FORTHCOMING EXCAVATIONS

Volunteers are needed for the following excavations in Sussex:

- **Streatham moated site, Small Dole, Henfield (TQ 201137)**, directed by A. Barr-Hamilton, 21 August-9 September.
- **Iron Age and Roman site, Rookery Hill, Bishopstone (TQ 468009)**, directed by M. G. Bell, 5-18 August.
- **Roman site, Newhaven Ring Road (TQ 446013)**, directed by J. H. Money and M. G. Bell, emergency excavation during the summer. These three excavations are organised by the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society. Apply to W. C. L. Gorton, 1 The Deeside, Brighton, BN1 8SA.
- **Roman bloomery, Broadfields, Crawley (TQ 258353)**, directed by J. Gibson-Hill, 22 July-12 August and also at weekends. Apply to Mrs. J. Morgan, 1 Colet Road, Tilgate, Crawley.

and in neighbouring areas:

- **M23 and M25 rescue excavations.** Surrey Archaeological Society has launched a programme of observation and rescue excavation in advance of the construction of two motorways through south Surrey. With financial support from the Department of the Environment, a team of freelance professional archaeologists led by Mr. Harvey Sheldon will handle the observation and will co-ordinate any excavations. Work will not be continuous but will have to be phased according to the progress of the civil engineering. Excavation has already been undertaken on the Croydon, Merstham and Godstone Railway (TQ 229453), and in the grounds of Glade House (TQ 153440), directed by F. H. Thompson, 10 July-5 August. Apply to Mr. Thompson at the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1V 0HS.

South Hampshire Archaeological Rescue Group has been formed to handle, immediately, observation and rescue excavation in advance of the construction of the Hampshire section of the M27, south coast motorway. Offers of assistance are welcomed by Mike Hughes, SHARG, Department of Extra-Mural Studies, The University, Southampton, SO9 5NH.

ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF ASHDOWN FOREST

In an attempt to add to the knowledge of the pre-historic occupation of part of the Weald I am engaged in plotting on maps all known Roman and pre-historic sites on Ashdown Forest and the immediate surrounding Weald, up to say five miles from the ancient forest boundaries. There are few published sources but I am finding that many stone tools, such as flint axes and arrow heads are in private hands in that neighbourhood. I would be extremely grateful if members who have any ancient stone tools or pottery, or know others who have them, would let me know so that I can plot the find on my maps. Any such information will greatly help towards an important addition to our knowledge of prehistoric Sussex. My address is: The Pheasantry, Wych Cross, Forest Row, RH18 5JP.

C. F. Tebbutt

INSURANCE COVER FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

It is to be hoped that officers of archaeological societies and directors of excavations are fully aware of the need for adequate insurance cover for those involved in their activities. However, the policies hitherto available have not been geared to the particular hazards of those activities, so the Council for British Archaeology has negotiated a special master policy under which member societies may take out insurance—member societies meaning archaeological societies affiliated to the C.B.A. or to a C.B.A. regional group (e.g., to the S.A.S. Research Committee). Though the cost of cover (which will include all bona fide activities of the society) is high by comparison with existing policies, societies are urged to examine the detailed proposals which are available from the C.B.A.

NEW SECRETARY TO THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Eric Holden has resigned from the secretariat of the Research Committee after a long and active term of office for which the Society is greatly indebted to him. His successor is Mrs. Margaret Holt, F.S.A., The Roman Palace, Salthill Road, Fishbourne, Chichester.

EXCAVATIONS 1971

A second batch of excavation reports follows. The first three relate to Wealden Iron sites, and readers may be interested to know that survey groups of the Wealden Iron Research Group have been established in the Slagham and East Grinstead areas: further information from Joseph Pettitt, 42 Silverdale Road, Reading, RG6 2LS.

Broadfields, Crawley

Excavation of this Roman bloomery site has been undertaken by the Crawley and Mid-Sussex Archaeological Group. The geology and geography of the site are covered in B. C. Worssam's paper on iron ore workings in the western Weald, to be published in the Proceedings of the Geologists' Association. The substantial excavated area only covers the S.W. corner of this large Roman iron working site. Within this area we have located and excavated 27 clay shaft furnaces (Holbeanwood type). The majority of these are on the edge of, or near, a ditch which connects at one end with what appears to have been an 18 ft. wide water reservoir. The only structure so far excavated is a small rectangular wooden building, approximately 8 ft. long and 6 ft. wide, which was probably some sort of blacksmith's workshop, having apparently been open on three sides, and its beaten clay floor having been exposed to a fairly high temperature. In association with
this building we discovered what appears to be an ore roasting or forging furnace.

The small finds (some as early as 75 A.D.), which include hundreds of sherds of pottery, a bronze fibulare brooch and a varied selection of other objects, suggest that occupation began during the latter part of the 1st century and ended about the middle of the 2nd century. One really significant group of small finds consists of tens double tuyeres. Besides using these purpose-made tuyeres, the occupants were not above trimming off the necks of flagons for the same purpose.

Part of this site had already been destroyed by housing development, and the rest will soon meet the same fate. See 'Forthcoming Excavations'.

J. Gibson-Hill

Holbeanwood

TQ 664305


The final season of excavations at the Holbeanwood site in Ticehurst, Sussex, took place at the Easter and Spring Bank Holidays 1971, for a total of twelve days.

One of the new ironmaking areas found in 1970 was cleared completely (Site B). This proved to cover about 650 sq. ft., as defined by drainage ditches in the form of a lozenge. The interior contained the bases of six furnaces, identified as bloomery shaft furnaces, of the type found in the original working area (Site A), which also contained six furnaces. Slag and furnace debris had been thrown into and beyond the boundary ditches, the interior being largely free from refuse material. The working surface around the furnaces had been removed by ploughing in part; where it was present it consisted of charcoal and ore fragments trodden into the natural clay. Several post-holes were found, which suggested that some kind of roof had been built over the furnaces; however, the structure would appear to have been less substantial than that over the furnaces in Site A, where the discovery of a deeper beam trench implied that the furnaces were totally enclosed.

Investigation of a third possible smelting area (Site C), where slag and furnace debris and a dump of roasted ore had been found in 1970, was hampered by considerable disturbance resulting from recent levelling on the site by bulldozer, followed by subsequent ploughing. It may be deduced, however, from the large amount of iron slag and furnace debris in the ditch that was fully cleared that this complex had been similar to those which had been better protected (Sites A and B).

Examination of a further area (Site D) lying between Sites B and C revealed a considerable deposit of charcoal and roasted ore, containing almost no iron slag. Further excavation of this area was not proceeded with, since it is covered by a thick layer of redeposited clay subsoil, resulting from modern levelling. It is postulated that this area was used solely for charcoal burning and ore roasting, the products being transferred to the smelting sites (A, B, and ?C) for further processing.

The Holbeanwood site has thus provided evidence of the primary processes associated with ironworking: the site is surrounded by a timber edging for the first two metres, and ponds, one of which was probably a tail-race. Half of the site is covered by a thick clay subsoil, the raw materials (charcoal and roasted ore) were made on Site D; and iron was smelted on Sites A and B (and probably on Site C). There is no clear evidence of forging hearths, on which the spongy iron bloom produced in the smelting furnaces was hampered to consolidate it into a semi-product for subsequent smelting into artifacts; however, it is possible that some of the fragmentary hearths at present identified as smelting furnaces were in fact used for this purpose.

Small finds were again very scarce; a much battered Samian base from Site D was only the second find of this pottery from the entire site. It appears to be a late 2nd century Central Gaulish type, but its very poor condition makes this ascription somewhat tentative.

Examination of the layering in the refuse dumps suggests that each of the three smelting sites was occupied and worked for at most three seasons, assuming that operations were carried out on a cyclical basis (i.e. charcoal burning, ore roasting, and smelting were successive rather than simultaneous operations). This would imply a maximum life for the entire site of no more than ten years, assuming successive rather than simultaneous operation of the smelting sites.

Henry Cleere

Chingley Forge, Kent

TQ 682336


In 1970 the Forge site had to be backfilled with major problems left unanswered. The 16th and 17th century timber wheel races have been excavated, but there are indications that earlier structures lay below. A sample of filling had been removed from a narrow race beneath the levels explored in 1970, and fragments of a wheel had been recovered, together with a very limited sample of pottery which included a sherd of stamped Rye wares.

In 1971 the whole of the filling of this early race was excavated, and the timber structures associated with it recorded and dismantled. The silts of the race, the deposits on the working area to the east, and the filling of the tail-race produced finds consistent in period. The coarse pottery has not been brought to the surface, but it is worth noting that the unglazed black wares, both cooking pots and jugs, from these layers were of 14th century origin, as were the glazed sherds. Metalwork comprised nails and some non-ferrous scrap; cinder was present, but the furnaces were less substantial than might have been expected at a water-powered bloomery.

The timber structure consisted of a massive framework, using mortice, dovetail and half joints, this lay southwards from the dam, and its western half comprised the wheel race. The timbers upon which this lay, and those which bridged it, extended eastwards and had supported massive north-south timbers, probably the base frame for the hammer which the water wheel would have driven. To the north, the tail-race was ill-defined, with only fragments of a timber edging for the first two metres. Therefore it was merely an ill-defined hollow.

The interpretation of the purpose of the early structure raises certain problems. While the timbers were so massive that a hammer seems the most likely equipment to have been mounted on them, no actual fragments were found which could prove this. Further, the quantity of bloomery cinder was small, and tap-slag in particular was rare. However, while the possibility of the site's use for some other purpose requiring water power, fulling or corn-milling for instance, cannot be ruled out, the presence of non-ferrous scrap in the race silts must be seen as significant; someone working here was experienced as a smith, and this, together with the location with the foredams, the cinder and the massive structures must suggest an association with metalworking. The most likely answer is that the site was a hammer forge for working up blooms of iron produced by the smelting sites — bloomeries — in the area; it is indeed interesting to note in this context that the unpowered smelting site near Witham, some 10 miles to the east, excavated by Mr. J. H. Money, had no hammering plant, and could well have relied upon a local water-powered counterpart. Farther to the east of this area is the late 17th century Chingley forge. No great amount of cinder might be expected, merely the product of the stringhearth used for reheating during hammering.

In addition to the main excavation, mechanical trenching was carried out in order to secure a channel running from the dam, the tail-race, and indications of a channel running north from the dam in the central part of Force Field. The latter was found to be an early channel sealed by the 16th century dam, and not necessarily connected with the iron-working site.

D. W. Crossley

Newhaven Ring Road

TQ 4457033

Early in September 1971, Mr. A. S. Payne of Newhaven reported that, in 1962, ancient pottery had been found beneath the playground of the Newhaven Infants’ School in Dacre Road. Since, at the time of Mr. Payne’s report, the site was being cleared for the first stage of the New-
haven Ring Road, it was decided to carry out a small trial excavation, which, at the time of writing (January 1972), is still proceeding. However, some of our provisional conclusions may be summarised as follows.

ROMANO-BRITISH: A V-shaped ditch, 5 ft wide and 3 ft deep, had been traced running west across the site; another ditch of similar dimensions, and stratigraphic filling, has been found running north-south. It is likely that the two portions form part of a rectangular enclosure. Samian ware and native forms from the top fill of the ditch suggest a date in the 2nd century. The ditch contained flue and roof tiles, flints covered with mortar, wall plaster painted red and yellow, fragments of metalwork, and window glass. Clearly a fairly sophisticated structure stood in the area, in about the 2nd century, and, on destruction, the remains of it were cleared into the ditch.

Some 2,000 sq. ft. within the Romano-British enclosure have been excavated to date, and remains of structures of several, as yet ill-defined, phases have been recognised. The earliest phase would seem to be represented by a timber structure, consisting of timber walls on a sleeper beam. The beam was interrupted at intervals by posts which supported the roof timbers. This phase has a terminus post quem of the late 1st, or early 2nd century, on the basis of an enamelled brooch of Backworth type. Possibly contemporary with this structure are two large post holes, 2 ft. and 3 ft. deep, respectively, and a series of smaller post holes. At various angles to the sleeper beam trench of this phase were fragments of mortared flint wall with voussoirs set in holes and other features. Some 2 ft. away, one such post was found in situ. Areas of flints, some in a fine gravel representing decayed mortar, are the remains of cobbled areas, tumble from walls, and the shallow flint footings for timber framed buildings. Unfortunately, much of the Romano-British ground surface had been removed to a depth of a few inches before the commencement of excavation. This made it impossible to develop a clear plan of these structures, this may, however, become possible as the work proceeds. The ephemeral nature of the structural features suggests that this is not the site of a building that occupied the site, and this may yet remain in the area to be destroyed in later stages of the present development.

MEDIÆVAL PERIOD: Part of the excavated area was levelled by the deposition of up to 4 ft. of clay. Two platforms were thus constructed: the deposited material of which they were made up contained fragments of green-glazed pottery. Although both platforms faced onto lanes, no evidence of buildings was found on top of them, perhaps because of the effects of post-medieval use. In another excavation area nearby, two shallow mediæval pits contained fragments of pottery which is roughly contemporary with that found in the platforms.

Although much of the area discussed here has already been destroyed by the road works, the co-operation of all concerned enabled most of it to be excavated. However, much more will be affected by the road works and other development projects over future years, which may call for the continuation of rescue excavation at Newhaven for some time.

Martin G. Bell
Glottenham moated site, Mountfield
TQ 726221

During 1971 excavations were completed on this site. The initial phase, of pre-12th century date, was represented by a large boundary ditch running across the enclosure. The ditch appeared to be associated with ‘ridge and furrow’ cultivation in the adjoining field.

In the late 11th or early 12th century a building having dry-stone walls and measuring about 66 ft. by 26 ft. was erected in the NW. corner of the early field; small bounded ditches suggest that the structure extended north and east. In the early 13th century this was superseded by a hall block with cross-wing and detached kitchen. The kitchen itself was large, measuring 31 ft. by 28 ft., and consisted of a timber frame laid directly upon the earth. To the west was a cinder mortared core pond and to the east a ditch, which appears to have continued into the field and cut through the ‘ridge and furrow’. After a short period of apparent abandonment towards the closing years of the 13th century the structures were re-occupied. This re-occupation, which shows a drastic increase in the quality of pottery, coincides with the change of occupation from the de Glottenham family to Robert de Etchingham. A short time after, the site was fortified; these works having taken place whilst the existing building was occupied. On completion of the fortified house all existing buildings were demolished. The new fortified structure consisted of two ranges of timber buildings set against the stone curtain wall. That to the north, of which little remained, appears to be the domestic building for the south range is for a series of cultiral use; the chief building here being a 33 ft. wide barn. The stone gateway at the western end of the site was approached by a two trestle timber entrance bridge, the impressions only of which remained. Archaeological evidence suggests that part of this structure was taken up by a cantilever drawbridge.

The buildings appear to have been abandoned around 1349 when the Manor was let out on lease. About this time it was thoroughly dismantled leaving only the substructure walling.

D. Martin

OX BONES USED AS GREASE BOXES?

In S.A.C., vol. 84, pp. 108 et seq., there appeared an article by the late Dr. Eliot Curwen seeking an explanation for a series of objects made from ox metatarsals or meta-carpals. In each case the bone had been cut away to one side, exposing the interior, the opposite side had been flattened and one to three holes bored through at either end.

A total of 18 such bones, from various localities, were known to Curwen, and of these he mentions that two were associated with sites of old mills and three more came from the collection of Major Maitland, of Friston Place, near Eastbourne.

Now Maitland was landlord of Friston Mill, blown down in 1926, one of whose millstones survives as part of a sundial in Friston Place grounds and whose centre post was used in making a piece of furniture in the house. Further, Maitland’s vallet has told the writer that his master was an inveterate collector of odds and ends of all sorts.

In 1966, Lawrence Stevens, of this society, directed the excavation of a building on Ashley Down, Eastbourne, which was built as a bolting house (associated with a nearby post mill) about 1730 and converted some 20 years later into a horizontal windmill. In the course of clearing the floor of this building he found no fewer than three of these bone implements.

Tentatively, and bearing in mind other details given by Curwen, we would suggest that these hollow bones were used as grease boxes and that they were fastened to wooden handles by means of the holes at either end and applied as necessary to certain moving parts of the mill machinery.

Richard Gilbert

WINCHELSEA 1971

The following paragraphs summarize the report of the Local Honorary Secretary, Captain H. Lovegovre.

A mediæval cellar to the east of the churchyard was opened up in July, a full note on which has been deposited at Barbican House; it is no. 3B in W. McL. Homan’s type-script history of Winchelsea (1940).

In December, the Secretary for the Environment ordered an alteration in the route of the trunk route through the town, so as to avoid the Strand Gate—the road through which now becomes a county road and can be made subject to restrictions on the traffic using it. While the matter is under consideration by E.S.C.C., the gate continues to receive damage from heavy vehicles to an extent which has caused serious concern. On the advice of the Division of the Environment, a series of bronze pins have been driven into the eastern spring of the arch to support the stones there.

An old ship’s gun has been mounted on two concrete blocks in the Court House garden: these serve both to preserve it and to show it off to the best advantage. The gun is said to have been brought up many years ago from Pett Level shore, from the wreck of a ship in Torrington’s fleet which foundered after the Battle of Beachy Head
(1690): it is of iron, some nine feet long without the cascabel (which is broken off) with a bore of four and a half inches. The trunnions are placed below the axis of the gun, which dates to before the mid 18th century.

CUCKFIELD 1971

Mr. N. Caplan, the Local Honorary Secretary, reports that there have not been any local notifications of archaeological or antiquarian interest during 1971 except for further confirmation that the house, The Old Cottage at Whitemans Green, Cuckfield, is in fact an older house than had been generally supposed. After the opening-up of part of the roof timbers of The Old Cottage, Mr. R. T. Mason, F.S.A., made a second inspection of the house. Mr. Mason now confirms that the older part of the house was built after the Transition Period. The timber wall plates show clearly the overlap of Medieval and Tudor styles with no ridge piece, with half-lapped and pegged rafters (bearing smoke deposits from the original open hall fire) and side purins.

The 'historical' as distinct from the 'amenity' activities of the Cuckfield Society have included an exhibition of ‘Cuckfield in the Past’: photographs which were located for the exhibition have been copied and a set placed in East Sussex Record Office. A tape recording of reminiscences of old residents of the town has been deposited in Brighton Reference Library.

EAST GRINSTEAD EXHIBITION

The East Grinstead Society is arranging a local history exhibition to run from Monday 24 to Saturday 29 July. Anyone who owns (or knows the whereabouts of) material relating to East Grinstead which might be suitable for display is invited to contact Mr. M. J. Leggins at Brighton, Hove and Sussex Grammar School, Dyke Road, Hove, BN3 6EG (telephone, evenings only, Brighton 734478). If the experience of the Lewes Town Exhibition in January is anything to judge by, such exhibitions can be most valuable in bringing historical items to light.

Number 7 of the Society's Bulletin (September 1971) carries a note on the East Grinstead Pottery works which were established in 1855, closed in 1942 and demolished in 1971. In the building were found some 1,700 photographic glass plates, dating from 1864 to the late 1920s, mainly of East Grinstead and the surrounding villages: the plates were evidently in part the professional stock of a local photographer, Harding, and also the skilled amateur work of one of the Fosters, the family who were proprietors of the pottery. The horse-driven pug-mill from the works has been placed in the Wood and Downland Museum, and a clay extruder for pipe-making to Horsham Museum. Number 8 (January 1972) has an important note by P. D. Wood on 9 Middle Road. Recent work has revealed medieval timbering which suggests a small ground floor room of 11 ft. by 13 ft., of the late 15th century, over which a first floor room, jettied at back and front, was added in the 17th century, and then a third storeyed wing in brick was added in the late 18th century. Nos. 4 and 5 in Middle Road have recently been dated to the late 15th or early 16th century.

The Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society is probably the best of the periodicals produced by local societies in Sussex, and shows what can be done even on a very restricted budget. The Society achieves an uncommonly happy marriage of conservation/amenity matters on the one hand and local history on the other.

BRIGHTON’S BUILDINGS

The annual report, 1971, of the executive committee of the Regency Society of Brighton and Hove gives a comprehensive review of matters affecting the towns’ historic buildings during the year. Horace Jones’s redoubtable name rub shoulders with tales of virtue. Of the former, the main one related to the National Schools in Church Street, Brighton, opposite the end of New Road. ‘This interesting Regency Gothic building of 1830... had been placed on the Department of the Environment’s ‘danger list’ in Grade III. In a subsequent part revision of the list it had been upgraded to II but this had never been legally implemented. However, this was thought to be an academic matter since it belonged to [Brighton] Corporation, as Local Authorities are asked to treat such buildings as if they had been legally placed on the Statutory List. When the Society learned of the proposed demolition a letter of protest was sent to the Corporation, and the Society was informed that demolition would not take place until the Department of the Environment had been consulted. The building was, however, demolished during the postal strike when postal communications were impossible. This complete disregard for the spirit of the law has left a very unfavourable impression as the building itself was of considerable significance.’

On the credit side, the Corporation has published the fully revised Statutory List for Brighton (in which the number of buildings is raised from 700 to 1,700), something which few other towns have done. Copies are available for 10p from the Town Clerk’s department. The Corporation has also refused listed building consent for the extension of the Percy Wagner Almshouses (1795; at the N.E. corner of the Level) and 140 Marine Parade. The power to designate Conservation Areas was exercised for the first time during the year.

MURALS AT NEWTIMBER PLACE

Research is being undertaken on the neo-classical murals in the entrance hall at Newtimber Place. The paintings were completed at the end of the 18th or beginning of the 19th century, although there are no written sources available as to their provenance and exact date of execution, and the identity of the artist or artists concerned has still to be identified with certainty. They are derived from the plates in Sir William Hamilton’s Greek and Roman Antiquities and it seems possible that there could be a connection between them and Biagio Rossetto’s work in the library at Goodwood, where the lower bookcase panels are based on Hamilton’s plates. Alternatively, since the paintings appear to be the work of two different hands, they could have been carried out by J. F. Rigaud, a muralist of Swiss origin who worked extensively, together with his son, on this type of interior decoration. Any further helpful information from members will be most welcome. My address is Gauferstrasse 3, 8006 Zurich, Switzerland.

J. A. Kiechler

CEILING PAINTING FROM THE GRANGE, CHICHESTER

That great Gothic revival house, The Grange, Tower Street, Chichester, was demolished in December, 1962: it was described and illustrated in the Chichester Papers series, No. 39 (1963). A ceiling painting, 18 ft. in diameter, attributed to Sir James Thornhill, and formerly in The Grange, is being placed in the country house, the ceiling of the Queen’s House at Greenwich. A short article about the painting and an excellent photograph of it was published in Country Life, 30 March 1972.

Francis W. Steer

A COLOUR TRANSPARENCY RECORD FOR SUSSEX?

The appearance of Mr. Caplan’s note under this title in the last issue co-incided, quite by chance, with a conference organised by the Royal Photographic Society on ‘The Case for a Central Photographic Archive in Colour’, which was attended by representatives of national libraries and museums, B.B.C., etc., and also Mr. G. L. Remnant, a member of S.A.S. He reports the conference’s conclusion that a national archive was simply not practicable but that regional archives were feasible, that R.P.S. members interested in record photography should be encouraged to co-operate with their local historical/archaeological societies and record offices, and that the Photographic Alliance should similarly encourage its affiliated societies.

There was some discussion at the S.A.S. annual general meeting, when the formation of an index of transparency owners was seen as a first step. However, the Editor’s view is that the Society should pursue the presentation of colour slides by members, by providing adequate storage and retrieval facilities, that Mr. Caplan’s idea of ‘editors’ should be pursued, and that discussions should be held with other Sussex organisations, to ensure a co-ordinated approach to the preservation of an important form of pictorial record.