

NOTES

- ¹ Brighton Local Studies Centre, SB352.1 T. Pocock, An equalization of the houses, stables, coachouses and other buildings, Draft MSS 1815,75. *Attree's Topography of Brighton and Picture of the Roads* (London, Longman, 1809), 23. S. Berry *Georgian Brighton* (Chichester:Phillimore, 2005),16–19. West Sussex Record Office (hereafter WSRO) PHA 5958, 6618, 9213. East Sussex Record Office (hereafter ESRO) ACC 7600, R/C/4/135/1–5. HOW/78-82, HOW/83/2. The Earl sold Egremont House in Piccadilly and moved to 4, Grosvenor Place in 1794; see C. Rowell, *Petworth: The people and the place* (London: the National Trust, 2012), 76.
- ² *Morning Herald* 18 Feb 1813. *The Times* 30 April 1836, 18 May 1836. S. Berry 'Places of Worship in Georgian and Regency Brighton and Hove', *The Georgian Group Journal* **XIX** (2011), 163–164. S. Berry, 'The construction of St. Peter's Church, Brighton, c. 1818–1835, *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **148** (2010), 206. WSRO PHA 8532, 8622, 8748, 9213, 10630, 8696, 8694, 11316. ESRO AMS/5552/1, 2. C. Wright, *The Brighton Ambulator* (London: C. Wright, 1818), 105–109.
- ³ Luke Herrmann, 'Turner, Joseph Mallord William (1775–1851), *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004; online edn, Oct 2006 [http://www.oxforddnb.com.ezproxy.londonlibrary.co.uk/view/article/27854, accessed 14 July 2013]. C. Rowell, *Petworth: the people and the place*, 79. J. G. Bishop, *The Brighton Chain Peer in Memoriam, Its History from 1823 to 1896* (Brighton: Author, 1897), Appendix ii.
- ⁴ Wyndham, Col. G., East Lodge, Upper Rock Gardens, *Leppard and Co Brighton Street Directory* (Brighton: Leppard, 1839) 24. Leconfield, Lord, East Lodge, St James's Street, *The Brighton Court and General Directory* (Brighton: Pearce, 1863) 24. ESRO R/C/4/135/1–5. WSRO PHA 7521–7527, 8532, 10068–10069. *The Times* 24 Nov 1837.

Rediscovered rifle ranges near Newhaven

E. & B. Jarzembowski, Bishopstone Manor South, Bishopstone, Seaford, BN25 2UD. (jarzembowski2@live.co.uk)

Walking the foreshore below Newhaven Heights after shingle drift in August 2008 revealed an unexpected concentration of fired projectiles. After a number of subsequent searches, this was found to be part of a c. 350m scatter along the wave-cut platform (Fig. 1). The assemblage includes well over 1000 items of many different calibres (Table 1) and countless lead shot. The latter were mostly of 0.1–0.2in diameter or smaller, but occasionally with examples to c. 0.54in diameter.

Breech-loading rifle bullets of military calibre dominate the assemblage (83% of all bullets). At least 51% belong to

Table 1. Quantification of finds.

Type	Number
Enfield (percussion)	1
Martini Henry	185
.303 minus jacket	176
.303 round nosed	570
.303 pointed Mk VII	5
Jacketed parabellum/0.3	21
0.38?	1
Unjacketed .22 to .455	167
Sub-total for bullets	1126
Pellets/shot (airgun)	329
Projectiles? (uncertain lead fragments)	162
Grand total	1617

various marks of late Victorian–Edwardian round-nosed 0.303 bullets (up to 66%, if all sea-worn 303s belong here). In contrast, Great War, or later, pointed Mark VII 303s total less than 0.4% of the assemblage. Subdominant is the Martini-Henry 0.450 (16%), which historically preceded the above jacketed ammunition. Muzzle loaders are represented by a single 0.457 Pritchett bullet (for the Enfield percussion rifle). A service connection is suggested by a broad arrow still preserved on the bases of several round-nosed 303s. Other jacketed bullets comprise only 2% of the total, but are diverse, including 9mm (Parabellum), 0.3, 0.455 (Webley) and 70.38 from revolvers and automatic or semi-automatic guns dating from the 1930s and World War 2. Other unjacketed bullets (15%) range from 0.455s down to numerous 0.22s; these are also diverse, including pre-Great War Webley ball marks IV and V (short-lived revolver bullets with controversial flat tops), some of which are broad arrow marked. The smaller calibres can be attributed to training and/or sporting and hunting firearms, as well as the associated conical and diabolo air-gun pellets and ubiquitous small shot.

Occasional cartridge remains found are mostly too worn to read, but one is dated November 1916, and three Great War rifle grenade fuzes and Mills bomb base plug fragments were also recovered. The assemblage lacks earlier Victorian Minié and post-Pritchett Snider rifle bullets. The variety of projectiles precludes a shipwreck source, but not other marine sources such as coastal erosion, natural or anthropogenic.

A walk-over survey coupled with satellite images¹ revealed an abandoned cliff-top butt to the west of Old Nore Point (NGR TV 436 999; Fig. 1). This proved the presence of a former cliff-top range, but this eroding butt is some 0.5 km west of the beach finds (Fig. 1). The lack of projectiles on the foreshore below this butt strongly suggested that the concentration collected further east did not originate from this point.

Consultation of the historic O.S. maps failed to show any firing range in the vicinity of the beach, although declassified government documents mention a military cliff and sea range as being established to the west of Newhaven harbour in December 1914, after having been proposed earlier in 1896.² However, the proposals map, drafted in 1906, actually shows an approximately east to west rifle range along the beach beyond the harbour breakwater (Fig. 1), with butts immediately west of the finds area.³ The exclusion of the beach range from the O.S. maps may well be the result of the close proximity of the fort, itself omitted for security reasons.

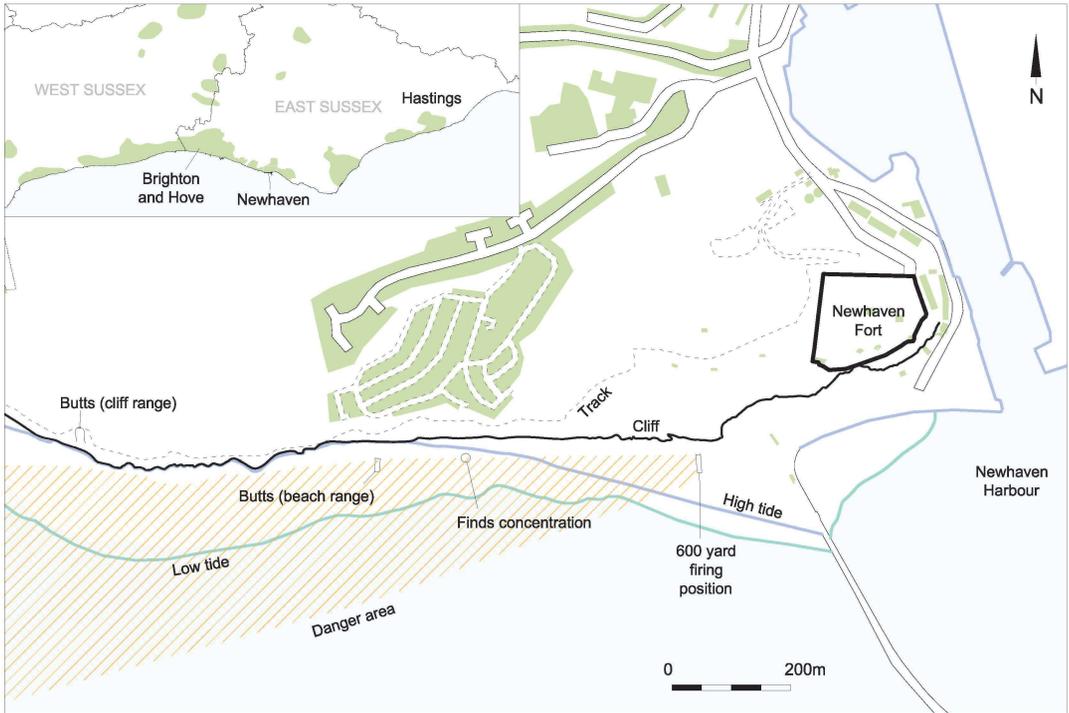


Fig. 1. Location plan showing beach and cliff-top areas (based on modern OS map) and shaded area of beach rifle range danger area.

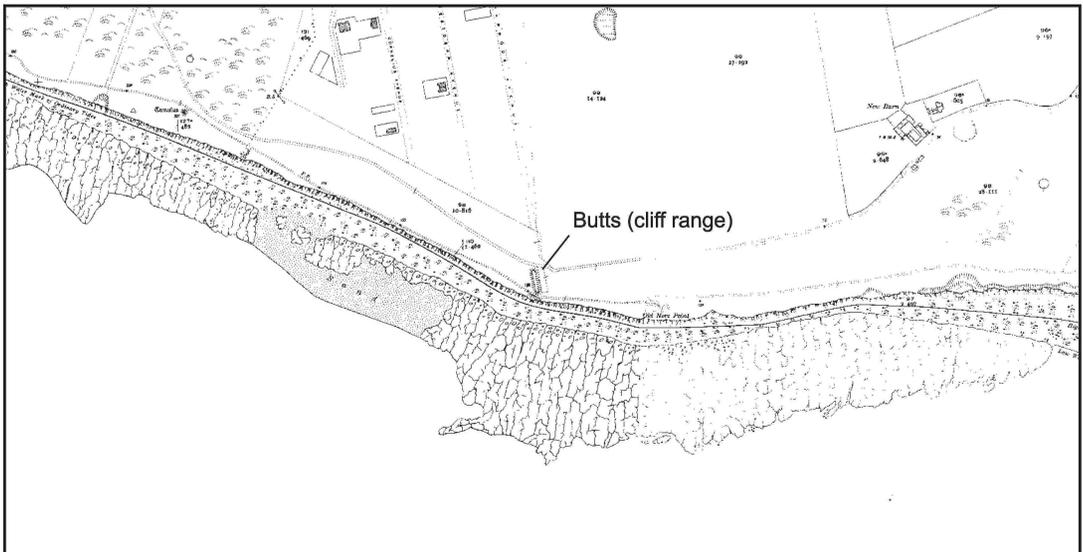


Fig. 2. Extract from 4th edition 25" O.S. map (1928 sheet 78 NE, revised 1925-26).



Fig. 3. View down cliff-top range from butt, looking NE.



Fig. 4. Cross-section of eroding butt excavated in Caenozoic sediments capping the chalk cliffs around Old Nore Point. Viewed from the beach.



Fig. 5. Photo of butt from rear (west).

If this were the case, the projectile assemblage from the beach almost certainly belonged to this range, even though all extant traces of it have long gone. The cliff-top butt is first depicted on the 1928 6-inch O.S. map (Fig. 2) at the head of an approximately W–E undeveloped dry valley (Fig. 3 – view down firing range from butt). Its absence from the 1911 O.S. map is notable (sheet 78 NE, revised 1908 published 1911). A rifle range is marked still on the 1931 O.S. map (sheet 78NE), with the butt still clearly depicted. The danger area extended about one mile offshore westward of Burrow Head, and was mentioned as active in contemporary shipping guides⁴.

As the earthwork is actively being eroded, a clear section was visible at the top of the cliff (Fig. 4 section photo) and it was decided to undertake a survey of the remaining earthworks, the surviving sections of which are over 3m high (Fig. 5 photo of butt from W). Its main surviving features (Fig. 6 and Fig. 7 plan/section) comprise a weathered stop bank, a fronting trench (marker's gallery), and a shallow, sloping, frontal earthen bank (mantlet). Four ferrous rods survive, protruding from the rear face of the mantlet. These are almost certainly the remains of hold-fasts for the timber revetting of the mantlet/marker's gallery, and the whole represents a typical backstop and mantlet arrangement. The absence of concrete in the marker's gallery supports the suggestion that it was revetted in timber, something more typical of Great War establishments than of later ones. Examination of weathered bank surfaces produced shattered pointed Mk VII 303s, occasional 22s (including Winchester cartridges) and an unjacketed Webley bullet. Although the sample was small, the absence of the earlier Martini and round-nosed .303 bullets so common on the beach was notable.

The location of the scatter of bullets on the beach has led to the rediscovery of not one but two rifle ranges. The range firing along the beach itself may well have been in use from the 1870s or 1880s, and appears to have continued uninterrupted operations until the early 1900s. This range was certainly related to Newhaven Fort, the garrison of which would need musketry practice, but others, such as the coastguard, may have also used it. This range would have had limitations in both capacity and time (being susceptible to the sea), and appears to have seen only negligible later re-use for short-ranged weapons in World War 2. With the outbreak of the Great War there was a need to secure a better range to train a much larger number of men. The creation of the 1914 cliff-top range was an answer to this need, and the old range was probably largely abandoned at this time. This new range clearly continued for some time, and was probably still in use during World War 2 for most weapons, including .303 rifles. Such sites of relatively short-lived but intense military activity often leave little trace archeologically, and the current chance finds have recorded the last vestiges of these two sites.

Acknowledgements

We are indebted to G. Legg, C. Jupp, C. Punnett, P. Mason and T. Molyneaux for their helpful comments on the beach finds, and to Luke Barber for help throughout the compilation of this note. Greg Chuter (ESCC) and the staff at ESRO provided historic map data. Bill Flentje, David Harding and Anthony Crawshaw kindly provided crucial information and advice on the ranges. Thanks also to Andy Bradshaw and colleagues, who undertook the earthwork survey of the surviving part of the cliff-top butt. Justin Russell produced Figure 1.

NEWHAVEN RIFLE RANGE - PLAN OF TARGET BUTTS.

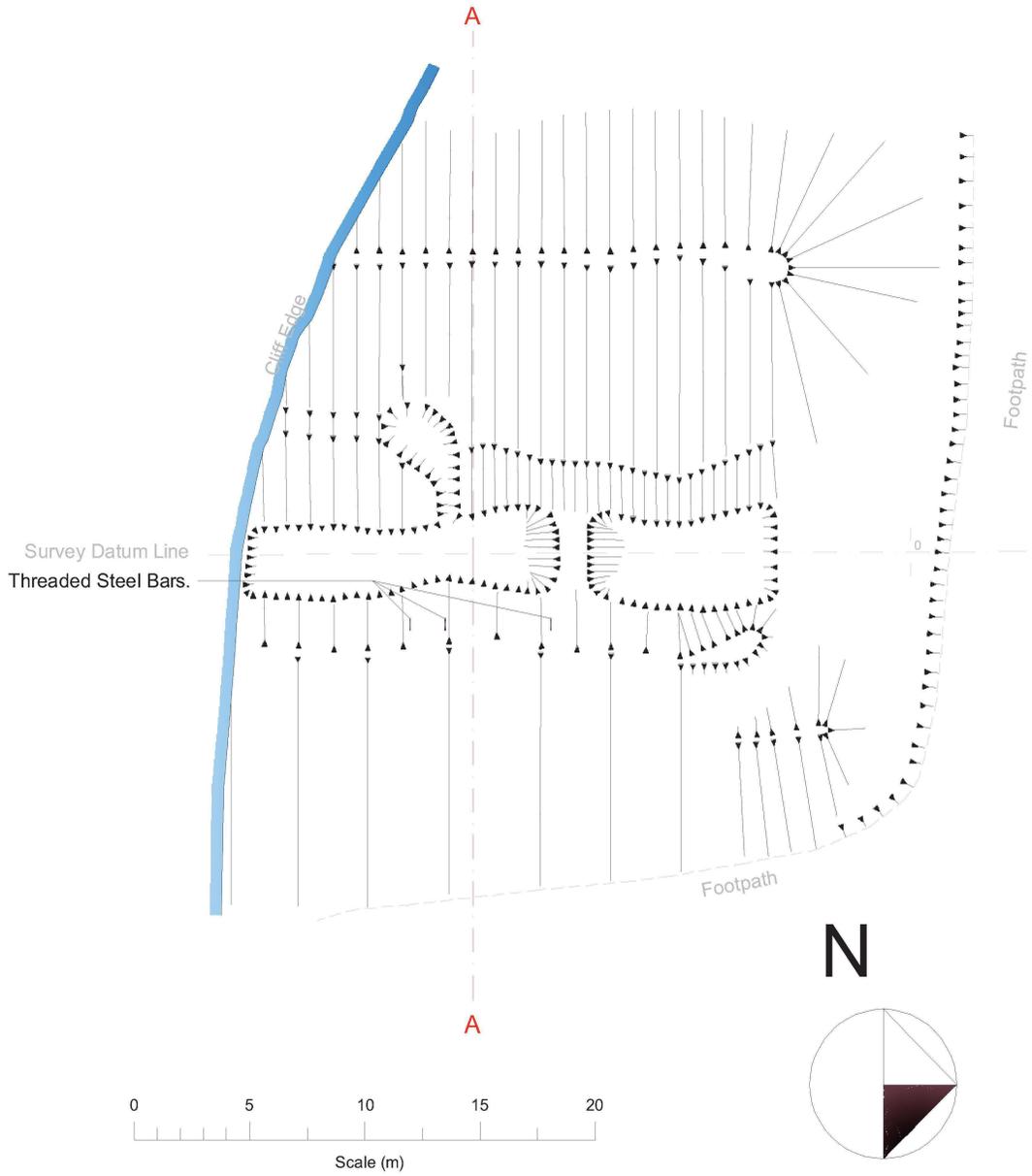


Fig. 6. Earthwork plan.

NEWHAVEN RIFLE RANGE - TARGET BUTTS.
SOUTH FACING SECTION ON A - A

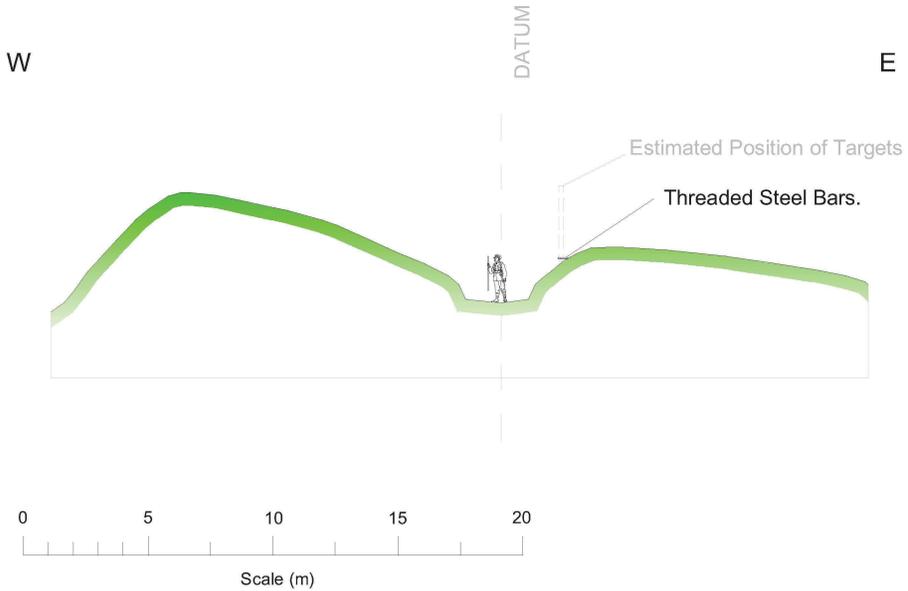


Fig. 7. Earthwork transect.

NOTES

- ¹ Google Earth. 2008. <http://maps.live.com>. retrieved 04/12/2008.
- ² TNA: Byelaws for rifle range with sea at Newhaven. 1914. MT 10/1764/38.
- ³ TNA: Newhaven, Sussex; proposed rifle range and foreshore ownership. 1906. BT 356/11164 [nec -68].
- ⁴ *The Channel Pilot Part 1* (Hydrographic Department, HMSO, 1931), p. 231.