably Mesolithic

4. Small axe, quadrangular, pointed butt, traces of hafting gloss. There is a small area near the cutting edge (solid black in the drawing) which appears to have been ground smooth, and another on the reverse face.

5. Very small axe, triangular in section, made from a thick flake, with cortex near the butt. Obliquely struck sharpening flake scars on both faces at tip (broken in recent times and now stuck together).

7. and 8. Two utilized blades. Edges show wear through use, without definite retouch.

#### Mesolithic or Neolithic or later

9. Fabricator, quadrangular in section, edges battered, but ends not unduly so.
- \*10. Possibly part of a fabricator, broken in antiquity.
11. Burin or graver, made on a flake (bulb at bottom as drawn), with inverse retouch.
12. Possibly a burin, made on a flake (ditto as last), partly cortical. The top is damaged by wear.<sup>8</sup>
13. Convex scraper with inversely retouched notch on one side. The bulb has been partially removed.
14. Large convex sea-pebble scraper retaining some cortex on one face; bulb removed.
- \* 6. Core, struck from two directions, later used as a hammerstone.
15. Awl or borer, with cortex on butt at bulbar end.
- \*24. Fire-crackled flint (so-called "potboiler").

#### Neolithic or later

16. Retouched flake with slight trace of gloss near distal end on the bulbar face (solid black in drawing). Possibly a reaping knife. It resembles in shape and size a sickle flint or reaping knife found in the same area by Mortimore.<sup>9</sup>

17. Blunt pointed flake with slight retouch and signs of utilization. There is one small area of high gloss near the tip (shown solid black in drawing).

18. Large flake with coarse retouch including inverse retouch and blunting.

Nos. 16-18 are all flakes that fit the hand for use as reaping knives, but there is no guarantee that they were utilized for that purpose. High gloss, while common on sickle flints or reaping knives (caused by silica in corn stalks), is not always present and it must be remembered that the cutting of other materials with flint artifacts may sometimes produce gloss.

\*19-23. Miscellaneous retouched flakes of unknown use.

E.W. HOLDEN

<sup>1</sup> *Sussex Notes and Queries*, vol. 13 (1950-3), 193-7. Flints from the collection of W. J. Mortimore are in Barbican House Museum, Lewes, but those of the Rev. E. D. Arundell have not been traced. Hurrell's collection was stated in the *S.N.Q.* reference to be at the offices of the (then) Seaford Borough Council.

<sup>2</sup> *Bishopstone Leaflet*, 10 (1974).

<sup>3</sup> B. W. Cunliffe, "Chalton, Hants, the evolution of a landscape," *Antiquaries Journal*, vol. 53 (1973), 176.

<sup>4</sup> University of London, Institute of Archaeology, *Easter Field Course Notes* (1975), 9.

<sup>5</sup> A. D. Lacaille, "On Palaeolithic choppers and cleavers, (Notes suggested by some Buckinghamshire examples)," *Records of Bucks.*, vol. 16 (1960), 330-41; P. J. Tester, "An Acheulian site at Cuxton," *Arch. Cantiana*, vol. 80 (1965), 30-60; J. J. Wymer, "Lower Palaeolithic Archaeology in Britain as represented in the Thames Valley," (1968); D. A. Roe, "British Lower and Middle Palaeolithic handaxe groups," *Proc. Prehistoric Soc.*, vol. 34 (1968), 1-82.

<sup>6</sup> D. A. Roe, "A Gazetteer of British Lower and Middle Palaeolithic sites," Council for British Archaeology, Research Report No. 8 (1968).

<sup>7</sup> L. V. Grinsell, "The Lower and Middle Palaeolithic periods in Sussex," *S.A.C.*, vol. 70 (1929), 173-82, see 179.

<sup>8</sup> For Late Neolithic burins on flakes at Rackham, Sussex, see *S.A.C.*, vol. 113 (1975), 85-103, Fig. 10, nos. 36-7.

<sup>9</sup> *S.N.Q.*, vol. 13 (1950-3), 196-7, Fig. 2; *P.P.S.*, vol. 4 (1938), 34; *Antiq. Journal*, vol. 29 (1949), 192-5.

A BRONZE AGE LOOM WEIGHT FROM CROSS-IN-HAND (TQ 552 205)—Mr. S. Bayliss Smith of Selwyn's Wood, Cross-in-Hand, in the parish of Waldron, found in his garden the object illustrated in Fig. 3 and which he has kindly presented to the Society. It is made of fired clay, is almost cylindrical with an average diameter of 58mm., has a length of 82mm., both ends being rounded, and is perforated with an oval hole, 9 by 7mm., made before firing. The outer face is smooth in places but has suffered flaking damage all round and at both ends. The damage reveals that a coarse filler (up to 4mm. diameter) of crushed flint had been added to the clay. In colour it is brown to buff in patches, with other areas of dark grey caused by reduction of firing. The colouring suggests burning in a clamp, i.e. a fire possibly in a shallow pit or trench with as much oxygen excluded as possible during burning by means of covering with turves. The object weighs 237 grams (8½oz.).

With an isolated find such as this there is always the possibility that the object is a curio brought from elsewhere and thrown away when no longer wanted. If, however, it is prehistoric, there is no reason why it should not have been used at Cross-in-Hand (with other weights), for the Weald was not so depopulated in early times as was thought until comparatively recently<sup>1</sup> and there are records of worked flints being found in the area.<sup>2</sup>

The object could be a net-sinker, but it seems unlikely, and it bears resemblance in form, composition, and mode of firing to loom weights as used in the middle and latter part of the Bronze Age. Many have been found at excavated Bronze Age sites in Sussex such as Itford Hill, Park Brow, Cock Hill, and Kingston Buci,<sup>3</sup> while specimens in Brighton Museum have been found at Saddlescombe, also from Kitchener's Furlong, near Eastbourne (Barbican House Museum).<sup>4</sup> The majority of weights tend to be heavier than the Cross-in-Hand specimen, having greater diameters, though not necessarily much taller. One from Itford Hill is only 2mm. higher than the weight from Selwyn's Wood, but is 68mm. in diameter as opposed to 58mm. and with a perforation of 12mm.<sup>5</sup> The resemblance, however, is so strong, that I am prepared to accept the object from Selwyn's Wood as a Bronze Age loom weight. Those found at Itford Hill have a date in the region of 1200-1300 BC.<sup>6</sup>

The art of weaving with upright looms appears to have been introduced into England from the continent during the second millennium BC, utilizing weights and a wooden framework. The weights, which were usually of baked clay, but occasionally of chalk (or stone, in stone areas), had groups of warp (upright) threads attached to each one by means of a cord, the upper ends being fastened by means of a starting border to a wooden beam at the top. The sole purpose of the weights is to tension the warp, which they did effectively, for this method of weaving persisted into the 20th century in the remoter areas of the Scandinavian countries. The warp-weighted loom was superseded gradually in western Europe by the introduction of the horizontal treadle-loom during the later 12th and early 13th centuries.<sup>7</sup> The cylindrical baked clay weights of the Bronze Age with central perforation differ from weights used in the Iron Age and the Saxon period. Iron Age weights, also commonly of baked clay, are triangular with perforations across the corners, while Saxon ones are baked clay rings or discs with central holes.

E. W. HOLDEN

<sup>1</sup> *S.A.C.*, vol. 112 (1974), 34-43.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p.43.

<sup>3</sup> *Proc. Prehistoric Soc.*, vol. 23 (1957), 200-2, Fig. 25.

<sup>4</sup> *S.A.C.*, vol. 72 (1931), 208-9.

<sup>5</sup> *Proc. Prehistoric Soc.*, vol. 23 (1957), 201, Fig. 25, right.

<sup>6</sup> *S.A.C.*, vol. 110 (1972), 89 and 117.

<sup>7</sup> *Med. Archaeol.*, vol. 13 (1969), 164.

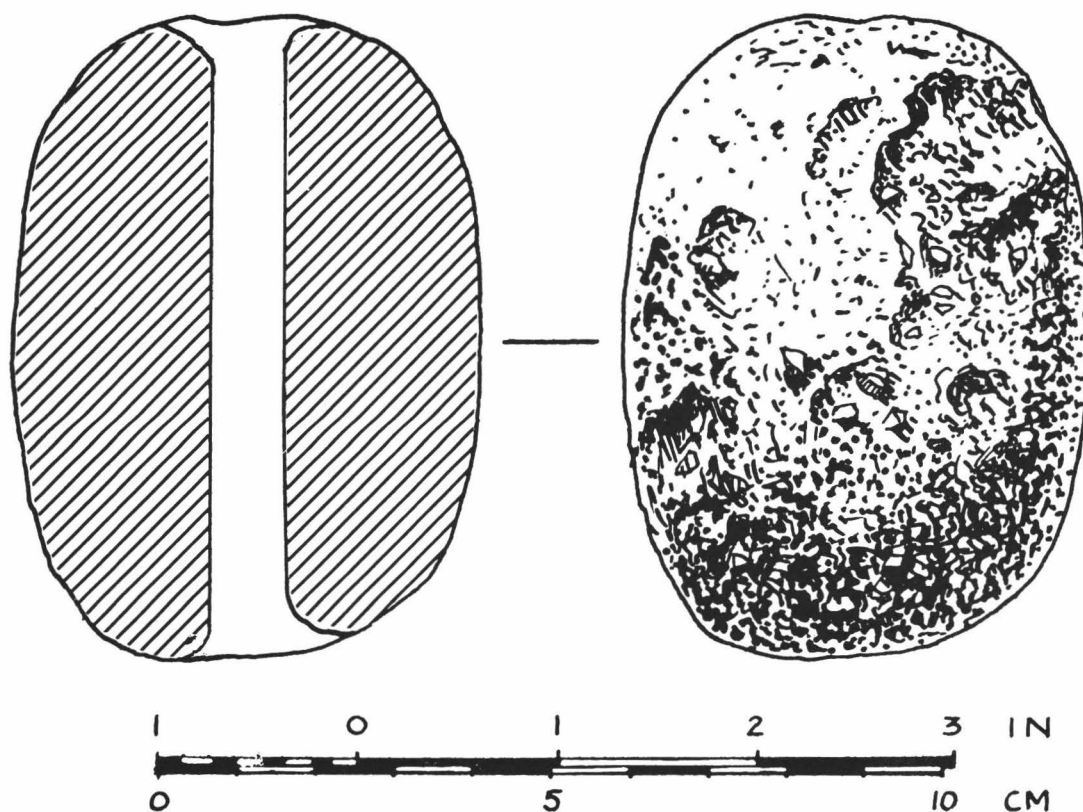


Fig. 3. A Bronze Age loom weight from Cross-in-Hand.

**ROMAN PEWTER PLATE FROM GLYNDE (TQ 460 088)**—During an exercise in trenching and shoring at Glynde in May, 1974, a Roman pewter plate was dug up by employees of the East Sussex River Authority. It was later sold to Barbican House Museum, Lewes (Accession No. 1974. 27) by Mr. McLachlan, one of the men involved, and he supplied the following details of the circumstances of the find. The trench itself ran north-south in an area to the west of Glynde railway station between the river, Glynde Reach, and the railway line; it was approximately eight yards long and two yards wide and was dug to a depth of about six feet. The plate was found between three and four feet below the ground surface and was resting on a close-packed layer of flints extending over the whole area of the trench at this level. The men involved assumed it to be an old road surface. No other finds were observed in association with the plate.

By the time that it was possible to visit the site, there was little trace of the trench but the spot (TQ 460 088), indicated by Mr. McLachlan, accords well with the south ford crossing on the Lewes to Pevensy Roman road which is marked on I. D. Margary's map as having flint metalling at this point.<sup>1</sup> In the Roman period, the Reach was part of the now largely silted Ouse Estuary and was some 170 yards wide at its narrowest point, where the south ford was constructed. The plate appears to have been found approximately half-way across, near the course of the present river.

The plate was examined by David Brown of the Ashmolean Museum, to whom I am most grateful for the reconstructed section drawing (Fig. 4) and his detailed comment that forms the basis of this report.

In its original form, the plate had the angular profile of standard fourth-century pieces but with a diameter of some twelve inches it is of relatively small size in comparison with the general range of pewter plates, which can exceed two feet in diameter. It is, also, rather thinly cast and this appears to have led to the extensive splitting at base and rim, although a certain weakness in the rim is not unusual. Such plates were cast in a two-piece, stone mould and then trimmed and polished on a primitive form of lathe, the two decorative concentric rings being incised on the base during polishing. The back of the Glynde plate also shows the characteristic traces left in the process of mounting it on the lathe and which have been described in detail by David Brown, with reference to the Appleford hoard.<sup>2</sup> Four arcs, described with compasses and centred at roughly equidistant points round the footring, were drawn to intersect more or less at the plate's centre and, at this point, it was nailed down to the lathe plate. An unpolished area at the back of the plate shows that the lathe plate had a diameter of some four-and-a-half inches in this instance. Three small spikes, equally spaced round the edge of the lathe plate, helped to keep the plate in position during the turning and, afterwards, the resulting holes and the central perforation were plugged with metal; a fifth patch of solder indicates either an accidental spill or the plugging of a hole left in casting.

Pewter appears to have been an indigenous development in Roman Britain, stemming from the use of tin as a less costly alternative to silver tableware. Its use, however, is associated with villas and wealthy establishments and it was evidently of sufficient value to warrant burial in hoards, when danger threatened. Its production and distribution were centred largely on the Mendip and Cambridge areas although hoards and single pieces are not uncommon in the London area, in Berkshire, Hampshire and Wiltshire. In the extreme south-east, on the other hand, pewter pieces are relatively scarce, with only three pieces from Richborough in Kent and Selsey in Sussex being listed by Wedlake in his original survey<sup>3</sup> and, of

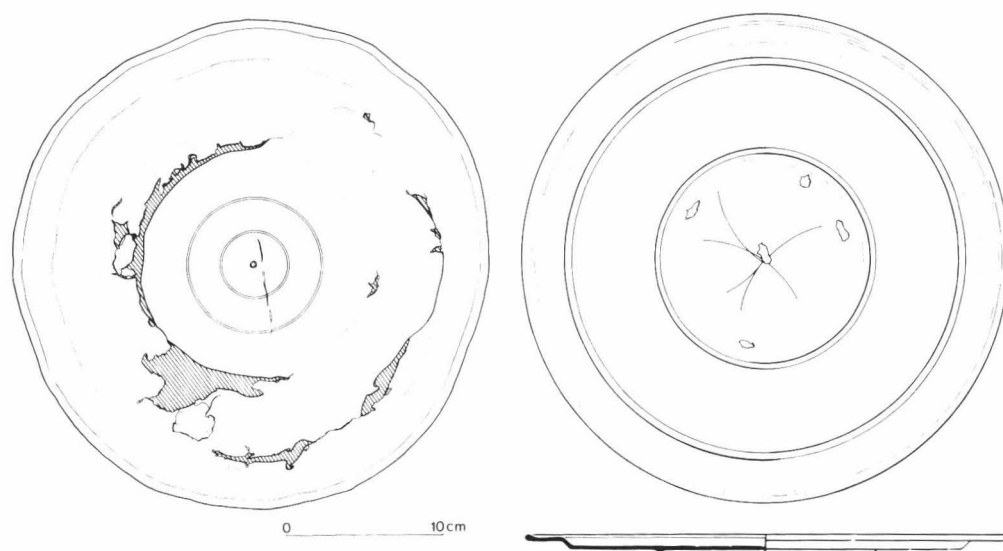


Fig. 4. Roman pewter plate from Glynde, with upper surface as damaged on left, and reconstructed back and section on right



these, the actual Sussex provenance of one of the "Selsey" flagons is scarcely satisfactory. <sup>4</sup>In Kent, more recent finds of an unpublished hoard from Richborough and a small cup and ornamental leaf from Springhead, <sup>5</sup> begin to indicate a more widespread distribution eastwards along the Thames from London but the position in Sussex and Surrey has remained unaltered. Against this background, the Glynde plate emerges as an isolated piece, of limited value on any distribution map. Its find spot at the crossing point of what was, in Roman times, a muddy estuary, on the road from London, via Lewes, to the port at Pevensey seems, at least until further finds occur in this area, more likely to represent a loss in transit than an extension of the use of pewter table wares among the villas of the Sussex coastal plain.

FIONA MARSDEN

<sup>1</sup> *S.A.C.*, vol. 80 (1939), p. 52.

<sup>2</sup> A note in *Oxoniensis*, vol. 38 (1973), p. 87.

<sup>3</sup> W. J. Wedlake, *Excavations at Camerton, Somerset* (1958).

<sup>4</sup> *Antiquaries Journal*, vol. 6 (1926), p. 321.

<sup>5</sup> *Archaeologia Cantiana*, vols. 83 (1968), p. 172 and 73 (1959), p. 53.

**PREHISTORIC FINDS FROM POSSINGWORTH PARK, FRAMFIELD**—Recently further evidence of prehistoric occupation of the Weald has come to light in Possingworth Park (most of which is in the parish of Waldron, but part in Framfield) from the grounds of "Plovers Meadow," where the owner, Mr. Guy Mountfort, has developed a garden, and forestry plantations, in what was once part of the park. During the late war the area was occupied by army establishments which laid down roads and hut foundations and dug ditches. Mr. Mountfort's gardener, Mr. Stephen Yandall, who has an eye for archaeological objects that may turn up in the course of his work, has shown me a number of such objects found by him while working in the garden and plantations.

The greatest number of these are struck flints, well over 200, which came up in flower beds near the house or on the surface of the arable field just S.E. of the house, at approximately TQ 537201. I have also picked up a number from the same field which is on a plateau overlooking the valley to the S.E. where Possingworth lake is situated. Mr. Roger Jacobi has looked at the flints and considers them to be a mixture of Mesolithic and Neolithic. They include scrapers, cores, a Mesolithic axe sharpening flake, and a Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead.

Two objects attributable to the Bronze Age came from an area just E. of the Western Lodge, at approximately TQ 53832125. They were found at ordinary digging level, about 6 feet apart, in a border that runs E. along the N. side of the army road leading E. from Western Lodge. Since the original discovery I have tested the ground here and found it disturbed to a depth of a foot or more and containing much debris, such as broken concrete, bricks, nails, metal piping, guttering, etc., remnants of the army occupation. I feel confident that the Bronze Age objects were not *in situ* when found but dumped there in soil removed when foundations for the nearby army road or huts were laid down. The objects are:

**Bronze Head or Header** (Fig. 5). This curiously shaped piece of bronze was submitted to the British Museum and I am greatly indebted to Mr. R. J. Harrison for identifying the object as being the residual metal left in a *casting jet* or *sprue-cup* on completion of the casting operation, which is then discarded. This piece of waste would normally be melted down in a future casting, but which did not occur here. Bronze founders' hoards sometimes contain such waste pieces and Mr. Harrison refers to similar finds in a Late Bronze Age hoard from Minster, Kent, in the B.M. Collection (Reg: 1893, 4-26).

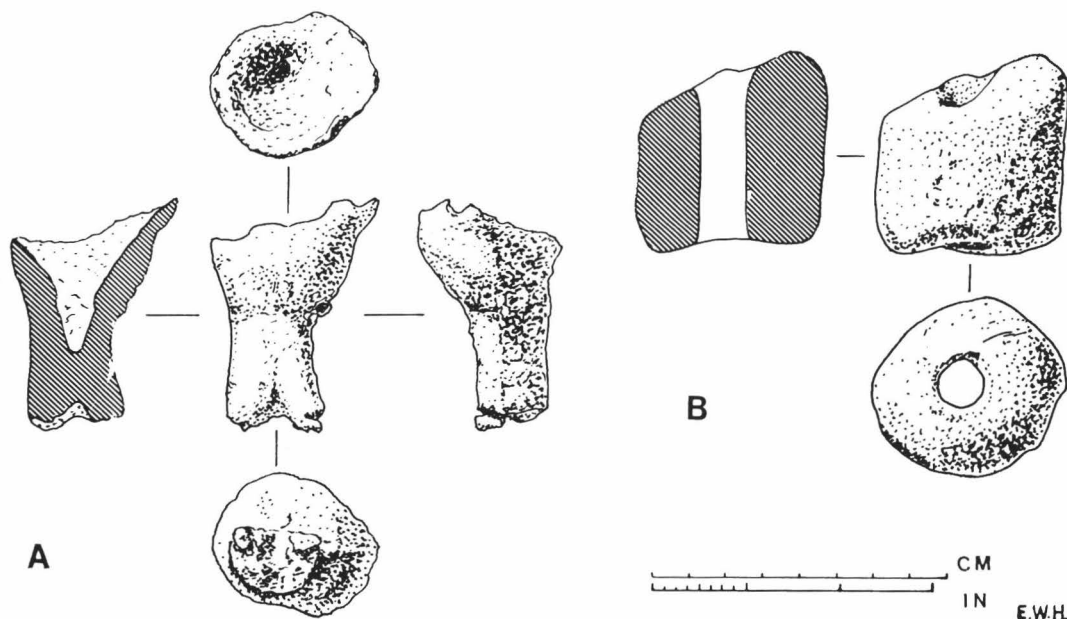


Fig. 5. A. Bronze casting header. B. Sandstone loom weight.

There is a fragment of a bronze two-piece mould for a socketed axe in that hoard. Mr. Harrison noted a casting-seam on one side of the object which shows that it came from a piece mould which, with simple castings, would be a two-piece mould, whereas more complex shapes would require a mould of several pieces. In the lower half of the object are what appear to be two *runners* (through which the liquid metal would flow down to the main part of the mould), rather than *riser* (channels to allow air and gases to escape during pouring and up which the molten metal would ultimately rise and solidify).

The reasons for the excess metal left in the sprue-cup or jet, of a piece mould are clearly explained by H. Hodges:

"Piece-moulds were generally made rather deeper than the intended casting, the additional height being to hold a small cup, the *sprue-cup*, *pour* or *gate* (*jet*, *get*, *git*), into which the metal was poured until virtually full. The need for this was due to the phenomenon known as *pip*ing, in which the molten metal solidifies and contracts almost immediately as it comes in contact with the mould. The interior metal, away from the mould face, remains liquid, and since it cools slowly and contracts it requires an additional quantity of metal to make good this reduction in volume.

If the sprue-cup is allowed to become empty, an actual hollow, called a pipe, forms inside the casting. On cooling, the excess metal which filled the cup, the *head* or *header*, was cut away."<sup>1</sup>

The bronze piece illustrated and described here is such a *head* or *header*. Hodges' Fig. 9, Nos. 4-7, demonstrate how a header and two runners are formed and removed after casting a bronze spearhead.

*Stone Loom Weight* (Fig. 5). About this Mr. Harrison writes:

"I have had a look at the perforated sandstone weight found near the bronze object but unfortunately it is hard to say much about it. The very friable sandstone looks local . . . The shape is so simple that it is not really distinctive enough to say if it is Late Bronze Age or later, but I think it is as likely to be a loom weight as anything else, and in view of its proximity to the bronze sprue, of LBA date."

I am indebted to Mr. E. W. Holden for drawing my attention to reported finds of flints at Possingworth in 1864, and, although M. A. Lower casts doubts on their authenticity, some, from the illustrations, look genuine.<sup>2</sup>

It is interesting to note that a few yards to the north of the above described sites runs the Rye-Uckfield ridgeway, considered by the late I. D. Margary to be of pre-Roman origin,<sup>3</sup> and that the Bronze Age loom weight was found at Selwyn's Wood, Cross-in-Hand, only about a mile away.

I am grateful to Mr. Guy Mountfort for giving me every facility to investigate these finds and to Mr. Yandall for collecting them. Also to Mr. E. W. Holden for drawing the finds and for the references to Mr. Hodges' book, and to Mr. D. S. Butler for his assistance on the site. Mr. Mountfort has agreed to give the finds to the Society's Archaeological Museum, Barbican House.

C. F. TEBBUTT

<sup>1</sup> Henry Hodges, *Artifacts* (1964), pp. 70-1 and see pp. 72-3.

<sup>2</sup> T. W. W. Smart, Notes on worked flints found in the neighbourhood of Hastings, *S.A.C.* vol. 19 (1867), pp. 53-60.

<sup>3</sup> I. D. Margary, *Roman ways in the Weald* (1965 edition), p. 262.

**NOTES ON THE MAMMAL REMAINS IN MEDIEVAL PITS AND WELL AT SEAFORD CHURCH ST. 1976** What follows is a preliminary report detailing generally the osteological material found at the site. In all, there were batches of bones from pit/well 7, 8, 12, 77, 101/66, 128, 96, 15, 129, 138 and 64. This material was further subdivided into levels within these structures, for the most part related to whether it may have been the result of slow accumulation or more rapid filling in. The bones may therefore be accidental intrusions, such as some of the rodent material, intentional refuse dumping, or final "topping up" material presumably representing anything close at hand. Although clearly the bones are not strictly contemporary, they seem to be close to one another in date and may therefore be taken as representing mammals associated with Seaford people of the 14th century. Late intrusive material of perhaps 18th century date is not included. Although sample sizes are regrettably very small, brief consideration is given to possible inter-pit/level differences.

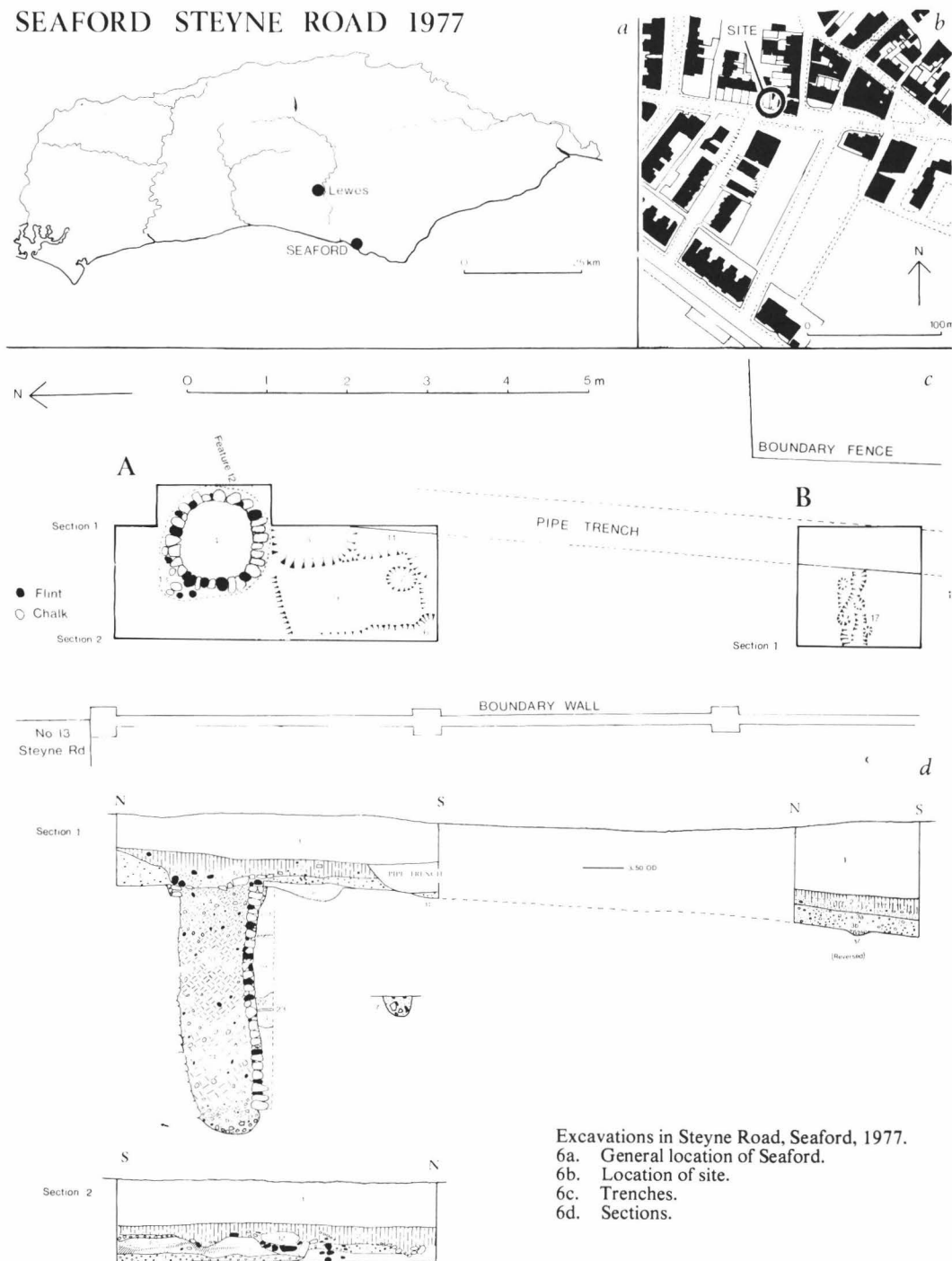
The condition of the bones, even though in general highly fragmented, is good. Bone surfaces are generally intact, and identifications could be made on most bones which were above nondescript fragment shape and size. The majority of non-splinter size bones could therefore be placed at least into the categories of caprovid, bovid, suid, equid, carnivore or rodent. Lists of identifications were made for all groups of bone fragments received for study. However, it would be out of place to detail all the individual identifications here, and these are archived with the senior author (D.R.B.) and at the Museum of the Sussex Archaeological Society, Barbican House, Lewes.

Most of the remains are clearly food animals, with caprovids and cattle being particularly well represented. In one or two pits, pigs were also in evidence at the different levels. In no case is there sufficient material to permit more detailed comparisons of these three group components. There is certainly no evidence, from this limited data, to suggest that proportions of the three food categories changed significantly from level to level or from pit to pit. In fact the only variable which can be remarked on is that the bones were more fragmented in some areas than in others, with the result that the proportion of unidentified small pieces of bone varied between 7% and 54% (with an average of about 34%).

Other mammal varieties represented include horse, a number of cats, limited evidence of deer, possibly one or two dogs, a number of rodents and two fragments of whale. The estimation of minimum numbers is a particularly dubious task on a site like this. The material being considered could well be the accidental or at least haphazard accumulation of mainly food bone debris—that which hadn't decayed on the surface, been eaten by dogs, or disposed of in other ways. The large number of cat bones recovered from Pit (well) 12, representing at least five animals, is unlikely to be accidental, but rather the evidence of intentional drowning or dumping. In contrast the numerous rodents may well have resulted from accidental death in the well. Although a detailed study of the rodents has yet to be made, the material is mainly from level 157 (the lowest) and consists mainly of the bones of the mouse *Mus musculus*, although



## SEAFORD STEYNE ROAD 1977



parts of two skulls of the black rat *Rattus rattus* shows clearly that this was also infesting Seaford to some extent. The occurrence of two fragments of whalebone might perhaps be related to its use commercially, and is certainly not evidence of a food joint!

There was little evidence of the sex of the animals to be obtained from most bone fragments. Moreover, although about 25 bones were immature, it was not possible to derive very meaningful conclusions from this, except to say that if occurrence of bones was related to actual animal numbers, then slightly more caprovids were slaughtered young than cattle or pig.

Nearly all the butchery marks (about 40) were noted on caprovid and cattle bones, with a significant lack of marks on pig remains. Numbers of butchery marks were about equal in cattle and caprovids, with in both cases long bone and vertebral evidence predominant. Burnt bones (? evidence of roasting) were seen in five instances. Six sheep bones and one *Bos metacarpal* displayed chewing marks, not the result of man or rodents.

There was little evidence of pathology except for noticeable arthropathy in two lumbar vertebrae of a horse; also antemortem loss of P3, severe periodontal infection, and malocclusion of M2 and P4 in *Bos*.

A report on the *Bird Bones* by S. Geddes, B.Sc., and G. Cowles has been placed in the library of the Institute of Archaeology, University of London.  
D. BROTHWELL

**EXCAVATIONS IN STEYNE ROAD, SEAFORD, 1977**—*A small excavation on Steyne Road, Seaford, revealed a medieval floor, well and fence line. This result challenges the assumption that Steyne Road is, at this point, the site of the medieval quay.*

## INTRODUCTION

Seaford's medieval history is linked to its position on the banks of the Ouse, which formerly debouched under Seaford Head. Steyne Road runs at the foot of the rise on which the town now stands (Fig. 6b), and it has been suggested that it marked the medieval north bank of the river.<sup>1</sup> When land on Steyne Road, near the junction with Church Street, was scheduled for redevelopment, Lewes District Council gave the Sussex Archaeological Field Unit permission to excavate. Two small trenches were dug by the writer to check the archaeological potential of the site. I would like to thank Peggy Norman, who took care of the finds, and Jill Craddock, B.A., who assisted on site, as well as Ken and Joan Astell who helped with administrative and historical research.

## THE EXCAVATIONS

Running east-west across Trench A (Fig. 6c) was a post-medieval chalk wall (feature 12). It consisted of a single course of chalk blocks on a flint and clay foundation. Beneath this wall lay various medieval features (Fig. 6c), none earlier than twelfth century. The latest medieval feature was the well (feature 4) lined with chalk blocks and flint beach pebbles. The



### *Seaford, Steyne Road, 1977*

Layer nos. (for inclusion in figure 6d).

1. Made ground of rubble, beach pebbles, topsoil and bricks. 20th century.
2. Dark grey-brown earth, flint, tiles, bricks, gravel. Post-medieval.
3. Brown gravelly sand. Medieval.
  - 3a. Brown gravelly sand and clay. Medieval.
  - 3b. Brown gravelly sand and clay with pebbles. Medieval.
4. Brown clay with flint, chalk and beach pebbles. Fill of medieval well.
5. Brown sandy gravel with dirty patches. Top of natural.
6. Dark brown clay and charcoal. Medieval pit.
7. Brown sandy earth with pebbles, gravel and some chalk. Medieval pit.
8. Brown sandy clay with chalk lumps. Medieval pit/beam slot.
9. Light brown beach pebbles and sand. Medieval floor?
10. Orange brown clay with flints and chalk. Fill of medieval well.
11. Dark brown earth with pebbles and sand. Medieval pit/beam slot.
12. Chalk and flint wall. Post-medieval wall.
13. Brown clay with pebbles. Foundation trench of medieval well (4).
14. Brown clay with flints and some chalk. Fill of medieval well.
16. Brown clay with small flints, daub, charcoal, some chalk. Fill of medieval well.
17. Light brown gravel. Medieval fence line?

### *Pleistocene Deposits*

20. Dark brown sandy clay with small flints.
21. Cream coloured chalky clay with small flints.
22. Soft khaki coloured sand with small flints.
23. Green sandy clay.
24. Soft brown sand.
25. Soft chalk, gradually becoming harder with depth.

top courses of the lining and the foundation trench (feature 13) contained fragments of a fourteenth- or fifteenth-century jug. It was hoped that the lowest levels of the well would produce a good ceramic group as at Tarring<sup>2</sup> and Seaford 1976,<sup>3</sup> but there was very little pottery in the whole fill of the well, which seems to have been filled in deliberately in the late medieval period.

In Trench A was a fourteenth-century beam slot (features 8 and 11), several pits (features 6 and 7) and a hard surface (feature 9) which may have been a floor or yard. Very few artifacts were found. The pottery groups were generally late medieval, except for that from layer three, which may be twelfth century. Diagnostic seventeenth- to eighteenth-century pottery was conspicuously absent from the site.

Trench B revealed a shallow medieval gully or fence line (feature 17). There were slight indications of stake holes in the bottom.

## CONCLUSIONS

It was thought at first that a well so close to the supposed bank of the Ouse would not have been viable, but would have been contaminated by salt.<sup>4</sup> Mr. G. B. Fox of the Resource Planning Department of the Southern Water Authority has kindly given the opinion that such a well, which did not penetrate the water-bearing chalk very far, and which would have been used to provide a very modest supply of water, could have tapped fresh water, even within twenty metres of the river bank. It would still however, have been at risk from flooding over the top. The location of the dwelling which this well served remains problematic. The gully or fence line in Trench B seems to indicate that it was not immediately to the south. The present street plan of Seaford gives no clue, as it has probably been altered since Seaford ceased to be a port. The medieval street plans of other Sussex ports (Arundel, Brighton, Hastings, Pevensey, New Shoreham and Littlehampton)<sup>5</sup> are aligned either parallel, or perpendicular, to their quays. Seaford's street pattern appears to have been wrenched round from a S.S.W.-N.N.W. alignment to a N-S one. This could have been the result of erosion of the south-west corner of the town at a point where the shingle bank is at present closest to the town, and in the area of our site. This erosion need not have taken place during the medieval period as Seaford was subjected to devastating floods even after the river was diverted through Meeching (Newhaven) in 1539. For instance there were floods in 1579 and in 1703, when the sea was reported to have reached within 40 metres of the church. It again flooded in 1824 and finally in 1875 when floods reached half way up the High Street.<sup>6</sup> The lack of archaeological deposits dating to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries may be the result of such episodes. The 1976 Church Street site, in contrast, produced evidence for continuous occupation in the vicinity from the thirteenth century to the present day.<sup>7</sup>

The site is probably not on the medieval quay and there should be a re-appraisal of Seaford's medieval layout. The evidence for such a re-appraisal will necessarily be archaeological.

D. J. FREKE.

## References

<sup>1</sup> There is a summarised bibliography for Seaford in F. Aldsworth and D. Freke, *Historic Towns in Sussex* (1976), 54-55, and others are listed below.

<sup>2</sup> K. J. Barton 'Worthing Museum Archaeological Notes for 1961', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* (hereafter *S.A.C.*) 101 (1963), 27-34.

<sup>3</sup> D. Freke 'Excavations in Church Street, Seaford, 1976', *S.A.C.* 116 (1977) 199-224.

<sup>4</sup> The interim report states that the medieval bank of the Ouse could not be close to the site because of the well. D. Freke in P. L. Drewett (ed.) 'Rescue Archaeology in Sussex', *Bulletin of the Institute of Archaeology* 15 (1978) 61-2. This view is corrected here.

<sup>5</sup> Basic medieval plans are published in F. Aldsworth and D. Freke, *Historic Towns in Sussex* (1976).

<sup>6</sup> J. A. Astell, *A Chronological History of Seaford* (1973) duplicated typescript, and J. Lowerson (ed.) *Victorian and Edwardian Seaford*, 2nd edn. (1976) duplicated typescript.

<sup>7</sup> D. Freke (1977) *ibid.*

*EXCAVATIONS AT SOUTH STREET, WEST TARRING, 1978—A small excavation was carried out in the centre of West Tarring, on a site lying between the church and the Bishop's Palace. Two building phases were identified, the later dating to the eighteenth century, and the earlier perhaps to the sixteenth century. No medieval features were found, and it is likely that the excavated area lies just outside the boundaries of medieval Tarring.*

## INTRODUCTION

During the 1960s, considerable archaeological work was carried out in the centre of West Tarring (Barton 1963 and 1964). A late fifteenth-century well and the remains of a medieval house, dating from the thirteenth to the sixteenth centuries, were among the finds made at that time.

Early in 1978, a proposal to build flats on a site near these previously excavated areas was brought to the attention of the Sussex Archaeological Field Unit by Elizabeth Kelly, Assistant Curator (Antiquities) at Worthing Museum. (The relationship of this site to previous excavations in the centre of Tarring is shown in Fig. 7). In view of the possibility of obtaining further information about the development of medieval Tarring, it was decided to excavate part of the area to be developed. This was carried out in July 1978 by members of the Worthing Archaeological Society, under the direction of the author.

## EXCAVATION

An area 7 m. by 5 m. was cleared of modern rubble and overburden, revealing narrow footings of mortared flint (Fig. 8). Two phases of building were recognised, represented by different types of footings.

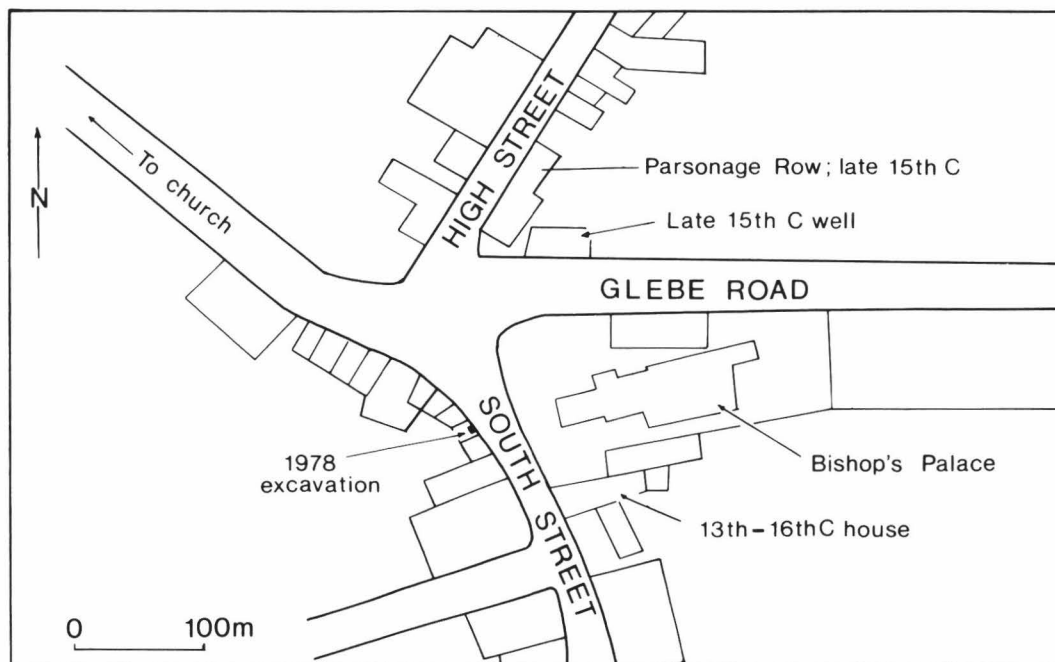


Fig. 7. Tarring 1978. Site location.

The construction of the later phase (feature 5 in Fig. 8) was dated by associated pottery to the eighteenth century, and corresponds to a small cottage standing on the site until 1966, when it was demolished. Feature 5 represents the back wall of this cottage; the front wall lay about 1.5 m. to the east of the excavated area. The cottage thus fronted directly onto South Street, with its long axis parallel to South Street.

By contrast, the earlier building phase, represented by narrower flint footings (Feature 8 in Fig. 8), probably consists of a building with its long axis perpendicular to South Street. Associated with this earlier phase were the area of irregular cobbling, feature 12, and the rammed chalk floor, feature 9. The latter was of variable thickness, and had been much disturbed by footings of the later building, and also by a series of shallow, irregular scoops (features 13, 14 and 15 in Fig. 8), one of which contained animal bone and a little pottery.

This earlier phase is difficult to date; no pottery came from contexts associated with its construction. Beneath the chalk floor, feature 9, was a disturbed, gravelly layer, feature 20, resting on the subsoil of Coombe deposits. From this layer, a few sherds were recovered, the latest of which belonged to the sixteenth century, thus providing a *terminus post quem* for the earlier building phase.

## DISCUSSION

None of the excavated features can be given a date earlier than the sixteenth century. A few medieval sherds were found, however (pottery report, below), but these, and the late thirteenth century silver farthing, are residual.

The conclusion to be drawn from this excavation is that the excavated area lay outside the limits of medieval Tarring, and was not built on until the sixteenth century, at the earliest.

## Pottery Report (D. Freke)

A total of 303 sherds weighing 5,885 gm. was submitted for analysis. The majority of the pottery was of fifteenth to sixteenth century date, although only features 18, 19 and 20 did not contain later pottery as well. The distribution of the pottery is shown in table 1.

The few medieval sherds were unglazed coarse sandy fabrics, and all were residual.

The fifteenth to sixteenth century wares were:

- (a) White painted earthenwares, some black slipped, others unslipped (Barton 1963, p.31). These constitute 67% of the fifteenth to sixteenth century groups. (Percentages by number).
- (b) Smooth, hard, unglazed, buff-coloured fabric, knife-trimmed. 5%
- (c) Smooth, hard, reduced wares; reduced green lead glaze. 17%.
- (d) Smooth, hard, grey-black, unglazed. 2%.
- (e) German stoneware tankards. 9%.

## SOUTH STREET, WEST TARRING 1978; PLAN



## WEST SECTION

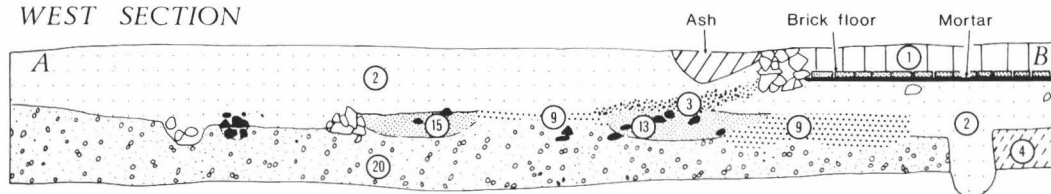


Fig. 8. Tarring 1978. Plan and main section. The eastern edge of the excavation was 2.5 m from the edge of the road.

## Key to layers and features:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Loose modern rubble                    | 9 Rammed chalk floor of variable thickness               |
| 2 Hard black gritty fill                 | 10 Small shallow rubbish deposit (modern)                |
| 3 Hard black layer with small chalk bits | 11 Rough chalk footings                                  |
| 4 Soft sticky dark brown fill            | 12 Irregular cobbled layer                               |
| 5 Mortared flint foundations             | 13, 14, 15 Hard gritty brown fill in shallow depressions |
| 8 Rough flint footings                   | 20 Hard gravelly fill                                    |

The seventeenth to eighteenth century wares were:

- (f) Hard, red-brown, glazed fabrics—'Sussex ware'. 38%.
- (g) Tin-glaze earthenware. 9%.
- (h) 'Westerwald' stonewares. 9%.
- (i) Creamware. 9%.
- (j) White, clear-glazed earthenware. 5%.
- (k) Mottled, lead-glazed earthenware (tortoiseshell ware). 5%.
- (l) 'Wedgewood' basalt ware. 5%.
- (m) White Staffordshire salt-glazed stoneware. 14%.
- (n) 'Bellarmine' stoneware. 6%.

The nineteenth to twentieth century wares were:

- (p) Grey, salt-glaze stonewares. 44%.
- (q) 'China'. 16%.
- (r) Porcelain. 4%.
- (s) 'Sussex ware'. 36%.

There is a preponderance of non-local wares in the post-sixteenth century period. The local wares are only used for kitchen utensils (Manwaring Baines 1979).

Table 1. Distribution of pottery according to features.

Features	1		2		3		4		13		18		19		20	
Date	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
Medieval	1	10	5	65			1	5								
15th/16th century	16	290	73	1260	11	175	10	125	8	130	6	180	22	45	9	100
17th/18th century	1	25	33	600	9	115	2	70	1	60						
19th/20th century	1	5	76	1635	11	510	1	40								
German 16th century stoneware	2	10											3	75	1	15
	N.B. Weight (Wt) in grams.															

Coins and Jettons (D. R. Rudling)

- Edward I, farthing, Bristol. Class III (1280-81). Obverse: E. R. ANGLIE. Reverse: VILLA BRISTOLLIE. Ref. North 1053. Conditions: Signs of wear on the raised surfaces. In view of the fact that this coin does not show considerable signs of wear, it is possible that it may have been lost before the end of Edward I's reign (1307), but in any case will have almost certainly gone out of circulation by the time of Edward III's coinage reform in 1351. From feature 19.
- Nuremberg, brass jetton of Hans Krauwinkel. Late sixteenth/early seventeenth century. Obverse: HANNS KRAUVINKEL IN NVRN: Shield with a device known as the Reichsapfel. Reverse: DAS WÖRT GOTES BLEIPT BLICK. Three open crowns and Three Fleur de lys arranged alternately around a rose. Ref. This particular example is not listed by Barnard, but except for the legends is as German Jetton No. 82.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Roberts and Son (Worthing) for permission to excavate. I am grateful to David Freke and David Rudling for specialist reports, and to all members of the Worthing Archaeological Society who took part in the excavation.

The finds are housed in Worthing Museum.

OWEN BEDWIN (on behalf of the Worthing Archaeological Society).

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**MEDIEVAL FINDS FROM DENTON (1)**—About 25 years ago Mr. P. Jenner of Newhaven was terracing a lawn in the garden of a cottage called Orchard Meadow in Heighton Road, Denton (TQ 455026). The cottage lies just opposite the parish church of St. Leonard and the part of its garden where the lawn was made has subsequently been built over with bungalows. Mr. Jenner encountered a subsoil of clayey material, probably hillwash, and at a depth of about 2 m. he found 17 pieces of quern and three large sherds of pottery. The quern fragments (Fig. 9) comprise much of the lower stone and part of the upper stone of a sizeable hand quern some 54 cm. in diameter. The lower stone is of variable thickness and tapers from 8 cm. to 3 cm., there is a slight rim preserved on one small fragment. This asymmetry is accounted for by considerable wear evident on the grinding surface. On the outer surfaces are clear tooling marks from its original fabrication. Messrs. B. Lake and Young of the Institute of Geological Sciences, London, have examined the stone and suggest that it is Lower Greensand but not of a lithology found in East Sussex; it might come from the Lower Greensand west of Midhurst or further afield.

Though the pottery came from the same area as the quern it is not all of one date. One sherd is the crudely made, sharply everted rim of a jar, its fabric has inclusions of coarse sand grade multi-coloured flint grits, together with small amounts of shell and traces of fired out vegetable temper. Messrs. D. Freke and K. J. Barton agree that it is eleventh century A.D., or earlier and could be pre-Conquest. The second sherd is a much better made, curved everted rim again containing coarse sand grade multi-coloured flint grits; it probably dates to about the twelfth century A.D. The third sherd is much later, the moulded foot of a one-pint stoneware tankard probably made in Staffordshire during the eighteenth century.

Though these finds lack reliable association or exact context they do provide evidence of occupation just opposite the church in the late Saxon or early Medieval period. Together with the wealth of material from the rectory site opposite they suggest that any subsequent building development in the village centre of Denton should be preceded by excavation.

The finds have been donated to Barbican House Museum, Lewes, through the kindness of Mr. Jenner. I am grateful to Chris Green for drawing the quern and for his comments on the tankard sherd.

MARTIN BELL

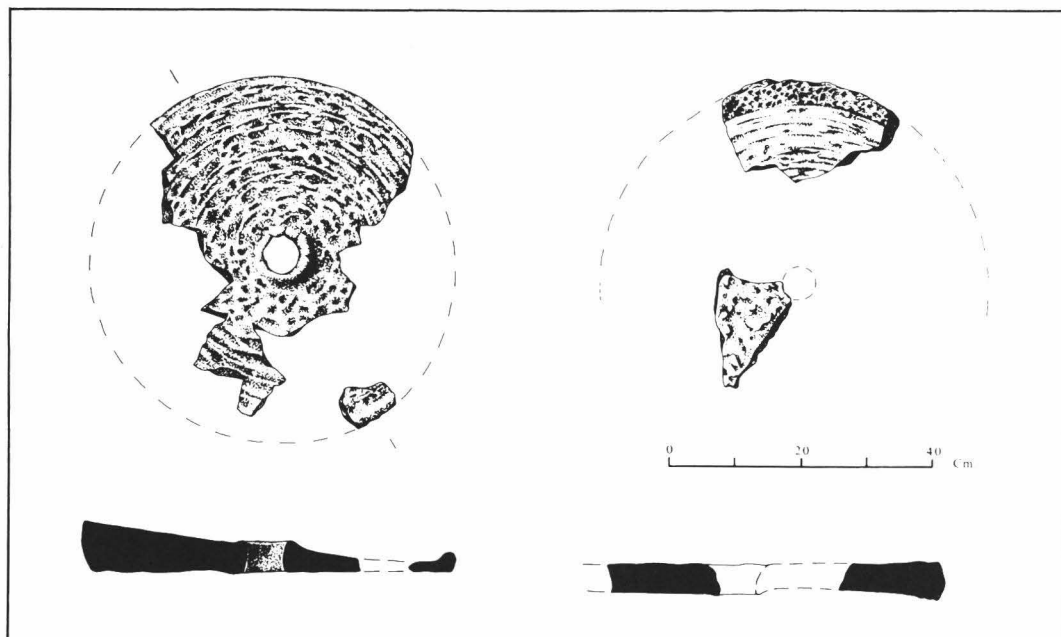


Fig. 9. Medieval quern from Denton

**MEDIEVAL FINDS FROM DENTON (2)**—In August, 1976, the ground was cleared mechanically in preparation for the second phase of building the Church Hall, Denton, TQ 454 026. This revealed a large medieval pit about one third of which lay under the phase 1 building and could not be excavated. The pit was about 2 m. long x 1 m. deep, approximately 8 m. from the church and 9 m. from the nearest surviving walls of a stone-built priest's house, which is dated to the thirteenth century.<sup>1</sup>



*Pottery by E. W. O'Shea.*

The pottery recovered weighed approximately 14 kg, and comprised 1052 sherds, of which 80 were rims, 59 bases and 2 handles. The sherds were from a minimum of 48 different pots, mostly common cooking pots with sagging bases in grey to light grey matrix. Fillers are fine to medium sand and crushed flint. The flint fillers are not angular and might be derived from naturally occurring sea sand, or perhaps from working of flints. Of the handles, one was a strap handle with regular oblique slashing, the other a crude rod handle from a skillet or pipkin.

Decoration is sparse, being confined to thumbing on the necks of two vessels, on the flange of another and on the bases of four vessels. One rim had shallow pricking on the top of the flange. There was one decorated glazed sherd. This has combing consisting of alternate bands of four straight lines and two pairs of wavy lines slightly spaced. The glaze is of good quality green lead glaze, dense and even, probably late thirteenth century to mid-fourteenth century and is consistent with that found throughout Sussex.

*Animal Bones by T. P. O'Connor.*

The following species were represented and are followed in brackets by the minimum number of individuals: Horse (*Equus* sp., 1); cattle (*Bos* sp., 2); sheep (*Ovis aries*, 2); goat (*Capreolus capreolus*, 1); pig (*Sus* sp., 3); cat (*Felis domesticus*, 3); hare (*Lepus timidus*, 1); rat (*Rattus* sp., 1) and man 1 upper front molar.

All the cats were rather small, one had a healed fracture of the left ulna which had caused lateral displacement of the distal part of the bone. Metrical analysis of the one intact sheep metacarpal showed it to be virtually indistinguishable from Soay sheep, except it was rather more robust, suggesting an individual somewhat larger than the average Soay, but rather smaller than any modern meat-producing breeds.

*Bird Bones by G. S. Cowles, Department of Ornithology, British Museum.*

The following species were represented: Domestic or Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*, 1); Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*, 1); Chicken (*Gallus gallus* domestic) 8); Rock Dove (*Columba livia*, 1); Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*, 1); Starling (*Sternus vulgaris*, 1); Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*, 1); Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*, 1).

The species represented are typical of the countryside or farmyard fauna. The Buzzard was a very common bird of prey in England in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, and may have been killed at this site because it was thought to take lambs and domestic chickens. The Rook too may have been killed as a pest or may have been killed for food purposes as were perhaps some of the other wild species. There are remains of both adult and young domestic chickens in the material.

*Fish Bones by Penny Rhodes.<sup>2</sup>*

Thirty three bones were recognised of which thirty could be identified to the following species:-

Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*).

Chub (*Leuciscus cephalus*). A very large example, possibly as much as 4.7 kg. This bony fish is seldom eaten but this large specimen would perhaps have provided sufficient flesh to make the effort worthwhile.

Pike (*Esox lucius*).

Ling (*Molva molva*). A rare deep water fish in this area but common in northern British waters. This example may have been salted.

Whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*).

Haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*).

Cod (*Gadus morhua*). The second most abundantly represented species.

Conger (*Conger conger*). Fourteen bones from four individuals, the most abundantly represented species.

Thornback Ray (*Raja clavata*). One buckler.

This is a wide variety of species for such a small collection and represent the diverse freshwater and marine conditions in the vicinity of Denton. The presence of Ling may represent evidence of trade outside the area, and the presence of Conger indicate that they had tackle of sufficient strength to catch this powerful fish.

Because of the proximity of the pit to the site of the priest's house it seems likely that the two were associated. A rectory in the parish is first attested in the taxation of Pope Nicholas in A.D. 1291.<sup>3</sup>

Also from this general area came a quantity of pottery recovered by the late Mr. R. F. Michaelis during the construction of phase 1 of the Church Hall. Mr. Michaelis's finds are broadly contemporary with those reported here.

My sincere thanks to the Rev. N. Lempriere for permission to excavate, and to the following for their specialist's reports:- Mr. E. O'Shea—Pottery; Mr. T. O'Connor—Animal Bones; Miss P. A. Rhodes—Fish Bones: British Museum Ornithology Dept.—Bird Bones. To Trevor Field for his help in excavating, and to Martin Bell for his invaluable help and encouragement. Reports, drawings and finds, together with the pottery recovered by Mr. Michaelis, are at Barbican House.

BRENDA WESTLEY

<sup>1</sup> I. C. Hannah, 'Crawley', S.A.C., Vol. LV (1912), 11.

<sup>2</sup> P. A. Rhodes, *Fish Remains from Point of Ayre, Orkney and Denton, Sussex*, 1977—dissertation in partial fulfilment of the degree of BSc., Institute of Archaeology, London.

<sup>3</sup> M. A. Lower, 'Notes on the Churches of Newhaven and Denton', S.A.C., Vol. LX (1919), 96.

*AN EXCAVATION AT SELMESTON, EAST SUSSEX, 1978—A trial trench adjacent to the find spot of an early Neolithic pot located a spread of flint-working waste, three post holes, three ditches and a dog burial. Pottery suggests activity from the Roman period to Medieval times. The most important group of pottery may be dated to the Middle-Late Saxon period.*

In 1974, Mr. John Bell found an early Neolithic pot eroding out of the face of the disused sand pit at Selmeston (TQ 5125 0688). This was published in 1975 (Drewett 1975) and so added to the considerable range of archaeological material already published from the sand pit. This material included the well known Mesolithic 'pit-dwellings' excavated in 1933 by Professor J. G. D. Clark (Clark 1934) and the Bronze Age features located by the Curwens three years later (Curwen 1938).

The site is situated on the edge of the Lower Greensand near its junction with the Gault Clay. It is therefore surrounded by springs (Fig. 10, site 4) which may help explain the popularity of this site for settlement from the Mesolithic to the present day. In 1978, following further erosion of the sand face, a single trench was excavated by the author adjacent to the find spot of the Neolithic pot.

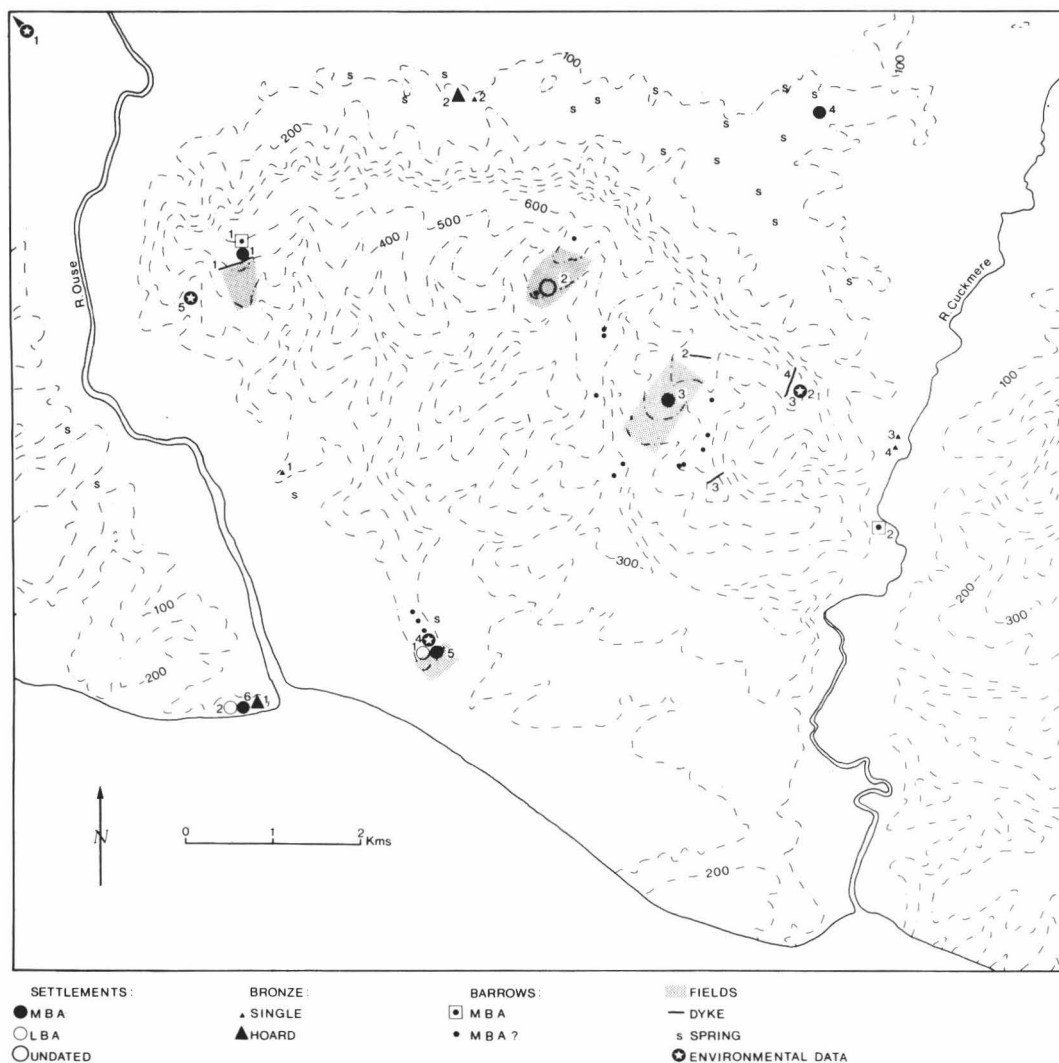


Fig. 10. Location of site (No. 4) in relation to Middle Bronze Age sites contemporary with the 1936 finds at Selmeston sand pit. (Curwen 1938).

## SELMESTON

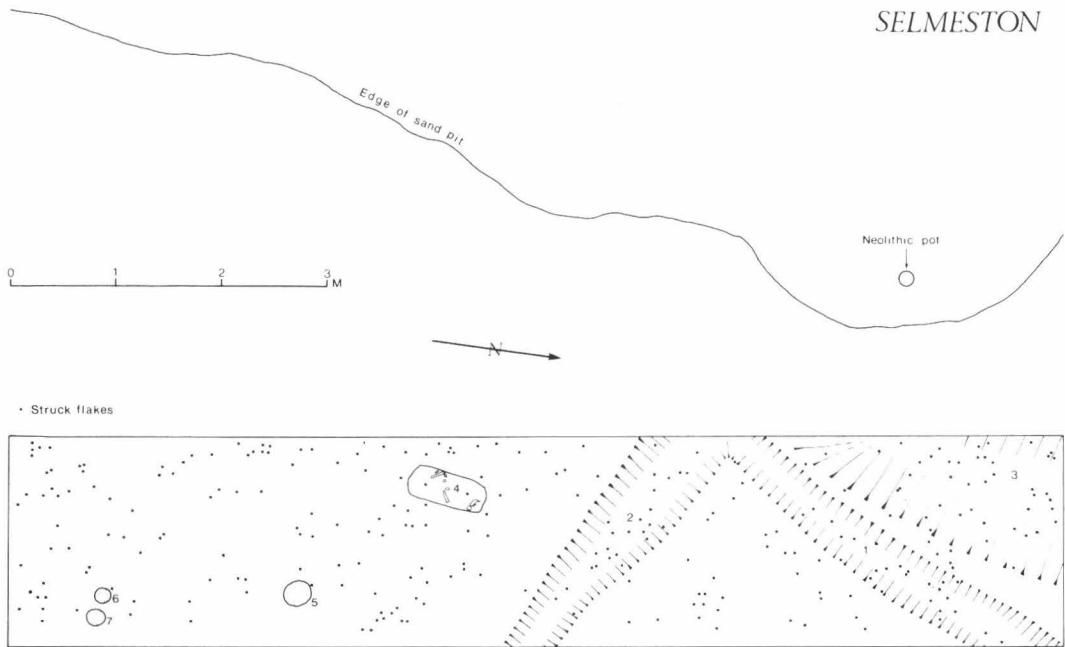


Fig. 11. Plan of 1978 excavations.

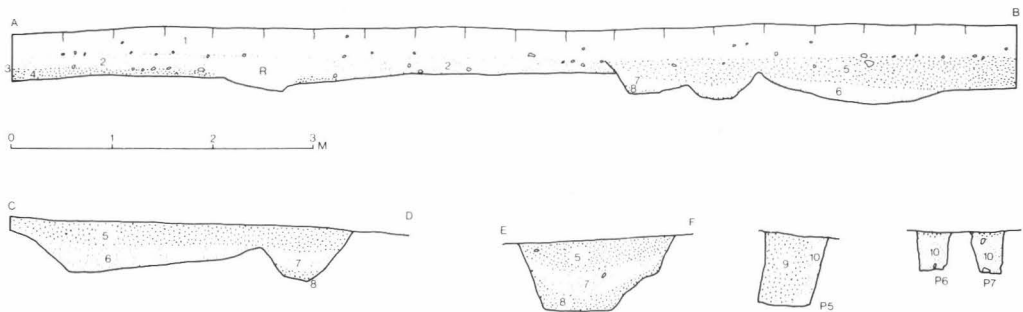


Fig. 12.—Sections of 1978 excavations.

## Key:

Layer 1: Light brown sandy soil. (Modern turf and topsoil).

Layer 2: Orange-brown stone free sandy soil.  
(Medieval plough soil).

Layer 3: Line of flints. (Worm sorted horizon).

Layer 4: Dark brown sandy soil with orange sandy patches and charcoal flecks. (Saxon occupation layer).

## Layers with features:

Layer 5: Dark brown sandy soil.

Layers 6 and 7: Orange/green sandy soil.

Layer 8: Orange/green sandy soil with patches of green sand.

Layer 9: Dark brown sandy soil.

Layer 10: Light brown sandy soil.

R: Rabbit disturbance.

All the features located during the excavation proved to be post-Roman. A scatter of flint work was found but all the identifiable elements of the assemblage appear to be late Mesolithic and so are contemporary with the Mesolithic pits excavated to the west (Finds Report a). Sixteen sherds of Romano-British pottery indicate some activity in the area during that period but the abraded nature of the pottery would perhaps suggest it had been spread over fields with manure rather than any settlement in the immediate area.

At the south end of the trench, three post holes were found dug into the underlying sand (Fig. 11, Features 5, 6 and 7). They were covered by a dark brown sandy soil (Fig. 12, Layer 4) containing large fragments of Saxon pottery (Finds Report b). Although no artifacts were found in the post holes, they are stratigraphically Saxon or earlier. Without extensive area excavation their function must remain uncertain. The large fragments of Saxon pottery in Layer 4 indicate that this is probably occupation debris adjacent to a settlement area rather than material spread with manure over fields. However, by the Medieval period this area is likely to have been open fields with Layer 2 representing a plough soil containing much abraded pottery of all periods. Late in the Medieval period, or perhaps in the post-Medieval period, three drainage ditches (Fig. 11, Features 1, 2 and 3) were dug. These ditches no doubt relate to the agricultural use of the area. A dog burial, of indeterminate age, was found between the ditches and the post holes.

In conclusion it may be said that the primary purpose of this excavation, to provide a context for the Neolithic pot found in 1974, was not realized. However, the spread of Mesolithic flint work indicates the continuation of activity in the undisturbed area to the east of the sand pit. Most important, however, was the Saxon material found, which clearly underlines the importance of Selmeston during the Saxon period (Bell 1978).

#### Acknowledgements

I should particularly like to thank Mr. J. J. Coleman, owner of the site, for permission to excavate on his land and Mr. C. Coleman for arranging access. I should also like to thank all the volunteers who helped on the excavation, particularly Arthur Sayers and the members of the Hastings Area Archaeological Research Group. Finally, I should like to thank David Freke, Caroline Cartwright and Terry O'Connor for their contributions to this report.

#### (a) The Flint Industry by Peter Drewett

A small assemblage of 419 worked flints was found during the excavation. Although the position of each flint flake is plotted on Fig. 11, all the flint was found in disturbed contexts. These flints are therefore in no way a closed assemblage. The bulk of the material is waste resulting from flint knapping in the general area of the trench. The flint types are summarised on table 2. The micro cores and blades indicate Mesolithic elements but the only two diagnostic tool types are the microliths. Both have been blunted down the whole of one edge so are of Clark type B1 (Clark 1939, 73). This would suggest a late Mesolithic date (Mellars 1974, 87) and so indicates that we are dealing with material broadly contemporary with the Mesolithic pits excavated to the west. (Clark 1934).

TABLE 2

Type:	Layers:				Features:				Totals:
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
Flakes with cortex	38	68	34	9	1	5	9	1	165
Flakes without cortex	33	73	31	8	5	7	11	1	169
Burnt flakes		2	4			1			7
Micro cores	3	6	1				2		12
Core trimmings	2	4	2			1			9
Rough workshop waste	6	10	4						20
Retouched flakes		3	4	1	2	1	1		12
Blades	2	1							3
Blade segments		11	4			1			16
Scrapers	1	1							2
Serrated blades		1			1				2
Microliths	1		1						2
Totals	86	180	85	18	9	16	23	2	419
Fire cracked flint	12	65	25	5	1	4	7		119
Beach pebbles		1	1						2

#### (b) The Pottery by David Freke

The Pottery examined was from Layers 1-4 and Features 1-4. Layer 1 contained post-Medieval as well as earlier pottery, and Features 1 and 3 contained fragments of brick. The remaining contexts produced consistently Medieval or earlier material.

The Medieval and earlier pottery was analysed firstly on the basis of the composition of the filler and its grain size, and secondly on rim form criteria (Table 3).

*Grog filled.* This represented c. 5% of the total (by weight and number). Grog tempered sherds were considered to be Roman.

*Organic filler.* One body sherd with organic filler was identified (Layer 1). Three rim fragments with flint and organic filler were also noted (Layers 2 and 3). Two had rims of Saxon or early Medieval forms, and one was slightly finger tipped under the rim (Fig. 13, Nos. 3 and 5).

*Grog and flint filler.* Two rims (probably from the same vessel) with grog and flint filler were found in Layer 2. The grain size was 1 mm (fabric 4) (Fig. 13, No. 4).

*Flint and sand filled.* The flint and sand filled fabrics were subdivided by grain size into five types. Grain size has been shown to be a useful guide to chronology in Sussex, with the coarser grains tending to be used in earlier pottery (Barton 1972). A secure chronological analysis based on grain size would depend upon large sealed groups. The pottery from this site amounted to only 257 sherds weighing 1,618g, and Layer 1 and Features 1 and 3 cannot be considered sealed. However, there is a marked preponderance of coarsely gritted fabrics (fabrics 3, 4, 5), and the results from the features is consistent with that from the total (Table 3). This is a very different pattern of grain size frequency to that identified at Kiln Combe, Eastbourne, (Freke and Craddock, forthcoming), a Medieval rural site on the Downs, and also from the patterns at urban sites in Seaford and Steyning (Freke, forthcoming).

TABLE 3 Distribution and frequency of texture types by number and weight (g)

	LAYERS:								FEATURES:								Totals	
	1		2		3		4		1		2		3		4			
Pottery types	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.
Roman	2	25	2	8	4	20	2	25	2	10	2	5	2	17			16	110
Texture 5	3	5	13	108	5	43			4	75	3	15	7	48			35	294
Texture 4	4	25	45	266	15	101	8	205	5	35	2	22	6	30			85	684
Texture 3	2	30	34	132	11	35	4	27	2	5	3	10	4	20	1	5	61	264
Texture 2	14	65	25	120	13	39	3	12			2	10					57	246
Texture 1	2	10															2	10
'Alien' sherd			1	10													1	10
			(Surrey Whiteware)															
Totals	27	160	120	644	48	238	17	269	13	125	12	62	19	115	1	5	257	1618

Texture types: 1—no filler visible to naked eye  
 2—sandy, up to 0.25 mm.  
 3—fine flint, up to 0.5 mm.  
 4—medium flint up to 1.00 mm.  
 5—coarse flint, larger than 1.00 mm.

*The rim forms.* The majority of the rim forms could be Saxon or Saxon-Norman. Some were comparable with rims found at Bishopstone, where a terminal date in the sixth century A.D. is suggested (Bell 1977, 235), in particular a rim with a pierced lug pulled up from the rim (Fig. 13, No. 8). This type is also known from Mucking (Jones and Jones 1975, 159), West Stow (West 1969, 175-181), Sutton Courtenay (Leeds 1947, 90-1) and some later sites (Dunning *et al.* 1959, 16-17). Other rims can be paralleled at Lewes (Freke 1976, 184) and Chichester, where a clamp kiln producing similar 'Saxo-Norman' types has been dated to c. 1050 A.D. (Down, forthcoming).

The pottery suggests continuous occupation in the area from the Roman period to Medieval times. The large fragments of middle to late Saxon rims suggest nearby domestic activity.

#### Description of illustrated pottery.

Only the Saxon and Saxo-Norman rims are illustrated.

1. Texture 2. Sandy. Dark grey, hand made. Layer 1.
2. Texture 3. Fine flint. Dark grey, hand made, finger tipping on top of rim. Layer 1.
3. Texture 4. Medium flint and organic filler. Dark grey-brown, hand-made. Layer 2.
4. Texture 4. Medium flint and grog filler. Dark grey, hand made, finger tipping on inside of rim. Layer 2.
5. Texture 5. Coarse flint and organic filler. Dark grey-brown, hand made, finger tipping under rim. Layer 3.
6. Texture 4. Medium flint. Dark grey, hand made. Layer 2.
7. Texture 4. Medium flint. Dark grey, hand made. Layer 2.
8. Texture 4. Medium flint. Dark grey, hand made, with raised, pierced lug on rim. Layer 4.
9. Texture 5. Coarse flint. Dark grey, hand made. Feature 1.

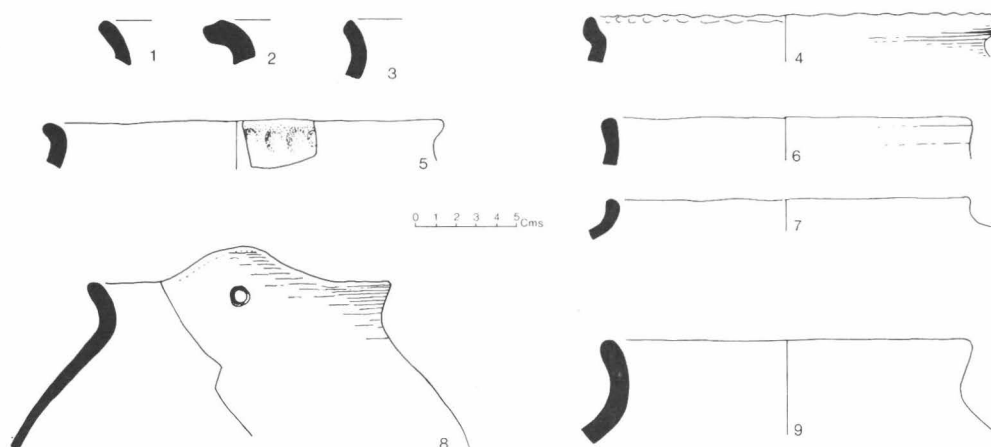


Fig. 13. Hand made Saxon and Saxo-Norman rim forms.

(c) The Animal Bones by Terry O'Connor

Layer 1. Left upper 2nd premolar of immature *Sus* (circa 12-18 months). Feature 3. Proximal end of right radius of *Cervus* (adult). Feature 4. About 20 fragments representing the right tibia, calcaneum and femur, several lumbar vertebrae, both sides of the mandible, each side bearing canine, 3rd and 4th premolars and 1st and 2nd molars, of a *Canis*. By modern standards the dog would be medium to large—about the size of a Border Collie.

(d) Marine Mollusca by Caroline Cartwright. Feature 3. 1 oyster shell.

(e) Charcoal by Caroline Cartwright. Layer 3. 1g weight. *Quercus* sp. (Oak). Layer 4. 1g weight. *Crataegus* sp. (Hawthorn). Feature 5. 5 g charcoal. *Quercus* sp.

P. L. DREWETT.

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**MESOLITHIC & LATER FINDS AT SELMESTON & BERWICK**—Following the report on the discovery of the large portion of a Neolithic bowl at the old sandpit at Selmeaton, which was published in a recent volume of the Collections,<sup>1</sup> it would seem to be an appropriate time to give a short account of the current research being undertaken by the writer.

Previous work at Selmeaton sandpit (TQ 513 069) was carried out by J. G. D. Clark<sup>2</sup> and the late E. C. Curwen<sup>3</sup> during 1933 and 1936, which involved excavation of Mesolithic 'pit-dwellings' and a Late Bronze Age ditch. The finds from these excavations are lodged in the Society's museum at Barbican House. A further collection of Mesolithic flints was made by the late Rev. E. D. Arundell in the early 1950s,<sup>4</sup> but the writer has been unable to trace the present whereabouts of this collection.

I wrote to the present owners of the sandpit during 1974, requesting permission to explore the sand faces for Mesolithic flints, and as permission was kindly granted, I succeeded in recovering flintwork of that period from the loose sand at the foot of the sandcliffs. The discovery of the Neolithic round-based bowl has already been alluded to, and fragments of later pottery also occur within the sandpit—mostly of Medieval date. The distribution of both flintwork and pottery within the old sandpit is widely scattered, and does not appear to be restricted to any particular area. It should be realised that the whole of the area excavated by Clark and Curwen has subsequently been removed by the earlier commercial working of sand, and it would thus appear that this area formed the core of the Mesolithic occupation of the site, although the small

plateau to the north-east of the sandpit has yielded Mesolithic cores and worked flakes, and may well mark the most northerly limit of the site.

A chance discovery to the north-west of the sandpit also deserves a mention at this point. During April 1976, Simon Garrett (Assistant at Barbican House), who was aware of my current research in the Selveston area, informed me that a Mesolithic tranchet axehead had been discovered in the back garden of the Old Vicarage at Selveston (TQ 509 070) by Mr. Colin Rose of Cross-in-Hand, Heathfield. Mr. Rose kindly loaned me the axehead to examine and illustrate for this interim report (Fig. 14 no. 1). It is a small specimen, worked in a pale-grey flint, measuring 7.2 cm in length and 3.8 cm in breadth at its widest point, and still retains a sharp cutting edge. It is curved longitudinally, and compares favourably with a larger specimen subsequently found by the writer on site B (below). It appears to have been a random find, as the writer later visited the area in which it was found, but although it was a sandy subsoil, I did not observe any other Mesolithic flintwork. This might suggest that the axe had been lost during an expedition from the occupation site at the sandpit. The finder has retained the axehead.

The writer has subsequently found that the Mesolithic occupation of the Selveston area extended much further than had previously been supposed, and has explored a total of ten fields in Selveston and Berwick Common, all of which have yielded Mesolithic flintwork and indications of later activities. I would like to emphasise that this project covers a small part of the overall distribution of Mesolithic flintwork, and the flints recovered are merely surface finds derived from the ploughed fields in the area of Common Lane, Selveston. The main sites are described below, together with a summary of the finds, and comparisons with other sites that have yielded similar material.

#### *Site B (F1/26) TQ 513 068*

Subsoil—Lower Greensand. Situated immediately south of Selveston sandpit, and forms the slope of a valley facing south. The whole of the upper part of the slope has yielded a heavy concentration of Mesolithic flintwork, including two complete tranchet axeheads, four petit-tranchet arrowheads, two triangular arrowpoints, awls, saw-blades, microliths, trapezoids, triangular core-tools, micro-knife-segments, knife-blades, scrapers, cores (both cone-shaped with one striking platform, and oblong with two platforms), and numerous worked flakes. The two tranchet axeheads measured 7.6 cm and 11.4 cm in length, and the larger of the two is curved longitudinally as was the specimen already cited from the Old Vicarage (Fig. 14 nos. 2 & 3). The triangular arrowpoints are flaked on one face only, but trimmed to shape from opposing faces along the edges (Fig. 14 no. 5). Of the triangular core-tools (sometimes described as picks), the largest specimen from this site compares most favourably with one found at Belle Tout, near Beachy Head.<sup>5</sup> The microliths were of Clark's classification of microliths types A and B. Later intrusive element was suggested by the presence of a Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead, and large quantities of early medieval pottery.

#### *Site C (F2/26) TQ 513 066*

Subsoil—Gault Clay. Situated immediately south of site B, and forms the opposite side of the valley, facing north. Widely scattered distribution of Mesolithic flintwork, and remarkably scarce. Two large core hand-tools were recovered (14 cm and 15.3 cm) that probably served as chisels, and both with their cutting-edges produced by the tranchet technique. Also cores (both types) and worked flakes and scrapers. The distribution is apparently limited to the lowest part of the slope. Later intrusive element provided by a ground and polished Neolithic axe—subsequently rechipped—and quantities of early Medieval pottery.

#### *Site D (F1/04) TQ 520 065*

Subsoil—Lower Greensand. Situated three quarters of a mile south-east of Selveston sandpit, on Berwick Common, and forms a slope facing north. Heavy concentration of Mesolithic flintwork occurs on this site including a complete tranchet axehead, measuring 10.2 cm in length (Fig. 14 no. 4), the butt-ends of two more broken specimens, and a total of three axe sharpening-flakes (Fig. 14 no. 6), two of which were apparently derived from the same axehead. Also recovered was the third specimen of a core hand-tool measuring 7.6 cm in length, three petit-tranchet arrowheads, micro-knife-segments, saw-blades, awls, spokeshave tool, trapezoids, microliths, fabricators, scrapers, a "Horsham point", Thames Pick, cores (both types) and worked flakes. The triangular core-tools also appeared here on site D, and one compared favourably with a specimen from site B. Later intrusive element was indicated by two arrowheads of the Early Bronze Age, including a barb and tang specimen in black flint (Fig. 14 no. 7) and a triangular specimen bifacially-flaked in a pale grey flint (Fig. 14 no. 8).

#### *Site E & F (F2/04 & F3/04) TQ 520 063/TQ 519 062*

Subsoil—Gault Clay. Situated immediately south of site D. Mesolithic flintwork in small quantities and widely scattered over both fields—mostly cores and worked flakes: One small convex scraper from site F compared favourably with a smaller specimen from site B.

#### *Site G (S1/04) TQ 522 069*

Subsoil—Gault Clay. Situated a quarter of a mile north of site D, with small quantities of Mesolithic flintwork again widely scattered over the whole field, including two petit-tranchet arrowheads, micro-knife-segments, and scrapers. Later intrusive element suggested by a leaf-shaped notched arrowhead of Neolithic date (Fig. 14 no. 9).

#### *Site H TQ 522 069*

Subsoil—Gault Clay. Situated a quarter of a mile south-east of site D. Widely scattered and uneven distribution of flints, mostly cores and waste flakes, but in small quantities.



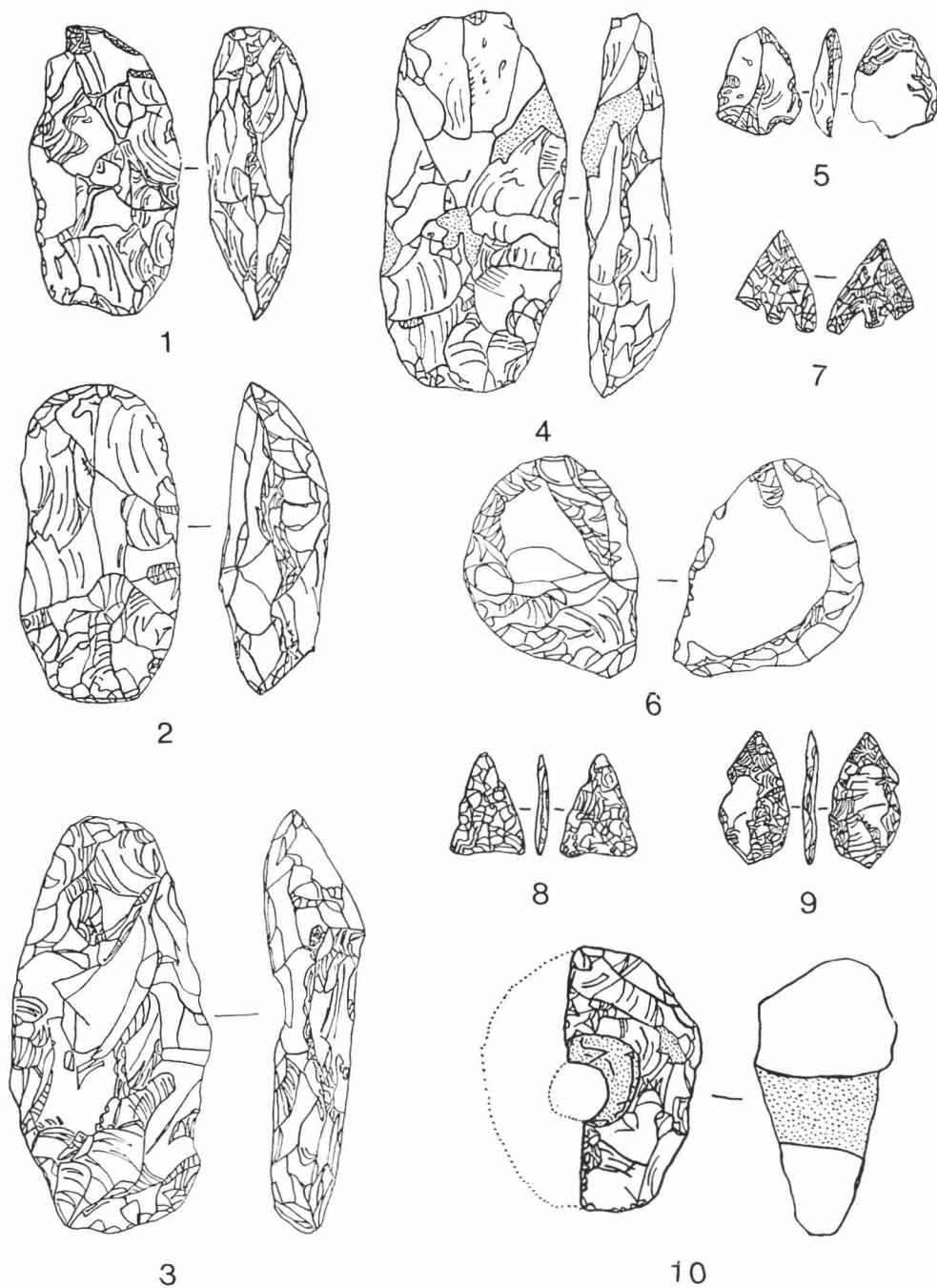


Fig. 14. Flint tools from Selmeston and Berwick. Reduced to  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

*Site J & K (D1/04 & D 2/04) TQ 525 054/TQ 526 056*

Subsoil—Gault Clay. Situated on a spur of high ground half a mile south-east of site D. Comparable to site H in a widely scattered distribution of Mesolithic flintwork, which included two petit-tranchet arrowheads, cores, scrapers and worked flakes.

*Site L (D3/04) TQ 530 056*

Subsoil—Lower Greensand. Situated immediately east of site K, and three quarters of a mile south-east of site D, and lies on the banks of the River Cuckmere. Heavy concentrations of Mesolithic flintwork, including a sharpening-flake from a tranchet axe, petit-tranchet arrowheads, triangular arrowpoints (comparable with site B), micro-knife-segments, microliths, trapezoids, cores and worked flakes. One find of singular importance from site L was the broken half of a naturally-perforated macehead, worked in a brown flint (Fig. 14 no. 10), which appears to be a type of adze/hammer. This may be compared favourably with a larger specimen found by the writer on Bullock Down, near Beachy Head (TQ 588 959). Later intrusive element indicated by a Mesolithic knife-blade that had been subsequently reshaped by bifacial flaking to produce a leaf-shaped point. This latter work would suggest a Neolithic date, and it probably served as a small lancehead.

Conclusions may be drawn from the fields so far examined by the writer, and some tentative suggestions are now given here.

Due to the proximity of site B to the old sandpit at Selmeston, it may safely be concluded that this forms part of the occupation-site previously excavated by Clark and Curwen. Although they did not mention this area in their report, it seems highly probable that the flintwork now being found on this site has only recently been brought to the surface by the plough. I am informed by the present owners of the field, that it came into their hands in 1970, and had previously been ploughed to a depth of 15 cm or less. Since the acquisition of site B, the plough depth is now 23 cm, and this may well indicate why this site has not previously been noticed. It would also suggest that the Mesolithic occupation level is between 17 and 26 cm below the present ground surface. Fragments of charcoal have been noticed by the writer in certain areas of the site, together with burnt sand, and these may well indicate the presence of hearths comparable with those found during the excavations within the old sandpit.

Sites D and L also appear to be occupation sites of Mesolithic date, due to the heavy concentrations of flintwork that also occur on both sites. The finding of implements of similar type on sites B, D, and L would suggest some form of correlation with each site, and this may indicate that the same community rotated its occupation sites. Further comparisons can be drawn with Mesolithic finds at Beachy Head and Belle Tout, a distance of some eight miles to the south-east of these sites.

Of the remaining sites so far examined by the writer, they can best be described as 'hunting grounds' due to the scarce distribution of flints, and in the case of site G, the finds from that area were apparently confined to working tools that may well have been lost or discarded in the hunt. They cannot—in the writer's opinion—be described as occupation-sites, as the flintwork does not appear to be confined to any specific area. An exception to this rule may be made in the case of site C, which probably formed the southernmost limits of the occupation at the old sandpit that extended over site B. It may be noted that the occupations were apparently centred on the Lower Greensand, which supports the late Dr. E. C. Curwen's suggestion that Mesolithic man preferred a sandy soil on which to dwell.

Evidence of Neolithic occupation of the area is referred to in the report by J. G. D. Clark on the excavations at the sandpit, and also by the Neolithic bowl fragment also referred to previously. The leaf-shaped arrowhead from site B, and ground and polished axehead from site C, are also both presumably assigned to that occupation, whilst the notched leaf-shaped arrowhead from site G and leaf-shaped lancehead from site L were probably lost whilst hunting, as no other finds of the period were found in either of these areas.

The discovery of the barb and tang and triangular arrowheads from site D also provide clear evidence that men of the Beaker period or Early Bronze Age hunted across this area, as no other finds of this period have been found on this site.

The ten fields so far examined by the writer represent only a small part of the overall area which needs to be carefully searched to provide a clearer picture of the distribution of Mesolithic flintwork, and thus the movement of the communities of this period. All of the fields have now been seeded, but the writer intends to continue researches at a later date, and also to examine the intervening fields as and when they come under plough. These will form the basis of a further and more detailed report.

My thanks are due to the local landowners for kindly granting me their permission to search their fields, and without whose kind co-operation this report would not have been possible. Thanks are also due to my wife, Jennie, who drew the illustrations, and to Mr. P. L. Drewett, Director of the Sussex Archaeological Field Unit, who kindly 'vetted' this report.

A. E. HOLLOWAY

## References:

- <sup>1</sup> *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 113 (1975) 193-4.
- <sup>2</sup> *Antiquaries Journal* XIV (1934) 134-158.
- <sup>3</sup> *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 79 (1938) 195-8.

- <sup>4</sup> *Sussex Notes & Queries* 13 (1953) 312-3.
- <sup>5</sup> *S.A.S. Occasional Paper* 2 'A Mesolithic Assemblage from East Sussex' by Richard Bradley, Fig. 2 no. 12.

**AN EARLY BRONZE AGE COLLARED URN FROM HANGLETON, WEST SUSSEX**—In January, 1976, Mr. George Trigwell of Ringmer, reported the finding of a broken pot to Mr. E. Williams of Bullock Down Farm, Eastbourne. Mr. Williams contacted the author who met Mr. Trigwell to determine the exact circumstances of the discovery. The four sherds were from a collared urn found while laying a water pipe immediately adjacent to a new cattle trough at TQ 2633 0856. The site is on the South Downs  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles due south of the Devil's Dyke and  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile west of the round barrow cemetery on Round Hill. The sherds were from a whole pot found in an inverted position over a cremation. Unfortunately none of the cremation was recovered, nor was the remainder of the pot. The urn was, therefore, clearly used for burial but whether under a now ploughed out barrow or not is difficult to say without excavation. Dr. I. H. Longworth of the British Museum kindly examined the pot and provided the following note:

"Four sherds from the collar, neck, shoulder and upper body of a collared vessel, of soft fabric tempered with grog. Reddish brown externally, light brown to brown internally with dark grey patches. Both faces smoothed.

*Decoration:* On the internal moulding and on the external surface of the collar three horizontally twisted cord lines. At the base of the neck, in the shoulder groove and extending onto the body, twisted cord herringbone.

The vessel belongs to the primary series, three formal and two decorative traits survive. The shoulder groove is of interest demonstrating, as on a small number of other primary series vessels, convergence with more explicitly food vessel practice. Unfortunately, insufficient remains of the shoulder to demonstrate whether the groove was continuous or stopped, both forms being known in the series."

Lysbeth Drewett kindly drew the pot (Fig. 15) which has now been deposited in the Brighton Museum.

P. L. DREWETT

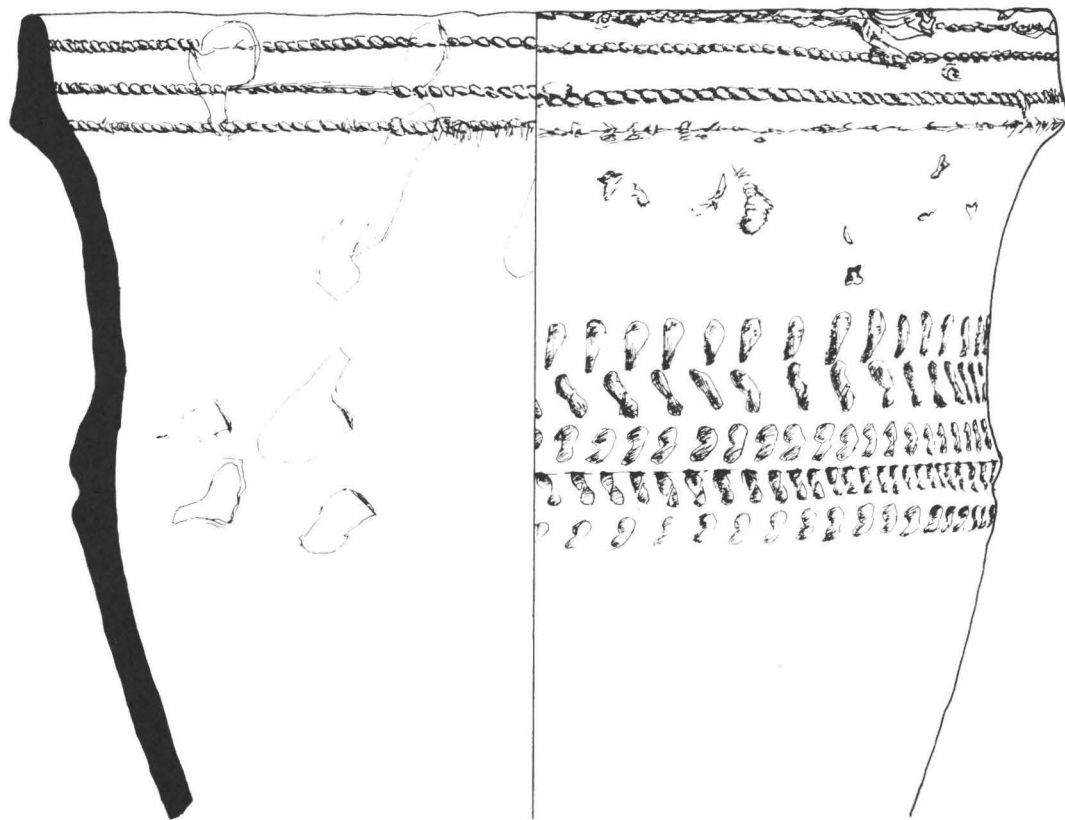


Fig. 15. Collared Urn from Hangleton (2/3).

## NOTES FROM F. G. ALDSWORTH, COUNTY FIELD ARCHAEOLOGIST, WEST SUSSEX

**MADEHURST WOOD WATER-PIPE TRENCH**—On Wednesday the 16th of February, 1977, the Southern Water Authority laid a water pipe through the linear earthworks in Madehurst Wood (SU 9780 0879), which were discussed by the Curwens in 1920.<sup>1</sup> The section of earthwork affected by the scheme lies on the northern slope of the hill and extends in an east-west direction for a distance of about 450 m. It is possible that this work represents the eastern limit of the Chichester Entrenchments although there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate this at present.

As it survives, the earthwork comprises a ditch, some 10 m. in width and up to 3 m. deep, with traces of a counterscarp bank on the northern, downhill, side. The Department of the Environment had previously agreed to the laying of the water pipe on the line of the footpath, which crosses the earthworks at an angle of about sixty degrees, subject to a watching brief being maintained during the work.

The footpath was widened to about 6 m. as a terraced working strip through the woodland, and this cut into the bank and ditch of the earthwork, revealing a shallow section about 0.8 m. in depth. The upper fill of the ditch was revealed in this section, together with two other disturbances, which may be pits or post-holes. The trench which carried the water pipe was some 3.8 m. west of this section and was about 1.5 m. wide and 1.5 m. deep. In both its eastern and western faces it revealed the chalk-cut ditch which was 6.2 m. wide at the highest point. The sections observed during the making of the working strip and the cutting of the pipe trench may be combined with the profile of the ditch, as it survives some 20 m. to the east, to provide an approximate section of the original ditch in this area. Since the bottom of the ditch was not encountered the full profile is not known but it seems likely that it was originally about 10.0 m. wide and 5.0 m. deep. The fill of the southern side of the ditch was comparatively clean chalk but that on the northern side was silty loam. It seems likely that the chalk was derived from a rampart which formerly stood on the south side of the ditch. No finds were encountered.

<sup>1</sup> E. C. and E. Curwen *S.A.C.* 61 (1920) 20-30.

# Wephurst Glassworks

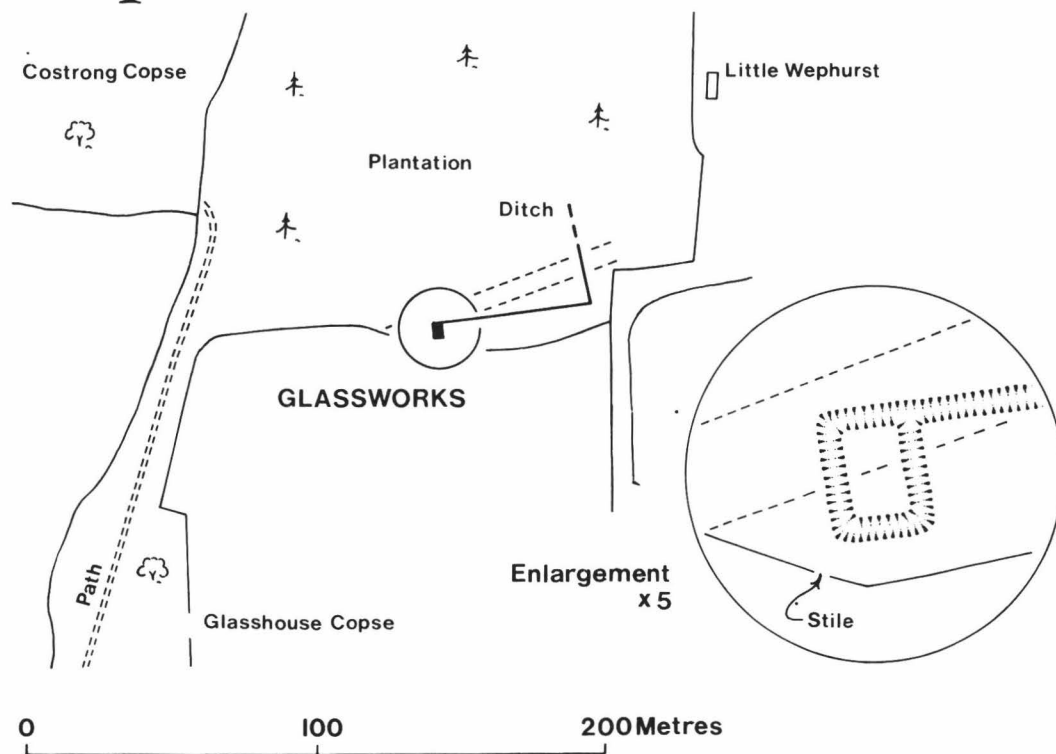
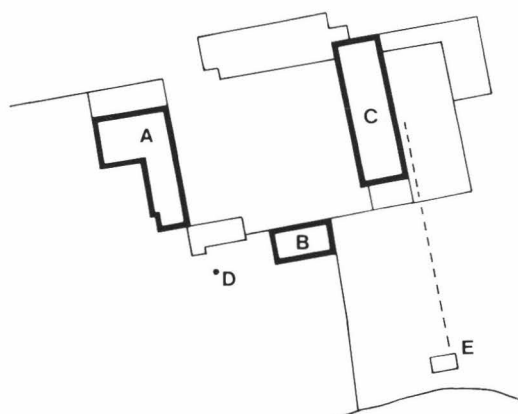
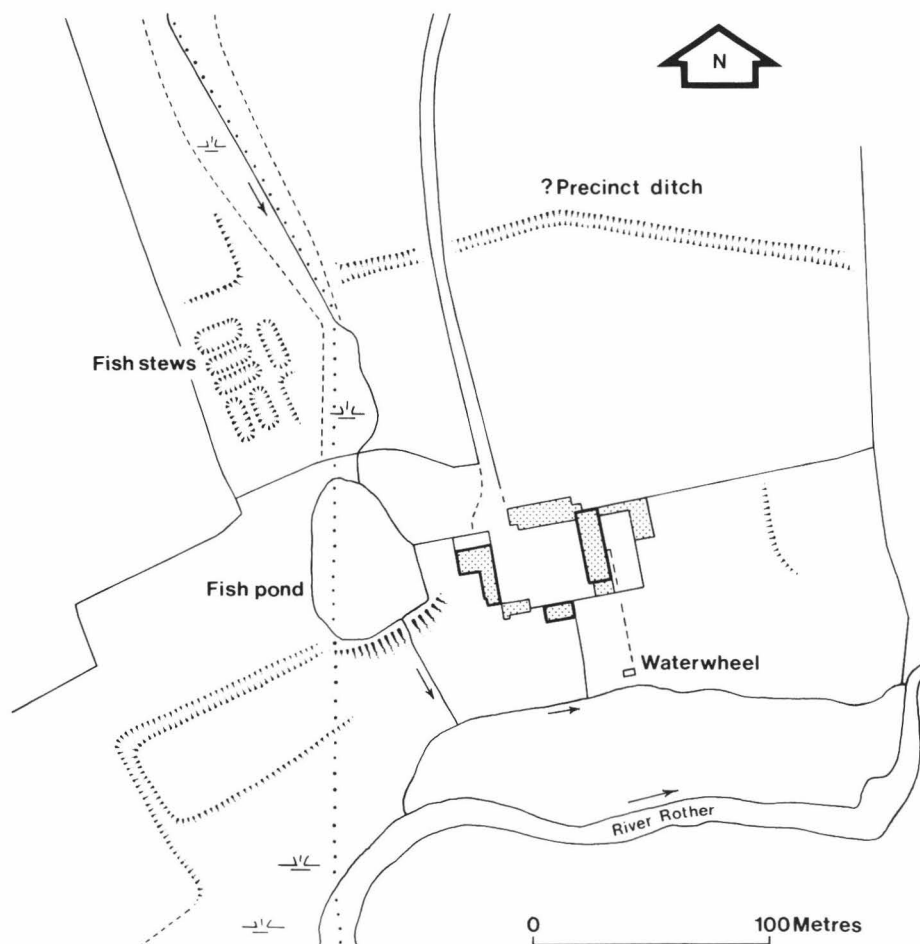


Fig. 16.

# Durford Abbey



- A DURFORD HOUSE rebuilt 1784
- B Stable with Medieval remains
- C Threshing barn
- D Column base
- E Waterwheel with drive to barn

Fig. 17.

WEPHURST GLASSWORKS (See fig. 16)—The site of a late fourteenth- and fifteenth-century glassworks at Glasshouse Copse, Wephurst, is listed by Winbolt<sup>1</sup> and is described by Kenyon,<sup>2</sup> but could not be traced by the Ordnance Survey in 1970.

The remains, which represent one of the best surviving examples of its type, have now been located in a clearing beneath an overhead power line at TQ 0240 2936. They comprise a rectangular mound, measuring 6 m. by 4 m., surrounded by a ditch. A linear ditch extends eastwards from the north-east corner and may be contemporary.

The site has been recommended for scheduling as an Ancient Monument.

<sup>1</sup> Winbolt, S. E. *Wealden Glass* (1933) 46.

<sup>2</sup> Kenyon, G. H. *The Glass Industry of the Weald* (1967) 180-2.

DURFORD ABBEY (See fig. 17)—The Premonstratensian Abbey at Durford was founded before 1161 and dissolved in 1536.<sup>1</sup> The Monastic buildings were subsequently incorporated in Durford Farm, as shown in drawings by Grimm in 1782,<sup>2</sup> but these buildings were almost entirely rebuilt in 1784.

When the property changed hands in 1976 the new owner, Mr. Manley, kindly allowed the writer and Mr. A. G. Allnutt, of the Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society, to inspect the site and the following features were noted.

The present farmhouse, marked 'A' on the plan, is dated 1784 and occupies the position of the house drawn by Grimm. The earlier house evidently incorporated medieval features and there seems no reason why the present house should not contain medieval footings. The plinth of the south wall of a medieval building is visible on the south side of the stable block, marked 'B' on the plan, and on the inner face of the west wall of the same building are the heads of two openings just above the present floor level. One is pointed, the other round. The outer face of that to the south is shown on one of Grimm's drawings and this, and other evidence, demonstrates that the ground level within the present farmyard has been raised by about 2 metres since 1782. To the east of the farmyard is a sixteenth- or seventeenth-century threshing barn and to the south of the farmhouse are several column bases, one of which, marked 'D' on the plan, may be in its original position. An inscribed stone coffin lid is incorporated in the south wall of the house and there are numerous fragments of worked stone lying around the garden and built into walls. Medieval floor tiles, once used in a nineteenth-century summerhouse, have been buried in the garden.

To the north-west of the farmhouse are a series of fish-stews and a fish pond with channels leading in from the west and out to the east, one of which may be a precinct ditch.

South of the barn, are the remains of a late nineteenth-century iron water-wheel which has an unusual underground shaft, about 40 m. long, with universal joints, which once provided drive for machinery in the barn.

The site has been recommended for scheduling as an Ancient Monument.

<sup>1</sup> Knowles, D. K. and Hadcock, R. H. *Medieval Religious Houses* (1953) 65.

<sup>2</sup> Blaaup, W. H. *S.A.C.* 8 (1856) 41-96.

TWO UNUSUAL DITCHED ENCLOSURES IN WEST SUSSEX—Mr. Jerome O'Hea, of Chichester, has reported the discovery of two unusually large ditched enclosures which appeared as crop marks in the summer of 1976.

North of Binderton House, West Dean, at SU 8474 1120, is a sub-oval enclosure, measuring about 170 m. north-south by 120 m. which is defined by a comparatively small ditch. Within the enclosed area and adjoining the west side are traces of a small rectangular enclosure. The feature lies on the end of a spur, immediately above the coastal plain, and it is traversed by the Chichester-Silchester Roman Road.

South of Selhurstpark Farm, East Dean, at SU 9271 1036, is a sub-oval enclosure, measuring about 330 metres east-west by 200 metres, which contains a small rectangular enclosure in its north-east corner. The feature lies on the end of a spur.

No occupation material has so far come to light to indicate the date of the features and neither appears to conform to any type of enclosure identified elsewhere on the Downs in West Sussex.

A POSSIBLE NEOLITHIC OVAL BARROW ON NORE DOWN, WEST MARDEN (See fig. 18)—In February, 1977, Mr. Eric Holden drew the attention of the writer to the existence of an unusual earthwork somewhere on Nore Down, which was thought by Mr. John Boyden, to resemble a feature in Fargo Plantation, west of Stonehenge.

The feature in Fargo Plantation comprised a beaker grave surrounded by a ditch, about 20ft. in diameter, which had two, opposed, entrance-causeways.<sup>1</sup>

On the eastern slope of Nore Hill, immediately above a steep slope at SU 7731 1306, are the remains of an oval mound, about 25 m. long, 12 m. wide, and 0.4 m. in height. It is oriented east-west and is flanked by side ditches, each up to about 8 m. wide and 0.8 m. deep. In general form it resembles a Neolithic oval barrow and appears to be unploughed. It could be a pillow mound or the result of surface quarrying but the overall proportions and regularity appear to rule these out although there are shallow surface disturbances in the area and an irregular mound to the east.

<sup>1</sup> J. F. Stone *Wessex* (1963) 72 fig. 8 and plates 24 and 25.

AN IRON AGE GOLD COIN FROM PULBOROUGH (See plate 1)—In December, 1976 Mr. T. E. Judd reported to Horsham Museum the discovery of a gold coin on the surface of a ploughed field near Pulborough, at about TQ 0744 2001. The coin, which is retained by the finder, appears to be a Gallo-Belgic E (Morini) uniface stater (Mack 27) and probably dates to 65-45 B.C. (Plate 1 faces p.256.)

# Nore Down

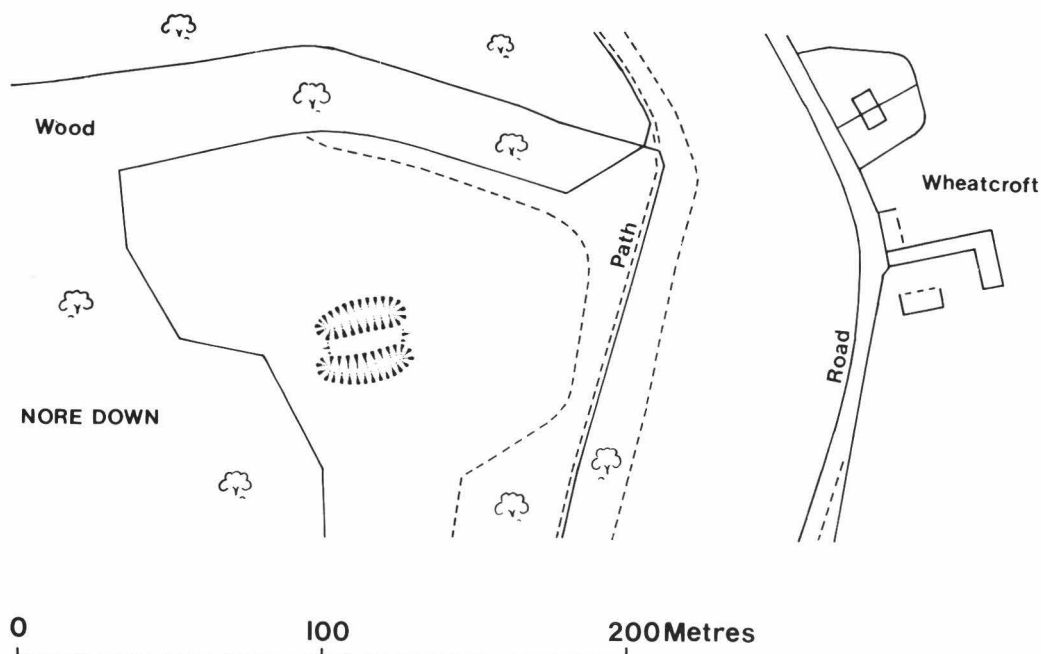


Fig. 18.

**SIXTEENTH-CENTURY HOUSE FOUNDATIONS AT WEST HEATH, HARTING**—Mr. J. L. Hosking, of East Harting, has reported the discovery and excavation of the foundations of a probable sixteenth-century house which has subsequently been destroyed by sand quarrying. The site was located at SU 7829 2278.

A rectangular building, measuring 9.1 m. by 6.4 m. was represented by foundations of greensand blocks, flint and mortar, up to about 1.0 m. wide. These footings contained several pieces of re-used worked stone, including a column capital of Sussex 'winkle stone', which almost certainly came from the nearby Durford Abbey after it was dissolved in 1536.

The house, which is shown on an estate map of 1632, may have belonged to Jane Wyndesore who died in 1572.

**ROMAN VILLA AT HOOKSWAY, TREYFORD**—Mr. Michael Boxall, of the West Dean Estate, reported the discovery of a flint wall when scrub was being cleared on the lower side of Batten Hanger. A concentration of flint and Romano-British roofing tile, at SU 8180 1534, indicates that this was probably the site of a Roman Villa.

**A PROBABLE IRON-AGE FARMSTEAD SITE AT LORDINGTON, STOUGHTON**.—During the summer drought of 1976, Mrs. Francis, of Lordington, drew my attention to parch marks in the field immediately north of Lordington House, a seventeenth-century structure around which are the earthwork remains of a shrunken medieval village (see fig. 19).

The field was under pasture during the August of that year but two enclosures, and other features, were visible as very distinct brown parch marks about 1 m. wide. Enclosure 'A', centred at SU 7824 1016, was sub-rectangular, measuring about 90 x 70 m. with entrances to the north and south, and enclosure 'B', centred at SU 7820 1004, was about 40 by 20 m. with an entrance in the south-west corner.

With the kind permission of Mr. John Veltom, of Sindles Farm, a trial trench was excavated, in March, 1978, through the western side of enclosure 'A' and at a distance of 23 m. from the gate in the nearby field boundary a ditch was located in the position indicated by the former parch marks. This ditch, which appeared to have a steeper slope on the inner side, was 1.2 m. wide and was cut, through about 20 cm. of topsoil into the underlying chalk, to a depth of 0.9 m. below the present surface of the field.



# ENCLOSURES AT LORDINGTON

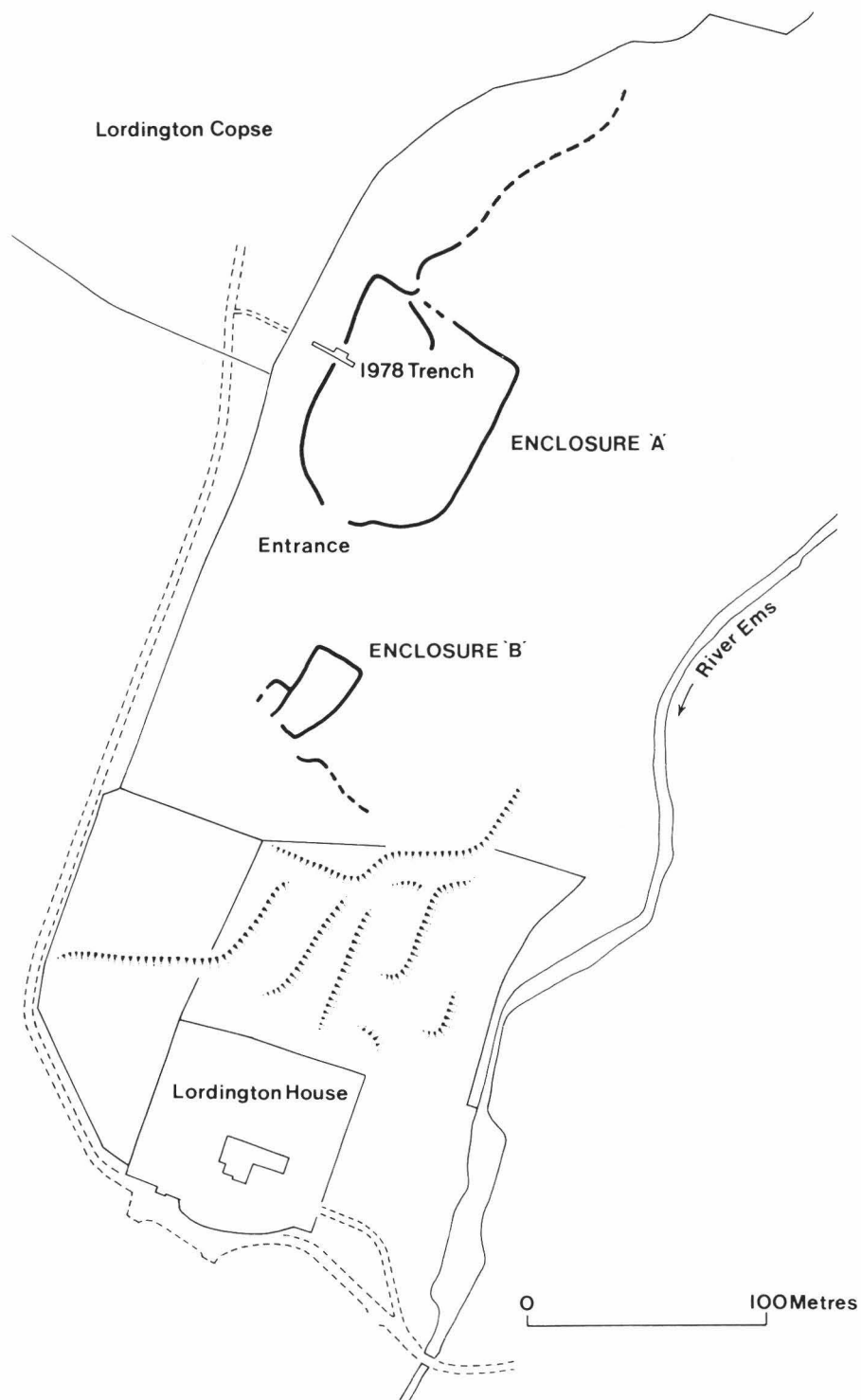


Fig. 19.

The only finds were a struck flake and fragments of a cow horn but the form of the enclosures, on the gently sloping right bank of the river Ems, indicates an Iron Age date.

F. G. ALDSWORTH

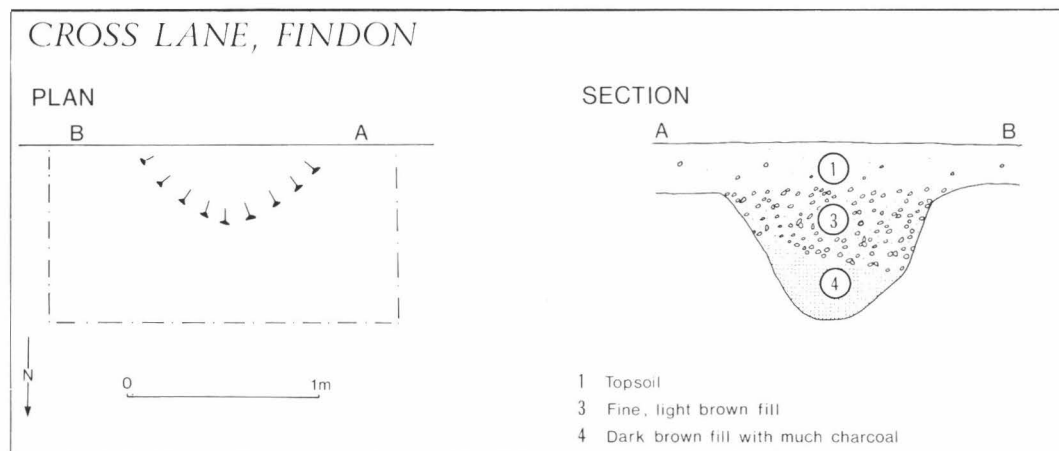


Fig. 20. Cross Lane. Plan and section of Bronze Age pit.

**BRONZE AGE POTTERY FROM CROSS LANE, FINDON, WEST SUSSEX (TQ 1245 0812)**—In February, 1976, Mr. John Sayles Jnr. noticed a small V-shaped feature on a building site at Findon, where a cutting had been made for an access road. The owner of the site readily agreed to excavation, which was carried out on March 6th, 1976. The feature turned out to be the edge of a small pit, cut into the chalk subsoil (Fig. 20). The lower fill of the pit, layer 4, contained considerable amounts of charcoal, charred acorns, and about a dozen sherds of Bronze Age Pottery, some of which are illustrated in Fig. 21.

Dr. Ann Ellison, Director of the Wessex Archaeological Unit, has examined the pottery, and reports as follows:

1. Rim sherd displaying simple, rounded rim and a slight carination about an inch below the rim, incised with irregular nail impressions. Sparse grog and medium flint inclusions. Smoothed surfaces.
- 2-7. Six featureless body sherds with sparse fine flint inclusions.
- 8-10. Three body sherds with grog inclusions, two of which are decorated with irregular fingernail impressions.
- 11, 12. One body sherd and one fragment of base with sparse medium to large flint inclusions.
- 13, 14. Two body sherds with medium dense, small to medium calcined flint inclusions, decorated with all-over fingernail rustication.

(All these sherds are from layer 4).

**Discussion.** The grog and flint-gritted fabrics are all typical of the Bronze Age wares of Sussex. The rim sherd with fingernail-impressed carination is best paralleled by the Late Bronze Age assemblage from New Barn Down.<sup>1</sup> The rusticated sherds pose more of a problem because random, all-over fingernail impressions are in fact quite rare in Sussex. Rusticated ware is common in Beaker assemblages, e.g. Church Hill flint mines, Findon,<sup>2</sup> and the Belle Tout settlement,<sup>3</sup> but in most cases, the fingernail impressions are arranged in opposed rows. The only vessel with a random (but not all-over) pattern of fingernail impressions is from Belle Tout.<sup>4</sup> Dating from the Middle Bronze Age there is a vessel with all-over fingernail impressions from Aldwick Crescent, Findon Valley (unpublished; Worthing Museum 55/19), but again the fingernail impressions are arranged in rough, short rows. It can be concluded that the decoration and fabric of the rusticated sherds suggest an Early or Middle Bronze Age date.

The charcoal from layer 4 was identified by Caroline Cartwright as fragments of ash (*Fraxinus* sp.); the acorns have been retained for carbon-14 dating when a low-level counting service becomes available.

The site at Cross Lane was situated on low ground between Cissbury to the east and Church Hill to the west, i.e. in a valley bottom. The nature of the finds suggests debris from a settlement; there were no surface indications of other features.

I am grateful to Mr. C. Ainsworth, John Sayles, Roy Plummer and John Friar for help with the excavation, and to Dr. A. Ellison for the pottery report. Lys Drewett drew the pottery in Fig. 21. The finds have been deposited in Worthing Museum.

OWEN BEDWIN

#### References

- <sup>1</sup> E. C. Curwen, 'A Late Bronze Age Farm and a Neolithic pit dwelling on New Barn Down, Clapham, near Worthing', *S.A.C.*, 75 (1934), 137-70.
- <sup>2</sup> R. C. Musson, 'An illustrated catalogue of Sussex Beaker and Bronze Age pottery', *S.A.C.*, 92 (1954), 106-24.

<sup>3</sup> R. J. Bradley, 'The excavation of a Beaker settlement at Belle Tout, East Sussex, England', *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, 36 (1970), 312-79.

<sup>4</sup> R. J. Bradley, *op. cit.*



Fig. 21. Cross Lane. Bronze Age pottery ( $\times \frac{1}{4}$ ).

**EARLY IRON AGE POTTERY FROM LITTLEHAMPTON**—Two groups of Iron Age pottery were found by Mr. M. Reed on a building site at Littlehampton, near the known site of the Roman villa. The smaller group of pottery (from TQ 040 021) was found in a small pit; the larger group (TQ 039 024) came from a ditch about 1 m deep, cut into the brickearth subsoil. The ditch had been sectioned by machine at an oblique angle; its width, though difficult to measure, was about 1.5 m at the top.

The pottery was examined by Susan Morris (Institute of Archaeology, Oxford) and her report is as follows;

*Site 1 (TQ 040 021)*

1. Body sherd, smooth finish, decoration of rows of stabbed dots, fabric fine/medium, flint grit and sand. (Numbered sherds correspond to those in Fig. 22).

Not illustrated. Two sherds fine/medium, flint grit; one sherd fine/medium, flint grit with grog and sand.

*Site 2 (TQ 039 024)*

2. Rim sherd, flat top, round exterior, roughly smoothed fine, flint grit with quartz sand fill.

3. Flat base, upright profile, rough finish, fine/medium, flint grit and quartz sand.

Not illustrated. 38 sherds fine/medium, flint grit; four sherds fine/medium, flint grit with grog; nine sherds fine, flint grit with sand and grog; 96 sherds fine, flint grit with sand; 56 sherds fine, flint grit with sand and haematite finish, frequently well burnished.

*Discussion*

The small size of the pottery sample and the lack of diagnostic pottery within it preclude detailed analysis. These two sites have produced similar pottery and should be given an early Iron Age date, probably within the sixth to fifth centuries, of which the haematite slip is a typical finish. The fabrics represented are basically flint grit, usually of a fine or medium aggregate size and, occasionally, with admixtures of sand or grog. These tend to produce a coarser fabric, which was characteristic of the sherds from site 1, and, to a lesser extent, from site 2. A finer fabric occurred at site 2 only, possibly suggesting a slightly later date within the range mentioned above. The number of vessels represented is small, a minimum of eight; the numerous sherds of the haematite ware, for example, probably belonged to a single large jar.

Stabbed decoration is known from several Sussex sites; sherds with similar styles of decoration having been found at the Caburn, Stoke Clump, and Kingston Buci. The pottery is broadly comparable to the earlier phases of many sites in Sussex, such as the Trundle,<sup>1</sup> Lancing,<sup>2</sup> Highdown,<sup>3</sup> and the Caburn.<sup>4</sup> More exact comparisons will be possible after the excavation of a larger collection of diagnostic Iron Age pottery.

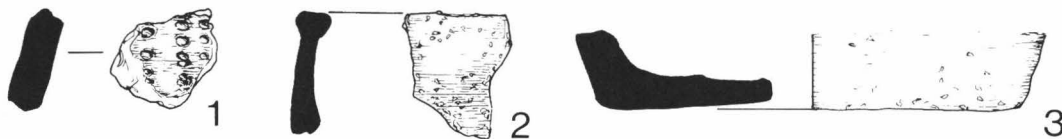


Fig. 22. Iron Age pottery from Littlehampton ( $\times \frac{1}{4}$ )

The discovery of this early Iron Age material at Littlehampton is interesting for two reasons: first, it adds to our scanty evidence of Iron Age occupation of the Coastal Plain; secondly, as the pottery was found close to the Roman villa, it indicates settlement in the area prior to the establishment of the villa.

OWEN BEDWIN

#### REFERENCES

- 1 E. C. Curwen, 'Excavations in the Trundle, Goodwood, 1928', *S.A.C.*, 70 (1929), 33-85.
- 2 S. S. Frere, 'A survey of archaeology near Lancing', *S.A.C.*, 81 (1940), 141-73.

- 3 A. E. Wilson, 'Report on the excavations at Highdown Hill, Sussex, August, 1939', *S.A.C.* 81 (1940), 173-204.
- 4 E. and E. C. Curwen, 'Excavations in the Caburn near Lewes', *S.A.C.* 68 (1927), 1-56.

**A BARBED BRONZE SPEARHEAD FROM THE ROTHER**—In late 1974, or early 1975, a barbed bronze spearhead was found in river dredgings on the south (Sussex) bank of the Rother, just east of Newenden, at a spot which, from the description, can be identified as lying within TQ 843 275. Unfortunately, the finder not only removed traces of the wooden shaft inside but also sharpened the edge 'to see what it was made of.' Subsequently, it was acquired by Hastings museum (Acc. No. 975.20) and conserved by the Pitt-Rivers Museum, Oxford. It is intended to place it on exhibition at the Old Town Hall Museum of Local History, High Street, Hastings.

A well-known comparison is the barbed spearhead from the Humber near Ferriby.<sup>1</sup> The Rother example is, however, smaller (22 x 6.4 cm) and has a slightly more 'ogival' outline, reminiscent of the leaf-shaped sword and probably derived therefrom. The shaft was held to the head by a slightly off-centre pin; the shaft itself could only have entered the spearhead to the length of 5 cm since the midrib is of oval section and solid, likewise reminiscent of the leaf-shaped sword (Fig. 23).

DAVID DEVENISH

1 Later Prehistoric Antiquities of the British Isles' *Brit. Mus.*, Fig. 10/7.

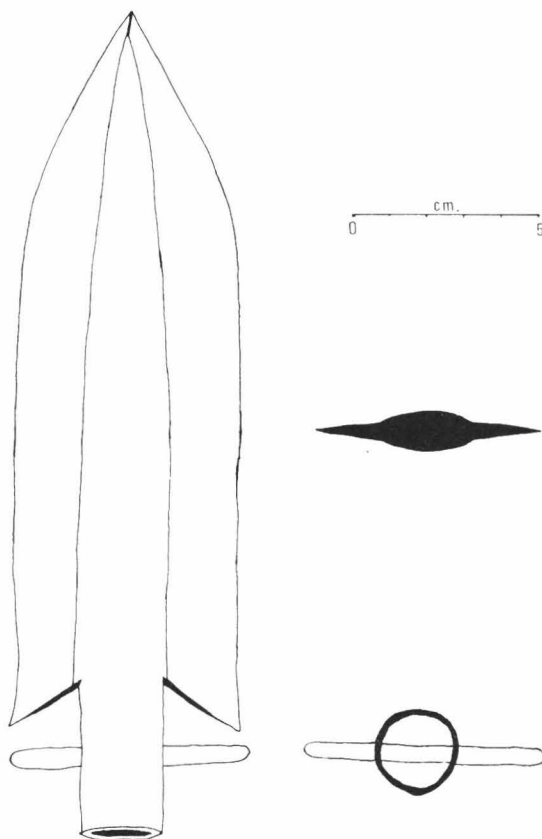


Fig. 23. A barbed bronze spearhead from the Rother



Plate 1. Iron Age gold coin from Pulborough

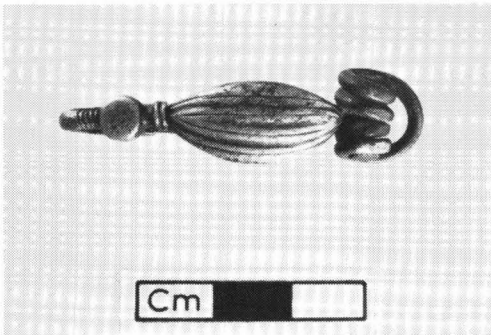


Plate 6 a

Plate 6 a } La Tène I brooch from Bognor Regis  
 Plate 6 b } (photo Mrs. R. M. Jupe).

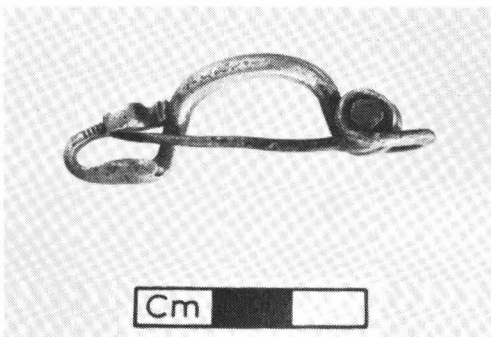


Plate 6 b

**IRON AGE AND ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENT IN ERIDGE PARK (TQ 575 339)**—The ploughing of part of Eridge Park in the late 1950s turned up a quantity of late pre-Roman Iron Age and Romano-British pottery concentrated in about half an acre. Nearby at about TQ 575 340 were two small areas of dark soil and slag.

The site was discovered by Brian Stapple and Ian Jeffrey (two schoolboys who had worked at High Rocks) who collected pottery from the surface and brought it to the Tunbridge Wells Museum. Later more pottery was found by Stapple and James Money.

Prof. S. S. Frere, who examined the pottery in 1959, then reported that it included the following:

- i Footrings (pedestals) of Wealden form of Southern 2nd B
- ii Decorated sherds of South Eastern B
- iii Belgic pedestal base
- iv Southern 2nd B saucepan bases and body sherds
- v Wealden copy of Gallo-Belgic platter
- vi Sherd with Wealden imitation of Belgic combing
- vii Sherds of Wealden form of Southern AB hemispherical cups (hang-over from Iron Age A)
- viii Rim of Patchgrove ware
- ix At least twenty examples of Wealden pottery with curving rims copying Belgic forms
- x Native copy of Arretine cup
- xi Rim of Samian Drag. 45. central Gaulish mid second century A.D.

Some of the Iron Age pottery is paralleled at Saxonbury (TQ 578 329), about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile to the south, and High Rocks (TQ 561 383),  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles to the north-west.

These finds suggest a small settlement occupied in the late pre-Roman Iron Age and into the Romano-British period up to the middle of the second century and for some of its life at least connected with local iron-working.

The pottery is in the Tunbridge Wells Museum, some of it on display and some in a box in the basement.

J. H. MONEY

**A LA TÈNE I BROOCH FROM BOGNOR REGIS**—This note is to put on record a La Tène I bronze brooch (fourth—third centuries B.C.), bought by the Sussex Archaeological Society in 1970 from Mr. E. Holden of Bognor Regis. It is now in Barbican House Museum, Lewes (Register No. 1970.2), where it is described as a 'first century A.D. bronze brooch. Spring broken. Found on sea bed by vendor offshore at Bognor'<sup>1</sup>.

The illustrations (Plate 6 and Fig. 24) obviate the need for a detailed, verbal description. The brooch is a very well preserved example of an insular series described by Hodson<sup>2</sup>. The near-horizontal foot-profile, the short catch-plate and the low bow, by which Hodson characterised this class, are all recognisable in the Bognor specimen. Most noticeable, however, is the skeuomorphic spring. The coil is wound round a rod, as far as can be seen, of squarish section. Viewed from above (Fig. 24, centre), the third coil of the 'spring' from the top is, in fact, an extension of the pin, twisted around the rod so that the former pivots freely out to about 90 degrees with the long axis of the brooch, when viewed from the side. There can be little doubt that, in this brooch at least, the 'false spring' is an original feature and not, as has been suggested for similar brooches in the past,<sup>3</sup> a true spring that has broken and been repaired.

The decoration on the bow, consisting of grooves, alternately narrow and wide, running from the coil to the foot, is comparable to that on a number of other brooches of La Tène I profile from central and southern England, including the three described by Hodson in his original description of the general type;<sup>4</sup> other examples of brooches with this motif are illustrated by Fox, from Woodeaton (Oxon) and, nearer Bognor, from Lancing (Sussex).<sup>5</sup> This can be contrasted with the well known line and dot present on some similar brooches in Wessex, described by Fowler,<sup>6</sup> and mapped by Cunliffe;<sup>7</sup> it is commonly found on brooches with the same skeuomorphic spring described above. Significant though the two distributions clearly are, it is, perhaps, a little premature to imply that the one represents the output of a workshop near Hammersmith<sup>8</sup> or the other that of a 'single bronze-worker settled somewhere in the area'.<sup>9</sup> These objects merit close study, a prime consideration being the compilation of a comprehensive corpus, permitting a more sophisticated analysis of the distribution patterns that is currently possible.<sup>10</sup>

MIKE PITTS

<sup>1</sup> An unsuccessful attempt was made by the writer to contact Mr. Holden, with an aim to obtain a more precise location for the find. The gentleman in question is apparently unrelated to the frequent contributor, of the same name, to these Collections.

<sup>2</sup> F. R. Hodson, 'Three Iron Age brooches from Hammersmith', in G. de G. Sieveking ed., *Prehistoric and Roman Studies*, British Museum, 1971, 50-56.

<sup>3</sup> e.g., C. F. Fox, 'A La Tène I brooch from Wales: with notes on the typology and distribution of these brooches in Britain', *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, 82 (1927), 68.

<sup>4</sup> Op. cit., note 2, Plate XIII, B-D.

<sup>5</sup> Op. cit., note 3, Figs. 18b and 8, respectively.

<sup>6</sup> M. J. Fowler, 'The typology of the brooches of the Iron Age in Wessex', *Archaeological Journal*, 110 (1954), 88-105.

<sup>7</sup> B. W. Cunliffe, *Iron Age Communities in Britain*, Routledge and Kegan Paul (1974), Fig. 14.8.

<sup>8</sup> Op. cit., note 2, p. 55.

<sup>9</sup> Op. cit., note 7, p. 273.

<sup>10</sup> I would like to thank Professor F. R. Hodson for reading through and commenting on this note; the opinions expressed are my own.

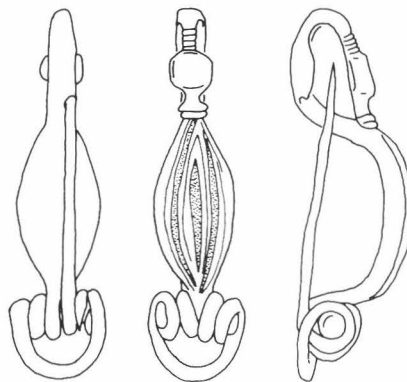


Fig. 24 La Tène I brooch from Bognor Regis

**SOME RECENT FINDS OF IRON AGE POTTERY ON THE WEST SUSSEX COASTAL PLAIN**—Despite the large numbers of late Iron Age coins from the coast of this part of Sussex, which have led many to believe in the existence of a tribal capital at Selsey, reports of Iron Age finds from inland are rare. The only publication of certain pottery of this date is that by Miss White (now Mrs. J. G. D. Clark) and Professor Hawkes, who described a collection covering the whole of the Iron Age from Selsey.<sup>1</sup> All but a small handful of the objects described in that article have since been lost. This apparent lack of Iron Age material, compared with the great abundance of, for example, Roman finds, may well be at least partly related to the interests of those individuals noting discoveries. This note records some recent finds made in the area of Bognor Regis. Unless otherwise stated, they are now all in the Chichester District Museum, along with the remnants of the collection from Selsey. 'Roman Gazetteer numbers' refer to the writer's gazetteer of finds of this date from the Plain (this volume of the *Collections* pp. 63-83).

*Tote Copse, Aldingbourne. SU 923 048.*

In 1974, a shallow trench (about 1 m across and 1 m deep) was dug on an east-west alignment immediately north of the Tote Copse mound, for laying a pipe to a cattle trough. This cut through four ill-defined features. One of these produced a group of sherds of Roman fabric (Roman Gazetteer No. 81), and a second, a collection of Iron Age pottery, as follows:

1. About a third of a fine, ribbed bowl with mainly red-brown surfaces, but with a large reduced patch on the inside; the body interior is black and contains a filler of much finely-crushed flint. This filler stands proud of the outer face of the pot, suggesting that its original surface has dissolved (apart from a small patch below the rim, which is a light red-brown colour). There is a light foot-ring on the base. The pot appears to have been made on a fast wheel (Fig. 25a).

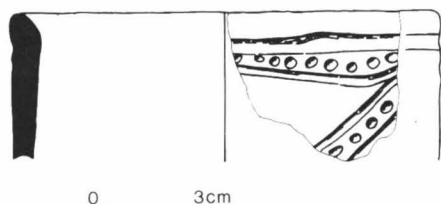


Fig. 25b. Iron Age pottery from the West Sussex Coastal Plain

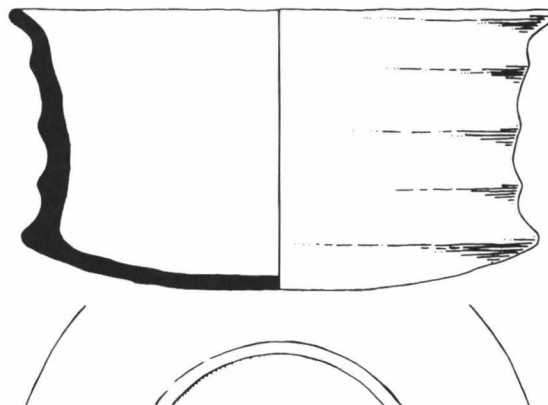


Fig. 25a. Iron Age pottery from the West Sussex Coastal Plain

2. A rim sherd of a saucepan pot, decorated with grooves of rounded section and impressed dots. The fabric, which is black throughout, is unusual for Iron Age pottery in the area, containing no flint filler. It is light in weight and of a corky texture, presumably due to a now vanished filler which was burnt out during firing or has dissolved in the soil (Fig. 25b).
3. A flat base angle of typical gritty local Iron Age fabric.
4. Seventeen small, gritty Iron Age sherds, including one with a groove that suggests it may be part of a saucepan pot, with horizontal grooving similar to those from Selsey<sup>2</sup> or the Trundle.<sup>3</sup>

Although small, this is an interesting group of pottery. No clear stratigraphy was observed and would, anyway, be somewhat suspect in such a small exposure: nonetheless, it is, perhaps, worth recording that the decorated rim was found higher in the section than the ribbed bowl. It is possible that the fabric of this rim originally contained a filler of crushed shell (which could have dissolved in the acid soil), which would, in sympathy with the style, make an East Sussex source arguable.<sup>4</sup> The ribbed bowl is, to the writer's knowledge, without direct parallel, although in shape, if not fabric, it generally recalls the Aylesford-Swarling material, and would thus traditionally be given a later date (first century B.C. or later), as is also implied by the evidence for it being wheel thrown (or turned). The Brewsters recorded nothing earlier than the twelfth century A.D. from their excavations on this site in 1961-62.<sup>5</sup>

*Chalcroft Lane, Bersted. SU 917 003*

The straightening of a road bend in 1974-5 was watched by Messrs. D. Barber, J. Deen and M. Reed. A wealth of archaeological features was disturbed and quantities of Roman (Gazetteer No. 105) and Medieval<sup>6</sup> material recovered. There were also, from various contexts, 25 sherds of dark, flint-gritted Iron Age pottery. Three rims, a base sherd with two horizontal grooves above the angle, as well as the fabric of all this material, ally it with the saucepan pottery of the area.



*A29/A59 Bognor Regis SU 935 100*

Major roadworks in 1975 were watched by Mr. M. Reed and the writer and evidence for Roman settlement was recorded (Roman Gazetteer No. 66). Two Roman features (in one of which were also found some scraps of pre-Flavian Samian) produced a total of eight small sherds of the typical local, gritty, Iron Age fabric. Similar finds of scattered, small, Iron Age sherds in Roman ditches have been made at Hazel Road, North Bersted,<sup>7</sup> where excavations have demonstrated the presence of a pre-Roman settlement.

MIKE PITTS

<sup>1</sup> G. M. White and C. Hawkes, "Prehistoric remains from Selsey Bill", *Antiquaries Journal*, 14 (1934), 40-52.

<sup>2</sup> Op. cit., Figs. 3.3 and 3.4.

<sup>3</sup> E. C. Curwen, "Excavations in the Trundle, Goodwood, 1928", *S.A.C.* 70 (1929), Plate XIII, no. 155.

<sup>4</sup> Miss S. Hamilton. Pers. comm.

<sup>5</sup> T.C.M. and A. Brewster, "Tote Copse Castle, Aldingbourne, Sussex", *S.A.C.* 107 (1969), 141-179.

<sup>6</sup> In the possession of Mr. C. J. Ainsworth.

<sup>7</sup> O. Bedwin and M. W. Pitts, "The excavation of an Iron Age settlement at North Bersted, Bognor Regis, West Sussex 1975-76", *S.A.C.* 116 (1978), 293-346.

**AN EDWARD III QUARTER-NOBLE FROM PETT, EAST SUSSEX (TQ 8274 1400)**—During the late 1960s, Miss B. A. Bilson discovered, in the rear garden of her home at Horringer, Pett Road, Pett, a gold Quarter-noble of Edward III. The coin is of the Treaty Series (1363-1369) and was minted at London (Ref. North 1243). It shows only slight traces of wear and has had very little circulation. Weight: 29.6 grains.

D. R. RUDLING

**A CHALK-CUT SHAFT AT BELLE TOUT, EASTDEAN (TV 557 956)**—This note is intended to complement 'A Chalk-cut shaft at Belle Tout', by Richard Bradley.<sup>1</sup>

In 1971, when the shaft was examined, the wave-cut platform at the foot of the cliff was obscured by a scree of fallen chalk, into which the shaft continued.

On July 6th, 1975, Arthur Sayers took the opportunity, afforded by a long tide, to clear the opening of the shaft which had, as anticipated, been exposed in section on the wave-cut platform formed since the original cliff fall, in 1971.

The beach was cleared from the shaft entrance and the shaft was excavated for a short distance, approximately 0.8 m, this depth being dictated by the rapid flow of water into the shaft from the cliff.

The fill was disappointing as it consisted of beach pebbles and foul-smelling seaweed, both of which had, presumably, replaced the original filling after it had been scoured out by the waves.

The shaft at this point was 1 m in diameter and details of four footholds were obtained, varying from 23 x 15 x 15 cm deep to 23 x 14 x 18 cm deep, and were slightly smaller than those previously recorded, as was the vertical interval, which was 40 cm, comparing with the previously recorded 55 cm.

Bradley pointed out that the shaft was approximately 1.7 m in diameter and that, 9 m above the shore, the shaft narrowed. This seems to be the case as the exposed section was 1 m in diameter. If the shaft is for the extraction of water, it probably ends at the gault clay, which is visible along much of the cliff but is not to be seen under the shaft. The gault is, at most, only a few metres deeper and it is reasonable that the shaft should be narrowing, if the supposition is correct. At present, the total depth of the shaft, from the fill, is 34.22 m.

The remaining shaft is worth observing over the next decade, to see if there are signs of it stopping at the gault but, once the remains of the shaft in the cliff have fallen, it will be difficult to locate.

LAWRENCE STEVENS

<sup>1</sup> R. J. Bradley, 'A Chalk-cut shaft at Belle Tout', *S.A.C.*, 112 (1974), 156.

**NEOLITHIC AXE FROM SOUTH HEIGHTON (TQ 483 035)**—A polished flint axe of typical Neolithic type found by Brenda Westley whilst field walking at South Heighton. This was an isolated find. The axe, which measures 9.75 cm by 5.5 cm with a maximum thickness of 2.5 cm, is covered by a heavy white patina and the cutting edge shows evidence of some considerable use. Accurate dating is, of course, not possible since this type of axe is now considered to have been in use for over two millennia. Axe at Barbican House Museum.

CLIVE SKEGGS

**ROMAN BRONZE FITTING FROM SOUTH HEIGHTON (TQ 447 035)**—Bronze fitting found whilst field walking at South Heighton, consisting of two thin bronze plates held together by four rivets, possibly covering the join in a leather strap (Fig. 26), similar to that found at All Saints, Chichester (*Chichester excavations* 2, Phillimore 1974, 82-3) which was thought to be Roman, possibly military.

BRENDA WESTLEY

## Acknowledgements

I am greatly indebted to Messrs. D. J. Freke, E. W. Holden, P. J. Drury and D. Atkinson for the above reports, and to L. Funnell, D. M. Meades and M. Tebbutt for assistance in field walking.  
C. F. TEBBUTT, F.S.A.

- <sup>1</sup> Scheduled Ancient Monument No. 412 (Sussex).
- <sup>2</sup> C. F. Tebbutt, 'Two newly-discovered medieval sites', *S.A.C.* 110 (1972), 31-34.
- <sup>3</sup> C. F. Tebbutt, 'Old Buxted Place', *S.A.C.* 113 (1975), 51-53.
- <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.* 52.
- <sup>5</sup> E. W. Holden, 'Slate roofing in medieval Sussex', *S.A.C.* 103 (1965), 67-78. J. W. Murray, 'The origin of some medieval roofing slates from Sussex', *ibid.*, 79-82.
- <sup>6</sup> C. F. Tebbutt, 'Old Buxted Place', *S.A.C.* 113 (1975), 51-3.
- <sup>7</sup> Murray, *op. cit.*, 79.
- <sup>8</sup> Holden, *op. cit.*, 75, no. 4.
- <sup>9</sup> From a moated site during drain trenching by machine. Information by courtesy of Mrs. Z. Vahey in 1975.

- <sup>10</sup> Holden, *op. cit.*, 76, no. 20.
- <sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, 76, no. 15.
- <sup>12</sup> For which see Drury, P. J. and Pratt, G. D., 'A late 13th and early 14th century tile factory at Danbury, Essex', *Medieval Archaeol.* 19 (1975), 92-164, esp. 139-40.
- <sup>13</sup> For this general type of pattern see, for example, Drury and Pratt 1975 *art. cit.*, figs. 50.B11; 63.120.
- <sup>14</sup> I am grateful to Elizabeth Eames and Mark Horton for their comments on the fragment.
- <sup>15</sup> Lower, M.A., 'A medieval pottery at Hastings', *S.A.C.* 11 (1859), 229-30; Vidler, L.A., 'Floor tiles and kilns near the site of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rye', *S.A.C.* 73 (1932), 83-101; Ponsonby, Lord and Ponsonby, M. 'Monastic paving tiles', *S.A.C.* 75 (1934), 19-64.

**SUTTON RECTORY**—In 1924, I published, in *S.A.C.*, my conclusions about this building then, now no longer, the Rectory, which included a drawing showing medieval timbers surviving; and adding an outline of, what I supposed to be, the original design, that of a Great Hall with nave and aisles. Unfortunately, I did not show this to Mr. W. H. Godfrey before publication; he, who had forgotten more about the subject than I had ever known, disagreed with my conjecture, in favour of a hammer-beam truss. There seems no reason to assume that the designer of the roof of Westminster Hall had no predecessor and I take an opportunity of correcting a long-standing mistake.

W. D. PECKHAM

**THE DATES OF JOHN BURTON'S JOURNEYS THROUGH SURREY AND SUSSEX**—The following are corrections to the 'Shorter notice' which appeared in vol. 114 (1976), pp. 337-8: p.337, first line, last word to read '*Hodiporontos*'; in line 6, read '(pp. 53-66, in Latin)'; in para. 5, line 5, read 'July 1728'; in footnote 3, read 'Mr. T. H. Aston'; p. 338, the paragraph should read: 'The reason for Burton's journeys was to visit his mother and stepfather, John Bear, who was rector of Shermanbury and who, at least between 1736 and 1744, run a small boarding school for the sons of local gentry.<sup>1</sup> In the Latin letter, "A journey through Sussex", Burton said that his stepfather had lived in that poor spot "per lustra plusquam septem" which literally means for more than 35 years—but presumably less than 40. Mr. Bear was instituted at Shermanbury in 1711, so the second letter may have been written during a summer between 1746 and 1751, any of those years being consistent with the statement that Bear was a septuagenarian, as he had attained his 70th birthday in 1743-44.'

JOHN H. FARRANT

**ON THE ALLEGED FRANKISH ORIGIN OF THE HASTINGS TRIBE**—C. T. Chevallier<sup>1</sup> adduces placename evidence for a Frankish origin of the Hastings tribe. His theory is set up to account for the well-known and well-documented separateness, both political and linguistic/onomastic, of the Hastings area. I accept, therefore, that there is something to explain, and that Chevallier's theory is well-motivated. In a general way it may be right. But the detail of his placename evidence needs to be challenged.

The *bol/bul* evidence

Chevallier cites the Sussex placenames Bullington, Bowlings, Bulverhythe as evidence for Frankish influence. Specifically, he links the names with *Boulogne* (Latin *Bononia*, earlier *Gessoriacum*), believing *Boulogne* to be a Germanic *-ing/-ung* name. This won't work. If it was an *-ing* name, it would scarcely appear as *Bunnun* in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, but as *\*Bunning* or the like. *-n* and *-ng* are rigorously distinguished in Old English. *Boulogne* is also scarcely from *\*Bolung-ness* with elision of [ss]; there is no authority for it and even less linguistic plausibility. In the medieval French spelling *Boulongne* the *ngn* is the normal spelling form for the sound [ɲ] that is approximately English [n + y], which never reflects Germanic [ŋg] (as in *finger*). As such it reflects a regular development from Gallic Latin *Bolonia*, earlier *Bononia*. (Interchanges of [l] and [n] before another [n] in the same word are far from rare.) There is thus not the slightest chance that *Boulogne* is an *-ing/-ung* name.

As for the Sussex evidence, Bulverhythe is straightforwardly from OE *burhwara-* (genitive plural of the word 'townsman') with frequent Anglo-Norman [l] for [r]. This frequent interchange is plausible because Old English [l] and [r] were quite different in sound from Old French [l] and [r], and to a Norman ear English [l], [r] might well sound similar since they were both pronounced with the back part of the tongue raised in a secondary half-closure. (Technically, they were both *flatted* sounds, which Old French [r] at least certainly wasn't. Cf. Mawer, Stenton and Gover: The placenames of Sussex e.g. pp. 534f.).

*Bolintun*, that is modern Bullington, is a regular derivative of the known Old English personal name Bula, and is thus an entirely regular Sussex placename derived from a clan name: "Bula's people's place". Granted the frequency of this placename type, especially in Sussex, we should think twice before putting our money on Chevallier's long shot; he derives it from whatever underlies the name Boulogne.

Chevallier mentions that Camden records that Britons<sup>2</sup> called Boulogne *Bowling Long*. This is not impossible, but probably just represents an ordinary uneducated attempt to render a foreign name into English, cf. *Wipers* for *Ypres*,

*Tri(n)chinopoly* for *Tiruchirapalli* and so on. There may even be an element of pun about it, cf. the expression *Bowling along*. Anyway Camden is also responsible for the myth that the name of the site of the 1066 battle, Senlac, is from "*sangue-lac*" 'bloody lake', which does his reputation as a linguist and etymologist no good at all (cf. Mawer *et al.* p. 499).

#### Senlac

As for Senlac itself, Chevallier wishes to link it with Senlecques (Flanders) and with the multifarious root "*laag* or *lach*", "*lagh* or *lage*", related to "*lager*" in the sense of 'compound'. This latter form has in England, however, the corresponding form *lair*, related to *lie*, *lay*, *layer* and the like. In no way could this have given rise directly to forms with a [k]-sound in English. Such *c* spellings as are found in Continental Frankish manuscripts are reckoned to be due to the influence of Anglo-Saxon scribes who wrote *c* for the Frankish [g] sound in those positions in the word where Old English (Anglo-Saxon) had no [g] sound at all. So to rescue the hypothesis that Senlac is Frankish, we have to assume a Frankish name with a [g] sound, anglicised as [k]. Again, however, there is evidence for Old English *lacu* 'stream, lake' in various places in this part of Sussex (Rushlake, Shiplake), so we should beware of the outsider; not even Chevallier cites any other name in East Sussex alleged to be a "*laag*" name. In any case, the thirteenth century forms with final *-e* strongly suggest an origin in a two-syllable form like *lacu* rather than Chevallier's three one-syllable suggestions. Worst of all for his theory, a form in Frankish [g] would have yielded forms spelt with *g* on French-speaking territory, which they don't, cf. Chevallier's *Eperlecques* and so on.

It is possible that Frankish [g] spellings actually represented a not fully-closed stoppage at the back of the mouth (a velar fricative), rather like that in Spanish *hago*. If this was so, then transcription in English as *k* or *c* is vanishingly unlikely.

If we explore Chevallier's alternative origin of *-lach*, where *ch* represents the sound in *Bach*, then this would not have yielded forms with Old English [k] at the end of a word, but rather the spellings *h* or later *gh*. That it was not *ch* on the continent either is shown by spellings like *Sperlake* (1140) for *Eperlecques*; when frenchified, Dutch/Flemish names in *ch* simply tend to lose it, cf. *Malines* for *Mechelen*. The assumption of Mawer *et al.* that Senlac is from *lacu* seems more coherent, therefore.

Whilst some other of Chevallier's evidence is interesting, e.g. the continental distribution of personal names in *Hast*- and *Watt*-, we should take his case as not conclusively shown because a fair amount of the placename evidence for Frankish origin can be shown to be unsubstantiated, as above.

I venture to end by pointing out that Boulogne has always been said to have been colonised by Saxons, not Franks, a view which Chevallier repeats (p. 58), so the Hastings area must at least have been a dual settlement. The evidence I have quoted leads me not to believe in an early Saxon colonisation from Boulogne and to have an open mind on the Frankish party from Flanders.

RICHARD COATES

<sup>1</sup> C. T. Chevallier, 'The Frankish origin of the Hastings tribe', *S.A.C.* 104 (1966), 56-62.

<sup>2</sup> I presume this means loosely Englishmen, not ancient Britons, else the whole suggestion of Camden's is idiotic.

**BELLE TOUT**—This note investigates the name of the old lighthouse, once in Eastdean parish, but now within the borough of Eastbourne. It is a nineteenth-century building (Bradley 1971, 8). It will be seen from the forms cited below that the name is older and presumably refers to some previous building on the site. There exists a mistaken impression that Belle Tout is the site and not the building; Bradley (1970, 312) describes it as a "gorse-capped plateau of virgin downland". The name of the building is not interpreted in Mawer, Stenton and Gover's work on Sussex placenames (1929). Here are the recorded forms of the name.

Beltout (Budgen 1724; Toms 1912).

Belle Tout (general, for example Ordnance Survey 1974).

Despite its French appearance in the most modern form, it is presumably simply "Bell Toot", i.e. lookout point with a bell, referring to its lighthouse/coastal warning function. The difficulty is that Middle English *tote* "lookout" usually appears in Sussex dialect as *Tote*, cf. *Toat Farm*, Pulborough, *Toat Hill*, Slinfold, *Tote Hill*, Stedham, and *Tote Copse*, Aldingbourne. *Tott Farm*, Hurstpierpoint, is probably also a *tote*-name. It is standard *toot* (cf. *toothill* in any dictionary) rather than dialect *toat* possibly because it has its origin in an official, not specifically local function. The modern name is a fancy spelling based on such Romance names as *Belmont*, *Hastings* and *Belvedere*, Horsted Keynes, which characteristically refer to places with good views. Compare in this connection the name of Beachy Head < \**Belchief* (*Beuchef*, 1274 Quo Warranto) "beautiful, prominent headland" and *Belsar's Hill*, Willingham (Cams.), < *Belassis* "beautiful, prominent residence". The latter is an earthwork constituting the highest point for some distance.

*Bell Toot* has been mistaken for a *bel*-name, and the *toot* has been given a fake French spelling accordingly. There is a suggestive parallel at *Hambury Tout* (West Lulworth, Dorset).

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