

# Council for British Archaeology

## Wessex News

Autumn 2016



# CBA Wessex Committee

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Top: *Broad gauge 'Firefly' locomotive carvings from the 1841 running shed, re-set on the GWR general offices at Swindon (Page 18).* Middle: *The Hursley Ring – photos by Claire Woodhead, Hampshire Cultural Trust (Page 12).* Bottom: *Examining the boilers of V82, one of two recently identified German destroyers in Portsmouth Harbour. Photo courtesy of Maritime Archaeology Trust (Page 22).*



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## Photographs

During CBAW events photographs may be taken for publicity purposes to promote CBAW. Anyone attending a CBAW event who would rather not appear in any photographs should inform the organiser of the event and the person in charge on the day.



# Branch News

## From the Chair Ginny Pringle

Welcome to our autumn newsletter for 2016. CBA Wessex has been busy on behalf of our members, organising outings, study days and walks as well as our Annual Conference, which this year will focus on 'Women in Wessex'. These are the women who have helped shape our heritage; well-known female archaeologists who have uncovered the past and those women whose ancient stories are told through archaeological investigation.

Our heritage is a story; a story that continues to unfold with each new and exciting archaeological discovery. Every year numerous research and commercial projects are undertaken across Wessex where valuable archaeology is recorded and analysed. Think how much poorer we would be if new building development took no heed of what might lie under the surface; the resultant novel would be missing most of its main characters and the plot would be completely lost.

This is a risk we now face. With the proposed Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure Bill (NPIB), we may well find ourselves in a situation where archaeological investigation prior to new development is reduced or removed.

We do not have to sit back and accept this risk. Each one of us has a choice and I believe that choice is to actively engage with the promotion of archaeology. The Council for British Archaeology is there to help us to do just that and the CBA's new 'Power of Archaeology' campaign shows how we can demonstrate the importance of archaeology to those people such as MPs who are able to wield their influence.

We would be delighted if you can help us do this. For example, you could inform

your MP about the Festival of Archaeology and encourage them to visit events in their local area to see for themselves just how important our heritage is. Other examples include writing to councillors who are setting budgets to emphasise support for archaeology and conservation services, or by tweeting MPs with good news stories from our local area including those from local museums, or even visiting your MP's surgery to help educate your MP.

Collectively, we must keep the pressure up in order to positively inform those people empowered to make change. In this newsletter Katy talks more about the proposed bill and I encourage you to read her article and have a think about how you might be able to help.

Think of it as outreach. Local councillors, county councillors, MP's – they are there to serve, so let's show them the power of archaeology.

**For more information, visit:**  
[www.archaeologyfestival.org.uk](http://www.archaeologyfestival.org.uk)

## Treasurer's Report Val Moore

**CBA Wessex Grant Scheme:** There has been interest in our grant scheme launched at last year's conference and AGM. We still have funds available for making grants and we welcome applications. Full details can be found under "grants" on our website, or if you don't have access, please contact myself.

**Gift Aid:** Thank you to all of you who have signed up to gift aid. I am hoping to make our first claim shortly and the first claim is the most important. So if you have not yet done so, and are willing and able to sign up to gift aid - please do so now so that we can make our first claim really count and give more into our grant scheme 'pot'.

Whether you pay your membership fee direct to CBA Wessex, or via your national membership, CBA Wessex can claim. To those paying national membership, national can claim on your national subscriptions, but do not claim on the CBAW membership fees – but so that CBAW can claim, we do need a separately signed gift aid form.

A gift aid form is enclosed for ease of use and details can be found on our website "how to join" page or from myself.

## Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure Bill Katy Whitaker

If you were at all uncertain about how important archaeology is to people around the country, you only have to look at the response to the recent Queen's Speech announcement of new legislation. The proposed Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure Bill (NPIB) could reduce or remove conditions used in the planning process to investigate archaeology prior to new development.

Within hours of the announcement an online petition had been set up, rapidly racing past 10,000 signatures and currently at over 18,000. People in every single constituency have signed to express their dissatisfaction with the possible risks to the historic and natural environments.

The Department for Communities and Local Government response to the petition asserts that it is not the Government's intention to remove protections for heritage. But the uncertainty remains. CBA along with partner organisations has been advocating for archaeology at the highest level. You can read the joint statement about the current situation online.

It is really important to keep the pressure up, making sure that there aren't unintended consequences of this new Bill that are detrimental to archaeology and its public benefit. Just think of all the amazing sites revealed and shared with us because our

current planning process includes proper investigations prior to development. So CBA's Local Heritage Engagement Network is starting the Power of Archaeology Campaign.

Wouldn't it be brilliant if every MP attended a Festival of Archaeology event? Does your MP even know the Festival of Archaeology happens each year? This year, grab the chance to tell your MP and local councillors why archaeology matters to you and your community. Make them aware that archaeology is all around us, let them know how important it is to have Historic Environment Records, make them aware of concerns that protections in the planning process are being eroded. Find out how at the power of archaeology webpage.

People in every UK constituency have signed the NPIB petition. Imagine if they all took 5 minutes to write an e-mail to their MP inviting them to a Festival event, or tweeted photos from an event to their MP to show that people care about archaeology. Is that something you could do? Help to raise archaeology's profile with our legislators and budget-setters and join the Power of Archaeology Campaign.



**For more information, visit:**  
The Power of Archaeology  
<http://new.archaeologyuk.org/the-power-of-archaeology>

CBA Statement  
<http://new.archaeologyuk.org/news/cba-issue-joint-statement-on-recent-planning-reform-announcements>.

The Parliament Petition  
<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/130783>



# Berkshire News

Alex Godden

## Recent Discoveries

Recent developments at Shaw House near Newbury have resulted in the 're-discovery' of some Tudor garden features. The front of house carpark was removed prior to the area being returned to lawn: due to this being part of the extensive Registered Gardens surrounding the Elizabethan manor house, the work was monitored by the West Berkshire Archaeological Officer. The footings of two brick walls were uncovered, which correspond to features picked up in a geophysical survey and also depicted on 18th century maps – these may be associated with the original Elizabethan gardens. The footings have been covered by the new lawn, preserving them for the future.

An intriguing Bronze Age and Roman settlement has been found at The Ridgeway Primary School, Whitley, Reading, by Thames Valley Archaeological Services. Particularly notable was the discovery of a Roman coin hoard – a rare discovery during a planned archaeological excavation. The hoard comprised over 500 bronze coins



Earlier Bronze Age inhumation burial from Riding Court Farm, Datchet. Photo:© Wessex Archaeology.

dating to the second half of the 3rd century AD, contained with a pottery flagon. The discovery enthused the School and its pupils and the opportunity was taken to teach them more about the archaeology of their school and the wider area.

Investigations by Wessex Archaeology are on-going at a gravel quarry at Riding Court Farm, between Datchet and Slough, on behalf of CEMEX UK. Monitoring of all topsoil stripping is revealing a landscape of prehistoric and Roman fields, amongst which is evidence for settlement and burial. This includes an earlier Bronze Age 'flexed' burial despite the poor conditions for bone preservation. Investigations at the quarry will be on-going for several years.

Meanwhile on-going excavations at Hatch Farm, Winnersh, in the Loddon Valley, are revealing the remains of a small Late Iron Age settlement consisting of a number of roundhouses and enclosures. A very successful open day was held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services, attended by many local residents. Work is ongoing and



Aerial view excavations at Hatch Farm, Winnersh. Photo: © Thames Valley Archaeological Services.

further analysis of the results will provide more detailed information on the longevity and development of the settlement.

Further details of these and other discoveries will be included in Berkshire Archaeology's Newsletter, available in the next few months and will be available to all those interested in the archaeology of Berkshire.

## Heritage Crime

Heritage Crime is a term used to describe any criminal activity taking place at heritage assets and is a national concern for which Historic England, the Police and local authorities are working hard to combat. The West Berkshire Archaeological Officer has been working with Thames Valley Police to identify sites of concern, as well as supply intelligence on archaeological sites for future mitigation. Also, a recent project has involved working with local artists and the Youth Offending Team to give young people the opportunity to experience and appreciate local heritage sites to understand the damage that heritage crime can cause.

## West Berkshire Heritage Website

West Berkshire Council Heritage Team have released a new website, designed to bring together all aspects of the Heritage Service

work in one place, including details of upcoming events, contacts for local societies and heritage organisations and information on the West Berkshire archaeology service.

**For more information, visit:**  
[www.westberkshireheritage.org](http://www.westberkshireheritage.org)

## Libraryfest 2016 and Heritage Walks

Following on from the last bulletin, the West Berkshire Archaeological Officer led two heritage walks around Hungerford and Pangbourne as part of Libraryfest 2016 – both where well attended and showed an enthusiasm for heritage-themed walking routes around the District. As such, more are currently in development and will be available for download from the West Berkshire Heritage website.





# Channel Islands News

Robert Waterhouse

## Guernsey

Archaeological work in Guernsey in the past few months has been relatively restricted while we concentrate on designing and building the new archaeology gallery in Guernsey Museum, scheduled to open this summer. We have however carried out test-pit excavations at Le Maresquet, a site in the north of the island, which revealed prehistoric and medieval occupation and a single piece of Roman tegula; more work will take place here if a planning application currently under consideration is approved.

Elsewhere in the island, two watching briefs on drainage and electricity trenches at Castel Church revealed large quantities of redeposited bone, and as usual on this site a substantial quantity of tegulae and Roman brick. In situ burials were recorded (but

not removed) along much of the drainage trench. At the point where an inspection chamber was constructed, the heads of two skeletons were removed. The lower has been radiocarbon dated to c. AD 1035 – AD 1215. These bodies lay some considerable distance from the church, at the north-western corner of the graveyard, which implies that by the twelfth century there was already a dense occupation closer to the building.

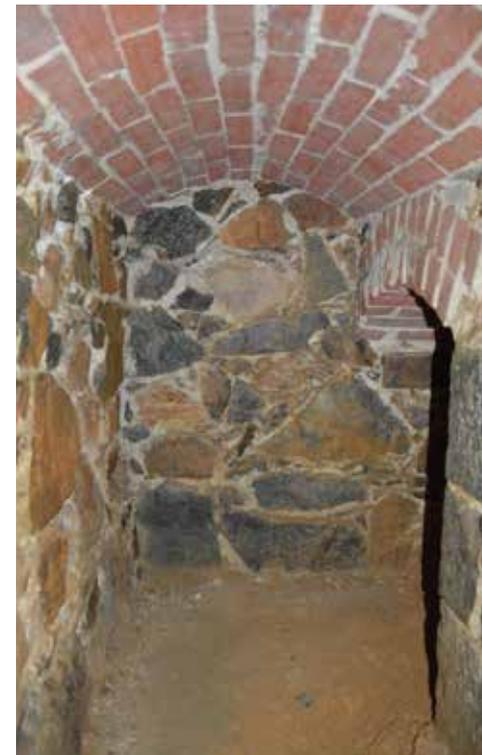
A watching brief on an otherwise unprepossessing twentieth century house, just within the confines of the outer defences of Fort George (begun c.1780), turned up an exciting and unexpected discovery. The house lies within the westernmost ravelin of the Fort, the ditches of which meet in a V to the west of this property. Lifting a drainage cover in the back garden revealed



*The main vault, with entrance to the long tunnel at the left.*

a beautifully constructed granite and brick vault (see illustration), with a long tunnel leading off to the west and a branch off each side of the main tunnel. The structure was clearly built to imperial measurements – precisely 100' from the back of the vault to the end of the main tunnel, and each side tunnel exactly 33' in length. At the end of the main tunnel and the two branches there was a short dog-leg (see illustration).

The structure seems to have been designed as a countermine tunnel, presumably to hold explosives which could be detonated in the event of an enemy overrunning the defences above ground. It does not appear on any of the published maps of Fort George, nor on any of the restricted War Department plans now held in Guernsey Museum. Fortunately it should not be affected by any of the development plans approved for the house which lies partly above it.



*The end of the main tunnel, with short dog-leg to the right.*

## Jersey

Robert Waterhouse, FSA, has contributed the following report on activity in Jersey:

The Société Jersiaise Field Archaeologist, Robert Waterhouse, has had a busy time recently, since he started to archaeologically record every new and re-opened grave dug in St Clement's cemetery (a protected archaeological site). Since March, seven graves have been recorded, with a variety of archaeological discoveries, including Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and Medieval occupation layers, ploughsoils, ditches and field banks. One probably early medieval ditch fill produced a Roman tegula sherd with finger swirls, while others produced a Dressel 5 amphora sherd of the later 1st century BC and a Drag 37 Samian bowl base sherd of the first-second century AD. The most exciting finds were in 2.6m deep grave with Bronze Age material at the bottom, cut by an Iron Age field ditch with adjoining rubble bank. Other graves have produced more examples of prehistoric ard marks, on the same alignment as this bank, which we found in a trench nearby in 2013.

A watching brief on pipe trenches near Mont Ubé dolmen, in May, produced a large amount of later prehistoric archaeology. In 130 metres of trench (see illustration), we saw eight field ditches on an east-west alignment and many ard marks, some respecting these ditches, some not. All contained late Bronze Age and Iron Age ceramics, while a substantial granite rubble hearth, constructed in a bowl-shaped pit (see illustration) about 1.5 metres diameter and containing freshly struck flint flakes, was stratigraphically earlier than the field ditches and ard marks. Much charcoal was recovered and a C14 date no later than the Middle Bronze Age is anticipated.

With students from UCL, we carried out geophysical surveys, field-walking and test pits in a field adjoining Grouville Church at Easter. A pottery spread of the twelfth to fifteenth century is probably derived from manuring, but a few sherds of Gallo-Roman

pottery and tile show two concentrations indicating possible occupation areas, one previously known, the other not. One of the trenches produced fragments of Merovingian sarcophagi apparently dumped over the churchyard wall into the field in the late medieval period. Several sarcophagus fragments are already known from the church, showing evidence for a Christian cemetery in the sixth to eighth centuries AD. We will be continuing these excavations during July.

Liaison with metal detectorists continues, the Field Archaeologist attending most club meetings and recording a wide variety of finds. Some fifteenth and sixteenth century jettons and coin weights have appeared lately, while Bronze Age sword blade fragments and early Iron Age socketed axes are being drawn for publication by Archaeology Section member Phil Aubin, who recently graduated from Reading University with a first class degree in Archaeology. Two rather intriguing recent finds were a leg and part of the flowing



General view of pipe trench, looking south, with prehistoric features identified in bottom

tunic of a Gallo-Roman copper/lead alloy statuette. This would have stood about 20cm high, with a silvery polished appearance. It is not the first Gallo-Roman votive statuette from Jersey, but it is certainly the most exotic to date.

The unfortunate spray-painted graffiti at Mont Ube dolmen was cleaned off in March, but almost immediately we had another dolmen-related problem, when a large fir tree fell on the late Neolithic 'alleé couverte' at Le Couperon, breaking one capstone and pushing two uprights over. The tree is in the process of being cut up and we are considering how best to reassemble the stones after it has gone.

For the Festival of British Archaeology, we are doing a number of guided walks, lectures and an excavation. All events are free - just turn up!

**For more information, visit:**  
[www.societe-jersiaise.org](http://www.societe-jersiaise.org)



Prehistoric hearth before sectioning, underlying probable Iron Age ploughsoil horizons. Findspots of flint flakes are indicated by finds bags



# Dorset News

## Bearwood School

Bearwood Primary and Nursery School has been awarded £8,500 to build a replica Iron Age roundhouse in their playground.

The school, whose main building bears a striking resemblance to a roundhouse, will build the replica in partnership with Poole Museum, using archaeological plans of excavated roundhouses at Moortown and Whites Pit.

Construction started in May and the roundhouse is due to be complete by the time this newsletter reaches your doormat.

## Dorchester Prison

HM Prison Dorchester, which closed in 2013, is being redeveloped as a residential site. The prison has some rich archaeology within its walls. Roman remains including pottery, postholes and mosaics were discovered during excavations in the 1970s, and it is possible that the former defensive walls of *Durnovaria* may have run through the site.

A castle was built on the site in the medieval period, possibly as early as 1086. The earliest documentary evidence dates to 1137 and although the castle was in the ownership of the Count of Gloucester, it appears to have become a royal possession in 1185. There is clear evidence of use, as there are records of repairs being carried out on behalf of successive kings. The exact design and layout is unknown, but the era and a plan of the remains drawn in the 18th century, suggests it was a motte and bailey castle occupying at least six acres. The motte may be the origin of the sloping ground to the north of the present day prison.

It seems that the castle was largely abandoned by the end of the 13th century and its stone may have been reused in Greyfriars, the nearby Franciscan friary. It is somewhat ironic that castle stone should

have been used in Greyfriars, when so many monasteries later gave up their stone to Henry VIII's fortifications after the 16th century dissolution. Greyfriars was dissolved and demolished in 1538.

Another fortification may have stood at the site, briefly, in the 17th century. An excavation by the then Prison Governor in 1975 identified a curved ditch that may have been part of a Civil War defence. It was probably backfilled in the 18th century, possibly at the time the prison was built. Another feature containing a Charles II coin may have been a well.

The original prison dates to the 18th century. Architect William Blackburn was asked to design it in 1787 and construction work took place between 1789 and 1794. The prison opened the following year, but in 1879 the original site was largely demolished and rebuilt, reopening again in 1886. The prison is therefore principally Victorian in design and the redevelopment plans retain much of this architecture and will hopefully include a museum in the gatehouse.

Test pits excavated earlier this year by Cotswold Archaeology identified a number of burials of former prisoners. These graves are not included on historic plans and so extensive excavation will be required to exhume as many as 50 graves that may be impacted by the redevelopment. They will be reburied on consecrated ground after post excavation analysis.

It is believed that the grave of Martha Brown may be amongst the burials, although it is considered unlikely that it will be possible to conclusively identify her remains. Brown was hanged for the murder of her husband in 1856. One of the audience for the event was Thomas Hardy, who went on to base the character of Tess Durbeyfield on Brown in the 1892 book *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*.



# Hampshire News

David Allen

## Rallying Cry

One of the worrying developments of recent years is the proliferation of metal detecting rallies. These events, which can number participants into the 100s, descend on a particular farm and offer a weekend of detecting for people from both Britain and abroad. The problem comes with the recording of the hundreds of finds, the realisation that not all can be documented, and the fact that some disappear back home with the finders. The Portable Antiquities Scheme are aware of the problem and offer a 'code of conduct', but there is a suspicion that some rallies are run simply as a money-making business, and that some hard-pressed landowners see them as a good source of additional income. The experience last September in the very shadow of Danebury was not a good one, and the organisers propose to repeat it this autumn. Katie Hinds, the Hampshire FLO is looking at what safeguards can be added, but there is even the prospect of the PAS 'washing their hands' of such gatherings, which would produce a very unsatisfactory state of affairs.



Meonstoke – hexagonal foundation. Photo: Lesley Johnson.

On the other side of the fence a number of 'treasure' items have recently been acquired by the Hampshire Cultural Trust, with the stand out object being a medieval gold, sapphire and garnet ring from Hursley.

## Down to Earth

The Petersfield Heath project was quick off the mark this year and their first digging of the season is now done. Excavations on Barrow 8 unearthed a fine Collared Urn (image), which they were allowed to lift (by Historic England) and a large spread of charcoal, which was left in situ. The urn is still wrapped up and may have some organic material attached to it. The process of micro-excavation will take place during July, after a CT scan at Odstock Hospital. The People of the Heath project can be followed online.

Other excavations in the county include a return to Meonstoke for Tony King and the University of Winchester and a Community Archaeology workforce. Here a hexagonal foundation has been uncovered, near to the Roman villa site, and the latest news is that pits with ritual deposits have been found,

seemingly confirming the view that it is a shrine.

On the rescue front, the discovery of at least 124 skeletons at Penton Corner, Andover by Cotswold Archaeology represents a hitherto unknown execution cemetery. Clues were abundant – intercutting shallow graves, bound hands, prone bodies, gibbet postholes, but finds were few. A mint coin of Ethelred the Unready (978 - 1016) is probably the best indicator of date for this unexpected find (image). The cemetery may well have something to add to the picture of the Scandinavian impact on the area. The late Saxon period has been the subject of conferences recently, with the millennial anniversary of Cnut's accession, and a new book *Danes in Wessex*, edited by Ryan Lavelle and Simon Roffey, was formally launched at the City Museum in Winchester in March.

## For more information, visit:

[www.peopleoftheheath.com/category/bulletins/](http://www.peopleoftheheath.com/category/bulletins/)

## Royal Blood

The discovery also ties in with the Royal Blood theme being pursued by the Hampshire Cultural Trust. Exhibitions and events are planned for the Community and Flagship venues, the University of Winchester (a special lecture series) and open spaces. The main exhibitions (September to March) will see the 'Winchester Treasure' (Iron Age gold torcs and fibulae) and 'Alton Hoard' (coins of Tincomarus) on show at some of the three Flagship venues (Basingstoke, Winchester, Gosport). Community shows at Aldershot, Alton, Andover, Christchurch, Eastleigh and Fareham tell a more local story.

## For more information, visit:

<http://royalbloodhants.co.uk/>

*Top: Meonstoke – ritual pit. Photo: Lesley Johnson.*

*Middle: Petersfield – George Anelay, Claire Woodhead and Stuart Needham discuss the lifting of the urn. Photo: Dave Allen*

*Bottom: Preparing 'Royal Blood' at Fareham.*





# Isle of Wight News

Rebecca Loader

## Tennyson Down

Work has been taking place throughout 2015 and 2016 on a coastal site on National Trust property on Tennyson Down in the West Wight. The site comprises a large sub-circular enclosure of unknown date which has been truncated on its southern side by erosion of the chalk cliffs. It is overlain by later features including a possible field system and Second World War anti landing trenches.

In March, Historic England undertook an earthwork survey of the monument, supplemented by an examination of aerial photographic and lidar data (Bowden, M., Jamieson, E., and Winton, H. 2015. Tennyson Down, Totland, Isle of Wight: analytical earthwork survey and aerial survey, Historic England Research Report Series 87-2015). This was followed by geophysical survey carried out by MoLA. A community excavation takes place in July, in collaboration with the CITIZAN project.



Image courtesy of the Channel Coastal Observatory.

**For more information, visit:**  
[www.citizen.org.uk](http://www.citizen.org.uk)

## Quarr Abbey

A third and final season of excavation takes place in September within the ruins of the medieval abbey at Quarr. Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund as part of the 'Two Abbeys Project', the excavation will once again be directed by Matt Garner from the Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit assisted by members of the Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeology Society, students and members of the Isle of Wight Young Archaeologists Club.

## Museum of Island History

The Museum of Island History in the Guildhall at Newport has reopened after having been closed for a year due to budget cuts. Visit Isle of Wight re-opened the Tourist Information Centre at the front of the museum in the

summer of 2015, which has created the opportunity to work in partnership with the Council, to provide front of house duties. A new exhibition starting from 2 July entitled Holiday Isle will look at the development of the Island as a holiday destination. There will also be a small selection of Rowlandson paintings on show, and a display of the latest archaeological finds from the Island. The Museum is open Mon – Friday 10am – 3pm, Saturday 10am – 2pm, closed Sundays.

## County Archaeology and Historic Environment Service

After 36 years at its base in Carisbrooke the Isle of Wight Council's Archaeology Service, including the Historic Environment Record (HER), is moving in July to a new location at Westridge, on the outskirts of Ryde. Details will be posted on the Service's website.

**For more information, visit:**  
<https://www.iwight.com/Residents/Libraries-Cultural-and-Heritage/Heritage-Service/Archaeology/About-us>



Newport Guildhall.

# Committee Role

Maddy Andrews is looking to hand over the role of membership secretary and so we are advertising this role to our wider membership, with an invitation to the successful candidate to accordingly join our committee of trustees.

As membership secretary you would be responsible for managing our computerised membership database, dealing with new membership enquiries and applications, liaising with our Treasurer over membership subscriptions and also managing gift aid information. Computerised address labels are also produced twice a year for our printed newsletter to be sent to members. Therefore you would need to be comfortable with using Excel and/or Access and email and have internet access.

Our committee meets three times a year, usually in Salisbury, otherwise most communication is generally by email. The commitment is only a few hours each month which you'd manage at your own discretion, although of course incoming enquiries and emails require a prompt response in line with a professional approach.

If you would like to become more involved with CBA Wessex and feel that this voluntary role is one for you, we will be delighted to hear from you. Please email [chair@cba-wessex.org.uk](mailto:chair@cba-wessex.org.uk) or [secretary@cba-wessex.org.uk](mailto:secretary@cba-wessex.org.uk) for more information.

## CBA Wessex AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting will take place at 1.45pm on Saturday 5th November 2016, at Old Basing Village Hall, near Basingstoke. All CBA Wessex members may attend.

The agenda will be posted on the CBA Wessex website and circulated at the meeting. Further details of the CBA Wessex Conference, where the AGM will be hosted, can be found on the back cover.



# Wiltshire News

Daniel Miles

Wessex Archaeology have been undertaking a series of excavations on Salisbury Plain, as part of the Army Basing Programme to provide accommodation for 4000 service personnel plus their families who will be returning from Germany. Commissioned by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) consultant's WYG, Wessex Archaeology have been excavating various sites at Bulford, Larkhill and Tidworth. These excavations have revealed a fantastic array of sites, features and finds spanning the Prehistory to the 20th century, including Neolithic henge-like features, Anglo-Saxon cemeteries and First World War trenches.

## Bulford

Archaeological excavations in advance of the construction of 227 houses at Bulford, about 2km to the east of the Stonehenge World Heritage Site, have revealed a number of important remains. These include two large circular features, which had been identified from aerial photographs and geophysics.



The ring ditches at Bulford, with saxon burials to the left. Photo: Rob Rawcliffe of R4R Solutions Ltd.

Recent work suggests that these are two Neolithic circular enclosures which were later remodelled and probably reused as round barrows during the Bronze Age.

A number of Neolithic pits were also found which contained a number of finds including stone and flint axes, decorated 'Grooved Ware' pottery, a fine disc-shaped flint knife, a carved chalk bowl, and the bones of various animal species including red and roe deer, and aurochs. Pottery found in the pits has been dated to between 2900 and 2400 BC.

A large Anglo-Saxon cemetery, dating to the 7th and 8th centuries, has also been found at Bulford, which contained at least 150 graves. One of the graves has been radiocarbon dated to between AD 660 and 780, which dates it to the mid-Saxon period.

The graves contained the remains of both female and male skeletons, ranging in age from newborn to elderly adults. A number of the bodies were buried with grave goods which included knives, spears, brooches,



An axe head discovered at Bulford.

jewellery, bone combs and other personal objects.

More recent military remains have also been found at Bulford. These include First World War practice trenches and the possible site where a field farrier worked to re-shoe horses and mules before they were taken to join the troops on the front lines. In addition Second World War anti-tank firing ranges were also found.

## Tidworth

Another site, this time in Tidworth, designated for the building of 322 army family houses, has revealed similarly important archaeological remains. Again these include multi period remains, such as Neolithic pits, a prehistoric enclosure and an Anglo-Saxon cemetery.

The cemetery, smaller in size than that at Bulford, consisted of 55 burials containing the skeletons of men, women and children. The grave goods include weapons, bone combs, pins and jewellery. One female burial also contained a chatelaine and a finely decorated workbox. The grave goods are

consistent with a late 7th- to 8th-century date which makes it contemporary to the cemetery at Bulford. The position of the cemetery just west of a prehistoric enclosure (potentially ritual in nature), is consistent with a pattern seen widely across the region.

## Larkhill

Excavations at Larkhill, again part of the Army Basing Programme, have uncovered an extensive network of First World War trenches. A characterisation of a sample of the trenches has been undertaken by Wessex Archaeology. The trenches were used for training British and Australian soldiers from 1914 to 1918, including the preparation for the Battle of the Somme.

The site was recently the location for a commemorative event marking the centenary of the Battle of the Somme which was attended by members of Wessex Archaeology, WYG the Royal Artillery and the local community.

**For more information, visit:**  
[www.wessexarch.co.uk/](http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/)



# Industrial Archaeology News

Peter Stanier

## Swindon Railway Works 175

Swindon is celebrating the 175th anniversary of the GWR directors' decision to establish a locomotive workshops on a 'green field' site below the town in 1841. It had been recommended by Daniel Gooch to Brunel the previous year, where the change between steep gradients towards Bristol and gentler gradient towards Paddington necessitated a change of locomotives, while conveniently at the junction of the Bristol and Cheltenham lines. The Wilts & Berks Canal brought coal and building supplies to the works, but struggled to compete once the railway was opened. The railway works expanded to become an integrated operation, manufacturing and repairing locomotives and rolling stock, with workshops employing tens of thousands all on one massive site. The works closed in 1986 but large buildings survive with new uses, such as the general and drawing offices converted to the National Monuments Record, Joseph Armstrong's locomotive factory ('V' Shop) now part of the Great Western shopping centre, and 'R' shop as the STEAM Museum of the GWR.



The huge internal space Joseph Armstrong's 'V' Shop, seen here empty in 1994, has been converted to a major shipping outlet in Swindon.

Sometimes called Swindon's 'alarm clock', a steam hooter atop the central power house (the 'hooter house') announced the change of shifts for generations. A replica hooter was sounded on 22nd March 2016 to mark the start of the celebrations of the GWR Works and its employees.

## Portland Coastal Strip

An area of highly sensitive Portland coast has been saved after a long-running dispute over access to quarrying was settled shortly before a Lands Tribunal hearing. Planning permission was granted in 1951 for quarrying along the 'Coastal Strip' from Southwell towards the Bill. A Review of Old Mineral Planning Permissions (ROMPP) identified the environmental importance of the land, while archaeologically there is a Scheduled area with prehistoric (Mesolithic) and perhaps a Roman presence beneath the medieval open fields known as 'lawnsheeds'. In 2009, Dorset County Council modified the 1951 permission to protect a Special Area of Conservation, a narrow part of the Coastal Strip closest to the sea, which is of

environmental importance and part of the 'Jurassic Coast' world heritage site. This modification prevented Stone Firms Ltd from gaining safe access to potential quarries around Southwell. The company claimed £18m in compensation if it was unable to quarry the area, but now the council has agreed to pay an undisclosed sum which will be reimbursed by Defra.

However, planning permission still remains for the Coastal Strip beyond Southwell and the company and the council will work together to minimise the impact of any future stone extraction, with underground working even suggested. If quarrying should take place, the Special Area of Conservation beside the cliffs will be left untouched, but the land behind would be removed, the stone extracted and the land 'restored' minus its archaeology (most visibly the lawnsheeds). The good news for industrial archaeology is that old quarries in the conservation area will be protected. Almost continuous along the cliff edge, these quarries have remained dormant since they were worked in the 1920s and 1930s. Their special features include straight-sided faces created by steam channelling machines, representing the archaeology of a brief quarrying phase of the early twentieth century.

## Three conferences

Two industrial archaeology regional conferences which cover Wessex are always held annually at different venues. This April they were both outside Wessex but saw topics touching on our area. The South West and South Wales Regional Conference at Dursley in Gloucestershire included presentations on the Cotswold Canals restoration, Scout Motors of Salisbury and westcountry quarries. The South East Regional Conference at Kingston upon Thames in Surrey highlighted iron production in the Weald, papermaking, gasholders and Berkshire watermills.

A future conference on 29th October, at Devizes Town Hall will concern Wiltshire



Coastal strip quarries in the Portland conservation area with faces made by steam channelling machines.

roads and vehicles - turnpikes, stage coaches, wagon repairers and motor car makers. Details and booking available from the Wiltshire Museum, 41 Long Street, Devizes.

**For more information, visit:**  
[www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk](http://www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk)

## Hampshire IA pioneer

Dr Edwin Course, a pioneering figure in the development of industrial archaeology in Hampshire, died in February aged 93. He began teaching transport studies and industrial archaeology at the University of Southampton in 1956. His evening classes in the 1960s led to the formation of the Southampton University Industrial Archaeology Group. Active recording work included the Hampshire Farm Buildings Survey and the restoration of Southwick brewery in 1985. SUIAG later evolved into the Hampshire IA Society and the Hampshire Mills Group. Edwin Course was also an editor and president of the Hampshire Field Club.

## Cinema fire at Lyme Regis

Further to my report in the spring newsletter on early cinemas, the Grade II listed Regent Cinema at Lyme Regis, suffered a serious fire on 22nd March. Despite the roof collapsing, the owners have stated they will restore the 1930s Art Deco period-piece.



# Maritime Archaeology News

Stephen Fisher

## Jutland

May 31st marked the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Jutland, which is also the central commemorative event to the maritime war during the First World War centenary. Being a battle in the North Sea, off the Danish coast, it might be thought of little relevance to Wessex, but there's more than meets the eye in the local area.

Late last year, Dr Julian Whitewright of the Maritime Archaeology Trust found a reference to two possible destroyer wrecks in a 2011 Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment, also visible in 1939 aerial photography. Further investigation revealed a 1927 United Kingdom Hydrographic Office record that described a wreck as laying "adjacent to two ex-German TBDs (Torpedo Boat Destroyers)".

Surprisingly, these records were in Portsmouth Harbour, on the south side of Whale Island, the home of HMS *Excellent*.

If these were German destroyer wrecks, their presence in 1927 could well mean that they were vessels surrendered to Britain after the armistice. Extensive research followed and both Julian and myself soon became quite knowledgeable on German *Torpedobooten*.

English language sources at first proved bereft of information. Queries to the Queens Harbour Master, the Royal Navy and the MoD came up blank and the first references we found to German destroyers in Portsmouth after the war were in German language sources. These claimed that two destroyers - *V44* and *V82*, were scrapped in Portsmouth in 1922.



*V82 (foreground) and the outline of V44 (between the pontoon and land). The headquarters of the Royal Navy overlooks them both. Image courtesy of Maritime Archaeology Trust.*

Having names helped target the research and time spent in The National Archives consulting Admiralty records confirmed that both of these vessels had been saved from scuttling with the rest of the German High Seas Fleet at Scapa Flow in 1919. Further records showed that they were awarded to Britain as war trophies, but the trail went cold with regards to their subsequent fate.

However a trawl of newspaper archives revealed that in August 1922 a Portsmouth local was arrested for stealing parts from the German destroyers, which had recently been sold to a scrap firm. Dr Ian Buxton, an expert in shipbreaking, was able to confirm that both vessels had been sold for scrap. He had also chanced upon a reference to them having previously been used for target trials.

A return visit to Kew quickly identified the 1922 gunnery trial reports, the final piece of key evidence. Photographs and detailed reports of every shell fired at both vessels and their subsequent beaching in the harbour now firmly identified the wrecks.

It transpires that both ships were broken up by Pounds Yard in Portsmouth, although they obviously scrapped them on site rather than removing them. When it was no longer economically viable to recover any more material, the hulks were abandoned.

Both hulks lay in the intertidal mud off Whale Island and initial site visits showed that considerable wreckage remains. *V44* has largely been scrapped above the waterline, but the ship's outline in the mud strongly suggests that the remains of the hull are intact below. *V82* has more structure visible above the mud, including parts of two boilers. Closer investigation of these boilers showed that the damage they had suffered was consistent with that described in the gunnery trial records for *V82*.

This discovery came too late to include anything in the National Museum of the Royal Navy's exhibition *Jutland: 36 Hours that Won the War*. This is a shame, as *V44* had a not insignificant role at the battle, being

one of the destroyers whose torpedo attack forced Admiral Jellicoe to turn away from the High Seas Fleet, allowing them to escape in the gathering darkness. The exhibition does, however, have many ship's artefacts and of course, the recently recovered bell of HMS *Hood*.

The wrecks at Jutland are protected by the Protection of Military Remains Act (PoMRA), enforced by the MoD. However, a recent investigation by the Pipeline, has discovered that not only are the wrecks being salvaged by a Dutch company, but the MoD has failed to act. Although some distance from Wessex, there are quite strong ties. Portsmouth was the manning port for both HMS *Queen Mary* and HMS *Invincible*, both heavily impacted by the recent salvage. Of the 6,000 men lost at Jutland, 3,400 are commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial and almost 2,000 came from the city itself.

Hopefully the recent decision by the Dutch government to ratify the UNESCO convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage will help reduce such actions, but only time will tell.

### For more information, visit:

[www.forgottenwrecks.org/jutland-german-wrecks](http://www.forgottenwrecks.org/jutland-german-wrecks)  
<http://thepipeline.info/blog/2016/05/22/exclusive-named-the-salvage-company-which-looted-jutland-war-graves-as-mod-fails-to-act/>

### HMS *Invincible*

In happier news, the government recently announced that £2 million of LIBOR funding has been allocated to the excavation and recovery of artefacts from another HMS *Invincible* – the Man of War that sank in the Solent in 1758. The Maritime Archaeology Sea Trust will run the project which will see veterans and disadvantaged teenagers take part in the work, and many recovered artefacts will go on public display.

The intervention is timely as English Heritage put the wreck on its 'At Risk' register in 2013.



# Wafa News

Julian Richards

So far in 2016 we have run day schools on earthwork survey (Mark Bowden - Historic England) and flint working (Antony Whitlock - ATC). Both have been well attended. The coppicing project, carried out in association with the ATC has continued and will involve some experimental summer coppicing this year.

We have continued to use Wafa as a base for post excavation work, with regular volunteer sessions on a Tuesday afternoon/evening. We have concentrated on processing finds from last year's training excavation and have had several specialists in to explain methods of processing and analysis.

Recently we have been helping to clean, re-bag and re-box material from several historic Verwood kiln excavations as part of a process of documentation that will result in the material being deposited in the Priest House Museum, Wimborne. This process is assisting in the PhD research being carried out by Dan Carter at Bournemouth Uni.

The continued support of Adair Somerville Ford and ICM staff (management, bookings,

website and graphic design) is, as always, most gratefully appreciated.

The programme of courses for autumn and winter is now available to book on the Wafa website and includes the following:

- **Identify and Plot Archaeological Sites** (Sat, 24 September 2016). Learn how to identify and plot archaeological sites from both vertical and oblique aerial photographs. With Mark Corney (formerly Royal Commission on Historical Monuments and 'Time Team' regular)
- **The Techniques of Surface Collection ('Fieldwalking')** (Sat 12 November 2016). A guide to the recognition, field identification and cataloguing of surface finds with practical sessions on field survey. With Julian Richards (Wafa lead archaeologist).
- **Christmas Open Day** (Sat, 17 December 2016). All welcome at Mick's Barn, 11.00am – 4.00pm for mulled wine, mince pies, hearty soup and a chance to catch up on the year's activities.

**For more information, visit:**  
[www.wafa.org.uk](http://www.wafa.org.uk)



*This year's survey course at Wafa.*



# Foam News

Julian Richards

FOAM (Friends of Ancient Monuments) is an informal group, an initiative of CBA Wessex, set up over 10 years ago to carry out practical conservation work on ancient monuments that require attention, usually the removal of scrub and debris.

A session was held in late March which involved starting clearance of a large disc barrow, part of the Normanton Barrow Group with the Stonehenge World Heritage Site. This will continue in the autumn of 2016 and will also involve the archaeological examination of an illegal excavation in the barrow bank. Material from this clearance, primarily coppiced hazel (transported by the Army), will be used in the reconstruction of a Neolithic house at Larkhill Primary School. More will be available in the autumn/spring for projects that require such material.

Are you interested in taking part in FOAM sessions, or do you know a site that could benefit from our attention? In order to create an up to date list of contacts and sites, can anyone who is interested in helping with this sort of work in the future please contact me so that your details can be added to the FOAM e-mailing list.

All that is required is for you to be reasonable active and willing to work outdoors, learning about field monuments at the same time as improving their management. All tools are provided and the activities are fully risk assessed. Just bring enthusiasm. If you would like to take part in this sort of activity then please e mail me: [julian@archaemedia.co.uk](mailto:julian@archaemedia.co.uk) 'Old lags' (those who were on the original list) please get in touch again.



*Clearing a disc barrow in Normanton Gorse, part of the Normanton barrow group just south of Stonehenge. FOAM will return there this autumn.*

# Discover archaeology in Wessex...

## CBA Wessex 2016 Walks

Discovering Salisbury City, with Francis Taylor. *25 September*

Follow in the footsteps of the Atrebates, Silchester, with David Allen. *16 October*

Walks are held on Sundays and cost £3 for members and £5 for non-members.

More details and online booking for each walk can be found on our website, or contact Stephen Fisher at [newsletter@cba-wessex.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@cba-wessex.org.uk)

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## CBA Wessex 2016 Study Days

The Bluffers Guide to all you need to know about Prehistoric and Roman Pottery. *10 September*

The Bluffers Guide to all you need to know about post-Roman pottery. *19 November*

These study days are a mixture of lectures and practical hands-on experience.

These events are hosted at Wessex Archaeology's offices in Salisbury. Fees are £25 for CBA Wessex members & £30 for non-members.

More details and online booking for each event can be found on our website, or contact Andy Manning at [events@cba-wessex.org.uk](mailto:events@cba-wessex.org.uk), or at CBA Wessex, c/o Wessex Archaeology, Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, SP4 6EB. Direct: 01722 343406 | Mob: 07770 605258

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## CBA Wessex 2016 Conference

Women in Wessex: The archaeology, objects and personalities which have had an impact on the history of Wessex. A full day event at Old Basing Village Hall, near Basingstoke, as always with eminent speakers. Keep an eye on the website for details of speakers. Booking now open on our website.

5 November 2016. Registration at 9.30am, conference begins at 10.00am.  
Members £15, Non Members £20.

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More details of these events and online booking can be found at

**[www.cba-wessex.org.uk/events](http://www.cba-wessex.org.uk/events)**