The excavation of two linear earthworks in Pudding Bag Wood and Stanmer Great Wood, Brighton

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with contributions by
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Linear earthworks in Pudding Bag Wood and Stanmer Great Wood, Brighton, were sectioned to seek dating evidence prior to possible scheduling. The linear earthwork in Stanmer Great Wood is a cross-ridge dyke, while the feature in Pudding Bag Wood runs parallel with the downland ridge. The flintwork and pottery suggest a Bronze Age date for construction.

INTRODUCTION

Brighton and Hove City Council, with the full support of English Heritage, asked the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society (BHAS) to excavate two linear features to the north of the city, one in Pudding Bag Wood (TQ32550962) and the other in Stanmer Great Wood (TQ33190924) in an attempt to obtain a date for their construction. The earthworks, which both lie within Stanmer Park (*see* Fig. 1), were to be the subject of an assessment for the granting of Scheduled Ancient Monument status.

Excavations and a small resistivity survey were undertaken by BHAS in 2000. Both woods lie on the periphery of an area of Tertiary deposits and the geology is a combination of clays, sands and flint overlying a chalk bedrock. Periglacial activities and water action have affected the various layers, causing some interaction of deposits (S. Ullyott, pers. comm.). Pudding Bag Wood is in an elevated location of approximately 150m OD, while Stanmer Great Wood is lower, at around 125m OD. The earthworks are well defined in the landscape and vary only in size. Both lie on an almost similar north–south orientation.

CROSS-RIDGE DYKES AND OTHER LINEAR EARTHWORKS

Cross-ridge dykes and other linear earthworks come in many shapes, sizes and forms. They can be univallate, bivallate or multivallate (Bradley 1971) and can consist of a single ditch with bank or a single ditch with banks on both sides. They were originally called covered ways (Curwen and Curwen 1918) and are considered a special class of earthwork (Curwen 1954). Some are continuous, some have breaks, and they can be curved or straight (Bedwin 1979). They are normally found on broken upland (Bedwin 1979). There are more than 60 on the South Downs, occurring either as single features or matched pairs, or as multiple earthworks running in parallel across a single ridge, as at Heyshott Down (Curwen and Curwen 1918). The name cross-ridge dyke is given to a head between two opposing valleys, while a spur dyke is a crossing between two adjacent valleys. Spur dykes are univallate, with the bank on the downside (Bradley 1971).

These enigmatic earthworks are found in a variety of diverse locations and can vary both in morphology and siting (Bedwin 1979). There is often an association with settlements. At Itford Hill, an earthwork is located south of the Bronze Age settlement and is probably contemporary with it, along with the lynchets covering the rest of the hill (Curwen 1954). Recent field work in Sussex has noted a close proximity of cross-ridge dykes to settlements at Plumpton Plain, near Stanmer. Here three fields adjoined the earthwork located between the two Bronze Age settlements of Plumpton A and Plumpton B. However, the same survey also recorded earthworks located away from any settlement or hill fort. Another example can be found north of Thundersbarrow Hill (English 2013).

Some cross-ridge dykes have no link to adjacent valleys, while others are linked to hill forts and

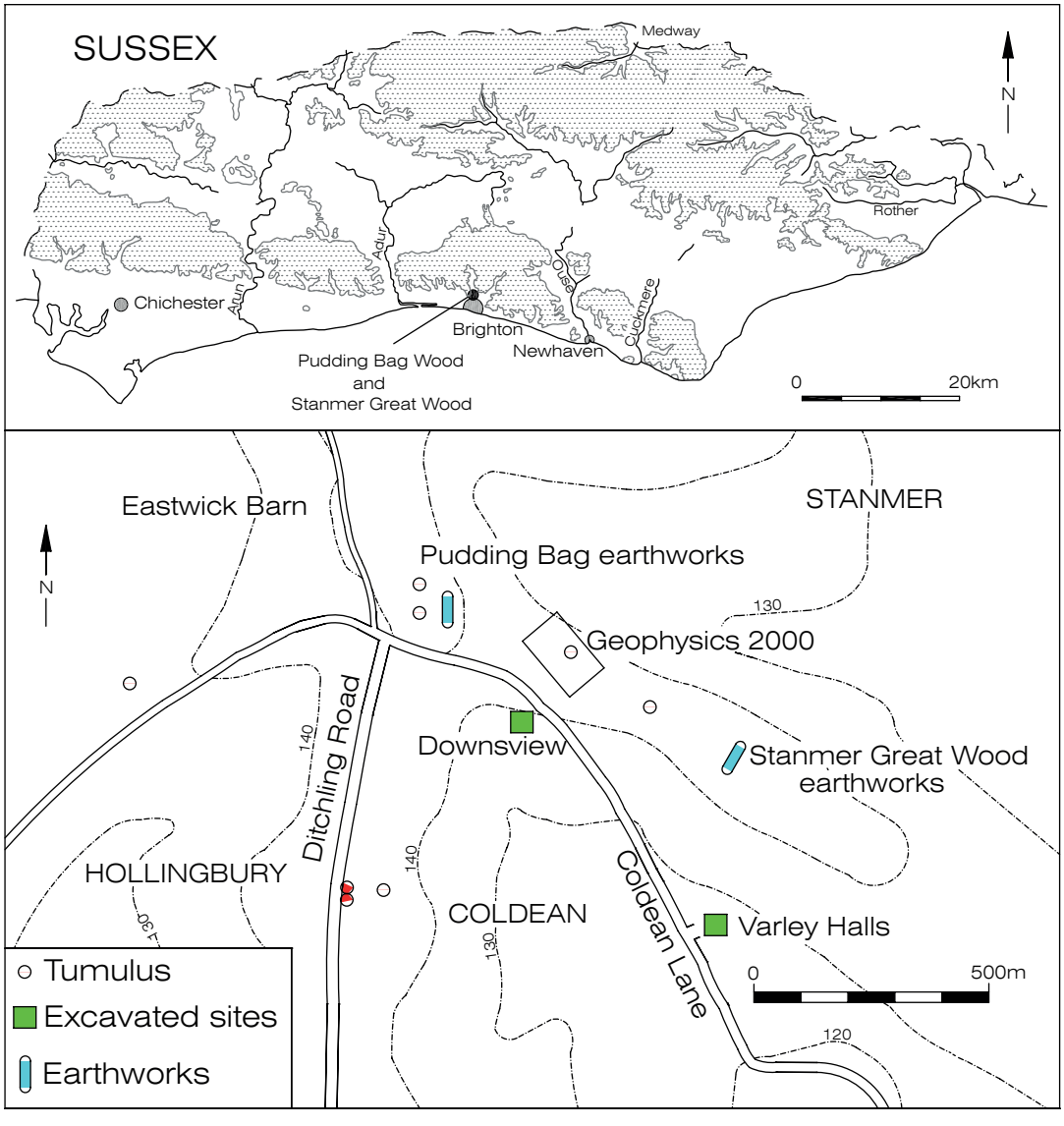

Fig. 1. Maps showing the location of the excavated sites and the positions of tumuli and the linear earthworks. The route of the Brighton bypass has been omitted.

enclosures (Bradley 1971). At Bow Hill, a cross-ridge dyke formed one side of the enclosure (Bedwin 1979). Ranscombe Camp, near Caburn is considered to be a hill fort (Burstow and Holleyman 1964), although the excavators commented that the ditch and bank at the top of the hill bore a strong resemblance to a cross-ridge dyke. Only the presence of a gap, or gateway, confirmed it to be a hill fort.

A number of cross-ridge dykes are located both east and west of the hill fort at Harting Beacon (Bedwin 1978). These all run parallel across the ridge of the hill, as at Heyshott Down (Curwen and Curwen 1918). Is it possible that they were outlying defensive features for the hill forts?

There has been some suggestion that the earthworks are related to burial landscapes and a number can possibly be linked to barrows. At Balmer

Huff, East Sussex, a cross-ridge dyke appears to isolate a barrow cemetery (English 2013), while at Alfriston there is a cross-ridge dyke and barrow together, but no evidence that they were constructed at the same time. However, this barrow and the cross-ridge dyke form part of a larger landscape which could be part of the Blackpatch field system (O'Connor 1976). At Heyshott Down several barrows lie to the east of, and in close proximity to, the collection of cross-ridge dykes (Curwen and Curwen 1918).

The purpose of cross-ridge dykes continues to be debated, but the early theory that they were drove roads going from one valley to another (Curwen and Curwen 1918) is now deemed unlikely (Bradley 1971). It has been suggested that they could be boundary markers dividing areas of arable lowland from upland pasture (Bradley 1971) and the general consensus now supports this boundary marker idea. Evidence from Wessex, where a number of linear earthworks divide the landscape, shows they may have had some political or tenurial significance (Cunliffe 1975). The current opinion is that the land was divided into landscape blocks and lesser units by linear earthen dykes during the Bronze Age (Hamilton and Manley 1999).

The current dating of cross-ridge dykes, albeit derived from a paucity of excavated evidence, is to the Bronze Age or early Iron Age and such features are mainly found within Bronze Age settlements and field systems.

THE RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The woods at Stanmer and the surrounding landscape contain a number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments and earthworks, including tumuli and field boundaries, or lynchets. Excavations prior to the construction of the Brighton bypass produced new evidence for Bronze Age activities at Downsview, a steep-sided, south-facing valley to the south of Coldean Lane. Earthworks were also investigated at Eastwick Barn and dated to the Iron Age (Barber *et al*. 2002). A Bronze Age settlement was later revealed and excavated at Varley Halls, less than one kilometre to the east of the Downsview site (Greig 1997).

Field walking around Stanmer in 1986 found very little evidence for ancient activity (Hartridge *et al.* 1989), but more recent field walking of the same fields in 1997 found flintwork and pottery from both the prehistoric and Roman periods (Funnell 2002). A number of small-scale excavations in 2005 revealed prehistoric and Roman features in the adjacent valley at Coldean (Funnell 2005). Excavations at Ditchling Field (Holleyman and Yeates 1960) and Patcham Fawcett School (Greatorex 2002) show that this part of the South Downs has a significant concentration of prehistoric settlements and Roman activity.

THE LINEAR EARTHWORK IN PUDDING BAG WOOD

The linear earthwork in Pudding Bag Wood is about 230 metres long, 18 metres wide, and 1.2 metres at its maximum height and runs along the crest of the hill, parallel to the Ditchling Road. To the west and north of the feature are two tumuli, already accredited as Scheduled Ancient Monuments (MES257 and MES297). Located immediately north of the earthwork are two large depressions. Another excavated depression cuts into the east flank of the mound, while another depression lies west of the earthwork close to the Stanmer Park boundary wall (Fig. 2). A woodland footpath crosses the mound, approximately at its central location, and this has slightly eroded the feature, revealing large flint nodules in a number of places.

The earthwork was first investigated by BHAS in 1962 and that excavation confirmed that the earthwork was artificial, but the investigation produced no evidence for its purpose or dating (SMR Number ME269, Reference Antiquity No. TQ 30 NW 55). A shallow depression across the feature indicated the location of this earlier excavation.

THE EXCAVATION IN PUDDING BAG WOOD

To minimise further damage to the earthwork it was decided not to excavate a second cut across the mound but to remove the back fill from the earlier dig, record the section and cut back northwards by another 500mm. A section measuring 16 metres in length was set out and the old back fill removed. The new excavation (Fig. 3) revealed that the upper surface, north of the original trench's north edge, still retained vestiges of the upcast from the previous excavation which had not been back filled. No trace of any buried land surface was evident.

The natural geology was heavy clay, with lower chalk deposits appearing for the last two metres on the east side of the mound. On the west side of the

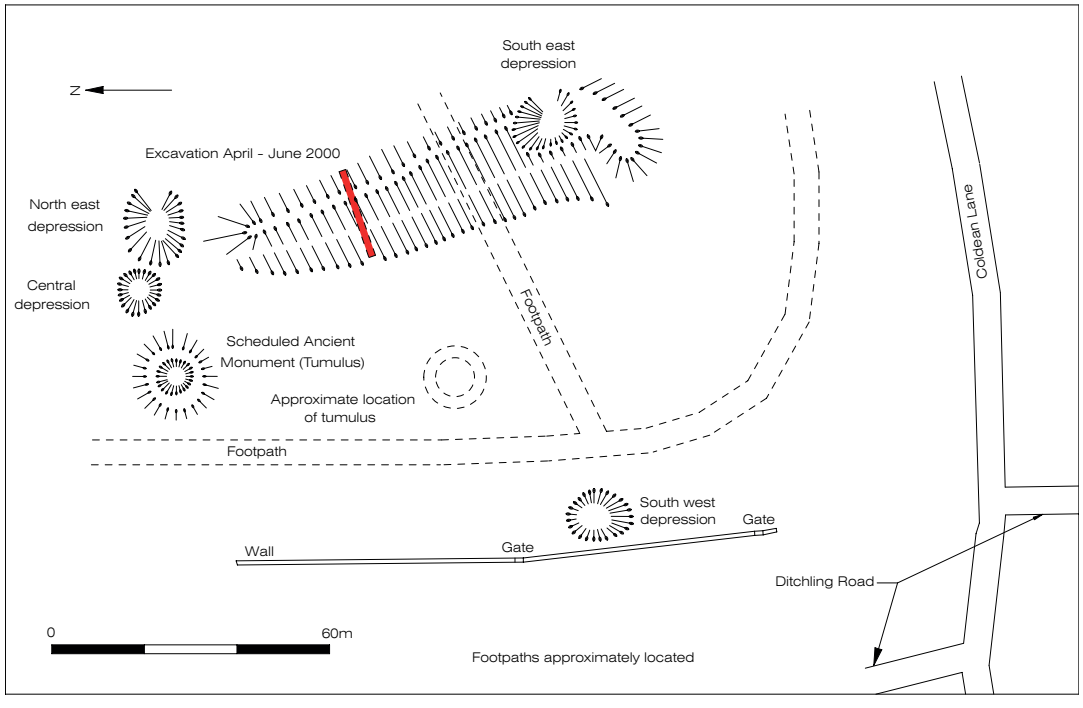

Fig. 2. Pudding Bag Wood. Plan showing linear earthworks, barrows, depressions and location of excavation trench (red).

Fig. 3. The trench in Pudding Bag Wood.

mound was a shallow depression in the land surface and here a much darker fill was noted. This appeared to show the location of a large ditch running parallel with the mound. The lack of disturbance to the ditch clearly indicated that, while the mound had been investigated in 1962, the adjacent ditch had not been touched. No sign of any ditch was found to the east of the mound. A berm, or flat area, was noted to the east of the ditch before the mound gradient commenced, possibly indicating a walkway between the areas of activity.

The fill of the bank consisted of a mixture of heavy clays interspersed with flint nodules. There were some differences in texture and colour for the clay deposits, probably indicating the casual dumping of earth during the construction of the ditch. The excavation revealed no clear stratigraphy indicating that the mound had been created over a short period of time or as part of a single operation (Fig. 4).The few sherds of pottery and the more numerous flint items recovered from the excavation came almost exclusively from the ditch, with a few

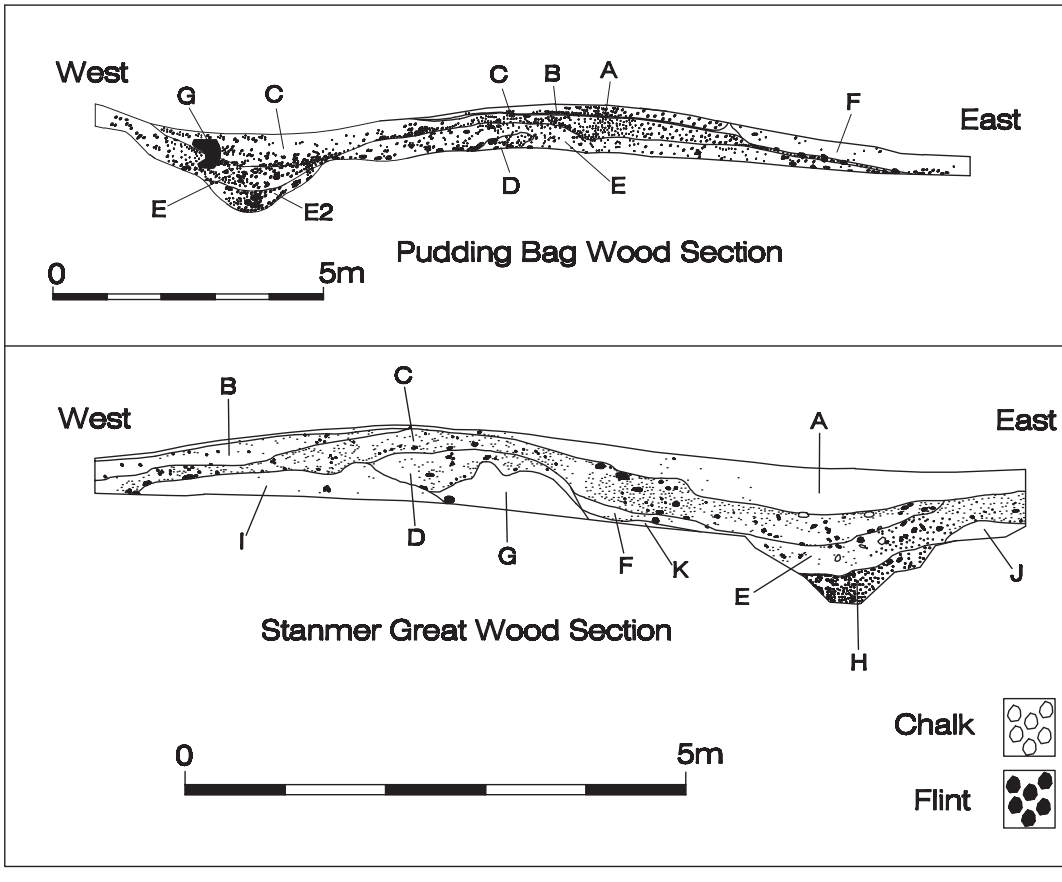

Fig. 4. Section drawings of Pudding Bag Wood (top) and Stanmer Great Wood.

Key: PBW
A: Top layer of overburden from 1962 excavation; B: Dark brown sandy clay with organic leaf mould; C: Medium brown, flinty infill; D: Yellow and brown natural clay; E: Dark brown flinty clay; E2: Very flinty lower ditch fill; F: Dark brown clay with sparse flint; G: Medium/dark brown sandy clay

Key: SGW:
A: Medium brown sandy loam; B: Mid-brown to orange sandy loam; C: As B but more flinty; D: Mixed sandy gravels; E: Medium brown sandy loam with two distinct flint layers; F: Orange to medium brown fine gravels; G: Light brown/orange sandy natural soil; H: Flinty primary ditch fill; I: Same as G with slightly more flint; J: Mid-brown sandy loam; K: Light brown silty clay

flint flakes and fire-fractured flints found dispersed over the mound.

THE CROSS-RIDGE DYKE IN STANMER GREAT WOOD

The cross-ridge dyke in Stanmer Great Wood crosses the hill from south to north and, as with Pudding Bag Wood, has a footpath running through the middle section on top of the hill (Fig. 5). The creation of the footpath has severely eroded a six metre length of the monument. The earthwork is located east of the Bronze Age settlement at Downsview and north of the settlement at Varley Halls. In 2002 the earthwork was used as a BMX cycling ramp and some sections of the mound were cut away to create other similar features. BHAS was involved in the reinstatement of the monument and recorded the details in its 2007 Field Notebook (Funnell 2007).

THE EXCAVATION IN STANMER GREAT WOOD

The excavation in Stanmer Great Wood used the same methodology as that used at Pudding Bag Wood. A section one metre in width and eight metres in length was measured out south of the footpath, in a location clear of the surrounding trees. The excavation removed the overburden, or mound of displaced soil, and found an adjacent ditch on the east side of the mound. No trace of a ditch was found on the west side.

A trench was cut down into a layer of gritty sand. The natural surface was only recognised once finds ceased to be recovered as there was no noticeable difference between the upcast material and the natural surface below. No buried land surface was noted. The ditch contained a dark fill of soft, silty loam and was excavated down to the gritty sand natural. The mound was similar to that at Pudding Bag Wood, with the section showing a mixture of soil dumps with no clear stratigraphy indicating that the earthwork was created over a short period of time *(see* Fig. 4.) Once the shape and contour of the ditch and adjacent bank were determined the excavation proceeded southwards by 500mm.

Flint tools recovered from the Stanmer Great Wood excavation came almost exclusively from the ditch, while flint flakes and fire-fractured flint were dispersed over the whole mound and the ditch. The pottery was concentrated in the upper layers of the ditch.

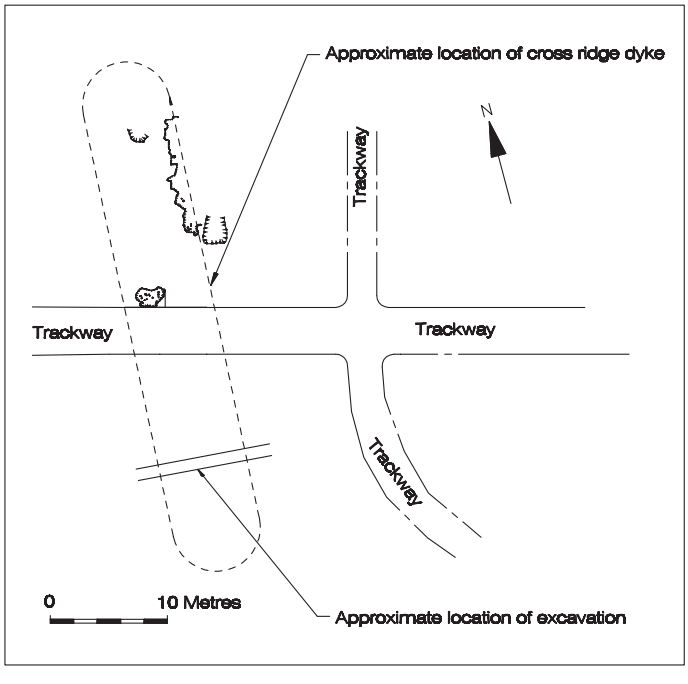

Fig. 5. Sketch plan of the Stanmer Great Wood excavation showing the footpath and damage to the earthwork.

THE RESISTIVITY SURVEY

A small resistivity survey was conducted on an open area located between the two excavations to seek evidence of prehistoric activity. The area, around the Coldean Lane public car park, is in a saddle lying between two elevated sections of downland and close to the site of the Bronze Age settlement at Downsview. The survey used an RM15 resistivity machine and totalled four grids, each measuring 20 metres square. Measurements were taken at one metre intervals and readings recorded in ohms. Unfortunately the survey failed to find any new pits, ditches, barrows or roundhouses in this landscape.

THE POTTERY

by Lisa Fisher

A total of 54 sherds (350g in weight) were recovered from the Stanmer Great Wood excavation and 12 sherds (40g in weight) from Pudding Bag Wood. Context information was sparse for both excavations. The Stanmer Great Wood assemblage had nine different fabrics and one other fabric that was largely unidentifiable, due to a refiring of the sherds (*see* Table 1). There were very few diagnostic pieces from Pudding Bag Wood, with two different fabrics from the assemblage (*see* Table 2). A full discussion of the fabric types and dating evidence is included in the full ADS pottery report.

In general, the sherds from both assemblages were much abraded, indicating secondary deposition, and it is likely that they are all residual and cannot be used precisely to date the features.

DATING

Post Deverel-Rimbury ceramics (*c*.1150–500 BC) within Sussex are defined by new methods of production which differ from the preceding Middle Bronze Age traditions. These include more controlled firings which produce more wholly oxidized or un-oxidized vessels, rather than 'patching', with poorly sorted flint temper being widely used, but with smaller inclusions of between 1–5mm in size. Thin-walled ceramics were produced resulting in finer fabrics with a lower inclusion density and a much wider range of inclusions within the fabrics, including pisolithic iron oxides, shell and fine sandy fabrics (Seager-Thomas 2008, 41).

The Stanmer Great Wood assemblage had nine different Late Bronze Age fabrics which were also dominated by sherds with fine iron oxide inclusions (IO1-5) and which accounted for 79 percent of the assemblage. In addition, 11 percent was quartz dominated fabrics (Q1 and Q2), three percent was flint fabrics (F1 and F2) and the remainder consisted of less easily identifiable refired sherds.

The Late Bronze Age ceramics from Pudding Bag Wood contained sherds dominated by fine iron oxides (more than 30 percent) but also a range of other inclusions including quartz more than1mm in size, flint more than 9mm in size and chalk more than 3mm in size, uniformly oxidized and up to 12mm thick. The majority of sherds from Pudding Bag Wood (83 percent) were Romano-British in date.

CONCLUSION

The assemblage from Stanmer Great Wood fits a typical profile of Late Bronze Age everyday wares, with a majority of medium wares and fewer fine and highly decorated wares. A lack of complicated forms makes it difficult to identify estimated vessel

Table 1. Fabric count from Stanmer Great Wood

Fabric type	Date	Total	%	Sherd thickness and attributes
F1	LBA	1	1.8	10mm
F2	MBA	1	1.8	8mm fine wares
IO1	LBA	30	55	12mm
IO2	LBA	3	5.5	10mm
IO3	EIA?	6	11	7mm fine wares
IO4	LBA	2	3.7	11mm thick
IO5	LBA	2	3.7	12mm thick
Q1	IA?	2	3.7	15mm burnished wares
Q2	LBA	4	7.4	7mm fine wares. Clay with flints, quartz
Re-fired sherds	LBA?	3	5.5	18mm thick

Table 2. Fabric count from Pudding Bag Wood ditch

Fabric type	Date	Total	%	Sherd thickness and attributes
G	RB	10	83	<6mm. Primary ditch fill E
IO	LBA	2	17	<12mm. Base of ditch

equivalents or to examine the percentage of forms in specific deposits.

The flint distribution was also Bronze Age in date and was concentrated throughout the bank as well as the ditch. It is unlikely to result from post-construction deposition in the ditch, which had no evidence of re-cutting. The most common fabric was IO1, which accounted for 55 percent of the assemblage and represents a typical post Deverel-Rimbury, Late Bronze Age fabric, with different pisolithic clays being used. There was a lack of very coarse wares of substantial girth, apart from the refired sherds which were very thick at 18mm in width.

The majority of the Pudding Bag Wood sherds are from the Romano-British period, with a couple of Late Bronze Age sherds found at the very base of the ditch. However, it should be noted that the stratigraphy shows signs of earlier agricultural activity prior to the creation of the mound and possibly the ditch. If such activity was Bronze Age in date, it is possible that this layer contained residual Bronze Age sherds which may have been thrown up onto the bank when it was constructed. Over time, the residual material from the top of the bank would have fallen into the ditch, thus confusing the date of the ditch fills. The assemblage most likely fits the profile of simple, domestic functions, with a lack of fine and highly decorated wares. Form and decoration are discussed in the full ADS report. Suggested dates have been assigned to fabrics, as discussed above, and are abbreviated in Table 1.

THE FLINTWORK

by Chris Butler

Analysis of the assemblage was undertaken by inspecting each piece by eye and, where necessary, a hand-held magnifying glass. Pieces were categorized using standard nomenclature and additional comments made on retouch, modification and technology where required.

The type of material derives from local sources, probably predominantly from the local Clay-with-flints outcrops. Most of the pieces are a dark grey or black colour, with grey and blue-grey patinated flint also being present. Very few pieces have a white patination.

A total of 256 pieces of prehistoric flintwork and 14 pieces of fire-fractured flint were recovered from the Pudding Bag Wood excavation. The flintwork consists of predominantly hard hammer struck flakes manufactured from a dark grey and black flint, with cortex present on a high proportion of the pieces. The proportion of fragments, chips and shattered pieces amongst the debitage is 18 percent, whilst the proportion of cores is 4.6 percent (Figs 6.1–6.4).

The proportion of implements is 3.5 percent. These comprise scrapers (Figs 7.1–7.4) and a single notched flake. The scrapers show that some care has been exercised in retouching the scraping edges. There were a few residual pieces of flintwork, of which just three percent is mesolithic and all of which is debitage. A single broken barbed and tanged arrowhead (Fig. 7. 5), dating from the Early Bronze Age, was found in the upper ditch fill and is almost certainly residual.

Although the debitage from Pudding Bag Wood looks very similar to that from Stanmer Great Wood, the better made implements hint at a possible earlier Bronze Age date for the assemblage. The higher proportion of cores and implements in the assemblage may be a reflection of its closeness to the Bronze Age settlement at Downsview (Rudling 2002).

The flint assemblage from Stanmer Great Wood was the larger of the two assemblages, containing 610 pieces of worked flint and 65 pieces of fire-fractured flint (Table 3). The flintwork in the assemblage is predominantly hard hammer struck and comprises mainly squat, small-sized flakes, with broad platforms, which have no evidence of platform preparation. Most pieces have some cortex present. Some 98 percent of the assemblage is debitage, the remaining two percent being implements. The cores make up two percent of the assemblage and comprise single, two and three platform flake cores (Figs 6. 5 and 6.6). Twenty five percent of the debitage is fragments, chips and shattered pieces. This composition suggests that the assemblage is predominantly derived from flint knapping episodes that were taking place around the ditch and bank, with the discarded debitage then being thrown into the ditch. It was not possible to refit any of the flakes and cores. Three of the flakes are retouched, and three are fire-fractured.

The implements comprise five scrapers (Figs 7.6–7.9), a single piercer (Fig. 7.10) and two notched flakes. Two retouched natural flakes were also present (Fig. 7.11 and 7.12).

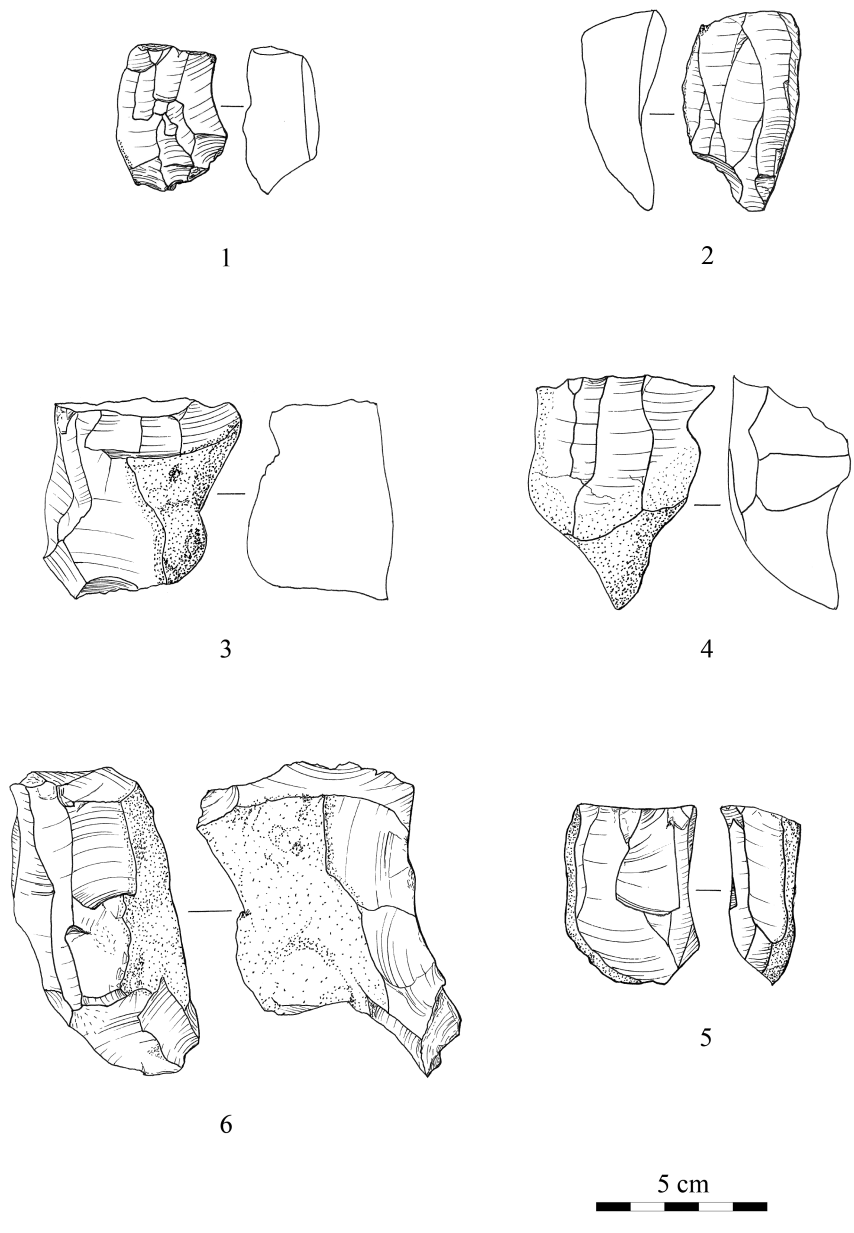

Fig. 6. Flint illustrations.

The assemblage has all the characteristics of a later Bronze Age assemblage, with its hard hammer struck cortical flakes and limited number of implements. However, there are also elements of residual mesolithic activity, with some 6.8 percent of the assemblage dating to this period. The mesolithic debitage comprises soft hammer struck flakes and bladelets, together with a flake core and core rejuvenation flakes, one of which has been retouched into a piercer. The mesolithic implements include a single microlith and a microdenticulate.

All of the mesolithic flintwork has a light blue-grey to grey-white patination and is quite distinctive when compared to the later Bronze

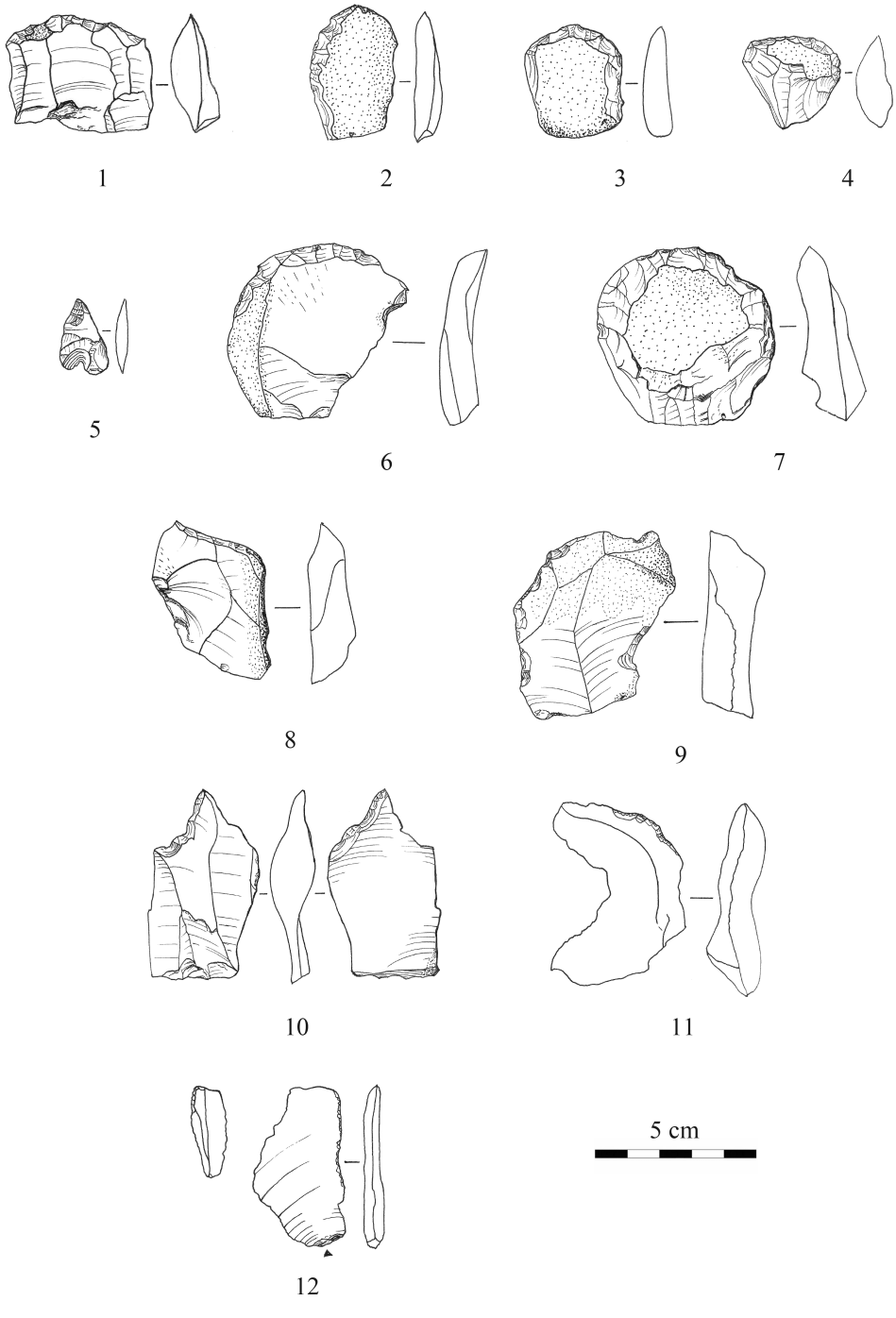

Fig. 7. Flint illustrations.

Table 3. The Flint.

	Stanmer Great Wood	Pudding Bag Wood	Total
Hard hammer struck flakes	359	176	535
Soft hammer struck flakes	49	4	53
Hard hammer struck blades	4	1	5
Soft hammer struck blades	1	1	2
Soft hammer struck bladelets	13	1	14
Fragments	92	36	128
Shattered pieces	29	6	35
Chips	30	4	34
Axe thinning flakes	2	0	2
Chunks	1	1	2
Core rejuvenation flakes	4	1	5
Crested Blade	1	0	1
Single platform flake cores	7	9	16
Two platform flake cores	4	3	7
Three platform flake core	1	0	1
Single platform blade core	1	0	1
Single platform bladelet core	0	1	1
End scrapers	4	3	7
End and side scrapers	0	2	2
Side scrapers	1	2	3
Piercer	1	0	1
Notched flakes	2	1	3
Retouched natural flakes	2	0	2
Microlith	1	0	1
Microdenticulate	1	0	1
Barbed and tanged arrowhead	0	1	1
Hammerstones	0	3	3
Total	**610**	**256**	**866**

Age assemblage, with its dark grey to black flint, some of which looks very fresh. A third category of flintwork is also present in the assemblage, with just a few pieces in a grey-speckled, patinated flint. These pieces tend to be larger and longer flakes, and may be neolithic in date. The patination on the mesolithic and neolithic pieces confirms that they had been lying on the surface for some time when the ditch and bank were being dug in the Later Bronze Age, then became incorporated into the ditch fill as it silted up.

The flintwork of the two sites, Pudding Bag Wood and Stanmer Great Wood, is broadly similar in type, composition and technology. The core reduction strategy employed to produce the debitage, as determined from the cores and flakes, mostly fits that of a Later Bronze Age industry (Holgate 1988).

The implements recovered also fit into a Bronze Age date. The implements make up some 2–3.5 percent of the total excavated assemblages, which compares well with the low percentage recovered

from other Bronze Age sites (Greig 1997). It has been suggested that a figure of less than 10 percent is to be considered the norm for neolithic and Bronze Age sites (Saville 1980). The range of implements at the sites is limited, but this is normally the case at Later Bronze Age sites, where copper alloy tools would have replaced many of the implement types found in earlier periods (Ford *et al*. 1984).

The presence at Stanmer Great Wood of residual mesolithic and neolithic flintwork is consistent with similar areas of the chalk downland to the north of Brighton, where Clay-with-flints outcrops occur (Butler 1993).

DISCUSSION

The excavations at Pudding Bag Wood and Stanmer Great Wood were a rare opportunity to examine the cross-ridge dyke in Stanmer Great Wood and the linear earthwork in Pudding Bag Wood. The project permitted comparisons to be made in aspects of the earthworks which included the method of construction and the finds distribution.

There was no evidence under either bank for any buried land surface and the sections from both earthworks produced no evidence for any re-cutting of the ditches.

The earthworks produced only a single ditch for each feature, with the Pudding Bag Wood ditch being on the west side of the mound and the Stanmer Great Wood being on the east. The composition of both mounds comprised of a series of dumped upcasts of material from the ditches.

Finds of pottery and flintwork came from both features, but were few in number, the collection being similar to collections from other cross-ridge dyke excavations which have also produced a paucity of finds (Bedwin 1979). The finds that there were came mainly from the upper ditch fills, with very little pottery being recovered from the banks. The most useful diagnostic item was a barbed and tanged arrowhead from the upper fill of the Pudding Bag Wood ditch. The collection of flint flakes, tools and pottery was significantly larger at the Stanmer Great Wood excavation.

In addition to the main excavation in Stanmer Great Wood, a small trench measuring one metre square was cut 15.6m to the west of the cross-ridge dyke. This trench was cut in order to examine more of the geology of the area. This small trench produced finds of flint flakes and fire-fractured flint indicating prehistoric activity away from the earthwork.

How do the linear earthworks at Stanmer relate to the surrounding landscape? The settlements at Downsview and Varley Halls, both located close to these earthworks, had settlement ditches located only on their eastern boundaries. These have subsequently either been ploughed out or deliberately removed, as there are no earthworks still visible in the fields. All of the ditches at the settlements and in the woods run parallel on a roughly north/south orientation. Aerial photographs of the Varley Halls fields, however, clearly show ploughed out lynchets running east to west, so it is possible that the Stanmer woods earthworks are part of an extensive field system focused around these settlements and may indeed be boundary markers.

The Bronze Age settlement at Patcham Fawcett School on the adjacent hill to the west of Pudding Bag Wood also had a single prehistoric ditch, but this was to the south of the settlement. Excavations at Eastwick Barn, immediately to the west of Stanmer wood, of a 'Celtic' field system produced finds that proved conclusively that the field system was dated to the Late Iron Age (Barber *et al*. 2002). Similar finds from the later prehistoric period were also noted in the excavations at Varley Halls (Greig 1997).

The recent excavations at Downsview, Varley Halls and at the Patcham Fawcett School indicate how populated this part of Sussex was during the Bronze Age. It is possible that settlement boundaries requiring some visible element were needed as an indicator of possession and ownership.

The location of the linear earthworks in relation to barrows is also a point of interest. At Heyshott Down there appears to be a demarcation of space, with cross-ridge dykes dividing areas of barrow concentrations (Curwen and Curwen 1918), but this is not a common or recurrent facet of all ancient landscapes. In Pudding Bag Wood, some barrows lie to the west of the mound but other discrete tumuli are also found in the lands between the Stanmer earthworks. In Stanmer, the settlements, burials mounds, cross-ridge dykes and long mounds appear to be part of the same ancient landscape. What is unique is that three adjacent Bronze Age settlements sites, Downsview, Varley Halls and Patcham Fawcett, are divided by a cross-ridge dyke and a linear earthwork. This is one of the few locations in Sussex

where their use as a boundary marker between known settlements is a strong possibility.

The flint and pottery assemblages at both Pudding Bag Wood and Stanmer Great Wood suggest a Bronze Age date for the construction of the linear features. However, some of the finds from both Varley Halls and Eastwick Barn suggest a later, Iron Age date, for some of the adjacent earthworks. The complexity of cross-ridge dykes, and their purpose in the ancient landscape, has not been resolved at Stanmer. These features will continue to be a subject for debate.

A supplementary pottery report can be found on the ADS website at http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/sac/ Follow the link to Sussex Archaeological Collections Volume 154.

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