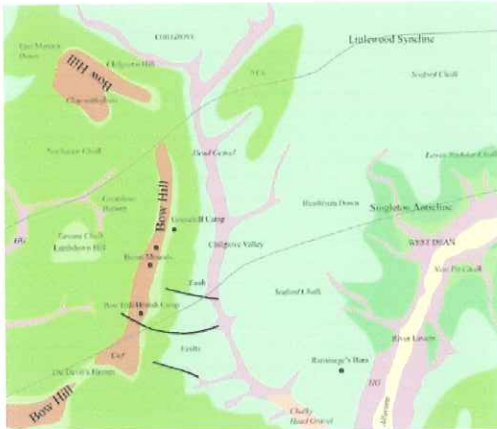
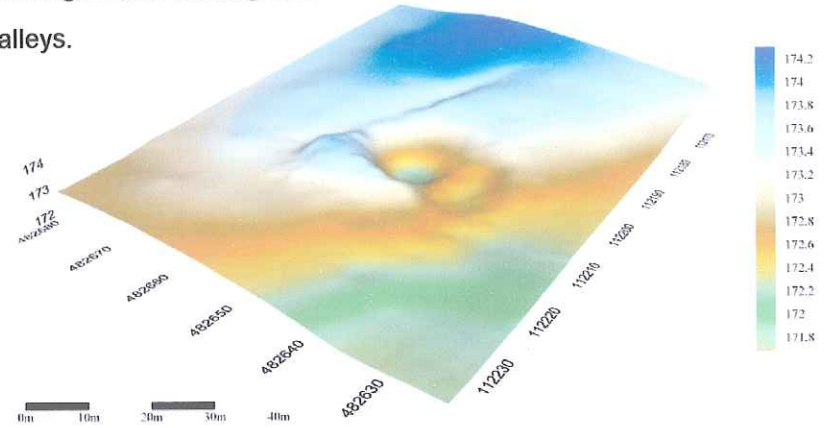


West Dean Archaeological Project Burnt Mound 1: Survey and Excavation



Geological map of Bow Hill and the surrounding valleys.

The burnt mound was discovered during the course of landscape survey during the 2009 season. It comprises a circular depression, with a 1-1.5m high crescentic ridge of burnt flint running around the north and north eastern sides of the depression, this hollow was produced by the extraction of flint nodules from the Clay-with-flints. Pottery and worked flint point to a date within the Bronze Age, which will be refined more precisely when radiocarbon age estimation is applied to the charcoal recovered from the excavation. The function of burnt mounds, especially those on high ground away from water sources remains problematic: possible uses include brewing; personal cleansing through wet and dry heat saunas; ritual feasting; and the production of temper for pottery. Along with Bow Hill Camp, the burnt mound provided the focus for the IOA 1st year undergraduate training excavation.

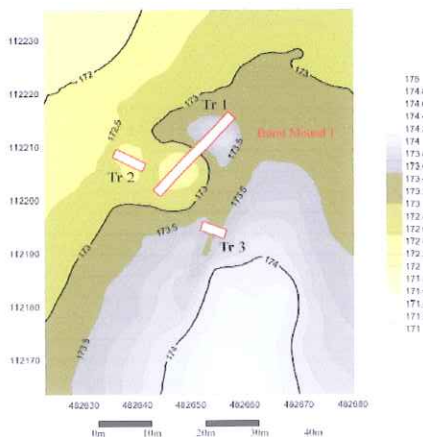


Digital terrain model of the burnt mound.

The summit of Bow Hill is almost certainly a Bronze Age ritual landscape, with cross dykes, barrows, an enclosure & at least two burnt mounds. With the absence of trees on the ridge top, there would have been magnificent and far-reaching views across the Downs into the Coastal Plain & Weald, together with sight lines to other neighbouring monuments.



Looking south through the burnt mound into the flint source in the depression.



Contour plan showing location of the excavation trenches.

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