



# BERKSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Patron: H.M. THE QUEEN

President: Professor Michael Fulford CBE FBA FSA

## Berkshire Archaeological Society Annual Report of the Trustees 2015-16

August 2016

**Registered Charity No.:** 1117197

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

### Trustees

**Chairman** Mrs Ann Griffin

**Secretary** Dr Andrew Hutt (acting)

**Treasurer** Dr Andrew Hutt

**Tour Organiser** Mr Ron Knowles

**Other Charity trustees** Mr. Trevor Coombs, Mr. Colin Forrestal, Mr. John Chapman,  
Mrs Anne Harrison, Mrs. Catherine Petts, Mr. Barrie Randall,  
Mrs Griselda Truscott-Wicks

**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 11<sup>th</sup> November 2006 and Berkshire Archaeological Society Rules issued on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2005. Both documents were approved by the Society on 22<sup>nd</sup> 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, archaeological fieldwork, 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, on Twitter and through posters placed in public buildings.

The Society is governed by the Trustees.

By March 2016, the Society had 133 individual members living at 115 addresses and 12 corporate members.

In April 2015, the Society hired a store room at Shurgard in Wokingham for the year and used it to consolidate and store its fieldwork equipment and the Berkshire Archaeology Research Library.

### ***Activities in the year April 2015 to March 2016***

The activities in this period were:

- **Four issues of the quarterly newsletter.** The Society thanks Andrew Hutt and Gail Eaton for editing these newsletters
- **A Spring Tour: The Heart of England: 8th to 11th May 2015.** 24 people participated in this tour centred on the Roman Way Hotel, Cannock. The sites visited on the tour were:
  - Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2015: Kenilworth Castle, Old Coventry and Castle Ring Iron Age Hill Fort
  - Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2015: Blists Hill Open Air Museum, Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site and Coalbrookdale
  - Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2015: Much Wenlock, Shrewsbury town centre and the Roman town at Wroxeter
  - Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015: Stokesay Castle and Hereford Cathedral and historic townSincere thanks are due to Ron and Lavinia Knowles and the many people who guided members round these sites.
- **A programme of monthly lectures running from September 2015 to April 2016** (see Figure 1). The Society thanks Trevor Coombs for organising this programme
- **Archaeological walks and visits:** these complement the lecture programme. The walks organised in 2015 were:
  - Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015: a tour led by Andrew Hutt through Anglo-Saxon Old Berkshire visiting Boxford Church with its window, Wickham church with its tower, Uffington Castle to follow a charter boundary, Wantage and its museum, Schutchumer Knob, an Anglo-Saxon meeting place and Peasemore to view the arable oval.
  - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2015: an exploration of the medieval nooks and passages of Oxford guided by Julian Munnby of Oxford Archaeology
  - Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015: a visit to Devises Museum and Marden Henge organised by Trevor Coombs

Thursday 9th July 2015: a visit organised by Ann Griffin, to Thame Meadow Park, Thame to see the multi-period site being excavated by Oxford Archaeology and Cotswold Archaeology

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015: a visit to Silchester insula III and Pond Farm Hillfort organised by Trevor Coombs

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015: a visit to the St Mary's Butts / Castle Street Conservation Area in Reading, led by Barrie Randall.

The Society thanks all those who organised and led these walks and visits.

- **Berkshire Historic Environment Forum meeting:** was held on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015 at The Barn, Goosecroft Lane, Purley on Thames. The theme of the meeting was: Berkshire's parishes, Who lived there? When did they live there? What did they do there?  
  
The meeting was attended by some 27 people; see figure 2 for the programme. The Society thanks John Chapman and Andrew Hutt for organising this event
- **Archaeology in Berkshire day school** was held on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 at St Nicolas Church Hall, Newbury so the detail will be in the 2016-17 annual report. The Society thanks Trevor Coombs for organising this event
- **Research into Anglo-Saxon Berkshire.** This programme started in summer 2015 and a group met on the first Wednesday of the month at RISC, in Reading to listen to the results of member's research. The Society thanks Andrew Hutt for organising this
- **The Society's web site:** The website has continued to provide the Society with an online presence. The Society thanks Colin Forrestal for maintaining the site and Tim Lloyd for taking it over and modernising it
- **The Twitter account:** The society thanks Julie Worsfold for tweeting on behalf of the Society starting in January 2016
- **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 held in the Society's store. The Society thanks Andrew Hutt for managing these libraries
- **The Berkshire Archaeological Journal:** work has been progressing with the production of volume 82, another multi-article volume. The Society thanks Catherine Petts and Andrew Hutt 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.

This overview of the events organised by the Society shows that it is meeting its obligations as a registered charity.

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Subject</b>
19 September 2015	Barrie Randall	Wiltshire's secret underground city and some local underground bunkers
17 October 2015	Colin Forrester	Using stable isotopic analysis of sphagnum moss as proxy data to inform and/or corroborate the paleoclimate and environmental changes in a region
21 November 2015	John Chapman Andrew Hutt Ann Griffin	Travel talks by BAS members
12 December 2015	Cathie Barnett	Mesolithic and Palaeolithic archaeology in the Kennet Valley
16 January 2016	Martin Bell	The Old Straight Track revisited: identifying and dating patterns of mobility in prehistory
20 February 2016	Josh Pollard	Settlement and monumentality in the Avebury landscape
19 March 2016	Ben Ford	Uncovering Winchester
16 April 2016	Mike Fulford	The enigma of Insula III, Silchester

*Figure 1: The 2015-16 Lecture programme*

10:00	Registration and refreshments
10:15:	Welcome and introduction John Chapman
10:30:	History of Pangbourne: Lyn Davies (Pangbourne Heritage)
11:00	Archaeology of Pangbourne: Andrew Hutt
11:30	Refreshments
12:00	History of Goring and Streatley Janet Hurst
12:30	The Silchester to Dorchester Roman Road, Trevor Coombs
13:00	lunch –in the barn - fish and chips for those who order it
14:00	BAS fieldwork Andrew Hutt
14:30	Archaeological fieldwork round Knowl Hill Ann Griffin
15:00	Refreshments
15:30	The Berkshire Graphic Information System project Martin Labram
16:00	Discussion on more historical /archaeological ventures in Berkshire
16:30 or thereabout:	Closing remarks John Chapman

*Figure 2: Programme of the Berkshire Historic Environment Forum October 2016*

## Fieldwork

During this period the Society undertook two fieldwork projects. These were:

- **Blounts Court 2015.** This joint project involving the Society and the Berkshire Archaeology Research Group started on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015 and ended 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015. While on site, the team undertook a resistivity survey of building R8 which had been identified in 2013, investigated with 2 small trenches in 2014 and found to be Tudor. They then dug a trench across the south wall of the building and carried out an auger survey to investigate the extent of a chalk floor found in 2014. This work confirmed that building R8 had a chalk block foundation wall, a chalk floor and measured circa 40m by 15m. It also confirmed the status of a Georgian garden wall constructed when the Tudor building was demolished and, at the southern end of the trench, identified a mortored flint wall which may be the base of building R9.
- **Caversham Park 2015:** This joint project involving the Society and the Berkshire Archaeology Research Group started on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015 and lasted about a week. The team carried out a resistivity survey of the terraced grounds in front of Caversham Park House and identified anomalies which may represent the remains of an earlier house, a garden dating to the 1730s and a WWII anti-aircraft gun position

## Equipment

Over the year, the Society added an auger and two sign boards to its fieldwork equipment.

***This report***

This report was approved by the Trustees on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016  
and signed on their behalf by

.....Mrs. Anne Griffin  
Chairman