

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

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. Those without previous experience in writing up such material for publication should not be deterred from contributing; the editor and members of the editorial board will be happy to assist in the preparation of reports and illustrations.

Field Boundary Ditch, Cuckoo Bottom, Lewes (TQ 393105)

Introduction

Following extensive deforestation in 1979/80 of both faces of Houndean Bottom and Cuckoo Bottom, the farmer opened a new path through scrubland to give access to his fields. The pathway, orientated north-west/south-east, connects the bottom of the valley to a point just south of the old racecourse buildings and was excavated through the Upper Chalk to a maximum depth of 2 metres with the aid of a bulldozer. The excavation of the path, followed by subsequent erosion, revealed in section a shallow ditch about 2 metres wide and 0.5 metres deep (Fig. 1).

The ditch was situated at the break in slope approximately 125 metres from the centre of the valley and contained a series of highly contrasting fills (Fennemore & Allen 1983). The ditch displayed no recut but partial infilling seems to have been deliberate. Unfortunately no associated artefacts were recovered.

Allen took two 1-kg. soil samples from the ditch fill for sediment and mollusc analysis.

Analyses

Sample 1: A silt loam, largely unconsolidated, poor crumb structure, small common chalk nodules and highly calcareous displaying pseudomycelium on its exposed surface. Particle size distribution of the fine fraction (<2 mm.) showed 81% silt composition of which 50% was coarse silt and thus may indicate a loessic or at least aeolian component. Alkali-soluble organic matter of 0.376 mg. humus/g. soil was neither significantly high nor significantly low.

The mollusc assemblage extracted from this sample displayed a slightly restricted taxonomic range and only a minimum of 31 individuals were represented (see Table 1).

TABLE 1

<i>Mollusc</i>	No.	%
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i> (Linnaeus)	10	36
<i>Vallonia costata</i> (Müller)	2	7
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i> Sterki	7	25
<i>Ceciloides acicula</i> (Müller)	3	
<i>Trichia hispida</i> (Linnaeus)	5	18
<i>Helicella itala</i> (Linnaeus)	4	14
Total	31	100

Note: All percentages exclude *C. acicula*.

The assemblage was dominated by open-country species (90%), 36% of which were *Pupilla muscorum* which particularly likes bare chalky soils lacking in vegetation (Evans 1972, 146). The presence of *Trichia hispida* which has been found in large abundances in Iron Age lynchets at Bishopstone (Thomas 1977), Bullock Down (Clarke 1982), Fyfield Down (Evans 1972) and in the ploughwash at Kiln Coombe (Bell 1981) may suggest arable activity (Thomas pers. comm.). The *Vallonia* is *V. excentrica*, the most xerophile of the genus, and this too is consistent with broken soils of arable fields (Thomas 1977), whilst Evans suggests that *Helicella itala* was common on prehistoric arable land, a

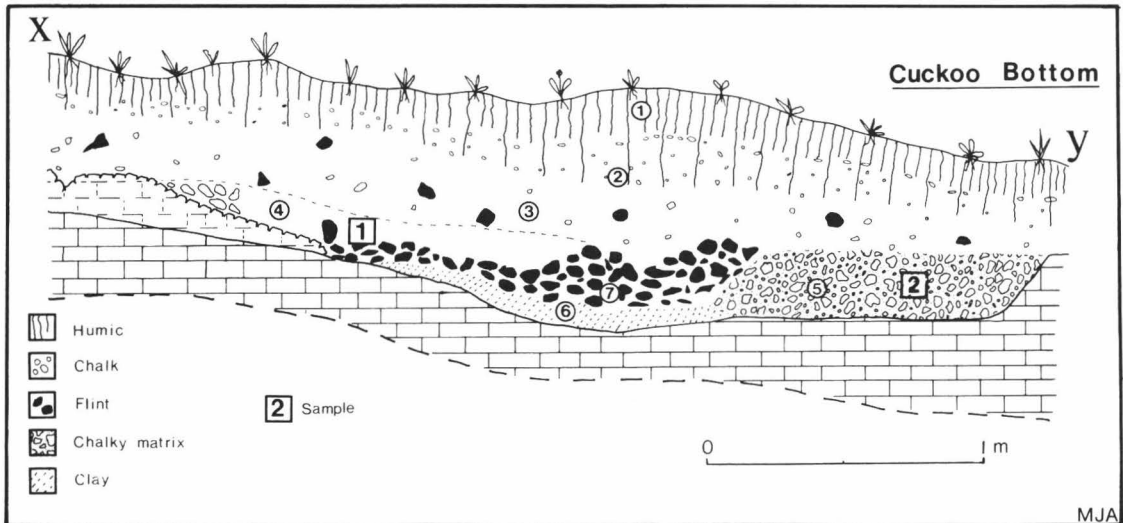


Fig. 1. Section of ditch revealed by the farm track showing sampling sites.

habitat now removed by modern mechanized agricultural practices. None of the mollusc species represented are Roman or medieval introductions (with the exception of *Ceciloides acicula* which is probably intrusive as it is a burrowing species recorded at depths of 2 metres) and this suggests at least a pre-medieval date especially in view of the large abundances of introduced species in the present-day fauna (e.g. *Helix aspersa*, *Helicella virgata*).

The molluscs suggest an open calcareous habitat and are strongly suggestive of arable activity which is borne out by the high silt and potentially aeolian composition of the sediment, in keeping with aeolian erosion from adjacent arable fields.

Sample 2: Gravel; compacted angular chalk nodules set into a chalky matrix, with rare medium flint pieces. Of this layer 53% was greater than 6 mm. and a further 10% greater than 2 mm. Only two mollusc fragments were extracted, both of which were *Cepaea/Arianta* spp. which are large robust catholic molluscs. This layer is most probably due to anthropogenic dumping.

Valley Entrenchments

The ditch section corresponds well with the Houndean 'valley entrenchment' described by Toms (1926), and it is likely that the ditch investigated is the part of the southern portion of the internal earthwork surveyed by Toms (see Fig. 2), at about where his section G-H is sited.

Toms suggested that the enclosures were constructed as

'permanent folds for cattle'. If this was so, however, it certainly was not a cattle fold when the ditch was infilling unless the erosion was due to over-grazing producing patches of bare soil; but then one would not expect to find *Helicella itala*. Toms also failed to find any associated dating evidence, but he suggested that the valley entrenchments were probably prehistoric, and possibly as early as the Bronze Age.

Conclusion

The shallow ditch showed no evidence of a bank and was not large enough to be anything but a field boundary or demarcation ditch. This is in keeping with both sediment and mollusc analyses which suggest arable activity within the immediate environs. As to the dating of the feature, no datable artefacts have been recovered but, as Toms suggested, it is likely to be prehistoric, and mollusc analysis suggests that it is likely to be pre-Roman.

Acknowledgements

The writers would like to thank Joy Ede and Joyce Biggar for their help.

Authors: Mike Allen, Institute of Archaeology, University of London; Alan Fennemore.

References

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The Prehistoric Occupation of a Former Part of Ashdown Forest

Fieldwalking a compact area of the former Ashdown Forest produced many signs of prehistoric occupation. This note discusses their dates and significance.

Crabtree Farm, Crowborough (TQ 484299) comprises approximately 76 a. (30 ha.) and is an enclosure made c. 1696 on what was formerly Ashdown Forest. The farmhouse, standing at 600 ft. O.D., is sited near a spring. From the house to the north-east, east and south-east the land slopes down to two streams which form the northern and eastern boundaries of the farm. These join to flow towards Friars Gate (TQ 498329) and finally to the river Medway. The western and south-western boundaries of the farm are the unenclosed forest (Fig. 3). In 1979 members of the Wealden Iron Research Group visited the farm at the invitation of Dr. P. Wallis, the owner, and confirmed the presence of three bloomy iron-smelting sites (Fig. 3). Excavation recovered Romano-British pottery at one of these at TQ 486298

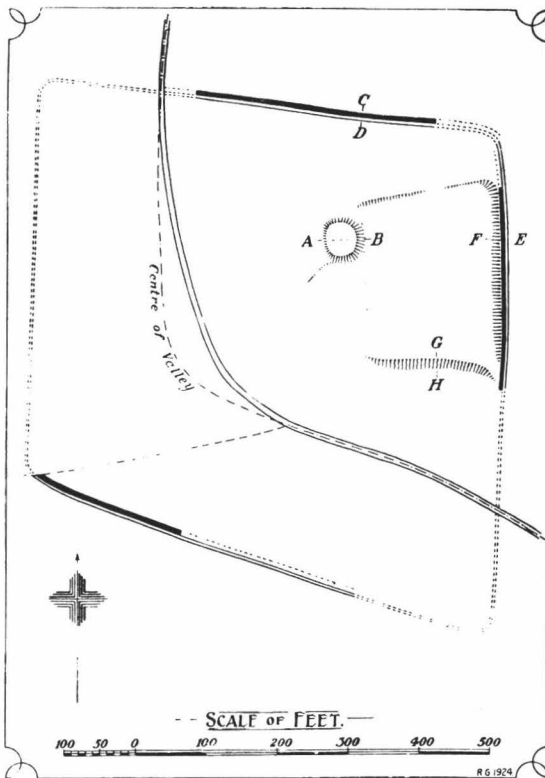


Fig. 2. Houndean Valley entrenchments (from Toms 1926).

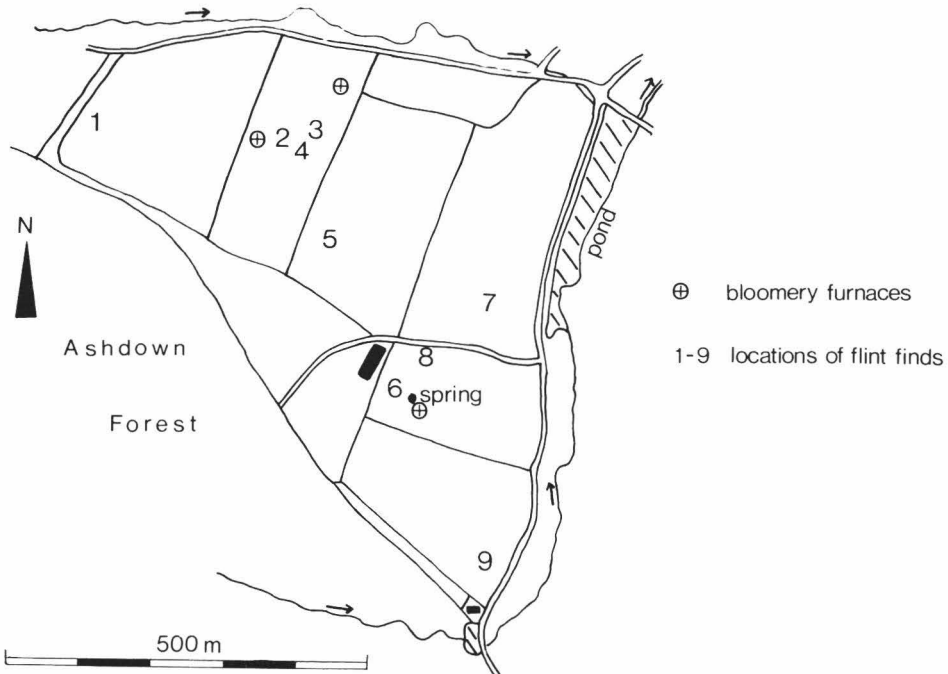
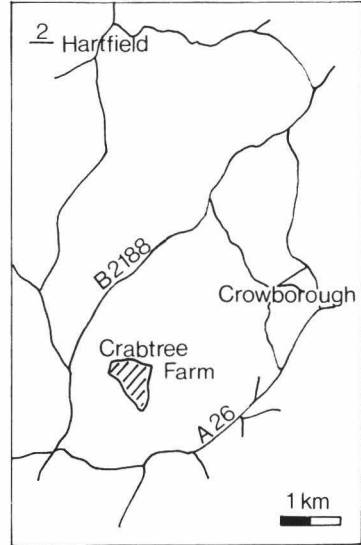
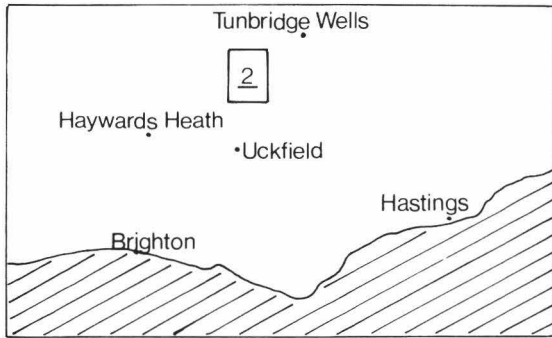


Fig. 3. Crabtree Farm: location and sketch plan.

(Tebbutt 1981). During the examination of these sites flint artefacts were noticed on the fields.

It seemed that this farm presented an opportunity to walk a block of land, formerly part of Ashdown Forest, to assess the prehistoric occupation and to compare the results with those obtained on the present unenclosed forest, where only tracks and firebreaks were available for observation (Tebbutt 1974). Accordingly all the fields were walked at times when they were available after ploughing.

In addition to the three bloomy sites nine areas were found where a scatter of flint artefacts occurred. These should not be considered as 'sites' in the sense that they represent clusters of contemporary implements, for clearly they are not. Rather, these are areas attractive to prehistoric man over a long period, where traces of his presence happen to have survived and been discovered. These areas tended to be on low natural terraces on the valley sides where wide views of the valley, down to the streams, obtained. However, it is difficult to determine how far downhill flint artefacts would drift on ploughland, or whether hillwash would have buried them below plough level on the valley bottoms.

In total, 106 artefacts were recovered from these areas. The only means of dating this material is by identifying those 'type fossils' within it which are known to be characteristic

of a particular period. This produces dates ranging from the Mesolithic to the late Neolithic, and in all probability the remaining artefacts span the same date range also. The composition of the artefacts from each site is summarized below (Table 1) and a representative sample have been illustrated (Fig. 4).

Because of the nature of the sites the artefacts are considered together as a group. Almost without exception they are made of grey flint with a white cortex, presumably derived from the downs some 25 km. to the south. Most of the flint is unpatinated although some of the pieces show an ochreous staining, presumably a reflection of local environmental conditions rather than an indication of early date. One piece, from area (3), shows differential patination and two phases of working. Of particular note is a retouched flake of honey-coloured chert (Fig. 4e) indicating transport over far greater distances.

None of the cores can be ascribed to a particular period with any degree of certainty. One example from area (6) (Fig. 4d) is a core which has received its initial trimming to remove most of the external cortex, which is of interest since it was probably in this form that the raw material was transported into the Weald.

The majority of the flakes show damage or abrasion to

TABLE 1

	<i>Flakes</i>	<i>Blades (>3b)</i>	<i>Cores and core fragments</i>	<i>Core trimming flakes</i>	<i>Scrapers</i>	<i>Truncated blades</i>	<i>Serrated blades</i>	<i>Burins</i>	<i>Awls</i>	<i>Leaf-point</i>	<i>Petit-tranchet arrowheads</i>	<i>Misc. retouch</i>	<i>Totals</i>
(1) TQ 480302	4	1			1								6
(2) TQ 48253018	6			1				1					7
(Fig. 4a, core trimming flake which has subsequently been retouched to form a burin.)													
(3) TQ 48313021	9	1	1									1	12
(Fig. 4b, blade with secondary retouch producing either a narrow, now broken, scraping edge or a tang to aid hafting.)													
(4) TQ 48303016											1		1
(Fig. 4c, petit-tranchet arrowhead.)													
(5) TQ 48323005	5			1									6
(Fig. 4h, scraper.)													
(6) TQ 48422985	5		1	1									7
(Fig. 4d, core.)													
(7) TQ 48552995	11	2	2	1	2	1		1		1		4	25
(Fig. 4e, chert flake with miscellaneous retouch; Fig. 4f, severely worn scraper/fabricator (?) showing wear and polish around the perimeter; Fig. 4g, fragment of a broken leaf-point; Fig. 4i, hollow scraper; Fig. 4k, core; Fig. 4m, scraper; Fig. 4j, notched flake; Fig. 4n, awl.)													
(8) TQ 48452987											1		1
(Fig. 4p, petit-tranchet arrowhead.)													
(9) TQ 48552960	28	4	1		3	2	1	1	1				41
(Fig. 4q, scraper with inverse retouch; Fig. 4r, burin.)													
Totals	68	8	5	3 or 4	6	3	1	1 or 2	2	1	2	5	106

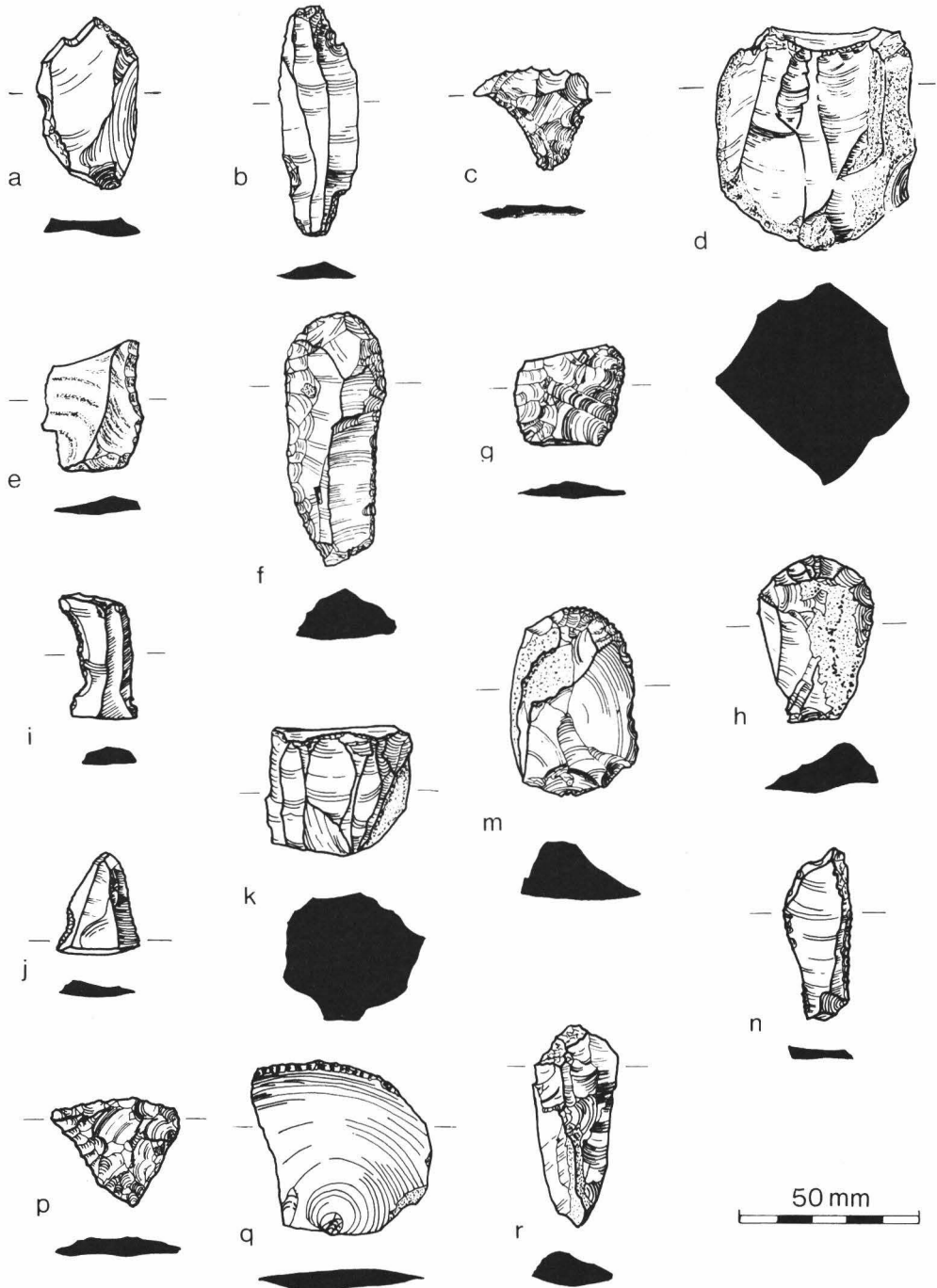


Fig. 4. Crabtree Farm: flint artefacts.

their edges, but to what extent this is the result of use or of subsequent natural abrasion, is not always clear. The presence of blades, core trimming flakes and burins would seem to indicate a Mesolithic date for at least some of the material, though the possible occurrence of blades in an early Neolithic context should not be overlooked.

None of the scrapers are diagnostic. One example from area (7) (Fig. 4f) is remarkable for the degree to which the flint has been worn and smoothed by abrasion around its perimeter. Exactly what could have caused this damage is not known. Three arrowheads have been found: one a broken leaf-point from area (7) (Fig. 4g) and fairly common throughout the Neolithic, and two petit-tranchet arrowheads from areas (4) (Fig. 4c) and (8) (Fig. 4p), most likely belonging to the late Neolithic.

These pieces provide the clue to the nature of these sites which probably represent hunting expeditions into the Weald rather than any attempt at more permanent occupation. The location of the material on the valley sides, in the vicinity of minor streams, seems characteristic of material found in the Wealden area.

Conclusions

The results of a fieldwalking survey of this compact block of the former Ashdown Forest showed that prehistoric occupation was widespread. This confirms the findings of a previous survey (Tebbutt 1974) when only small isolated areas were available for inspection, but may only be true for the well-watered areas of the forest. The flint artefacts found date from the Mesolithic to the late Neolithic periods. Later, during the Roman period, use was made of the area by iron-workers. This usage suggests that in prehistoric times the area was likely to have been open moorland or only lightly wooded.

Acknowledgements

Our thanks are due to Dr. P. Wallis for permission to walk his fields and for co-operation in informing us when they were in a suitable state of cultivation. Mrs. D. M. Meades made the original contact and arranged for the Wealden Iron Research Group to visit the farm. We are grateful to Margaret Tebbutt for the flint and plan drawings.

Authors: C. F. Tebbutt, The Pheasantry, Wych Cross, Forest Row; A. G. Woodcock, Archaeological Adviser, East Sussex County Council.

Note

All finds will be placed in the Barbican House Museum, Lewes.

References

- Tebbutt, C. F. 1974 'The Prehistoric Occupation of the Ashdown Forest Area of the Weald', *Suss. Arch. Coll.* **112**, 34-43.
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Further Fieldwork at Stud Farm, Newhaven, Sussex

This paper complements a recently published article (Boodle & Ford 1981) which described a large collection of knapped flint debris from Stud Farm, Newhaven (TQ 462012). The fieldwork described below is an attempt to resolve the problems posed by the previous paper, namely locating the origin and determining the nature of this collection.

A discussion with the landowner revealed that the areas previously searched were restricted to one 16-ha. field on the western slopes of Rookery Hill. Subsequently this field was systematically fieldwalked once only. The method employed was to walk transects spaced at 20-metre intervals aligned north-south and to record material from 20-metre subdivisions along these transects (see Foard 1978, 358). All knapped flint and pre-19th-century pottery was collected and the distribution of the finds is shown in Fig. 5. Fieldwalking conditions were ideal except for the stoniness of the ground.

As can be seen in Fig. 5, there are no dense concentrations of material that can be recognized immediately as 'sites'. What can be seen are two loose clusters both of about 2 ha. These clusters are more convincing if implements and cores are considered in isolation. Although the nature of flint scatters is a complex issue, previous experience would suggest that this type of distribution is representative of 'sites' and that more intensive fieldwalking will not necessarily locate more definable nuclei.

The typological analysis is identical to that set out in the previous report:

TABLE 1

	Site 1	Site 2	Other	Total
Cores:				
Class A, one platform	-	-	-	-
Class B, two platforms	1	1	-	2
Class C, three or more platforms	3	2	-	5
Core rejuvenation flakes	1	-	-	1
Unmodified flakes	130	179	56	365
Convex scrapers	12	14	8	34
Irregularly retouched flakes	5	8	6	19
Notched flakes	9	9	3	21
Awls/borers	2	-	-	2
Spurred implements	1	2	1	4
Fabricators	1	-	-	1
Polished axe	1	-	-	1
Hammerstones	2	2	-	4

In addition one large iron-stained flake which is unlike any other flint recovered is most probably Palaeolithic.

Although the systematic collection of material allows a more confident use of a metrical analysis, the results produced are not as encouraging as one would have wished, and more general methods have to be used to determine the date of the material. This situation was not unexpected since there are few well-documented assemblages from Sussex, and chronological indicators valid, for example, in Wessex cannot necessarily be applied here. Furthermore, the degree to which fieldwalked assemblages can be compared with excavated assemblages is at present unknown.

Both 'sites' show a lack of any unused flakes with a length to breadth ratio greater than 5:2; however, 33% have a ratio of less than 1:1 and these two factors suggest a later Neolithic or Bronze Age date. Earlier assemblages usually have a blade content in excess of about 7% (cf. Pitts 1978) although the recently published assemblage from Hemp Knoll, Wilts. (Robertson-Mackay 1980), with a C14 date of 2630 ± 80 b.c. produced a figure of only 1%. There is also some evidence that there are fewer blades in Bronze Age assemblages than in those of the later Neolithic.

The restricted range of implements is yet another indicator of Bronze Age assemblages. The relatively few characteristic Neolithic implements recovered (e.g. the polished

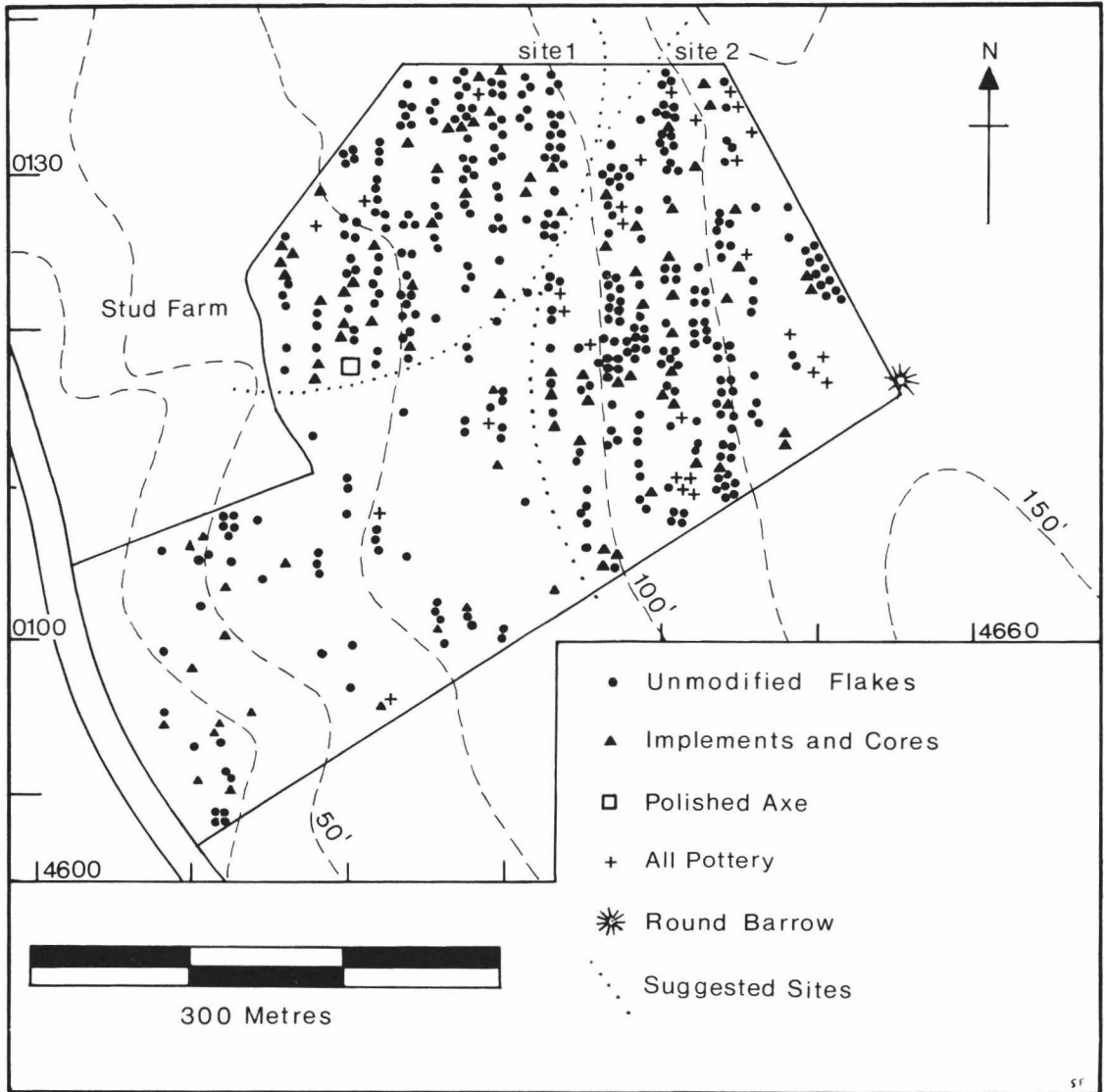


Fig. 5. Distribution of the finds.

flint axe, Fig. 6) indicate a far lesser degree of Neolithic activity in this specific area.

Finally, measurements of the thickness and quantity of cortex on flakes are similar to those for Wessex Bronze Age sites, but because of the reasons outlined above these figures have to be treated with caution.

As far as the reliability of the analysis of surface collections goes, this work has confirmed and clarified the conclusions presented in the previous paper and has shown that the material is derived from at least two Bronze Age sites on the western slopes of Rookery Hill.

Of the 27 sherds of pottery recovered only five are

readily recognizable by form and fabric, but they include Iron Age, Romano-British, Saxon and mediaeval examples. The low density and dispersed nature of these sherds fails to indicate the presence of contemporary sites although it is worth bearing in mind Foard's observation (1978) that Saxon sites are represented by very low density pottery scatters.

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the assistance of the landowner Mr. T. Foxwell, and of Mr. R. Bradley in the preparation of this paper.

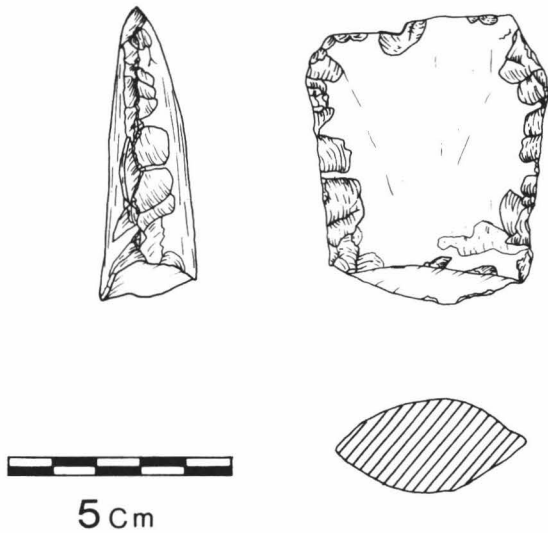


Fig. 6. Polished flint axe.

Authors: S. Ford, 78 Watlington Street, Reading; D. T. Boodle.

Note

All finds and archive documents have been deposited in Reading University Department of Archaeology museum.

References

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 Robertson-Mackay, M. E. 1980 'A "Head and Hooves" Burial beneath a Round Barrow, with Other Neolithic and Bronze Age Sites, on Hemp Knoll, near Avebury, Wiltshire', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* 46, 123-76.

Fieldwalking at Glynde near Lewes, East Sussex, 1979-82

Introduction

The site lies at the top of Glynde Hill (TQ 447096) where the O.D. spot height 148 metres marks the end of the chalk ridge running northwards from Mount Caburn 0.75 km. to the south (Fig. 7). The downland turf in this area was rotovated and ploughed in 1973. An aerial photograph taken in 1975 shows a field system on the south slope of the hill and the sites of five barrows; the area of ? Barrow 4 is much disturbed. All lie within the site boundary. The vestigial remains of three barrows were finally destroyed at this time. The site was divided into four collecting areas, A-D (Fig. 8). The accompanying table indicates the nature of the pottery assemblage. Sections A-D are in no way comparable since they vary both in size and in the amount of time spent on them. Bad weather restricted the number of complete 'sweeps' of the site to two and, for a variety of reasons, Section A and the east half of Section B were given extra attention. The distribution of sherds was simple. Section A contained 91% of the medieval sherds and 8% of the prehistoric sherds. The former are connected with a windmill on the hilltop and may be related to finds from contemporary sites such as the Wyke farmstead at the foot of Saxon Down 0.9 km. northwards and the Ringmer pottery industry 2 km. further north. The prehistoric sherds may be referred to assemblages from the Caburn Hill Fort, Ranscombe Camp and the Romano-British farmstead at Ranscombe Hill.

A. Pottery

1. The Prehistoric Period

Beaker. These fragmented sherds were found inside and just outside the north-west perimeter of Barrow 2. They bear combed and rusticated decoration.

Bronze Age. None specifically identified.

The following periods are divided into five groups based on S. Hamilton's identification of Iron Age fabric types in Sussex.

Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, Fabric I (80% of the total). These sherds relate to Cunliffe's Kimmeridge-Caburn I group of the 8th-6th centuries B.C. One black sherd with pre-fired holes is reminiscent of the Kingley Vale 'cover'.

Later Iron Age, Fabrics II-IV (15% of the total). After the abandonment of the Caburn Hill Fort by the end of the early Iron Age the population dispersed. The finer vessels progressively adopted new features, but the heavy, coarse forms persisted well into the Iron Age. The statistical breakdown

TABLE 1
Pottery: Chronological Summary

Period	A	B	C	D	Total
1. Beaker	1	71	4	1	77
2. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age	318	2,324	842	395	3,879
3. Later Iron Age	72	452	110	59	693
4. Late Iron Age/Romano-British	6	18	3	1	28
(Total of periods 2.-4.)	396	2,794	955	455	4,600
5. Medieval	1,784	87	56	38	1,965
6. Post-medieval	65	-	-	2	67
Total	2,246	2,952	1,015	496	6,709

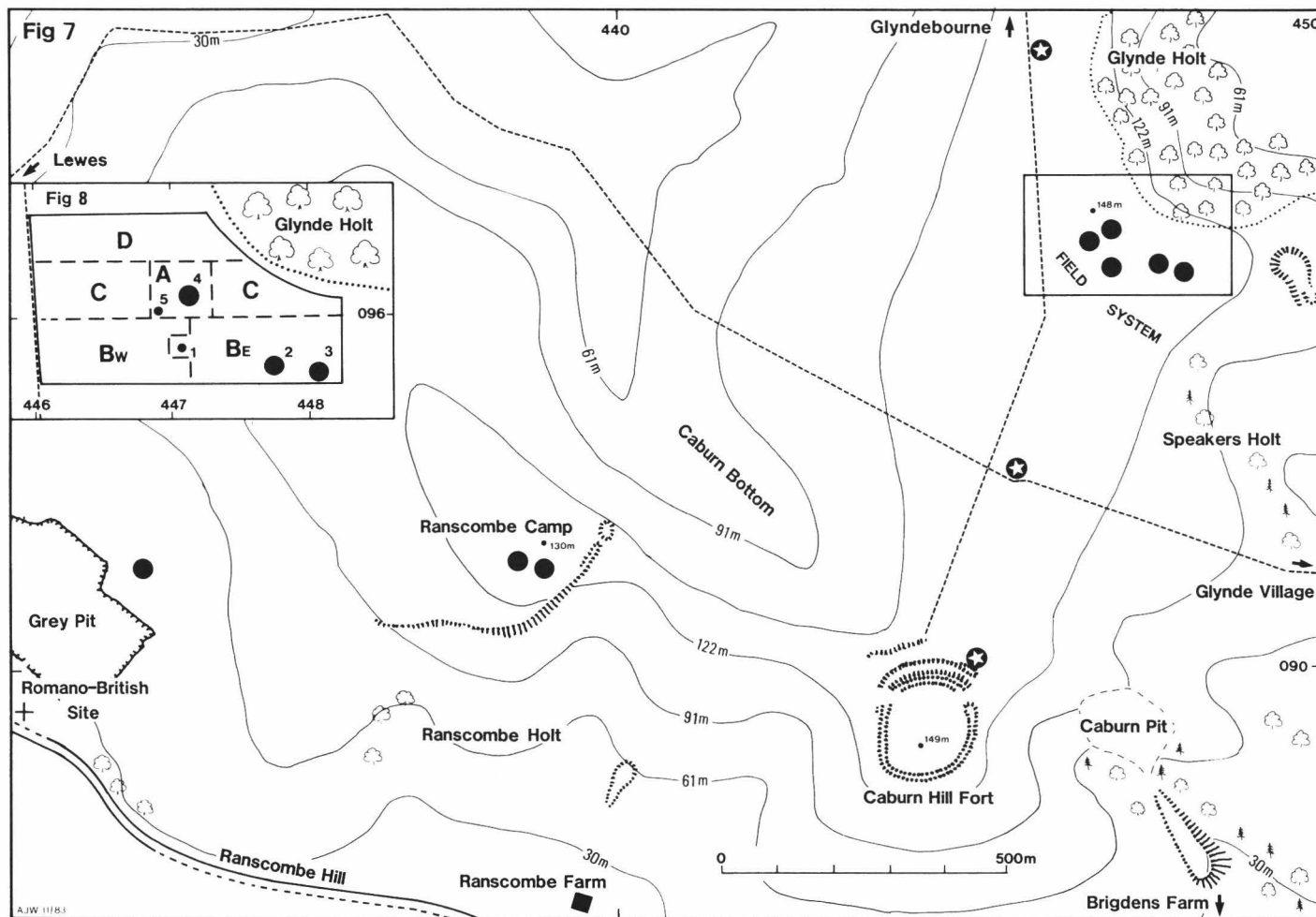


Fig. 7. The site and its environs; Fig. 8. Sketch plan of the site (inset), extant barrows being shown as dark circles with stars, ploughed-out barrows as dark circles.

of these fabrics is II 38%, III 17% and IV 45%. The Fabric IV collection contains two examples of Wealden iron-oxide ware.

Late Iron Age/Romano-British. The sherds from this period indicate no more than transit over the site. They include one amphora sherd and three Samian sherds from Central Gaul.

2. Medieval and Post-Medieval Periods

The medieval period. The pottery indicates use of the hill-top from the 13th to mid 15th centuries with emphasis on the early period. Long ago L. V. Grinsell thought that ? Barrow 4 might have been a millstead or a barrow-cum-millstead. The archaeological evidence for a windmill here is overwhelming. In addition to the pottery, Section A and its overflow produced many fragments of French Burr millstone among which are three large pieces weighing 1.25–2.68 kg. There are broken medieval bricks, floor, roof and oven tiles, Wealden sandstone roof or cladding tiles, 65 nails and many oyster shells. Nearby (Section D) were found 30 fragments of red fired clay bars, some with expanded ends resembling briquetage but probably kiln furniture. My search for supporting documentary evidence, however, proved frustrating. Only four relevant documents give clues as to the probable position of the windmill referred to. Alone they are difficult to interpret, but combined with the archaeological evidence they appear in a more helpful guise. With few exceptions, the sherds represent the plainer, lighter forms of cooking pots and table ware. The majority are unglazed and decoration is confined to 20 fragments of poor strapwork. Of the 237 rims, only the flanges of 14 are decorated; three shallow bowls have a row of 'studs' under the rim. Large, heavy jars with upright rims and sagging bases are represented by a few coarse sherds. At the other extreme, there are three very thin sherds in a hard chestnut-coloured fabric with a silky touch. Jugs display a more imaginative use of glaze and other decorative techniques.

The post-medieval pottery ranges between the 16th and 19th centuries. All except two sherds came from Section A. This miscellaneous collection includes examples of salt-glazed stoneware of which several are 17th-century imports of Rhenish ware.

B. Miscellaneous Finds (n.e.s.)

Utilized stone. No attempt was made to collect flint artefacts, but good examples of a burin and a partially-worked leaf arrow- or spearhead were retrieved. The flint spread was not impressive and fire-cracked flints occurred only in small isolated areas. Rocks used for abrasive or polishing purposes were predominantly local sandstones of Lower Cretaceous and Lower Tertiary origin. Erratics such as Triassic sandstone and Palaeozoic Greywacke had also been utilized. Identifiable whetstones and pieces of querns were widespread as was Wealden sandstone.

Sundries. These include two certain spindle whorls, daub, burnt clay, and ten fragments of animal bone of which two calcined slivers came from Barrow 1.

Acknowledgements

I am greatly indebted to many people who patiently and substantially helped me throughout this project. They are all individually thanked in the Report, which also contains a full list of references, and of which typescript copies have been given to Fiona Marsden, Curator of Barbican House Museum, Lewes; Dr. Andrew Woodcock, Archaeological Adviser to the East Sussex County Council; and Richard Wells, Archivist of Lewes Archaeological Group.

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Note

The finds have been lodged at Barbican House Museum (accession no. 1982.2).

Carved Chalk Object Found at Combe Hill, Jevington, East Sussex

Whilst walking on the Combe Hill enclosure site near Jevington, East Sussex (TQ 574021) early in May 1983, Mr. Rodney Castleden of Newhaven found a small carved chalk object sticking up through the turf at the centre of the enclosure (Fig. 9). Shortly afterwards Mr. Castleden sent its description and a drawing to Mr. Peter Drewett at the Institute of Archaeology, University of London, and he in turn subsequently forwarded this information to the present writer who is currently undertaking research into later pre-historic carved chalk objects from Sussex as a dissertation subject for the Institute.

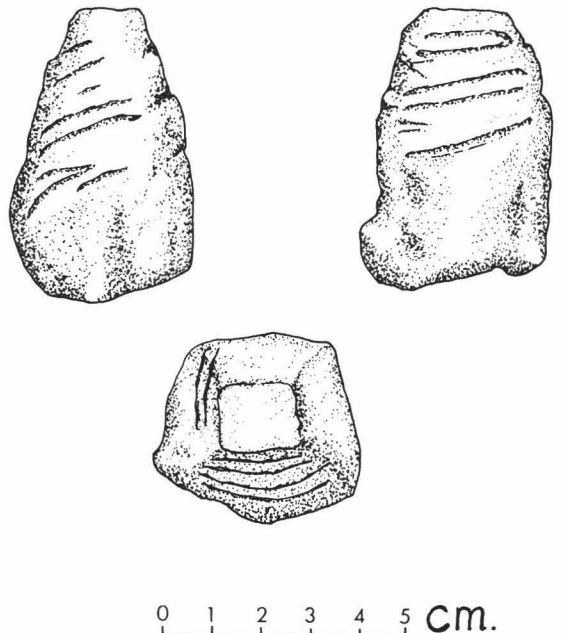


Fig. 9.

The object, of fairly hard off-white chalk, may represent a stylized or simple rough-out for a phallic symbol, and measured c. 5.8 cm. in length with a sub-rectangular cross-section which is greatest at its base, c. 4.2 cm. by 3.7 cm., narrowing towards the top to c. 1.6 cm. by 1.3 cm. On two sides the object has deliberately placed incised lines, eight on one side and five on another (maximum width of incised lines c. 2 mm., all of shallow depth), which run roughly parallel to the base, as well as five or six very fine scratches associated with the latter side.

Due to wear, the method used to create the main incised lines and fine scratches on the chalk object is obscure; a flint tool of some description is likely, although suitably pointed antler or bone could also have been used.

The object was examined by the writer during August 1983, and there was nothing to suggest that it was not a genuine article from antiquity, albeit out of its original context, and therefore with a date range somewhere between the Neolithic and Romano-British periods, possibly nearer the Neolithic end of the time-scale. An example of a chalk phallic-shaped object found at Itford Hill, Beddingham, Sussex, was dated within the Bronze Age period (Burstow & Holleyman 1957).

My thanks are due to Mr. Castleden for the prompt communication of his find and subsequent assistance when the object required viewing; and to Mr. Drewett for bringing the information to my attention. The chalk object is currently retained by Mr. Castleden.

Author: Alan Thompson, 41 Honley Road, Catford, London.

Reference

Burstow, G. P. & Holleyman, G. A. 1957 'Late Bronze Age Settlement on Itford Hill, Sussex', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* 23, 201-2.

An Iron Age Coin from 'Beedings', Pulborough

In March 1983, Mr. T. E. Judd found a silver coin together with Iron Age and Romano-British pottery, including amphora sherds, during building operations for the construction and landscaping of a new bungalow to the south-east of 'Beedings' at N.G.R. TQ 07542033.

The coin, retained by the finder, is a silver minim of Epaticus (A.D. 25-35) (Mack type 263a).

Obverse: Victory seated right, holding a wreath TASCIO

Reverse: Boar to right, below EPAT

The type is described and illustrated with an example from Chichester by Allen & Nash (1980).

Author: F. G. Aldsworth, Archaeology Officer, West Sussex County Council.

Reference

Allen, D. F. & Nash, D. 1980 *The Coins of the Ancient Celts*, pl. 26, no. 552.

Two Gallo-Belgic Gold Coins from the Foreshore at Eastbourne, East Sussex

I have been loaned for identification and recording purposes two Iron Age quarter staters which were found by Mr. Eddy Williams on the beach at Eastbourne. Details of the coins (Fig. 10) are as follows:

1. Gallo-Belgic A, c. 125-100 B.C. Quarter stater. Weight: 1.650 g.

Obverse: Degenerate bust to the left in imitation of the head of Apollo.

Reverse: Horse to left with various pellets and a rosette below.

Ref.: Mack 4. Find spot: TV 613980 (to the south of the Wish Tower).

The condition of this coin is very poor and indicates that it had many years of circulation before loss. It does not appear to be waterworn or abraded by sand or stones.

2. Gallo-Belgic D, c. 80 B.C. Quarter stater. Weight: 1.418 g.

Obverse: Uncertain object.

Reverse: A crooked line with a tree above and an uncertain object below.

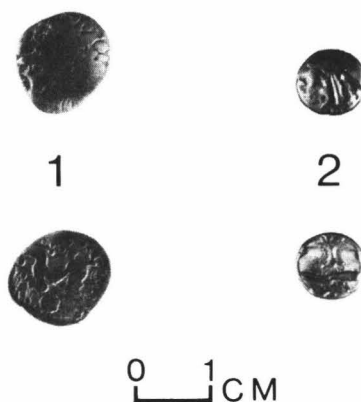


Fig. 10.

Ref.: Mack 41. Find spot: TV 617987 (near the pier).

The good condition of the Gallo-Belgic D quarter stater, and the apparent lack of wear caused by water and/or sand or stone abrasion on the other coin, tend to suggest that the find spots of these coins are not far from the spots where the coins were lost or buried (perhaps in a hoard), rather than being points of deposition on the beach as a result of coastal drift.

Two other Gallo-Belgic gold coins are recorded as having been found at Eastbourne (Allen 1958), although unfortunately their precise find spots are unknown. The coins in question are:

1. Gallo-Belgic D, c. 80 B.C. Quarter stater. Ref.: Mack 41a (similar to Mack 41, but with a plain obverse).
2. Gallo-Belgic E, c. 57-45 B.C. Uniface stater. Obverse: plain. Reverse: crude disjointed horse to the right. Ref.: Mack 27.

Other Iron Age coins are similarly recorded as having been 'found at Eastbourne' (Allen 1958) and include:

1. A cast Potin coin, Class 1, c. 1st century B.C. Ref.: Mack 9. These coins, which were probably made in Kent, have a predominately Thames and South distribution.
2. An inscribed gold quarter stater of Cunobeline, King of the Catuvellauni, c. A.D. 10-40. Ref.: Mack 205.
3. An inscribed bronze coin of Cunobeline. This actual coin is illustrated by Mack (1975, 92, no. 247).

It is interesting to note that the writer has examined a Parthian bronze (17 mm.) coin (Ref.: Wroth 1903, 33, no. 90) of King Mithradates II, 123-88 B.C., which was found on the beach at Eastbourne, near the Wish Tower. The finding of such 'Greek' coins in Britain is becoming increasingly common, so much so as to suggest that the old theory that these finds are relatively recent collectors' or travellers' losses is probably incorrect. The reader is referred to the well-known discovery near the Iron Age hillfort on Mount Caburn of a Carthaginian bronze coin of c. 200 B.C. (Spokes 1927).

In addition, a British Q gold quarter stater (Mack 71), c. 40-20 B.C., is reported to have been found 'near' Eastbourne (Allen 1958).

Recently two Iron Age coins, a Potin Class 1, and a gold stater (Mack 121) of Verica, King of the Atreates, c. A.D. 10-40, were found on Bullock Down, near Eastbourne (Rudling 1982, 17 and 115). Somewhat further away near Birling Manor, East Dean, a small hoard of five plated Celtic 'gold' coins were found in 1932 by a labourer whilst digging

for flints on the downs (Allen 1958, 291). The plated coins are of the following types: a Gallo-Belgic E stater (Mack 27), c. 57-45 B.C.; a British M stater (Mack 148), c. 35 B.C.; two types of British Q quarter staters (Mack 77 and 85), c. 40-20 B.C.; and a stater (Mack 275) of Dubnovellaunus, King of the Trinovantes, c. A.D. 1-10.

The various coins described above, together with various discoveries of other types of material culture from the later Iron Age, especially finds from the north-west of the old parish of Eastbourne (Stevens 1980), testify to activity and/or occupation in and around Eastbourne during the Late Iron Age.

Author: David Rudling, Institute of Archaeology, University of London.

References

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- Mack, R. P. 1975 *The Coinage of Ancient Britain*. London.
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- Spokes, S. 1927 'Discovery of a Carthaginian Coin near the Caburn', *Suss. Arch. Coll.* 68, 57-9.
- Stevens, L. 1980 *Eastbourne: The Vigil and the Morrow*. Eastbourne: privately printed.
- Wroth, W. 1903 *Coins of Parthia*. British Museum Catalogue of Greek Coins, 23.

A Hoard of Roman Coins from Combe Hill, East Sussex

During 1980, 144 Roman coins were found in a small area on the northern slopes of Combe Hill, Willingdon, East Sussex (TQ 577025). The coins were discovered by Mr. Roy Lock of Eastbourne during several visits to the site, and were located with the aid of a metal detector. Most of the coins come from an area measuring a couple of square metres, with the others fanning out down slope of the main cluster. It is thought that most of the hoard was recovered by Mr. Lock, although it is believed that another metal detector user also found several coins, including a sestertius. While some of the earlier, better silver coins are in fairly good condition, in general the later, baser metal coins are very poor. What the coins were buried in (if anything) remains a mystery, the only other find from the site being a small bronze ring measuring 21 mm. in diameter and approximately 3 mm. thick (perhaps from a bag or purse). The coins and ring remain in the possession of Mr. Lock, to whom I am grateful for giving me the opportunity to examine and report on his discovery.

Combe Hill is the location of a Neolithic causewayed enclosure and a number of Bronze Age tumuli. The finding on the hill of fairly large quantities of Romano-British pottery (Stevens 1980, 39) indicates some form of activity and/or occupation in Roman times. In addition, Mr. Lock has also found a number of isolated Roman coins from the area, including three from within about 500 metres of the hoard: an illegible sestertius of Hadrian, an antoninianus of Salonina (joint reign, *RIC* 6), and an Ae 20 of Constantine II (Trier, *RIC* 327); and, from further to the east (at approximately TQ 582027), an As of Vespasian (as *RIC* 494).

Table 1 shows the composition of the hoard (4 sestertii and 140 antoniniani) in respect of rulers and mints.

The latest coins in the hoard are Tetricus I's *VIRTUS*

TABLE 1
Composition of the Hoard

	Rome	Lugdunum	Mediolanum	Siscia	Cologne	Trier	Unidentified	Total	Irregular coins	Grand total
CENTRAL EMPIRE										
Hadrian	1							1		1
Marcus Aurelius	2							2		2
Philip I	1							1		1
Gallienus (joint)	1							1		1
Saloninus		1						1		1
Gallienus (sole)	15		2	1				18		18
Salonina (sole)	3		1					4		4
Claudius II	14		5				2	21		21
Divus Claudius	2							2		2
Quintillus	1							1		1
										52
GALLIC EMPIRE										
Postumus						10		10		10
Marius						1		1		1
Victorinus				34	20		1	55	1	56
Tetricus I				21	1		1	23	1	24
Tetricus II				1				1		1
										92
Totals	40	1	8	1	67	21	4	142	2	144



Fig. 11. Postumus: sestertius of the Cologne mint. Reverse: LAETITIA AVG, Galley.

AVGG issues of Cologne and a *SPES PVBLICA* coin of Tetricus II. The number of obviously irregular coins is small (two, or 1.4%). The hoard would thus seem to terminate at the end of Tetricus I's reign in A.D. 273 and to be roughly comparable with the nearby Polegate (Brodrribb 1976) and Beachy Head (Bland 1979; Rudling 1982) hoards.

With regard to the four sestertii, the finding of the three very worn 2nd-century examples alongside 3rd-century antoniniani in a hoard is not especially unusual, but the discovery of a sestertius of Postumus in such a hoard is a rare phenomenon. The Postumus sestertius is illustrated at Fig. 11.

A more detailed report, including a catalogue of the 144 coins by type and issue, has been submitted to the Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, for inclusion in a future volume of either *Coin Hoards from Roman Britain* or *Coin Hoards*.

Author: David Rudling, Institute of Archaeology, University of London.

References

Bland, R. F. 1979 'The 1973 Beachy Head Treasure Trove of Third-Century Antoniniani', *Numismatic Chronicle*, 139, 61-107.
 Brodrribb, F. 1976 'The Polegate Hoard', *Suss. Arch. Coll.* 114, 332-3.
 Rudling, D. R. 1982 'The Romano-British Farm on

Bullock Down', in *The Archaeology of Bullock Down* (ed. P. Drewett), 97-142. *Suss. Arch. Soc. Monograph*, 1.
 Stevens, L. 1980 *Eastbourne: The Vigil and the Morrow*. Eastbourne: privately printed.

Plumpton Roman Villa (TQ 360147), a Cursory Note

In April 1977, following its discovery four years earlier by F. G. Burton, the site of a Roman villa at Plumpton was fieldwalked by the Lewes Archaeological Group. As chalk and flint rubble of the walls were clearly visible in the plough-soil, a plan of the villa was surveyed (Allen 1977).

The villa is situated one mile north of the downs-scarp slope and lies just to the south of the Roman Greensand Way, on Gault Clay.

The plan (Fig. 12) shows a simple Romano-British villa layout which had wall-footings consisting of local materials: chalk and flint. The structure may have contained a hypocaust system as pilae and box-flue tiles were recovered. Painted wall plaster indicates some internal decor. Almost complete tegulae and imbrices were also retrieved from the field.

The fieldwalking technique employed was the lane method and two sweeps of the field were made. For the first sweep the walkers, who were positioned 20 metres apart and bagged material at 30-metre intervals, covered the entire

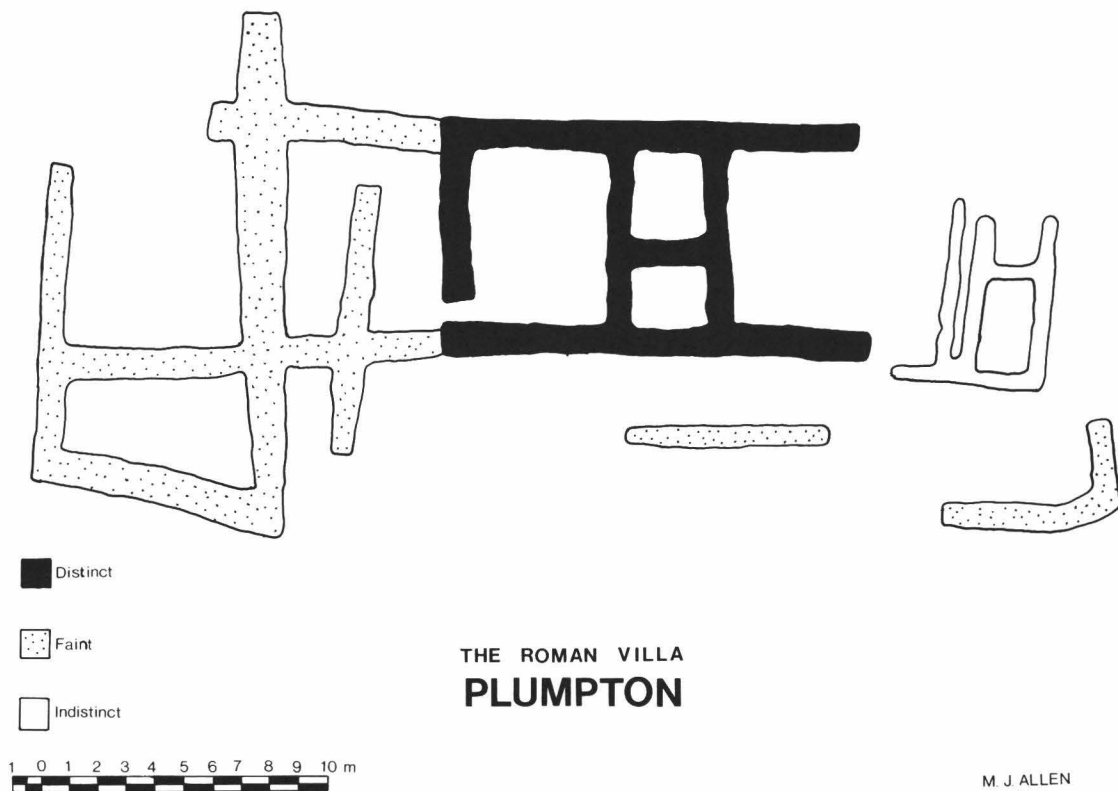


Fig. 12.

M. J. ALLEN
1977

16½-a. field. The artefacts showed very little spread and were almost exclusively confined to the immediate vicinity of the villa, indicating that the villa had only recently been disturbed by the plough. Finds from the rest of the field included only a dozen unretouched struck flakes, three dozen post-medieval sherds and fragments of 19th- and 20th-century brick and tile.

The second sweep was concentrated over the villa and was walked on a tighter grid, each walker being 5 metres apart. Apart from the vast quantity of tile (imbrex, tegulae, box-flue, floor tiles, and red tesserae probably cut down from building tiles), there was also a mass of pottery of which surprisingly little of the coarse ware was East Sussex ware. The finer wares included colour-coated wares from Oxford, the New Forest and the Nene Valley, and these were generally fine table wares, such as bowls and drinking vessels. A quantity of Samian was also found and consisted of at least ten vessels, some of which had fine relief decoration. The Samian was all c. 2nd- to early 3rd-century. Other finds included a large fragment of a saddle quern and a 3rd-century coin, the latter found by R. L. Wells during the period 1974-7 while he was observing the site. No 4th-century material was noted.

The masonry villa of the 2nd-3rd century is of similar proportions, size and date to that at West Blatchington, Hove (Norris & Burstow 1950), and both villas are simple in plan. Both Plumpton and West Blatchington are among the richer establishments described by Cunliffe (1973, 74) which are situated in locations where the soil is more productive.

If the Plumpton villa 'grew organically out of a native farm' (Applebaum 1966, 99) as most of the Sussex villas did

(Rudling 1982, 277) then evidence of its timber predecessors may still be preserved as post-holes. Indeed timber out-buildings associated with the villa may also still survive beneath the soil. Unfortunately the field, owned by Plumpton Agricultural College, has undergone deep ploughing since at least 1976-7. However, the south-west corner of the field containing the villa has been left comparatively unscathed due to the damage the chalk and flint walls cause the plough, and the field is now undergoing experimental drilling to prevent further damage to the villa.

A full analysis of the pottery and other recovered artefacts is being undertaken by Simon Garrett.

Acknowledgements

The fieldwalk, which was directed by S. P. Garrett, and the survey, which was directed by M. J. Allen, involved 18 members of the Lewes Archaeological Group to whom the author is very grateful. Thanks are also extended to Mr. Bishop, farms manager of Plumpton Agricultural College, for his co-operation, and to Mr. E. W. O'Shea for his advice.

Author: Mike Allen, Institute of Archaeology, University of London.

References

- Allen, M. J. 1977 'Plumpton Roman Villa', *Lewes Arch. Group Newsletter*, 37.
 Applebaum, S. 1966 'Peasant Economy and Types of Agriculture', in *Rural Settlement in Roman Britain* (ed. C. Thomas). C.B.A. Research Reports, 7.
 Cunliffe, B. 1973 *The Regni*. London: Duckworth.

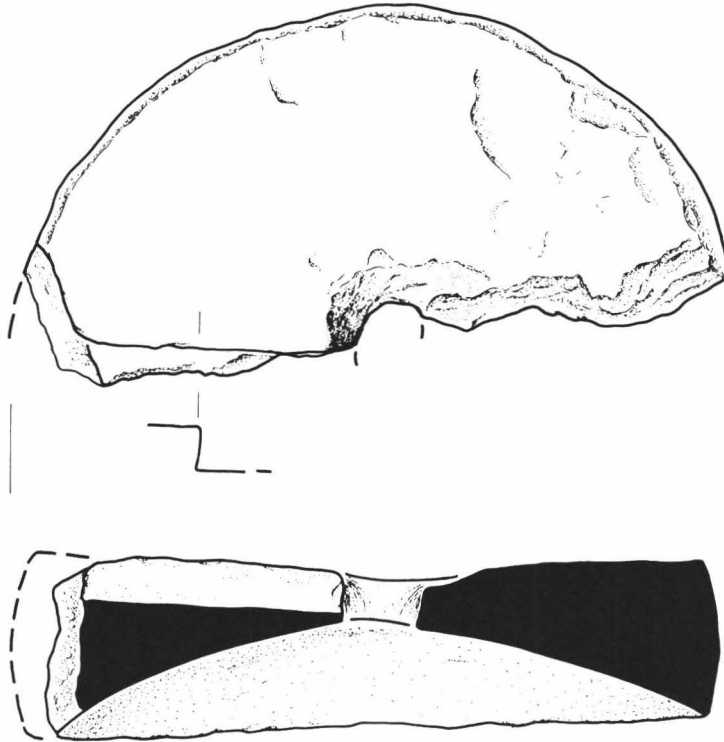


Fig. 13.

Norris, N. E. S. & Burstow, G. P. 1950 'A Prehistoric and Romano-British Site at West Blatchington, Hove', *Suss. Arch. Coll.* **89**, 1-54.
 Rudling, D. R. 1982 'Rural Settlement in Late Iron Age and Roman Sussex', in *The Romano-British Countryside: Studies in Settlement and Economy* (ed. D. Miles). British Arch. Reports, 103.

Romano-British Quern Fragment from Alfoldean, Slinfold

Part of the upper half of a quern was found in spoil from a freshly-dug roadside ditch in August 1983 on the west side of the A29 (Stane Street) several hundred metres south of Alfoldean Roman Station (N.G.R. TQ 11543276). The fragment (Fig. 13) is of Lower Greensand and was about 38 cm. in diameter when complete. It has been donated to Horsham Museum.

Author: F. G. Aldsworth, Archaeology Officer, West Sussex County Council.

A Late Roman Gold Coin from High Hurstwood, East Sussex

In 1982 a gold solidus of the Emperor Honorius (A. D. 393-423) was discovered by a farmer, Mr. Llewellyn, in one of his fields adjacent to Perryman's Lane, High Hurstwood (approximate location: TQ 486261). Details about the coin (Fig. 14) are as follows:
 Obverse: D. N. HONORIVS P. F. AVG. Diademed, draped and cuirassed bust facing right.



Fig. 14.

Reverse: VICTORIA AVGGG. Honorius standing right, holding a standard in his right hand and in his left hand a Victory, who is crowning him with a wreath. The emperor has his left foot on a captive. In the field of the reverse are the letters M and D, and in the exergue, COMOB. The mint marks indicate that the coin is a product of the Milan mint. Coin type reference: Cohen 44.

The discovery of such a late Roman coin from the Weald is very unusual (most of the ironworking establishments, for instance, had been abandoned by the mid 3rd century). Mr. C. F. Tebbutt, who kindly provided details about the location of the discovery, informs me that Perryman's Lane is of interest since it continues to the west, via a footpath, to the important Roman iron-manufacturing and administrative centre at Oldlands. Eastwards it goes to an area (TQ 509255) where there is a very extensive Roman

bloomery site which has yielded pottery and a hypocaust tile. There are also at this location large open-cast mine pits. The Wealden Iron Research Group have walked the field in which the solidus was found and discovered two bloomery slag areas, but unfortunately no associated pottery by which they could be dated.

Author: David Rudling, Institute of Archaeology, University of London.

Recent Discoveries in Bosham Church

The lowering of the floor level in the chapel crypt during April and May 1981 revealed several items of historical interest.

At least two inhumation burials were found in graves cut into the natural brickearth and these were removed by contractors. The lower fill of the graves was examined and found to comprise almost pure charcoal. Burials in charcoal are known from a number of places in England, including Winchester, York, Oxford, London and Exeter. The custom appears to have a wide date range, at present extending from the 9th to the 12th centuries A.D., but it seems likely that as more graves are discovered this range will be extended. There is, as yet, no clear evidence to explain the use of charcoal, although a likely hygienic reason may be found by analogy with the use of charcoal as a gas-absorbent in gas masks.

The remains of two sheets of metal, possibly zinc, were found face down under the old floor and were found to have traces of an illuminated Gothic script painted over white on their upper surface in black, red and gold. These both had mortar adhering to the reverse face and appear at some time to have been mounted on a wall. The larger piece, 110 cm. high and 56 cm. wide with a rounded top, retained enough of the text to demonstrate that it comprised part of the Lord's Prayer:

OUR F(ATH)ER which
 art (in heaven)
 (hallowed) be thy Name
 T(hy kingdom) come
 T(hy will be) done in earth AS
 (it is) in (heaven)
 G(ive us this) day our daily bread
 F(orgive us our) trespasses As we forgive
 them that trespass against us

The smaller piece, 10 cm. high and at least 40 cm. wide, was probably mounted below the larger piece and reads:

(All this) I have done (for t)hee

A metal sheet hanging on the north wall of the nave of Barnham church is painted white and has the text of the Apostles' Creed painted in black. It is said in the church guide to date from the 19th century and may be roughly contemporary with the Bosham examples. Photographs of the metal plates and details of the text have been placed in the West Sussex Record Office.

Since the lettering used is almost identical, it has now been possible to transcribe the nearly illegible text painted on a pillar in the south aisle of Bosham church. It is from Acts 2. 38 and reads:

(Then Peter said unto them)
 Repent, and be baptized every
 one of you in the Name of

Jesus Christ for the Remission
of Sins and ye shall receive the
gift of the Holy Ghost.

Authors: F. G. Aldsworth, Archaeology Officer, West
Sussex County Council; Alison McCann, West
Sussex Record Office.

A Trial Excavation in Castle Ditch Lane, Lewes, East Sussex

In advance of building development, and at the request of East Sussex County Council, a small area of land fronting Castle Ditch Lane (which follows the line of the castle's ditch) at the rear of 175 High Street, Lewes, was trial trenched in 1983. The trench, which measured 2.2 by 1.6 by 1.5 metres, was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.53 metres. Unfortunately the area investigated proved to have been badly disturbed in post-medieval times, for example by cellars, and nothing of medieval date was recovered. A plan showing the location of the trench has been deposited with the East Sussex County Council's Sites and Monuments Record. Thanks are due to Dr. A. Woodcock of East Sussex County Council (which funded the excavation), Mr. D. Fuller (the developer) and Dr. O. Bedwin (who assisted on site).

Author: David Rudling, Institute of Archaeology, University of London.

A Medieval Jetton from Rodmell, East Sussex

A French jetton has been found on the site of Hall Place, Rodmell, East Sussex (TQ 421063). Details of the bronze jetton, which has been pierced for suspension, are as follows:

Obverse: A heater-shield with the arms of France-modern. Legend, AVE MARIA: GRACIA: PLENA.

Reverse: A cross of three strands fleurdelisée with a quatrefoil in the centre, cantoned by four 'A's and enclosed by a tressure of four arches.

This type is not recorded by Barnard (1916). The jetton, which dates to the 14th or 15th century, has been drawn by Miss Fiona Marsden, the Curator at Barbican House Museum (Fig. 15).



Fig. 15.

Jettons or reckoning counters, which were very numerous in the Middle Ages, were originally invented and produced in France as counters for use on a marked counting

board to help the accountants in their arithmetic. It was not long, however, before they were used in much the same way as the later tokens to serve as small change, a practice denounced by governments. Later still the jetton came to serve other purposes, for example as a less costly version of the medal, thus becoming a medium for propaganda.

Author: David Rudling, Institute of Archaeology, University of London.

Reference

Barnard, F. P. 1916 *The Casting-Counter and the Counting Board*. Oxford.

The White Horse near Litlington, East Sussex

In his book on hill figures Morris Marples mentions the tradition that the first Litlington Horse was cut by James Pagden, a farmer of Frog Firle, and his brothers in about 1836. He goes on to say that the makers of the second horse cut in about 1924 as a replacement are unknown.¹ In 1983 copies of correspondence between John T. Ade and Morris Marples came into the possession of the Sussex Archaeological Society as part of a bequest from Ade's niece Miss Rosemary Howard.² These letters identify the makers of the second horse and give some additional information about the makers of the first. They also help explain inconsistencies between Marples' description of the second horse and his illustration. Copies of further letters from Ade to a friend, Eric Hobbis, document repairs subsequently made to the horse.

In his letter to Marples, dated 25 April 1949, Ade says of the first horse that his grandfather William Ade was involved in making it and that he had heard from boyhood that it was cut by the Pagdens and the Ades in 1836. This is consistent with the account by Florence Pagden who said that a young cousin helped her father and his brothers cut the figure.³ William Ade (1820-92) was first cousin once removed to John Ade of Frog Firle who married (?Catherine) Pagden on 20 April 1805.⁴ Ade also suggests that his great-grandfather, Charles Ade, who had experience of surveying, may have helped in the planning.

In the same letter Ade explained that he himself designed the second horse in the winter of 1923 to a plan that was still in his possession,⁵ and that he cut it on the hillside on a single night in February 1924 with the help of two unnamed friends. The tone of the letter makes it evident that the work was carried out in conditions of secrecy.

Ade comments favourably on Marples' illustration which shows the horse with two front legs. Marples' text however describes the horse as having one foreleg only. This discrepancy is due to the fact that the horse had been measured by Marples' father in 1936, while post-war repairs in 1945 (it had been camouflaged during the war) unfortunately hid one foot behind the other.⁶ Marples undertook to comment on this discrepancy in any subsequent edition of his book.⁷

On 13 May 1949 Ade wrote to Eric Hobbis, a market gardener of Long Ashton, near Bristol, whom J. T. Ade's sister, Miss Catherine Ade, identifies as having been a lodger at Grove Hill Farm in 1924, while working at Bears Orchard, Magham Down, and as one of the two helpers involved in making the second horse. Ade mentioned Marples' book and his correspondence with him and announced his intention of restoring the second front leg and generally making good other damage to the figure, particularly to the back which 'had shifted up hill a bit from saddle to rump'. In a second letter dated 15 June he described how he carried out the work

on the moonlit night of 9 June between 10 p.m. and 3 a.m. once again with the aid of two helpers who he referred to as Bovis and Harris. According to Miss Catherine Ade, Stephen Bovis was the then farm manager at Grove Hill; he had worked for the Ades since boyhood and was one of the helpers involved in cutting the horse in 1924. Paul Harris, now of Wannock, Polegate, was the second person involved in the repair work.

Ade comments on the difficulties of making repairs as opposed to the original work:

Repair work is quite different . . . as it entails much filling in with turf and this is neither easy to obtain in correct sizes nor to place and fix into position owing to the rolling of the chalk particles where people have walked and slipped. It was also difficult to decide the positions and measurements which in the first job were fixed by the main construction lines which we laid with ropes with pegs tied on at all vital points as marked on the Plan. In some parts it was not easy to find a basis to measure from and it became a matter of judgement which of course in such a position and at such a scale might be considerably in error.

However, a few days later he found the work satisfactory when seen from the Litlington road.

Acknowledgement

I am grateful to Miss Catherine Ade for her help in pro-

viding additional information, and for permission to quote from letters.

Author: **Fiona Marsden, Barbican House, Lewes.**

Notes

¹M. Marples, *White Horses and Other Hill Figures* (1949), 128–9. Marples refers to the Litlington Horse, though in fact it is in the parish of Alfriston.

²Now transferred to East Sussex Record Office (Acc. A 4146).

³F. A. Pagden, *History of Alfriston* (1903 edn.), 64. Marples is in some confusion here. His text refers to Pagden's son, not daughter, and his source, he claims, is J. Pagden, *History of Alfriston* (1899), 71. According to the British Library there is no such book. Very probably he is referring to the 6th edition of F. A. Pagden, *History of Alfriston*, published in 1927, which refers to the cutting of the horse on p. 71. All known previous editions, except the first of 1899, refer to the cutting, but at different page numbers.

⁴Pedigree of Ade family in Suss. Arch. Soc. Library.

⁵The plan was later destroyed during a house clearance: inf. from Miss Catherine Ade.

⁶Marples, 129; letter from M. Marples to J. T. Ade, 3 May 1949; letter from J. T. Ade to M. Marples, 25 April 1949.

⁷There was no subsequent edition. The book, unrevised though with additional photographs, was republished in 1981.

HISTORICAL NOTES

This section of the *Collections* is devoted to short notes on aspects of local history. Those without previous experience in writing up such material for publication should not be deterred from contributing; the editor and members of the editorial board will be happy to assist in the preparation of reports and illustrations.

Rye: a 9th-Century Foundation?

Although it is styled an 'ancient town', the recorded history of Rye reaches no further back than Domesday Book (1086), and that speculatively, as the '*novus burgus*' mentioned in association with the lost place called 'Rameslie'. 'Rameslie' probably stood on the coast south of the present Fairlight Head, and it is assumed that the new town of Rye rose as 'Rameslie' was claimed by the sea (Vidler 1934). 'Rameslie' was the subject of several grants in the first half of the 11th century, from 1005 onwards. Earlier than this nothing can be claimed, although L. A. Vidler, Rye's historian, believed the town to have been Saxon in origin, 'perhaps under some other name' (Vidler 1927). Indeed it would be surprising if such a defensible site, once closely coursed by water and marsh on three sides, was not used for refuge in times of trouble.

The 'Burghal Hidage' is a document dating from such a troubled time—the late 9th century (Davis 1982). The document lists 33 sites in Wessex and English Mercia fortified by Alfred (871–99) as part of his campaign against the Danes, and allocates land for the support of a garrison for each place (Hill 1969). A formula is appended to the list: 'For the maintenance of defences of an acre's breadth of wall, sixteen hides are required. If every hide is represented by one man, then every pole (5½ yards) of wall can be manned by four men.' The list perambulates the bounds of Alfred's kingdom, beginning with *Eorpeburnan*, then going via Hastings, Lewes, Burpham, Chichester, and so westwards. The first site, *Eorpeburnan*, is so far unidentified (Brooks 1964), but the logic of the document suggests that it was in Sussex, east of Hastings. (Kent, a sub-kingdom, was not included in this defence system.) The assessment for *Eorpeburnan* was 324 hides, which equates to a defensive line of 445½ yd. At many of the Burghal Hidage sites the assessed defensive line correlates very closely with the work traceable on the ground, though at other sites the correlation is less close.

Rye is geographically in a suitable situation for *Eorpeburnan*, and although no traces of Saxon defence can be located today William Holloway in 1847 was able to give detailed measurements of the town wall and ditch. The latter, although filled in during the 18th century, Holloway measured at 1,337 ft., or 445⅓ yd. (Holloway 1847, 589). This length is intriguingly close to the Burghal Hidage requirement of 445½ yd. Could Rye have been *Eorpeburnan* and thus claim foundation by Alfred the Great? If so it would be nearly 200 years more 'ancient' than has been hitherto believed. For a more detailed assessment of Rye's defences in relation to the Burghal Hidage see Kitchen 1984.

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Ships' Timbers

For over 20 years students of vernacular architecture have discussed and queried the long-standing tradition concerning the use of old 'ships' timbers' in timber-framed buildings. The tradition is as firmly established today as it has ever been, the idea probably stemming from the fact that many large curved timbers form part of the construction of these houses, and the resemblance of such timbers to those used in the construction of the hull of a ship.

Several points must first be emphasized. It would have been an immensely costly process to transport salvaged timber from the coast into the Wealden area, and a formidable undertaking in view of the lack of good firm highways. It would also have been a completely unnecessary exercise because of the availability of excellent oak from the surrounding countryside, in many instances near or actually on the building site. In addition copyholders were usually allowed sufficient timber, upon request to the lord of the manor, to repair an existing house or to build a new one, and the timber required would be cut from the manorial woods; indeed this right was often written into the custumal of the manor.¹

However, Dr. Louis Salzman always affirmed that in the examination of any tradition one should try to find the germ of truth which may have been hidden by years of accretions, and this might well be so in this instance. Could it be that the term 'ships' timbers' might merely describe certain outstanding oak trees of a type required for ship-building?

This possibility has recently been confirmed by one brief, but very significant, item in a book of estate accounts found among the Danny archives. The book was kept by Henry Campion who was living at Danny in the parish of Hurstpierpoint in the early 18th century; in it he records the daily work of his agricultural employees. The entry is as follows:

1728. 11th. May. John Stanbridge for hewing Ship timber 16/6.²

Nevertheless it is certainly true that along the Sussex coast there must have been much available timber from wrecks which could readily be used in house building. One has only to look at the records of shipping in the 19th century to realize how many vessels foundered on the rocks of the Sussex coast, and how much timber would have been swept onto the shore. A typical reference concerns the Lewes Lass, a ship wrecked at the Veness Gap near Bexhill in 1886, the salvaged timbers of which, including the figurehead, were acquired by a Mr. Adams and sawn up to provide floors, doors, etc. for two cottages he built at nearby Sidley.³

Defoe recorded a similar practice in the early 18th century on the Norfolk coast, where:

the farmers, and country people had scarce a barn, or a shed, or a stable; nay, not the pales of their yards, and

gardens, not a hogstye, not a necessary-house, but what was built of old planks, beams, wales and timbers, &c. the wrecks of ships, and ruins of mariners and merchants' fortunes; and in some places were whole yards fill'd, and piled up very high with the same stuff laid up, as I suppos'd to sell for the like building purposes, as there should be occasion'.⁴

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Notes

¹*Suss. Rec. Soc.* 34, 81.

²East Sussex Record Office, DAN 2198.

³*Suss. County Mag.* 13, 283.

⁴D. Defoe, *A Tour Through the Whole Island of Great Britain* (Everyman edn.), 1, 71.

The Selection of High Constables at Lewes, 1733–40

In the previous volume of these *Collections* mention was made of the uncertainty that exists over how high constables were chosen at Lewes, after the 'fellowship' of the Twelve ceased to function there from the mid 1660s.¹ Although oligarchic, the Twelve had been a genuine organ of local self-government, recruited by co-option and selecting the constables from its own ranks on the first Monday after Michaelmas at the court leet, of which it formed the jury.² But how did the selection take place at the court once the Twelve became defunct? Were the constables still chosen by the jury? In which case, did the jurors still enjoy any kind of corporate identity? Did they recruit by co-option and continue to serve from court to court? If so, then civic life had salvaged some autonomy from the capsize of the Twelve. But if the steward who presided at the court now played a crucial part in choosing the constables or the jury, then seigneurial power was brazenly intruding, since any steward was normally the instrument of his employer, 'the Lord of the Leet'. (At Lewes that lordship rotated annually between the Duke of Norfolk, the Duke of Dorset and Lord Bergavenny.) Only one scrap of evidence was available from the 1660s: a quarter sessions order for 1668 which referred to the constables being chosen 'by the Lords of the Leet of the said Borough or their Steward'.³ This has a very seigneurial ring. But being brief and formal, how meaningful was the phrase?

Recently very precise evidence for the period 1733–40 has been found in letters sent to the Duke of Newcastle by Thomas Pelham,⁴ whose father Thomas Pelham of Catsfield was then an M.P. for Lewes, together with Thomas Pelham of Stanmer.⁵ And that evidence can best be summed up in Thomas's own blunt words: 'The choosing Constables here is almost wholly in the Steward'.⁶ So if, as seems likely, the procedure he describes was indeed the one instituted in the mid 1660s, then the loss of the Twelve marked a very black day for civic autonomy.

Newcastle's interest in the procedure was political. As head of a ramifying Pelham connection, he was daily involved in defending its parliamentary electoral influence throughout Sussex. At Lewes the high constables were alone responsible for determining 'the Validity of disputable Votes' at elections;⁷ and since qualification for the borough franchise often hinged on 'disputable' claims to residence (house occupation or poor-rate payment), the vigorous vetting of would-be electors on polling day by a pair of partisan constables could win an otherwise desperate

contest. And by the summer of 1733 affairs at Lewes looked rather desperate to Newcastle. A general election was due early in 1734, and the opposition was stridently certain it would dislodge both Pelhams from their seats. So he deputed Thomas Pelham junior to secure the selection of reliable constables at the Michaelmas court. Two such, Thomas Friend and James Reeves, were indeed chosen, and when polling day arrived they duly adjudicated the 'disputable' votes to snatch a narrow victory for the Pelhams.⁸

At the 1733 court the presiding steward, 'Mr. Gratwick', twice intervened in the selection procedure. Firstly he chose the jury: 'of those who appear at the Court, he calls whom, and as many as he pleases to be of the Jury.' So, unlike the Twelve, these jurors lacked any continuing corporate character; each year their identity depended on the beck and nod of a seigneurial servant. Secondly, he it was who finally selected the constables from a short-list of four drawn up by the jury; and this intrusion again underlined the subservience of the jurors, and of their borough, to feudally based authority.⁹

Yet, however humiliating these formal procedures, was not the choice, exercised by the steward and the jurors, in fact limited to the application of clear-cut rules, determining automatically and beyond doubt which two townsmen were the most eligible to serve as constables? Clearly not, since both Thomas Pelham and the opposition spent much time and money bribing Mr. Gratwick. At first the steward accepted fifty guineas from Mr. Whitfield, the opposition's chief fixer. But on the eve of the court Thomas 'clarified the position', and so Gratwick returned Whitfield's money. The cost of the clarification is unclear, although rumour put it at a hundred guineas or more. Partisan support from the steward mattered. Indeed, when Thomas's opponents received their money back, they 'gave up their cause before they went into court'.

Both sides had wanted a partisan jury and both drew up lists for Gratwick's benefit. But Thomas's 'clarification', of course, carried the day in court. Naturally enough, the jury chosen for him was 'a very good one'; the 17 jurors harboured a solid majority of Pelham supporters. Clearly the purpose of such a partisan jury was the production of a partisan short-list. Giving prior thought to that as well, Thomas and his circle had fixed on Friend, Reeves, Walter Brett and Thomas Novice. Presumably the opposition had a rival list. They had certainly decided on Peak Elphick and John Mitchelborne as constables. In the event, however, when the jury retired from the court to examine the Town Book and to see 'who stood first in order for Constables', they returned with a short-list of Friend, Reeves, Oliver Willard and Thomas Taylor, after eliminating by vote Thomas Barret and Peak Elphick. Why Willard and Taylor were substituted for Brett and Novice is unclear, but Gratwick duly selected Friend and Reeves, who must have been Thomas's preferred candidates anyway.

At least nine townsmen, therefore, were plausibly considered for the short-list of four in 1733: Brett, Novice and Mitchelborne, as well as Friend, Reeves, Willard, Taylor, Elphick and Barret. This confirms the absence of clear-cut rules governing seniority. And again, what rigorous logic eliminated Barret (junior constable 1714) and Elphick (senior constable 1718), and then Willard (headborough 1718) and Taylor (headborough 1715), in favour of Friend (senior constable 1722) and Reeves (junior constable 1719)?¹⁰ Given such fluidity, the paramount need to bribe the steward becomes all the clearer. The jurors he chose could pick and choose their short-list, and his selection from it was untrammelled.

But in one sense the latitude enjoyed by Gratwick as steward was fortuitous, since it depended on the political

passivity as 'Lord of the Leet' of his master, the Duke of Norfolk. The previous August, it is true, Norfolk had agreed to find out for Newcastle 'what steps Mr Gratwick has taken in regard to Lewis'.¹¹ Yet no directive was issued; otherwise Thomas Pelham would hardly have been outbidding the opposition for the steward's favour on the very eve of the court. By contrast the Duke of Dorset, the second 'Lord of the Leet', was a dependable political ally of Newcastle. There is no mention of bribery before his court met at Michaelmas 1734. Indeed his steward there 'pleased our friends very much': to the extent that 'the enemy complained of his partiality and did not answer when their names were called over: consequently none of them were of the Jury'.¹² At Michaelmas 1740, when another bitter parliamentary election loomed, his steward and the jury again 'behaved very well'. Thomas Pelham and his friends compiled yet another roll of partisan jurors, and these were instructed 'to put Mr Morris and Streak' on their short-list of four. Arthur Morris and John Streeke duly became high constables.¹³

Newcastle also counted Lord Bergavenny, the third 'Lord of the Leet', as a political ally. But that seigneur could be capricious, if the main chance required it. Thus on 2 October 1738 the townsfolk gathered at the normal time and place for his court, and as usual the retiring constables arranged a dinner, at the White Hart, to celebrate the ending of their term. But Mr. Staples, Bergavenny's steward, failed to appear, and so the court was postponed, to the embarrassment of Newcastle's supporters. Staples soon after explained to Thomas Pelham that Bergavenny considered 'the present Constables were our friends' and so 'hoped we should not be dissatisfied with their being continued in office'. Thus there might be no court leet at all that year! But Newcastle's brother, Henry Pelham, took a more cynical view of the episode. Bergavenny was after a slice of government patronage: 'everything would remain in suspense as to his behaviour, till he knew whether he was to have employment or not'. His conduct signified nothing, 'if he is provided for soon'. Presumably his lordship was so accommodated, since his court met on 8 October.¹⁴ Such could be the impact of feudal whim.

It was fortunate for Newcastle that none of these three 'Lords of the Leet' had sufficient local influence to build up a continuing political interest in the borough on the basis of this periodic seigneurial meddling. They could only patronize a faction already formed and with loyalties elsewhere. But the meddling was very real, and owed its origins, almost certainly, to the loss of the Twelve in the mid 1660s.

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Notes

¹Colin Brent, 'The Neutering of the Fellowship and the Emergence of a Tory Party in Lewes (1663-1688)', *Suss. Arch. Coll.* **121**, 95-107.

²Jeremy Goring, 'The Fellowship of the Twelve in Elizabethan Lewes', *Suss. Arch. Coll.* **119**, 157-72.

³E(ast) S(ussex) R(ecord) O(ffice), QO/EW/5, f. 92.

⁴B(ritish) L(ibrary), Add. MSS. 32688-95.

⁵Judith Brent, 'The Pooles of Chailey and Lewes: the Establishment and Influence of a Gentry Family, 1732-1779', *Suss. Arch. Coll.* **114**, 70-1.

⁶B.L., Add. MS. 32688, ff. 397-9.

⁷Ibid. f. 599.

⁸E.S.R.O., LEW/C 5/3/5.

⁹B.L., Add. MS. 32688, ff. 397-9, 407, 417, 453. These letters describe Thomas Pelham's dealings with Gratwick and the events at the court leet.

¹⁰*Suss. Rec. Soc.* **69**, 15-18, 21.

¹¹B.L., Add. MS. 32688, ff. 78, 257.

¹²Ibid. Add. MS. 32689, f. 435.

¹³Ibid. Add. MSS. 32694, f. 579; 32695, ff. 126, 176.

¹⁴Ibid. Add. MS. 32691, ff. 392, 397, 403.

Ashburnham Blast Furnace: A Definitive Date for its Closure

Various dates have been put forward for the final blowing-out of the blast furnace at Ashburnham, the last furnace to smelt iron in the Weald.¹ It has been widely accepted that the forge continued in declining operation until the late 1820s. However, strong evidence now points to a definitive date of February 1813 for the closure of the blast furnace itself.

The *Sussex Express* of 11 August 1883 contains the obituary of William Hobday, who worked as a boy at the furnace. The newspaper records that a few months before his death he described:

how, when a boy, he had seen the last fire extinguished in 1813, after the casting of the last fire backs, the same which are still in use in the Manor House at Penhurst . . . 'There were six of us there, when the fire was blown out, two furnace men, two upper fellows to feed the furnace, and two boys. I was one of them. After it was out the boy Jones, from Robertsbridge, drank a whole bottle of gin; we sent for the doctor, but it was no good; he died before he came'.

The burial of William Jones, a boy of six, is recorded in the Ashburnham burial register on 3 March 1813.² William Hobday was baptized at Ashburnham on 17 April 1803,³ so he was probably ten years old on this eventful day, an age at which such happenings would be well remembered by an impressionable mind. His burial is recorded at Dallington on 9 August 1883.⁴

Three of the firebacks mentioned by Hobday are still at The Manor House, Penhurst. They display either the initial 'A' for Ashburnham or a coronet, or both; on one fireback is cast the date 1813.

Supporting evidence for the date 1813 comes from the archives of the Ashburnham Estate, which include lists of the cost of wood fuel delivered from various forests to three points: Ashburnham Place together with the estate brickworks, the limeworks, and the ironworks, which embraced both the smelting and forging operations.⁵ Almost all the ironworks deliveries were for cordwood at a cost of 10s. a cord. The conversion of the wood into charcoal was not included in this figure; there is some site evidence that charcoal-making was carried out near the blast furnace as well as in the forests. In each year from 1806 to 1812 inclusive, excepting only 1809, the value of these deliveries lay between £668 and £946. Thereafter it dropped by about half until 1816, after which there was a progressive falling away until 1826, when only £45 was charged. After this there were no 'ironworks' deliveries. In the exceptional year of 1809 the value was about half the current norm; there are known to have been blast furnace problems in that year, but apparently they did not, as has been suggested,⁶ cause the furnace to close.

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Wealden Iron (Bulletin of Wealden Iron Research Group), 2nd ser. 2, 59.

²E(ast) S(ussex) R(ecord) O(ffice), PAR 233/5/2.

³E.S.R.O., PAR 233/1/3.

⁴E.S.R.O., PAR 302/5/1.

⁵E.S.R.O., ASH 1690-9.

⁶Lady D. Neville, *Under Five Reigns*, quoted by Straker, *Wealden Iron*, 369.

Notes

¹M. C. Delany, *The Historical Geography of the Wealden Iron Industry* (1921), 32; E. Straker, *Wealden Iron* (1931), 68, 369; H. R. Schubert, *History of the British Iron and Steel Industry* (1957), 194; *Sussex Life*, April 1967, p. 61;