

ISSN: 1475-5130

# Council for British Archaeology

## Wessex News

Spring 2017



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

**CBA**  
Wessex

COUNCIL FOR BRITISH  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
WESSEX REGION

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## Breaking News!

As we went to press, the government announced its plans to upgrade a seven-mile single carriageway stretch of the A303 near Stonehenge in Wiltshire into a dual carriageway. The Government's proposed option is "to construct a 1.8 mile dual carriageway tunnel to improve journey times, remove the sight and sound of traffic and enhance the World Heritage Site". These latest proposals envisage an eastern portal just to the east of the point where the current A303 cuts across the Avenue and a western portal to the southwest of the Normanton Down Barrow Group. This is well south of the current A303, so will involve a length of new dual carriageway within the World Heritage Site. A Stonehenge consultation process has been launched, which runs from 12th January to 5th March, to give the public the opportunity to comment on the proposals. For further details and to respond to the consultation visit:  
[www.highways.gov.uk/a303stonehenge/consultation](http://www.highways.gov.uk/a303stonehenge/consultation)

## Front cover images

Top: *Westbury White Horse looks down on Westbury Cement Works (Page 20)*. Bottom: *MTB 24, one of the surprising number of remaining Second World War warships left in Wessex (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

Following on from the launch of our grant scheme we are delighted to report that during 2016 we awarded two grants. Our first grant was awarded to the Petersfield Museum which was seeking assistance with conservation costs on behalf of the 'People of the Heath Project'. Excavations led by Stuart Needham at the barrow cemetery on Petersfield Heath in Hampshire uncovered a Bronze Age collared urn, and although the urn has been expertly excavated in the laboratory by volunteer archaeologist Jane King, funds were required for the follow-up professionally-led conservation. Once conserved, we hope to see the urn go on display at Petersfield Museum.



*The Petersfield Collared Urn.*

Our second grant was awarded to WARG, the Society for Winchester Archaeology & History. This grant enabled the group to undertake their 2016 excavation at Warnford on the River Meon in Hampshire. Normally the group would remove topsoil and overburden by hand, but geophysics performed by the University of Winchester showed the archaeology to be just too deep to enable this to be done within the timescales of the dig. A mechanical digger with driver was hired and made short work of the topsoil and overburden removal and backfilling tasks. As a result, WARG members were able to excavate for a full 15 days and achieved their objective of finding a Stuart period building and courtyards below later Regency and Second World War remains. We are very pleased that CBA Wessex is able to benefit such worthy archaeological projects within the Wessex region.

As always, we continue to deliver a wide range of events for our members and we already have a walk planned around Danebury hillfort in the spring and an opportunity to revisit Portland's fascinating stone quarries in the summer. All events can be booked through our website and during the course of 2017 we will be adding further events to our calendar; talking of which, a must date for your diaries is our annual conference on Saturday 4th November. Our 2017 conference theme is to be 'the appliance of science in archaeology' where we will enjoy hearing about the latest developments and discoveries that have been assisted by modern technologies – more details to follow as soon as we have finished fleshing out the programme.

Onto other matters and at our AGM last November we welcomed the return of Marjoleine Butler to the committee. Marjoleine who is now a CBA Trustee replaces Katy Whitaker as our CBA Liaison Officer, whilst Katy takes on an important



new role as Advocacy Officer for CBA Wessex. Katy discusses advocacy further on in our newsletter and suggests how, as individuals, we might go about supporting archaeology. In the meantime, I very much hope you enjoy your archaeology during the course of 2017, whether from the comfort of an armchair or out and about in the field.

Best wishes,  
Ginny Pringle

## Winner of the 2016 Photography Competition

Many congratulations to Nicola Turton for winning our 2016 competition with her fantastic pic of Silbury Hill at winter (above). Nicola has been awarded a £25 book token and a free place at one of our study days.

## Membership Matters

We are delighted to welcome Gill Hawkswell on board as your new Membership Secretary. Gill replaces Maddy Andrews who is standing down after an epic stint in the role over the past few years. We thank Maddy for her

dedication and hard work and wish her all the best for the future.

Gill can be reached on membership@cba-wessex.org.uk should you have any membership queries.

## Walks

We are delighted to announce Peter Stanier, our Industrial Archaeology Representative, has also volunteered to look after the management of our popular 'CBA Wessex walks'. As you are aware, Stephen Fisher besides having managed the organisation of our walks over the last couple of years, is also our newsletter editor AND our Maritime Archaeology Representative, and so understandably Steve was quite relieved when Peter volunteered to help out with the walks. Our thanks go to Steve for having contributed as walks organiser and for agreeing to steadfastly continue in his other roles.

More details on upcoming walks can be found on the back page.

## Treasurer's Report

### Valerie Moore

I am delighted to say that the finances of CBA Wessex are in a very healthy state. The accounts for the year ended 31 August 2016 were presented at the AGM and approved. A few comments on those accounts.

### Income

Subscription income remains broadly similar to the last few years.

This year income from Study days, the conference and walks was a little less than last year, but still gave a surplus over expenditure. We continue to receive interest on most of the cash deposits. Interest on these, however, will be reducing.

### On expenditure

Again these remain broadly similar although the costs for the newsletter did increase this year because we published 3 editions during the 12 month period to re-align publication dates for events and end of year reporting. Overall on the year, on unrestricted funds, we have a surplus of income over expenditure of £808.52.

## Grant Scheme

Whilst not specifically ring-fenced for grants a figure, of £7000 was agreed for distribution last year.

Currently agreed in principal or paid:

Winchester Archaeological & Local History  
£562.74 paid

Petersfield Museum  
£691.20 paid

Holy Trinity Church  
£500.00 agreed in principal

The trustees agreed at the last meeting that £5,900 be available for grants together with an additional sum of £103 raised by Lindsay Dedden making and selling the most wonderful cakes at the conference.

My thanks to John Finlay who continues to be our external verifier and for taking the time and trouble to visit and check through the accounting paperwork.

Anyone who would like a copy of the accounts please contact me by any method noted on page 2.

## Introducing...Advocacy

### Katy Whitaker

At the 2016 AGM held in Old Basing I re-joined CBA Wessex's committee in a new role. The purpose is to be a point of contact, and lead, on advocacy for archaeology. So I thought I'd take this opportunity to write about what I think this means.

In my previous role as a Council for British Archaeology trustee I helped liaison between the regional group and the national organisation. I often found myself at meetings in Wessex talking about the need for, and opportunities to, advocate for archaeology. In 2016 this included: challenging changes to the planning system that result in less protection for archaeology; signing petitions against local museum closures; inviting MPs to Festival of Archaeology events and activities; rallying colleagues and students to protest about the withdrawal of archaeology A Level.

That list is a bit depressing. There's a lot of reactive actions in the hope of stopping negative things happening – or at least, making them less bad than they would otherwise have been. But advocacy is also about celebrating our interests and promoting the positive things that we achieve in archaeology and heritage. That's why it's such a good idea to tell our local politicians about why archaeology matters to us personally, and why it matters in the places we live and work.

Take the recent Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage anniversary conference held in Devizes in November. It celebrated 30 years of benefits to the historic and natural environment in the two parts of the World Heritage Site (WHS). A stellar line-up of speakers talked about these achievements, and possibilities for the future, in fascinating presentations. Not only organisations that manage the WHS, but also those promoting visiting and working in it, spoke to its economic as well as social and historical importance. Did you know that in 2014 the south-west region's heritage economy

generated more than £1.8 billion in spending by visitors? And in 2016 the Heritage Lottery Fund granted £44.2 million to projects in the south-west? Nationally, 95% of adults agree or strongly agree that historic buildings and places should be well-looked after. Yet in the past 10 years the south-west has lost 44% of local authority Conservation officers from planning departments, making good advice harder to come by and support for heritage weaker.

You can probably think of specific threats or risks in your county that have affected, or might affect, the archaeology that you are interested in. At the moment I am most concerned about the likely loss of the archaeology A Level. A number of my Young Archaeologists' Club members are disappointed that they won't be able to study the subject before university. Maybe you have children or grandchildren who would have chosen the course. Or perhaps you have thought about studying it to extend your knowledge, or to get you back into the swing of formal education before starting your own archaeology degree.

Either way, if people who enjoy archaeology won't speak up for it, who will? And that's where I come in. I can help CBA Wessex members find advice about how to advocate for archaeology: whether that's where to find useful facts and figures, or things like templates for letters, petitions, and campaigning. The CBA's Local Heritage Engagement Network is a great place to start. But beyond reacting to threats, I hope that CBA Wessex members can lead the way in promoting what heritage can achieve. Make sure your councillors and MPs know about all the great things happening on their doorsteps. Invite them to events, show off your fieldwork and research, demonstrate how you support education, skills development, and well-being in your neighbourhood. Make sure it's not just a one-off. Get onto their radar. And if you need help, or have a success to share, let your committee know about it!



*The WARH excavations at Warnford.*



# Channel Islands News

Philip de Jersey

## Guernsey

In September 2016 we carried out a two week excavation on the headland of La Corbière, on the south coast of Guernsey. The purpose of the excavation was twofold: to find evidence for the elusive 'Corbière Castle', recorded in a couple of seventeenth century documents, and in the process to investigate the bank and ditch – presumably prehistoric – which crosses the Corbière promontory at its narrowest point.

As anticipated, the excavation revealed an impressive rock-cut ditch and associated banks. The ditch has a steep landward face, dropping two metres in just over one metre horizontally. The south (seaward) face is not quite as severe, but still steep enough that it would present a formidable obstacle. Once out of the ditch on the south side there is another step up in the gravelly bedrock, and

then an artificially raised bank. The height difference between the top of the bank and the base of the ditch is 3.8 metres.

Finds from the ditch – and indeed from the excavation as a whole – were disappointingly scarce. There were five pieces of flint, each from a different context, and otherwise only post-medieval or modern finds from the uppermost levels. However, the contents of the ditch were revealing in other ways. The ditch had partially filled and then been recut and filled again, on the latter occasion with lime-mortared rubble. One possible scenario, therefore, is that a prehistoric ditch was recut as part of the defences of the medieval 'castle'. One or more walls from that castle were eventually thrown down into the ditch. The lack of finds suggests that the castle was never more than a place of refuge, and indeed possibly never used in earnest.



*The Legge survey of 1680, showing Corbière Castle.*



*Museum staff and volunteers standing along the line of stakes.*

Over the winter we will consider whether there is potential for any further work at La Corbière. Unfortunately much of the headland was heavily disturbed by German structures built during the Second World War, and together with the naturally thin soil cover in most areas, the areas with potential for useful archaeological excavation are few and far between.

In November we were alerted to the presence of peat beds exposed after stormy weather at the north end of Vazon Bay, on the west coast. Although exposures of peat are well-known from further south on the bay, this was the first time that peat had been revealed in this area. Clearing the remaining sand away revealed a line of some fifteen stakes driven into the peat, one of which was excavated in the brief period before being covered by the tide. Approximately two hundred flints were also recovered from the surface of the peat. Initial examination suggests they are likely to be late Bronze Age in date. It is hoped that a radiocarbon date from the stake might reveal whether the wooden structure is of a similar period. The exposed area has now been deeply covered by sand, but the position of each stake was recorded by GPS and so it should be possible to relocate them if necessary.

## Jersey

Robert Waterhouse, Field Archaeologist for La Société Jersiaise, contributes the following report.

Much of the Section's work over the autumn has been spent clearing the finds backlog in the Section Rooms at La Hougue Bie, sorting, bagging, marking and boxing a wide variety of finds from excavations, fieldwalking and chance discoveries. Since 1970, the Archaeology Section has been operating out of a suite of rooms originally built in 1928 as a café, museum and site guardian's bungalow. They have a certain colonial charm, with a rustic veranda and a number of 'gothick' windows and doors, recycled from the Prince's Tower Hotel which once stood nearby. Unfortunately, a lack of basic maintenance for many years, coupled with the extensive use of steel framed Crittall windows, has encouraged water and damp ingress, producing wet rot, woodworm and a large colony of spiders.

The Section Rooms are thus no longer fit for purpose and so Jersey Heritage, who lease the site from us and run the museum there, will be moving out of the other wing of the building in the spring, enabling us to use the centrally-heated and dry rooms they have previously occupied. Plans have been drawn

up to have 'dirty' and 'clean' work rooms, enabling us to meet and work in salubrious conditions. This should enable school and student participation too, something we wish to encourage.

The old rooms are intended to be converted back into a café for the museum, which could also be used as a lecture theatre/schools room for joint use. A new storage building and work area is proposed to be erected behind the Section Rooms, containing tools and equipment, temporary storage of bulk soil samples, a wet sieving facility, and a workshop.

The Field Archaeologist is surveying a number of 18th and 19th century coastal forts and their sub-structures this autumn and winter, in advance of and during their consolidation and repair by Jersey Heritage. Two large desk-based assessments of coastal heathland for the States of Jersey Environment Department have recently produced good evidence for prehistoric coaxial field systems, one of them at least 1km long by 0.6km wide. These are adding to our knowledge of Jersey's prehistoric agricultural landscape, which we now believe to have been extensive in the later Bronze and Iron Ages.

This work has included new fieldwork on the Neolithic and Chalcolithic settlement site at Le Pinacle in St Ouen parish,

revealing a number of hearths at the top of the cliff, presumably belonging to previously unidentified prehistoric houses. On the cliff faces flanking the site, the Field Archaeologist has identified two previously unrecognised and surprisingly extensive, prehistoric dolerite quarries.

These may explain why this site was chosen for a settlement in the first place, and why regionally early (and presumably high status) Neolithic pottery was found there. Early 20th century excavations nearby produced evidence for stone axe manufacture on the site, and these quarries are presumably the source for the dolerite used. Detailed survey work is now planned – 'new' Neolithic axe factories are rare discoveries!

The Field Archaeologist has also been working on his write-up backlog during the late summer and autumn, drawing up the site drawings from three years of excavations at St Clement and elsewhere. The size of this backlog, coupled with a desire to expand our research activities, has resulted in steps being taken to fund an archaeological assistant for an initial term of three years. This is still in the discussion stage, but interested candidates are welcome to contact the Field Archaeologist via the Société Jersiaise website.

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



*Prehistoric dolerite quarries at Le Pinacle, Jersey.*



# YAC News

Cally Langhurst

## YAC Event

In November as part of the CBA Wessex Conference we held an event for the regions YAC branches. It was the second time we had arranged a YAC event in conjunction with the conference and we were pleased that members from North Wiltshire, West Wiltshire, Southampton and South Wiltshire Branches all attended.

Tom from Steamhorse Interactive ran the day and we had chosen the theme of the Stuarts as the event was on the 5th November. Tom took us through the history of the Stuarts from the end of the reign of Elizabeth 1 to the great plague and fire of London and of course including the Gunpowder Plot!

Everyone that attended had a great time and we have decided that we will hold another YAC event along side the conference this year – the date will be the 4th November so please put that in your diaries we would love to see you.

## YAC Branches in Your Area

If you know anyone that is interested in archaeology and between the ages of 8 – 16, then please contact your local branch and get them involved in archaeology.

There are 9 branches in the Wessex region: Isle of Wight, Southampton, Poole, Dorchester, North Hampshire, North Wiltshire, West Wiltshire, South Wiltshire and Reading: all the contact details can be found on the YAC website.

If you're not between the ages of 8-16 but want to get involved - we are always on the look out for more help in the branches – please contact me via the CBA Wessex website if you think you'd be able to spare a little time to help out with the meetings and activities. Most sessions are for a couple of hours and just one Saturday a month. It would be great to hear from you.

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





# Dorset News

Miles Russell

## Smart Arch

A new series of smartphone Apps have been developed as part of the South Dorset Landscape Partnership (The Land of Bone and Stone), creating emotive and extremely evocative 'sound-pools' along the South Dorset Ridgeway.

Put together by the artistic collective SATSYMPH, working together with Artmusic, Beaminster School, Dorset Studio School, DIVAcontemporary, Frances Aitken, InsideOut Dorset, Sir John Colfox School and Weymouth College, these soundscapes mix together the archaeology, history, legends,

fairy tales, local myths, folklore and oral history of the Ridgeway at a series of key locales such as the Kingston Russell and Hampton stone circles.

**For more information, visit:**  
[www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/sdr-news/1225-sdr-whats-hidden-in-the-hills](http://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/sdr-news/1225-sdr-whats-hidden-in-the-hills)

## Recent Discoveries

Consultation on the conservation plan of the Dorset County Museums Discovery centre continues. Terrain Archaeology have evaluated the area of the proposed new extension to the Museum, test pitting



*Flowers Down on the South Dorset Ridgeway. © Jo & Sue Crane.*



*The Durotriges Big Dig. © Bournemouth University.*

within the area of the former Craft Centre uncovering remains of the town's Roman street together with a series of Roman pits and other features.

Terrain Archaeology have conducted an evaluation for service trenches at New Barn Farm, Knowlton, revealing a terminal of the South Circle henge ditch, indicating the existence of an entrance in the south western circuit. Wessex Archaeology have found Later Bronze Age occupation evidence, together with at least one cremation burial, at Cuthbury Gardens in Wimborne.

Fieldwork around Druce Roman villa, conducted by members of the East Dorset Antiquarian Society under the direction of Lilian Ladle, is starting to resolve the wider landscape context of this important Roman estate centre. Continued excavation and survey by Bournemouth University at Winterborne Kingston has uncovered more of the Later Iron Age settlement, dubbed 'Duropolis', uncovering Iron Age roundhouses and a small Durotrigian cemetery. Significant areas of Later Bronze Age occupation have

also been recorded together with a series of Late or Sub Roman sunken-feature buildings.

**For more information, visit:**  
<https://twitter.com/Durotrigesdig>

## Events

The 2017 programme of Dorset Archaeological Days, an annual series of public activities, events and guided walks organised by Dorset County Council's Historic Environment Team in partnership with the Dorset Archaeological Committee is currently being organised with details of how to book and published on the web.

**For more information, visit:**  
[www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/Dorset-Archaeological-Days](http://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/Dorset-Archaeological-Days)

## Publications

Volume 137 of the Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society was published in December 2016 with volume 138 on schedule for publication by September 2017.



# Hampshire News

David Allen

## Coming Home

2016 was marked by the return of two sets of material to Hampshire, both of which were gathered in and around the 1970s. The first was a collection of worked flint from Langstone Harbour. John Bowers and his wife Anne originally ventured there monitoring the bird populations, but Anne started to pick up flints as an alternative to counting waders. They became friends with Chris Draper, who discovered and published many sites along the coastal littoral, and he helped with the identification of some of the less obvious pieces. The great thing is that most of the artefacts have details of provenance and can be put 'on the map'.

Langstone Harbour saw a significant investigation by Wessex Archaeology in the 1990s. The archaeologists worked 'for seven years in deep mud and treacherous tides' (as if deep mud wasn't enough!) and the work showed that the harbour was an area of open grassland and woods in prehistoric times, with people coming to find and work the flint and utilise other resources. Inundation began in the Iron Age,

and salt-making and the farming of oysters followed. The project has been published as a CBA Research Report 124, *Our Changing Landscape; an intertidal survey of Langstone Harbour, Hampshire*, Allen M & Gardiner J, 2000. The Bowers Collection (A2016.102) is an exciting addition to this study.

The other delivery involved material collected and archives compiled by Paul Aitken, when Christchurch was finding its archaeological feet. Once again there is a major publication, *Excavations in Christchurch 1969-1980*, by Keith Jarvis; DNHAS Monograph 5 (1983), covering some of the sites concerned, but there is additional content and recording of sections etc. Much of this relates to the activities of the South Wessex Archaeological Association who, in the bad old days, stepped in to rescue information that would otherwise have been lost. The SWAA Chronicle for December 1973 states that 'the developers have descended upon Christchurch, and we are hoping to be given a chance to examine some sites before they are covered up again'; a familiar lament in those times. The archive is testament to



How it was then! Paul Aitken recorded the burh defences at Pond Lane, Christchurch, March 1973.

the SWAA efforts and the accompanying newsletters, listing a range of social events and outings – and even reviews of CBA Open Meetings - are a reminder of how much enjoyment was (and hopefully still is) attached to archaeology.

The archive came by way of Luke Craddock-Bennett, of Headland Archaeology – and he and his wife Suzy, also an archaeologist, and their two boys, kindly shipped it down to Cirencester, where we met up for a Service Station handover. The archive is now housed with the Hampshire Cultural Trust as A2016.100, and again forms an interesting footnote to the larger excavations that took place once significant (DoE) funding was found. In the preface to his report Keith Jarvis praised the 'considerable efforts of the SWAA, which carried out eleven excavations' and noted that 'the watching brief work by P Aitken and the work of A White require individual recognition'.

## Peopling the Heath

The Collared Urn discovered beneath Barrow 8 at Petersfield was duly scanned, at Salisbury Hospital, and the contents 'micro-excavated' in the lab at Chilcomb House (Hampshire Cultural Trust) by Jane King, a People of the Heath volunteer. It was done over a number of weeks and Jane was able to identify a complex pattern of internal tip lines and deposits, while not finding any of the anticipated cremated bone. The exterior of the vessel has now been consolidated and conserved – work paid for in part by a grant from CBA Wessex (see page 4). The exciting news is that in the September excavations another Collared Urn was discovered – this time 'inverted' with other slabs of pottery possibly present. It will follow the same path as the other vessel and has already been scanned. The New Year will see the start of micro-excavation, but whether from the rim or the base has yet to be decided!

Barton Farm, north of Winchester, is another site which keeps on giving and the latest news is of a circular monument with antler



Some of the Langstone flints.

picks present in the bottom of some of the constituent pits or postholes. Samples have gone off for radiocarbon dating and a county generally sparse in Neolithic monuments, other than its 40 long barrows, is looking forward to the determination

**For more information, visit:**  
[www.peopleoftheheath.com](http://www.peopleoftheheath.com)

## Royal Blood

Gosport Gallery provides the last opportunity to see this exhibition – it opened there on 20 January and runs through February and March. Some of the exhibits, such as the Late Iron Age 'Winchester Treasure' will have been returned to the lenders, but new additions to the archives, including the legs and fetters excavated at the Oliver's Battery (Winchester) execution cemetery in 2009, will be on show. Check the HCT website for opening hours.

**For more information, visit:**  
<http://royalbloodhants.co.uk/>



# Isle of Wight News

Rebecca Loader

## Portable Antiquities Scheme

An unusual copper-alloy openwork brooch found on the island was recently reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS reference IOW-DA5661). The brooch has a circular flat frame, within which is a monogram formed by three serified capital letters, from left to right R, M and A, connecting to the frame at the extremities of R and A. The R is joined at top and base to the first vertical of M while M and A are ligatured, the last diagonal and vertical strokes of M also forming the vertical strokes of A. If read from left to right the text may be read as a lightly abbreviated form of R(o)ma. Alternatively the bowl of the R might be read as the otherwise absent O, giving unabbreviated Roma. If read instead from right to left (or from the back, reading left to right) the text may be rendered as



Am(o)r (or Amor). On the frame at the rear a pair of perforated lugs contain an iron axis bar and the loop of an iron pin, opposite a flat elongated catch-plate.

This is thought to be the first brooch of this form to be found in Britain, and it is believed to date from the later 2nd to earlier 3rd century. Often with military associations, it is of a type more usually found in Eastern Europe.

### For more information, see:

Pearce, J., Worrell, S., and Basford, F., 2016 *Mars, Roma or Love, Actually? A new monogram brooch from Britain*, *Lucerna*, **50**, 22-23.

## Quarr Abbey

Matt Garner, Archaeologist for Southampton City Council, contributes the following report.

The third and final season of the community excavation on the site of the medieval abbey took place in September 2016. The excavation of thirteen trenches was part of the 'Two Abbeys Project' funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The excavation team included people from Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit, the Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society (IWNHAS), the Isle of Wight Young Archaeologists' Club, and archaeology students from the universities of Cardiff, Southampton, and Winchester. Historic England issued Scheduled Monument Consent for the work.

The abbey was founded in 1131, defended by an enclosing wall with gun ports in the later 14th century, and closed in 1536. Percy Stone excavated part of the site (Excavation Field) in 1891. Since 1997 several fields have been surveyed by the University of Southampton using techniques including resistivity and magnetometry.



*Excavating the Chapter House at Quarr Abbey.*

In 2016 work continued in Excavation Field (Ruins Field) and new trenches were opened in Stony Acre to the north and St Benedict's Field to the east. Most of the trenches covered 4 sq m but some were slightly larger. Many of the trenches targeted geophysical anomalies.

In Excavation Field the trenches investigated the areas of the church, the cloister, the chapter house, and the refectory, and another was positioned on the abbey drain. A further trench investigated a possible post-medieval structure. In Stony Acre trenches investigated a putative north gatehouse, a culvert exit in the north wall of the abbey precinct, and another part of the abbey drain. In St Benedict's Field two trenches were positioned on a possible fishpond.

Medieval walls, foundations, and demolition rubble were present in several trenches. Most of the medieval features were oriented north-south and east-west. Medieval building material included West Country slate, local limestone and Purbeck Marble rubble, Greensand and Quarr limestone architectural fragments, lime mortar, floor tiles, hearth tiles, ridge tiles, and roof tiles. Purbeck limestone roof tiles were present in some trenches and Kimmeridge shale also may have been used for roofing. Few other

medieval finds were present but the pottery included sherds of jars and cooking pots.

One trench exposed the tiled floor and Purbeck Marble column bases of the chapter house. The arch for the abbey drain in the wall that separates Excavation Field and Stony Acre was exposed by excavation in both fields. At the north end of Stony Acre the trench adjacent to a blocked archway revealed the foundations of a possible gatehouse. Trenches in St Benedict's Field revealed a large hollow filled with limestone rubble and clay and water flows through the loose rubble towards the stream on the west edge of the field.

A post-medieval stone structure was further investigated in Excavation Field. It ran north-west to south-east and contained fragments of post-medieval brick. The soil layers around the wall contained other post-medieval material including bottle glass, roof tiles, tobacco pipes, pottery, iron nails, bird and mammal bones, and oyster shells. This is evidence of post-medieval occupation of the site.

The work showed that archaeological remains survive well in the abbey precinct and include post-medieval occupation evidence. A full report on the results of the project will be prepared in 2017.



# Wiltshire News

Daniel Miles

## Celebration of 30 years of Inscription of the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site and Launch of the Research Framework

A conference was held on November 18th in Devizes to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the inscription of Stonehenge and Avebury as a World Heritage Site. The conference brought together speakers from all over the UK and abroad looking at different aspects of Stonehenge and Avebury as well as other world heritage sites. The conference also saw the launch of the new combined Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Research Framework. The project, funded by Historic England and managed by Wessex Archaeology, worked with experts from across the heritage and cultural sectors, bringing together the knowledge of individual researchers, university academic staff, museum curators,

commercial contractors and local heritage societies to produce the research framework.

**For more information, visit:**  
[www.stonehengeandaveburywhs.org/world-heritage-site-research-framework](http://www.stonehengeandaveburywhs.org/world-heritage-site-research-framework)

## Further incredible discoveries at Larkhill and Bulford

Excavations have been continuing at Larkhill and Bulford ahead of the construction of new Army Service Family Accommodation under the Army Basing Programme. The work is being managed by the consultancy WYG on behalf of Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), with the investigations carried out by Wessex Archaeology. The discoveries, very close to the Stonehenge World Heritage Site, are so significant that it is believed they will change our understanding of this site and its surroundings.

The most astonishing find which has recently been reported in the national press has been the discovery of part of a Neolithic causewayed enclosure. Although only 100 metres of segmented ditches have been revealed by the excavation (the rest is within the limits of the Larkhill Garrison) it is estimated to be around 950 metres long and 200 metres in diameter. The site dates to around 3650 BC, about 700 years before Stonehenge was constructed, which indicates this was a special landscape for the people who lived there a long time before Stonehenge was built. A number of finds have been recovered from the ditches, including pottery, worked flint and a large stone saddle quern. Fragments of human skull were also found in the ditch. These finds suggest that some type of funerary or other religious ceremonies may well have taken place at the site. These may have involved feasting and the use and deliberate breaking of ceramic bowls. Fragments of smashed bowls and cattle bones were then placed in the ditch ends, which flank the causeway entrances.



*Military slit trench with rubbish, larkhill. Photo: Brian Edwards*

There are about 70 Neolithic causewayed enclosures in England and they have been interpreted as being major ceremonial gathering places, although their exact function or role is unknown. The only other one in the nearby area is the causewayed enclosure of Robin Hood's Ball.

The site is also interesting for the remains of an extensive and very well preserved First World War trench system – in fact two trench systems facing each other – the German and British lines. Evidence of the trenches is all over the Larkhill site and some of them cut the earlier prehistoric features. Documentary research is now underway to find out more about who was training there before going to the Front.

At the other nearby site at Bulford a double henge has been found, which is unique in Britain. The earliest phase of the henge dates to around 2900 BC, but it was modified in the Early Bronze Age (c. 2000 BC) which may

show that the function of the monument changed in time. One of the interesting finds from the henge was the skull of a wolf or large dog.

These new prehistoric sites found at Larkhill and Bulford are very significant for various reasons. The first at Larkhill shows the landscape was special a long time before the stones were erected at Stonehenge and both suggest that there is a great potential for more sites to be found within a short distance of the World Heritage Site. The prehistoric Stonehenge landscape may well be far more extensive than we think today.

Martin Brown of WYG will be giving a presentation on the recent finds at Larkhill and Bulford at the Wiltshire Archaeology conference on April 1st.

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



*A section through one of the ditches of the causewayed enclosure at Larkhill, and Matt Leivers of Wessex Archaeology giving a tour of the site. Photos: Brian Edwards.*





# Industrial Archaeology News

Peter Stanier

## Westbury cement works

A major Wiltshire industrial landmark was demolished at 7am on Sunday 18 September, watched by a very large crowd which had been assembling since before first light on and around the White Horse hill at Westbury. The landmark cement works chimney (hardly 'iconic') was just 1m shorter than Salisbury cathedral spire, and it was gone in seconds once the demolition button was pressed by a local schoolgirl. The cement works was opened in 1962 and when fully developed had two rotating steel tube kilns about 150m long. The first kiln was the largest of its type when installed, and Westbury was at one time the sixth largest cement works in the country. The location of the plant was well-planned, with sidings alongside the main line railway which provided distribution throughout the region. The main raw materials were Kimmeridge clay dug from pits next to the works and chalk from the escarpment above. Great care was taken to protect the escarpment and its famous White Horse by locating the large chalk pit

just behind the skyline and screened by trees. The quarried chalk was ground at the pit and sent as a slurry down to the works by pipeline. The cement works was a major employer in Westbury, where it was loved or hated, and produced around 25 million tonnes of cement during its existence. The owner Blue Circle was taken over in 2001 by Lafarge, becoming Lefarge Tarmac in 2013 and then just Tarmac. The cement works had been mothballed in 2009 and now the site awaits redevelopment in some form once all demolition has been completed.

Apart from its slender chimney, the large cement works was somehow dwarfed in the landscape when viewed from the White Horse. Now lost, it is a prime example of an industry which has come and gone within living memory, but perhaps too recent to be considered as 'archaeology'.

## Repairs at Wilton Windmill

Wilton Windmill near Great Bedwyn, Wiltshire, became sail-less after the two patent and two common sails were taken

down in early August and sent away for repairs by millwrights at Mapledurham. They required some attention having been on the windmill since its restoration from dereliction to working order in 1972-76. The brick tower mill dates from 1821 and has a notable fantail for keeping the cap and thus the sails turned into the wind. The mill is owned by Wiltshire Council and run by the Wilton Windmill Trust who produce flour here on those occasions the mill is working. It is a prominent landmark from the south when travelling on the A338 between Burbage and Hungerford. Wilton village is near Crofton (of canal beam engines fame) and Great Bedwyn, all well worth visiting.

## The Iron Duke returns

The 'Iron Duke' has been returned for display at Kingston Mills in Bradford on Avon, where it had served the once important rubber industry in the town from 1848 until the 1960s. The 16-tonne rolling machine, said to be the first of its type in Europe and rather like a giant mangle, attached rubber to cloth for waterproof garments. It lay dismantled in Bristol's industrial museum from 1973, but Heritage Lottery Funding has now enabled it to be restored by the Bradford on Avon Museum Society and Preservation Trust.



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



*Going...*



*Going.....*



*Gone.*



# Maritime Archaeology News

Stephen Fisher

## HMT Arfon

In August, Historic England announced that the wreck of HM Trawler *Arfon* had been designated under the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973. *Arfon* was a wooden fishing trawler, built in 1908 and requisitioned by the Royal Navy in 1914 at the outbreak of the First World War. Fishing vessels were very suitable for minesweeping work, as they were able to put to sea in all weathers and had ample space and machinery for the sweeping gear (they were so successful that the Admiralty even began building their own as the war wore on). Like many other requisitioned minesweepers, most of the *Arfon*'s crew were peacetime fishermen who had joined the Royal Navy Reserves. Many served on the ships they had sailed in peacetime.

Unfortunately *Arfon* struck a mine on the 30th April 1917 and sank with the loss of nine of her crew. Only three men survived.

Today its wreck lies just over two miles south of St Alban's Head in Dorset. It has only recently been positively identified and has been designated by Historic England owing to the fear that uncontrolled salvage may otherwise take place.

## Black Sea MAP

A little further away than *Arfon*, dozens of wrecks have recently been discovered in the Black Sea. The University of Southampton is one of the lead partners in the Black Sea Maritime Archaeology Project, which seeks to map the sea floor off the coast of Bulgaria. Last summer staff from the Centre for Maritime Archaeology visited the Black Sea on board the *Stril Explorer*, an off-shore vessel equipped with some of the most advanced underwater survey systems in the world. In the course of their surveys, the team have found more than 40 shipwrecks, many in excellent condition and some of which represent types of vessel that



Photogrammetric model of a shipwreck from the Ottoman period, discovered in the Black Sea. Image: Rodrigo Pacheco-Ruiz/EEF/Black Sea



MGB 81. Image courtesy of Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust.

have, until now, only existed in art from the Ottoman and Byzantine Empires.

## For more information, visit:

<http://blackseamap.com/>

## Coastal Forces

In November the government announced the latest round of funding to support Armed Forces and Emergency Services charities and other related good causes, using the LIBOR fines fund. These included commitments to two groups that seek to preserve the heritage of Coastal Forces, an often overlooked branch of the Royal Navy during the Second World War.

Coastal Forces were equipped with the 'little ships' of the Royal Navy's fleet; Motor Torpedo Boats (MTBs) and Motor Gun Boats (MGBs). Throughout the war these small craft patrolled the coast, escorted convoys and aggressively sought out enemy shipping. Primarily operating at night, these small vessels played a crucial part in the war at sea both in home waters and in the Mediterranean.

The LIBOR funding has been awarded to the Coastal Forces Heritage Trust so that a heritage centre dedicated to their story can be established in Gosport. Funding has also been awarded to Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust, who maintain MGB 81, one of the few restored vessels still afloat. The

funding will pay for new engines that will help keep 81 operational for many years to come. It will also cover the cost of building a full size working replica of Coastal Motor Boat 4, a First World War MTB with a distinguished career, as well as the restoration of a F8, a Falklands War landing craft, and Steam Cutter 26, a First World War ship's boat from HMS *Falmouth*.

By chance, your maritime representative spent much of his spare time last summer carrying out a survey of surviving Coastal Forces vessels. Although there are only a handful of restored boats, far more survivors still exist as houseboats. There are in fact 39 such boats around the country, but time is not on the side of them all. MTB 24 at Bembridge on the Isle of Wight is no longer afloat and, unless it is rescued soon, will probably be broken up this year to free up a mooring space. One of a class of only two vessels, she and her sister ship were probably the only Coastal Forces boats in front line service from the start of the war to the very end. Were she a wreck, she would probably be assigned high significance in a desk based archaeological assessment. As a dilapidated houseboat she draws no such attention.

A map of the surviving vessels around Britain can be found on the (still far from complete) website.

## For more information, visit:

[www.spitfiresofthesea.com](http://www.spitfiresofthesea.com)

# Discover archaeology in Wessex...

## **CBA Wessex 2017 Walks**

**Danebury Ring with Dave Allen.** *23 April, starting at 10.30am*

An opportunity to explore this iconic Iron Age hillfort with Hampshire's Curator of Archaeology. Not many visitors to Danebury Ring appreciate the scale of the archaeological excavations that took place there. This walk will examine the obvious earthworks and point out some of the less obvious ones, but more than that, it will bring you up to date with all the latest research.

**Portland Quarries & Tramways, with Peter Stanier.** *11 June, starting at 10am.*

This walk explores industrial archaeology around the north of Portland, where the source of the world famous stone can be seen in abandoned quarry faces, tramway courses, tunnels and more. The circular walk takes in the west cliffs, Tout and King Barrow Quarries and follows the Merchants Railway and its branches. The Victorian defences of the Verne and High Angle Battery could be included, time permitting.

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 Peter Stanier at [walks@cba-wessex.org.uk](mailto:walks@cba-wessex.org.uk)

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## **CBA Wessex 2017 Conference**

Bringing the Past to Life: Science in Archaeology. Keep an eye on the website for details of speakers. Booking now open on our website.

4 November 2017. Registration at 9.20am, conference begins at 10.00am.

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More details of these events and future ones can be found on our website. New events for the year, including walks and study days, will be added to our calendar soon. Online booking can be found at

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