

Short articles

Further evidence of Mesolithic activity near Midhurst, West Sussex

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There is a considerable amount of evidence of Mesolithic activity on the Lower Greensand near Midhurst (Jacobi 1978; Drewett *et al.* 1988; Bone & Holgate 1988), particularly that obtained from the excavations on Iping Common (Keef *et al.* 1965) and the assemblage of worked flint collected from the surface of the sandy trackways on Graffham Common (Holgate *et al.* 1986). This note refers to further evidence obtained from surface flint collection between these two sites, along the sandy trackways in the vicinity of Heyshott Common (Fig. 1).

The first diagnostic indication came from a double platform core (Fig. 2a), identified as being of Mesolithic character (Priestley-Bell pers. comm.); this was found among a thin scatter of worked flints distributed on the surface of the trackways around the junction at A. The trackway at B passes

through a gully. Three more cores were found on the surface of this trackway, between 10 and 25 metres north of the gully. A scatter of debitage, of typical Mesolithic character, was found on the surface of the ground on the north-west side of the gully. In about an hour 64 pieces (and eight small pieces of fire-cracked flint) were collected from an area of approximately 10 square metres. These included two diagnostic pieces (Fig. 2b): a microlith almost certainly produced using microburin technique, and a bladelet with use wear (Priestley-Bell pers. comm.).

Acknowledgements

We are most grateful to Greg Priestley-Bell for characterizing the diagnostic material, to Mark Taylor and John Mills (West Sussex County Council) for topographical information, to David Dunkin for his help and encouragement, and particularly to Cowdray Estates on whose land the material was found.

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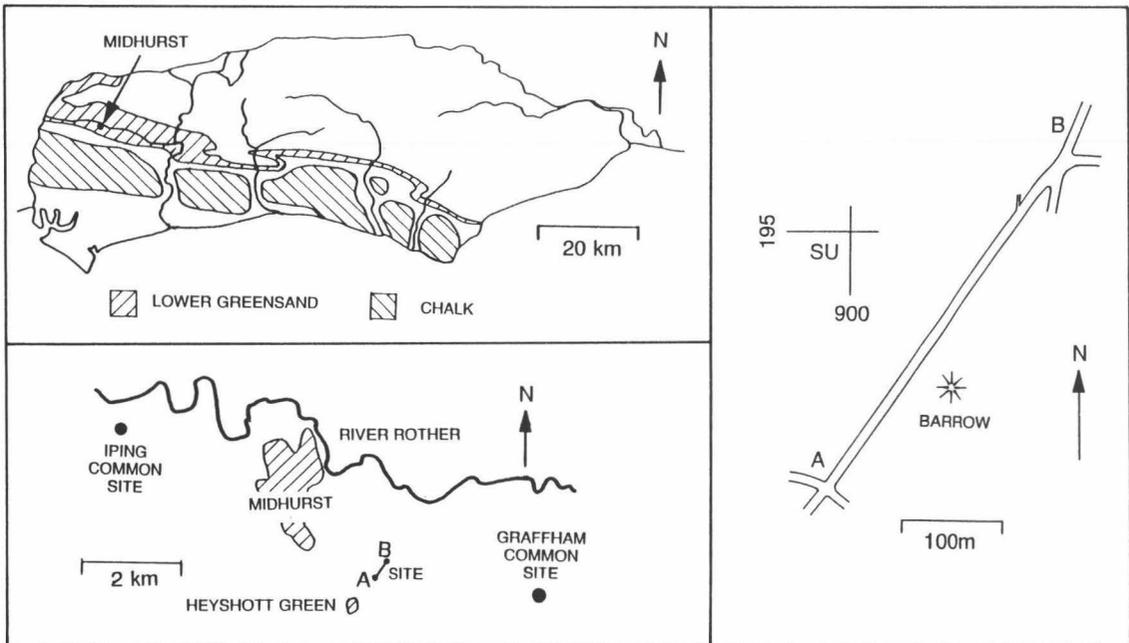


Fig. 1. Sketch plan of the trackways along which the finds were made.

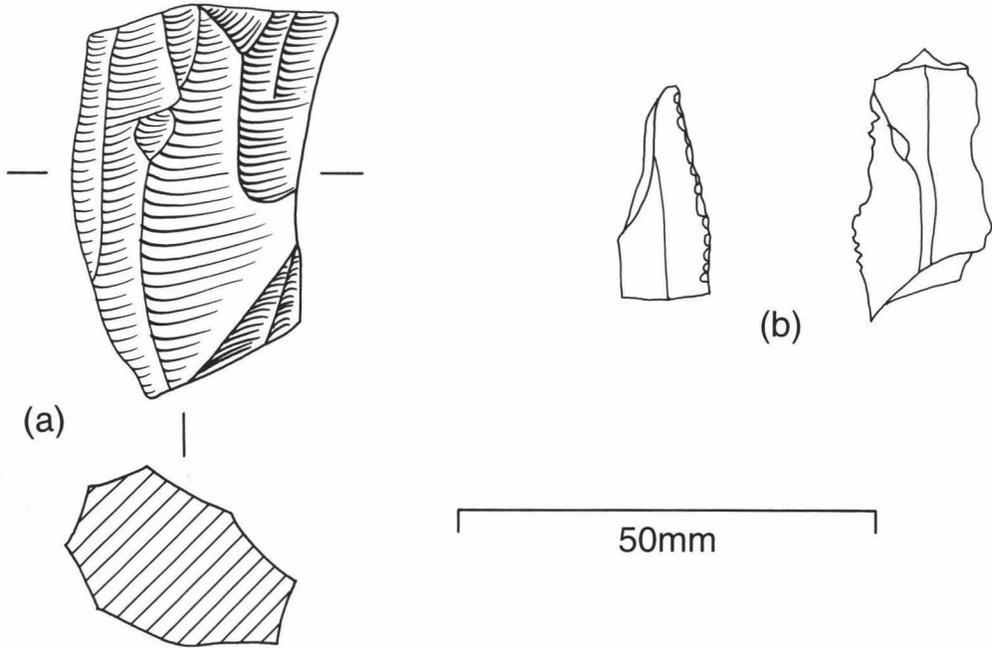


Fig. 2. The diagnostic flintwork.

Drewett, P., Rudling, D. & Gardiner, M. 1988. *The South East to AD 1000*. London: Longman.
Holgate, R. D. C., Holden, E. W. & Holden, H. G. 1986. An early Mesolithic site and prehistoric flintwork from Graffham Common and neighbouring areas on the Lower Greensand, West Sussex, *Sussex Archaeol. Collect.* **124**, 1–8.
Jacobi, R. 1978. The Mesolithic of Sussex, in P. L. Drewett (ed.), *Archaeology in Sussex to AD 1500*. CBA Research Reports **29**, 15–22.
Keef, P. A. M., Wymer, J. J. & Dimpleby, G. W. 1965. A Mesolithic site on Iping Common, Sussex, England, *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* **31**, 85–92.

Of the assemblage, some 30 pieces are probably of Mesolithic date as they are soft-hammer struck and have prepared platforms. Other pieces of debitage and the majority of the scrapers are likely to be of later Neolithic or Bronze Age date. The single leaf-shaped arrowhead (Fig. 1) suggests early Neolithic activity, whilst the polished axe and oblique arrowhead are likely to be from the later Neolithic.

Several other pieces of flintwork were found by farmers in the Paddockhurst and Worth area during the 1970s, but were not available for examination by the author. They include two polished axes, one of which was broken and the other partially re-flaked; a Mesolithic tranchet axe; two barbed-and-tanged arrowheads and a large flake ‘scraping tool’ (Maclean 1996).

Prehistoric flintwork from the Paddockhurst estate, Worth, West Sussex

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For a number of years during the 1970s and 80s, prehistoric flint artefacts were recovered on the Paddockhurst estate by the gamekeepers — especially Mr Millham. The flintwork (Table 1) was mainly found in the area of Paddockhurst Park (TQ3233) and around Worth Abbey, with a few pieces coming from the north side of the B2110, although individual findspots were not recorded.

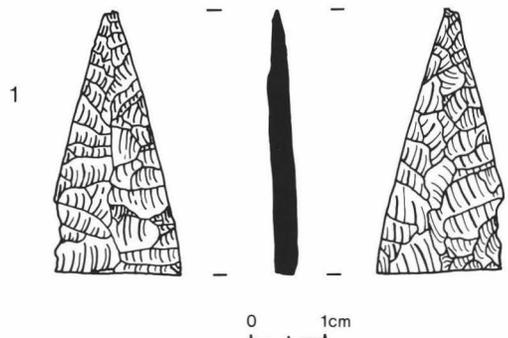


Fig. 1. Leaf-shaped arrowhead.

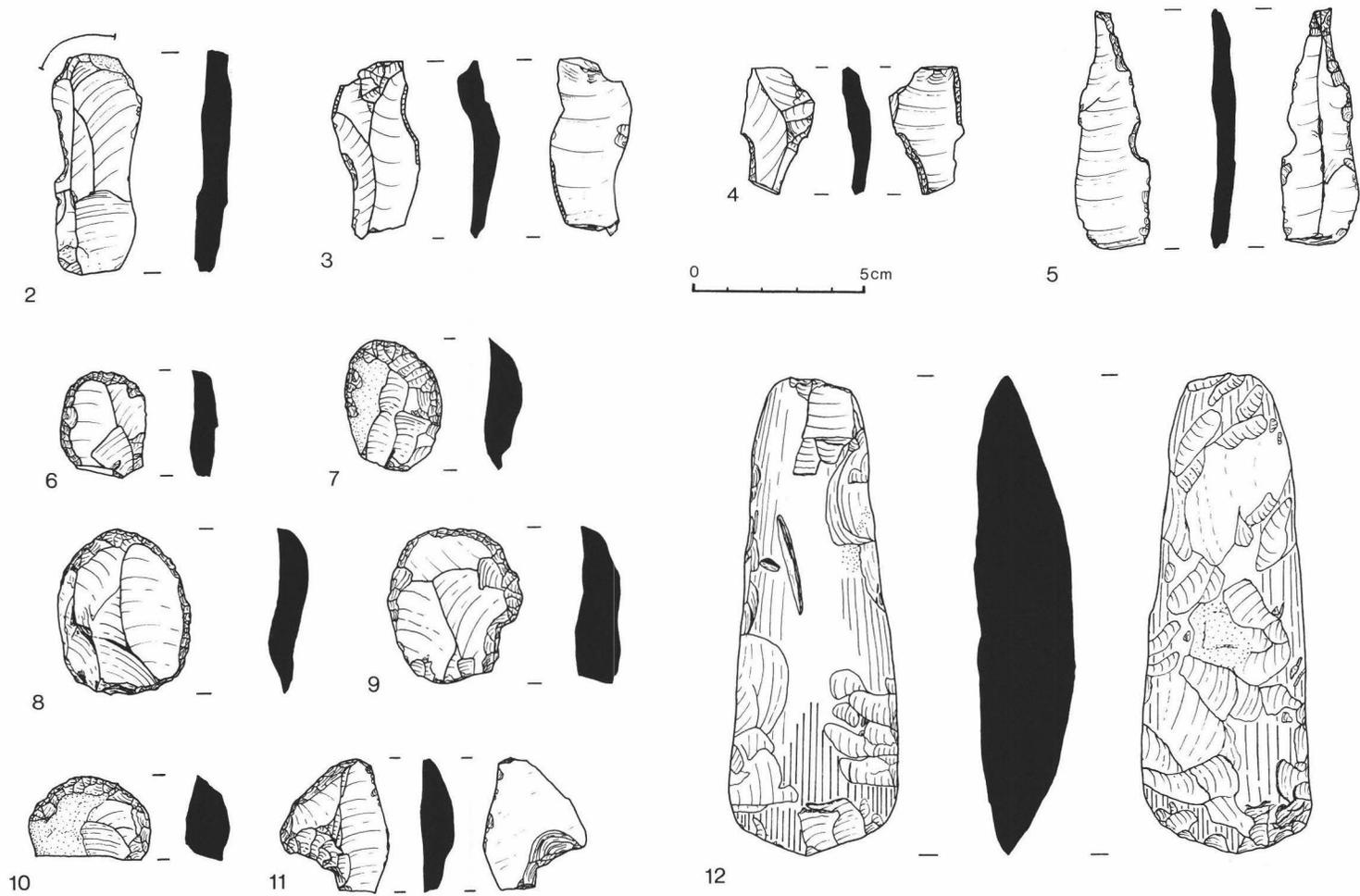


Fig. 2. Retouched flints from the Paddockhurst area.

Table 1. Flintwork from Paddockhurst estate.

Hard-hammer struck flakes	35
Soft-hammer struck flakes	16
Hard-hammer struck blades	05
Soft-hammer struck blades	09
Retouched hard-hammer struck flakes	02
Retouched hard-hammer struck blade	01
Flake/blade fragments	11
Shattered pieces	04
Soft-hammer struck axe-thinning flakes	03
End scrapers	06
Leaf-shaped arrowhead	01
Oblique arrowhead	01
Polished axe	01
Total	95

ILLUSTRATED FLINTWORK (Figs 1 & 2)

1. Leaf-shaped arrowhead. Retouched over both sides. Damaged in antiquity: has a broken tip, and the base appears to have been snapped off; there is also damage on one edge towards the base. Surviving dimensions are: 34 mm in length, 17 mm in width. Despite the damage, it is likely that this arrowhead fits Green's Type 3B category (Green 1984).
2. End scraper on a blade. Probably hard-hammer struck, although the bulb has been removed. Retouched around distal end.
3. Retouched hard-hammer struck flake, possibly intended as a cutting flake. Retouched along the majority of one edge on alternate sides, with the other edge being partially retouched.
4. Retouched hard-hammer struck flake. One edge partially retouched, and the other retouched along most of one edge, but on alternate sides. The distal end has been removed.
5. Retouched blade. The proximal end is probably the working end — both edges having been retouched. The distal end has evidence of abrasion on the edges and ridge and was possibly hafted. There is a notch halfway along one edge. Mesolithic?
6. Small end scraper on a hard-hammer struck flake. Abrupt and semi-abrupt retouch at the end and along one edge.
7. End scraper on a hard-hammer struck flake. Abrupt retouch at the distal end and partially along both edges.
8. End scraper on a hard-hammer struck flake. Abrupt retouch at the distal end and along one edge and the shoulder of the flake.
9. End scraper on a hard-hammer struck flake. Abrupt retouch at the distal end and along one edge. At the proximal end there is abrasion which, with the retouch on the shoulder of the flake, could indicate that it was hafted.
10. End scraper on hard-hammer struck flake. Retouched around its circumference, except for the platform edge.
11. Oblique arrowhead. The tip may have been broken off. There is semi-abrupt retouch along one edge. This piece does seem to be very thick for an arrowhead so although it appears to be the correct shape, its size does raise some doubts as to whether it was ever utilized

as a projectile point.

12. Polished axe. 136.5 mm long, 48 mm wide and 27 mm thick. Weight 202 g. The cutting edge is very damaged, possibly through use. At the opposite end scars and abrasion suggest that the axe may have been hafted. Some flake scars on both sides of the axe were present before it was polished and some of these exhibit a minimal amount of polishing. Others are later and cut the polished areas; they probably result from the axe's use or subsequent modification. Unusually for a polished axe there are some small areas of cortex present. The axe appears to have been manufactured on flint mined from the South Downs.

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A Neolithic axe from Windover Hill

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The axe was recovered from the Clay-with-Flints east of Windover Hill a few hundred metres south of Hunter's Burgh, one of three long barrows in the area. Neolithic activity in this area is also evidenced by the group of flint mines on Windover Hill (Holden 1974, 154) and by the finding of a second axe and of other humanly struck flakes.

The polished flint axe found closely resembles an axe from

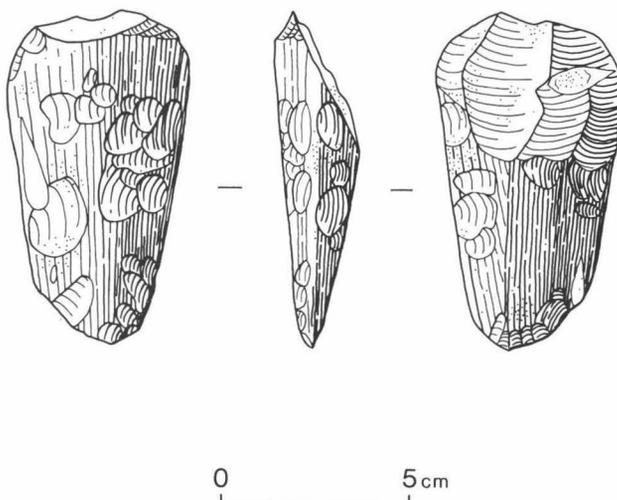


Fig. 1. Neolithic axe from Windover Hill.

excavations on the nearby enclosure of Coombe Hill (Drewett 1994, 15, fig. 12) and it was broken and re-flaked in antiquity, the break being used as a striking platform (Fig. 1). It is of cloudy grey flint, not patinated as occurs with exposure to or burial in alkali-rich deposits, but coloured throughout and it therefore originates from the surface of the Chalk or the Clay-with-Flints itself. The axe shows no sign of recent abrasion and is unlikely to have lain in the ploughsoil for long. The presence of clods of Clay-with-Flint at the findspot may suggest that current ploughing practices have begun to erode archaeological features below the ploughsoil.

Other polished axes utilizing surface flint have been recovered from Rustington (Bell 1977, 29: fig. 13.62) and Bishopstone (Bell 1977, 29: fig. 13.62).

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- Drewett, P. L.** 1994. Dr V. Seton-William's excavations at Combe Hill, 1962, and the role of causewayed enclosures in Sussex, *Sussex Archaeol. Collect.* **134**, 7–24.
- Holden, E. W.** 1974. Flint mines on Windover Hill, Wilmington (TQ 544 034), *Sussex Archaeol. Collect.* **112**, 154.

his section 30 at Hassocks, however, has no flint metallurgy and a distinct earthen agger. Dunning (1925) comments that Vine, writing in the 18th century, records the removal of flint metallurgy from the Roman road south of Burgess Hill to repair the London road in 1779. It is therefore possible that the flint metallurgy from the Roman road at 113 Church Road was removed for a similar purpose, or during more recent building work.

Acknowledgements

The site visits were carried out by Lawrence Gaston. We would like to thank John Mills, the Assistant County Archaeologist for West Sussex, who made all the arrangements for the watching brief, and P. G. Bish Ltd for their cooperation during the work.

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Fieldwork and excavation on the Robertsbridge bypass, 1985

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with contributions by Luke Barber, Caroline Cartwright and Robin Holgate

Fieldwork was undertaken by the Field Archaeology Unit (Institute of Archaeology, University College London) on the line of the Robertsbridge bypass during the late autumn of 1985 as part of the Sussex New Roads Project.¹ At the beginning of the survey all information relating to archaeological sites along the road line was gathered from the sites and monuments record, and by examining aerial photographs. The line of the road was then walked to identify any upstanding earthworks. Trenches were dug by hand at least every 50 m along the roadline and, finally, further trenches were cut in likely areas of archaeological remains. The low densities of artefacts which have been reported in the Weald suggested that trenches at least 2 m square were likely to be necessary to recognize concentrations of finds. There is little information on the breadth of artefact scatters in the area to suggest an appropriate sample interval. A sample distance of 50 m was therefore chosen since it was the smallest interval which would allow, with the labour available, complete coverage of the length of road line (Fig. 1).

Only a single field on the line of the Robertsbridge bypass was under plough in autumn 1985 and this was field-walked. The remainder of the line of the road was examined to locate earthworks and four trenches were excavated across features of potential interest. Trench B was cut across a slight bank in a field to the south of Grove Farm (Fig. 1, point c; Fig. 2). No evidence of an earthwork was found. Further south, two

The Roman road at Burgess Hill

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During September 1996, the Mid Sussex Field Archaeological Team carried out a watching brief during building work on land adjacent to 113 Church Road, Burgess Hill (TQ 312193). Margary (1948) recorded the London–Brighton Roman road as running through this site.

Once the footing trenches had been excavated by machine, it was possible to identify a number of different layers in the revealed sections. Topsoil and a light brown clay layer overlay the agger of the road which was made up of a compact red clay, deepest at the centre and gradually becoming shallower on the north-west side. The east side of the road was outside the area under investigation. Below the central part of the agger was a thin yellow clay with red patches, and the whole agger is laid on a bedding layer of grey clay which itself sits directly on the natural clay subsoil. It was noted that these layers did not occur in the foundation trenches on the north-west side of the site. The direction of the road was thus determined as south-west–north-east.

CONCLUSION

The road's location and orientation is exactly on the line proposed by Margary. However, one significant difference between this section and that excavated by Margary in the Burgess Hill brickworks, some 150 metres to the south-west, is the lack of flint metallurgy recorded at 113 Church Road.

The section (31) recorded by Margary in the brickworks shows a layer of flint metallurgy lying directly on the subsoil;

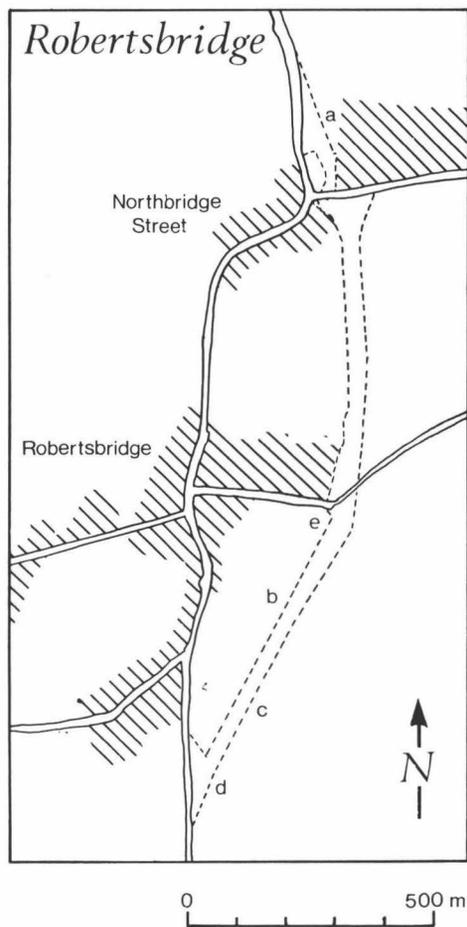


Fig. 1. Robertsbridge bypass. Areas examined in fieldwork.

trenches (A and D) were dug across the site of a post-medieval wayside cottage identified from documentary sources (Fig. 1, point d; Fig. 3). No structural remains were found. The earliest pottery discovered were two pieces of hard-fired local earthenware. Sherds of Sussex Ware, salt-glazed pottery and transfer-printed china show a continuing use of the site until the 19th century.

On a steep slope to the east of Northbridge Street a platform measuring about 8.5 m wide but of an uncertain length was identified (Fig. 1, point a). This was sectioned with a hand-dug trench 19 m long and 1 m wide (trench O, Figs 4a & 5). No structural evidence was found, though the make-up of the bank (10, 17) included small quantities of late medieval pottery. Above the platform at the end of the trench a ditch (19) containing medieval pottery was recorded. It had been buried either by dumped soil or colluvium. At the rear of the platform were two intercut ditches (21, 22) and in the earlier (22) a substantial part of the base of a knife-trimmed jug or cistern of 15th- or early 16th-century date was found. These ditches had been cut through a layer (10) containing Spilstead

Ware pottery. In spite of the absence of any evidence for a structure, it seems possible that this earthwork was a building platform constructed in the 15th or 16th century. The ditches at the rear were probably intended to channel water running down the hillslope away from the platform. Unfortunately, no further investigation of this site was possible with the resources available.

Test-pits were carefully dug by hand at 50-metre intervals along the remainder of the road line, where access could be obtained. The areas investigated are shown on Figure 1 (points a-e). The soil, which was heavy clay could not be sieved. In the fields to the east and south of Grove Farm a scatter of late medieval and post-medieval pottery and a small number of worked flints were found (Fig. 1, point c; Fig. 2, test-pits C, E, F). Eighteenth- and 19th-century pottery was discovered mainly in test-pits C and K, and trench B nearest to Grove Farm, which was presumably its source (Table 3, microfiche).

Concentrations of medieval pottery were found in Test-pits G and I (Fig. 3; Table 3, microfiche). Trench G lay directly over a medieval ditch (context 5) containing 14th-century pottery, charcoal and fragments of burnt clay. A thick layer (4) of burnt clay was found in trench I (Fig. 3) together with a considerable quantity of late 13th- or 14th-century pottery. Between these two squares lay test-pit H which, rather surprisingly, contained only two pieces of medieval pottery, and trench F which lay to the north in the adjoining field had a single sherd (Fig. 2). Trench J to the south of I was situated in a hollow which may have been dug for clay and consequently had removed all archaeological deposits. Small quantities of iron slag were also found in trenches G and H. Test-pits L, M and N to the north-west of Grove Farm (Fig. 1, point b; Fig. 4) contained relatively low quantities of medieval pottery.

The only field under plough in autumn 1985 to which access could be obtained was Fair Field to the east of Robertsbridge village (Fig. 1, point e). As the name implies this was the site of Robertsbridge fair. The field was walked in lines 5m apart and the finds collected in 25 m squares aligned to the National Grid. Only 11 sherds of pottery were recovered, the majority of which were medieval (for details, see Table 4, microfiche).

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

The settlement of Robertsbridge developed around the original site of the abbey on a spur projecting into the Rother valley. The abbot was granted a market and fair here in 1225, though it was rescinded the following month and a new grant was made in 1253.² A village seems to have developed during the 13th century and the earliest rental of 1280 X 93 records a series of tenements.³ Martin and Martin have suggested that the north-south road which originally crossed the River Rother south of Salehurst was diverted westwards to pass over the river and go through Robertsbridge.⁴ The settlement of Northbridge Street developed on the north side of the new crossing point as the village of Salehurst declined with the loss of passing trade.

A second wave of settlement occurred in the 16th century as the population began to rise. Cottages were constructed by poor labourers on plots of waste by the road side. Though rare in the early 16th century, they increased in number during the following 150 years.⁵ Some wayside cottages are shown to the south of Robertsbridge on a plan of 1732, including one on the line of the new road to the west of Highland Field in a

Robertsbridge Bypass

c

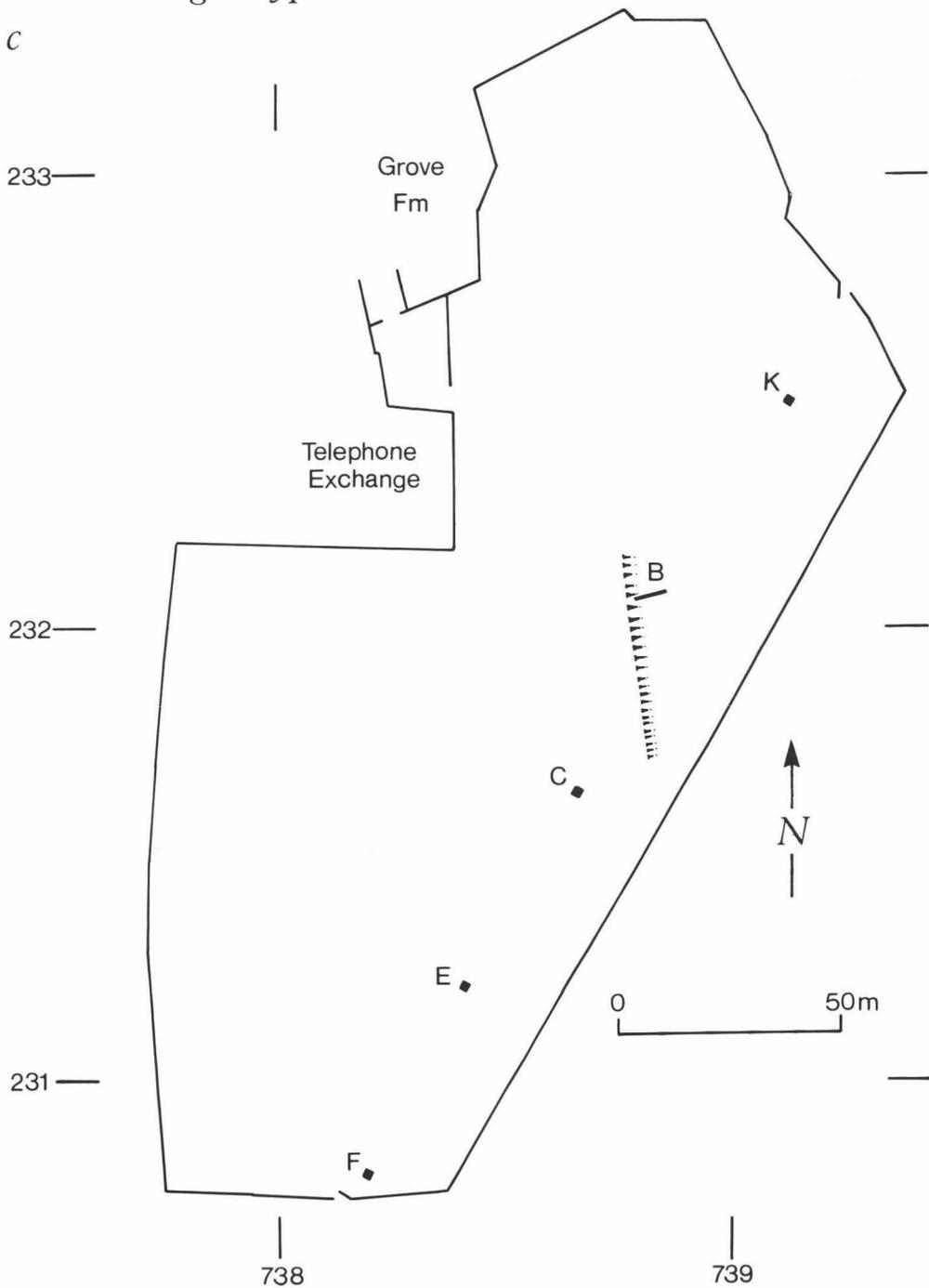


Fig. 2. Location of trenches. Field to the south of Grove Farm, Robertsbridge.

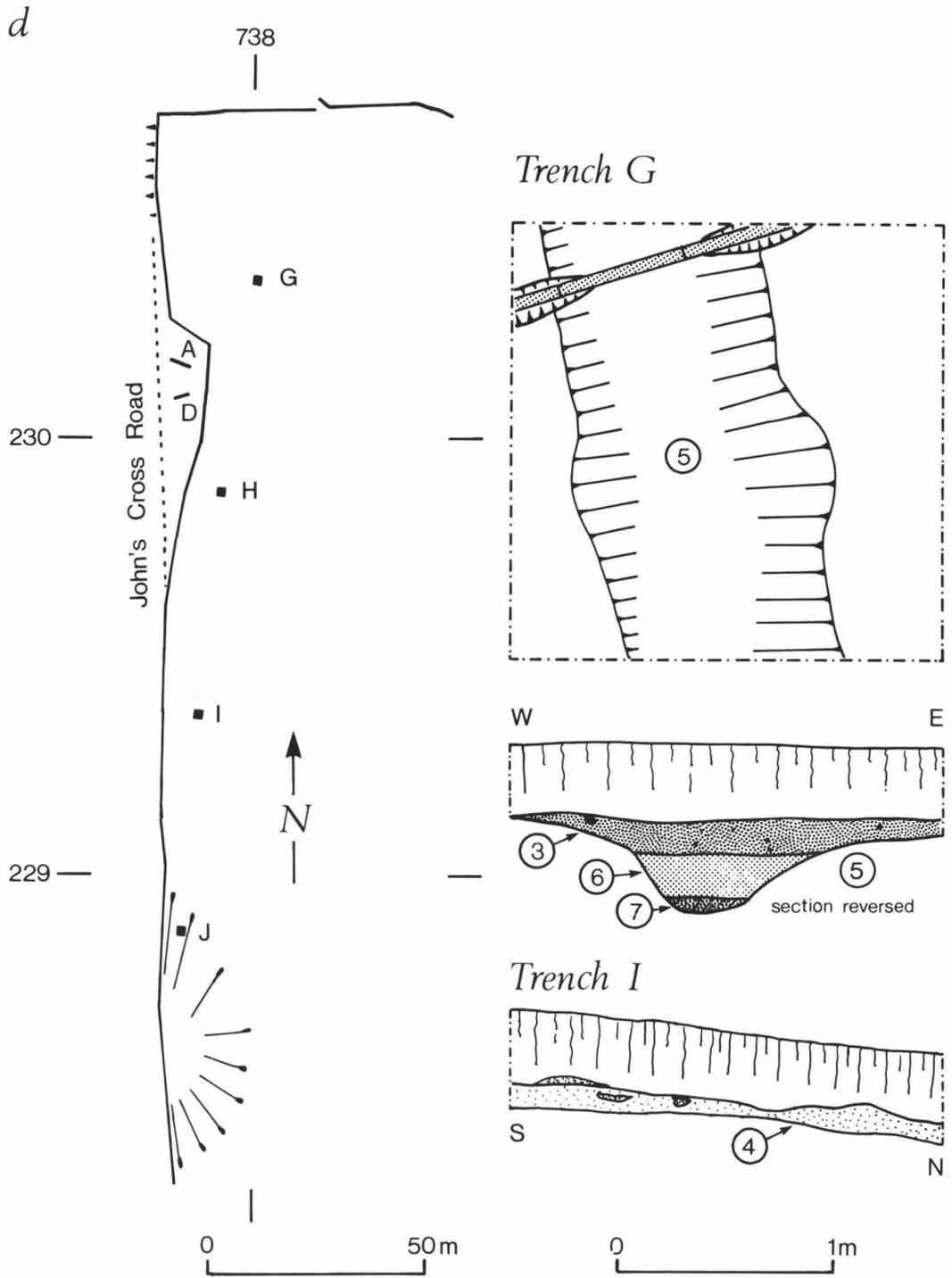


Fig. 3. Location map with plans and sections of trenches. Field adjoining John's Cross Road, Robertsbridge.

former quarry, which was investigated by excavation.⁶ The cottage is mentioned in documents in 1792 and 1824 and it shown in the tithe map of c. 1841, but had gone by 1873 when the Ordnance Survey first-edition 25-inch map was published.⁷

The building platform investigated near Northbridge Street lies in a tenement of seven acres called Kempes which had a house and barn standing on it in 1658.⁸ A map of 1750 shows the buildings at that time stood at the bottom of the valley near the junction of Church Road and Northbridge Street.⁹ The present site is particularly wet and an earlier building may have been situated on the better drained hillslope.

THE FINDS

MEDIEVAL POTTERY

The pottery from test-pits G and I was divided into broad groups by fabric using a hand lens where necessary. None of the sherds is worthy of illustration, but reference is made to comparable profiles published elsewhere.

The following fabrics were identified:

Flint-tempered ware — grey core with red-brown surfaces either oxidized orange-brown or reduced to dull black; harsh texture, rough fracture; common medium and some coarse water-rounded flint fragments with some sand quartz temper; occasional voids from calcareous inclusions dissolved out; probably coil-built with wipe marks on both exterior and interior. Crude, broad horizontal comb decoration occurs on two joining sherds.

Hard-fired flint-tempered ware — grey core with light grey surfaces and sometimes red-brown margins; hard fairly smooth texture, harsh fracture; fine or medium quartz sand temper with moderate to sparse sub-angular flint and sparse shell and ironstone.

Black and Shelly Black ware formerly called 'Winchelsea Black' — it has been described by Barton.¹⁰

Sand and shell-tempered ware — grey or buff core with reduced surfaces; sandy to feel with harsh, occasionally laminar fracture; fine or medium sand quartz temper with broken shell or plate-like voids where it has been dissolved out.

Sand and grog-tempered ware — see Park Farm, Salehurst, 'Fabric 4'.¹¹

Sandy ware — covers all other sand-tempered wares not otherwise categorized.

Spilstead Farm ware — see Park Farm, Salehurst, 'Fabric 11'.¹²

Flint-tempered wares have been shown at Winchelsea and Battle Abbey to continue after 1300, though at the latter they constituted a declining component of the 14th-century assemblage.¹³ They formed less than one per cent of the late medieval assemblage at Winchelsea¹⁴ and the presence of a reasonable quantity of flint-tempered ware in trench I may therefore suggest an earlier date.

At Battle shell-tempered Black ware is present from the early 13th century, but becomes more common later. The pottery in this fabric from Robertsbridge is mainly from cooking or storage vessels which commonly have distinctive

broad flanged rims comparable with finds from Whitefield Wood (Battle) and Bayham Abbey.¹⁵

The grog-tempered sandy ware was found in trench G and elsewhere on the Robertsbridge bypass. Although the sandy pottery made at Bohemia Ground, Hastings include a proportion of grog, it seems unlikely these are from that source because they lack the water-rounded grey flint inclusions characteristic of the Hastings finds. The origin and distribution of this ware remains uncertain.

Table 1. Pottery from test-pits G and I by weight (grams).

Test-pit/ Context	G1	G3	G6	G7	I4a	I4b	Total
Flint-tempered	—	5	—	—	113	18	136
Hard flint-tempered	—	6	3	—	67	67	143
Shelly Black	119	—	25	—	220	88	452
Black	30	69	26	2	38	12	177
Sand and Shell	—	11	—	30	—	—	41
Sand and Grog	—	2	14	—	—	—	16
Sandy	28	6	4	—	64	25	127
Spilstead	35	—	—	—	10	—	45
Total	212	99	72	32	512	210	1137

CLAY PIPES

Identifications by Luke Barber
A substantial number of stems and two pipe bowls were recovered from test-pit K. The test-pit was near Grove Farm and the pipes presumably originated there:

Spur lettered 'IJ' and bowl stamped 'JEWSTER LONDON'. John Jewster is recorded as a pipemaker at Borough in London between 1806 and 1862.¹⁶

Bowl with decoration of foliage and flowers. No initials. Late 18th or 19th century.

From field-walking in Fair Field:

A bowl fragment stamped on spur 'WN' or 'WM'. If the former, the maker is probably William Neeve of Lewes (1790–92).¹⁷

WORKED FLINT

By Robin Holgate
A total of twelve pieces were recovered (Table 2). The flint is grey or brown with cream cherty mottles; one piece has a faint blue-white patination. Some of the flint consists of water-rolled pebbles, perhaps deriving from the coast. The rest could come either from Greensand or downland sources.

Table 2. The worked flint.

Trench/ Test-pit and context	Flakes	Mesolithic blade/ bladelet	Mesolithic utilized blade	Total
B/10	1	2	—	3
C/1	1	—	—	1
G/1	1	—	—	1
H/1	1	—	—	1
I/4	1	—	—	1
O/8	—	2	—	2
P/1	1	1	1	3
Total	6	5	1	12

Robertsbridge Bypass

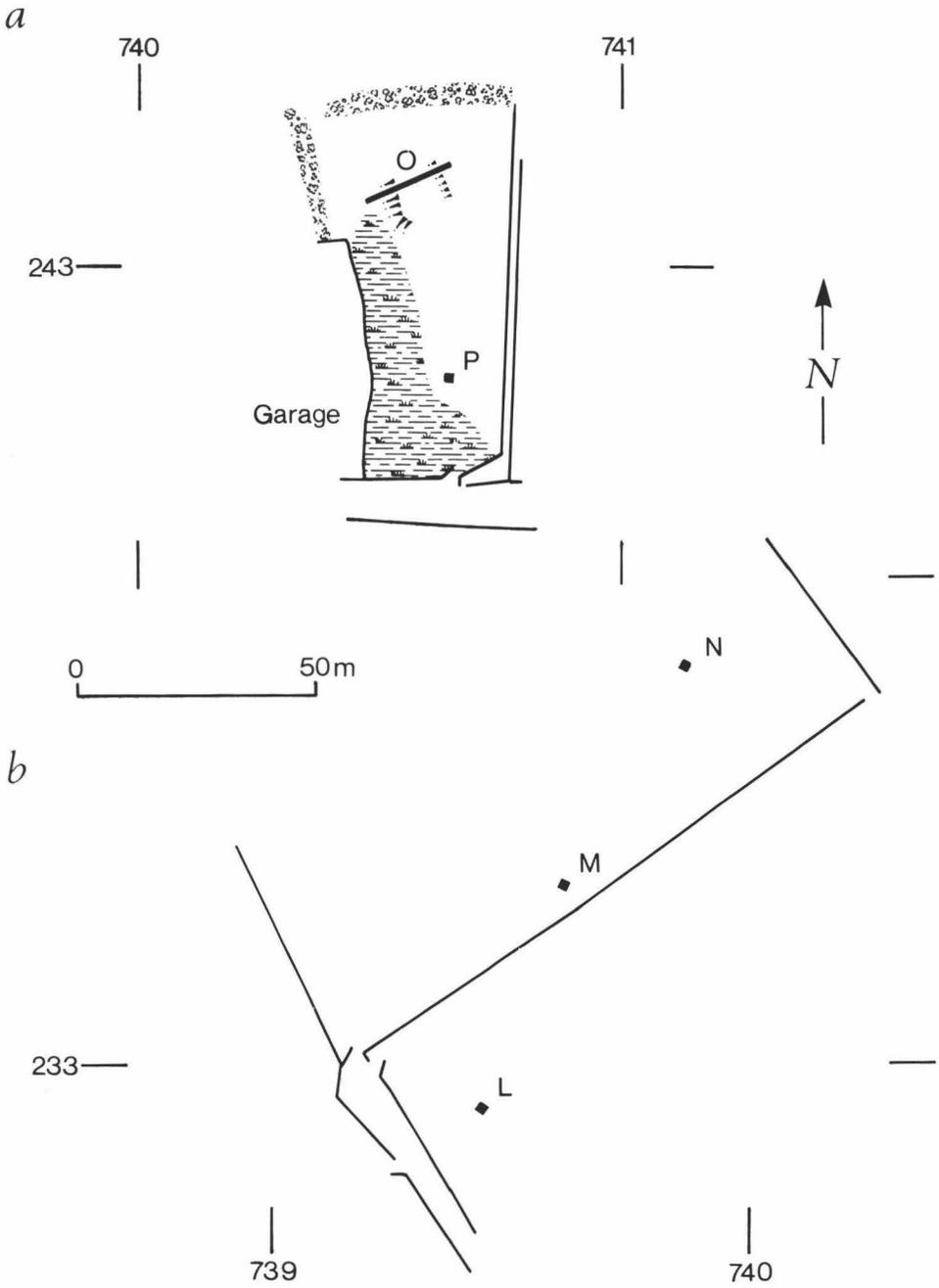


Fig. 4. Location of trenches: a. field at Northbridge Street, b. field south of Fair Field.

Half of the flints are Mesolithic blades/bladelets, one of which has a ground edge produced through use. The remaining flints could date to any period in prehistory.

CHARCOAL By Caroline Cartwright

A total of 37.5 g of charcoal was recovered from three contexts in test-pits G and I (Table 3 microfiche). Beech, oak and apple/pear predominate, whilst elm, clematis, broom, ash, *Prunus*, gorse and hazel form the remainder. As contextual information is limited, interpretation of the charcoal fragments is restricted. It seems that the fragments, which are mostly twigs, derive from hedgerows.

DISCUSSION

It was possible to identify two sites — an area of 14th-century activity and a 15th- or 16th-century building platform — and recover evidence for off-site activity elsewhere by sectioning likely areas of archaeological interest and by digging test-pits along the line of the road. Both of the sites identified were worthy of further investigation, although that was not possible with the resources available. The interpretation of the two sites is not entirely satisfactory.

Test-pits G and I in Highland Field to the south of Grove Farm both produced significant quantities of 14th-century pottery. The small number of finds in the intervening square H may indicate two quite separate sites. The nature of the activity represented by these remains is not certain. It is notable that the ditch in test-pits G runs parallel to the road and it is possible that it was the rear boundary of a message. The charcoal found in the test-pit I is an unusual assemblage, not only because it seems to be formed of hedgerow vegetation, but also because it comprises both calcicoles, such as clematis, as well as plants better suited to the local acid soils.

The 16th-century surveys recording Robertsbridge and Northbridge Street show that both settlements extended further along the roads than at present.¹⁸ On the east side of George Hill the positions of the former buildings have been identified from four platforms.¹⁹ It is suggested that in the 14th century there may have been buildings even further south in Highland Field in the position where remains were found. At Northbridge Street the settlement extended a little to the north up Silver Hill and the building platform examined probably lay at the edge of the village. A timber building on this site would have been constructed on footings of stone, but these may have been removed when the building was demolished. An area excavation of the site, nevertheless, might have been able to recover evidence of the building plan.

NOTES

¹ Earlier reports in the project were: R. D. C. Holgate, 'Excavations at Halt Mesolithic site, near Horsham, West Sussex, 1985', *Sussex Archaeol. Collect.* **125** (1987), 33–9; R. D. C. Holgate, 'Field survey of the Pyecombe to Warninglid A23 extension, West Sussex', *Sussex Archaeol. Collect.* **125** (1987), 226–8; R. D. C. Holgate, 'The excavation of a late medieval hall-house at Brook Lane, near Horsham, West Sussex', *Sussex Archaeol. Collect.* **127** (1989), 123–31; M. Gardiner & S. Hamilton, 'Knapp Farm, Bosham: a significant find of Bronze Age pottery', *Sussex*

Archaeol. Collect. **135** (1997), 71–91.

² *Rotuli Litterarum Clausarum in Turri Londinensi* 2, 14, 16; *Calendar of Patent. Rolls 1461–7*, 408.

³ M. F. Gardiner, *Medieval Settlement and Society in the Eastern Sussex Weald before 1420* (Unpubl. Ph.D. thesis, University of London, 1995), 149.

⁴ D. & B. Martin, 'An architectural history of Northbridge and Salehurst villages', *Historic Buildings in Eastern Sussex* **2**(1) (Robertsbridge, 1980).

⁵ C. E. Brent, 'Rural employment and population in Sussex between 1550 and 1640, part 2', *Sussex Archaeol. Collect.* **116** (1978), 51; D. & B. Martin, *Historic Buildings in Eastern Sussex* **1** (Robertsbridge, 1977–80), 6–8.

⁶ E(ast) S(ussex) R(ecord) O(ffice), ACC 4728 (6).

⁷ ESRO, ALF 3/57; ALF 10/6; TD/E 86, parcel no. 603.

⁸ *The Manor of Etchingham cum Salehurst*, ed. S. P. Vivian (Sussex Record Society **53** (1953)), 128.

⁹ ESRO, SHE 7/3. The dating of this rental is discussed in Gardiner, *Medieval Settlement and Society*, 156.

¹⁰ K. Barton, *Medieval Sussex Pottery* (Chichester, 1979), 118–20.

¹¹ M. F. Gardiner, G. Jones & D. Martin, 'The excavation of a medieval aisled hall at Park Farm, Salehurst, East Sussex', *Sussex Archaeol. Collect.* **129** (1991), 92.

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ A. D. F. Streeten, 'Pottery', in J. N. Hare, *Battle Abbey: the Eastern Range and the Excavations of 1978–80* (Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission, Archaeological Report **2**) (London, 1985), 122.

¹⁴ C. Orton, 'Pottery from Winchelsea', in D. Rudling, 'Excavations at Winchelsea' (forthcoming).

¹⁵ G. Jones, 'Archaeological observation of the Mountfield to Hastings water pumping main pipeline, East Sussex', *Sussex Archaeol. Collect.* **123** (1985), fig. 3, nos 450–53; A. D. F. Streeten, *Bayham Abbey: Recent Research, Including a Report on Excavations (1973–76)* (Sussex Archaeological Society monograph **2**) (Lewes, 1983), fig. 41, no. 4.

¹⁶ D. R. Atkinson & A. Oswald, 'London clay tobacco pipes', *Journal of the British Archaeological Association* 3rd ser. **32** (1969), 221.

¹⁷ D. R. Atkinson, 'A new list of Sussex pipemakers', *Sussex Archaeol. Collect.* **110** (1972), 42.

¹⁸ D. & B. Martin, *An Architectural History of Robertsbridge* (Hastings Area Archaeological Papers **5**) (Robertsbridge, 1974); D. & B. Martin, 'An architectural history of Northbridge and Salehurst villages'.

¹⁹ D. Martin, 'Robertsbridge village (TQ738233)', *Sussex Archaeol. Collect.* **111** (1973), 114.

A seal-matrix from Tarring, West Sussex: a supplementary note

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A brief account of a medieval circular lead seal-matrix found in Tarring, West Sussex, was recently published in the *Sussex Archaeological Collections* (White 1994). This seal-matrix, decorated with an incised crescent which partly encloses what

is described as an eight-pointed star, bears the Lombardic inscription +S': AVICE: UXORIS : FRANC (the seal of Avice, wife of Francis).

I would suggest this matrix depicts the sun and the moon, a popular medieval seal design often found in non-heraldic personal seals from the late 12th century to the end of the 13th century (Harvey 1996; Rigold 1977; Spencer 1984; Warren 1996); it seems likely that these seal-matrices were mass-produced (Wise 1994). The lack of variation in the decoration of these personal seals — it is unlikely that the decoration has heraldic significance (Abbot 1994; Scott-Giles 1958) — suggests that a matrix-maker produced a standard series of seal designs (Harvey 1996). For example, all of the 50 or so seals on a document of Ranulph, Earl of Chester, bear one of two designs (PRO DL27/270). Space was left on the mass-produced matrix for an inscription, almost invariably the owner's name, but these seals seldom include a title or give any indication of the owner's status.

In the 13th century small landowners and even villeins — those of unfree legal status — had their own seals (Record Commission 1810; Hilton 1975), despite the relatively small volume of written business they would have encountered (Jenkinson 1937). Seal use spread rapidly by the early 13th century, when anyone who had free land or other properties to convey needed a seal (Harvey 1996), although not necessarily his or her own (Rigold 1977; Ellis 1978).

The large number of women with their own seals — one-fourth of a random sample of 44 named seals bore a woman's name (Rigold 1977) — may indicate that more women held land in their own right than previously believed; of the 74 seals belonging to or used by women catalogued in Ellis (1978), 45 belonged to women described as wives, whilst only 17 belonged to widows or former wives.

Circular matrices like that found at Tarring, classified by Rigold as Series I, are less common than those of the 'pointed oval' (almond, or *vesica piscis*) shape (Rigold 1977; Jenkinson 1937). The Tarring matrix is unusual in that there is a cast suspension loop at the top of the reverse, as most matrices of this type have a projection off the circumference; the reverse is usually decorated as well (Rigold 1977; Spencer 1984).

The vernacular treatment of both the motifs and the lettering make precise stylistic dating difficult. Archaeological context and the documents to which the seals are affixed make it possible to date seal-matrices of this type to the period spanning the late 12th century until the late 13th century, and seldom much afterwards (Rigold 1977), although the sheer number of this type of personal seal is the greatest impediment to their study (Harvey 1996).

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Edmund Scott and Brighton College Chapel: a lost work rediscovered



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Another item can be added to the list of documented works by the Brighton-based architect, Edmund Scott (1828–1895) whose career still awaits scholarly consideration, let alone a *catalogue raisonné*. Reference to the indexes of standard works will produce a corpus of just 13 commissions.¹ More than half of the resulting buildings have been demolished and Scott is remembered today only for his superlative St Bartholomew, Ann Street, Brighton. The newly discovered Scott project is his refitting of the sanctuary of Brighton College chapel, which came to light in 1993 during research carried out for the sesquicentenary history of the school.

Erected in 1859 by the prolific Sir George Gilbert Scott R. A. (1811–1878; no relation), Brighton College chapel was originally a prim edifice largely devoid of carved stonework and totally without the encaustic tiles, stained glass or coloured marbles so frequently associated with Victorian church interiors. The reason for this was not so much the staunch Church-Evangelical nature of the school's Anglican foundation as a severe shortage of funds. Three times the great Scott was required to pare down his design, finally being set a maximum budget of £3000.²

His austere church interior was not to last long. The *Brighton College Magazine* of April 1875 reported the establishing of a 'Chapel Decoration Fund . . . to refit and decorate the east end of the College Chapel', declaring that 'the present furniture is much damaged by the lapse of time and wear, and perhaps has never been quite worthy of the school'. Architect's drawings had been prepared and, estimated to require £200, the works were to be paid for is possible by voluntary subscription; 'this will be the better course', declared the magazine.³

A mere 16 years seems hardly sufficient for the dereliction suggested. More than likely, this was no more than an excuse

to upgrade the chancel in line with another decorative scheme already under way: the gradual filling of the windows with stained glass (executed by Clayton & Bell, 1871–77). The College was then somewhat more prosperous. Certainly it had strong ambitions and loudly asserted its public school status.

Subscriptions would, in the words of the magazine, ‘have a double value as a memorial of the past and as an encouragement for the present’. As with so much church refitting from the 1860s onwards, we should probably also detect here the near-universal impact of the Tractarians on ecclesiological sensibilities throughout the Church of England, and beyond. Much had changed in the 30 years since Newman’s defection to Rome and the foundation of Brighton College (1845).

On 5 April 1875 the College Council gave its approval to the Fund.⁴ Neither the drawings nor any correspondence survive in the extensive College archives, but the magazine explained what was proposed: the laying of a tiled pavement, the installation of ‘somewhat more elaborate panelling’, the replacement of the lectern and reading desk ‘by handsomer ones’ (sic), and ‘the colouring of the wall’. The magazine also informed its readers that ‘Mr Scott has carefully kept in view the general simplicity of the building, and no alteration is contemplated that would in the least interfere with the old and cherished associations of the place’. Rather, the changes

were intended ‘to add to the elevating influences that centre within its walls’. Was this a sop to the first generation of sentimental old boys or a reassurance that the Protestant heritage rooted in the College foundation was not in jeopardy from the creator of St Bartholomews, the architect to Father Wagner?

The old lectern and desk were not in fact ejected. Neither was any painted decoration applied to the chancel. But photographs (see Fig. 1) do reveal alterations to the second altar step and the insertion of a third, as well as the laying of encaustic tiles throughout the sanctuary. They also show that the new carved oak panelling was fixed only to the chancel’s east wall, forming an arcade of blind tracery behind the altar. Thus modified, the scheme cost £142. The Fund was still open in January 1876, but it is not certain when the work was executed; extraordinarily, the school magazine failed to record it. Fortunately, an illustration in *The Graphic* in November 1883 fixes a *terminus ante quem*.⁵

Why Edmund Scott was given the commission is far from clear. As architect to Brighton College since 1848, Sir George Gilbert should have had the job, but there is no record of his having been offered it. Brighton then housed several established practices besides that of Edmund Scott. Indeed, when Revd Dr Charles Bigg (principal 1871–81) wanted a new boarding house designed in 1879, he went to George Somers



Fig. 1. The sanctuary of Brighton College Chapel.

Clarke.⁶ Four years earlier, however, it was to the other high-profile local architect that Bigg had gone. The magazine then described Edmund Scott as 'an architect of tried ability and taste'. He had just finished St Bartholomew (1872–74), rebuilt St James, St James' Street (1874–75) and was building St Botolph, Heene, West Worthing (1872–79). In 1879 he would remodel St George, Carlton Hill and add a new chancel to All Souls, Eastern Road. In 1881–82 he extended the Church of the Annunciation, Washington Street. These are the Brighton works which provide the context for his work at the College, although we cannot yet fit it precisely within the sequence.

Of Scott's refurbished sanctuary nothing now remains, everything having been swept away in 1922–23 when Sir Thomas Graham Jackson R. A. (1835–1924) demolished the east end to build a war memorial extension.

NOTES

- 1 T. Carder, *The Encyclopaedia of Brighton* (Lewes: East Sussex County Libraries, 1990); A. Dale, *Brighton Churches* (London: Routledge, 1989); I. Nairn & N. Pevsner, *The Buildings of England: Sussex* (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1965).
- 2 M. D. W. Jones, *Brighton College 1845–1995* (Chichester: Phillimore, 1995), 25–7, 50–51.
- 3 *Brighton College Magazine*, April 1875, 79; July 1875, 134.
- 4 Brighton College Archives (hereafter BCA), 316, Council Minute Book III (1866–76), 311, 350.
- 5 BCA 94/25 (chapel photographs). See Jones p. 51 for Gilbert Scott's original interior and Jones p. 156 for the engraving published in *The Graphic* of 24 November 1883.
- 6 Jones, 62–3.

Caves while she was staying at Goodwood:

10 March 1893. After luncheon Evelyn [Gordon Lennox], Violet [Gordon Lennox], Leonard Brassey and I walked to see some pre-historic caves that have been dug out of one of the hills, leaving the engaged couple [Charles Gordon Lennox, Lord Settrington, and Hilda Britson] to their own devices. The cave consists of a tunnel 30 yds long, down which you walk doubled up, till you reach a small chamber in which you can stand upright. It is supposed to have been inhabited by ancient Britons, & a few ornaments have been found. It seems to have been opened before. We met a detachment of Councillors & Councillresses there.⁵

West Sussex County Council met at the Assembly Rooms in North Street, Chichester on 10 March 1893 with the 6th Duke of Richmond in the chair. Unfortunately, neither the records of the County Council nor local newspapers mention a post-prandial visit to the caves.

Dawson had concluded that 'the Lavant Caves may have formed part of an early British (or Celtic) settlement'. It was not until 1916 that Hadrian Allcroft suggested that the caves may originally have been flint mines.⁶ The suggestion was confirmed authoritatively by Cecil Curwen in 1928.⁷

NOTES

- 1 A. Hadrian Allcroft, 'Some earthworks of West Sussex', in *Sussex Archaeol. Collect.* **57** (1916), 65–90; E. Eliot Curwen, 'The Lavant caves, Chichester', in *Sussex Notes and Queries* **2** (1928), 81; *Prehistoric Sussex* (1929), 15 and *The Archaeology of Sussex* (1954), 121; Timothy J. McCann, 'Charles Dawson and the Lavant caves', in *S(ussex) A(rchaeological) S(ociety) N(ewsletter)* **33** (1981), 234 and E. W. Holden, 'The Lavant caves', in *SASN* **34** (1981), 244.
- 2 *Sussex Daily News*, 11 August 1893.
- 3 For example, John Sawyer, 'Discovery of vaves at Lavant, Sussex', in *Antiquary* **28** (1893), 22, 160; *The Daily Graphic*, 6 April 1895 (with illustrations); and George Clinch's summary in *The Victoria History of the County of Sussex* **1** (1905), 326, 327 (with plan by John Lewis).
- 4 W(est) S(ussex) R(ecord) O(ffice), Goodwood MS. 1928.
- 5 W.S.R.O., Maxse MSS, uncatalogued 2.
- 6 A. Hadrian Allcroft, *ibid.*, 68–74.
- 7 E. Cecil Curwen, 'The Lavant caves, Chichester', in *Sussex Notes and Queries* **2** (1928), 81.

The Lavant Caves revisited

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The published literature on the Lavant Caves is so meagre¹ that any description of the site is worth recording. Shortly after the discovery, in 1890, of some subterranean passages on the property of Mr D. Waddington at Hayes Down in East Lavant near Chichester, the site was excavated by Charles Dawson and John Lewis at the request and at the expense of the 6th Duke of Richmond. No report of the excavation was ever published, though Dawson's paper, based on the results so far obtained, was reported in the *Sussex Daily News*,² and discussed in a number of publications,³ and the manuscript report of his work on the Caves is now among the Goodwood Archives in the West Sussex Record Office.⁴

One of the reasons why Dawson did not publish his excavation report was that once the Caves had been opened up, they began to fall in rapidly, and all excavation ceased because of the danger involved. Dawson began his excavation early in 1893, and we are fortunate in having a contemporary description of a visit to the site. Mary Wyndham, the daughter of the 2nd Lord Leconfield, recorded in her diary a visit to the

Cules: a Sussex variant

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Man, I dare challenge thee to throw the Sledge,
To jumpe, or leape ouer Ditch or Hedge;
To Wrastle, play at Stoole-ball, or to Runne;
To pitch the Bar, or to shoote off a Gunne;
To play at Loggets, Nine-boles, or Ten-pinnes
To try it out at foot-ball by the shinnes.¹

By the beginning of the 17th century a large number of games and sports, such as cricket, stoolball, football, bowls and running, were popular in the countryside.² West Sussex Record Office research projects on the records of the church courts have brought to light references to a Sussex variant of one of these games centred on the neighbourhood of Chichester in the first two decades of the century.

John Marke was presented for 'playing at cules on the xth of June [1606] being sabbath day' in the parish of St Pancras, Chichester.³ John Ayling and John Still were presented for 'playing at cules in prayer time' in Oving on 6 September 1608, while John Whether looked on.⁴ John Grigge and John Limberry were presented for 'playing at cules at time of evening prayer' on Sunday 20 June 1613.⁵ They later admitted that they had been present as spectators of 'some who played', and, having confessed their fault after evening prayer in church and having presented a certificate to the court, the case against them was dismissed.

But what was the game that they were playing? A search for 'cules' through dialect dictionaries and glossaries of church court records proved fruitless. Clues were afforded by

contemporary references to ninepins and 'skailles' in the church court records.⁶ The *Oxford English Dictionary* records 'kayles', with other forms such as keyles, keales or cayles, which it describes as 'the set of pins of wood or bone used in a kind of ninepins or skittles; more frequently, the game played with these',⁷ and it seems that 'cules' must be a local variant spelling of the game. So far, the word 'cules' has not been found outside Sussex.

NOTES

¹ Samuel Rowlands, *The Letting of Hymors Blood in the Head-Vaine* (London: W. White, 1611).

² W. C. Hazlitt, *Popular Antiquities* 2 (1870), 284–90.

³ W(est) S(ussex) R(ecord) O(ffice), Ep.III/4/7, f.28r.

⁴ W.S.R.O., Ep. I/17/12 f.192v.

⁵ W.S.R.O., Ep. I/17/15 f.63r.

⁶ W.S.R.O., Ep.I/17/12, f.223r. and 192v. respectively for games at Washington in 1609 and Harting in 1608.

⁷ I am grateful to Juliet Field of the OED for drawing my attention to 'kayles'.