



BERKSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Patron: H.M. THE QUEEN

President: Professor Michael Fulford FBA FSA

Berkshire Archaeological Society Annual Report of the Trustees 2007 – 2008

15th September 2008

Registered Charity No.:	1117197
Registered office:	19 Challenor Close, Wokingham, Berks, RG40 4UJ
Charity trustees:	Mr. Trevor Coombs Dr. Andrew Hutt Mrs. Catherine Petts Mr. Barrie Randall
Bankers	Lloyds TSB Bank Skipton Building Society Barclays Bank
Independent examiner	Mr. John Butler

Managing the Society

The Society is governed by Berkshire Archaeological Society Constitution issued 11th November 2006 and Berkshire Archaeological Society Rules issued on 6th June 2005. Both documents were approved by the Society on 22nd November 2006. The Society became a registered charity in December 2006.

The Society's objects are to advance the education of the public in the field of archaeology and history in the past and present county of Berkshire.

The Society meets these objects through a range of activities which include: a programme of lectures, a research programme, a day school on the archaeology of Berkshire, running a tour and visits to sites of archaeological and historical interest, publishing the Berkshire Archaeological Journal, managing an archaeological library and promoting its activities via a newsletter, a web site and through posters placed in public buildings.

The Society is governed by the Trustees. The activities are managed by a Council consisting of the Trustees and six elected members of the Society. In 2007-8, these elected members were: Mrs. Edna Goodburn, Mrs. Jo Graham, Mrs Anne Harrison, Mr. Luke Over, Mrs. Griselda Truscott-Wickes and Mrs. Julie Worsfold.

By March 2008, the Society had 122 members living at 99 addresses and 16 corporate members.

Activities in the year April 2007 to March 2008

The activities in this period were:

- Four issues of the newsletter in summer, autumn, winter and spring. The Society thanks Julie Worsfold for editing the newsletter
- A programme of monthly lectures running from September 2007 to March 2008 (see figure 1 for details). The Society thanks Catherine Petts for organising this programme
- Archaeology in Berkshire day school held on 3rd March 2008 at St. Nicholas Church Hall, Newbury and attended by some 60 people, many of whom were members of the public (see figure 2 for details of the programme). The Society thanks Trevor Coombs for organising this event
- A Spring Tour of Somerset and Devon in April 2007 attended by some 38 people (see figure 3 for the sites visited). The Society thanks Barrie Randall for organising this event
- Research into Roman Berkshire. This programme of work started in summer 2007 and by March 2008 was working to produce a reappraisal of the Client Kingdom of Cogidubnus (AD 43 to 75 -80). This programme is led by Andrew Hutt and Trevor Coombs
- The Society's web site which received over 24,000 visits during the financial year. The Society thanks Sylvia Chumbley for maintaining this resource

Figure 1: Programme of Lectures

Date	Lecture
15/09/2007	Annual General Meeting followed by lecture on Clarendon Palace, by Tom James, Professor of Regional Studies, University of Winchester
13/10/2007	Meeting cancelled
17/11/2007	Frilford, a Romano-British temple complex, by Dr. Zena Kamash of the Institute of Archaeology, Oxford
08/12/2007	Oxford Castle, by Andy Norton Oxford Archaeology
19/12/2008	Wood Archaeology, by Dick Greenaway, woodland archaeologist
16/20/2008	Gathering Time: building chronologies for the early Neolithic in Southern Britain, Alex Bayliss, Scientific Dating Team, English heritage
15/03/2008	Stonehenge / Durrington Walls Neolithic Project, Josh Pollard, Senior Lecturer in Archaeology, University of Bristol

Figure 2: Archaeology in Berkshire Day School

The programme was:

Time	Title	Speaker, Organisation
10 00– 10.05	Welcome	Dr. Andrew Hutt, Berkshire Archaeological Society
10.05 – 10.30	Cultural Heritage at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Burghfield,	Andrew Holmes, Atkins Global
10.30 – 11.00	Silchester: the town-life project 1997-2008	Professor M. Fulford, The University of Reading
11.00 – 11.30	COFFEE	
11.30 – 12.00	Archaeology in West Berkshire 2007	Duncan Coe, West Berkshire Heritage Service
12.00 – 12.30	From the Mesolithic to Roman ovens at Kintbury,	Roy Entwistle, Berkshire Archaeological Services
12.30 – 12.50	Shaw House, Newbury, The archaeology of a country house	Julian Munby, Oxford Archaeology
12.50 – 14.00	LUNCH	
14.00 – 14.30	Archaeological investigations at Rag Hill Farm Quarry, Aldermaston,	Andy Manning, Wessex Archaeology
14.30 – 15.00	The Peasemore Landscape Project,	Steve Clark, Berkshire Archaeology Research Group
15.00 - 15.30	TEA	
15.30 – 16.00	Iron Age settlements and communities in Berkshire,	Andrew Hutt, Berkshire Archaeological Trust
16.00 - 16.25	Overview: Archaeology in East Berkshire 2007,	Mary O'Donoghue, Berkshire Archaeology
16.25 – 16.35	Chairman concludes,	Andrew Hutt

Figure 3: Spring Tour 2007

The sites visited on this tour were:

27th April 2007

Fovant Badges, on side of A360,
Shaftesbury, Abbey and Gold Hill
Muchelney Abbey, Somerset
Coldharbour Mill Industrial Museum,

28th April 2007

Dartington Cider Press Centre
Wheal Betsey Engine House
Lydford Castle and Saxon Town
Merrivale Prehistoric Settlement
Postbridge Medieval Clapper Bridge
Grimspound Prehistoric Settlement

29th April 2007

Powerham Castle
Beer Quarry Caves

30th April 2007

Glastonbury, museum and abbey
Nunney Castle and 14th C church

The Society's library

In February 2007, the Society was told by the Department of Continuing Education, University of Reading, that it was no longer able to house the Society's library. As a result the library was reprofiled so that it only contains books and journals relating to the archaeology of Berkshire and the surrounding region, and the journal exchanges with other Societies reduced to exchanges with the six surrounding counties: Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Middlesex and Middle Thames, Surrey, Hampshire and Wiltshire. Books and journals from this reduced library were stored in plastic crates which members keep in their homes. One benefit of these changes is that more people are using materials from the library because they have them readily to hand.

Surplus books were sold or donated to other libraries. Surplus journals were either returned to the originating societies or donated to academic establishments, libraries and commercial excavation companies ranging from Edinburgh University in the north, to Kent Archaeological Society in the south east. A large number of photographs and other materials relating to Reading were donated to Reading Library Local History Collection.

One of the main objects of the library was to hold a stock of back copies of the Berkshire Archaeological Journal for reference and for sale. In order to ensure that these journals are

readily accessible the decision was taken to make them available on the Internet via the Archaeology Data Service in York. By March 2008, the Society had scanned more than half the journals and the Archaeology Data Service in York had made a few of them available online. The Society and the Archaeology Data Service are planning to make all the journals available online by Christmas 2008.

The Society thanks Andrew Hutt for organising the library, a team comprising Andrew Hutt, Sylvia Chumbley, Trevor Coombs and Mark Harvey for digitising the Journal and Catherine Petts for providing a revised index to the journals. The Society also offers thanks to Catherine Hardman and Michael Charno of the Archaeology Data Service for their help and encouragement.

This report

This report was approved by the Trustees on 15th September 2008 and signed on their behalf by

..... Dr. Andrew Hutt, Trustee and Chairman