GB Great Britain

GB 1 Blackpatch
GB 2 Church Hill
GB 3 Cissbury
GB 4 Harrow Hill
GB 5 Tolmere
GB 6 Long Down
GB 7 Lavant
GB 8 Stoke Down
GB 9 Easton Down
GB 10 Martins Clump
GB 11 Peppard Common
GB 12 Windover Hill
GB 13 Grimes Graves
GB 14 Massingham
GB 15 High Wycombe
GB 16 East Horsley
GB 17 Beer Head
GB 18 Durrington
GB 19 Den of Boddam
GB 20 Skelmuir Hill
open-cast mining taking place around the northern and southern, and probably
eastern, fringes of the site, where flint seams outcropped at the surface. One
substantial flint-working area, where mainly axe roughouts and preforms were
manufactured, is located on the more gently sloping southern side of the hill,
immediately adjacent to an area of open-cast mining. No traces of working areas were
found during excavations either on the steeper sloping northern side of the hill in 1984
or on the summit of the hill in 1936. There is no evidence for activity during the later
Neolithic period and earlier Bronze Age.

Excavation by E. Cecil Curwen of a later Bronze Age settlement at New Barn
Down, nearly 1 km to south, located a pit which contained burnt material, flint
implements which included two axes and fragments of several earlier Neolithic plain
bowl pottery vessels (Curwen 1934). Although interpreted by Curwen as a pit
dwelling, this pit is more likely to contain votive offerings. Later Bronze Age pottery
was recovered from the surface of the southern side of the hill; this indicates that this
part of the site was farmed from a nearby settlement, possibly New Barn Down, in the
late 2nd millennium BC.

REFERENCES

67:103–38.
Curwen, E.C. 1934. A late Bronze Age farm and a Neolithic pit-dwelling on New Barn Down, Clapham,

GB 6 LONG DOWN NEAR CHICHESTER,
WEST SUSSEX

Robin Holgate

Long Down (NGR SU932093) lies on the southern edge of the South Downs to
the north of Chichester, West Sussex, and was originally excavated to extract flint
nodules from a single seam. About 30 circular depressions which resemble the top of
backfilled mines are clustered on the western edge of Long Down overlooking the coastal plain to the south.

In 1955–58 E.F. Salisbury (1961) partially excavated a flint mine in the centre of the site and located traces of two flint-working areas, both of which could have been part of the same working area as that investigated in 1985 (see below). He recovered flint debitage, axe roughouts and both antler and bone mining tools. However, he did not publish plans or section drawings showing the precise location and extent of his excavations.

In 1984 the author undertook a surface artefact collection survey of the ploughed field immediately east of the main cluster of flint mines, locating a flint-working area 25 metres in diameter (Holgate 1991:33). Four circular depressions indicative of flint mines lay to the north and east of the working area. Excavations in 1985, funded by English Heritage, sampled the flint-working area, two of the circular depressions and the flint mine excavated by E.F. Salisbury. The flint-working area yielded a large quantity of soft hammer-struck axe-thinning flakes and chips, along with axe, sickle and discoidal knife roughouts and cores. No flake tools or spalls resulting from retouching the edge of flakes were retrieved. Three fragments of earlier Neolithic plain bowl pottery were found in association with this flintwork.

The trenches excavated across the two circular depressions located the walls of flint mines and their characteristic chalk block infill. The trench designed to locate the position of E.F. Salisbury’s excavation not only found the edge of his trench but also showed that he did not find the sides of the flint mine he was excavating. In fact the edge of the shaft lay underneath what appeared on the surface as a chalk upcast dump, indicating that the surface undulations do not necessarily correspond directly with underlying shafts and upcast dumps. Thus whilst the plan of the site suggests there are about 30 shafts, this may not be the case. The fill of the shaft yielded flint debitage, mostly hard hammer-struck flakes, shattered pieces and tested nodules, although one cluster of soft hammer-struck axe-thinning flakes and several axe roughouts were also recovered. This debitage indicates that the testing of flint for transferring to the working area and conversion into core tools was carried out as the flint was mined. Also recovered from the fill of the shaft was a fragment of earlier Neolithic plain bowl pottery and both an ox scapula and a tine from an antler pick from which radiocarbon dates of $3100 \pm 100$ bc and $2950 \pm 100$ bc respectively were obtained. Analysis of molluscs from the fills of the three partially excavated shafts suggest that the flint mines were surrounded by woodland at the time when they were abandoned (James Hart and Ken Thomas pers. comm.).

Flint mining took place at Long Down in the earlier Neolithic period. Axes and possibly sickles were produced at the flint-working area, which was also of earlier Neolithic date and had been placed on gently sloping land to the east of the main
cluster of flint mines. The discovery of a fragment of Peterborough Ware from the surface of the site (Drewett 1983) and the presence of discoidal knife roughouts amongst the debitage recovered from the working area suggest that the working of flint probably continued into the later Neolithic period. The site appears to have been abandoned by the 2nd millennium bc but abraded fragments of later Bronze Age and Romano-British pottery found on the surface of site show that part of the site could have been under cultivation intermittently from the early 1st millennium bc onwards.

REFERENCES

