



On Romany Ridge in May 2014, a metal detector survey revealed military finds from the WW II period. The following Notes are provided by Greg Chuter, Deputy County Archaeologist:

'All of the material recovered (except two small 18th century lead pistol balls) is WW2, ranging from .303 live and blank cartridge cases, hand grenade fuse caps, and 2 inch mortar shells. The finds were from all over the area we searched, but the main concentrations were in the trenches west of the stream (the ones freshly dug / re-dug in the 1947 aerial). So at present the evidence seems to suggest these are WW2 trenches.

Our military expert also carried out a rapid survey of the rest of the common and identified a number of groups of more typical WW2 two man slit trenches, in particular an impressive group circling the small hillock at the west end of the common. The long sets of trenches just east of the stream were a mystery, as he did not think they were for soldiers to hide in....we wonder if these are some sort of obstacle course ? dispatch rider training?

The aim is to finish off the survey work this year on the central trench system and when the western trenches are cleared of trees next year to survey them. Once we have the full plan we can look at some targets for excavation trenches to try and solve the mystery further.'







Compiled by Linda Ball, Chailey Commons Society, 2014