



East Dorset Antiquarian Society

www.dorset-archaeology.org.uk

mail@dorset-archaeology.org.uk

Edited by: Andrew Morgan, email: andrewmorgz@aol.com , tel: 01202 731162

NEWSLETTER – May 2012

EDAS COMMITTEE 2012-13

Following the AGM elections our committee now comprises:

Chairman	John Day
Secretary	Brian Maynard
Membership Secretary	Helen Brickell
Programme Secretary	Steve Smith
Treasurer	Peter Walker
General Members:	Graham Adams, Lilian Ladle, Andrew Morgan, Bryan Pople, Dave Stewart
Co-opted:	Della Day, Karen Winsor

EDAS LECTURE: “Damerham Archaeology Project – More to find in the Wessex Heartlands” with Martyn Barber of English Heritage, Aerial Survey Team.

Martyn is an enthusiastic advocate for aerial photographs and other remote sensing techniques that can be used to identify archaeological features. During his talk, held on 18th April, Martin explained his quest to improve the methodology for analysing aerial photographs: by comparing initial interpretations with the actual features uncovered through geophysics and excavation. He explained that aerial photographs are not very good with pasture and admitted that he is still not sure why crop marks show up.

He emphasised that there many aerial photographs in the public domain which have not yet been used and enthused that they will help uncover many more sites not visible from the ground.

English Heritage has an annual reconnaissance programme which includes 300 hours of aerial photography. This usually focuses on new areas, but in 2001-3 Damian Grady arranged flights along lengths of the Avon Valley. Subsequent analysis by Martyn found clear crop marks in the fields adjacent to Damerham identifying something of potentially great significance. This was confirmed by mapping the cropmarks in 2003 and a site visit. Two Long Barrows were identified a few hundred metres apart, one featured on a C18th Tithe maps but it was not recorded on subsequent maps.



NMR 21271/05 © English Heritage.NMR. Photographer: Damian Grady.

Supported by Kingston University, English Heritage, archaeologists, farmers and the local community, the Damerham Archaeology Project was set up to preserve our outstanding of this archaeological landscape.

The Damerham Archaeology Project aims to:

1. Confirm the presence and refine the detail of the cropmark sites
2. Compare results of aerial reconnaissance with geophysical techniques
3. Discover new components that may lie hidden beneath other fields adjacent to the cropmark sites
4. Recover and map datable material – artefacts – which may be present on the surface of the ploughsoil

In 2009, geophysics revealed extensive traces of archaeological features, which were very different character to the predominantly Neolithic and Bronze Age ceremonial and funerary monuments seen from the air. The geophysical survey showed a landscape of linear land divisions, possibly boundaries of Bronze Age or Iron Age date.

The summer of 2010 saw the digging of the first trenches, alongside a continuing geophysical survey. These were relatively small trenches aimed at enhancing their understanding of some of the results from the aerial and geophysical surveys. The barrow mound lies on a deposit of Undifferentiated Head capping a low, broad chalk ridge. The composition of this soil – clay with plentiful quantities of gravel – contributed to unusual geophysics results. In 2011 the team concentrated on the Dampney Barrow.

To date in excess of 40 ring ditches and numerous pre-historic field boundaries have been identified and will be further investigated in the next phase of the project.

There are a number of innovative approaches within an intensive post excavation programme which includes soil sampling so that they can make a comparison of the prehistoric environment with a flora/fauna survey of the present. They are also undertaking an analysis of Magnetotactic bacteria, which align themselves to the Earth's magnetic field, and are very sensitive to the environment; this involves the development of a new methodology. They will provide material from the Long Barrow for use by a project to that will use Bayesian analysis techniques for precise radiocarbon dating.

The team comprises a mix of local people and students; the challenge is to get the balance right. Martyn concluded by saying that there are opportunities for volunteers from mid-August through to September, and that the team are looking for people who can commit to several consecutive days. For further information visit their web-site: <http://www.damerhamarchaeology.org/damerham/>

We would like to thank Martyn for a very interesting talk - several EDAS members are already involved with the Damerham Archaeology Project - and we look forward to hearing more in the future.

Andrew Morgan

EDAS ARCHAEOLOGY REPORT

Clay Tobacco Pipe Kiln, at Westport, Wareham

Start date: 14th May - Volunteers are needed, all welcome – lots of tasks!

Further excavation of a clay tobacco pipe kiln, initially investigated last September. Kiln belonged to Augustus Moore who worked in Wareham from 1830 to 1834 when he was prosecuted, and then transported to Australia for stealing. Excavation is being run by Robert Lancaster (member) of the Dorset Clay Tobacco Pipe Research Group.

Work starts on Monday May 14th and it is anticipated that it will last about three weeks.

Ring or email Lilian Ladle for further information (01929 553144 and bestwall@tiscali.co.uk)

Robert Lancaster and Lilian Ladle

Druce Farm Roman Villa

Start Date: August (TBC) - Volunteers will be needed.

A new Dorset villa has recently been confirmed by magnetometry survey. An independent evaluation on behalf of the landowner Mrs Ann Ridout will take place during August. EDAS members will be welcome, particularly those with excavation experience. It is anticipated that the work will be conducted over about three weeks. More information will be given in the summer newsletter.

Ring or email Lilian Ladle for further information (01929 553144 and bestwall@tiscali.co.uk)

Lilian Ladle

WILKSWORTH

Wilksworth is a place one passes on the way to Wimborne from Cranborne. It is known by most of us as a caravan site and little else. At times of flood old water meadows are revealed in the valley; water meadows played a very important part in the agriculture revolution. Like many nondescript places it has an interesting history.

At the time of Domesday one of the tenants was a man called Dodo – a common name at this time – who also held property at Edmonsham and may have held land at Woolcombe. It is quite likely he was a monk. Other tenants at this time were Ailrun and Alward. At the time of Henry VI the manor was divided between three tenants, although the boundaries at this time are not now known. Later, Wimborne Deanery held Wilksworth but it is not until the Tudor period do we have owners who we recognise today. After the suppression of religious houses Henry VIII granted it to Queen Katherine Howard and later to Queen Catherine Parr, passing soon afterwards to the Hanham family.

While in the hands of the Hanhams it was the site of the Manor Court, some of the records still exist. They are difficult to read most being in Latin and written in a very old fashion style, both in the handwriting and sentence structure, hard to decipher even when in English. Reading them reveals the day to day events that took place.

The Manor Court roll for May 1667 starts off: “At a Court of the Manor of William Hanham Bart held the sixth day of May in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Charles the Second Anno Domini 1667 by the Stephen Bowdidge gent steward it is inrolled as followeth.” This is followed by the names of the jurors: Richard Dean, Thomas Budden and Margaret Bennet, widow. These are all names that crop up from time to time in the Allen Valley. Budden in particular occurs in the Hinton Martel and Horton area. An interesting feature is that one of the jurors is a woman. This is unusual at this time. Being a widow one can only imagine her husband had been a regular juror. It is of course quite possible that earlier Court reports will reveal whether this is so. She reappears in 1669 but not in the intervening years.

The first case involves a Budden and reads:

“At this Court came James Pottle the elder, James Pottle the younger & William Pottle sons of the said James Pottle the elder, took of the Lord of the said Manor by the delivery of the said Steward

the reversion of one tenement with the Appurtenances parcel of the said Manor now in the tenure of Katherine Budden wife of Thomas Budden for the term of her life according to the customs of the said Manor to have and to hold the said tenement with Appurtenances to them the said James Pottle, James Pottle, William Pottle for their lives and the life of a every of them longest living successfully at the Will of the Lord according to the Customs of the said Manor when by from and after the death surrender forfeiture or other determinations of the estate of her the said Katherine Budden the same shall happen to come into the hands of the Lords rendering therefore yearly the rent of 9s. 1d. and a Herriot when it shall happen so doing soke & suite to the Lords Mill commonly called Walford Mill and doing and performing all other customs duties & services of ancient time and of right accustomed for the same And for such estate therein so granted the said .James Pottle, James Pottle & William Pottle gave to the said Lord for a fine four score Pounds beforehand paid and were admitted tenants in reversion but there fealties and are respited etc.

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An exercise after dinner one evening is to translate this into modern English, and it is one of the easier records!

John W. Day

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EDAS EVENTS – 2012
Wed 9th May	EDAS Lecture: “The Big Dig and Banjo’s at Winterborne Kingston. Investigating the daily lives of the Durotriges” with Dr Miles Russell of Bournemouth University.
Sat 9th June to Sat 16 th June	EDAS Field Trip: to Exmoor. For more information contact Alan and Anita Hawkins: email - alhawk@ntlworld.com , Tel: 01202 668178 or Mob: 07985 957235.
SUMMER BREAK	
Wed 12 th September	EDAS Lecture: “The Chiseldren Cauldron”, with Dr Andrew Fitzpatrick, Wessex Archaeology
Wed 10th October	The David Johnson Memorial Lecture: with Tim Schadla-Hall
Wed 14th November	EDAS Lecture: “The Lands of the Queen of Sheba – Myth, History and Endemics” Ian Lewis
Wed 12th December	EDAS Lecture: “Were the Romans like us”, with Geoff Taylor

Workshop with Nick Griffiths

Due to new work commitments Nick has not been able to finalise the date for his workshop but he remains keen to come back to Wimborne in the near future.

Steve Smith