

Worthing Archaeological Society

Newsletter

December 2023 & January 2024



WAS Field Unit

Malthouse/Whitehouse

Finds being processed, very different from previous years. We aim to return there in July and August 2024. There is now a very active Malthouse/Whitehouse Research group set up as a result of our dig, and John Mill's research.

Climping - next visit TBC

Winter storms are changing everything.

Finds Processing

Our next meetings at the Slindon Shed will be on Thursdays 7th December, and 4th and 18th January, from 9.30 a.m. to about 12.15 p.m., when we will continue processing finds from our Sompting dig and also from our Fieldwalk.

Attendance will still be restricted to 14 people. Remember to bring your own drinks and wear or bring extra clothing as the Shed is always cold!

Our Christmas Finds Get-together will again take place at Downs Barn, Sompting on Thursday, 21st December from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. There will be the usual fun quizzes and festive fare so contributions to both would be appreciated on the day! There's no restriction on attendance on this occasion so all are welcome but it would be good to know if you're coming. ggmturner@aol.com



WAS New Year Walk 6th January

Keith will lead a walk on the Slindon Estate. Place & times TBC

Facebook

Brian Drury has set up a Facebook Group – WAS Members only – to discuss possible archaeological sites in the Arun and Adur area.

This is a link to the Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1702178780227116>

The Flint Sessions

Will be held in the Worthing Museum Education Room, will start on Wednesday January 10th, from 10.30 to 1.30, and then alternate Wednesdays.



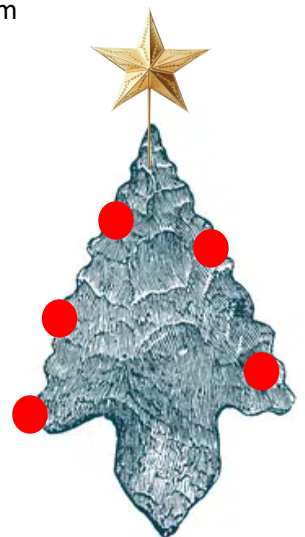
WAS Autumn Social

A very successful Social was held at The Black Horse, Findon, in November. Excellent company, food and skittling. Very many thanks to Donna for the organisation.

Field Unit Forum

Our next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday 6th February in St Botolph's Church rooms, in Heene. BN11 4LY. On the North side of the Church, entrance from Manor Road.

All are welcome.





WAS Lectures

Our November and December lectures were written up by Richard and Theresa. See their brilliant accounts at the end of the Newsletter.

Lecture dates

All at 7.30pm In Worthing Library Lecture Theatre:

- 12th December John Mills
 - Old Atherington and the washed-away coastal villages of West Sussex.
- 9th January David Millum & Rob Wallace
 - Recent Discoveries at the Bridge Farm Roman Settlement.
- 13th February Dr Richard Nevell
 - John Pull memorial Lecture
 - Investigating Knepp Castle.
- 12th March. Connie Shirley & Bob Turner
 - The EPIC Project at Sompting Brooks.

Theresa has produced our Lecture Programme in full, and in full colour. Look for it on our website:

worthingarchaeological.org

Open Day at the Museum, Nov 18th

A really interesting and stimulating day in the Museum, attended by many WAS Members. There were discussions on all topics, the Flint was being flinted, there was a great Finds display, a survey of our web-site and cake!



Study Days

13th January - Simon Stevens

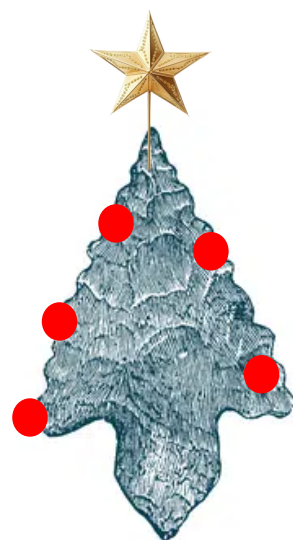
Day School 10am to 4pm: Medieval Villages of Sussex, Worthing Museum,

The Medieval towns of Sussex are some of the most widely investigated settlements in the country archaeologically. Recent developments in our urban centres have offered numerous opportunities to excavate the buried remains of the period c. 1066 to c. 1500 and place them within the context of the surviving townscapes and above-ground remains.

Simon will be talking about Shoreham-by-Sea, Crawley and Lewes, but places like Winchelsea, Rye and Seaford get a shout out too!

Cost is £25 for Members, £30 for Non-Members.

Please contact donna.wiltshire@sky.com if you would like to join us for this interesting day.





[Study Days](#)

[Drawing Day Schools](#)

Session 2: 24th February 2024. Post-Excavation Plans and Sections. Half Day, Slindon Finds Processing Shed, Slindon
This session will take the on-site plans and section drawings created in Session 1 to a stage where they can be included in the final site report. This will include inking-in and the production of notes.

Session 3: 13th April 2024. Artefact Drawing. Full Day, Worthing Museum

This session will cover the recording and illustration of pottery, metal, wood, glass, stone, flint, leather, textiles and bone. Illustration recording is drawing 'what you see', so you do not need to be an artistic person to enjoy this discipline. These illustrations will form part of the final site report.

Cost for Members £20.00 and Non-Members £25.00 for all three sessions

[Lisa Fisher Photography in Archaeology](#)

2nd March. 10am to 4pm Worthing Museum

£25 for Members, £30 for Non-Members.

Bursary – WAS has a Bursary which is set up to help Members attend events (WAS or others) which they might find difficult to pay for. Please ask a Committee Member about this if it would help you.

Please contact Donna Wiltshire if you would like to join any or all of these sessions donna.wiltshire@sky.com

[Sussex Archaeological Society – Sussex Archaeology: a 175-Year Heritage](#)

Saturday 17th February 2024 (9.45 – 17.00)

Speakers include, Sue Hamilton, Richard Bradley, Martin Hayes, Miles Russell, Judie English, Matt Pope, James Sainsbury and more.

This will be at the University in Falmer.

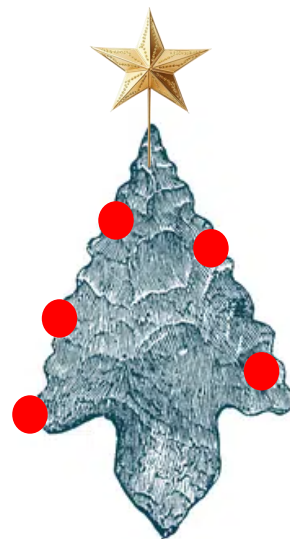
£30 to include lunch and refreshments.

[Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society](#)—Back in the Unitarian Church New Road, Brighton

- Friday 8th December
 - AGM at 7pm
 - Then the President of BHAS, Janet Pennington, will give a talk on the History of the Adur Valley in West Sussex.
- Friday 9th February
 - James Sainsbury on Saxons & Highdown Hill

Non-members £4. Details from: http://www.brightonarch.org.uk/6_1.htm

University of Sussex Archaeological Society www.usas.org.uk





Horsham and District Archaeology Group

HDAG will be hosting two day schools led by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist at Archaeology South-East, UCL) on archaeological techniques.

- Saturday 27th January: Archaeological Techniques - An Introduction (Nuts and bolts sessions on how and why)
 - Getting into archaeology can seem daunting. For a start, it is a big word that is quite difficult to say and almost impossible to spell. This day school offers a relaxed, classroom-based introduction to the techniques used to investigate the past, with a view to helping everyone get involved in the field, or the finds shed (or just from the armchair). No previous knowledge or experience of 'digging' required, and no need to bring a trowel (yet....)
- Saturday 24th February: Archaeological Techniques - Digging a Bit Deeper (How to record sites and at look at finds)
 - Picking up on a few themes we looked at in the previous day school, this classroom-based day aims at digging a little deeper into the mechanics of archaeology. Looking at how and perhaps even why we 'do' archaeology and at some basic recording, the aim is to arm everyone with a few ideas to take to the field, or the finds shed, or the armchair. Still no need to bring a trowel, but hopefully we're getting closer...
 - Of benefit to those who have had some practical training previously but wish to revise or update their skills as well as to those who have done no training before, these day schools should provide all of us with greater confidence when out and about supervising or partaking in archaeological fieldwork.
 - Both will be held from 10am to 4pm at Colgate Village Hall, (corner of Forest Rd/Blackhouse Rd), Colgate, W Sussex, RH12 4BB
 - The costing is likely to be in the region of £23 for HDAG members (£28 for non-HDAG members) though depending on take-up for those booking both days we could offer them at £20 to HDAG members (£25 to non members) each.
 - We won't be taking paid bookings until mid December or early January, but it would be very helpful indeed if you could let us know now how many would like to attend either or both of these days schools?





Other Societies / Groups



Based in Pulborough, the Society has a variety of walks and talks which might well be interesting.
Email: enquiries@southdownssociety.org.uk



Chichester District Archaeology Society (CDAS) have made their talks available free on their YouTube channel



www.lissarchaeology.uk

Or email lissarchaeology@gmail.com



Worthing Heritage Alliance of which WAS is part of this group which has a very useful Calendar of all events in the area of an Historic nature.

www.worthingheritagealliance.org.uk



Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society has a variety of events
see landscape-events@hantsfieldclub.org.uk



Butser Ancient Farm has launched ButserPlus: a way to enter the world of ButserAncient Farm online with professional video content. Details here:

www.butserancientfarm.co.uk/butser-plus



Sussex Archaeological Society

<https://sussexpast.co.uk>



Horsham and District Archaeology Group

horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk or 01903 872309



WEALDEN BUILDINGS
STUDY GROUP

Wealden Buildings Study Group

www.wealdenbuildings.org.uk



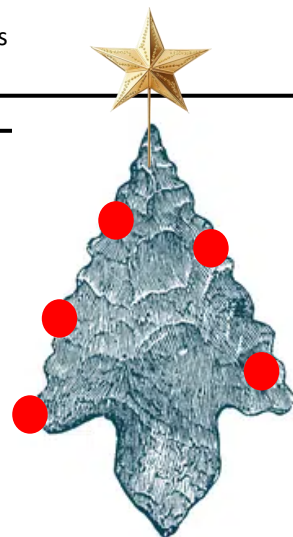
Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society <http://www.brightonarch.org.uk>

Back in the Unitarian Church New Road, Brighton- Start time 7-30 pm. The BHAS lectures will be **live** and not on Zoom.



Brighton Young Archaeologists' Club (YAC) is open to everyone aged 8-16 years. We get involved in all sorts of activities, including visiting and investigating archaeological sites and historic places, trying out traditional crafts, taking part in excavations, experimental archaeology and lots more. Brighton YAC is based at Brighton Museum, where we have access to the wonderful Elaine Evans Archaeology Gallery. Occasionally our sessions may be held at other venues depending on planned activities. The club usually meets once, a month on the last Saturday, from 10.30 am-12.30 pm.

If you'd like to get involved please get in touch with the team: contact: Odile Rouard





UK GDPR: UK General Data Protection Regulation

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please can you refresh your memories by reviewing this document, which can be found on the Society's website under Documents / Policy / Privacy Notice.

If any of your contact details have changed since you completed your WAS Membership Application Form, please advise the Membership Secretary, Liz Lane.

Many thanks Donna



If you are already on Facebook and would like to join our closed WAS Facebook group, just ask to join on the Worthing Archaeological Society page

Easy Fundraising

If you shop online, do consider using Easyfundraising to make donations to WAS. Retailers give part of every amount spent to WAS, if you nominate us as your charity

Photo Archive

WAS is developing an archive of photos, accessible via the website. Past digs are already well covered, but if you have photos you can share, please send them to Theresa and

Richard on theresa_in_brighton@yahoo.co.uk

If they are not recent ones, could give us names of people and sites included. There are some on our website which we haven't been able to identify – if you know when and

WAS Archive

Connie is currently Curator of our Archive. We have a good

And finally a reminder

Subs for 2024 are due on January 1st - £25 for ordinary members, £10 for full-time students.

. Feel free to pay by standing order or BACs (details on request)

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:

www.worthingarchaeological.org

The Worthing Archaeological Society is a registered Charity (291431)

Please note: our email address is: worthingarchaeological@gmail.com

Items for next News sheet please to

Liz, as above, or

liz.13lane@gmail.com



Merry
Christmas
and a
Happy
New Year



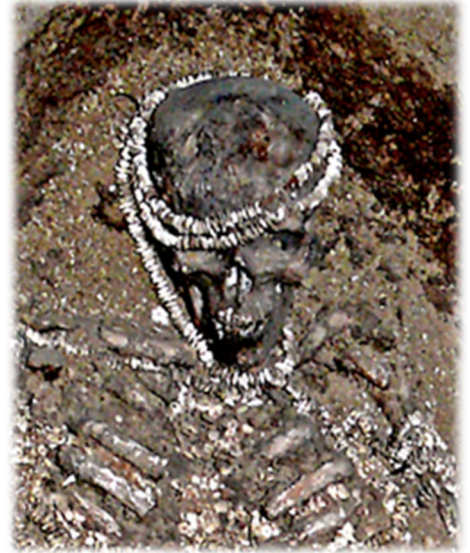
WAS Lecture 10 October 2023

“Early European Jewellery: from the Palaeolithic to the end of the Roman periods” - Dr Judie English

Why did humans from the Palaeolithic onwards choose to place small portable and apparently non-functional objects on their bodies and clothing; particularly when these objects were ‘expensive’ (made of rare materials and/or skilled and time-consuming work in production)? These items are found in archaeological excavations of Neanderthals onwards. What do they tell us about the people who wore them? Judie also posed the provocative question, why do we wear jewellery and what does that say about us?

The main substance of Judie's talk was an extensive survey of jewellery finds in representative archaeological excavations. Starting with the Karpina Neanderthal site, 130,000 years old, where modified talons from white-tailed eagles were found.

The middle-Palaeolithic was represented by the Cueva de los Aviones, Spain, 115,000-120,00 years old, where perforated and painted seashell beads were found. The Denisova Cave, Russia, 45,000-50,000 years old yielded beads made from ostrich egg shell.



Sungir decorated head
[José-Manuel Benito Álvarez,
Creative Commons]



The Mold cape [Mark Ramsay, Creative Commons]

The Cro-magnon 'Red Lady of Paviland', Wales, (now known to be male), 12,000-37,000 years old was decorated with shells and mammoth ivory beads, as well as red ochre sprinkled over the skeleton.

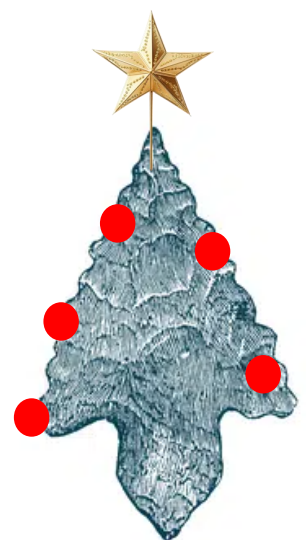
The Sungir cemetery site, Russia, 30,550-34,050 years old has 200 burials, including one who died of a cut to the throat, his skeleton covered in 13,000 mammoth ivory beads, accompanied by children similarly decorated.

Skateholm, Sweden, a site occupied between 6,000-8,000 years ago, has both huts and burials. In the graves are boar's teeth and red deer antlers. There is even a dog with an antler headdress.

A site at Bad Dürrenberg, Germany, has a grave of a 30 to 40 year old woman, buried around 9,000 years ago. She has a headdress composed of elements of a deer, crane and turtle, believed to be the costume of a shaman.

Judie's discussion of bronze and iron-age jewellery was more general. These materials made production of decorative items less onerous, and they would have been the possessions of increasingly less high-status individuals.

Gold, the first metal worked is not useful as it is too soft. It does however look good. Originally found in streams, it was mined from 2,000 BCE. Electrum, an alloy of gold and silver, was used in Egypt from 5,000 BCE. In Varna, Bulgaria, nine hundred pieces of 6,000-year-old Thracian jewellery was discovered in a necropolis. In the UK, the Amesbury Archer (2,400-2,200 BCE) had gold hair ornaments.





In the early bronze age, gold was mined in Ireland and Cornwall. The Mold cape, 1,900-1,600 BCE, is a stunning example of its use. There may be a link between the production of gold (and other metals) and magic, in the use of unusually high temperatures and processes.

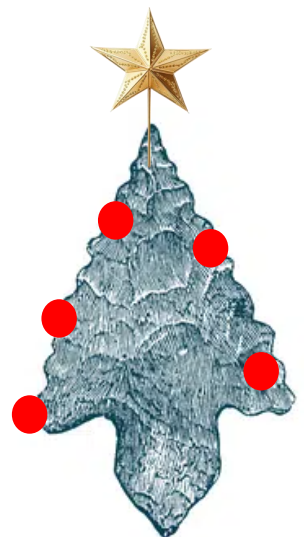
Judie closed her lecture by discussing the bronze age hoards of Britain and the phenomenon of burying large amounts of precious jewellery such as gold Torcs, armlets, Amber and bronze objects. She explained that some hoards could have been deposited to be recovered at a later date whilst grave goods were buried with the deceased ancestor for the afterlife. She described that there were locally made styles of jewellery across the country including The Sussex Loops which are specific to our region.

So what conclusions can be drawn from the archaeological jewellery record? Firstly the selection of materials. Rare and beautiful: gold, variscite, serpentine, rose-quartz, ivory, jadeite, malachite. Also materials with reputed 'magical' properties: lignite (burns), shale (produces oil), amber (is electrostatic). Before metals there was a limited range of jewellery objects (beads) in a limited range of materials. However, this may not be true. These represent the survivors. Jewellery (interpreted broadly as personal adornments) made from organic materials: hide, feathers, wood, etc. would not survive. The purposes of wearing jewellery may be many, ranging from mere decoration to ostentatious displays of wealth and status. Particular objects and materials may have significance in showing group identity, or confer 'magical' powers on the wearer.

Also, the surviving objects appear to be associated with high-status individuals. Judie remarked 'Did the ordinary people not have adornments?' - and noted that Bog-bodies have been found with hide arm-bands in place.

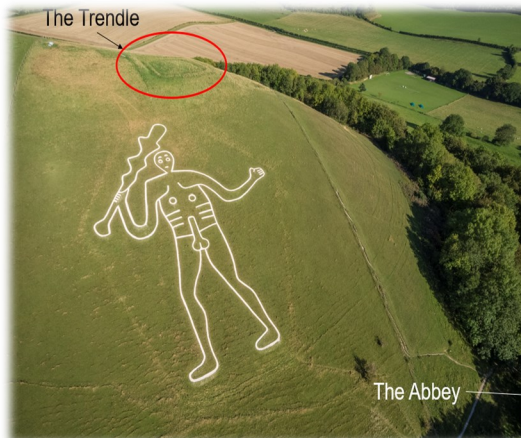


Sussex Loop [The Portable Antiquities Scheme/ The Trustees of the British Museum]





WAS Con Ainsworth Memorial Lecture: Snails and the sleeping giant (the Cerne Abbas Giant, Dorset) - Michael J. Allen



The Con Ainsworth Memorial Lecture this year was given by the renowned environmental archaeologist Dr. Mike Allen. He promised a revelation about the date of origin of the Cerne Abbas Giant and he didn't disappoint!

The dating of hill figures presents archaeological challenges. However the technology of Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL), where quartz particles hidden in the earth can be persuaded to reveal the last time they saw sunlight, can provide an objective result. This had been used on the Uffington Horse in 1969, to date it to between 1380 BC and 550 BC. However, its use does depend on finding a quartz particle - and the money to pay for it. In 1989 Oxford Archaeology was asked to create a research design to date the giant, however, the National Trust were unable to come up with the funds. Subsequently in 2003 the Wilmington Long Man was dated by OSL to 16th to 17th century.

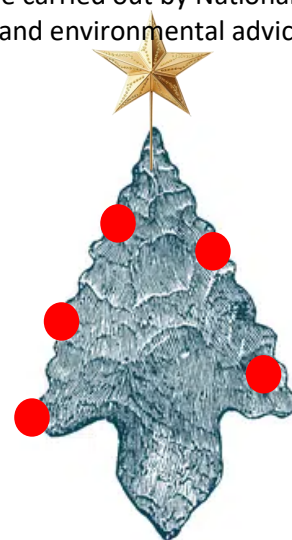
The year 2020 was the centenary anniversary of the Pitt Rivers family donating the Giant to the National Trust. This provided the impetus to finally establish the dating. The planning for this started in 2019.

It is surprising that archaeologists have so far failed to establish a date. In the historical record, the first mention is by a churchwarden in 1694. Illustrations exist from 1763 in the Society of Antiquaries Minute Book, 1764 in Gentleman's Magazine and by Hutchins (who seems to have added modesty pants), and also in 1794. Sydenham illustrated him in 1892, also without his 'manhood', that was restored (in illustration) by Petrie in 1926. Petrie's was the last survey of the Giant. The detail of the Giant's most striking feature has transformed between the 1763 illustration, when he had a navel, and Petrie's in 1926 when the navel had been incorporated into an enlarged member.

Geophysical surveys were conducted in 1979 by Tony Clark, 1989/90 and 1995 by Rodney Castleden, 1969 by John Gale, and in December 2023 by Paul Cheetham using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR). Excavations were carried out by National Trust staff and volunteers, lead by Martin Papworth (National Trust Archaeologist), with scientific and environmental advice (geoarchaeology) from Mike Allen and OSL dating by Phil Toms (University of Gloucestershire).

Previously in 2000 Mike Allen was asked by the BBC to join Aubrey Manning in dating the Giant. Mike's idea was to examine the hill-wash below the Giant to date him by proxy. However, there was no hill-wash found.

For the latest attempt at dating, Mike Allen carried out augering at four points on the Giant. This identified locations of sediment accumulation. Four were selected for excavation and after Scheduled Monument Consent was received, this was carried out in March 2020. Four small slots were dug. The aim was to examine the wider palaeoenvironment and select locations for OSL. Carrying out OSL on chalk deposits with few if any quartz inclusions would be challenging. The sections through the Giant's outline revealed a complex layering of filling material indicating change over time. At least ten episodes of chalk figure construction could be identified. Dates in the illustration above are by Martin Papworth (National Trust).





The slots needed expanding horizontally to enable drilling for OSL samples. Samples for snails (well Mike was involved...) and soil micromorphology were taken.

The site was backfilled on Friday 20th March 2021 and the OSL samples were taken to Gloucester University by Professor Toms – and then COVID struck! The samples remained inaccessible in the lab, and the 100th anniversary passed without an announcement. Eventually after lock-downs were relaxed, work recommenced and a date was established.

Even before the OSL result, Mike had identified the presence of tiny 5mm snails *Cernuella virgata*, *Candidula gigaxii* and *Candidula intersecta*, a known medieval introduction. So the Giant is post Roman!

As predicted the OSL samples were sparse in quartz, but of the samples taken four did produce a result. The Giant's right elbow gave 125 AD (range of 990-1510 AD) from one sample and 980 AD (range of 650-1310 AD) from another. Two samples from his right foot gave 1240 AD (range of 1080-1400 AD) and 910 AD (range of 700-1100 AD). So the Cerne Abbas Giant is Saxon! Who saw that coming? Not various archaeologists and historians who previously gave very different estimates. Also, perhaps it is no coincidence that the nearby Cerne Abbey was founded as a Benedictine monastery in 987 AD by Æthelmær the Stout.

The Giant certainly has not been left untouched for a millennia. Here is a list of the known works that have occurred.

- 2019: National Trust – rechalking and refurbishment 17 tonnes of new chalk
- 2008: National Trust – rechalking and refurbishment
- 2003: National Trust; partial re-whitening, sponsored by Heineken
- 1995: National Trust – rechalking and refurbishment
- 1983: cleaning, if not scouring, sponsored by the Heineken
- 1979: contractor restoration by E.W. Beard Ltd., Swindon c. 40 tonnes chalk
- 1956: contractor scouring & restoration E.W. Beard & Co., Swindon 40 tonnes chalk
- 1945: Piggott restoration. Wartime camouflage removed
- 1924: Giant 'cleaned'
- 1920: Giant 'cleaned'
- 1905: (October) - Giant 'cleaned'; cleaning in a single day ... navel lost
- 1887: scourings
- 1868: scourings
- 1694: scourings (first record of the Giant)

But why no record of him during his first 700 years? The answer, provided by the snails is that within a few decades of being cut, he grew over with long grasses and simply disappeared.

Here are Mike's conclusions on the investigation so far:

- He's Saxon - a date no archaeologist had previously predicted!
- There are 2 (or 3) Giants!
- Chalk hill figures are not a chronological class of monument
- The naked figure would not have been a shock to early historic communities – or even to the abbey (this is Victorian prudishness)

However, he was wilfully forgotten (not managed), and grown over for nearly a millennia, until brought back to life. The Giant continues to inspire 'land art'. In 1998 he had jeans made out of plastic mesh added to publicise American jeans manufacturer Big Smith. In 2007 an image of Homer Simpson was painted next to him as a publicity stunt for a film. His 'rude bits' have been painted various colours. In 2013 he sported a huge grass moustache for 'Movember'. Mike showed an outline of a naked woman that was painted to accompany him and there were proposal to cut an outline of Marilyn Monroe nearby. So he is both an archaeological monument and a contemporary cultural icon.

The soon to be published (summer/autumn 2024) survey of the Giant edited by Mike, 'A Date with the two Cerne Giants: reinvestigating an iconic British hill figure' (Windgather Press, £25), also including a summary of the Wilmington Long Man and Uffington White Horses hill figures in archaeology, will add much to the historical record of this stirring figure.