

Worthing Archaeological Society

News sheet

June – July 2016

Fieldwork: Goblestubbs Copse – The Return

WAS undertook another excavation at Goblestubbs Copse, which forms part of the woodland to the east of Arundel, in late March and early April this year. Within this area of woodland are west and east elements of a larger enclosure complex, which appear to date to the Late Iron Age and earlier Roman period (McOmish and Hayden 2015). Previous survey work in the area identified a number of unrecorded earthworks leading off the east enclosure, and a possible field system underlying the entire enclosure complex. This interpretation was further enhanced by the LiDAR survey carried out on behalf of the *Secrets of the High Woods* project. Given that the previous excavation by WAS in 2006 showed that not all the east enclosure elements appeared to be contemporaneous, permission was sought from the landowner, the Norfolk Estate, to carry out a further excavation to ascertain the date of construction and abandonment of this enclosure, and also to record its condition for future research and conservation. This was due to the fact that the enclosure complex is situated in woodland which has had several episodes of tree planting and felling within living memory.



Two trenches were excavated, one over the northern arm of the so-called 'Annexe' extending southeastwards from the east arm of the north-easternmost enclosure (McOmish and Hayden 2015). The scant pottery from this

trench further enhanced the initial dating of the site, indicating that this enclosure was strangely abandoned during the third quarter of the 1st century AD. This contrasts with the west enclosure (the Scheduled Ancient Monument area which, on present evidence, continued in use until the first quarter of the 3rd century AD.

The second trench was positioned over an earthwork extending southwestwards from the southwest corner of the known south-easternmost enclosure. This proved to be more difficult to interpret. The upper layers were full of mixed up worked flint of mainly Early Neolithic and Late Bronze Age date (the total number from both trenches was 98 worked flints). Directly underneath these layers was an incredibly thick flint layer at least half a metre thick. This is most likely a natural occurrence given this area is at the base of a slope which appears to have been subject to periglacial processes. Permission has been given for WAS to further evaluate the site, specifically to look for evidence of early occupation. and an excavation will be taking place during two weeks this coming August.



Dates for the August excavation have now been confirmed. The dig will run from Saturday 13th to Friday 26th August, more details for signing up to follow soon.

Reference

McOmish, D. and Hayden, G. 2015. Survey and Excavation at Goblestubbs Copse, Arundel,

West Sussex. *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **153**: 1-28.

Finds Processing

Throughout the year Finds are processed at 9.30am, twice-monthly, at our Slindon base, led by Gill Turner.

The next dates are Thursdays 2nd & 16th June and 7th & 21st July

If you are interested and not already involved, please contact Gill.

Ggturner@aol.com

Surveying

The focus of Friday activities is on keeping our skills going and enjoying being out in the open air.

One example of recent work follows:

[Surveyors Report for Survey on Upton Down, Sompting, May 2016](#)

Background

Metal detectorist, Michael Squires, requested permission to use a metal detector on a possible WW2 aircraft crash site on Upton Down north of Sompting, West Sussex. Mike Tristram gave permission as the landowner, Sompting Estates, with the request that the activities take place with Worthing Archaeological Society. Members of Worthing Archaeological Society attended the investigation and carried out magnetometry and contour survey on the selected site.

Site Location

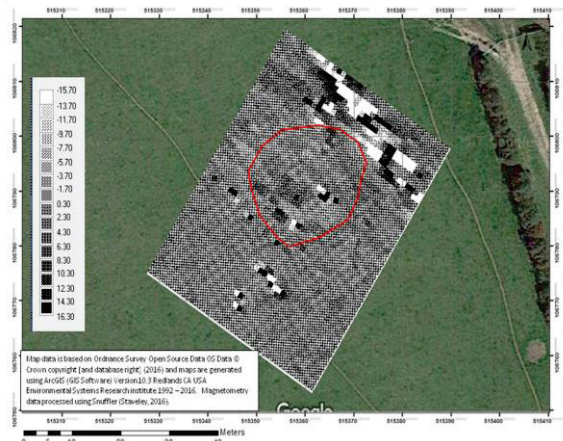
Two depressions were identified in the valley but the preference was to examine the depression near the top of the hill.

Survey Results

The magnetometer was set to readings at 1m intervals and a maximum of 1000 nanoTeslas and Figures 2 and 3 show that at no point were the sensor readings saturated but there are a number of ferrous anomalies.

Magnetometry Results below.

(Greyscale 95% readings)



A contour survey was carried out using a total station.

Discussion

The National Monument Records show this as monument 1484548 and notes "*The earthwork remains of a possible Post Medieval dewpond are visible on aerial photographs taken in 2006. This pond is situated on Broadwater Bottom field at TQ 1536 0679. A field survey found clay in the remains of the base. The west (downhill) side embankment had collapsed away at some point and subsequent ploughing had spread it down the slope and away.*" There is a bowl-shaped depression consistent with the shape of a dew pond, however, the depression is not mapped by Ordnance Survey in the 1930's series and appears on the 1947 series (Old Maps, 2016).

Mike Tristram explained the discrepancy by noting that he had been responsible for identifying the site as a possible dewpond but had since been advised by local Sompting residents that the depression had been the result of the plane crash. A local resident advised him that "*his parents told him the pit was created in 1942 by a downed Heinkel 111 twin engine bomber, which had been shot over the sea by a Spitfire which took off from Thorney Island.*" and "*that the public were allowed back in to that part of the downs in the early 1950s and souvenir hunters took away the wreckage.*"

The Full Report, with illustrations, can be sent if you contact Liz or Connie.

If you would like to be involved in Surveying, email Connie on connieshirley1@aol.com so that you can be added to the distribution list for the activities. Or if you have a project where

you would like some help, send the project plan for approval to Keith Bolton: keithbolton14@gmail.com and he can instruct the team on what is required.

Slindon Graffiti Survey

A group of WAS folk have spent a couple of Saturdays in the woods. There will be a Report in the next Newsletter.

WAS Walk

Shoreham, Sunday July 3rd.

Meet at 11am at the car park on the Adur Recreation Ground. This is on the right just before the Norfolk Bridge into Shoreham.

We plan to walk along the path past the houseboats, on to the Fort (which isn't open that day), have a picnic on the beach (unless the weather stops us) or visit a local Hostelry, then return via the new Footbridge, with a look at St Mary de Haura.

Those with more energy could continue up the east side of the Adur to the footbridge, and back alongside the Airport.

If you have any questions, please contact Liz.

Lecture Programme

In the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre at 7.30pm.

October 11th

Amie and Gordon will report on the Goblestubbs excavation.

WAS Study Days

Saturday June 25th Soils Study Day

At the Downs Barn

See flyer at the end of the Newsletter

There are a few places left.

Saturday August 6th A Day of Survey Training

at the Downs Barn

See flyer at the end of the Newsletter

2pm Sunday 18th September 2016

Learning about the Building Stones of Sompting

(St Mary) and Lancing (St James the Less)

Churches

Led by David Bone

Meet at Sompting Church.

Free to members (the churches appreciate a small individual donation)

We need to restrict this to 20 participants so if you would like to attend please contact Jacqueline Lake by email:

jacqueline_lake@ [hotmail.com](mailto:jacqueline_lake@hotmail.com) or phone (02903) 215671.

Saturday September 24th 10am – 4pm.

Making Sense of Monuments: Landscape Archaeology In Sussex (rescheduled from March)

Education Room, Worthing Museum

David McOmish

(Historic England: Research Group)

We will never know how many childhoods were blighted by the forced march to visit 'another henge' or even worse the dreaded 'tumuli' but for some of us it has led to a lifelong fascination with the grand earthwork schemes left to us by prehistoric communities. We have all seen prehistoric hill forts or Bronze age barrow cemeteries - they are unavoidable when walking along the South Downs ridge for example. If you look on any Ordnance Survey map, you will see frequent references to 'earthworks' and it is clear that through time these places have become important landmarks, guiding us through the landscape and providing fixed points in a world undergoing rapid change.

The study day will look at the surviving prehistoric monuments in Sussex and further afield too and we will discuss their origins, why they were built and used and how they relate to the wider landscape.

The cost of the Day Course is £25 for members and £30 for non-members.

Coffee and tea will be provided.

If you would like to attend, please contact Jacqueline Lake by email:

jacqueline_lake@hotmail.com or tel: (01903)215671.

Saturday 26th November 2016 from 10a.m. to 4p.m. Medieval Pottery Day

Duncan Brown

Curator, Museum of Southampton

(Research Fellow Southampton University)

Education Room, Worthing Museum

The day will comprise an extended introduction to the development of pottery through the medieval and post-medieval periods, a practical sorting session and a concluding talk on what we can learn from studying pottery.

The cost of the day course is £25 for members and £30 for non-members.

Coffee and tea will be provided.

If you would like to attend, please contact Jacqueline Lake by email:

jacqueline_lake@hotmail.com

or tel: (01903) 215671.

Lime Kiln Lecture

The April Lecture on the Lambley's Lane Lime Kiln was given by Connie, who gave an illustrated account of the work in the quarry, Liz, on the history and uses of lime, and Theresa, who brought us up to date with local lime kilns. It was a very well-attended evening, with lots of searching questions from Members.

As a follow-up to this, a trip to the Amberley Chalk Pits Museum will take place on Sunday June 12th, with an hour-long chalk-to-lime talk and tour starting at 11. There are 2 places left on this, please contact Liz

liz.13lane@gmail.com

if you would like to join us.

Secrets of the High Woods

This project is almost finished. It has been a good few months larking about in woodland and discovering new archaeological sites.

There were excavations near Whiteways and in West Dean Woods in April and May. Several WAS Members were involved.

There will be Touring Exhibitions, and publications. Watch this space.

Jersey Trip

Six WAS members took part in Jane Russell's week-long trip to Jersey in May. For the first 3 days we had Matt Pope as our Guide, introducing us to Ice Age and Prehistoric Jersey. We also looked at castles and at the WW2 experience on Jersey.

It was an excellent trip, thank you Jane and Matt.

Annual Journal

Articles for the next one will be very well received. Cheryl's email:

hutchincheryl@hotmail.com

Walking into History with Alex Vincent

Meet at the Resource Centre (Davidson House) Car Park, North St., Worthing (BN11 1ER) on Monday evening at 6.45 for a 7pm start. Car sharing from there.

June 6th Kingston, Ferring – Chapel and village lost to the sea.

June 13th Hove. Old Church and site of original village.

June 20th Mile Oak, Portslade. Henge monument and Bronze Age Settlement.

Summer Solstice 21st June Highdown Hill. Meet at the Spotted Cow in Angmering to join the Sompting Village Morris at 7pm.

Or meet on top of Highdown at about 8pm.

June 27th Warminghurst. Church, lost village and site of fulling mill.

July 4th Selden, Patching. Old settlement and France Cottages.

July 11th Findon Pest House.

July 18th Roundstone, Angmering – the story of the rolling millstone.

July 25th Roger's Clump, High Salvington.

Possible Neolithic flint mines.

Enquiries to Alex on 07753282714 after 2,30pm on weekdays.

Easy Fundraising

If you shop online, do consider using Easyfundraising to make donations to WAS.

<https://new.easyfundraising.org.uk>

Retailers give part of every amount spent to WAS if you nominate us as your charity.

Photo Archive

WAS is hoping to develop an archive of photos, accessible via the website. Some of our past digs are already well covered, but if you have photos you are willing to share, please would you send them to John Green on midwayjohn@btinternet.com.

If they are not recent ones, we would be grateful if you could give us names of people and sites included.

Many thanks,
WAS Committee

Sussex Archaeological Society

<https://sussexpast.co.uk>

Horsham and District Archaeological Society

horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk

Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society

Summer outings:

To Piddington Roman Villa
Sunday 17th July
Pick-up at Hove Station at 8am, return by 8 pm.
Price BHAS Members £25; Non-members £28

To Roman Colchester Sunday August 7th
The coach pick-up points will be Hove Station
at 8am,
Price: BHAS members £31 Non-members £34

For details and booking form, please email
Jane Russell Russco40@hotmail.com

Liss Archaeology

<http://www.archaeology.co.uk/digging/fieldwork/the-colemore-project.htm>

Eastbourne Natural History & Archaeological Society

Meetings are held at 7.30pm at St Saviours
Church Hall, South Street, Eastbourne
Members free. Visitors £2.50

Friday 10th June 2016

The Artefacts from the Pockocks Field Excavations of 2014 - 2015

Giles Dawkes

An update on the assessment of the finds
recovered and their relevance to Eastbourne's
pre-history.

Symposium Saturday 30th July 2016

Eastbourne Urban Medieval Excavation Project 1977 – 1984

Birley Centre, Carlisle Road, Eastbourne, BN21
4EX

Tickets available to non-members from 1st
March

By the late seventies Eastbourne had produced
archaeological material from most eras but not
the medieval. The obvious target was an open
space in Church Street opposite St Marys
Parish Church, which was known to have, at
the latest, Norman origins. The Symposium will
introduce delegates to an extensive excavation
that revealed evidence for the origins of
medieval Eastbourne.

This summer the Society will be carrying out an
extensive survey of part of Mornings Mill farm,
by kind permission of the farmer Mr David Vine.
For details

www.eastbournearchaeology.org.uk

Chichester District Archaeology Society

For their activities:

www.cdass.info

And finally a reminder

Subs for 2016 were due on January 1st - £25 for
ordinary members, £10 for full-time students.

Thank you very much to those who have
already paid.

We would ask Members who pay by standing
order or direct debit to please increase their
amounts in line with the subs for 2016. Many
thanks for this.

If the increased rate causes problems for
anyone, do please let us know – via Connie
connieshirley1@aol.com

See Liz at Lectures or:

Please send to:

Liz Lane,
Membership Secretary.
5 Smugglers' Walk
Goring-by-Sea,
West Sussex.
BN12 4DP

Membership forms can also be downloaded
from the WAS website.

Items for next News sheet please to

Liz, as above,

or liz.13lane@gmail.com

The Worthing Archaeological Society is a registered
Charity (291431)

WORTHING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

SOILS AND SEEDS Dr. Michael Allen

(Allen Environmental Archaeology)

Saturday, 25th June 2016 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Downs Barn

There will be presentations on the use of soils and seeds in archaeology, site application and sampling techniques, also an opportunity to take part in practical sessions and discussions, processing samples and identification using microscopes.

Another fun day, this time, with soils and seeds in the beautiful surroundings of the South Downs.

The cost of the Day Course is £25 for members and £30 for non-members.

Coffee and tea will be provided.

If you would like to attend, please contact **Jacqueline Lake**

email: jacqueline_lake@hotmail.com or Tel: (01903) 215671

SURVEYING TECHNOLOGIES DAY

6th August 2016

10:00-16:00

The Downs Barn, Lambleys Lane, Sompting, Worthing

The Surveying Technologies day will provide a basic introduction to various surveying techniques and an opportunity to refresh skills.

We will have a mix of

- Plane table work
- Total Station use
- Magnetometry
- Resistivity
- Geographical information Systems

Magnetometry and Resistivity will also involve the basic skill of laying out grids with tapes.

The day is no cost to WAS members. Non-members are welcome to join us but we ask that they are insured for field work either through another organisation or through day-membership of WAS at a cost of £5.

The Downs Barn is a beautiful location and our courses there always involve tea, coffee and cake although you do have to bring your own lunch.

To book a place contact Jacqui Lake at Jacqueline_lake@hotmail.com

or Tel: (01903) 215671