



BERKSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Patron: H.M. THE QUEEN

President: Professor Michael Fulford FBA FSA

Berkshire Archaeological Society Annual Report of the Trustees 2008 – 2009

September 2009

Registered Charity No.: 1117197

Registered office: 19 Challenor Close,
Wokingham, Berks, RG40 4UJ

Trustees

Chairman	Dr. Andrew Hutt
Secretary	Mr. Trevor Coombs
Treasurer	Mrs. Catherine Petts
Other Charity trustees	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 up to seven elected members of the Society. In 2008-9, these elected

members were: Mr. J. Chapman, Dr. H. Davies, Mrs. Edna Goodburn, Mrs. Jo Graham, Mrs Anne Harrison, Mrs. Griselda Truscott-Wickes and Mrs. Julie Worsfold.

By March 2008, the Society had 115 members living at 95 addresses and 16 corporate members.

Activities in the year April 2008 to March 2009

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 2008 to March 2009** (see figure 1 for details). The Society thanks Andrew Hutt for organising this programme
- **Archaeological walks:** these complement the above lecture programme. The walks organised in 2008 were: 4th June 2008, Walk round Theale, led by Roy Townsend, a local historian and attended by 14 people; 18th June 2008. Caesar's Camp, Easthampstead led by Andrew Hutt and attended by 12 people; and 16th July 2008, the Pang Valley south of Pangbourne, led by Andrew Hutt, and attended by 15 people. The Society thanks the organisers of these walks
- **Berkshire Historic Environment Forum inaugural meeting:** organised by the Berkshire Archaeological Trust with logistics managed by the Society. This meeting was held on Saturday 8th November 2008 at the Cornerstone, Wokingham. This programme of lectures (see figure 2) was attended by 40 people, drawn from local authority councillors and officers, town and parish councillors and officers and committee members from voluntary sector organisations
- **Archaeology in Berkshire day school** held on 7th March 2009 at the Cornerstone, Wokingham, and attended by some 80 people, many of whom were members of the public (see figure 3 for details of the programme). The Society thanks Trevor Coombs for organising this event
- **A Spring Tour of South Wales in April 2008** attended by some 29 people (see figure 4 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 during the financial year 2008-9 produced reports on Roman villas, Roman roads and Roman technologies. The Society thanks Andrew Hutt and Trevor Coombs for leading this research project
- **The Society's web site**, which received over 24,000 visits during the financial year. The Society thanks Sylvia Chumbley for maintaining this resource
- **The Society's libraries:** these include the Berkshire Archaeological Society library at the Berkshire Records Office and the Berkshire Archaeology Research Library. The latter occupies 39 plastic crates which are kept in the homes of Society members plus another 19 boxes of books and journals which are being kept by the librarian and need to be integrated into the library, donated to a third party, or sold. The Society thanks Andrew Hutt for acting as the Society's librarian
- **The Berkshire Archaeological Journal:** volume 77 of the journal was published in August 2008. The Society thanks Catherine Petts for editing this journal

- **The Society's online journals** available on websites at the Archaeology Data Service and the Council of British Archaeology Archlib service. Around 29,600 downloads were recorded on by the Archaeology Data Service, however it must be remembered that many of these may be due to search engines and related software rather than human users

Figure 1: Programme of Lectures

Date	Lecture
20 Sept 2008	AGM followed by two ad hoc presentations: <i>The Roman road from Silchester to Dorchester</i> , by Trevor Coombs and <i>Geophysics on Blewburton Hill</i> by Andrew Hutt – because the planned speaker failed to turn up on time
18 Oct 2008	<i>Burials in Late Iron Age /Early Roman Berkshire</i> by Katie Meheux
15 Nov 2008	<i>The Archaeology of the Atrebatian Kingdoms: A Social Geography of the Late Iron Age</i> , by Richard Massey, Reading University and English Heritage
06 Dec 2008	<i>Shaw House</i> , at Shaw House, Newbury by Amanda Loaring, West Berkshire Council
17 Jan 2009	<i>Society and the pace of change in Iron Age settlements near Dorchester-on-Thames</i> , by Tom Wilson, Atkins Heritage
21 Feb 2009	<i>Prehistoric/Iron Age pottery</i> , by Lisa Brown, Oxford Archaeology
21 Mar 2009	<i>Breamore village</i> , by Gerald Ponting

**Figure 2: Berkshire Historic Environment Forum
Saturday 8th November The Cornerstone, Wokingham**

- 12:00 Berkshire Historic Environment Forum: Welcome
Councillor Pauline Helliar-Symons,
Mayor, Wokingham Borough Council
- 12:05 Introduction to Berkshire Historic Environment Forum:
John Chapman
- 12:25 Proposed Parliamentary legislation:
Chris Welch
Inspector of Ancient Monuments
SE Region, English Heritage
- 13:15 Lunch
- 14:00 Historic Environment Services offered by Local Authorities
Duncan Coe,
Archaeological Officer, West Berkshire
- 14:30 Historic Buildings
Trevor Ottelewski
Wokingham History Group
- 15:00 Pause
- 15:15 Wallingford Burh to Borough Research Project,
Dr Matt Edgeworth, Leicester University
- 15:45 The work of the Berkshire Historic Environment Forum:
Andrew Hutt
Berkshire Archaeological Society
- 16:15 Close

**Figure 3: Programme for the Archaeology in Berkshire Day School,
7 March 2009. The Cornerstone, Norreys Avenue, Wokingham,**

Time	Title	Speaker and Organisation
10.00-10.05	Welcome	Dr. Andrew Hutt, Berkshire Archaeological Society
10.05-10.30	Conservation work at Reading Abbey,	Fiona Macdonald, Berkshire Archaeology
10.30-11.00	Silchester, the Town Life project,	Professor Mike Fulford, The University of Reading,
11.00-11.30	COFFEE	
11.30-12.00	The Silchester Mapping Project,	Dr. John Creighton, The University of Reading
12.00-12.30	An early Neolithic house and its landscape context: Kingsmead Quarry, Horton,	Dr. Alistair Barclay, Wessex Archaeology,
12.30-13.00	Romano-British Frilford, Dr. Zena Kamash, Oxford Institute of Archaeology, LUNCH	
2.15-2.45	Archaeology in West Berkshire,	Duncan Coe, West Berkshire Archaeology Service
2.45-3.10	Iron Age and Saxon occupation of Slough,	Steve Ford, Thames Valley Archaeological Services
3.10-3.40	TEA	
3.40-4.15	Archaeology at Jennett's Park, Bracknell,	Edward Biddulph, Oxford Archaeology,
4.15-4.25	Conclusions,	Dr. Andrew Hutt Berkshire Archaeological Society

Figure 3: Spring Tour 2007

On this tour, the group stayed at the Ivy Bush Royal Hotel, Carmarthen and for the first three days Paul Goodenough, a colleague of Andrew Hutt, acted as tour guide. The sites visited on this tour were:

18th April 2008

Caerwent Roman Town

Caerleon Roman baths, amphitheatre and legionary museum

Ewenny church and priory

Margam Stone Museum and abbey

19th April 2008

Parc le Breos Neolithic long barrow

Oxwich Castle

Bulwark Iron Age hillfort

Llanmadoc church and village

Cefn Bryn Neolithic burial ground

Kidwelly Castle

29th April 2007

St Clears village

Laugharne Castle

Carew Celtic Cross and Carew Castle

Lamphey Bishops Palace

St Nicholas Church, Penally

30th April 2007

Aberdulais Falls waterfall and tinsplate works

Blaenavon Ironworks

Raglan Castle

Trelleck village, church, holy well and Harold's Stones

The Society's online journals

Starting in June 2007 and ending in December 2008, the Society digitised copies of all the journals it had published from 1878 to 2008. Those published until 1970 were released to the Archaeology Data Service, York, and are now available as free downloads; those published after 1970 were released via the Council of British Archaeology, Archlib Service and are available as pay-per-downloads. During this work over 16,500 pages were scanned, packaged and converted to PDF downloadable files. Estimates suggest that this took between 0.7 and 1 man years of effort to complete this work. The Society thanks Andrew Hutt who led this effort and Sylvia Chumbley, Trevor Coombs and Mark Harvey who scanned images, and Catherine Petts who let them reuse her digital index to the journals.

Berkshire Historic Environment Forum

In June 2008, the Trustees of the Berkshire Archaeological Trust decided that the best way to help develop the archaeology of Berkshire was to work with the Berkshire Archaeological Society to establish a Berkshire Historic Environment Forum and, if it was successful, to close the Trust and transfer its responsibilities to the Society. This task was simplified by the fact that two of the Trust's trustees: Andrew Hutt and John Chapman were also members of the Society's Council. In November 2008, the Trust and the Society jointly ran the inaugural meeting of the Berkshire Historic Environment Forum (see figure 2). This was a success; one of the outcomes was a demand from several of the Unitary Authorities that the Forum should have a constitution and programme of work. In January 2009, the Trustees of the Society approved a constitution and a programme of work for the Forum. As a result, in March 2009, the Trust formally transferred its assets and responsibilities to the Society thus making the Society responsible for managing the Berkshire Historic Environment Forum.

This report

This report was approved by the Trustees on 10th September 2009 and signed on their behalf by

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