ADS SUPPLEMENT
BRONZE AGE AND IRON AGE OCCUPATION AT CHICHESTER ROAD, SELSEY
by Stephen Hammond and Steve Preston.

DETAILED FEATURE DESCRIPTIONS

PHASE 1: LATE BRONZE AGE

The flint assemblage suggests some activity earlier than the later Bronze Age, and some of the pottery may be Middle Bronze Age (features 1, 2 and 11, in Area C and 7, in Area A), but evidence for occupation prior to Phase 1 is tenuous at best. The likelihood is that Phase 1 represents activity at the very end of the Bronze Age.

The main features assigned to this period are ditches 102, 103, 106, 107 and 109. It is conceivable that ditch 105 was originally cut in this Phase and only its recuts belong in Phase 2. Ditch 107 was 1.83 m wide at slot 514, 0.65 m deep and U-shaped in profile, with two fills, both natural silting. To the west, however, the same line was marked by three separate, smaller cuts (503, 504, 506). These were each no more than 1 m wide and 340mm deep, also filled by natural silting. Ditch 109 was up to 1.23 m wide but only 320mm deep, until its terminus where it deepened to 0.51m. It appeared to be cut by ditch 108, although it is possible it was terminating at approximately this point in any case.

All of the features in Area A, except ditch 108, appear to fall into Phase 1. Fills of ditches 107 and 109 both contained Bronze Age pottery. It is tempting to associate ditch 107 with the Phase-2 ditch 108 to which it ran parallel; however, the pottery suggests they were not contemporary.

Other features in Area A included several shallow pits, little more than scoops, with moderate charcoal and occasionally ash content, which may have been the seats of fires or hearths. The density of burnt flint in these features was also noticeable.

None of the gully features in Area B yielded any dating evidence. However, the prevailing alignment of the linear features (110, 111, 112) was virtually parallel to that of ditches 102, 103 and 106 in Area C, so these can probably safely be considered to have been part of a contemporary landscape. The lines marked by linear features 110 and 111/112 appear to delineate a trackway or droveway some 12 m wide, although there was no sign of any surfacing between them. These slight features were rarely as deep as 100mm and their fills were barely distinguishable from the underlying brickearth. No eastern terminus was located, instead they simply petered out at a dip in the slope. The lack of finds from these features suggests this area was well away from any settlement in this period. Gullies 113 and 114 could have been wheel ruts. Area C provided the greatest concentration of Phase-1 features. Ditches 102 and 106 may originally have been a single feature, cut by Phase 2 ditch 105. Both ditches maintained a width of 1m, although at 0.50 m deep, ditch 106 was deeper than the 300mm averaged by ditch 102; this may be better preservation downslope. The dating of ditch 102 is problematical, as almost every slot across it yielded different pottery, but it is simplest to see it as Late Bronze Age with a tiny amount of intrusive material from the 1st century BC/AD in slot 144. The pottery from ditch 106 is barely datable at all, but probably Bronze Age.

Both north and south of this gully line, but invariably west of ditch 105, a small number of post-oles may belong to this phase. Only rarely can the post-holes be even tentatively dated, but some patterning can be discerned and a number of structures can be suggested (Fig. 4).

Entirely confined to the area north of ditch 102 and west of ditch 105, six pits can confidently be dated to this period, and several more may straddle the phase division. The pits were mainly circular, broad and shallow, although there was so much intercutting that few could be fully defined. Very few finds were recovered from the pits.

PHASE 2: IRON AGE

As with Phase 1, chronological distinctions within the Iron Age period almost certainly exist. All features producing LBA/IA pottery have been assigned to Phase 2 by default; any or all could belong to Phase 1, and it is possible that the two phases are not widely separated; certainly there is no discernible difference in the nature of the site. Only one feature produced pottery characteristic of the end of the Iron Age or early Roman period (the *amphora* from ditch slot 144). This is probably intrusive.

The main features assigned to this period are ditch groups 105 and 108, and curving gullies 100 and 101. Both the main ditches seem consistent with the pattern of land division already established in Phase 1.

In Area A, ditch 108 consistently produced later pottery than ditch 107, so that despite the appearance that these two could have flanked a trackway, it appears that ditch 108 was later. Indeed, slot 516 contained Roman pottery (3 sherds in an otherwise early assemblage), suggesting that it could have remained open beyond the end of the Iron Age. It is more likely that this pottery should be regarded as intrusive, or at least as material that worked into a feature which was no longer functioning. Given its dimensions, ditch 108 also appears a match for ditch 105 far to the south in Area C. There is no evidence that ditch 105 continued so far north, and its projected line would take it to the west of both Areas A and B in any case. Again, ditch 108 was laid out approximately perpendicular to the edge of the gravel terrace, arguing for a consistent pattern in the land divisions here. Among the finds from the fills of ditch 108, a tiny amount of cremated human bone (from two separate slots) is notable.

> In both cases (deposits 572, 574) this was concentrated with other burnt matter (burnt flint, burnt clay, charcoal, ash), but with no sign of *in situ* burning or of special treatment such as a fresh cut. These deposits, with tiny amounts of bone and little other formal treatment, probably represent the secondary deposition of pyre debris rather than primary disposal of the dead.

In Area B, a small number of small pits and post-holes (600, 602, 607, 608), were dug in this period, in an area which had been marginal in Phase 1. Pit 4 contained substantial quantities of carbonized seeds (see below) and has yielded two radiocarbon dates which appear to place it in the 8th century BC (although as late as the middle of the 6th cannot be ruled out).

Ditch 105 actually represents at least three ditches, all cut or recut in the same place. Unfortunately, despite several segments being excavated across this line, nowhere could all of the individual fills or cut lines be distinguished convincingly. It is unclear whether this was a long-lived boundary, or one which was subject to repeated rapid silting and recutting over a shorter period. Its position parallel to the edge of the gravel terrace (on the brickearth or downslope side) would have tended to facilitate very rapid filling, so that a long existence need not necessarily be posited. However, the very mixed nature of the finds assemblages from different sections does suggest that this line was marked and remarked over a lengthy period, probably throughout phases 1 and 2. Even the evidence that this line cut across both ditch 102 and ditch 106 need not necessarily preclude all three of these ditches being contemporary, as originally laid out, since it may have been only the later recuts which truncated ditches 102 and 106. Overall, the cuts of ditch 105 amounted to a width of 4.25 m and depths of typically 1.18 m. Where distinguishable, individual cuts seem to have been no more than 2–2.5 m wide and not all reached 1 m deep.

Curving gullies 100 and 101 are both assigned to this phase (Fig. 4). Gully 100 appears to be the partial remains of an Iron Age roundhouse. It was around 450mm wide and 100mm deep and if complete, would have described a circle of around 10.5 m diameter, possibly with an east-facing porch (although only a single post-hole, 233, was found). A fragment of crucible from slot 205 suggests a metalworking role, although no hearth was found.

Various other structures may be suggested among the post-holes just to the north of 100 (Fig. 4). Gully 101 produced only a single tiny sherd of pottery and is also interpreted as a roundhouse gully. Its projected diameter would have been very comparable to that of gully 100, at 11 to 11.5 m. Thus there is the possibility of a cluster of two large roundhouses and one small forming the settlement nucleus here.

Other post-hole structures can also be posited, both alongside the roundhouses, and further north, including possible four-post structures of the type often interpreted as granaries (Fig. 4), but none of these can be dated. Clustered alongside ditch 105 to its west was a dense mass of intercutting, shallow pits; most of these appear to belong in Phase 1. Only pit 344 at the north of the cluster is more clearly of Iron Age date, while pit 301 at the extreme south of the area, is probably also later than the rest of these features. However, the relationships of all these pits, to one another and to ditch line 105, suggest a long period of essentially the same activity spanning the two phases here. Finds were rare in all of the pits.

ADDITIONAL FINDS REPORTS

ROMAN AND LATER POTTERY *BY JANE TIMBY*

The Roman material included a single amphora rim (Fig 6.14) in what would appear to be a much earlier gully (102, slot 144). The presence of this amphora (most likely Pascual 1; P Tyers and A Desbats pers. comm.) might suggest that some of the Iron Age sherds should be later Iron Age although this was not apparent from either a typological or fabric perspective, equally the amphora sherd might represent an isolated find. Three Roman grey sandy ware sherds with burnished line decoration were recorded from ditch 108 (slot 516) which otherwise only produced 75 flint-tempered later prehistoric sherds (fabrics FL1–

3) and six sherds of fabric S3. Again the Roman sherds should be regarded as intrusive.

Five medieval sherds and one post-medieval sherd were recovered from the evaluation.

HUMAN BONE *BY JACQUELINE I. MCKINLEY*

Cremated human bone was recovered from two contexts (572, 574), both fills of Iron Age ditch 108, amounting to only 44.5g in all. The bone is in relatively good condition, with a slightly worn/abraded appearance and little surviving trabecular bone. Context 574 includes the remains of a minimum of one subadult/adult (>13 yr) individual. Context 572 potentially represents the same individual. Several skeletal elements (6.5g) from a ?sheep were recovered amongst the human bones from a lens in context 574. All the bone – human and animal – is uniformly white, indicative of full oxidation (Holden *et al*. 1995a and b). The maximum fragment size is 36mm, and although the majority of fragments were recovered from the 10-mm sieve fraction, the overall fragment size was relatively low. The presence of moderate amounts of fuel ash and burnt clay within context 574 suggests it represents pyre debris dumped in the ditch after having been cleared from the pyre site.

STRUCK FLINT *BY STEVE FORD*

A modest collection comprising 145 struck flints was recovered. From the presence of remaining cortex, all pieces appear to have been derived from a local gravel source, or more likely, a beach exposure. Many of the cortical pieces show heavy damage, similar to that present on hammerstones. Overall, the collection is too small to benefit from metrical analysis. Few pieces are from securely stratified contexts, and many of these are residual in late features. The largest number of flints from a single context was 13 items from Late Bronze Age/Iron Age pit 310.

Very few of the pieces are chronologically distinctive. The fragments of broken blades are likely to be of Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic date and two knives, including the rare partly edge-polished knife, are likely to be of later Neolithic or earlier Bronze Age date. The remainder range from Mesolithic to Late Bronze Age, although it is likely that most of the material is contemporary with the prehistoric use of the site at the end of this period.

Eleven pits were dated with various levels of confidence to the later Bronze Age (including those with pottery assigned to the 'Late Bronze Age', 'Bronze Age' or 'Bronze Age/Iron Age'). These pits produced a total of 33 items (23 flakes, 1 possible broken blade, 7 spalls, a core and a retouched flake) which were probably broadly contemporary.

Persistent, small-scale use of flint at the end of the Bronze Age is a recurrent theme. Small flint collections, which are basic, but competently knapped with a limited repertoire of types, have been reported elsewhere on the Hampshire/Sussex coastal plain at sites such as Grange Road, Gosport (Hall and Ford **1992)** and Yapton (Rudling 1987) as well as at other, inland sites. It is now well established that flint tools continued to be used alongside bronze ones until the latter were superseded by iron (Ford *et al.* 1984).

METALWORKING DEBRIS *BY LYNNE KEYS*

Very little of the slag was probably produced by iron-working (Table 1). The only certain fragment is that from context (290) which is magnetic. The rest of the assemblage represents debris which could have been produced by various kinds of high-temperature activities, including domestic fires. Some of the cinder is black and glassy; that from ditch 105 is also reddish, which may represent copper oxide produced as copper was being worked.

A crucible fragment was recovered from gully 100. Its exterior has a yellowish tinge.

TABLE 1: Metalworking debris

Feature	*context*	*Date*	*identification*		*weight*	*comment*	
128	158	Post-hole	Prehistoric	vitrified lining	hearth		8
137	167	Pit	Late Bronze Age	fired clay			1
205	191	Gully 100	LBA/IA crucible fragment?		4	yellowish exterior	
211	198	Gully 101	BA/IA	cinder			2
245	277	Ditch 105	LBA/IA	cinder			1
249	282	Ditch	LBA/IA	cinder			1

249	282	Ditch 105	LBA/IA	undiagnostic			14
300	283	Ditch 105	LBA/IA	cinder		6	with black glassy run and CuO?
300	283	Ditch 105	LBA/IA	vitrified hearth lining			44
307	290	Ditch 105	LBA/IA	undiagnostic	6	magnetic	
307	290	Ditch 105	LBA/IA	undiagnostic			2
308	291	Pit	BA/IA	cinder	4	black, glassy	
327	361	Pit	LBA	cinder			1

OTHER FINDS ***BY NICOLA POWELL AND JANE TIMBY***

An unstratified copper-alloy coin is in very poor condition and has not been identified. Two nail fragments, possibly hobnails, were recovered from ditch 102 (slot 136) and one of the five tiny fragments from pit 609 could be the remains of a knife blade. Approximately 160 fragments of fired clay (930g) were recovered from over 30 features. The fabrics are mainly of a fine, powdery texture and orange, pale brown or black with some iron. None of the pieces showed vitrification or other any other features to suggest their original purpose. One large piece of quern, with one smooth, flat surface, weighing in excess of 2000g, was recovered from shallow pit 513 in Area A. A single 4g fragment of the top valve of an oyster shell was recovered from ditch 105. Burnt flint with a total weight of 4123g was recovered from 51 features. There was a slight concentration in Area A (ditches 107, 108 and 109, and pit 512) and another in Area C (ditch 105 and pit 310).

Holden, J. L., Phakley, P. P. and Clement, J. G., 1995, 'Scanning electron microscope observations of incinerated human femoral bone: a case study', *Forensic Science International* **74**, 17–28.

Holden, J. L., Phakley, P. P. and Clement, J. G. 1995, 'Scanning electron microscope observations of heat-treated human bone', *Forensic Science International* **74**, 29–45.