

BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2020 – 2021

ANNE HARRISON

Registered Charity No.:	1117197
Registered office:	19 Challenor Close, Wokingham, Berks, RG40 4UJ
Trustees	
Joint Chair	Ms Alison McQuitty, Dr Maggie Smith
Secretary	Mrs Anne Harrison
Treasurer	Dr Andrew Hutt
Tour Organiser	Vacant
Other Charity trustees	Mr John Chapman, Mrs Gail Eaton, Mrs Ann Griffin, Mrs Anne Helmore, Mr Tim Lloyd, Mrs Catherine Petts, Mrs Griselda Truscott-Wicks, Mrs Julie Worsfold
Bankers	Lloyds TSB Bank Skipton Building Society Barclays Bank
Independent examiner	Mr John Butler

This report covers the period from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021.

MANAGING THE SOCIETY

The Society became a registered charity in December 2006. The Society is governed by Berkshire Archaeological Society Constitution issued 15th February 2015 and Berkshire Archaeological Society Rules issued on 6th June 2005. 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, 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.

In March 2021, the Society had 124 individual members living at 105 addresses and 14 corporate members. The Society maintained its arrangements for storage at Storage King, in Woodley, where fieldwork equipment and the Berkshire Archaeology Research Library from is kept.

POLICY

The Council approved the 'BAS Policy for publishing BAS Grey Reports' at the Council meeting on December 12th 2020.

ACTIVITIES

The activities in this period were:

Four issues of the quarterly newsletter sent to all members. The Society thanks Gail Eaton for editing these newsletters.

Monthly issues of the News Sheet, distributed to members by email, containing up to date news and information. The Society thanks Tim Lloyd for editing these news sheets.

A programme of monthly lectures running from September 2020 to April 2021 (see Figure 1). The Society thanks Julie Worsfold for organising this programme. These lectures were delivered to members on Zoom.

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Date	Lecturer	Title
21 September 2019	Dr Ceri Falys	Saxon Period Burials from Guildown, Guildford
19 October 2019	Samantha Brummage	Mesolithic-Neolithic Histories in the Colne Valley
16 November 2019	Alison McQuitty	The Ottomans in Jordan
14 December 2019	Sue Dormer	The Council for British Archaeology - 75 years
	Kenelm England	Observatories in Berkshire
	Tim Lloyd	History of the BAS logo
18 January 2020	Prof Rick Schulting	Bluestones and white bones: the origins of people buried at Stonehenge
15 February 2020	Dr Ben Jervis	Material Culture of English Medieval Rural Households
21 March 2020		Lecture cancelled prior to Covid lockdown

Figure 1: The 2020-21 Lecture programme

A Spring Tour

No tour was arranged in Spring 2020 as the post of Tour Organiser is vacant. The Council is exploring other means by which a tour can be organised.

Archaeological walks and visits

No visits were possible in the period April 2020 to April 2021 owing to Covid restrictions in place.

The Berkshire Historic Environment Day School (formerly the Berkshire Historic Environment Forum) did not take place in this reporting period.

The Archaeology in Berkshire Day School planned for March 28th 2020 was cancelled owing to Covid 19 lockdown restrictions.

The Society's web site: The website has continued to provide the Society with an online presence. The Society thanks Tim Lloyd for maintaining it .

The Twitter account: The society thanks Julie Worsfold for continuing to tweet on behalf of the Society

The Society's libraries: These include the Berkshire Archaeological Society library at the Berkshire Record 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 was completed on Volume 85, a multi article volume published in 2020. The Society thanks Andrew Hutt and the Berkshire Archaeological Journal Editorial Board for producing this journal.

Volumes 85 of the journal was made available online via the Archaeology Data Service.

Work is in progress on the production of volume 86. Publication is expected in the spring of 2022.

FIELD AND POST-EXCAVATION WORK

Three projects were carried out between April 2019 and April 2020. They were:

Blounts Court April 2019

This fieldwork excavated a large trench across the northern edges of a large barn which previous fieldwork showed was in use between 1500 and 1700 and a Georgian garden wall. The work revealed that at the northern end of the garden wall there was gateway on the north side of which was large wall faced with cut flints. There was a gap, probably occupied by a path, between this new wall and the north side of the barn.

Ankerwycke July 2019

In July 2019, the Society carried out a geophysics survey of the land occupied by the ruins of Ankerwycke priory and in the fields to the west and south. This work revealed four evidence landscapes:

- A medieval landscape with the priory at its centre; this lasted from around 1160 when the priory was established until it was dissolved in 1536 during the Dissolution of the Monasteries
- A Tudor landscape: which is a slight development of the medieval landscape: which lasted from around 1541 until around the 1790s. The focus of this landscape was a Tudor house which was a development of the Priory buildings
- A Georgian landscape: mansion at its centre. The main focus of this landscape was to the north of the priory. The, then extant, priory and Tudor house were reduced to being garden features along with Boats houses and a Tea House on the edge of the River Thames
- A 20th century landscape: which emerged, probably after WWI, when the Georgian mansion was no longer viable. Remnants of that landscape include a swimming pool

Hall Farm, Arborfield November 2019

Historical research has shown that the area around Aberleigh House and Hall Farm is probably the site of the medieval village of Arborfield. In November 2019, the Society carried out a geophysics survey of four fields on Hall Farm. The survey revealed anomalies which may be evidence of the village.

The Society thanks Andrew Hutt, Nigel Spencer and Anne Harrison for organising these events and the many members of the Society who worked on these sites.

THE STUDY GROUP

The Study group has met via Zoom from April 2020 onwards. The group provides opportunities to learn about the archaeology of Berkshire and acts as a peer review of work undertaken by the Society. Over the year, the group have discussed:

BAS's contribution to local communities

BAS gazetteer: which is an IT system to record archaeological sites and phases of use of sites across the Berkshire Region which extends from Marlborough to Heathrow and Oxford to Guildford

BAS: publishing grey reports

BAS Study group terms of reference

BAS's IT capabilities

Berkshire Romans Project 2: where work has been done to load the BAS Gazetteer with Roman sites and to integrate the Roman Rural Settlements database. This data has been used to draw maps and write essays about Roman settlement across the Berkshire Region and publish them on the BAS website

Berkshire Romans Project 2: writing essays

Berkshire Region: Iron Age and Roman Iron working

Berkshire Region: water catchments

Fieldwork at Ankerwycke

Fieldwork at Runnymede

Fieldwork near Wickham, West Berkshire

Fieldwork: woodland survey at Arborfield Mill

Ground penetrating radar

Roman Cunetio

Roman roads across the Berkshire region

Roman Wantage

Using Google Maps to identify sites

Using maps to collect data from Historic Environment Records

The Society thanks Andrew Hutt for organising the Study group and the many people who gave presentations.

OUTREACH

The current work of the group focusses on increasing the numbers and range of members of the Society. One way to do this is by communicating with current members to find out their views on membership, and using this information to find ways of attracting new members. The Group is also widening the scope of the Society by targeting actions and resources towards new groups of people. For instance a poster competition is planned for 2021-22. The competition is designed to attract not only archaeologists, but also people who have not used their design expertise in an archaeological setting before. It will provide interesting views on archaeological sites that the Society is currently working on, and it will provide opportunities for publicity for the Society. The group's third project similarly aims to tap into a new audience and the Group has been working on producing material for the Society's website to support Primary teachers in their teaching of prehistory topics within the current National Curriculum. The group looks forward to continuing these projects and exploring new outreach ideas in the future.

Four members of the Society are currently involved in the Outreach working group, but it benefits enormously from the assistance so willingly provided by other Trustees and BAS members. The Society thanks them for their expert advice and contributions.

THE SOCIETY'S 150th ANNIVERSARY

Having been founded in 1971, in 2021 the Society celebrated its 150th Anniversary and a programme of events was planned, which would have started in January 2021. These had to be cancelled or modified owing to the Covid 19 restrictions in place.

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

LESLIE CRAM

Members of the Society were sorry to hear of the death of Leslie Cram, FSA, in February 2021. For many years he was the Principal Curator for the museum service of Reading Borough Council, and was involved in several aspects of archaeology and heritage in Berkshire, including the Berkshire Archaeological Trust until it closed, and with the Berkshire Archaeological Society and the Reading University Continuing Education Department.

THIS REPORT

This report was approved by the Trustees on 11th December 2021.

Signed:..... Chair

Date:.....