



# **Chris Butler MCIfA Archaeological Services Ltd**



## **An Archaeological Landscape Survey of Gayles Farm, Friston, East Sussex**

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Project Ref: CBAS0561

November 2015

## **Summary**

*An archaeological survey of the National Trust land at Gayles Farm and the Coastal Strip between Cuckmere Haven and Birling Gap in East Sussex produced a total of 147 sites ranging in date from the Bronze Age through to the Second World War.*

*The earliest sites comprised prehistoric field systems and round barrows, together with a possible hut platform and worked flint scatters, and were predominantly confined to the Coastal Strip. There was little or no evidence for activity between the Roman and Medieval periods, and it was only from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries that further sites were recorded. These comprised chalk quarries and features associated with the Crowlink Coastguard Station and nearby signalling station on Flagstaff Point.*

*The greatest amount of activity related to the use of Gayles Farm as an airfield during the Second World War. The survey found numerous sites comprising concrete Nissen hut bases, remains of other buildings and installations, together with pillboxes and other defensive features. Other WW2 military sites were also found on the Coastal Strip.*

*This survey, involving numerous National Trust volunteers proved to be very successful, in that a much clearer picture has been produced of the archaeology surviving at Gayles Farm and on the Coastal Strip to supplement the existing information held on the HER and NMR databases. Furthermore, the volunteers received training and were able to participate in, and contribute to, a successful archaeological survey project.*

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## 1. Introduction

Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd (CBAS) was commissioned by The National Trust to carry out an archaeological survey of Gayles Farm, Friston, East Sussex (Fig. 1). The area to be surveyed is divided into two parts, the first being Gayles Farm, and the second being the ‘Coastal Strip’

The purpose of the survey is to provide a comprehensive overview of the archaeological sites and monuments, and areas of archaeological potential, within the Gayles Farm and Coastal Strip survey areas to inform future investigations, management and interpretation. The survey will provide up-to-date archaeological and historical information in both report and digital form that can be drawn on for interpretation and educational use.

This report outlines the methodology used in the archaeological survey, then looks at the results of the field survey, summarising the sites identified by period and type. A full listing of all the sites is contained in Appendix 1 to this report.

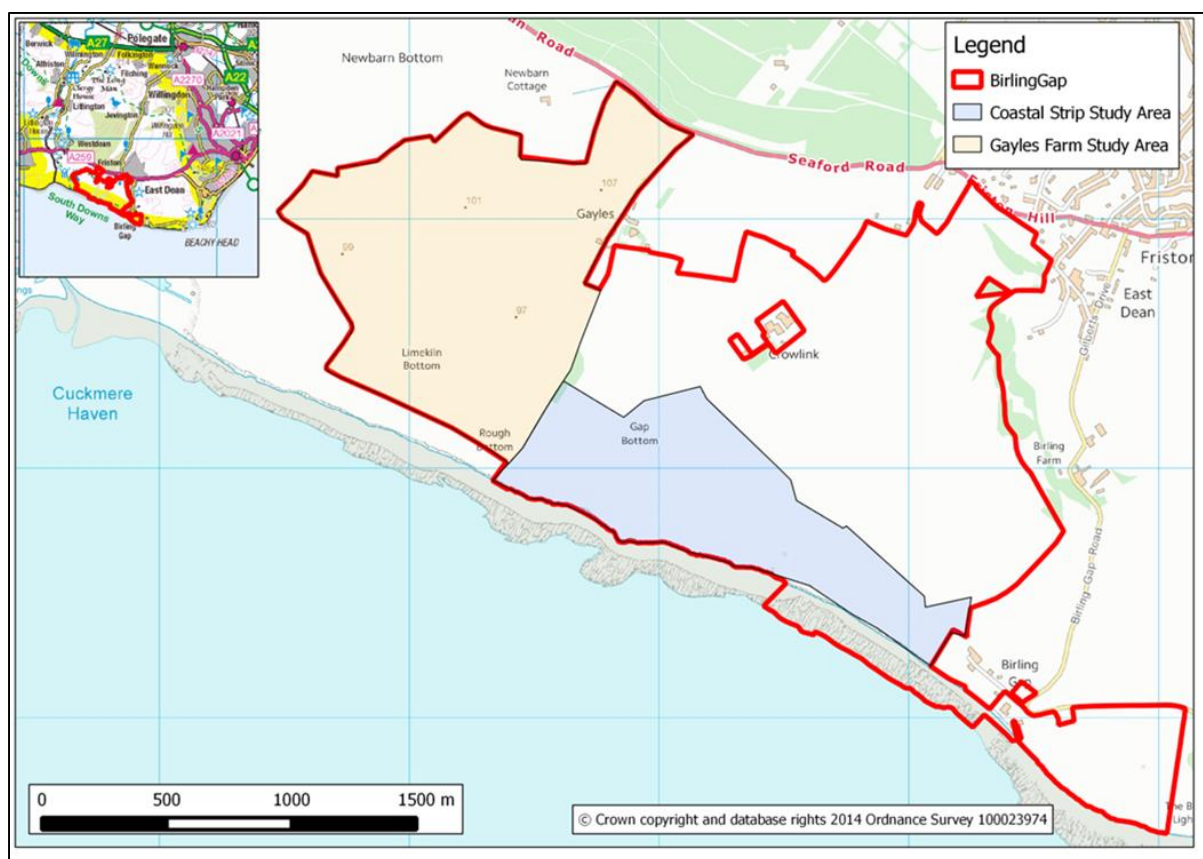


Fig. 1: Map of survey area

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## 1.1. Location & Background

The property at Gayles Farm, East Sussex, was acquired by the National Trust in 2013. The site covers approximately 1.2km<sup>2</sup> (c. 125 ha) across two of the Seven Sisters, approximately 2.75km northwest of Birling Gap and bounded to the North by the Seaford Road (A259). As indicated by the Historic Landscape Characterisation available for the area, the site comprises a mixture of unimproved unenclosed downland along the coast, with accompanying fieldscapes and regenerated woodland and scrub further inland. Some of the Gayles Farm landscape is currently cultivated land with a cereal crop planted at the time of the survey (Plate 1).



Plate 1: Gayles Farm looking east along the main runway

The Coastal Strip comprises an area of unimproved unenclosed downland covering approximately 75ha extending between Gayles Farm in the west to Birling Gap in the east (Plate 1). This part of the coastline is often referred to as the Seven Sisters due to the series of dry valleys that terminate abruptly at the cliff edge, forming seven higher bluffs between Cuckmere Haven and Beachy Head.





Plate 2: The Coastal Strip looking east towards Birling Gap

## 1.2. Archaeological & Historical Background

### *Gayles Farm*

A full overview of the known archaeological resource at Gayles Farm is outlined in the National Trust *Gayles Farm, East Sussex: Statement of Archaeological Significance* (2012). The southern extent of the property comprises the extensive remains of a Prehistoric or Romano-British field system and a number of quarry pits and possible limekilns likely to be of Post-medieval date.



Fig. 2: Friston Airfield map  
(adapted from Operation Cuckmere Haven<sup>1</sup>)

<sup>1</sup> Longstaff-Tyrrell, P. 2004 Operation Cuckmere Haven, Gote House Publishing Co.

A large portion of the property was given over during the Second World War as an airfield, RAF Friston, initially serving as an emergency landing strip and later as a fully operational airfield with a resident squadron of Spitfires (Fig. 2). Within the property boundary, the airfield complex included a number of anti-aircraft gun emplacements, a radar station, weapons pits and ancillary buildings scattered across the site many of which have been mapped from historic aerial photography as part of the Beachy Head-Peacehaven National Mapping Programme.

Within the woodland strip immediately east of the entrance trackway to Gayles Farm (and outside the National Trust property boundary) are the remains of two pillboxes and other concrete structural features. Other surviving Second World War structures relating to the airfield remain around Gayles Farm, although outside the National Trust property boundary<sup>2</sup>.

### *Coastal Strip*

The Beachy Head-Peacehaven National Mapping Programme data shows the Coastal Strip includes prehistoric burial monuments, and remnants of prehistoric field systems (Plate 3). The Coastal Strip also shows evidence for continued occupation into the Post-Medieval period, in particular the remains of the Crowlink Coastguard Station, and agricultural and industrial activity. Second World War military archaeology extends throughout the Coastal Strip in the form of gun emplacements and support buildings, and including surviving structural elements.

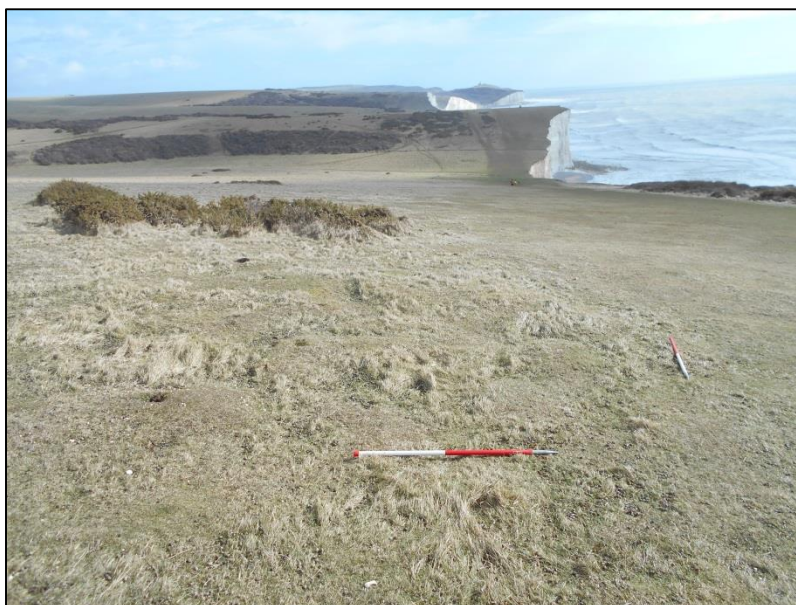


Plate 3: Archaeology on the Coastal strip

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<sup>2</sup> Butler, C. 2007 East Sussex under Attack. Tempus Publishing Ltd



### 1.3. Geology

The British Geological Survey (Sheet 319/334) shows the geology of the site to be Seaford Chalk and Newhaven Chalk, with the latter occupying the upper levels. Situated across the flat plateau on the upper part of Gayles Farm is a large outcrop of Clay-with-flints, whilst in the valley bottoms are Head Deposits (Fig. 3).

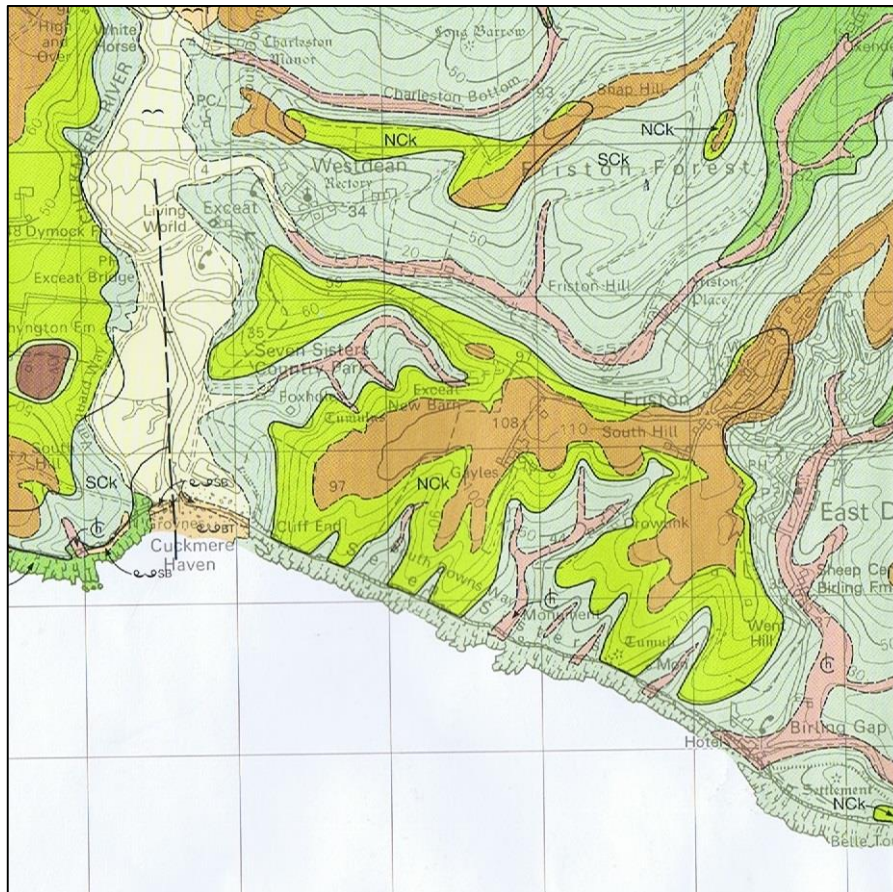


Fig. 3: Gayles Farm Survey: Geology Map

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## 1.4 Scope of Survey

The survey has taken account of the prehistory of the landscape and has looked for evidence relating to Roman or Saxon settlement and exploitation, although this was lacking. It has also assessed the evidence relating to medieval and post-medieval settlement and land use.

The survey has also documented the use of the landscape during the twentieth-century with particular reference to features relating to the development and use of the site during the Second World War.

The survey has recorded all visible archaeological/historic sites and identified areas of particular archaeological potential or significance (Plate 4). It has included an assessment of the current condition of these features, and identified current or potential management issues and given recommendations on how to resolve these without risk to the archaeology of the property.

The survey has produced measured sketch surveys, wherever possible, of structural features within the National Trust property boundary, and within the woodland strip immediately east of the Gayles Farm entrance trackway. Although the survey did not include the military buildings or air raid shelter at Gayles Farm which lie outside the property boundary (Fig. 1), they have been included in the survey summary for completeness.



Plate 4: Volunteers surveying and recording archaeological features



## 2. Survey Methodology

The survey comprised a comprehensive archaeological walkover survey (guided by existing ESHER and NMR data) of the Gayles Farm (Fig. 4) and Coastal Strip survey areas as specified by the National Trust brief<sup>3</sup> and equates to a Level 2 survey as defined by English Heritage<sup>4</sup>. This level of survey provides a basic descriptive and interpretive record of the archaeological remains within and includes core monument data.

The survey was carried out by experienced CBAS staff, supervising volunteers. The volunteers were divided into groups to undertake the fieldwork, each of which was supervised by a member of CBAS staff. The volunteers were trained in landscape survey with an initial classroom session on landscape surveying, and then on-the-job training to identify and record sites during the survey. The volunteers measured and recorded sites using a standard recording form (Appendix 1). All photography was carried out by CBAS staff.



Fig. 4: Existing known sites at Gayles Farm recorded on ESHER & NMR  
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<sup>3</sup> National Trust 2014 Brief For Archaeological Walkover Survey at Gayles Farm

<sup>4</sup> English Heritage (2007) *Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes*, Swindon, English Heritage.

A brief study of old maps was undertaken prior to the survey, and a review of the existing ESHER records (Fig. 5) was carried out. A full historical and documentary evidence search was not undertaken as part of this survey, although some sources were consulted for the production of this report<sup>5</sup>.

The survey methodology comprised a systematic walkover of the area, using available mapping as a back up to the visual inspection of the ground surface. The ground surface was also inspected for archaeological artefacts, especially in areas of disturbance or ploughing. Some fields in the centre of the site had been cultivated and it was not possible to walk across the surface of these fields, however, each field was walked around its perimeter and appropriate records made of any features noted.

A written record was made for each earthwork or other site encountered, including information on its dimensions, shape and extent, together with any relationships with other earthworks and sites (Plate 5). Where necessary this information was backed up with sketches and digital photographs, all of which are retained in the site archive. Measurements were made using tapes, and a hand-held GPS (either Garmin 60CSx or Magellan Triton) was used to provide an exact location to an accuracy of 5m.



Plate 5: Surveying and recording a feature

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<sup>5</sup> Carpenter, E., Barber, M. & Small, F. 2013 *South Downs Beachy Head To The River Ouse Aerial Investigation And Mapping*, English Heritage Research Report Series No. 22-2013



Each site was entered onto an Excel database, which has been retained in the site archive. A summary extract of the database is included in Appendix 2 of this report detailing all the sites found during the survey. Electronic and paper base-maps were also created showing all of the sites found during the survey and are included in this report (Fig. 6).

This survey has only considered the above-ground archaeology, and no attempt has been made to investigate the below-ground archaeology.

The survey was carried out between the 21<sup>st</sup> February and 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015. CBAS staff comprised Chris Butler, Vivienne Blandford, Andrew Bradshaw and Caroline Russell. A total of 27 different volunteers took part in the survey and training. The Coastal Strip Study Area was surveyed first, and then the Gayles Farm Study Area.

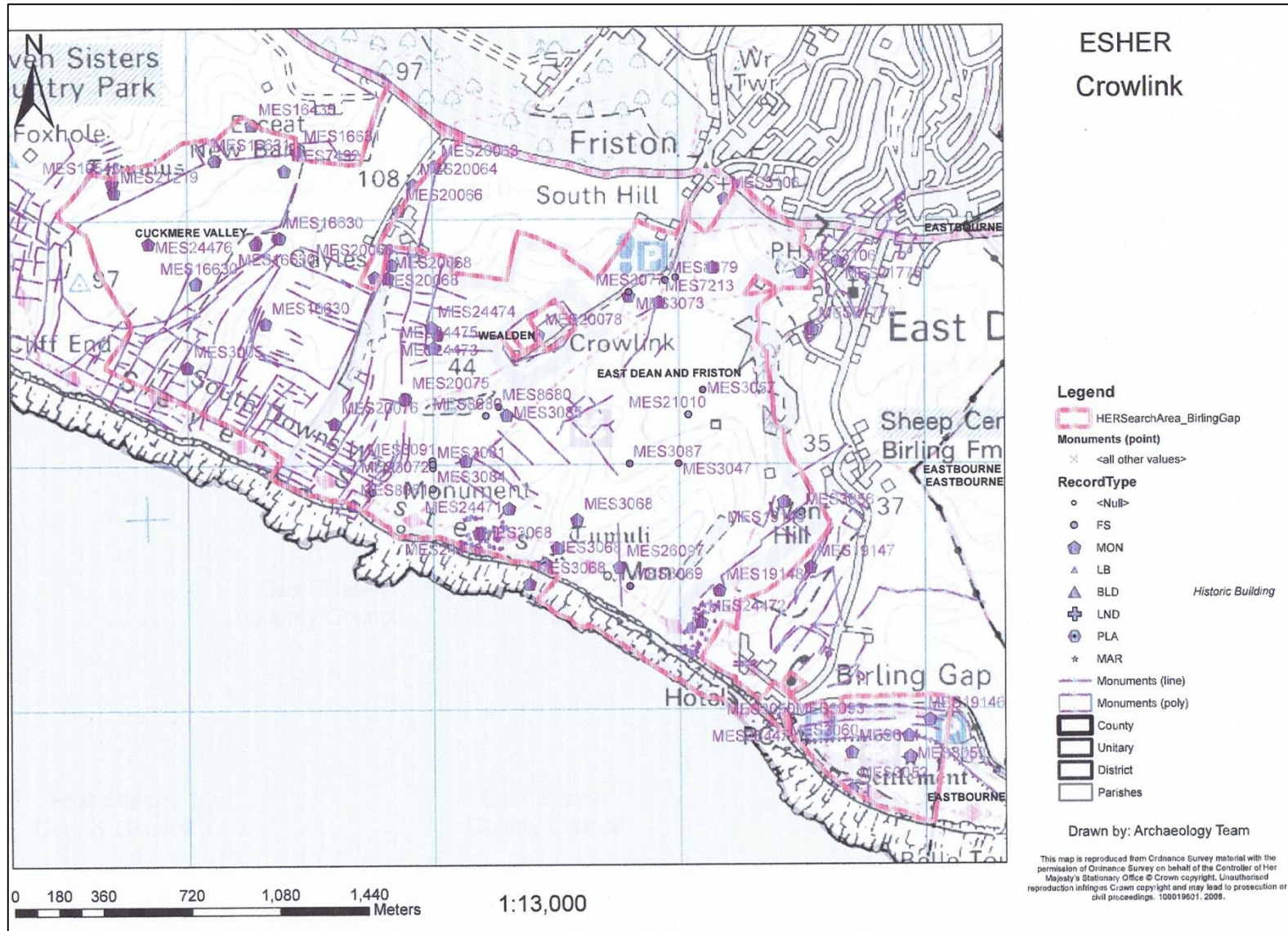


Fig. 5: Sites on the ESHER between Cuckmere Haven and Belle Tout





Fig. 6: Map showing all of the sites recorded during the survey



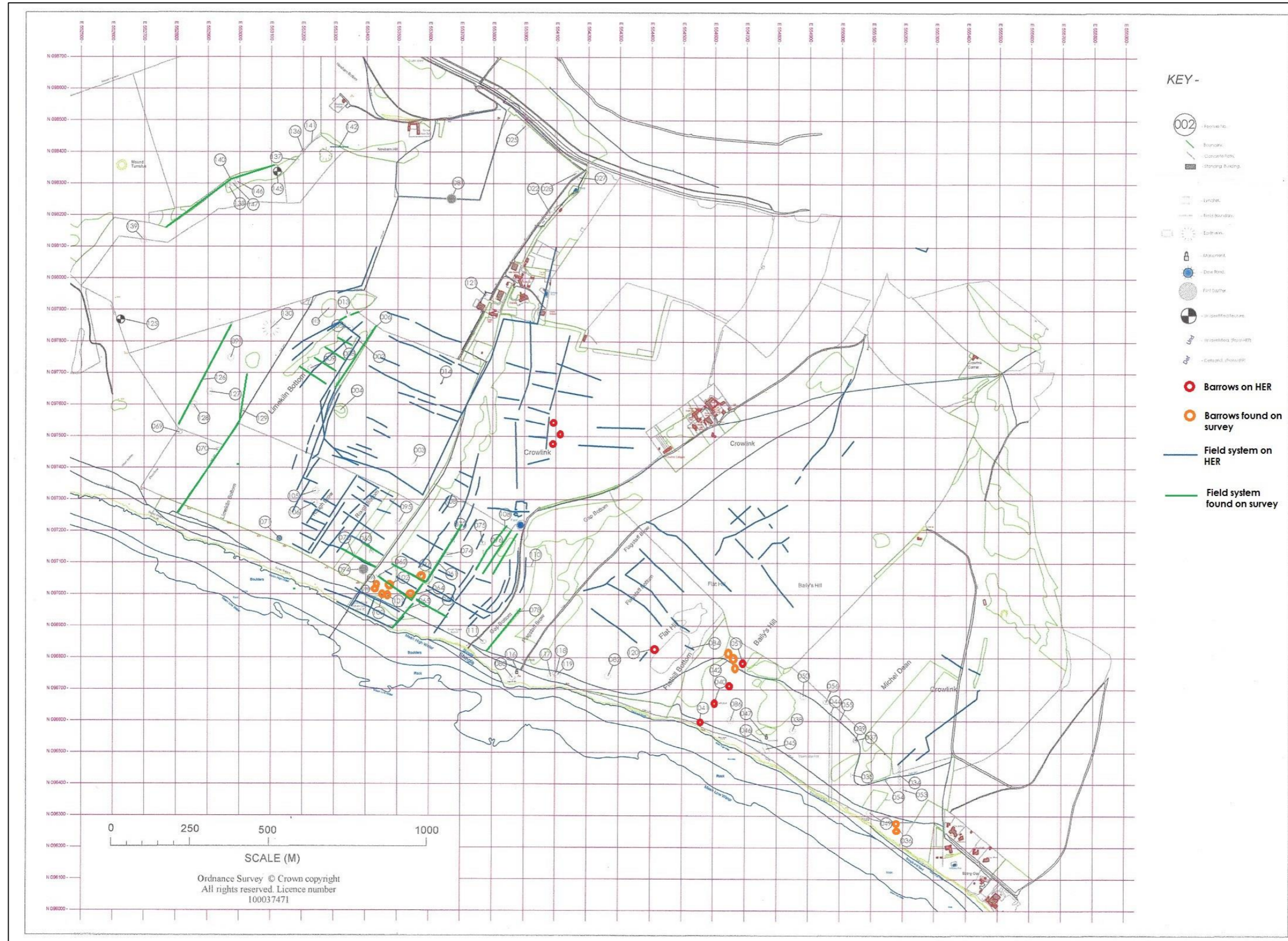


Fig. 7: Map showing the prehistoric sites and field systems recorded on the HER and found during the survey



### 3. Results of the Survey

#### 3.1. Introduction

A total of 147 sites and find spots were recorded during the survey and are detailed in Appendix 2, and shown on Fig. 6. The main types of site found in the survey are listed and defined in Table 1 below, and are described in more detail in the report.

Table 1: Types and number of sites found

Type of Site	Definition	Number
Barrow	Prehistoric burial mound, normally circular with surrounding ditch	15
Quarry	Quarry associated with mineral extraction and stone for building purposes	14
Earthworks	Miscellaneous earthwork of indeterminate age and function	23
Lynchets or cultivation terrace	Step like feature, cultivation terrace for growing crops	23
Dew Pond	Man-made structure, lined with clay or concrete for the collection of water for livestock	2
Military structure	Any structure, other than those listed separately, constructed for military purposes – can be of any post medieval date but predominantly WW2 in date	10
Hut base	Concrete base for a hut, generally a Nissen hut of WW2 date	11
Gun emplacement	An embanked cut feature often with concrete base and holdfast for a weapon	5
Slit trench/weapons pits	Military trench for 2 or more men, or heavier weapon plus crew - normally rectangular or square	8
Pillbox	Multi sided reinforced concrete structure in brick shuttering with embrasures for weapons, and entrance. Sometimes semi-sunken	4
Building debris scatter	Dense scatter of building material on ground surface – perhaps indication of demolished building	9
Hut Platform	Rectangular platform raised above ground level or terraced into slope – possible hut or building base with no concrete base	2
Trackway	Track or evidence of track, possibly cut or terraced, with or without metalled surface	4
Memorial	Specially raised monument or stone/concrete or brick, often inscribed with description	2
Building Remains	Evidence for walls, floors etc indicating location of building(s)	3
Structure	Unknown man-made structure	5
Flint scatter	Scatter of prehistoric worked flint collected from ground surface	4
Bank	Linear earthen bank feature forming boundary or land division	1
Artefact	Misc. artefact not covered above	2

Sites ranging in date from the Bronze Age through to the Second World War were found during the survey, and are summarised by period in Table 2. The report will look at each period in turn to discuss the sites that were found during the survey.

Table 2: Sites and find spots by period

Period	Number of sites
Prehistoric	37
Roman	-
Medieval	-
Post Medieval	24
19 <sup>th</sup> Century	7
WW2	44
20 <sup>th</sup> century non-military	9
Undated	26
Total	147

### 3.2. Prehistory

The 35 Prehistoric sites fall into two main categories, comprising some 15 barrow sites and 17 lynchets, together with a single possible hut platform and four flint scatters. The prehistoric sites are shown on Fig. 7, and will now be considered in a little more detail.

The 15 barrow sites cover a total of 22 possible barrows. These are all circular mounds, which vary in size from 5m to 10m in diameter, and between 150mm and 0.5m in height (Plate 5). Some have a trace of a ditch up to 1m wide around part of the barrow circumference. The form of this group of monuments suggests that they could be Bronze Age burial mounds, however this cannot be certain for all of them, and some are covered in scrub or gorse which makes a full identification difficult (Plate 6), and therefore it is possible that some of these barrow-like mounds could be evidence of later activity, either military or perhaps quarrying.



Plate 5: Barrow GAY040



Plate 6: Possible Barrow GAY064

The barrows are generally located on the coastal strip, and are normally found on the higher ground, with concentrations on Baily's Hill and Rough Brow. Some of these barrows have been previously recorded but others are new discoveries. A few of the barrows appear to be directly associated with the lynchet field systems (eg. GAY064).

Many of the barrows have clearly been affected by erosion, some perhaps from ploughing, but most likely due to the combined effect of animals and people. A few may have been dug into in the past and one on Baily's Hill (GAY41) was the subject of an archaeological excavation in 1998<sup>6</sup>, when it was totally excavated and then reinstated (Plate 7).

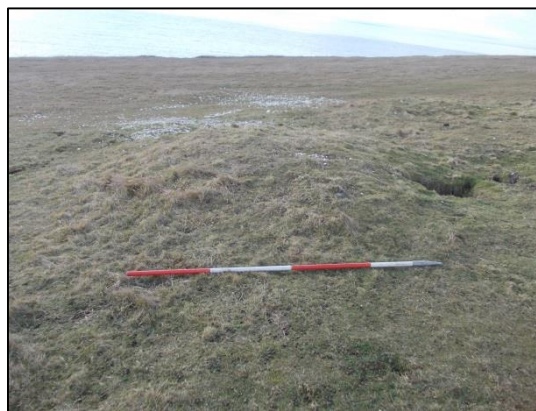


Plate 7: Excavated barrow (GAY041)

Two Bronze Age cemeteries are suggested by the distribution of barrows found in the survey. The first on Baily's Hill includes the excavated barrow (GAY041), and another barrow a little further north (GAY040), then a further 100m further north are a group of some 7 possible barrows (GAY042 & GAY051). A geophysical survey of Baily's Hill located magnetic anomalies that coincided with this latter group of possible barrows, and the surveyor noted the presence of a number of topographic features resembling barrows at this location<sup>7</sup>. The second possible cemetery is on Brass Point where a group of possible gorse covered mounds were found (GAY064, 097, 098, 099, 100, 101 & 102), although some of these could not be properly identified due to the gorse cover. Other possible barrows are the four on the high ground of Went Hill overlooking Birling Gap (GAY036, 053 & 054), and a single barrow on Flat Hill (GAY120).

The greatest risk to this group of monuments is animal and people erosion, and the danger of those close to the cliff edge being totally lost due to cliff collapse. Possible barrows (GAY098 -102 and 064) are highlighted as being in urgent need of excavation due to their closeness to the cliff edge, before further cliff collapse makes the exercise of excavation impossible due to health and safety considerations.

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<sup>6</sup> Greatorex, C. 2001 'Evidence of Sussex prehistoric ritual traditions', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **139**

<sup>7</sup> Linford, N. 1998 *Crowlink Round Barrow, East Sussex. Report of Geophysics Survey 1998* AML Report **27/98**

The lynchets have been grouped under prehistoric sites as, although they are likely to have continued in use into the Romano-British period, it seems most likely that they originated in prehistory. The form of these field systems formed by sub-rectangular fields with linear lynchet boundaries, and including banked trackways, is typical of fields found associated with Bronze Age settlement sites, and which continued into the Iron Age (Plate 8).



Plate 8: lynchets forming field system (GAY072)



Plate 9: Lynchet GAY078



The field systems were known from aerial photographs, and had been largely plotted onto the HER records from those photographs and are recorded on the HER under two references (MES3005 & MES20076), however this is the first time anyone has attempted to record these particular field systems on the ground (Plate 9). It is clear that they have been badly denuded by the effect of ploughing, although some of the best preserved lynchets are those located on existing field boundaries.

The field systems recorded on the HER have been plotted out in Fig. 7, with the surviving sections and any new sections found during the survey shown in red. Many of the lynchets forming the field systems are very discrete, in some cases being just c100mm high. As such they are very susceptible to erosion from people and animals walking over them. Some vehicle damage is also possible, and in places some lynchets have already been cut through to create access for tracks. However the greatest threat would be due to modern ploughing which has clearly affected them in the past. As the area in which most of the surviving lynchets occur is no longer being ploughed, it seems unlikely that this would be a future threat.

A single possible Bronze Age hut platform was found during the survey (GAY052). It was located on the south-east facing slope of Went Hill overlooking Birling Cap, and comprised an area of 10m x 12m terraced into the upper slope (Plate 10). This would be of sufficient size to hold a single roundhouse, or associated pair of smaller roundhouses, and is typical of other Bronze Age hut platforms seen elsewhere on the South Downs. Only excavation will resolve whether this is a hut platform or whether it served some other purpose.



Plate 10: Possible prehistoric hut platform

Four small scatters of prehistoric flintwork were found during the survey, and other isolated pieces were also collected. The flintwork found probably dates from the Neolithic period through into the Bronze Age, although much of it was undiagnostic. There are numerous known findspots of prehistoric flintwork from the survey area, and these have been plotted onto Fig. 7, and colour coded by period where known.

### 3.3. Romano-British

Although the prehistoric field systems may have continued in use into the Romano-British period, no evidence for Romano-British activity was found during the survey. It has been suggested that during the Romano-British period much of the South Downs was being used for sheep grazing rather than for cultivation, and therefore evidence for settlement such as farmsteads and Villas in this period is quite rare, although occasional farmsteads, such as at Bullock Down have been found (Fig. 8).

### 3.4. Medieval

Similarly there was no evidence for activity in the Early Medieval (Saxon) period or Medieval period found during the survey, and no evidence for ridge and furrow ploughing was seen. It is very likely that the land continued to be used for sheep grazing during this time, with any settlement located at Friston, West Dean, and at the Exceat settlement to the west. It is likely that during the medieval period small farmsteads, such as those found during the Bullock Down survey near Beachy Head, were scattered across the South Downs (Fig. 8).

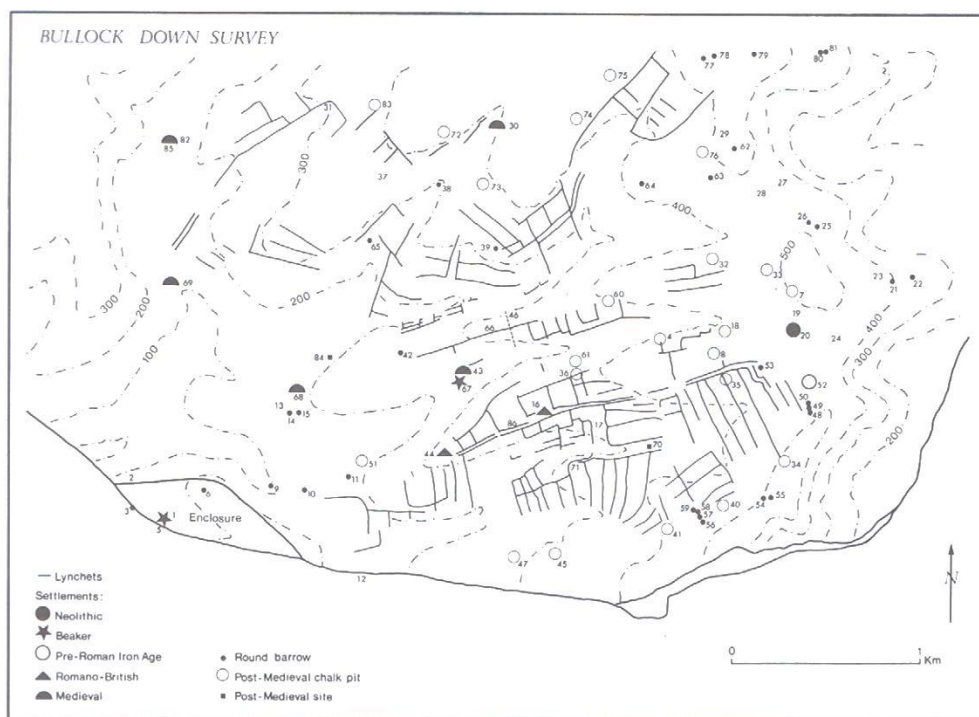


Fig. 8: Bullock Down Survey map

### 3.5 Post Medieval

There are a total of 31 sites that can be placed in the Post Medieval period, with at least seven confirmed as being 19<sup>th</sup> century in date. It is likely that many of the 26 sites that could not be dated (classified as unknown in Table 2) are also Post Medieval, and many of those are likely to fall into the 19<sup>th</sup> century as well.



Plate 11: Coastguard Station (GAY085)

The confirmed 19<sup>th</sup> century sites include the Coastguard Station (Fig. 9 & Plate 11) at Crowlink (GAY085) and a scatter of 19<sup>th</sup> century building material near the entrance to Gayles Farm (GAY020). Other features likely to be 19<sup>th</sup> century are the Dew Ponds (GAY071 & 109), with GAY109 being shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS map (Fig. 10).

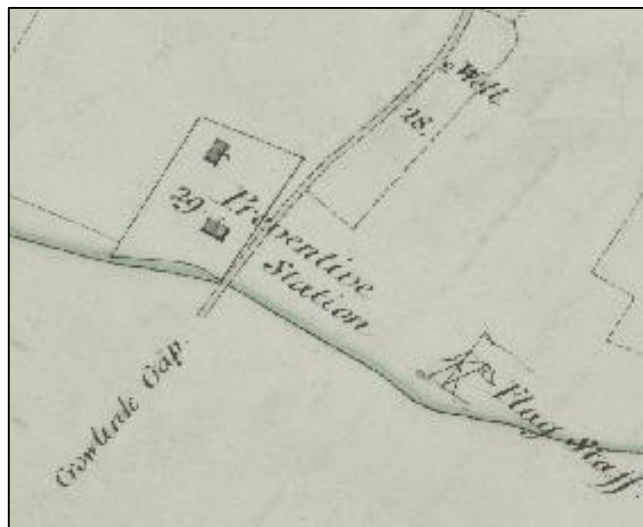


Fig. 9: Friston Tithe map 1848

The group of features on Flagstaff Point (Plate 12) comprising a brick floor (GAY079), D-shaped brick structure (GAY115) and circular earthen mound (GAY080) are all probably associated, and may form a signalling station, shown as a 'flagstaff' on the 1848 Tithe map (Fig. 9). Although there is no military signalling station recorded here<sup>8</sup>, these features may have been connected with the nearby coastguard station. The well shown on the Tithe map to the north of the coastguard station was probably found (GAY077), although only building debris, perhaps from an above ground protective structure survived.

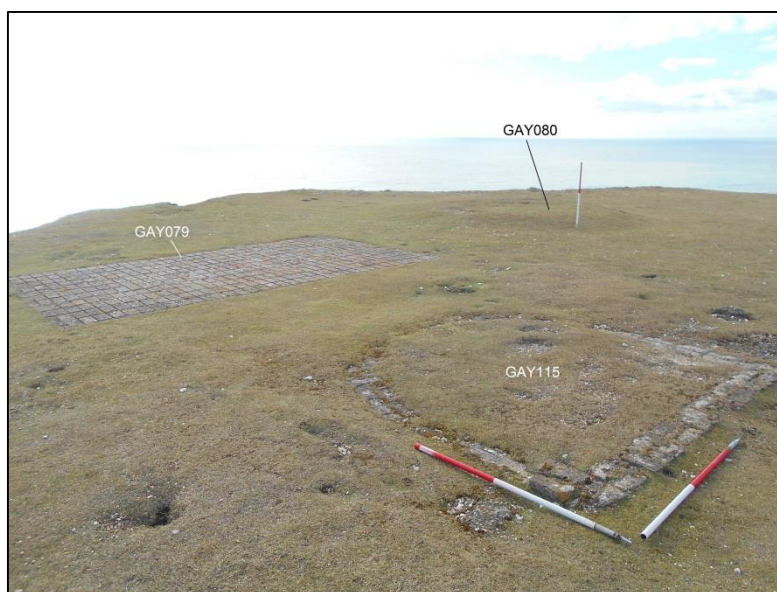


Plate 12: 19<sup>th</sup> century features on Flagstaff Point

Quarries make up a large proportion of the sites recorded during the survey (c10%) and have been listed as Post Medieval or unknown. A number of shallow depressions are recorded as earthworks, as they do not fit the attributes of a quarry. The quarries fall into two distinct categories, firstly the large quarries >10m diameter of which there are five in the survey area (GAY004, 011, 012, 092 & 093). These are chalk quarries, probably extracting chalk for use either for lime mortar or for marling, and are marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS maps as 'Old Chalk Pits' (Fig. 10), so pre-date the 1870's.

These quarries are quite substantial, being 30-40m in diameter and c8m deep (Plates 13 & 14). They have a similar form being oval in shape with one side, generally the downslope side, open and used as the access into the quarry. Many of the quarries have then been used for other activities, with Quarry GAY004 having evidence for a building within it, a tank and machinery pieces, all probably associated with agricultural activities (Plate 13). Quarry GAY011 has the remains of a demolished pillbox from the Second World War dumped into it (Plate 20).

<sup>8</sup> Goodwin, J. 2000 *Military Signals from the South Coast*, Middleton Press



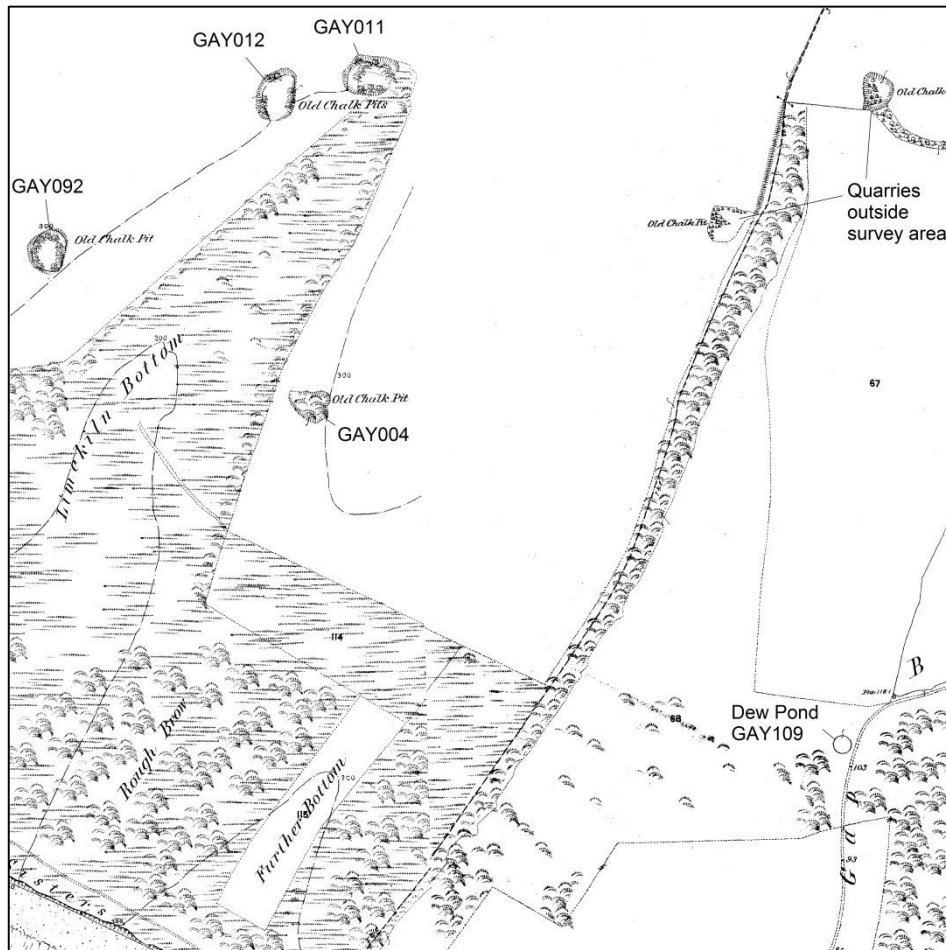


Fig. 10: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS Map 1875 showing quarries



Plate 13: Quarry GAY004



Plate 14: Quarry GAY012

The second group of quarries are much smaller, and can occur individually (e.g. GAY005, 009 & 146) or in groups (e.g. GAY034 & GAY050). They tend to be anywhere from 3m to 6m in diameter, and are usually shallow, usually less than 1m, although a few are deeper (Plate 15). They are difficult to date, but it is most likely that the majority will have dated from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and they may be for quarrying either chalk or flint. It is possible that some may have been dug for other purposes and may not be quarries. The group GAY034 corresponds with an HER reference (MES24472) for Second World War activity.



Plate 15: Quarry GAY146

It has been suggested that some of the possible small quarries/earthworks could have been bomb craters, especially those occurring in a line (GAY091, 127 & 128) to the south of the Second World War runway. It is known that Friston was attacked on a number of occasions during the war with at least one building being destroyed<sup>9</sup>, however any bomb craters on the runway or operating area would have been rapidly

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<sup>9</sup> Butler, C. 2007 *East Sussex under Attack*, Tempus Publishing Ltd

filled in. Research carried out by Peter Hibbs<sup>10</sup> on bomb craters provides some data for bomb craters, which suggests a maximum size of c12m (Table 3), although subsequent weathering especially on open downland areas may result in a much larger feature surviving today. The other feature commonly reported on, is a distinctive lip to the edge of the bomb crater. From a review of the survey data it seems very unlikely that any of these features are in fact bomb craters as they are too large and none have the distinctive lip present.

Bomb Weight	Crater Diameter	Crater Depth
50 KG	8-12 ft (2.4 - 3.6m)	2-5 ft (0.6 - 1.5m)
100 KG	20-30 ft (6-9.1m)	7-10 ft (2.1-3m)
250 KG	24-36 ft (7.3-11m)	10-12 ft (3-3.7m)
500 KG	30-40 ft (9.1-12.2m)	10-16ft (3-4.9m)

Table 3: Bomb crater size (www.pillbox.org.uk/pillblogs)

Finally there are a group of north-south orientated lynchets at Michel Dean (GAY37, 044, 045, 046, 048 & 055) which are all parallel to one another at approximately regular intervals, and extend down one east facing slope into the valley and on the lower part of the west facing slope (Plate 16). They are quite shallow and very discrete, but resemble Post medieval strip fields.

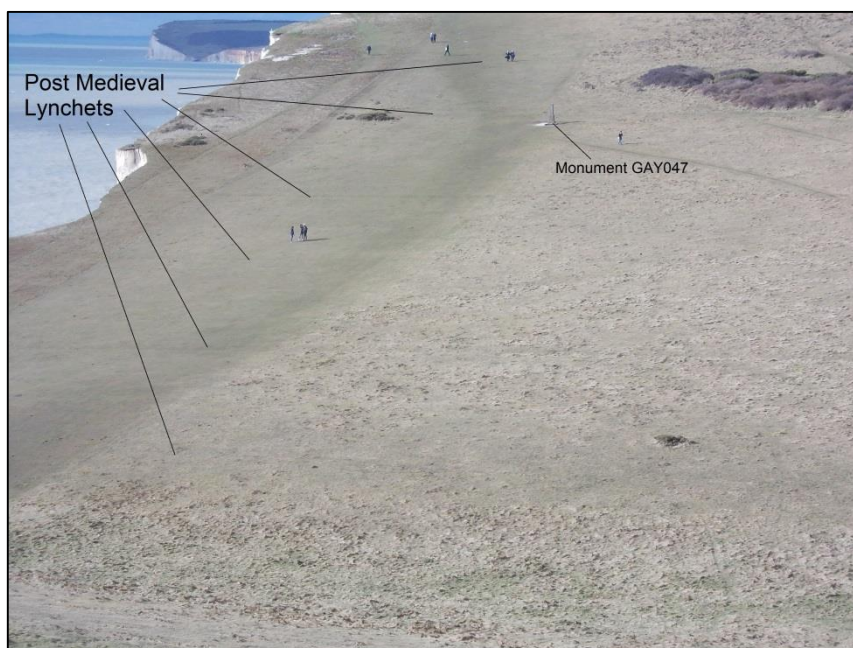


Plate 16: Post medieval lynchets at Michel Dean

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.pillbox.org.uk/pillblogs/detail.asp?ID=330>



### 3.7 20<sup>th</sup> Century Military

The use of the airfield at Gayles Farm during the Second World War has been documented<sup>11</sup>, and the surviving military buildings and defence installations that survive around Gayles Farm have been recorded<sup>12</sup>. The survey has identified many other features that may be related to the airfield and other military activities that occurred within the survey area (Fig. 6).

The sites fall into two groups, firstly those which are defensive in nature, some of which directly relate to the airfield whilst others are part of the coastal defence sites prepared along the South Coast during the early part of the war. These include slit trenches, weapons pits (e.g. Plate 17) and gun emplacements, and pillboxes.



Plate 17: Possible weapons pit overlooking Birling Gap (GAY043)

The second group are directly related to the airfield, and form part of the airfield infrastructure, and generally comprise concrete hut bases for Nissen huts, and other structures or remains of structures. The airfield installations are shown on Fig. 11.

Two extant pillboxes (GAY032 & GAY033) had been previously identified and recorded, and sit in a small copse to the north of Gayles Farm overlooking the runway (Fig. 11 & Plates 18 & 19). The pillboxes are identical (Fig. 12), and appear to be Modified Type DFW 3/24 (4f), similar concrete examples exist at Chiddingstone Causeway, Kent.<sup>13</sup> Pillbox GAY032 still has its metal door, and both have their metal fittings in their embrasures still in-situ.

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<sup>11</sup> Ashworth, R.C.B. 1985 *Action Stations 9. Military Airfields of the Central, South and South-East*, Patrick Stevens Ltd

Brooks, R.J. 1993 *Sussex Airfields in the Second World War*, Countryside Books

<sup>12</sup> Butler, C. 2007 *East Sussex under Attack*, Tempus Publishing Ltd

<sup>13</sup> Osborne, M. 2012 *Pillboxes of Britain & Ireland*, The History Press. P148 & 149



Between the two pillboxes and running parallel to the concrete track is a blast wall (GAY024). It comprises two parallel concrete walls each formed from 14 pre-fabricated concrete panels, spaced 16' apart, and 33' 6" long. Also in the copse were a small number of slit trenches or weapons pits, which could also have functioned as small air raid shelters (GAY022 & 023).



Plate 18: Pillbox GAY032 with concrete track beyond



Plate 19: Pillbox GAY033

The remains of a further pillbox (GAY011a) was identified in quarry GAY011 where it appeared to have been bulldozed after its demolition (Plate 20). It presumably had stood on the high ground beside the quarry where it could have covered both the runway and access from the coast. The NMR records a site comprising several small huts located in a chalk pit (Quarry GAY011) between the two runways, and is likely to be associated with anti-aircraft gun emplacements in the vicinity (NMR: 1529491).



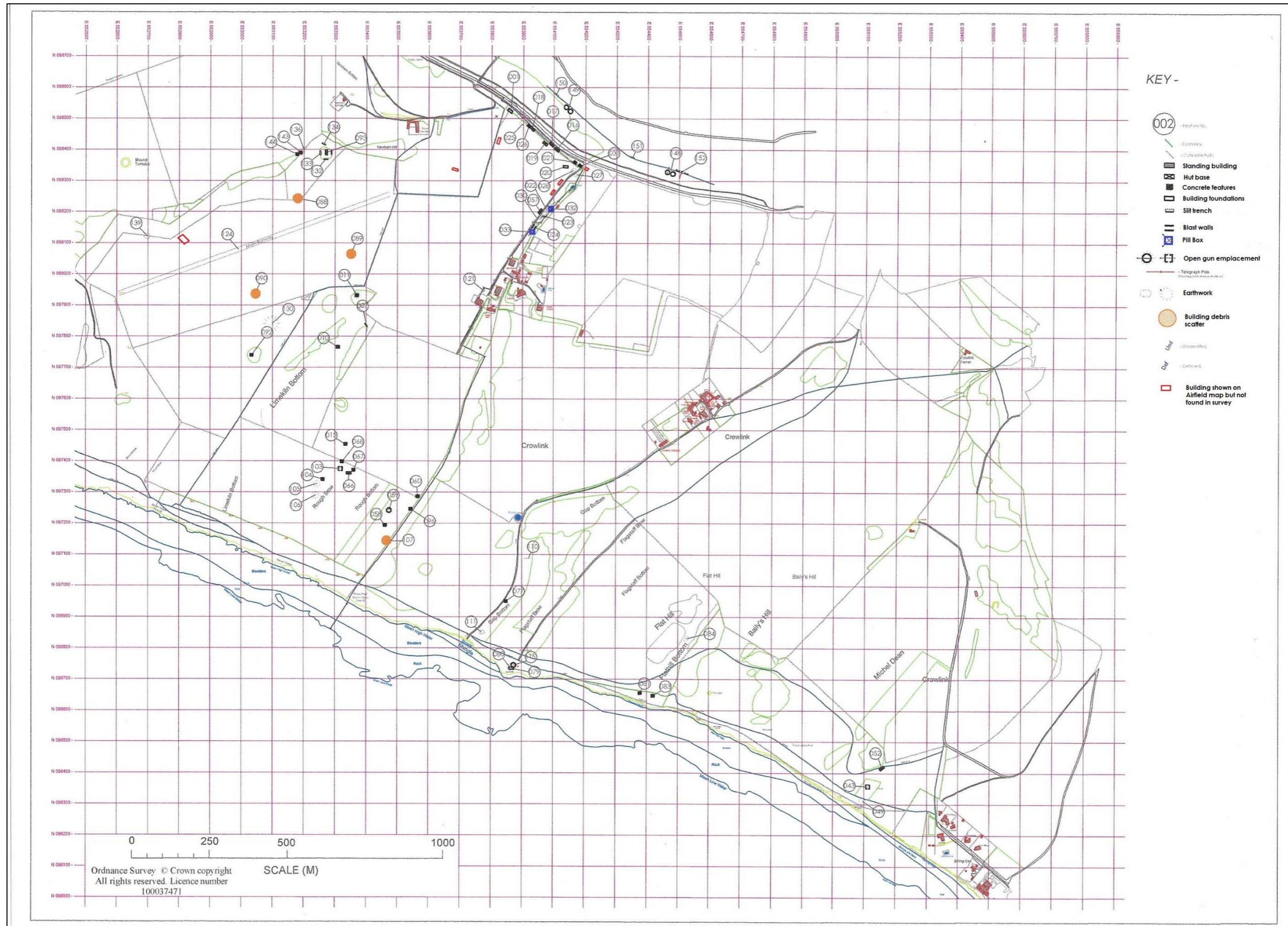


Fig. 11: Map of Gayles Farm (Friston Airfield) showing all known military features



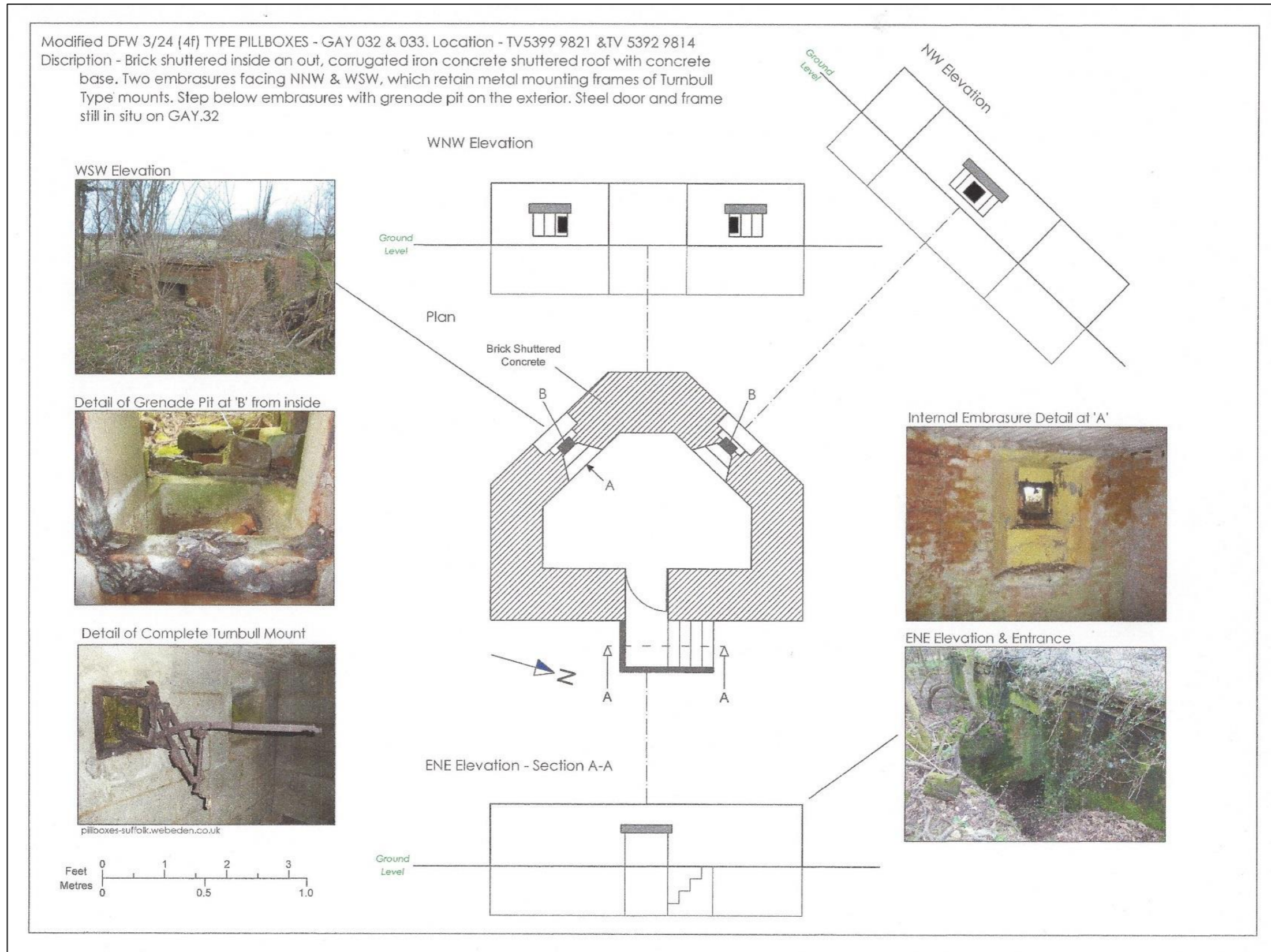


Fig. 12: Plan and Elevations of Pillboxes GAY032 & 033





Plate 20: Demolished pillbox (GAY11a) in Quarry

Possible reinforced concrete remains of a fourth pillbox (GAY068) were also found, but these could be from another military building as no distinctive pillbox features were noted amongst the remains (Plate 22). This latter ‘pillbox’ was within an area identified on the NMR (1529500) from 1942 aerial photography as being an area of military activity, perhaps a defended locality or ammunition dump, comprising eighteen dispersed small huts within a double enclosure of barbed wire. The survey found in addition to GAY068, a number of other military features at this location, including GAY015, 058, 059, 060, 066, 067, 103, which all feature earthworks with pieces of concrete and bricks, all of which indicate the presence of military buildings at this location (Plates 21 & 22). Similarly features GAY104, 105 & 106 a little further south correspond to another possible ammunition dump comprising small huts (NMR record 1529501).



Plate 21: Concrete hut base (GAY058)





Plate 22: Concrete and other building debris relating to WW2 activity (GAY103 & 068)

There are numerous slit trenches and weapons/gun emplacements, along both the Coastal Strip and around Friston airfield. The slit trenches could be defensive, but those around the airfield also probably served as air raid shelters. The weapons pits and gun emplacements could have held infantry support weapons such as Vickers machine guns or mortars, but some may have held anti-aircraft guns. Suggestions of weapons positions come from the concrete block with a nine-bolt holdfast (GAY010) in Limekiln Bottom (Plate 23), perhaps originally mounting a small anti-aircraft gun or searchlight, and the pintle in Quarry GAY092 (Plate 24), perhaps for a Stork Type mounting with twin anti-aircraft machine guns (Plate 34).



Plate 23: Holdfast in Limekiln Bottom    Plate 24: Pintle mount in Quarry GAY092

The airfield was levelled during the war to create two runways. A chalk pit was filled in and soil was scraped from the surface in parallel strips across the line of the runway. These parallel strips remained visible as cropmarks for many years, and some of them appear at one time to have been interpreted as elements of a field system (NMR record 1530313). GAY089 and 090 comprised building debris scattered in the

ploughsoil along the south side of the main runway, which may have resulted from this construction activity (Fig. 11). The area of the runways has been under plough since the war, and many of the features noted on the NMR could not be seen, and are likely to have been removed by this post war agricultural activity.

The airfield wartime infrastructure comprised a large number of Nissen huts and at least one Blister hangar, whilst the existing buildings at Gayles Farm were also utilised. Large air raid shelters and other installations survive around Gayles Farm<sup>14</sup>, but were outside the survey area.

The survey did however locate the concrete bases of some 11 Nissen huts, and building debris perhaps from other buildings. The largest group of buildings is situated alongside the A259 road and around the entrance and concrete track to Gayles Farm. The concrete track from the A259 to Gayles Farm (GAY030) appears to have been built during the war and replaced the earlier metalled trackway (GAY029) which survives as a slight hollow way to the east side of the copse containing the pillboxes. The presence of Nissen huts was known from a map of the airfield (Fig. 2), and the remains of at least seven hut bases were noted here (Plate 25) along with evidence for a latrine building (Plate 26). The guard house, marked on the map, could not be located, however some pieces of concrete around the entrance way may have been parts of concrete blocks or posts. Further huts are shown on the airfield map extending along the road to the north-west outside the survey area (Fig. 2).



Plate 25: Nissen hut base (GAY001)



Plate 26: Cap to latrine drain  
(GAY026)

Along the north side of the main runway were a number of military features, including a number of slit trenches overlooking the lower ground of Newbarn Bottom to the north and west. Quarry (GAY131) was probably used during the war, as it

<sup>14</sup> Butler, C. 2007 *East Sussex under Attack*, Tempus Publishing Ltd



contained a concrete hut base (GAY093 – Plate 27), and on its upper edge were four slit trenches, covering all approaches. These all had pieces of timber in the fills, and there was barbed wire and chicken wire associated with them. One slit trench (GAY131a) still had some corrugated iron shuttering visible along one side (Plate 28).



Plate 27: Nissen hut base (GAY093)



Plate 28: Filled in slit trench  
(GAY0131a)

Although outside the survey area, the previous survey at Gayles Farm had located a number of buildings and structures, including two large below ground air raid shelters (Plate 29), and a number of brick built bays which may have stored fuel or ammunition. The farm buildings were utilised for various purposes, one being used as the fire station, and to the east of the farm a maycrete pre-fabricated building apparently functioned as a hospital (Plates 30-33). A number of other buildings and blast walls survive and are being re-used today for other purposes.

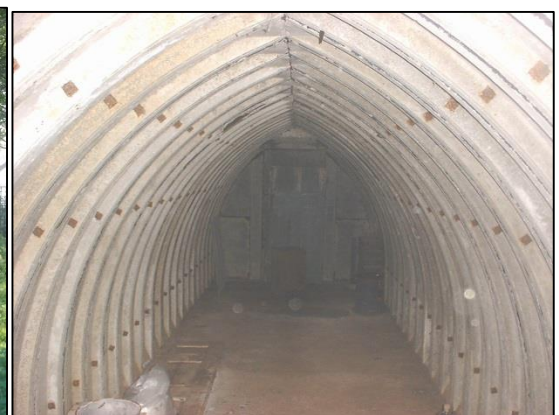


Plate 29: Gayles Farm air raid shelters (Copyright C. Butler)





Plate 30: Fire station Building



Plate 31: Hospital building



Plate 32: Brick bays



Plate 33: Brick building

Situated to the north of the entrance to Gayles Farm, and also outside the survey area, were some slit trenches and a number of concrete pipe posts, one of which had a metal pintle, possibly for a Stork Type mount, with twin anti-aircraft machine guns (Plate 34).

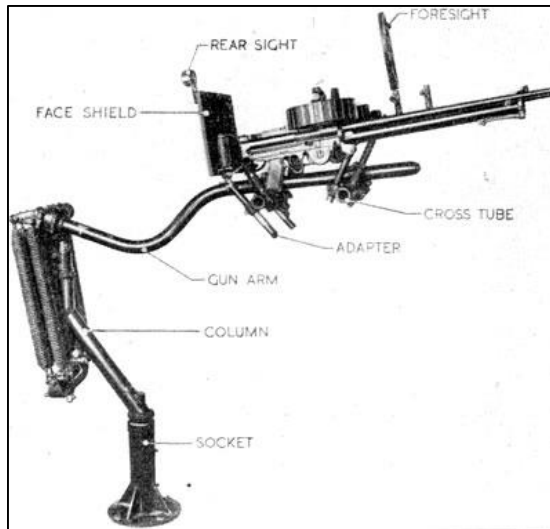


Plate 34: concrete pipe posts & Stork Mount illustration.<sup>15</sup>

Some features classified in the survey as earthworks, may also have served a military purpose. An example is GAY138 which was a quarry-like feature 17m x 11m and 4m deep, with the spoil embanked around its edges, except at south end which may be an entrance (Plate 35). As this feature has good views out to the north and west, it would make a good location for an anti-aircraft gun.

<sup>15</sup> Armshaw, A & Crowhurst, D. 2001 *The Journal of Friends of Sywell Aerodrome No. 7*, Swell Aviation Ltd.



Plate 35: Possible anti-aircraft gun position GAY138.



### 3.8 20<sup>th</sup> Century non-military

The 20<sup>th</sup> century features found during the survey comprise predominantly deposits of building debris, many of which could be related to the Second World War activity around the airfield. Some metal artefacts were also noted, and are likely to be either parts of agricultural machinery or perhaps military.

Two memorials were recorded on the Coastal Strip, the first (GAY116) was erected in 1926 by the Society of Downsmen, recording the donation by William Charles Campbell which enabled the purchase of Crowlink Valley for the Nation. The other (GAY047) commemorated Micheldene being given to the National Trust by WA Robertson in memory of brothers killed in 1916 & 1917 in Hanover and the Somme (Plate 36).



Plate 36: Memorial GAY047

## 4.0 Finds

### 4.1 Prehistoric Flintwork by Steffan Klemenic

#### *Introduction:*

- 4.1.1 An assemblage of 47 pieces of worked flint was recovered during the fieldwork (Table 4), together with 2 pieces of unworked fire-fractured flint (32g). The assessment comprised a visual inspection of the flint in each bag by eye, or with the aid of a magnifying glass where necessary. The number of pieces of worked flint was counted and sorted by type, noting the technological attributes and extent of any retouch. Terminology is after Butler<sup>16</sup>. Details were also noted regarding the range and variety of pieces, their general condition, and the potential for further detailed analysis. Non-worked flints that had been collected were discarded at this stage. An archive of the assemblage was produced, comprising a full written listing by context and an Excel spreadsheet.

Table 4: The Flintwork

Type	Quantity
Soft Hammer Flakes	1
Hard Hammer Flakes	4
Soft Stone Hammer Flakes	6
Fragments	16
Thinning Flakes	8
Blades	2
Blade - Like Flakes	2
Blade Fragments	3
Small End Scrapers	2
Side and End Scraper	1
Double Ended Scraper	1
Knife	1
Horned Scraper	1
TOTAL	47

#### *The Assemblage*

- 4.1.2 The raw material comprises a typical range of Chalk Downland nodular flint. Very few pieces are patinated, those that are, having either a white or a mottled blue/grey colour. The un-patinated flints are mostly a grey colour, with a few black pieces. Around 90% of the worked flint is debitage, most of this is represented by un-diagnostic fragments. Of the identifiable pieces there were four hard hammer struck

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<sup>16</sup> Butler, C. 2005 *Prehistoric Flintwork*, Tempus Publishing Ltd

flakes, and seven soft and soft stone hammer-struck flakes. There were also a number of soft hammer-struck thinning flakes and blades, meaning that of the identifiable debitage, some 76% was removed using a soft hammer. A high proportion of pieces from this assemblage had signs of platform preparation.

4.1.3 In all there were five pieces that were recognisable tool types, these are all scrapers, with the exception of a possible knife. The knife is from (GAY094) it is 75mm long, 43mm wide and 6mm thick. It is an unmodified flake, with a twisted point, and a missing platform. The side-and-end scraper from this area (GAY094) is partially cortical on the dorsal side, and also has a negative flake removal along the centre of the dorsal side. It was most likely struck with a soft stone hammer, and has abrupt retouch along its base, and a lateral edge.

4.1.4 A flint scatter located at GAY162 produced an end scraper. This was likely made on a soft stone hammer struck flake, and has two negative flake scars on its dorsal surface, and abrupt retouch. A horned scraper was found at GAY163. This has abrupt retouch in a concavity at its base. All of the recognisable finds are probably of Neolithic or Bronze Age date.

#### 4.2 Pottery by Dick Nesbitt-Dufort

4.2.1 A single piece of buff coloured glazed earthenware pot was recovered from the building debris scatter (GAY088). Probably part of a large jar type vessel, interior glaze partly white with a clear border, exterior clear glazed, 8mm thick and weighing 66g.

#### 4.3 Glass by Dick Nesbitt-Dufort

4.3.1 From the building debris scatter (GAY088), came a shard of semi opaque, reinforced door or window type glass (metal mesh 10mm squares), 7mm thick, weight 489g.



## 5. Conclusion and Recommendations

### 5.1 Conclusion

An archaeological survey of the National Trust land at Gayles Farm and the Coastal Strip between Cuckmere Haven and Birling Gap in East Sussex produced a total of 147 sites ranging in date from the Bronze Age through to the Second World War.

The earliest sites comprised prehistoric field systems and round barrows, together with a possible hut platform and worked flint scatters, and were predominantly confined to the Coastal Strip. There was little or no evidence for activity between the Roman and Medieval periods, and it was only from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries that further sites were recorded. These comprised chalk quarries and features associated with the Crowlink Coastguard Station and nearby signalling station on Flagstaff Point.

The greatest amount of activity related to the use of Gayles Farm as an airfield during the Second World War. The survey found numerous sites comprising concrete Nissen hut bases, remains of other buildings and installations, together with pillboxes and other defensive features. Other WW2 military sites were also found on the Coastal Strip.

This survey, involving numerous National Trust volunteers proved to be very successful, in that a much clearer picture has been produced of the archaeology surviving at Gayles Farm and on the Coastal Strip to supplement the existing information held on the HER and NMR databases. Furthermore, the volunteers received training and were able to participate in, and contribute to, a successful archaeological survey project.

### 5.2 Recommendations

The survey has produced a large number of sites, to which can be added the sites on the HER and NMR databases, to arrive at a significant database of archaeology. The survey, by definition, has only been able to record sites that are visible on the surface, and there are probably numerous other sites for which no above ground evidence survives.

The database of sites created includes, where possible, information regarding the condition, stability and vulnerability of each site, and further observations where the site may be being damaged, or is in danger of being damaged.

Although only a small part of the site is currently under active cultivation, it is clear that past agricultural activity has had a significant detrimental effect on the prehistoric field systems. Future agricultural activity that may affect the archaeological earthworks will predominantly relate to erosion by sheep and cattle that graze the open grassland. The erosion caused by people, especially on the Coastal Strip, rabbits and occasional vehicles could also have a detrimental effect on earthwork features.

Many of the features, especially on the Coastal Strip, are covered with gorse, and any subsequent clearance of the gorse should be carried out with the knowledge that there may be subtle and fragile archaeological earthworks, especially barrows, preserved beneath the gorse. Further targeted fieldwork on groups on sites (e.g. the barrows) may produce a much more detailed record of these sites.

All the archaeological sites within a 10m to 15m distance from the eroding cliff edge should be considered for urgent recording and where possible excavation to preserve them by record before health and safety considerations prevent this from happening. Specific features include the Coastguard station, features on Flagstaff Point, and the possible barrows on Brass Point. It is likely that many of these sites will be lost over the next few years.

A research project could be put together to further research the Second World War airfield. It is likely there will be maps and other documents available, and the 1940's aerial photographs used to create the NMR records would be helpful to look at now the fieldwork survey has been completed. It is likely that a combination of further fieldwork and recording in conjunction with these sources will uncover much more information relating to the airfield and its installations.

A management plan for the archaeology of the site should be produced. This should highlight to those working on the site the presence and significance of the archaeology, and it should include guidance on the conservation and future management of the archaeological features identified in the survey.

### 5.3 Our recommendations are:

1. The parts of Gayles Farm currently under cultivation should be subject to a systematic fieldwalking survey, which could involve volunteers.
2. A detailed survey and recording of the features found on Flagstaff Point, together with further fieldwork to see whether evidence survives for the WW2 features suggested by the NMR records
3. Documentary research and further fieldwork on the WW2 airfield features and installations



4. Develop a management plan for the archaeology found across the survey area. This should consider the factors involved in day to day management of the different sites, as well as preventative and pro-active management, such as clearance of the gorse, and protection of sites from erosion or animal activity.
5. Develop a plan for the detailed recording and possible excavation of the archaeological sites within 15m of the cliff edge.
6. Consider the production of a visitor guide or leaflet for visitors to explain the presence of the different archaeological sites and the history of the area.

Appendix 1: Schedule of Sites found during the survey

<b>Survey Ref No.</b>	<b>National Grid Ref</b>	<b>NT Property, Region</b>	<b>Monument Type</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>MES/NMR Number</b>
GAY001	TV 53860 98526	Gayles Farm	Hut Base	WW2	
GAY002	TV 53374 97804	Gayles Farm	Quarry	Post Medieval	
GAY003	TV 53554 97413	Gayles Farm	Lynchets	Post Medieval	
GAY004	TV 53304 97594	Gayles Farm	Quarry	Post Medieval	MES16630
GAY005	TV 53349 97842	Gayles Farm	Quarry	Post Medieval	
GAY006	TV 53417 97832	Gayles Farm	Lynchets	Prehistoric	
GAY007	TV 53401 97836	Gayles Farm	Slit Trench	WW2	
GAY008	TV 53325 97804	Gayles Farm	Lynchets	Prehistoric	
GAY009	TV 53226 97715	Gayles Farm	Quarry	Post Medieval	
GAY010	TV 53309 97766	Gayles Farm	Gun emplacement	WW2	
GAY011	TV 53370 97932	Gayles Farm	Quarry	Post Medieval	
GAY011a	TV 53370 97932	Gayles Farm	Pillbox	WW2	
GAY012	TV 53278 97911	Gayles Farm	Quarry	Post Medieval	MES16630
GAY013	TV 53341 97886	Gayles Farm	Lynchets	Prehistoric	MES3005
GAY014	TV 53638 97668	Gayles Farm	Structure	Post medieval	1528211
GAY015	TV 53334 97454	Gayles Farm	Military structure	WW2	Part of 1529500 or 1529488
GAY016	TV 54010 98400	Gayles Farm	Hut Base	WW2	
GAY017	TV 53993 98417	Gayles Farm	Hut Base	WW2	
GAY018	TV 53931 98467	Gayles Farm	Hut Base	WW2	
GAY019	TV 53972 98420	Gayles Farm	Hut Base	WW2	
GAY020	TV 54037 98346	Gayles Farm	Building debris scatter	19th century	
GAY021	TV 54067 98359	Gayles Farm	Military structure	WW2	
GAY022	TV 53982 98203	Gayles Farm	Weapon Pits	WW2	
GAY023	TV 53976 98191	Gayles Farm	Slit Trench	WW2	
GAY024	TV 53931 98151	Gayles Farm	Military structure	WW2	



<b>Survey Ref No.</b>	<b>National Grid Ref</b>	<b>NT Property, Region</b>	<b>Monument Type</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>MES/NMR Number</b>
GAY025	TV 53918 98478	Gayles Farm	Earthwork	unknown	
GAY026	TV 53920 98478	Gayles Farm	Military structure	WW2	
GAY027	TV 54069 98326	Gayles Farm	Hut Base	WW2	
GAY028	TV 54058 98313	Gayles Farm	Hut base	WW2	
GAY029	TV 53946 498155	Gayles Farm	Trackway	Post Medieval	
GAY030	TV 53944 98181	Gayles Farm	Concrete Road	WW2	
GAY031	TV 54084 98346	Gayles Farm	Military structure	WW2	
GAY032	TV 5399 9821	Gayles Farm	Pillbox	WW2	MES20063
GAY033	TV 5392 9814	Gayles Farm	Pillbox	WW2	MES20064
GAY034	TV 55090 96431	Gayles Farm	Quarry	Post Medieval	
GAY035	TV 54941 96431	Gayles Farm	Trackway	Post Medieval	
GAY036	TV 55051 96297	Gayles Farm	Barrow	Prehistoric	
GAY037	TV 54950 96540	Gayles Farm	Lynchet	Unknown	
GAY038	TV 54750 96570	Gayles Farm	Earthwork	Unknown	
GAY039	TV 54951 96541	Gayles Farm	Earthwork	unknown	
GAY040	TV 54501 96668	Gayles Farm	Barrow	Prehistoric	MES3068 Barrow B
GAY041	TV 54451 96610	Gayles Farm	Barrow	Prehistoric	MES3068 Barrow A
GAY042	TV 54565 96775	Gayles Farm	Barrow(s)	Prehistoric	MES3068
GAY043	TV 55012 96358	Gayles Farm	Gun Emplacement	WW2	MES24472
GAY044	TV 54872 96627	Gayles Farm	Lynchet	unknown	
GAY045	TV 54660 96517	Gayles Farm	Lynchet	unknown	
GAY046	TV 54649 96530	Gayles Farm	Lynchet	unknown	
GAY047	TV 54667 96547	Gayles Farm	Memorial	20th Century	
GAY048	TV54800 96600	Gayles Farm	Lynchet	unknown	
GAY049	TV 54996 96311	Gayles Farm	Earthwork	unknown	
GAY050	TV 54784 96679	Gayles Farm	Quarry	Post Medieval	
GAY051	TV 54593 96784	Gayles Farm	Barrow	Prehistoric	MES3068
GAY052	TV 55057 96417	Gayles Farm	Hut Platform	Prehistoric	

Survey Ref No.	National Grid Ref	NT Property, Region	Monument Type	Period	MES/NMR Number
GAY053	TV 55101 96385	Gayles Farm	Barrow	Prehistoric	
GAY054	TV 55044 96417	Gayles Farm	Barrow	Prehistoric	
GAY055	TV 54900 96602	Gayles Farm	Lynchet	unknown	
GAY056	TV 54856 96660	Gayles Farm	Quarry	unknown	
GAY057	TV53960 98200	Gayles Farm	Hut Base	WW2	
GAY058	TV 53461 97194	Gayles Farm	Hut Base	WW2	1529501
GAY059	TV 53474 97242	Gayles Farm	Gun Emplacement	WW2	1529500
GAY060	TV 53566 97286	Gayles Farm	Building Remains	WW2	1529500
GAY061	TV 53629 97100, TV 53630 97099, TV 53585 97038, TV 53483 97099, TV 53462 97112	Gayles Farm	Lynchet	Prehistoric	MES3005
GAY062	TV 53441 97058	Gayles Farm	Lynchet	Prehistoric	MES20076
GAY063	TV 53417 97135	Gayles Farm	Lynchet	Prehistoric	MES20076
GAY064	TV 53544 96995	Gayles Farm	Barrow	Prehistoric	MES20076
GAY065	TV 53532 96952	Gayles Farm	Lynchet	Prehistoric	MES20076
GAY066	TV 53532 96952	Gayles Farm	Military structure	WW2	Part of 1529500
GAY067	TV 53358 97369	Gayles Farm	Military structure	WW2	Part of 1529500
GAY068	TV 53323 97398 TV 53326 97396 TV 53325 97398	Gayles Farm	Pill Box	WW2	Part of 1529500
GAY069	TV 52809 97513, TV 52807 97532, TV 63838 97635, TV 52814 97495, TV 52792 97502	Gayles Farm	Earthwork	unknown	MES3005
GAY070	TV 52932 97457	Gayles Farm	Lynchet	Prehistoric	MES3005
GAY071	TV 53128 97176	Gayles Farm	Dew Pond	Post Medieval	
GAY072	TV 53359 97127	Gayles Farm	Lynchet	Prehistoric	MES3005

Survey Ref No.	National Grid Ref	NT Property, Region	Monument Type	Period	MES/NMR Number
GAY073	TV 53675 97170	Gayles Farm	Lynchets	Prehistoric	MES20076
GAY074	TV 53657 97125	Gayles Farm	Trackway	Prehistoric	MES20076
GAY075	TV 53769 97161	Gayles Farm	Earthwork	unknown	
GAY076	TV 53777 97133	Gayles Farm	Lynchets	Prehistoric	MES20076
GAY077	TV 53849 97950	Gayles Farm	Structure	19th century	
GAY078	TV 53880 996946	Gayles Farm	Lynchets	Prehistoric	MES3005
GAY079	TV 53868 96735	Gayles Farm	Building Remains	19th century	
GAY080	TV 53864 96738	Gayles Farm	Earthwork	19th century	
GAY081	TV 54279 96656	Gayles Farm	Structure	20th Century	
GAY082	TV 54168 96743	Gayles Farm	Gun Emplacement	WW2	MES24470
GAY083	TV 54320 96674 TV 54327 96650	Gayles Farm	Structure	Post Medieval	
GAY084	TV 54429 96831	Gayles Farm	Gun Emplacement	WW2	
GAY085	TV 53680 96909 TV 53658 96886 TV 53934 96857	Gayles Farm	Building Remains	19th century	MES8681
GAY086	TV 54554 96603	Gayles Farm	Earthwork	Unknown	
GAY087	TV 53668 98252	Gayles Farm	Flint Scatter	Prehistoric	
GAY088	TV 53180 98242	Gayles Farm	Building Debris Scatter	20th Century	MES16631
GAY089	TV 53351 98064	Gayles Farm	Building Debris Scatter	20th Century	MES24476
GAY090	TV 53045 97936	Gayles Farm	Building Debris Scatter	20th Century	MES24476 / 1530313
GAY091	TV 52972 97749	Gayles Farm	Earthwork	unknown	
GAY092	TV 53042 97740	Gayles Farm	Quarry	Post Medieval	MES16630
GAY092A	TV 53042 97740	Gayles Farm	Military structure	WW2	
GAY093	TV 53273 98393	Gayles Farm	Nissen Hut Base	WW2	
GAY094	TV 53393 97078	Gayles Farm	Flint Scatter	Prehistoric	
GAY095	TV 53505 97229	Gayles Farm	Earthwork	unknown	



<b>Survey Ref No.</b>	<b>National Grid Ref</b>	<b>NT Property, Region</b>	<b>Monument Type</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>MES/NMR Number</b>
GAY096	TV 53543 97246	Gayles Farm	Building Debris Scatter	WW2	
GAY097	TV 53574 97056 TV 53596 97081	Gayles Farm	Barrow	Prehistoric	
GAY098	TV53450 97030 TV 53437 97023	Gayles Farm	Barrow	Prehistoric	
GAY099	TV 53434 97022	Gayles Farm	Barrow	Prehistoric	
GAY100	TV 53455 97000	Gayles Farm	Barrow	Prehistoric	
GAY101	TV 53465 96948	Gayles Farm	Barrow	Prehistoric	
GAY102	TV 53474 97031	Gayles Farm	Barrow	Prehistoric	
GAY103	TV 53316 97375	Gayles Farm	Building Debris Scatter	WW2	Part of 1529500
GAY104	TV 53259 97339	Gayles Farm	Building debris scatter	WW2	Part of 1529501
GAY105	TV 53246 97329	Gayles Farm	Earthwork	unknown	Part of 1529501
GAY106	TV 53183 97268	Gayles Farm	Earthwork		Part of 1529501
GAY107	TV 53466 97144	Gayles Farm	Building debris scatter	20th Century	
GAY108	TV 53718 97291	Gayles Farm	Lynchet	prehistoric	MES3005
GAY109	TV53895 97220	Gayles Farm	Dew Pond	20th century	
GAY110	TV 53922 97089	Gayles Farm	Bank	unknown	
GAY111	TV 53772 96850	Gayles Farm	Hut Base	WW2	1528061
GAY112	-	Gayles Farm	This is part of GAY085		
GAY113	-	Gayles Farm	This is part of GAY085		
GAY114	-	Gayles Farm	This is part of GAY085		
GAY115	TV 53873 96738	Gayles Farm	Structure	19th century	
GAY116	TV 53877 96749	Gayles Farm	Memorial	20th Century	
GAY117	TV 53989 96743	Gayles Farm	Earthwork	unknown	
GAY118	TV 54000 96750	Gayles Farm	Earthwork	unknown	
GAY119	TV 54004 96747	Gayles Farm	Earthwork	unknown	
GAY120	TV 54307 96828	Gayles Farm	Barrow	prehistoric	MES24471

<b>Survey Ref No.</b>	<b>National Grid Ref</b>	<b>NT Property, Region</b>	<b>Monument Type</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>MES/NMR Number</b>
GAY121	TV 53780 97950	Gayles Farm	Hut Platform	unknown	
GAY122	Void				
GAY123	TV 53600 98010	Gayles Farm	Military structure	WW2	
GAY124	TV 53475 98255 to TV52605 97935	Gayles Farm	Military structure	WW2	
GAY125	Void	Gayles Farm			
GAY126	TV 52810 97534	Gayles Farm	Lynchet	Prehistoric	
GAY127	TV 52906 97641	Gayles Farm	Earthwork	unknown	
GAY128	TV 52857 97600	Gayles Farm	Earthwork	unknown	
GAY129	TV 53010 97581	Gayles Farm	Lynchet	Prehistoric	
GAY130	TV 53099 97841	Gayles Farm	Earthwork	unknown	
GAY131	TV 53273 98393	Gayles Farm	Quarry	Post medieval	MES16435
GAY131a	TV53291 98394	Gayles Farm	Slit trench	WW2	
GAY132	TV 53552 98394	Gayles Farm	Slit trench	WW2	
GAY133	TV 53266 98374	Gayles Farm	Slit trench	WW2	
GAY134	TV 53264 98418	Gayles Farm	Slit trench	WW2	
GAY135	TV 53468 98262	Gayles Farm	Artefact	20th century	
GAY136	TV 53192 98394	Gayles Farm	Earthwork	unknown	
GAY137	TV53182 98387	Gayles Farm	Earthwork	unknown	
GAY138	TV 52962 98299	Gayles Farm	Earthwork	unknown	
GAY139	TV 52698 98130	Gayles Farm	Quarry	unknown	MES19543
GAY140	TV 52952 98307	Gayles Farm	Lynchet	Prehistoric	
GAY141	TV 53256 98459	Gayles Farm	Earthwork	unknown	
GAY142	TV 53302 98428	Gayles Farm	Earthwork	unknown	
GAY143	TV 53188 98395	Gayles Farm	Slit trench	WW2	
GAY144	TV 53129 98384	Gayles Farm	Building debris scatter	WW2	
GAY145	TV 53119 98337	Gayles Farm	Artefact	20th century	
GAY146	TV 52988 98305	Gayles Farm	Quarry	Post medieval	
GAY147	TV 52978	Gayles	Quarry	Post	

<b>Survey Ref No.</b>	<b>National Grid Ref</b>	<b>NT Property, Region</b>	<b>Monument Type</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>MES/NMR Number</b>
	98301	Farm		medieval	
GAY148	TV 54373 98332	Gayles Farm	Military structure	WW2	
GAY149	TV 54048 98534	Gayles Farm	Military structure	WW2	
GAY150	TV 54008 98578	Gayles Farm	Slit trench	WW2	
GAY151	TV 54251 98376	Gayles Farm	Slit trench	WW2	
GAY152	TV 54395 98331	Gayles Farm	Slit trench	WW2	
GAY153	TV 53890 97950	Gayles Farm	Military structure	WW2	
GAY154	TV 53880 98020	Gayles Farm	Building	WW2	
GAY155		Gayles Farm	Building	WW2	
GAY156	TV 53910 98190	Gayles Farm	Building	WW2	
GAY157	TV 53840 97970	Gayles Farm	Military structure	WW2	
GAY158	TV 53800 97800	Gayles Farm	Military structure	WW2	
GAY159		Gayles Farm	Military structure	WW2	
GAY160	TV 54080 97810	Gayles Farm	Building	WW2	
GAY161		Gayles Farm	Military structure	WW2	
GAY162	TV 528 982	Gayles Farm	Flint scatter	Prehistoric	
GAY163	TV 5300 9815	Gayles Farm	Flint scatter	Prehistoric	



## APPENDIX 2

### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE SURVEY FIELD RECORDING FORM

National Grid Ref: ..... NTSMR number: .....

NT Property, Region: .....

Parish: .....

Monument Name: .....

Monument Type & Period: .....

DESCRIPTION: .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Height: ..... Width: .....

Depth: .....

Building Fabric/Bonding/Roof Materials: .....

.....

Photo Taken? Y / N Photo taken by .....

Film no Frame no B/W Print Colour Print Colour Slide Digital Image

Sketch (Proximity to other features):

**Condition:** Good . Moderate . Bad . Destroyed .

**Stability:** Stable . Slow deterioration . Rapid deterioration .

**Vulnerability:** Low . Medium . High .

**Damaged by:** (*tick one or more*)

**Potential Slight Moderate Severe**

Burrowing animals . . . .

Sheep . . . .

Other stock . . . .

People (erosion) . . . .

Vegetation . . . .

Burning . . . .

Cultivation . . . .

Tree planting . . . .

Storm damage . . . .

Water action . . . .

Neglect . . . .

Mining quarrying . . . .

Metal detector activity . . . .

Vandalism . . . .

Vehicles . . . .

Road construction . . . .

Building work . . . .

Disturbance/intrusion . . . .

Demolition . . . .

No factors apply . . . .

Info not available . . . .

**Further Comments:** .....

.....

.....

#### MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

.....

.....

Compiled by: .....

Date of Site Visit: .....

### Appendix 3: HER Summary Form

Site Code	GAY15					
Identification Name and Address	Gayles Farm, Friston, East Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	SDNP					
OS Grid Refs.	TV 5350 9780 (centred)					
Geology	Chalk.					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey <b>X</b>	Other
Type of Site	Green Field <b>X</b>	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB.	Other 21/2/15 – 12/3/15		
Sponsor/Client	National Trust					
Project Manager	Chris Butler MCIfA					
Project Supervisor	Dr Caroline Russell					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA <b>X</b>	IA <b>X?</b>	RB
	AS	MED	PM <b>X</b>	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological survey of the National Trust land at Gayles Farm and the Coastal Strip between Cuckmere Haven and Birling Gap in East Sussex produced a total of 147 sites ranging in date from the Bronze Age through to the Second World War.</i></p> <p><i>The earliest sites comprised prehistoric field systems and round barrows, together with a possible hut platform and worked flint scatters, and were predominantly confined to the Coastal Strip. There was little or no evidence for activity between the Roman and Medieval periods, and it was only from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries that further sites were recorded. These comprised chalk quarries and features associated with the Crowlink Coastguard Station and nearby signalling station on Flagstaff Point.</i></p> <p><i>The greatest amount of activity related to the use of Gayles Farm as an airfield during the Second World War. The survey found numerous sites comprising concrete Nissen hut bases, remains of other buildings and installations, together with pillboxes and other defensive features. Other WW2 military sites were also found on the Coastal Strip.</i></p>						