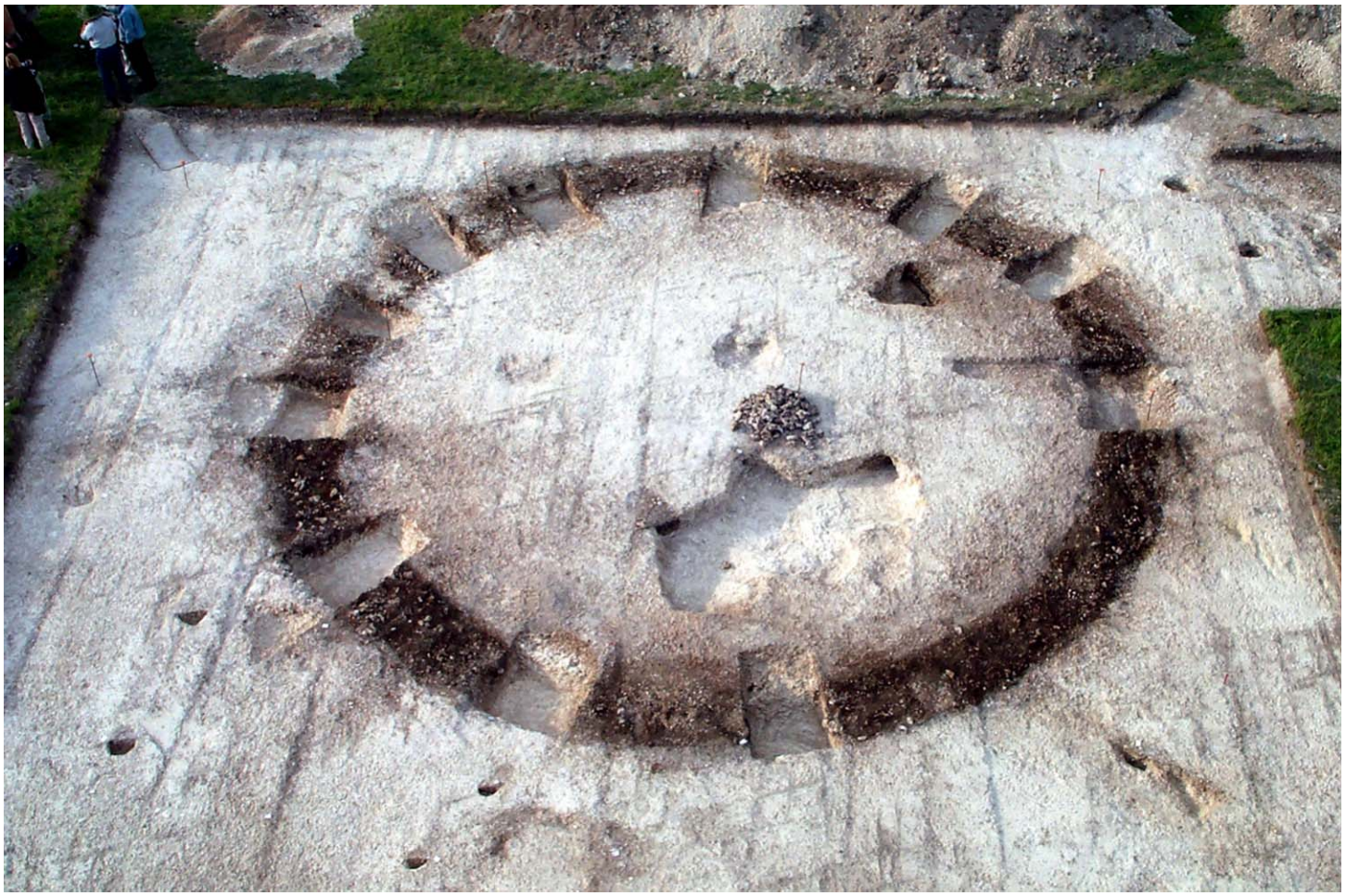
Wessex Archaeology

Blackpatch, Worthing, West Sussex

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results



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BLACKPATCH, WORTHING, WEST SUSSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to carry out archaeological recording and post-excavation analysis on an archaeological evaluation by Channel 4's 'Time Team' in Blackpatch, an area known to be rich in prehistoric archaeology. The site is located on Blackpatch Hill (NGR 509390 108790), to the west of Findon Village.

The evaluation aimed to characterise the date and nature of previous archaeological findings in the area of Blackpatch, particularly those undertaken by John Pull between 1922 and 1932. A specific focus of the investigation was to attempt to relocate and investigate a series of archaeological features which had been described by Pull as 'dwellings' and 'hut sites'. Unfortunately, the archive relating to these features from the original excavations of the 'dwelling sites' had been lost, and only a scant description remained.

Two areas of settlement were identified by Pull. The first was on Blackpatch Hill, adjacent to the flint mines and the barrows. The second was identified a few hundred metres north of Myrtle Grove Farm, and was said to be a 'prehistoric village site of considerable size'. These dwelling sites were constituted by a series of depressions or cuts into the chalk natural. Pull stated that worked flint, animal bone and pottery was found contained within them. No structural elements such as post-holes or hearths were found in association with these hollows. The primary aim therefore was to relocate these features in the landscape, and through re-investigation clarify whether they represent settlement remains or signify other residues of prehistoric activities (e.g. working hollows, shelters), or not. If they can be proven to represent dwelling structures, they would be of national importance since very few Neolithic settlement sites are known to exist in the British Isles.

A total of eight trenches was excavated during this evaluation, and all were opened by machine (either tracked mini-excavator or JCB). Seven of these trenches were opened in the main field at Longfurlong Farm, and one at Myrtle Grove Farm. Most of the trenches (with the exception of Trenches 6 & 7) were targeted on the results of the geophysical survey.

In the field at Longfurlong Farm, one large trench was opened over a barrow (Barrow 9 of Pull's excavations) and the other six were targeted over possible settlement hollows. The excavations revealed a substantial barrow *c.* 12 m in diameter in Trench 1, thus confirming the original excavations of Pull. It was realised that Pull did not completely excavate the ditch fills of this barrow but the lower fills still remained intact and undisturbed. Some of the other trenches revealed features, but all of these

turned out to be treethrows. Other geophysical anomalies identified were verified as periglacial striations on excavation.

A single trench was opened across a geophysical anomaly thought to represent another settlement hollow, in the field at Myrtle Grove Farm. In this case, a definite feature was identified that may represent a working hollow or else a shallow quarry pit.

Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned and funded by Videotext Communications Ltd. Wessex Archaeology is grateful to the prehistoric specialists who were involved as part of the project, including Dr. Miles Russell, who devised the site research strategy and was in charge of the field direction, along with Francis Pryor. Surveying was undertaken by Henry Chapman, University of Hull, and the geophysical survey was undertaken by John Gater and his team from GSB Prospection.

Excavation was undertaken by Time Team's retained archaeologists (Phil Harding (also of Wessex Archaeology), Kerry Ely, Brigid Gallagher, Raksha Dave, Ian Powlesland and Matt Williams) helped by a number of local archaeologists, including David Dunkin, Anne Teather, Bob Turner, David Yeats and Tina Yeats. Wessex Archaeology is grateful to David Dunkin and Bob Turner who helped with on-site recording.

Wessex Archaeology is also grateful to the owners of the land. Catriona Gibson would like to thank personally Tom St John Gray who provided much of the background research.

On site recording and co-ordination was undertaken by Catriona Gibson, helped by Steve Thompson who was also in charge of on-site finds processing. The archive was collated and all post-excavation assessment and analysis undertaken by Wessex Archaeology including management (Lorraine Mepham), report (Catriona Gibson) finds (Lorraine Mepham and Matt Leivers), animal bone (Stephanie Knight), charred plant remains and charcoal (Sarah Wyles and Chris Stevens), snails (Mike Allen) and illustrations (Elizabeth James).

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AND ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Description of the site

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological recording and post-excavation analysis on an archaeological evaluation by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at the prehistoric landscape complex of Blackpatch, Worthing, West Sussex. The evaluation was undertaken in order to re-assess earlier investigations of the Neolithic and Bronze Age activity in this area.

1.1.2 Blackpatch Hill (NGR 509390 109490) is situated to the west of Findon Village, which is some 8km north-west of Worthing in West Sussex, and *c.* 2.5km to the north of the villages of Patching and Clapham. Two areas within Blackpatch Hill were identified for investigation (**Figure 1B**). The first site is within a field approximately 40m south of the summit, and is part of Longfurlong Farm (130m a.OD). The second site is approximately 70m south west of the summit, and is part of Myrtle Grove Farm (90m a.O.D.).

1.1.3 Blackpatch Hill is situated centrally on the Sussex Downlands, on the chalkland ridge of the South Downs that run across Sussex and eastern Hampshire. This major topographical feature of central south-eastern England contains good quality seams of flint contained within the chalk, and it is these that were exploited in antiquity. The sites occupy spurs that run south from the slopes of the hill and both are on Newhaven White Chalk with Flints, however they are separated by a thin finger of silty clay and sands which runs from 140m a.O.D. all the way to the bottom of the hill.

1.1.4 The area has been bulldozed and ploughed during the intensification and expansion of large-scale arable farming after the Second World War.

1.2 Archaeological background and previous work

1.2.1 The complex of prehistoric archaeology identified and excavated in the landscape around Blackpatch is diverse in both date and type ranging from the Neolithic to medieval periods. The SMR has identified a total of 100 sites around Blackpatch, over 80 of which are of prehistoric date, highlighting the fact that this area was a zone of intense activity (industrial, settlement, burial) particularly during the Neolithic and Bronze Ages. A definite settlement of Middle-Late Bronze Age date has also been excavated *c*. 400m to the west of flint mines at Blackpatch Hill. At least one

roundhouse within an enclosure was identified, associated with a coaxial rectangular field-system (Ratcliffe-Densham and Ratcliffe-Densham 1953).

1.2.2 The chalk ridge of the South Downs is particularly rich in evidence for flint mining, and at least fifteen mining sites have now been identified (Russell 2001, 225). Blackpatch forms one of four flint-mining sites that are clustered together in this favourable location (**Figure 1A**). Harrow Hill lies to its north-west (Curwen and Curwen 1926), while Church Hill and Cissbury lie to the east (McNabb *et al.* 1996). The sites are framed on three sides; by the river Arun to the west, the river Adur to the east and the sea to the south. Blackpatch Hill is immediately to the east of the extensive flint-mining site of Harrow Hill and to the northwest of Church Hill. Harrow Hill has at least 160 shafts, Church Hill has about 26 shafts and Cissbury was the largest with in excess of 270 shafts (Field 1997).

1.2.3 Between 1920 and the 1950s, John Pull and his team excavated several sites on the Sussex Downs. The first phase of excavations between 1922 and 1932 were at Blackpatch, (Russell 2001), which was then owned by the Duke of Norfolk. During this decade of excavations, John Pull and his colleague, Mr C.E. Sainsbury, worked together excavating the flint mines. They opened seven shafts, some of them *c.* 5m in diameter and 3m deep. They also excavated 12 Early Bronze Age round barrows and investigated a number of shallow hollows which were interpreted as Neolithic dwelling structures (**Figure 2**).

1.2.4 Three of the Bronze Age barrows actually overlay shafts. One of these, Barrow 12, appears to have been constructed during the phase of mining, as Pull (1932) records that it was cut by a further shaft and in turn had spoil dumped on it. Others in the group were constructed of mining spoil, or most often of flint nodules, either completely or in part, one barrow being said to be composed of mined flint. One of the barrows (Barrow 9) was of anomalous form (larger, with no central mound, but with an external bank), and remained of dubious status; Pull was reluctant to describe it as a barrow, and subsequent interpretations have included a hengiform enclosure (Field and Barber 1995, 9).

1.2.5 The earliest elements of this prehistoric landscape at Blackpatch were thought to be of Neolithic date. The single radiocarbon date for Blackpatch came from an antler pick recovered by Pull from a gallery in Mine Shaft 4. It dates to 3140 ± 150BC (BM –290). Since Shaft 4 is located to the southern edge of the mined area, it may have been one of the earliest areas to be exploited (Barber *et al.* 1999). The date correlates with other Sussex mines, such as Cissbury Hill and Church Hill suggesting that flint mining on the South Downs began during the early 4th millennium BC (Russell 2000). The evidence would suggest that extraction at these flint mines continued into the Early Bronze Age, since Pull's excavations implied a degree of stratigraphic and therefore chronological overlap between the mine shafts, burial and Beakers and the construction of some of the barrow tumuli. Indeed some of the mine shafts contained human remains associated with grave goods of Early Bronze Age date. For example, shaft 7 contained a collection of cremated human bone, associated with a flint axe, knife and scraper.

Furthermore, a cremation burial accompanied with fragments of a Beaker pot and two flint axes was found under a flint flaking floor (Floor 2).

2 METHODS

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 A project design for the work was compiled by Videotext Communications (Videotext Communications 2005), providing full details of the circumstances and methods of the project, as summarised here.

2.1.2 The Blackpatch flint mines form a cluster of about 100 shafts and lie on the southern spur of Blackpatch Hill.

2.1.3 The so-called 'dwelling sites' were though to be the houses of the miners and were located a short distance to the north-east of the flint mines, on the southern slopes of Blackpatch Hill. They are described by Pull (1932) as follows:

'they consist of a number of shallow depressions in the chalk, from 8 to 20 feet wide [2.4 to 6 m wide], and sunk from 9 to 18 inches into the chalk [0.23-0.45 m]. They contained pottery, flint flakes and implements – axes and scrapers, sandstone rubbers, animal bones and burnt flints.'

2.2 Aims and objectives

2.2.1 The main aim of this project is to re-evaluate some of the conclusions drawn by John Pull from his excavations at Blackpatch, particularly with respect to his evidence for Neolithic settlement. The primary objective therefore is to determine the nature of the 'dwelling huts' at Blackpatch, by considering a series of fundamental questions concerning the origins, character, date and longevity of the site.

2.2.2 Two areas were identified for investigation by Time Team, both in zones where traces of possible Neolithic settlement had been noted by Pull. At the first area at Longfurlong Farm, at least three possible 'dwellings' had been excavated by Pull, all situated to the east of the barrows, on the hillside. Nine other scoops, that may have been further settlement hollows were associated with these to form a small 'settlement cluster or village' as depicted in of Pull's sketches (Pull 1932; **Figure 2**). The second site at Myrtle Grove Farm, was also surveyed by Pull in the 1930s. Here, on the western side of the chalk ridge bounding Myrtle Grove, he detected a 'straggling street of small hut settlements', although he only excavated one of these. The research aims identified by Time Team are as follows:

- What is the nature of the 'dwellings'; can we confirm that this is the function of the site?
- If the 'dwellings' are indeed houses, how do they compare with other structures recorded from the European Neolithic?

- If the structures form part of a larger settlement then what is its nature? Is it permanent or temporary? What kind of activities do these structures attest to?

- What is the relationship between these 'domestic dwelling sites', the barrows excavated by Pull and the flint mines?

- At Myrtle Grove Farm can we relocate and ascertain the nature of the so-called "prehistoric village of hut dwellings' as described by Pull (1933)? Since only one scoop was investigated at this site, it is possible that they represent areas of quarrying or flint extraction.

2.3 Fieldwork methodology

2.3.1 A geophysical survey of the site was undertaken by GSB Prospection Ltd, comprising approximately 2.84ha of detailed gradiometer survey. It was hoped that the survey would determine the best location for the archaeological trenches through locating the remains of the possible domestic structures identified by Pull. It was also hoped that the survey might determine the extent and organisation of these potential 'village complexes'.

2.3.2 Eight evaluation trenches of varying size were excavated over geophysical anomalies that suggested the presence of barrow monuments or possible domestic hollows. All of the trenches were opened with a mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. All machine work was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision and ceased at the identification of significant archaeological deposits. All spoil was scanned by a metal detector.

2.3.3 All trenches were then cleaned by hand and archaeological deposits were excavated, and all soil removed from archaeological features was sieved. The deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets, and drawn at a scale of 1:20 for plans and 1:10 for sections. A photographic record was kept of the investigations and of individual features. The trenches were located using a GPS survey system, and the principal contexts were related to Ordnance Survey datum.

2.3.4 The work was carried out from 10-13th June 2005, following which all trenches were reinstated using the excavated spoil. All artefacts were transported to the offices of Wessex Archaeology at Salisbury where they were processed and assessed.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Geophysical survey

3.1.1 Some 2.20ha of survey were carried out at Longfurlong Farm and 0.64ha at Myrtle Grove Farm. **Figure 1C** shows the location of the survey areas at a scale of 1:2500. Details of individual excavated contexts and features, the full geophysical report (GSB 2005/38) and results of artefact and environmental sample analyses are retained in the archive.

3.1.2 The survey grid was set out by Dr Henry Chapman and tied in to the Ordnance Survey grid using a Trimble real time differential GPS system.

3.1.3 The upper chalk is generally conducive to geophysical survey and should provide a good magnetic contrast, particularly where remains associated with settlement activity and/or industrial processes have occurred. In addition, features relating to activities that are more remote from occupation areas, such as field systems might also be recorded.

3.1.4 It is known that both sites have undergone landscaping by bulldozers during the war and post-war periods. Obviously, this will have truncated or removed archaeological deposits that were in the path of the bulldozers and, therefore, reduced the potential of their detection by geophysical means.

3.1.5 The survey around Longfurlong Farm was affected by large quantities of ferrous objects in the ploughsoil, probably related to the recent past (e.g. WWII ordnance). Their presence created a magnetically 'noisy' dataset in which it is possible that the more subtle responses, including those produced by archaeological features are hidden. In the southern part of the survey area ferrous anomalies appear to accumulate in two broad bands that probably indicate the remains of old field boundaries and paddocks. In the north, a ring ditch measuring 10 to 12m in diameter was detected that coincides with a known barrow recorded on maps and aerial photographs and referred to as B9 in John Pull's excavations (**Figure 2**). No internal features were detected, and no associated anomalies (outside the ring ditch) potentially related to pit dwellings were recognised either.

3.1.6 It was hoped that the location of the ring ditch would lead to the discovery of possible Neolithic pit dwellings that had previously been observed, as hollows in the ground, clustering to the east of the barrow. No obvious targets were visible in the data that might suggest pit dwellings but one anomaly was investigated as a possible site of past excavation disturbance by Pull (Trench 2). However, no feature was found and it would appear that the anomaly was produced by ferrous debris in the ploughsoil.

3.1.7 Elsewhere, a number of magnetically weak trends were recorded and these are indicated on the interpretation diagram. Of these, a group of such responses and a minor pit type anomaly (Trench 3) appear to be the most promising from an archaeological point of view. However, the anomalies are very poorly defined and are more likely to relate to modern cultivation disturbance and/or bulldozing.

3.1.8 At Myrtle Grove Farm, the survey area was positioned to detect a possible barrow identified from aerial photographs. The sample also extended across the course of an ancient trackway in the east and investigated visible hollows in the ground thought to be the sites of former pit dwellings or flint quarrying sites. Again, it is known that the field has been subject to landscaping disturbance.

3.1.9 A number of small, magnetically weak pit anomalies and trends were highlighted. There are hints of enclosures in the south but the anomalies are

intermittent in nature and no definitive pattern has been obtained that would support this tentative interpretation. A pit type anomaly (Trench 8) was targeted for excavation as it was seen to coincide with a hollow thought to indicate a pit dwelling or possible flint mine shaft.

3.1.10 The barrow thought to be present in the southern part of the survey area was not detected, and may have been removed completely by landscaping.

3.2 Archaeological evaluation

3.2.1 Six evaluation trenches of varying size were excavated over geophysical anomalies that suggested the presence of possible domestic hollows and other features. Two other trenches were targeted on the basis of Pull's field notes and sketch drawings (**Figure 1**, Trenches 6 & 7). In all cases the trenches were opened by machine (either by JCB or a mini-digger tracked excavator). At the time of stripping, both fields investigated were laid to grass. An average of 0.25m-0.30m of undifferentiated topsoil/subsoil overlay Upper Chalk deposits. The shallow nature of topsoil and lack of subsoil is a product of bulldozing and levelling work after WWII when the flint mine hollows and barrow mounds were levelled and flattened.

3.2.2 Two trenches (Trenches 2 and 3) completely lacked features although a number of flint fragments were recovered from the topsoil in Trench 3. These included three flakes, two core fragments and a scraper. Trench 1 revealed the remains of a barrow and associated features. Trenches 4, 5, 6 and 7 all contained treethrows. Trench 8 contained a shallow pit or scoop.

Trench 1

3.2.3 Trench 1 was opened through Pull's Barrow 9, which had been located from geophysical survey. Initially cut as a narrow trench (5.5m long by 1.5m wide), it was subsequently extended twice (final size 21.8 m by 16.6m) after the barrow ditch was exposed, eventually revealing the full extent of the barrow and associated features (**Figure 3**).

3.2.4 The monument had already been investigated by Pull in the 1930s. However, the first slot cut through the barrow ditch demonstrated that Pull had not fully excavated the ring ditch of the monument, and the lower 0.25-0.35m of ditch deposits remained undisturbed. This realisation meant that it was strategic to expose the whole of the barrow and excavate a number of interventions through it.

3.2.5 The barrow was a circular monument, with an outer ditch diameter of 12.56m north-south and 13.10m east-west. Its inner ditch diameter was 10.3m north-south and 10.4m east-west. A total of 11 interventions were cut at regular intervals through the barrow ditch (Group Number 170). A number of features were contained within the barrow ditch (109, 118, 127, 155, 167 and 169) but on excavation, these were revealed as treethrows/ bush throws, with one exception.

3.2.6 The exception was feature 167 whose original nature and association with treethrow 169 was difficult to discern. Its fill was rather loose and it may

represent a treethrow partially excavated by Pull and then backfilled. However, Pull does not have any record of internal features that he excavated within this barrow.

3.2.7 It is more likely therefore this feature represented a pit that cut treethrow 169. Pit 167 was filled with large quantities of weathered flint/chalk nodules, weighing approximately 0.25 tonne – *c.* 70 fragments (see **Plate 1** on **Figure 3**).

3.2.8 The slots put through the barrow suggested that it had neither a uniform width nor a uniform profile (**Figures 3** and **4**). However, this variation may have been caused partly by the fact that much of the ditch (Group 170) had originally been excavated by Pull, and also that truncation had played a part in later modification. The barrow ditch varied from 0.9m-1.9m in width and it was wider in the north-western quadrant. Its depth ranged from 0.37m-0.6m with some of the deeper sections excavated in its south-western side.

3.2.9 The ditch profile was generally steep sided with a flat base and most of the ditch segments tapered from *c.* 1.75m at the top to 0.9m at the base. In most cases, the ditch tended to be steeper on the outer external side, although this was not always the case, and in some cases they were almost stepped (see **Table 1** and **Figure 4**). However, it must be taken into consideration that Pull's earlier excavations may have altered the original profile of the ditch to some extent and increased erosion.

3.2.10 Our understanding of the filling sequence of the barrow has also been partially impaired by Pull's excavations and although only two fills were identified, more may originally have been present. Pull's cut through the barrow was given the Group Number 129, and his backfill the Group Number 104. A number of finds were retrieved from Pull's backfill deposits including 20 flint flakes, two blades, two sherds of Beaker pottery and one Collared Urn sherd. Of more recent date, two complete R. Fry glass bottles (dated *c.* 1920-1930) were also retrieved, suggesting that Pull and his co-workers had quenched their thirst during their investigations.

3.2.11 The lower barrow fill was a fairly loose cream chalky deposit comprising frequent medium sub-angular flint nodules. This rather sterile fill was evenly deposited on both sides of the ditch and the base (maximum depth 0.25m) implying that it was derived from both sides. Its nature (fairly loose but very chalky and sterile) is more indicative of a deliberate deposit. No finds were retrieved from this deposit with the exception of a rabbit bone, probably a relatively modern casualty given the extent of burrowing disturbance identified in many of the barrow sections. This thick loose chalky deposit was too substantial to represent a primary fill from erosion of the barrow sides. Instead, this layer may represent a deliberate backfill deposit, and perhaps the ditch was partially infilled when the barrow was finally decommissioned.

3.2.12 The upper fill of the barrow ditch had been disturbed to some extent by Pull's excavations, and in some of the interventions was almost completely removed. However, it appeared as an orange-brown silty loam with frequent

chalk flecks with a maximum depth of *c.* 0.35m. All of the finds retrieved from this fill came from the north-western side of the barrow and included Beaker and other grog tempered sherds (from slots 109 and 115 respectively). Slots 109, 111 and 115 also produced small quantities of burnt flint and a number of flint flakes (eight flakes in total).

3.2.13 Few ditch sections showed obvious evidence of banks either silting from the interior or the exterior of the barrow. This was made more difficult to discern because of Pull's later cut which may have removed any evidence for this. Pull's excavation notes from this monument imply that bank deposits derived from outside. In two cases at least, interventions 105 and 125, there was some suggestion of the earliest slumping being derived from the exterior side, which might support the idea of an external bank.

3.2.14 In some of Pull's interventions, frequent large flint nodules were retrieved (see **Figure 4**, barrow sections C & D). These nodules may have been derived from the barrow itself, and may imply that there was originally a chalky flint capping representing a small mound over the barrow. It is likely that all the barrows were originally covered with chalk to enhance their visibility as glistening white monuments on the hillsides.

3.2.15 A number of small pits/ post-holes were encountered in the vicinity of the barrow. These are represented by post-holes 123, 132, 135, 137, 144, 147, 150, 152, 161 & 163. This group of features appear to form an arc around the north-eastern and southern sides of the barrow, and may originally have comprised a full circle (**Figure 3**). In three cases (144 & 152, 161 & 163 and 132 & 136) they seem to be grouped together as pairs of post-holes. Although there is no stratigraphic evidence to confirm whether they pre-date, are contemporary with or indeed post-date the use of the barrow, there is some evidence from the finds. Collared Urn sherds came from post-hole **123**. Since the currency of Collared Urn pottery generally falls later in the Early Bronze Age than that of Beaker pottery, this evidence implies that this group of features may have formed a later elaboration to this barrow structure. The two sherds (including one rim sherd) were relatively unabraded and would appear to have been *in situ*.

3.2.16 These post-holes were generally quite small in diameter, although, considering the truncation levels on this part of the Site, some were surprisingly deep (**Figure 4**). On average, they were 0.38m in diameter (ranging from 0.23-0.5m) and 0.24m in depth (ranging from 0.13-0.29m). Most were circular or sub-circular with steep straight or concave sides and a concave base. The exception was feature 152 which was more sub-rectangular in shape. With two exceptions, none of these features provided evidence for post-pipes or post-packing, suggesting that they could have been small pits rather than post-holes. However, as is often the case, it is feasible that the posts were removed and hence did not rot *in situ* to leave a discernible stain. Feature 123 contained a possible post-pipe (**Figure 4**) and 135 had traces of post-packing in the form of flint nodules against the feature sides.

Interpretation

3.2.17 This barrow had previously been known as Barrow 9 of John Pull's excavations. A summary of his description is as follows:

3.2.18 Barrow 9 was located half way between two other barrows also excavated by Pull (Barrows 5 & 6). It had been constructed differently to all the other barrows excavated in that it lacked a central mound, and was not a bowl barrow. Instead it was identified as having a circular ditch 12m in diameter, accompanied by an external bank that was still extant in the 1920s, and was 0.3m high and 3m wide. This uninterrupted ring ditch was 0.9m wide and 0.5m deep ditch and enclosed an area that apparently lacked features. However, it is unclear how much of this central area was actually examined, although according to Pull it was covered by turf over *c.* 0.2 m of soil mixed with surface flints. The ditch was paved with 0.2m deep layer of closely laid flint nodules.

3.2.19 In the north-west area of the ditch, Pull retrieved fragments of pottery including part of a Collared Urn vessel. In the western part of the ditch finds included an axe and a flint knife, while in the southern ditch Pull found some human bones, scrapers and red deer antler and fragments of a Beaker pot. On the surface near the centre of the barrow, fragments of animal bone (ox, pig and sheep) were found in association with a pair of flint knives. The lower fill of the ditch consisted of 0.07m of fine silt which was overlain by a layer of closely laid flint nodules *c*. 0.2m in depth, and which was described by Pull as mined flint. The fill above this was simply described as 'mould' (Pull and Sainsbury 1928).

3.2.20 It is true that all of the other 11 barrows excavated by Pull were classic bowl barrows, with extant central mounds and a berm separating the mound from the external ditch. Furthermore, all of these barrows were smaller in diameter than Barrow 9. They ranged from 3.5m to 9.5m in diameter, often with extant mounds still surviving (in the 1930s) to a height of *c.* 0.5m. It is clear that only the external ditch of Barrow 9 survived as a positive feature, but this does not mean that it was not a barrow, even though Pull, and others subsequently, have been reluctant to call it one.

3.2.21 Firstly barrows come in a number of different shapes and forms and the description offered by Pull, and enhanced from the Time Team excavations would be in keeping with a barrow of a bell, disk or saucer barrow, all of which can have external banks.

3.2.22 The arc of post-holes may have originally formed a timber circle, or timber structure created after the barrow construction (although the currency of Beaker pottery and Collared Urn material does overlap). The pit that Pull excavated may have been the same feature as pit 121 as identified during the Time Team excavations. Here it would appear that a later Collared Urn pit had been later into the barrow ditch (Pull and Sainsbury 1928), and a sherd of Collared Urn pottery was found in Pull's backfill in intervention 109, immediately to its south (and may originally have been from the same vessel). In any case, the barrow seems to show a lengthy and potentially complex history and it is possible that the arc of post-holes may have been a

later architectural elaboration associated with the insertion of later burials into the barrow ditch.

Trench 2

3.2.23 Trench 2, measuring 5m by 1.6m, was opened to the north of Trench 1 and Barrow 9. Geophysical survey had identified an anomaly in this location, but machine excavation revealed only weathered chalk natural with periglacial striations. However, a large iron bar was retrieved from the topsoil and it is likely that this artefact had created the geophysical 'spike'.

Trench 3

3.2.24 Trench 3 was opened to the south of the barrow and was 7.25 m x 1.35m wide. Although geophysics had identified an anomaly in this area, no archaeological features were identified on opening this trench. However, the chalk natural was weathered and soliflucted in this area, and periglacial ice wedges running through the chalk may have been responsible for creating the anomaly.

3.2.25 Although no features were identified in this trench, a number of flints (core fragments and a scraper) were retrieved in the topsoil.

Trench 4

3.2.26 Trench 4 was opened as a long trench running down the hill side 10m to the south of the barrow. It was 29m long and 3.10m wide. Two small anomalies had been identified from geophysics but only one feature was identified. This was a probable treethrow (405), situated half way down the trench, and only partially revealed in the section. It was an irregular cut, *c.* 1.30 m long and 0.70 m wide, but only 0.25m deep (**Figure 5**). Two rather mixed chalky silt deposits (404 and 406) were contained with the feature, potentially representing the upcast from the roots of a toppled tree. However, the feature was shallow, and no finds were retrieved.

Trench 5

3.2.27 Trench 5, measuring 11m by 3.3m wide was a roughly rectangular trench, located *c.* 33m south-east of the barrow. The trench was extended in the north-eastern corner (to 4.5m in width) to fully reveal a feature (**505**) which had not been identified from the geophysics, but turned out to be a treethrow. This treethrow was sub-circular in plan, 3m in diameter and 0.54m deep (**Figure 5**). Its western edge was shallow and concave while the eastern side was much steeper, but also concave. Three fills were identified within the throw. Deposit 507 was the primary chalky fill, relating to the immediate silting of the hollow after the tree had fallen over. It is likely that the tree fell to the east. 506 was the upcast of the tree, represented by redeposited chalk from the tree roots, and 504 was the upper fill of the treethrow, relating to later silting after the tree trunk had decomposed. No archaeological finds were retrieved from any of these fills.

Trench 6

3.2.28 Trench 6 was situated 66m south-west of the barrow and was 14.8m x 5.6m in size. It was opened up in an attempt to target the possible structure identified as Dwelling 2 (D2; see **Figure 2**) by Pull (Pull and Sainsbury

1930a and b). Only one feature (603) was revealed in this trench, a smallish treethrow that was only partially revealed. Most of this feature lay under the baulk of this trench. It was only *c*. 0.30m deep (**Figure 5**) and seemed to have a slightly irregular rectangular shape, with a single chalky fill (602).

Trench 7

3.2.29 Trench 7, measuring 8m by 3m, was also opened up to try to detect Pull's Dwelling 2, since his sketch plan was not to scale. A single treethrow (703) was revealed within this trench. This feature was roughly circular in shape, and possibly *c*. 2.3 m in diameter although its western half was hidden under the baulk. The treethrow had concave sides with an uneven base (**Figure 5**). It had a maximum depth of 0.40m and contained three fills representing the chalk upcast from the roots (702), decayed root base (705) and later silting of the treethrow (706). No finds were retrieved from this feature.

Interpretation of Trenches 4, 5, 6 and 7

3.2.30 The treethrows excavated in Trenches 4-7 may represent the remains of the so-called Neolithic dwellings excavated by Pull. Their form (circular/subcircular) with steep or concave sides and flat or irregular bases is in keeping with Pull's descriptions (see Russell 2001, 82). Although the lack of finds may be considered problematic, it is possible that truncation has played a part in this, since the upper fills have been removed. It is also possible, however, that Pull had already excavated at least a couple of these features and then backfilled them with their original deposits after removing the finds. Indeed treethrows 405 and 603 contained rather loose, disturbed and mixed deposits. Furthermore, it is also possible that Pull had excavated a number of these treethrow features, but only recorded the ones which he considered significant and which contained finds.

Trench 8

3.2.31 Trench 8 was 6.4m long with a maximum width of 4m, and had been targeted on a visible hollow in one of the fields at Myrtle Grove Farm (**Figure 1C**). Geophysical survey had been undertaken in this area to characterise the nature and extent of this hollow and suggested it was a pit type anomaly.

3.2.32 On excavation, Trench 8 revealed a relatively shallow pit or hollow (**Figure 6** & **Plate 3**). The feature had been cut anthropogenically rather than being of natural derivation. Although only a quadrant of the feature was exposed, if it was indeed sub-circular or oval, the curvature of its edge suggests it may have had a diameter of 4-4.5m. One edge had apparently been machined out, although it was partially visible in the south facing section.

3.2.33 The cut of this feature (804) had a maximum depth of 0.83m with concave fairly steep sloping sides and a concave base. The base of the feature sloped gently downhill from east to west. The pit/hollow was filled with three deposits. The lowest fill, 807, represented the earliest silting event within this feature and comprised degraded redeposited chalk natural derived from the eastern upslope side of the feature, as would be expected. A thicker deposit (806) lay above this and comprised the central fill of the pit. This may also have been derived from hillwash and contained a fair quantity of

largish subangular flint nodules. Several finds were retrieved from this deposit and included a sheep tooth and long bone and a number of fragments of flint (including a scraper and four flakes). The upper fill (805) was a well sorted deposit that probably represents the final silting of the feature, undoubtedly laid over a fairly prolonged time period.

Interpretation

3.2.34 It was thought during excavation that this feature might have represented the remains of one of the dwelling hollows identified, but not excavated, by Pull. It certainly appeared to have been a cut feature, rather than a tree hollow. However, only a small number of finds were retrieved from it and there is no evidence (e.g. internal hearths or post-holes etc.) to support the hypothesis that this was a Neolithic dwelling. The nature of the flint recovered from it, however, may imply that it is later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age in date but it is possible that this feature was related to industrial rather than settlement activities. Its diameter and steep concave sides would not be out of keeping with the idea of a shallow scoop for flint extraction. Since this hollow was situated in the vicinity of other mining pits, it is possible that this was an exploratory hollow to examine the quality of flint in this area. Perhaps the seams encountered were of poor quality and hence this particular pit was aborted and abandoned at a relatively early stage of mining.

4 FINDS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Finds were recovered from three of the eight trenches excavated (no finds were recovered from Trenches 2 and 4-7). Most finds came from Trench 1, excavated over the barrow at Longfurlong Farm. The bulk of the assemblage is of prehistoric date, with a few post-medieval finds.

4.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and totals by material type and by trench/site area are presented in **Table 2**. Subsequent to quantification, all finds have been at least visually scanned in order to gain an overall idea of the range of types present, their condition, and their potential date range. Spot dates have been recorded for pottery. All finds data are currently held on an Access database.

4.1.3 This section presents an overview of the finds assemblage, on which is based an assessment of the potential of this assemblage to contribute to an understanding of the site in its local and regional context, with particular reference to the construction and use of the Longfurlong Farm barrow.

4.2 Pottery

4.2.1 Of the nine sherds recovered from Trench 1 (barrow), eight are of Early Bronze Age date. Two joining sherds from Pull's backfill (layer 104), and two small, abraded body sherds with possible traces of decoration from layer 114 (upper barrow fill) can be identified as Beaker on the basis of fabric (grog-tempered with rare flint inclusions) and form. Two sherds from

pit/post-hole 123, also in a grog-tempered fabric, obviously derive from a Collared Urn, with twisted cord impressed decoration on the collar. A third sherd, from backfill layer 104 (associated with the two Beaker body sherds) is undiagnostic but in a similar grog-tempered fabric and may also be Collared Urn, while a further sherd from layer 108 (upper barrow fill) is grog-tempered but completely undiagnostic and cannot be ascribed to a ceramic tradition.

4.2.2 One sherd from Trench 1 (from topsoil) is from a modern redware flowerpot.

4.2.3 Three sherds found unstratified are in a coarse, flint-tempered fabric, not particularly chronologically distinctive but probably of Middle or Late Bronze Age date.

4.3 Worked and Burnt Flint

4.3.1 Struck flint was recovered from Trenches 1 (barrow), 3 and 8 (Myrtle Grove Farm), with a total of 87 pieces retained. In terms of raw material, every piece has a uniformly heavy all over white patina which totally obscures the colour beneath. Small chips through the patina indicate a pale to dark grey flint. Remaining cortex is thick, congruent with a chalk source, undoubtedly local.

4.3.2 The bulk of the assemblage consists of flakes. Most are large and broad, with knapping undertaken using a hard hammer, by direct percussion. Although there are no complete cores, dorsal scar patterns indicate that they were usually removed from cores with single striking platforms. Scars at right angles to the main platform indicate a radial flaking pattern consistent with Early Bronze Age technology. Facetted striking platforms indicate core rejuvenation by rotation. Step, hinge and feathered terminations are all present. An element of large blade-like flakes is technologically identical; most remove pronounced dorsal ridges and result in very thick sturdy blades, several of which may have been utilised.

4.3.3 Edge damage is present on many flakes, but the general high degree of wear, abrasion and damage suggests that much of this results from post-depositional transforms.

4.3.4 Two core fragments are present, but these are chronologically and technologically undistinguished. A large nodule from Pull's backfill (layer 104) has been shaped at one end to form a crude chopping tool, and a flake from Trench 1 topsoil may be a crude and damaged scraper. The only definite tools are a pair of scrapers. One from Trench 3 topsoil is a thick sub-circular end and side scraper; the second from feature 804 (Myrtle Grove Farm) is a thick linear piece with minimal retouch, but use wear on the distal end and both lateral margins.

4.3.5 The entire assemblage is consistent with an Early Bronze Age date.

4.3.6 Unworked burnt flint was recovered in association with struck flint. Intrinsically undatable, this material is often associated with prehistoric activity. No significant concentrations were observed.

4.4 Animal Bone

4.4.1 Animal bone comprises a sheep/goat distal humerus (backfill layer 104), immature rabbit (probably intrusive in barrow ditch 130), sheep/goat tooth and long bone from feature 804, and a cattle femur with modern butchery from Trench 1 topsoil.

4.5 Other Finds

4.5.1 Other finds comprise modern vessel glass (including two complete bottles of R. Fry & Company, the well known Sussex mineral water company), a few fragments of unworked ferruginous sandstone, and two post-medieval coins – all these came from Trench 1 (post-medieval finds coming from topsoil or from Pull's backfill).

4.6 Potential and further recommendations

4.6.1 The evaluation at Blackpatch produced a very small finds assemblage, most of which derived from Trench 1 excavated across the barrow at Longfurlong Farm. Dating evidence for the construction and use of the barrow is limited to a handful of pottery sherds, only five of which came from stratified contexts. The flint assemblage from the barrow, although consistent with a Bronze Age date, included no chronologically distinctive tools. Finds from other trenches were extremely scarce. The archaeological potential of this assemblage is therefore limited, and no further work is recommended.

5 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Samples were taken to elucidate the function, activities and palaeo-environment associated with Barrow 9.

5.1.2 A series of eight bulk samples of between 10 and 40 litres were taken from a range of feature types and were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals. Sub-samples were taken from four of these samples for the recovery of land snails. The bulk samples break down into the following phase groups:

Phase	No. samples	Volume (litres)	Feature types
Pre-Barrow	2	50	treethrow
Early Bronze Age	6	125	barrow ditch, post-holes and pit/post-hole
Total	**8**	**175**	

5.1.3 The potential of three categories of environmental evidence – charred plant remains, charcoal and land snails – was examined. The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods, and the results are presented in **Table 3**.

5.2 Charred plant remains and charcoal

5.2.1 The flots had high numbers of fine roots, making up around 90% of the flot size of most of the samples. Shells of the burrowing snail *Cecilioides acicula* were also very common. Seeds of modern species were also relatively common in all the flots. These indicate a high degree of activity within the deposits and so the possibility of later material being reworked into earlier contexts, as well as the destruction of material.

5.2.2 The flots were almost devoid of charred material. Only three charred plant remains were identified: a fragment of a culm of onion couch grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius ssp. bulbosum*), a seed of sedge (*Carex* sp.) and one of cleavers (*Galium aparine*). Given the low frequency of such material there is a possibility that all are intrusive coming in through similar mechanisms to those of the modern seeds. Corms of onion couch grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius ssp. bulbosum*) are common finds in cremations (e.g. Murphy 1983), and might be associated with the cremations that have been found previously in the area.

5.2.3 Fragments of wood charcoal were infrequent and small in size. Given the amount of rooting it is possible that any wood charcoal that had existed would have been broken down.

5.2.4 Charred remains come from activities associated with burning, most commonly on archaeological sites these are either to be associated with cremations or settlement waste. Unlike the later Bronze Age (e.g. Hinton 1982) evidence of Early Bronze Age settlement waste is rare, often consisting of similar remains to those found upon later Neolithic sites e.g. hazelnuts, sloes and crab apples (cf. Moffett *et al* 1989). Unusually then most of the charred evidence for this period comes rather from cremations. In this light the lack of cereal remains is unsurprising. That no evidence for cremations were found during these excavations can also be associated with the absence of wood charcoal.

5.3 Land and fresh water snails

5.3.1 Four samples of 1500g were processed by standard methods (Evans 1972) for land snails. The flots (0.5mm) were rapidly assessed by scanning under a x10 – x 30 stereo-binocular microscope to provide some information about shell preservation and species representation. The numbers of shells and the presence of taxonomic groups were quasi-quantified (**Table 4**).

5.3.2 Land snails from the pre-barrow tree hollow were sparse, possibly indicating the presence of less calcareous soils (cf. Allen 1995a), but the flot assemblage is predominantly open. This indicates a more open environment and implies that the soils and sediments in the feature probably do not relate

to a dense (Neolithic) woodland environment. Caution, however, must be exercised as there were high numbers of modern burrowing species *Cecilioides acicula* indicating some modern intrusion.

5.3.3 One sample from the barrow ditch indicates a predominantly open country assemblage, but the presence of a number of shade-loving species may suggest a damper local environment such as long grass. The post-hole/pit contained few shells and taphomonically it is difficult to determine the origin of the shells (cf. Thomas 1977; Shackley 1976).

5.3.4 A significant find, however, was that of a single large Planorbid in the six-litre bulk sample from post-hole 137 (**Table 3**). This is a freshwater taxa requiring running water. As such it may be an accidental incorporation, perhaps with some by-product such as water, reeds for matting, or alluvial mud for daub or potting (see Allen 1995b).

5.3.5 The land snail samples were taken as spot samples rather than as column sequences of samples from which information of landscape history can be obtained (Evans 1972). Nevertheless the shells from the treethrow and the ditch do provide an indication of the pre-barrow and immediate post-construction environment, if not a fuller landscape history (cf. Allen 1995a; Allen *et al*. 1995).

5.3.6 The presence of freshwater species in post-hole 137 is also important in understanding the activities and exploitation of the wider landscape resources.

5.3.7 The information here can provide some indication of that environment, and it is clear that this Early Bronze Age/Beaker barrow was constructed in largely a pre-existing open landscape cleared of any ancient dense woodland. The presence of a freshwater species is notable and may reflect exploitation of resources in the wider landscape.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1.1 It was hoped that the evaluation would be able to characterise better the real nature of the 'Neolithic hollows' excavated by Pull in the 1920s-1930s and determine whether or not they relate to Neolithic settlement/ domestic activity. It was also hoped that the question of whether Barrow 9 was indeed a barrow could be answered.

6.1.2 Although the evaluation has indicated a low level of archaeological survival in the area surrounding Barrow 9 (hardly surprising considering more recent bulldozing activities), the project achieved its stated aims. Despite only a few hollows being identified, it was possible to understand these within the context of Barrow 9 and the Neolithic flint mines. The work has helped to flesh out much of the detail that was missing in Pull's archive. New information, particularly from environmental analysis that was not conducted

in the 1930s, has allowed a better characterisation of the local environment during the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age.

Possible Neolithic Dwellings

6.1.3 There are several reasons as to why only a few of the numerous hollows recognised by Pull were not rediscovered. Firstly as already stated, there has been substantial alteration of the prehistoric landscape since Pull's excavations. Post-war ploughing, coupled with landscape bulldozing of the barrows and in-filling of the flint mine shaft depressions to 'flatten out' the landscape has impacted upon the prehistoric landscape significantly. Ploughing has clearly removed much of the topsoil, and the deep colluvium identified from a small test pit excavated at the bottom of the valley implies that over 0.40 m of soil has been removed from the current land surface. Thus, many of the features originally described by Pull as 'dwelling huts', which in themselves were often only 0.3-0.50m deep, may have been truncated completely.

6.1.4 Secondly, although Pull's recording system was advanced for its time, the sketch plans and maps he drew were not to any scale, and relocating his features in a large open and flattened landscape is almost like attempting to find a needle in a haystack. The aims of this project were ambitious, and only a full landscape geophysical survey and open area excavation would be able to determine the exact position of all the features originally identified by Pull.

6.1.5 Thirdly, three of the trenches in Longfurlong Farm and the single trench in Myrtle Grove Farm did reveal features. Although all of those features from Longfurlong Farm were treethrows, and these lacked finds, their dimensions are similar to the settlement hollows recognised by Pull, if truncation is taken into consideration. Their subcircular or circular shape, concave sides and irregular bases are in keeping with the descriptions given by Pull, as are their chalky silt fills.

6.1.6 Only a handful of Neolithic domestic sites have been identified in Britain, and these have tended to exist as single houses in isolation, not large settlements. Examples would include Balbridie, on the river Dee in Scotland, Lismore Fields in Derbyshire, Yarnton in Oxfordshire and Callander in Perthshire (Malone 2001). These were all large rectangular long houses with post-holes and some of them contained hearths.

6.1.7 It is highly unlikely, therefore, that the features identified by Pull represented the flint miners' settlements. Evidence for Neolithic domestic activity is rather scarce and is more commonly retrieved from less direct means, such as from pits and tree hollows. Similar pits and other features excavated in Sussex may also represent activities that are not only domestic, but also symbolic in nature. For example, two pits excavated on New Barn Down in the 1930s contained fragments of grinding stones, pottery, and flint tools including a backed knife, polished axe and a scraper (Curwen 1934a & b). The group of pits excavated by Bell on Rookery Hill, in Bishopstone (Bell 1977, 7-44) have been interpreted as evidence of a settlement site, but may also represent formal placed deposits.

6.1.8 The results from the evaluation trenches in Longfurlong Farm would seem to confirm suspicions that the dwelling hollows identified by Pull were in fact the remains of treethrows. It is not uncommon to find prehistoric material culture (particularly struck flint and pottery) within treethrows, derived from a number of different processes. In more recent decades, for example, archaeologists have begun to appreciate that treethrows were often utilised as convenient windbreaks/shelters or working hollows in antiquity. In many cases (e.g. Evans *et al*. 1999) evidence for flint knapping has been identified in these features from the large quantity of refitting flint debitage. Sometimes Neolithic finds have accidentally been washed into the craters left by upturned trees, and in these cases, implies possible tree clearance of the landscape, with Neolithic activity in the vicinity.

6.1.9 No finds were recovered from any of the treethrows in the Time Team excavation, but other hollows, excavated by Pull, may have been treethrows containing incidental or possibly more formal deposits (his description mentions the presence of pottery, flint flakes and implements, animal bone and burnt flint: see above, **2.1.3**).

6.1.10 Finally, the hollows identified by Pull are not in a suitable location for settlement, since they were found on the exposed steep slopes of Blackpatch Hill. It is more likely that settlement activity would have occurred away from the high areas and off the Downs altogether in the river valleys, where shelter and natural resources (such as water) were more readily available.

The Barrow

6.1.11 The excavation of the barrow in Trench 1 (hereafter Barrow 9) has provided a further understanding of this previously enigmatic monument in the prehistoric landscape at Blackpatch. Firstly the environmental evidence has offered some evidence for the wider landscape around Blackpatch during the Early Bronze Age. The land snail evidence suggests that the land had been predominantly cleared of trees by the time the barrows were constructed, and this was confirmed by the excavations, since two treethrows (184 and 187) were cut by the barrow ditch. Secondly, Pull had focussed on the monuments themselves and did not excavate their immediate surrounds. By opening up a wider area around Barrow 9, the arc of post-holes identified suggests that the monument itself endured beyond the initial period of construction and use associated with Beaker ceramics, with subsequent modifications associated with Collared Urn ceramics.

6.1.12 However, the most important conclusion reached by the excavations was identifying the true character of Barrow 9. Previous interpretations of this monument have concluded that it is not a barrow at all (Field and Barber 1995, 9) but rather can be grouped loosely among the other ring ditches/hengiform enclosures of the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. Field and Barber argued that it was chronologically later than the other barrows and may have replaced the mines as a focus for the burial monuments. Russell (2001) concurred with this statement and compared the monument with a henge, although he recognised that the lack of an entrance is an obvious problem. He concluded that this site along with the other barrows

confirms that the mining and non-domestic activity continued into the Beaker period.

6.1.13 As stated earlier, in comparison to the other barrows excavated by Pull at Blackpatch, it is true that Barrow 9 is different, but it may have been a saucer or disk barrow. The fact that the monument did not (apparently) have a central grave or a supposed primary interment need not mean that it did not function as a barrow. Numerous excavated barrows lack central graves. In fact many barrows lack graves completely and did not necessarily function primarily as funerary monuments. In a number of instances, the lack of a central burial is because the bodies were inserted into the mounds themselves, either as cremations (urned or unurned) or as secondary interments. As the mounds have been denuded naturally or have been ploughed away, these inserted burials have been lost. Furthermore, not even all the barrows excavated at Blackpatch had central graves, and Barrow 8 also lacked any traces of a burial.

6.1.14 However, there is indirect evidence to support the suggestion that originally there had been a burial in Barrow 9. As stated above (Section **3.2.19**), Pull did retrieve some human bone in the southern part of the ditch, along with three scrapers and Beaker sherds. It is possible that pit 167 had originally been a grave that was robbed or disturbed in antiquity and some of the remains scattered, ending up in the ditch. Revisiting of barrow graves is not uncommon in the Bronze Age and numerous cases have been documented. Sometimes disturbance of the primary interment occurs when later graves are inserted, but other times it would appear to be a deliberate rite. Perhaps as the person interred decayed from flesh to bones their remains were returned to the world of the ancestors, and therefore became a valuable resource that was later dug up to be reused as portable relics. In some cases only certain parts of the body were removed, and the other parts re-interred with the grave or scattered alongside within the backfill or adjacent ditch. Could the human remains identified by Pull in the ditch be the remains of one such event, with perhaps the Beaker sherds and flint scrapers the broken and scattered elements of the grave goods?

6.1.15 There is also evidence of a secondary burial in the form of the Collared Urn pot fragments recovered by Pull in the north-western part of the ditch. It is likely that these may have originally contained some fragments of cremated bone that may have been scattered within the ditch if the pot had been broken. Since the Time Team excavations found evidence for a small pit (121) inserted into the upper fill of the barrow ditch in this location (slot 113), it may well represent the cut for this urned cremation burial. An environmental sample taken from a nearby pit identified onion couch grass, commonly associated with cremation burials, and implying their presence in the vicinity.

6.1.16 Finally there is no evidence to support the idea that Barrow 9 in fact represented a henge monument, as suggested in print (Field and Barber 1995; Russell 2001). The presence of an external bank is not a feature restricted to henge monuments; certain types of barrows were also constructed with these and it is not uncommon for a variety of barrow traditions to occur together

within the same barrow cemetery. All henges have at least one entrance – in fact this is one of their defining characteristics (Class I henges have one entrance, while Class II henges have two entrances). Furthermore, although henges can range in size from *c.* 10m-300m, they tend to be larger in size than barrows, and a 12m diameter is an uncommonly small dimension for such a monument.

6.1.17 To conclude, the pottery recovered and its chronological context seals the argument that it is not a henge. Henges are a monumental tradition of the Late Neolithic and tend to be associated with Grooved Ware pottery. Although they occasionally demonstrate continued use into the Early Bronze Age, the complete lack of pottery of Grooved Ware date from Barrow 9 would negate a Neolithic origin. Instead the quantities of Beaker and Collared Urn pottery recovered, supports the proposal that this is indeed an Early Bronze Age barrow, just one of a slightly different tradition to the others on the hill at Blackpatch.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1.1 No further analysis is proposed. A short article, probably between 2000-3000 words with two or three supporting illustrations, based on the results, finds, discussion and figures in this assessment report, in *Sussex Archaeological Collections* is suggested as an adequate level of publication given the results from this project. This would comprise a brief introduction detailing the circumstances of the project and the aims and objectives; a results section detailing the structural remains recorded, with finds and environmental information integrated into the text as appropriate; and a brief discussion of the results, with reference to the original project aims and objectives.

8 ARCHIVE

8.1.1 The archive, which includes all artefacts, written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigation is undertaken, is currently held at the offices of Wessex archaeology under the site code BHC 05 and Wessex Archaeology project no. 59465. The paper archive is contained in one lever arch file. In due course, the archive will be deposited in Worthing Museum.

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Table 1: Summary of Interventions through the Barrow Ditch

Cut No.	Profile	Zone	Length (m)	Depth (m)
105	Steep, V-shaped, flat base	SE	1.2	0.7
109	Stepped interior side, concave exterior, flat base	NW	1.9	0.6
111	Steep slightly stepped interior side, concave exterior	SW	1.2	0.5
113	Stepped exterior, concave interior	NW	1.7	0.41
115	Steep sided on exterior, shallow interior	NW	1.83	0.4
125	Stepped interior, shallow exterior	NE	1.74	0.41
130	Steep exterior, shallow interior	NE	1.8	0.36
140	Steep exterior, shallow interior	SW	1.2	0.37
142	Steep exterior, steep, almost vertical interior	SE	0.9	0.55
160	Steep vertical interior, shallow concave exterior	NE	1.5	0.42

Table 2: Finds totals by material type and by trench (number / weight in grammes)

Material	Tr. 1	Tr. 3	Tr. 8	unstrat.	TOTAL
Pottery	9/58			3/15	**12/73**
Worked Flint	73	6	7	1	**87**
Burnt Flint	13/406	2/36	9/534		**24/976**
Stone	6/637				**6/637**
Glass	6/913				**6/913**
Copper Alloy	2/10				**2/10**
Animal Bone	3/255		9/11		**12/266**

Table 3. Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature no	Context	Sample	Volume	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Notes	Other charred	Notes	Charcoal	Other	Notes	Res. Charcoal
		Pre-Barrow												
Treethrow														
118	119	1	30	60	90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
118	119	2	20	125	90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Early Bronze Age												
Barrow Ditch														
109	108	5	15	50	90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Post-holes in arc on East side of Barrow														
135	134	3	20	175	90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
132	133	4	20	180	90	-	-	-	C	1x *Galium aparine*	-	-	-	-
137	136	6	40	400	90	-	-	-	C	*Arrhenatherum elatius*	-	moll-f (C)	-	-
Post-hole on South side of Barrow														
150	151	7	10	60	90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pit/Post-hole on NE side of Barrow														
123	122	8	20	70	90	-	-	-	C	1x *Carex* sp.	-	-	-	-

KEY: A** = exceptional, A* = 30+ items, A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items, (h) = hazelnuts, smb = small mammal bones; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs Moll-f = freshwater molluscs;

Table 4. Land snail assessment

SITE PHASE	Pre Barrow		Early Bronze Age	
FEATURE TYPE	Treethrow		Barrow ditch	Pit/ Post-hole
FEATURE	118		109	123
CONTEXT	119	119	108	122
SAMPLE	1	2	5	8
DEPTH (m)	0.10	0.05	0.40	0.34
WEIGHT (g)	1500	1500	1500	1500
Open country species				
Pupilla muscorum	C	A	A	C
Vertigo spp.	C	C	B	-
Helicella itala	-	-	C	-
Vallonia spp.	B	B	A	C
Intro. Helicellids	-	C	-	-
Catholic species				
Trichia hispida	C	-	C	-
Pomatias elegans	C	-	-	C
Cochlicopa spp.	-	-	C	-
Punctum pygmaeum	-	C	-	-
Shade-loving species				
Carychium	C	-	-	C
Discus rotundatus	-	-	C	C
Oxychilus	-	-	-	C
Clausiliidae	-	-	C	C
Vitrea	-	-	C	-
Burrowing species				
Cecilioides acicula	A	A	A	A
Approx **totals**	15	25	60	16
Analysis	✓	✓	✓	

KEY: A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items, (+) = present

APPENDIX 1: Trench Summaries

Trench 1: Longfurlong Farm, Barrow Trench

	Max Depth: 0.35m	Length: 21.8m	Width: 16.6m
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
101	*Topsoil, turf*	Current topsoil and turf of field. Light brown grey silty loam	0-0.30m
102	*Subsoil interface*	Interface lens between current topsoil and chalk natural. Consists of degraded chalk mix with grey cream silt	0.3-0.35m
103	*Natural*	Solid weathered natural chalk	0.35m+
104	*Group Deposit*	Group fill Number for disturbed barrow fill. This fill relates to backfill from Pull's 1920s excavations. Fill of Group Number for Pull's barrow cut **129**.	-
105	***Cut***	**Cut of barrow, Group Number 170. Intervention in north-eastern quadrant of barrow.**	**-**
106	*Deposit*	Lower chalky backfill at base of barrow cut **105**.	-
107	*Deposit*	Undisturbed upper silty fill of barrow cut **105**. Group 175	-
108	*Deposit*	Undisturbed upper silty fill of barrow cut **109**. Group 175	**-**
109	***Cut***	**Cut of barrow, Group Number 170. Intervention in north-western quadrant of barrow. FW 108 and 180**	-
110	*Deposit*	Undisturbed upper silty fill of barrow cut **111**. Group 175	-
111	***Cut***	**Cut of barrow, Group Number 170. Intervention in north-western quadrant of barrow. FW 110 and 128**	**-**
112	*Deposit*	Undisturbed upper silty fill of barrow cut **113**. Group 175	-
113	***Cut***	**Cut of barrow, Group Number 170. Intervention in north-western quadrant of barrow. FW 112 and 172**	
114	*Deposit*	Undisturbed upper silty fill of barrow cut **115**. Group 175	
115	***Cut***	**Cut of barrow, Group Number 170. Intervention in north-western quadrant of barrow. FW 114 and 173**	
116	*VOID*	VOID	
117	*Deposit*	Fill of small shrub/treethrow in centre of barrow. FO **118**	
118	***Cut***	**Small circular shrub throw in centre of barrow 170.**	
119	*Deposit*	Chalky upper fill of shrub throw **118**.	
120	*Deposit*	Fill of post-hole **121** cut into barrow ditch slot **113**.	
121	***Cut***	**Cut of post-hole that is cut into barrow ditch slot 113**	
122	*Deposit*	Fill of small Collared Urn pit/ post-hole to east of barrow. F.O. 123	
123	***Cut***	**Cut of small Collared Urn pit/ post-hole to east of barrow. F.W. 122 and 158. Part of Group 179.**	
124	*Deposit*	Lower chalky backfill of barrow cut **125**. Group 176	
125	***Cut***	**Cut of barrow, Group Number 170. Intervention in north-eastern quadrant of barrow. FW 124 and 174**	
126	*Deposit*	Fill of treethrow inside barrow. F.O. **127**	
127	***Cut***	**Shallow crescentic shaped treethrow inside barrow. F.W 126**	
128	*Deposit*	Lower chalky backfill of barrow ditch slot **111**. Group Number 176.	
129	***Group Cut***	**Group cut for Pull's barrow excavation in 1920s. NB He did not fully excavate the barrow ditch. He did not bottom the ditch. F.W. 104**	
130	***Cut***	**Cut of barrow, Group Number 170. Intervention in north-eastern quadrant of barrow. FW 131 and 177**	
131	*Deposit*	Lower chalky backfill of barrow ditch slot **130**. Group Number 176.	
132	***Cut***	**Small sub-circular post-hole with flint nodules on top to east of barrow 170. F.W. 133**	
133	*Deposit*	Brown silty fill of post-hole 132	
134	*Deposit*	Buff silty fill of sub-circular pos-thole 135	
135	***Cut***	**Sub-circular posthole to east of barrow 170. F.W. 134. Part of Group 179**	
136	*Deposit*	Light brown silty fill of post-hole 137	

137	***Cut***	**Sub-circular post-hole to east of barrow 170. FW 136**	
138	***Cut***	**Cut of barrow, Group Number 170. Intervention in south-western quadrant of barrow. FW 139 and 181**	
139	*Deposit*	Lower chalky backfill of barrow ditch slot **138**. Group Number 176.	
140	***Cut***	**Cut of barrow, Group Number 170. Intervention in south-western quadrant of barrow. FW 141 & 182**	
141	*Deposit*	Lower chalky backfill of barrow ditch slot **140**. Group Number 176	
142	***Cut***	**Cut of barrow, Group Number 170. Intervention in south-eastern quadrant of barrow. FW 143 & 183**	
143	*Deposit*	Lower chalky backfill of barrow ditch slot **142**. Group Number 176	
144	***Cut***	Small circular post-hole to south-west of barrow 170. F.W. 145 & 146. Part of Group 179	
145	*Deposit*	Lower chalky fill of post-hole 144	
146	*Deposit*	Upper silty fill of post-hole 144	
147	***Cut***	**Small sub-circular post-hole to west of barrow 170. F.W. 148 and 149. Part of Group 179**	
148	*Deposit*	Lower chalky fill of post-hole 147	
149	*Deposit*	Upper silty fill of post-hole 147	
150	***Cut***	**Sub-circular post-hole to south-east of barrow 170. F.W. 151 & 178. Part of Group 179**	
151	*Deposit*	Silty fill of post-hole 150.	
152	***Cut***	**Sub-rectangular post-hole cut on south-western side of barrow 170. F.W. 153 & 154**	
153	*Deposit*	Upper silty fill of post-hole 152	
154	*Deposit*	Lower chalky fill of post-hole 152	
155	***Cut***	**Small treethrow in north-eastern quadrant within barrow 170.**	
156	*Deposit*	Lower chalky fill of treethrow 155	
157	*Deposit*	Upper silty fill of treethrow 155	
158	*Deposit*	Lower fill of posthole 123	
159	*Deposit*	Lower chalky backfill of barrow ditch slot **160**. Group Number 176	
160	***Cut***	**Cut of barrow, Group Number 170. Intervention in north-eastern quadrant of barrow. FW 159 & 186**	
161	***Cut***	**Sub-circular post-hole to south of barrow. F.W. 162. Part of Group 179**	
162	*Deposit*	Silty fill of post-hole 161	
163	***Cut***	**Small sub-circular post-hole to south of barrow. F.W. 164. Part of Group 179**	
164	*Deposit*	Silty fill of post-hole 163	
165	*VOID*	VOID	
166	*VOID*	VOID	
167	***Cut***	**Large treethrow (or two intercutting treethrows) within southern half of barrow 170**	
168	*Deposit*	Fill of treethrow 167	
169	***Cut***	**Pit cut into treethrow 167. F.W. 171**	
170	***Group Cut***	**Group cut for barrow ditch**	
171	*Deposit*	Fill of pit 169. Deposit full of large numbers of weathered flint nodules.	
172	*Deposit*	Lower chalky backfill of barrow ditch slot **113**. Group Number 176	
173	*Deposit*	Lower chalky backfill of barrow ditch slot **115**. Group Number 176	
174	*Deposit*	Undisturbed upper silty fill of barrow cut **125**. Group 175	
175	*Group Deposit*	Group Deposit Number for upper silty fill of barrow ditch 170	
176	*Group Deposit*	Group Deposit Number for lower chalky redeposited backfill of barrow ditch 170	
177	*Deposit*	Undisturbed upper silty fill of barrow cut **130**. Group 175	
178	*Deposit*	Lower fill of posthole 150.	
179	*Group structure*	Group Number for the paired arc of post-holes surrounding the barrow	
180	*Deposit*	Lower chalky backfill of barrow ditch slot **109**. Group Number 176	

181	*Deposit*	Undisturbed upper silty fill of barrow cut **138**. Group 175	
182	*Deposit*	Undisturbed upper silty fill of barrow cut **140**. Group 175	
183	*Deposit*	Undisturbed upper silty fill of barrow cut **142**. Group 175	
184	***Cut***	**Small treethrow cut by barrow ditch slot 142. F.W. 185**	
185	*Deposit*	Fill of treethrow 184	
186	*Deposit*	Undisturbed upper silty fill of barrow cut **160**. Group 175	
187	***Cut***	**Small treethrow cut by barrow ditch in south-west quadrant**	
188	*Deposit*	Fill of treethrow 187	

Trench 2: Longfurlong Farm

	Max Depth: 0.32m	Length: 4.90m	Width: 1.60m
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
201	*Topsoil*	Topsoil and turf. Light brown- grey silty loam with frequent chalk inclusions	0-0.24m
202	*Subsoil Interface*	Interface between topsoil and chalk natural. No obvious subsoil as a result of effects of bulldozing and ploughing. Slight gingery grey interface dominated by chalky blocks	0.24-0.29m
203	*Natural*	Weathered chalk natural with periglacial banding	0.29m+

Trench 3: Longfurlong Farm

	Max Depth: 0.86m	Length: 7.25m	Width: 1.35m
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
301	*Topsoil*	Current turf and topsoil of pasture field. Light brown-grey silty loam with abundant bioturbation. Common chalk and flint inclusions (20-30%).	0-0.21m
302	*Subsoil Interface*	Subsoil interface between topsoil and chalk natural. No obvious subsoil as a result of effects of bulldozing and ploughing. Slight gingery grey interface dominated by chalky blocks	0.21-0.28m
303	*Natural*	Weathered chalk natural with periglacial banding. Sondage put through chalk and upper 5-10 cm evidence of solifluction and water damage. The next 40 cm ice affected and beneath this is solid blocks of unweathered chalk	0.28-0.86m

Trench 4: Longfurlong Farm

	Max Depth: 0.37m	Length: 29m	Width: 3.10m
Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Depth**
401	*Topsoil*	Current topsoil and turf of pasture field. Light brown silty loam with frequent chalk and flint inclusions (c. 25%).	0-0.27m
402	*Subsoil Interface*	Slight gingery grey interface between topsoil and natural	0.27-0.32m
403	*Natural*	Hard unweathered chalk natural. Some periglacial bands	0.32m+
404	*Deposit*	Fill of treethrow **405**. Light ginger-brown silt with frequent subangular chalk and flint inclusions.	0.32-0.42m
405	***Cut***	**Cut of irregular treethrow. F.W. 404**	**0.32-0.42m**
406	*Deposit*	Fill of feature 405, light to mid yellow brown sandy silt.	0.55-0.66m

Trench 5: Longfurlong Farm

	Max Depth: 0.35m	Length: 11m	Width: 3.3-4.5

Context	Type	Description	Depth
501	*Topsoil*	Current topsoil and turf of pasture field. Light brown silty loam with frequent chalk and flint inclusions (c. 25%).	0-0.25m
502	*Subsoil Interface*	Thin gingery grey interface between topsoil and natural	0.25-0.30m
503	*Natural*	Solid chalk natural – slopes downwards. Has ploghmarks on the slope	0.30m+
504	*Deposit*	Brownish red silty clay with occasional chalk fragments. Upper fill of treethrow **505**.	0.3-0.49m
505	***Cut***	**Sub circular treethrow. Filled with 504, 506 & 507. Tree toppled over to the east**	**0.3-0.84m**
506	*Deposit*	Degraded redeposited chalk upcast of treethrow 505.	0.49-0.84
507	*Deposit*	Primary fill of treethrow 505 – immediate silting of redeposited chalk after tree toppled, and material slipped in	0.65-0.84

Trench 6: Longfurlong Farm

	Max Depth:0.52m	Length: 14.80m	Width: 5.6m

Context	Type	Description	Depth
601	*Topsoil*	Current topsoil and turf of pasture field. Light brown silty loam with frequent chalk and flint inclusions (c. 25%).	0-0.22m
602	*Deposit*	Loose redeposited chalk fill of treethrow 603.	0.22-0.52m
603	***Cut***	**Irregular – rectangular treethrow. Not fully revealed in plan since it runs into western baulk of trench**	**0.22-0.52m**
604	*Subsoil Interface*	Slight gingery grey interface between topsoil and natural	0.23-0.27m
605	*Natural*	Weathered chalk natural	0.27m+

Trench 7: Longfurlong Farm

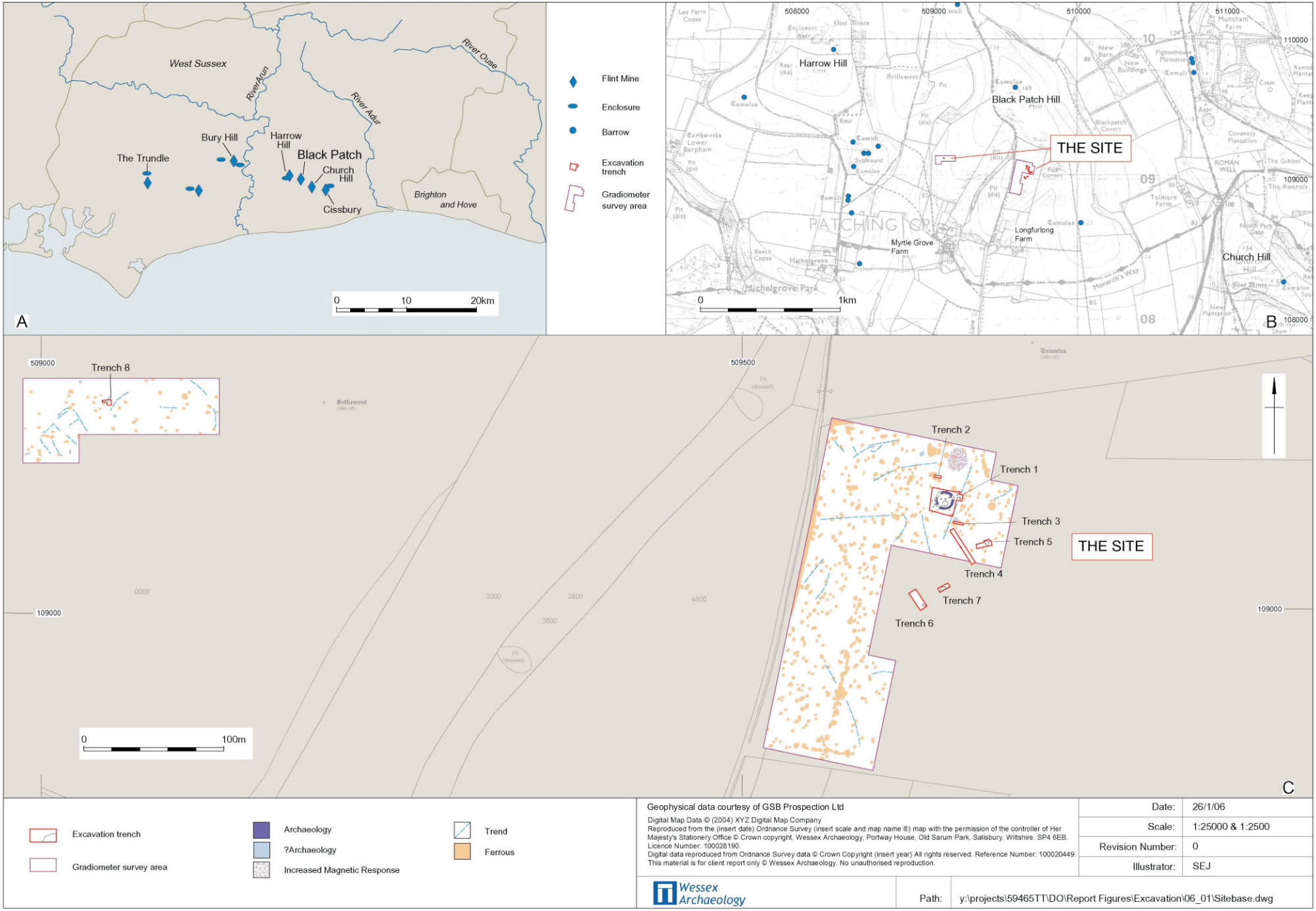
	Max Depth: 1.35m	Length: 8m	Width: 3m

Context	Type	Description	Depth
701	*Topsoil*	Current topsoil and turf of pasture field. Light brown silty loam with frequent chalk and flint inclusions (c. 25%).	0-0.22m
702	*Deposit*	Silty loam with common chalk inclusions. Upper fill of treethrow	
703	***Cut***	**Subcircular and slightly irregular treethrow. F.W. 702 and 704.**	
704	*Natural*	Degraded chalk natural	0.36m+
705	*Deposit*	Redeposited blocky chalk natural. Fill of treethrow **703**.	
706	*Deposit*	Later chalk and topsoil mixed silting of treethrow	

Trench 8: Myrtle Grove Farm

	Max Depth:1.40m	Length: 6.4m	Width: 3.83m

Context	Type	Description	Depth
801	*Topsoil*	Loose light brown silty loam. Frequent chalk and flint inclusions	0-0.22m
802	*Subsoil*	Grey-orange chalky subsoil – frequent blocky chalk inclusions	0.22-0.35m
803	*Natural*	Weathered and degraded chalk natural. Slopes downwards from east to west	0.35+
804	***Cut***	**Circular feature – possible quarry hollow/ borrow pit, although originally thought to be a house platform**	
805	*Deposit*	Dark grey brown silty loam loess with common chalk inclusions. Could be windblown soil – well sorted. Upper fill of 804.	
806	*Deposit*	Light orange-brown silty loam with frequent large flint nodules and chalk. Main fill of 804.	
807	*Deposit*	Cream white degraded chalk natural. Primary fill of pit 804.	



Geophysical data courtesy of GSB Prospection Ltd

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Revision Number:	0
Illustrator:	SEJ

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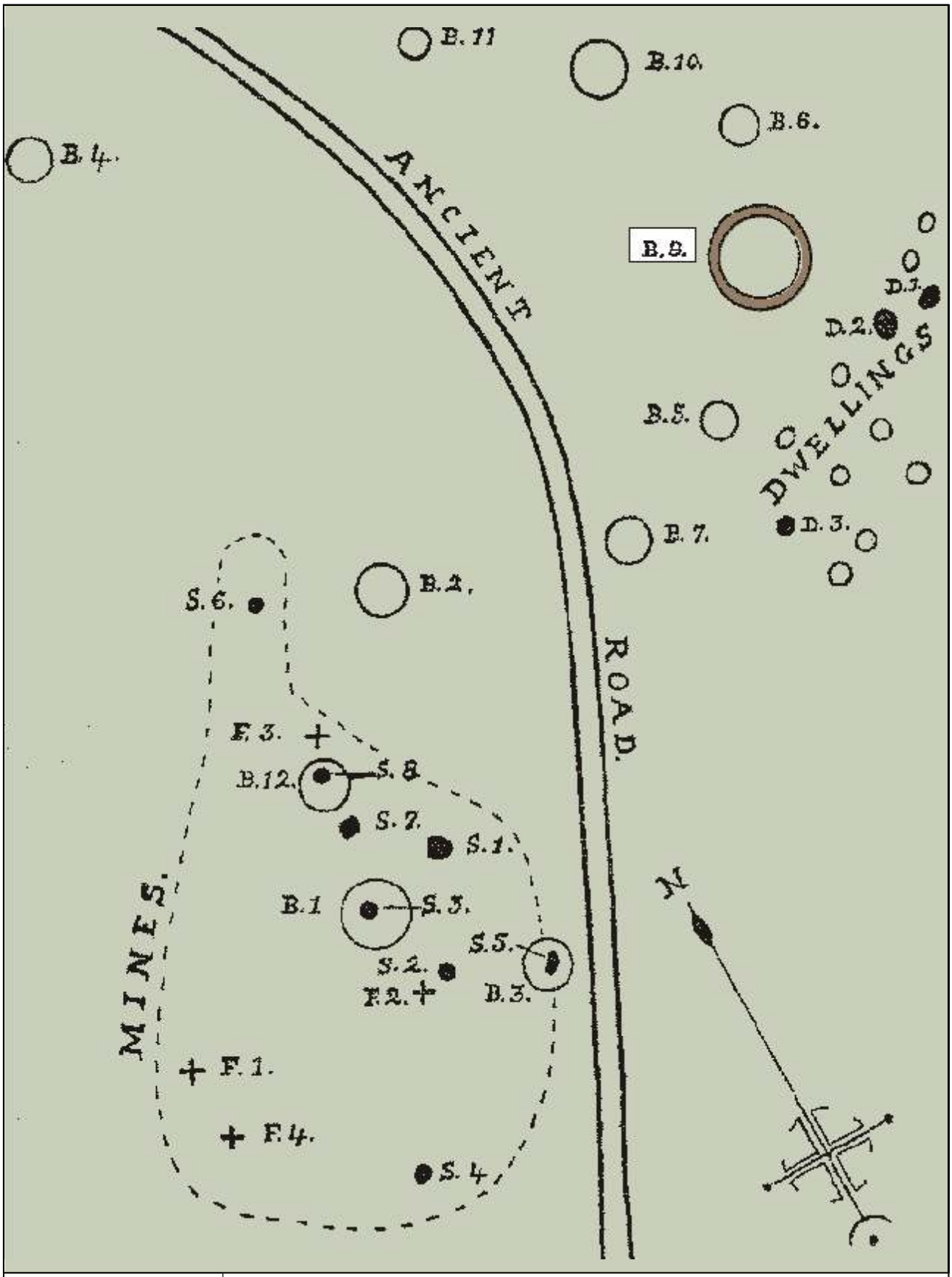
Site and trench locations with geophysical survey plots

Figure 1



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John Pull's plan showing Barrow 9

Figure 2

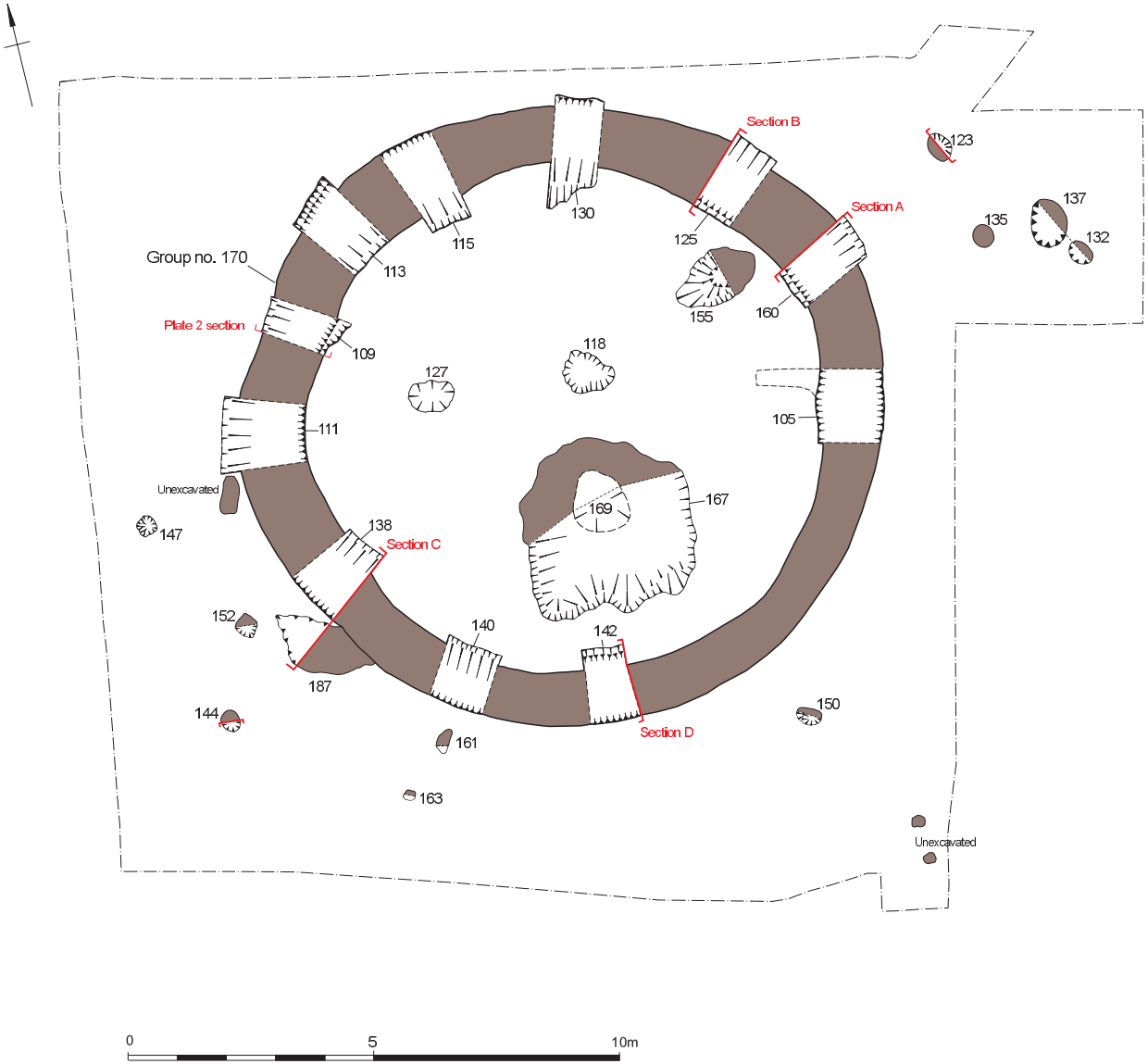

Plate 1. Barrow viewed from south

Plate 2. Section through western side of Barrow viewed from north east

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Section line

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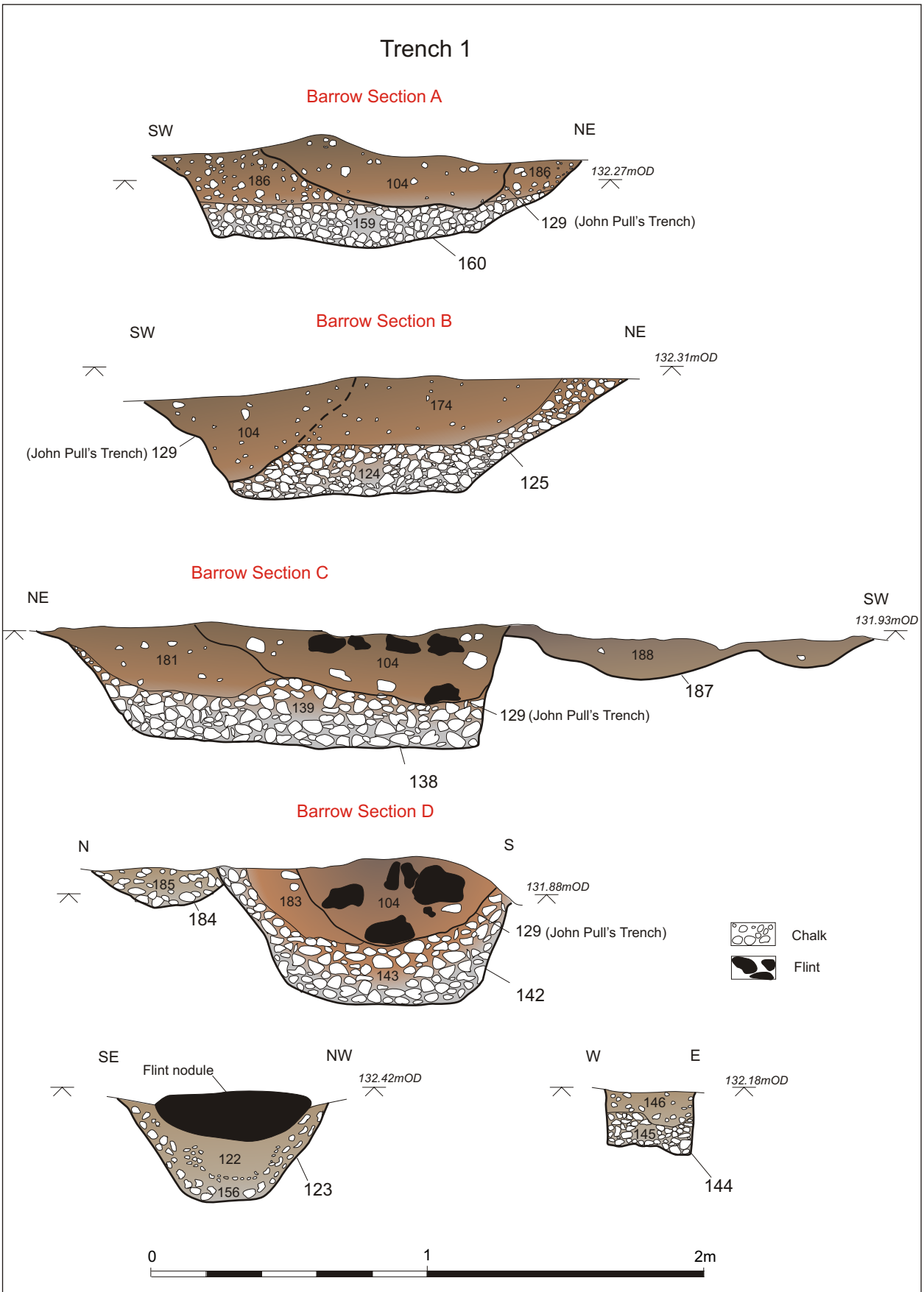
Plan of Barrow and associated features in Trench 1



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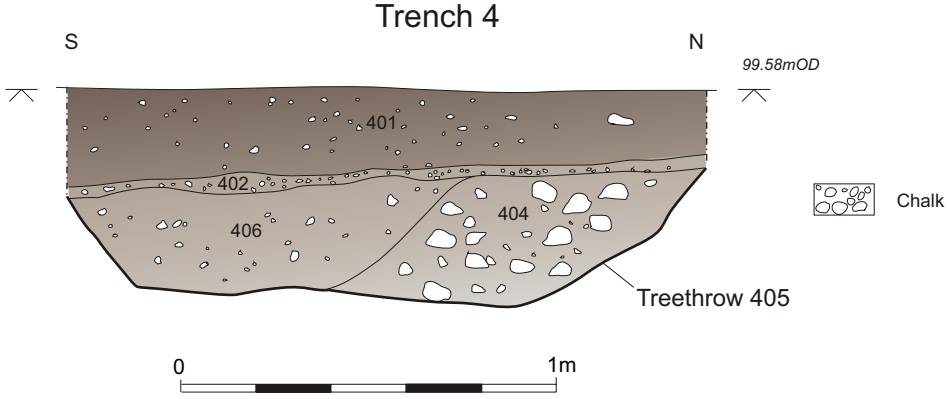
Trench 1 sections through Barrow and related postholes

Figure 4

Trench 4



Trench 5

Treethrow 505, north facing section

Trench 6

Treethrow 603, south east facing section

Trench 7

Treethrow 703, north facing section

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Trenches 4-7. Selected sections through treethrows

Figure 5

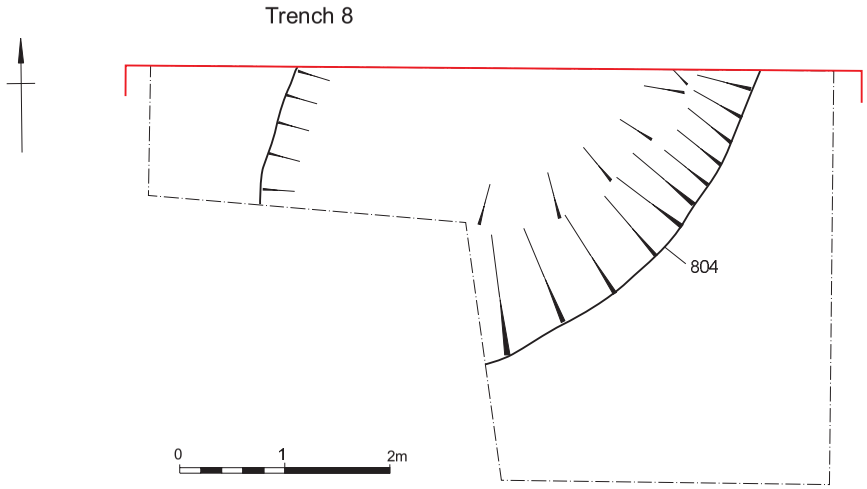
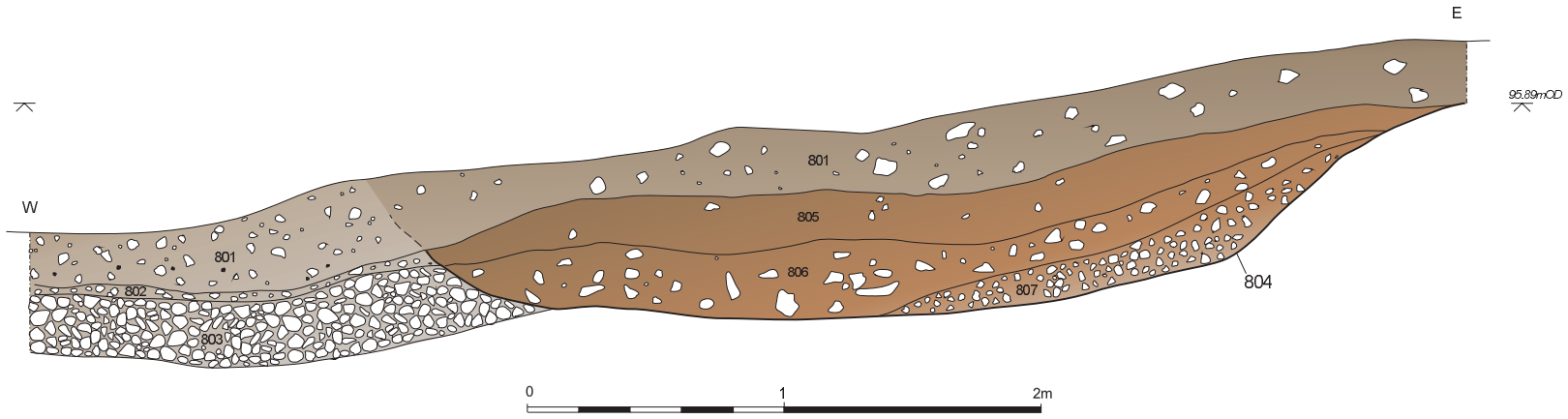


Plate 3. Trench 8 hollow viewed from south



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Section line

Chalk

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Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\59465\Drawing Office\Report Figs\Excavation\06_01\A3 Figure 6.cdr		

Trench 8 Plan and section

Figure 6

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