East Dorset Antiquarian Society

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NEWSLETTER – October 2021

Editor's Notes

As you'll know, in another step on our journey to 'normality', we return to St. Catherine's Hall at long last on Wednesday 13th October for a 7:30 start. Prof Dave Parham of Bournemouth University will be speaking on Bronze Age Shipwrecks found in UK waters, but bringing in their international contexts. I do hope that many of you will be able to attend.

As announced in the last newsletter, the church has set some rules for the hall, aimed at keeping people as safe as possible: Currently that means that you'll need to sign in at the door, where hand sanitiser will be available and face masks are recommended, though not compulsory. Do bring your own refreshments for the break as we can't provide them at the moment, and please help sanitise the chairs at the end of the evening. We'll obviously let you know if things change.

The first lecture of our new season was held on *Zoom* so that our lecturer didn't have to travel from Exeter. Many thanks to Lucy Shipley for her stimulating talk on **The Etruscans**, summarised below. Using *Zoom* does, as with Lucy, give possibilities for people to speak to us who would otherwise have to travel too far, but we're intending to be at St. Catherine's Hall for most of our future lectures.

EDAS is always keen to provide opportunities for people to join the excavation team and learn more about archaeology at the sharp end. Those with experience know that it may not always be plain sailing, sometimes frustrating, but always interesting, even fascinating. We're happy that several new diggers have been able to come along this year and pleased that Vivienne Arkell has taken the time to tell us of her experience of joining us at All Hallows: **Reflections of a Novice Digger**.

Thanks to Alan Dedden we were able to offer 2 walks that he researched and led, described here by Vanessa Joseph as **The Cranborne Chase walk.** Of course, Alan has also provided the long-running series of **Weblinks**, looking at articles with an archaeological or historical bent that he's found in the media and commenting upon them in the **Weblink Highlights**.

The summary of a paper on **Surveys and excavation at Badbury Rings** by Martin Papworth (*et. al.*) is given here with Martin's kind permission. EDAS was heavily involved in the earliest interventions, but rather a long time ago - a further tribute to the indefatigable John Day.

The previous article is quite long, so that I've not been able to fit in the next in Neil Meldrum's series, nor the next View from Above, though the series on Roman epitaphs is here: **Remembering the Romans XIV**. The **EDAS Programme** and **District Diary** complete this month's newsletter.

Geoff Taylor

The Etruscans – *ZOOM* lecture by Dr. Lucy Shipley

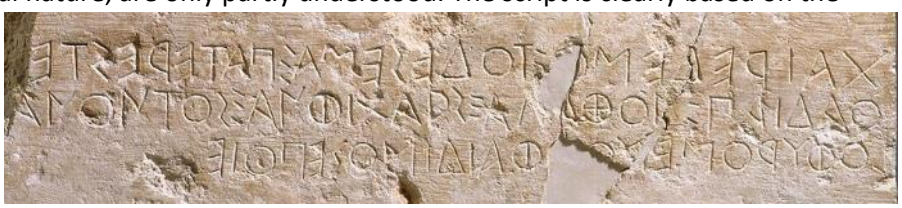
The alternative title, *un bel giro Toscano*, can be translated as "a lovely tour of Tuscany", and Lucy was certainly wishing to be back there (no doubt many of us too). We might think we know the area of 'Chiantishire', with its beautiful countryside, wine, people and so on, though a mid-19th century book complained of the bandits and mosquitos. Under the surface though, quite literally as we're mainly talking of tombs, are remnants of the earlier Etruscan civilisation.

Books about the "mysterious Etruscans" aren't uncommon, and that bolsters the modern popular perception that we know little of them. The visual media perpetuate the view, with an Etruscan necropolis used in the film *The Omen* and Volterra (Felathri) being a vampire town in the *Twilight* series. DH Lawrence visited the area in 1927, seeking out Etruscan tombs in several places and writing about them in *Etruscan Places*, published posthumously in 1932. His view of the ancient civilisation was unscientific imaginings based on the tomb paintings but he did, at least, counter the prevailing view that the Etruscans were inferior to the Romans. In fact, the Etruscans were a strong influence on Rome – the map shows just how close the Etruscan region was to Rome; Veii is only 16km away. Indeed Roman legend has it that Romulus and Remus founded the city using an Etruscan ritual.

The 12 main Etruscan cities, or 'Dodecapolis', are shown on the map, though this seems to have been more a loose confederation than a single 'state'. The expansion after 750 BC looks Etruscan in terms of material culture, but it's not clear if it was actually physical colonisation. After 500 BC Etruscan power diminished as Rome's increased, with a key date being Rome's siege and conquest of Veii in 396 BC. Within a century the Gauls had conquered the Etruscan areas in the Po Valley and Rome completed its conquest of Etruria *c*.264 BC, though elements of the culture and language persisted for a couple of centuries.

There are several reasons why the Etruscans are considered to be mysterious, but perhaps the most important one is that they were seen from the outside. There are no surviving historical or literary Etruscan texts, so information about them was derived from Roman and Greek sources. For example, Herodotus thought that they came from Lydia, i.e. western Turkey, when all the evidence suggests that they were indigenous to Italy – a Bronze Age tribe or grouping which became recognisably distinct early in the Iron Age *c*.900 BC. The Greeks thought that the Etruscans were depraved, as they brought their wives in after dinner instead of prostitutes or boys. The Emperor Claudius commissioned research on the Etruscans as they were 'so far in the past'.

There is also much uncertainty about the language used, so that translations of such limited writing as we have, mostly of a functional nature, are only partly understood. The script is clearly based on the Greek alphabet, though written from right to left, one reason for the view that the Etruscans came from the east. The earliest known inscriptions are from around 700 BC, a time when the Greek colonies of 'Magna Graecia' dominated much of southern



Italy, which may suggest rather nearer links and influences than Greece itself. However, it does seem that the Etruscan language was not Indo-European, with some relationship to early languages spoken in the Alps and on the island of Lemnos. Although the Romans reported that the Etruscans had many books, only part of one has survived, the *Liber Linteus*, which survived because the linen it was written on was re-used as mummy wrappings. The mummy was bought by a minor Croatian official in about 1849 and displayed in his sitting room till his death 10 years later, in later years with the wrappings in a separate case. It later passed to a museum, but the inscriptions weren't recognised as Etruscan until 1891. Insofar as it can be translated, it seems to be a religious calendar.

Lucy introduced us to 4 Etruscan cities which encapsulate the knowledge of, and problems with, Etruscan archaeology, and which also give suggestions for visits if you're in the area – Orvieto in Umbria (Etruscan name *Velzna*), Chiusi in Tuscany (*Clevsin*), and Tarquinia (*Tarchna*) and Vulci (*Velch*) in Lazio.

Orvieto is spectacularly sited on an isolated, steep-sided outcrop of tuff, a relatively soft volcanic rock easily tunnelled into (the rock is often inaccurately called *tufa*). Subsequent building, mainly medieval, has removed most of the remains of Etruscan structures, but amongst the tunnels under the city are Etruscan drains which follow a grid pattern unlike the medieval layout. This pattern is mirrored in the few Etruscan settlements not subsequently built upon and in the layout of the Etruscan necropolis just under the city walls, with the family tombs looking like rows of houses.

Excavations in the 19th century and well into the 20th were, on the whole, poorly done and badly recorded. Tombs were left open and the wall paintings and inscriptions damaged by visitors before some were removed to the museum. The tomb paintings were amongst those that probably gave rise to the view of Etruscans as 'depraved' or hedonistic. However, now that our knowledge of the language has improved, we can tell that they are scenes showing the deceased and family members – e.g. banqueting with the gods – as the figures are named. There is a partly-preserved temple, called the Apollo Belvedere but actually to the Etruscan god Tinia. Originally, the temple had mythical scenes on the pediments, suggested as a parallel with Greek temples, though these were ceramic rather than in marble and the link is probably unwarranted.

Orvieto encapsulates some of the key issues: Etruscan settlements built over, leading to an over-reliance on funerary archaeology; the long-lasting effects of subsequent propaganda, especially Greek and Roman; interpretations that persist though based on poor archaeology and a very limited understanding of the Etruscan language. The Etruscan sites around Chiusi show similar issues, but also the beginnings of a better understanding from newer excavations and analysis of artefacts. These excavations have produced a wealth of material and Chiusi has one of the best museums of Etruscan items, but built under Mussolini in a classical style suggesting Roman or Greek remains.

There are several necropolises in the area, often subjected to antiquarian excavation and dispersal of finds, like the Hellenistic cremation urn from a German museum at the left below. Some are simply labyrinthine tunnels in the tufa, at least one simply left open for people to crawl through the small entrance holes if they dare. But there are also more recently discovered cemeteries with excavations

over the last two decades, allowing placement of the grave goods in their proper contexts, as in the reconstruction here.

It is clear that the Etruscans were master potters. Imitating bronze was a key technique, as with the urn with the head on top. There is also a theme in cremation urns over many centuries that, although in many different styles, they show some aspect of 'remaking' the deceased. We might link this to cemeteries, like that at Orvieto, which remade houses.

A good part of the Etruscan city at Tarquinia was not built upon subsequently, leaving the remains of houses and at least one temple. The Monterozzi necropolis is an extraordinary survival of around 6,000 tombs, at least 200 with beautiful wall paintings recreating Etruscan life, such as the banquet at the right, but also other rooms, gardens and sporting events, as well as erotic and mythical scenes. Many were used and expanded over several centuries – a recreation of life and homes, but there's also recreation of houses in some tombs with these ceramic 'huts' for the cremated remains.

Unlike most Etruscan settlements, Vulci was built on low ground, close to marshes. Whilst relatively little survives of the Etruscan city, this became a stop on the Grand Tour in the 18th and 19th centuries because of the paintings in the tombs and the objects also found in them, sold and dispersed around the world to both private buyers and museums, like the bronze amphora here in the British Museum. Vulci shows some of the best evidence for Etruscan trading, with similar objects found in France and Germany, such as the Etruscan bronze wine jug in the grave of the 'Lady of Vix' from *c*.500 BC. Whilst most Etruscan bronze items were recycled later, bronze cinerary 'huts' were found in the tombs here, and some spectacular bronzes are known, as well as more utilitarian items like kitchen equipment and weapons.

The clearest links are with Greece in the form of Attic-type vases and drinking vessels. That pictured might be thought to be Greek but is actually Etruscan, said to be 'a poor imitation' though actually just as accomplished but showing a different mythology. Evidence is now quite strong that the Etruscans weren't simply copying the Greeks but that there was an exchange of ideas and even of personnel, e.g. the shapes of Etruscan imitation bronze pottery mirrored in

Greek vases and Etruscan potters working in Athens. A number of Etruscan bronzes have been found at Olympia and Etruscan jewellery seems to have been traded with Greece.

More is continually being found to round out the story, even at sites that were thought to be well known, and some of the details in Lucy's book[1] are already out of date. The Etruscans are becoming better known, though dispelling the propaganda and interpretations from the past may take some time. Even DNA studies have, as yet at least, proved inconclusive as so little bone remains from which DNA could successfully be extracted.

1. Shipley, L. 2017. Lost Civilizations – The Etruscans. Reaktion Books.

Geoff Taylor

Reflections of a Novice Digger

There is always an element of trepidation when approaching new situations and it was no different for me when I joined the EDAS team at the All Hallows excavation recently. In all fairness I had had a taster day at The Keeper's Lodge dig in the dim and distant past (2019). I remembered being rather overwhelmed and in awe of the whole process, but excited just to be there.

I responded to Andrew's request for volunteers; he accepted all five dates and sent me the joining instructions. The evening before my first day I decided to get ready. I knew I had a kneeling pad and a garden trowel in the shed and eventually remembered the bucket that I use for cleaning the kitchen floor. The hand shovel defeated me so I took a plastic dustpan just in case. My husband kindly made my packed lunch and so on Tuesday 20th July I set off with suntan cream and a sun hat as it was a scorching day. Unfortunately timekeeping is not my strong point (if I have any!) but I surpassed all my own expectations and arrived on time. As I got out of the car I was greeted by a very warm voice saying "you must be Vivienne". I was totally taken aback but very pleased.

I joined about 12 others under the gazebo and room was made for me and a chair found. I already knew Alan, recognised Andrew's face from the *Zoom* sessions and had met Vanessa recently on an archaeological walk. I was assigned to Trench 3 with Andrew, but first Alan gave me a tour of the site and put everything into context which was so useful. I noticed that everyone was wearing gloves and kicked myself for not remembering these very important items. Luckily Sue came to the rescue with a brand-new second pair that she lent me. How organised is that! My garden trowel was looked at with astonishment, of course everyone was using special pointy ones. Alan came to the rescue here and lent me a spare one of his. Trying to purchase one was a nightmare as I went to Jewson's that evening but the sizing was wrong. Eventually I ordered one online, but when it arrived it was the right shape but the wrong size again, so I had to send it back and the correct one arrived for the very last day. I do hope it gets more future use. My dustpan was rather too wide so I replaced it with a brass shovel I use for the wood burner. I will buy a proper one as it was too small really.

With Maryanne shifting flint

If you have any trepidation about volunteering let me assure you that everyone looks out for everyone else. It's a real team effort and I felt people bent over backwards to make sure I felt included the whole time.

I decided the best thing to do as a novice was to watch and learn. Andrew was a fantastic teacher, showing me how to remove the soil carefully and how to identify mortar, greensand stone and tiles. I got to work and two hours passed in the blink of an eye. I found thin slivers of glass that I had to put into a plastic bag with water. Trench 3 was unfortunately in the full sun, so I was very pleased when it was lunchtime to get in the shade. Delicious sandwiches as always, followed by an amazing array of cakes provided by Lindsey, which made the whole day worth volunteering for. A must in everyone's life.

At 2 o'clock I told Andrew I couldn't stay in the sun anymore and went into the shade in the tent to wash finds following Alan's instructions. If only I had brought my protective washing up gloves as I never put my hands into water without them, but determined to give of my best I left my fingers to crinkle in the water. This was a big deal for me! Hand cream now added to essentials. I was worried about Andrew, who had stayed in the trench and looked very hot, and I tried to persuade him to come into the shade. He took no notice of me, but I think he may in the future; I'm sure he suffered from sunstroke later!

When I got home that night I ached all over. I am not a gardener and not used to bending and getting up and carrying buckets of soil, so muscles I didn't even know I had let me know they were there. But I felt elated as well. Being a small cog in a big wheel was perfect for me.

The next four volunteer days were all so different and all with their own rewards. I worked on Trenches 1 and 2 under the careful eye of both Alan and Vanessa. Vanessa even pointed out my walking sandals did not meet health and safety requirements, but luckily they did protect the feet well. I learnt how to use a trowel, a pick, how to clean the stone walls, how to use a wire brush very carefully, how to correctly label finds showing context to name a few things. I asked many questions and was always supported and helped to understand what I was doing and why. I needed to hear it many times before I understood though.

Other new, and not so new, diggers at All Hallows

I knelt on the exact spot that Vanessa found a mediaeval coffin lid a few days later. To me that was my highlight. I also wanted to find a nail, which I did, and some beautiful pieces of tile. It seems strange, but to discover something that has been in the ground for so long touches one's heart. I loved the banter at break times and the friendships formed by talking as we worked. Sometimes I didn't even want to stop for a break as it is all so consuming. I can't recommend more strongly putting yourself forward when another opportunity arises.

On the Saturday I offered to help with the Open Day for the local community. The buzz and excitement generated by visitors was amazing and I was pleased to be part of it. I joined Geoff's tour and part of Phil's and learnt so much more by listening to these experienced practitioners. The display and the care taken over every single aspect should make everybody feel proud. I took my 4-year-old granddaughter on the second day to show her what I had been up to. We only stayed a few minutes but we also went to St Giles church and her comments suggested a connection had been made even at such a young age. We have talked of it since. Who knows if this might spark a future interest.

I can't thank you all enough for including me.

Vivienne Arkell

The Cranborne Chase walk

During September, Alan Dedden led two different groups on a nine mile walk around Cranborne Chase. The walk started and ended at Down Farm and included part of the St Giles estate carriage ride, a section of the Ackling Dyke overlooking the Oakley Down barrow cemetery, Sixpenny Handley Church and Gussage Down. 35 people from EDAS and other societies participated over the two days and the weather was good on both occasions, allowing us to appreciate the glorious views around us. Thanks to Alan for researching and leading the walks.

At the end of each walk, Martin Green kindly gave us a tour of the archaeology on his land. He also opened his museum for us. Thanks to Lindsey Dedden for providing tea and delicious cakes – with bone china and cake forks, can you believe it? A total of £214.50 was raised for Martin's chosen charity, Cherry Tree Nursery, and Martin has written to say he received a nice 'thank you' letter from them.

Vanessa Joseph

Sue examines a cross section of Ackling Dyke. The raised road of white chalk would have made Roman troop movements highly visible in the surrounding landscape.

Alan telling the group about the St Giles estate carriage ride which dates from the late 1700s/early 1800s. The nine-mile route was created as a diversion for the young families of the 5th Earl of Shaftsbury and his cousin, the Rev Charles Talbot.

Coffee break on top of Ackling Dyke before tackling an unexpected electric fence across our route.

A single cow on Oakley Down on the Wednesday walk. On Saturday, a herd of about 100 decided to patrol the route and had to be moved away from the electric fence to allow the group to proceed.

The barrow cemetery at Oakley Down contains all barrow types apart from a pond barrow.

Fir Tree Field and Gussage Down

Viv and Dave sit on an excavated edge of the Dorset Cursus whilst Martin Green discusses the significance of the Cursus in the prehistoric landscape.

Surveys and excavation at Badbury Rings

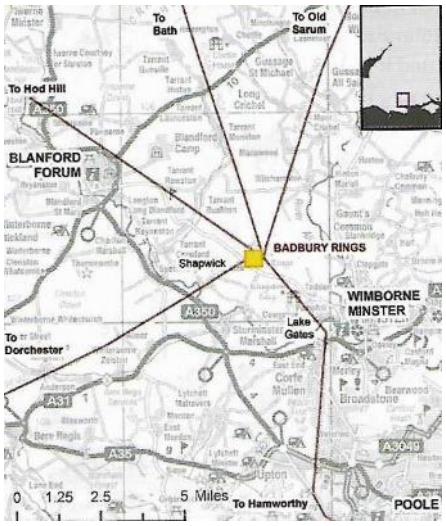
This article summarises a paper in the Dorset Proceedings[1], covering surveys and excavation work at Badbury Rings done 17 years ago, but compared with much more recent LiDAR images.

In fact, most of the excavation work was done by a large number of EDAS members in September 2004, with trenches inside and against the inner rampart 25m south of the west entrance (I), along both sides of the north-west vista from the summit (II & III) and in the car park (IV) (see further information after this article). There were articles in the EDAS newsletter shortly after, as well as an interim report in the Proceedings. A geophysical survey was done by Dave Stewart for English Heritage in 2007, though is unpublished. Badbury Rings is, of course, the EDAS logo on this newsletter, drawn by Len Norris in 1983.

Trench I

Trenches II (right) & III

Badbury Rings Iron Age hillfort, 5km NW of Wimborne, has 3 sets of concentric ramparts with outer ditches, enclosing an inner area of about 7ha (17 acres) with a barbican entrance to the west and a simpler eastern entrance. Its summit is the highest point in the area, along with nearby High Wood, which has an Iron Age enclosure but with an internal ditch. Roman roads pass close by, with a crossroads in 'Batts Bed' field, coming from Old Sarum, Lake Farm fortress/Hamworthy, Dorchester and Bath. There is an uncertain Roman road to the north-west towards Hod Hill and perhaps Ilchester.

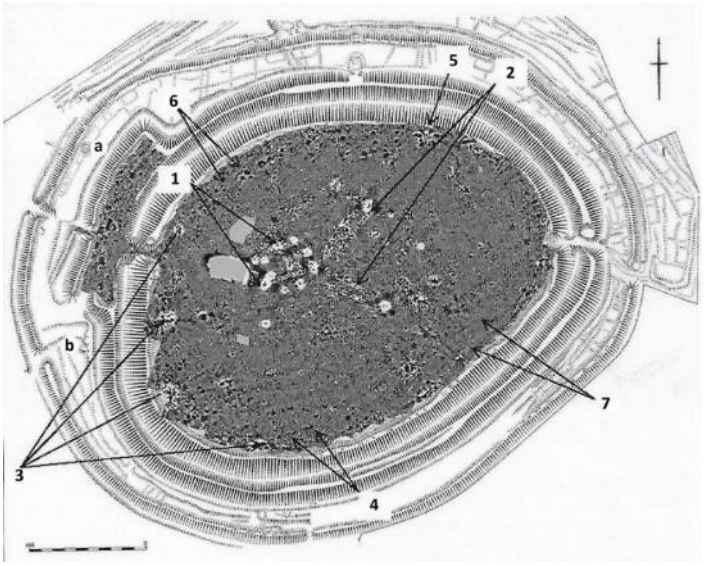


The impetus for excavation was Martin's PhD looking at Iron Age settlement around Dorset hillforts, as there was a severe lack of chronological information for Badbury. Unsurprisingly, the origins, use and development of this imposing earthwork have been puzzled over for centuries. For example, was it the site of Roman *Vindogladia* (or *Vindocladia*) in the Antonine Itinerary, now felt to be near Shapwick, or the site of Arthur's battle against the Saxons at Mount Badon?

Martin describes Badbury's history from the earliest known record, in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, when Edward the Elder camped there on the way to Wimborne to defeat his cousin, Æthelwold, in 901. Later records start to give a clearer view of the area's more ancient history, including steadily improving surveys and maps, but also of damage to the hillfort from such as tree planting and its likely use as part of a rabbit warren. There are several 17th to 19th century descriptions of Roman finds, including swords and coins, with 19th century finds of a bronze rapier and palstave axe suggesting significance in the Late Bronze Age. As early as 1821, Richard Colt Hoare suggested that the outer rampart was a late addition. In the 20th century, increasing leisure time and car ownership brought many people to Badbury Rings, causing considerable erosion, including from motor cyclists using it a scrambling site.

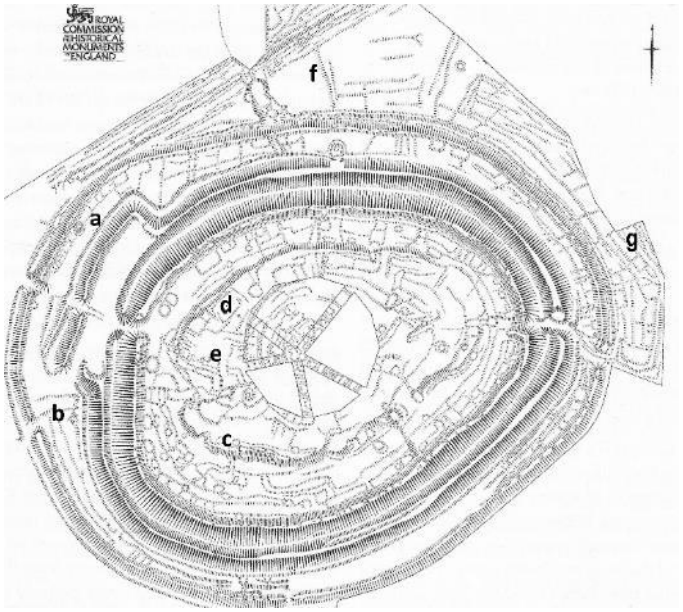
Visitors and their dogs meant that farmers were unwilling to graze their animals there, and scrub cover expanded. The acquisition of the Kingston Lacy estate by the National Trust in 1982 brought phased improvements in access, parking, repairs of eroded areas and periodic removal of scrub. Deciduous trees from an earlier plantation were removed by 1984, but [inexplicably to me – *ed*.] the NT decided to revive a 200 year old plan to plant 5 blocks of pine on the top with vistas between them. Thick scrub grew in the fenced plantations between the pines and wasn't removed, along with the fences, and the pines thinned until 1997. The RCHME were then able to complete their survey of the Rings, started in the 1960s (below). The remaining pines have slowly been removed, with the last due to go this year.

The magnetometry survey was most successful in the 20-40m wide band immediately inside the inner rampart, over chalk bedrock. The results were less clear on the sands, clays and gravels edged by a scarp, in the central area, particularly as this was the most contaminated with ferrous material. For example, the group of features at the summit (1) are the anchors of a WWII direction-finding tower, whilst radiating linear features (2) are the remains of fence lines. A ring of ferrous concentrations immediately within the rampart are most regularly spaced at '3' and may be the remains of modern clearance, though are similar to ones at Hod Hill where they were interpreted as iron smithing hearths. There is a scattering of pit-like anomalies below the central area, though not all very visible at this scale. The rectilinear 20mx30m pattern at '4' could be post pits for a large building, whilst there is a 15m diameter ring of similar anomalies at '5'. Traces of the ring gullies of round houses are clearest at '6', whilst '7' marks linear anomalies generally following the line of the rampart.



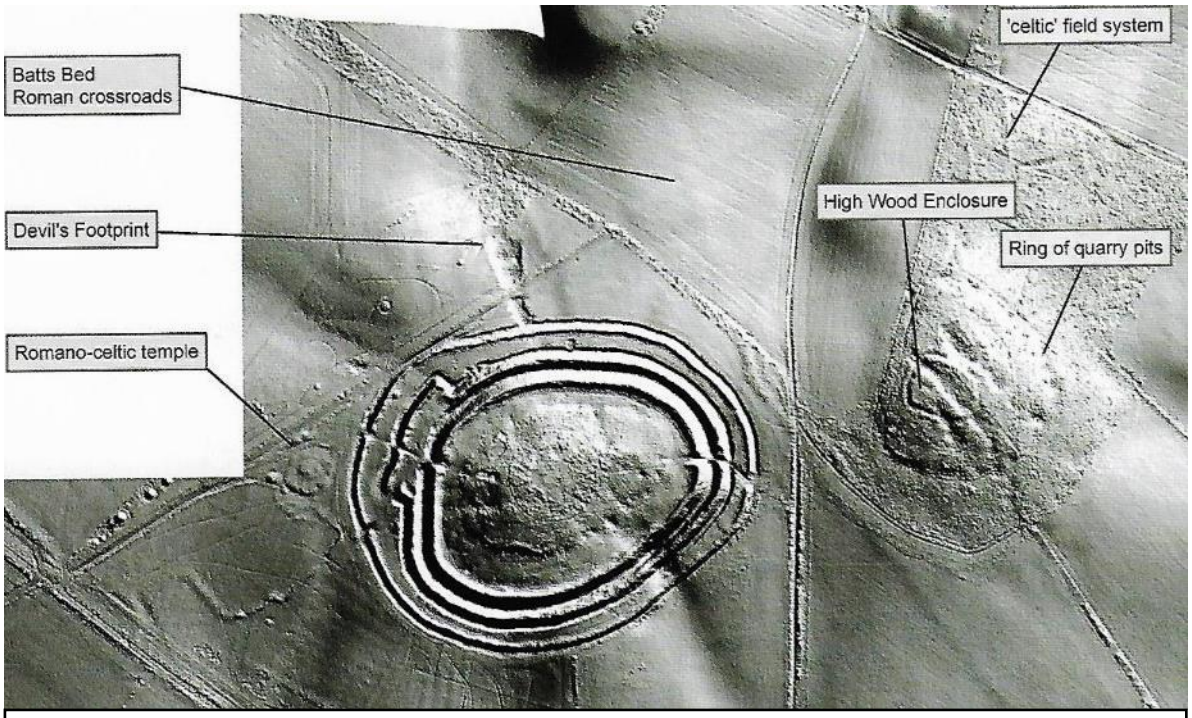
In summary, the survey suggests dense settlement activity, though excavation would be needed to understand the actual functions and dating of the different anomalies.

Although the two inner ramparts may have been built at different times, they appear to be part of a single design, including the barbican as there is no sign of a ditch crossing it, either on the surveys or LiDAR. The weaker outer rampart seems to be a later addition, appearing incomplete in places. The eastern in-turned entrances are typically Iron Age, but the gap in the outer rampart is clearly different, although is offset for defensive purposes. The gaps in the middle of the barbican and through the outer rampart have been suggested as Roman, whist those further south seem to be Victorian from map evidence.



Badbury Rings Royal Commission earthwork survey (RCHME 1998). © Crown copyright

Some of the features described here are lettered on the earthwork survey, though many are clearer on the LiDAR plot below. A linear group of 14 barrows has been identified across the western side of Badbury Hill, some cut by the Roman road and two ('a' and 'b') affected by the hillfort, unusual in that hillfort builders usually respected burial mounds ['a' is, however, only affected by the possibly later outer ramparts, whilst 'b' is possibly not a barrow – *ed.*]. The scarp edging the summit gravels is clear and may be partly natural, although has certainly been used as part of a bank construction at c. This may be an earlier univallate phase, particularly as a 6m wide ditch runs around the scarp. Earlier finds suggest this may be Bronze Age, whilst flints found in Trenches II and III may even point to a Neolithic origin. The ditch has been cut by 28 hollows thought to be the sites of round houses; one was proven as such by the Trench I excavation. The scarp has been damaged by quarrying, similar to that around the High Wood enclosure, quite possibly to provide Roman road metalling. Dew ponds, still used by grazing cattle, are at 'd' and 'e', the former (at least) probably 19th century.



LiDAR : Harry Manley/Bournemouth University 2016 © Environment Agency copyright and/or database right 2015

The Roman road to Dorchester is very visible in its 4th century final phase, crossing a lynchet at 'f' and over the north-south road at Batts Bed crossroads. The road from Hamworthy and Lake Farm is somewhat smaller but still clear up to its turn towards the crossroads, where it then continues towards Bath. Originally, the Hamworthy road would have split there ('g' on the earthwork survey) and continued northwest. It is possible, though with no clear evidence, that it continued beyond the Dorchester road towards Hod Hill, along the line of the straight parish boundary.

The 'Devil's Footprint' breaks into the side banks of the Roman road, and could be a chalk pit, like many in the vicinity, perhaps taking advantage of the deep natural hollow there (even clearer on the opposite side of the hillfort). It is also possible that this was a 'cross-ridge dyke', cutting access to the west in Saxon times, as the road appears to have been repaired subsequently as at Bokerley Dyke. The feature just west of the outer rampart, once thought to be a large barrow, is now known from Martin's work to be a Romano-Celtic temple surrounded by a large circular ditch. The enclosure just south of it, partly respecting the Roman road and one of the many barrows in this area, appears to be 5th century or later.

Trench I finds included part of a round house ring gulley and Iron Age pottery though, perhaps unusually, almost all quite late. There was also a scatter of late Roman items and ones from the 5th and 6th centuries, perhaps marking Badbury's enhanced post-Roman significance – the outer rampart could, thus, have been an additional line of defence built then. Beyond the flints in Trenches II and III

mentioned above, there was evidence of activity as early as the Mesolithic, but considerable ground disturbance up to the modern period reduced the usefulness of much of the evidence. Trench IV in the car park also showed considerable signs of disturbance and few clear features, although finds included pottery from the Bronze Age to the Medieval period, including the Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury fragment from a globular urn shown here. Pottery found within the hillfort suggests that there was little occupation or activity in the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages. Pollen samples imply that the hillfort was part of an open, agricultural landscape during the Iron Age, in contrast to the wooded Badbury over recent centuries.

In conclusion, it can be seen that Badbury hill has been the focus of human activity for at least 6,000 years. Lithic remains show occupation at both Badbury and High Wood in both the Neolithic and Bronze Age, with the group of barrows west of the hill showing its importance in the Early Bronze Age. Other evidence suggests an early hilltop enclosure, with the hillfort then extensively occupied in the Middle and especially later Iron Age from evidence so far. Three large Iron Age settlements are known within 2 km of Badbury, and it seems that the one at Crab Farm near the Stour to the west gained population at the expense of Badbury Rings early in the 1st century.

It seems likely that the Rings were re-fortified ahead of the conquest, though evidence for a battle is limited to chance finds of ballista bolts and a *pilum* head west of the hill. The Rings don't seem to have been occupied during the Roman period, development being limited to the roads and the temple, built on a Durotrigian sacred site from the coins found there, which continued in use throughout the Roman period. Evidence shows that the hillfort was re-occupied in the late 5th and 6th centuries, probably for security against the threat of Germanic invaders coming from the east. It is possible that the outer rampart was built at this time, and the Roman road blocked at the Devil's Footprint. As ever with archaeology, further interventions are needed to fully examine these and other possibilities.

1. Papworth, M. 2019. Excavation and survey at Badbury Rings, Dorset. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society* 140: 130-171 (with contributions by Ann Garvey, Lorraine Mepham, Matt Leivers, Jörn Schuster, Stephanie Knight, Catherine Chisham & Rob Scafe).

Martin Papworth/Geoff Taylor

In his paper, Martin thanked all those involved in the excavation, listed in the order in the hard to read, stained and battered site diary. From Andrew, and especially Peter, some of the names have been corrected, those known to have been members identified and even several photos found, including those of the trenches in the article. It's an impressive tribute to the Society's activities.

The following are those known to have been members (quite a few still are):
Annie Garvey, Sue Churchill, Sonia Ellingham, Alan & Anita Hawkins, Len & Pam Norris, Peter Walker, John & Della Day, Dave Stewart, Cara Higgins, Geoffrey Brown, Haydn Everall, Phil Colwell, Corinne Board, Mike & Anita Becker, Mike Fryatt, Pam & Derek Bunting, Heather Raggett, Henry Cole, Gill Broadbent, Corinne & Steve Bungay, Maureen Haughton, Danae Blank, Denise & Keith Allsopp.

Records and memories don't say if the others were members:
Peter Sides, Ken Standing, Dean Hind, Gary Edwards, Rachel Leverell, Robert Brotherston, Ian Williams, Joseph Snape, Hannah Whitock.

Some of these are shown on the photograph below.

Front row: unknown, John Day, Dave Stewart (behind), Sonia Ellingham, Alan Hawkins, unknown.
Back row: Nancy Grace, Danae Blank, Martin Papworth.

EDAS were at Badbury Rings even earlier – Norman Field and David Smith around 1985, from Len Norris.

Alan recently sent me a review of a book that might well be of interest to some members (see here). To save you looking at the link, the book is *Going to Church in Medieval England* by Nicholas Orme (Hardback, Yale University Press 2021). It's priced at £20, though some are selling it for a bit less, including the site in the link.

Just a few points from the review: "At times, the world Orme evokes is familiar … elsewhere, its alienness is striking: parishioners are told to stop licking relics … the women of Leicester throw stones at a deranged misogynist preacher".

Weblink Highlights September 2021

A strange contrast this month, as there are not so many weblinks but much to highlight. However, the first topic is an interesting resource giving access to historical maps, travel writing and statistics (although these are almost all 20th century). 'A Vision of Britain' (**here**) may not provide the answers you are looking for directly, but could be a useful starting point.

The weblink about the project to provide digital maps of all English churchyards online comes just at the point we are concluding our own research at Wimborne All Hallows - a worthwhile project both for historic research and genealogy. It will be interesting to see how our results compare.

Any item on discoveries in the Americas, such as the item this month on early humans now being found there between 23,000 and 21,000 years ago, always strikes me as ironic given that creationists (the US being their main stronghold) believe the Universe is no older than between 6,000 and 10,000 years.

Bournemouth University gets another mention following the report in the November 2020 newsletter about the team in New Mexico. This time they have been involved in the discovery of 200,000 year old handprints in Tibet.

Finally, an item not obviously associated with archaeology. The item about the distinctive stone found during bypass construction resonated with me, as stone like this occasionally appears in EDAS excavations (including Wimborne All Hallows) and is usually the subject of a natural or man-made discussion. The pieces we have found are generally about the size of a tennis ball, although there were a few pieces of around 2kg at Wimborne All Hallows, but nothing like the 3.5 ton bolder in the news. Although the name 'conglomerate' is technically the correct term, I rather like the somewhat more descriptive 'pudding stone'!

Alan Dedden

September Weblinks

English Churchyard Graves To Be Mapped Online here

Fragments Of Medieval Merlin Manuscript Found In Bristol Library here

Bronze Age Log-Coffin Found On Lincolnshire Golf Course here

Metal Detectorist's Bronze Age Find Goes On Display here

DNA Study Of 1652 Siege Soldiers Reveals Unknown Epidemic here

Cave Containing Native American Rock Art Cave Sold By Auction To Private Buyer here

Scientists Find Evidence Of Humans Making Clothes 120,000 Years Ago here

Fossil Identified As New Species Of Giant Penguin here

The Epic Adventures Of The Dream Of Gilgamesh Tablet here

Bournemouth University Team Find 200,000 Year Old Handprints In Tibet here

Distinctive Stone Resembling Christmas Pudding Found During Bypass Construction here

Footprints In New Mexico Are Oldest Evidence Yet Of Humans In The Americas here

REMEMBERING THE ROMANS XIV

This is a white marble gravestone from *c*.AD 50-130 that I found on the internet in 2006, and sort of continues the theme of husbands and wives in the previous article. The website was in Belgrade, Roman SINGIDUNUM. *Dunum* is a Latinized form of 'Celtic' *dun*, meaning hill or fortification, e.g. SORVIODUNUM was said to be the name for Old Sarum, though that is disputed.

P. (vblivs) ANTONIVS
CLA.(vdia) FAVORIS
L.(vci) F.(ilivs) ANN XXV
CLAVDIA T.(iti) F.(ilia)
DACUMENA
ANN XXXXV
FAVENTINA (h) ERES
FACI(endvm) CVRA(vit).

It certainly shows a husband, Publius Antonius Favoris son of Lucius aged 25, and wife, Claudia Dacumena daughter of Titus aged 45. She is on the left wearing a hood that is said to identify her as a local native, though her name and her father's seem very Roman. Their heir was Faventina, who 'took care that this was done'.

What interested me though was the repetition of Claudia (abbreviated), especially as the legion LEGIO VII CLAVDIA was based in Singidunum. Sadly the stone doesn't actually seem to come from Belgrade; the original website has now gone and several others place this in the museum in Čakovec, Croatia, a long way north of Belgrade and not far from Hungary, where it is thought to have originated. The second Claudia is a name, though perhaps she wasn't Claudia Dacumena as the placement of Dacumena is unclear (I found 3 different translations on the internet). The first Claudia is actually the voting tribe to which Publius was assigned, which comes before his surname. All citizens of Rome itself were assigned to a tribe, the basis of voting in assemblies. This continued as Roman power expanded, with each new town placed in one of the tribes despite the likelihood that they'd never vote in Rome.

In the last article I looked at the epitaph of a gladiator. They tended to be slaves, at least initially, and we also saw two freed slaves called Sextus Pompeius in the last article. There were reversed Cs in the inscription which seemed to indicate that they were freed by a woman, in which case the second C in the next epitaph would make sense if the stonecutter forgot to reverse it.

Claudius Annius, slave of Dionysius, but apparently freed by a woman. He was taken prisoner at age 9 and enslaved for 12 years, but then ostensibly lived to 70. 6.11712 Rome	C. ANNIUS C.L. DIONYSIUS CAPTUS AN IX SERVIT A XII VIXIT ANNOS LXX

There's clearly an interesting story in Claudius Annius' life, which we'll never be able to tell. It's quite likely that he was captured as part of Rome's external wars since, although he may originally have had a foreign name, he would probably have been renamed when becoming Dionysius' slave.

D.M. LICINIO TIMOLAO Q.V.A.LXXX M.III ET LICINIAE CHRYSIDI CONIVGI EIVS Q.V.A. LX M.VIII	D.M. LICINIAE CHRYSIDI Q.V. AN. LXIII M.VIII ET LICINI TIMOLAI CONIVGIS EIVS Q.V.AN. LXXX M.III

These two, both from Rome (CIL 6.21303a and 6.21319) are interesting as mirror images of each other, but with no information as to who set up the epitaphs or why it was thought necessary. On the second one, Licinius Timolaius is called *coniugis* which, although it means spouse, was almost always used for wife (*maritus* for husband). Although he's almost certainly an exaggerated 80 years of age, his wife Licinia Chrysida has become 63 instead of 60.

More potentially interesting ones in the next article.

Geoff Taylor

EDAS PROGRAMME

Unless otherwise stated, and subject to coronavirus restrictions, lectures are from 7:30 – 9:30 pm at St Catherine's Church Hall, Lewens Lane, Wimborne, BH21 1LE.

2021			
Wed 13th October	Lecture	**Prof Dave Parham**	Bronze Age Shipwrecks
Wed 10th November	Lecture	**Francis Taylor**	The Khmer Empire
Wed 8th December	Lecture	**Dr Leonard Baker**	The Most Riotous Unprincipled Men
2022			
Wed 12th January	Lecture	**Rob Curtis**	It's A Grave Business
Wed 9th February	Lecture	**Prof Tim Darvill**	Sticks and Stones and Broken Bones
Wed 9th March	AGM & talk	**Speaker(s) tbd**	Wimborne All Hallows Church and Graveyard
Wed 6th April	Lecture	**Dr Denise Allen**	Roman Glass In Britain
Wed 11th May	Zoom Lecture	**Dr Jim Leary**	The Vale of Pewsey Project - Marden Henge and Cat's Brain Long Barrow

DISTRICT DIARY

Things are beginning to 'open up' and the diary starting to fill, with welcome lectures from AVAS and the Blandford Museum Group. No doubt more will appear in the near future.

Do let me know of anything you know or hear about.

2021			
Wed 6th October	Recent Investigations into the Neolithic Long Barrows and Long Enclosures of the Avon Valley and Cranborne Chase	**AVAS**	Zoom lecture by Mike Gill
Thur 21st October	The Roman aqueduct in Dorchester	**Blandford Group**	Harry Manley, BU
Wed 3rd November	Who Are We and Where Do We Come From? Our origins through ancient DNA	**AVAS**	Zoom lecture by Francis Taylor
Thur 18th November	The long bow and the Mary Rose	**Blandford Group**	Abigail Parkes, Southampton University
2022			
Thur 20th January	Mycenaen harbours	**Blandford Group**	Max Macdonald, Southampton University
Thur 17th February	Schooners: design and people in the 18th century	**Blandford Group**	Jack Pink, Southampton University
Thur 17th March	The Roman town house: Dorchester's hidden gem	**Blandford Group**	Steve Wallis
Thur 21st April	Iron Age Excavation at Blandford	**Blandford Group**	Dan Carter/Peter Cox, AC Archaeology
Thurs 19th May	Underfloor excavations at Avebury Manor	**Blandford Group**	Briony Clifton, Avebury National Trust

Archaeology Societies

- Avon Valley Archaeological Society: http://www.avas.org.uk/
  Meetings at Ann Rose Hall, Greyfriars Community Centre, Christchurch Road, Ringwood BH24 1DW, 7:30pm 1st Wednesday of month except June, July & August. Visitors £3.50; membership £10 pa.
- Blandford Museum Archaeology Group:
  https://blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk/groups/archaeology-group-revised/
  Meetings normally 7:30pm 3rd Thursday of each month September to May at the Tabernacle. Visitors £3; membership £10 pa.
- Bournemouth Natural Sciences Society: http://bnss.org.uk
  Events at 39 Christchurch Road, Bournemouth BN1 3NS; lectures Tuesday 7:30pm/Saturday 2:30pm.
- The Christchurch Antiquarians: https://christchurchantiquarians.wordpress.com/
  No lecture programme but involved in practical archaeology projects. Membership £10 pa.
- Dorset Natural History & Archaeology Society: http://www.dorsetcountymuseum.org/events
  Events at various locations in Dorchester, usually ticketed
- Wareham and District Archaeology & Local History Society: The website is no longer updated; for information contact Karen Brown at karen.brown68@btinternet.com
  Meetings at the Town Hall, Wareham (corner of North Street & East Street), normally 7:30pm 3rd Wednesday of each month except July & August. Visitors welcome for £3; membership £10 pa.