



# ARCHAEOLOGY

The Newsletter of the Berkshire Archaeological Society

Autumn 2022

Vol. 24, No.3

## Dates for your diary

Please note that unless otherwise advised all Saturday lectures take place at RISC, London St, Reading, RG1 4PS with refreshments from 2pm. Lectures will start at 2:30pm and will also be streamed live on Zoom. The Zoom link will be emailed in advance and the Zoom session will open at 2:15pm unless advised otherwise.

Non-members are welcome to attend lectures. If wishing to attend online, they need to email [lectures@berksarch.co.uk](mailto:lectures@berksarch.co.uk) by the end of the Wednesday before the lecture.

**Monday 29th August to Friday 23rd September 2022:** *Geophysics near Wickham*: For details and how to join at any stage, see below.

**Wednesday 7th September 2022:** *Study Group*: 3pm on Zoom

**Thursday 8th September 2022:** *Outreach Group*: 7:30pm on Zoom

**Wednesday 14th September 2022:** *Study Group Lunch*: TBC

**Saturday 17th September 2022:** *Lecture: Georgian Reading – Berkshire's Bath Spa* by John Missenden

**Wednesday 5th October 2022:** *Study Group*: 3pm on Zoom

**Thursday 6th October 2022:** *Outreach Group*: 7:30pm on Zoom

**Wednesday 12th October 2022:** *Study Group Lunch*: TBC

**Saturday 15th October 2022:** *BAS AGM followed by lecture: The De La Beche family of Aldworth* by Professor John Blair. Both RISC and Zoom will be open from 2pm.

**Wednesday 2nd November 2022:** *Study Group*: 3pm on Zoom

**Thursday 3rd November 2022:** *Outreach Group*: 7:30pm on Zoom

**Wednesday 9th November 2022:** *Study Group Lunch*: TBC

**Saturday 19th November 2022:** *Lecture: Kindred: Neanderthal Life, Love, Death, and Art* by Dr Rebecca Wragg Sykes. On Zoom only.

**Wednesday 30th November 2022:** *Study Group Lunch*: TBC

**Wednesday 7th December 2022:** *Study Group*: 3pm on Zoom

**Thursday 8th December 2022:** *Outreach Group*: 7:30pm on Zoom

**Saturday 10th December 2022:** *Members' Talks*

## From the chair

The three months, June to August, have been very busy with fieldwork opportunities and visits. My contribution to progress has been:

### The John Hardman bursary

As most of you are aware a society such as ours needs to have leaders who have an understanding of how to conduct archaeological fieldwork and desktop research. For the last 10 years, this knowledge and skill has been provided by members of Council who studied for master's degrees in archaeology in the 2000s.

The objective of the bursary is to provide funds to enable members of the Society to go to the University

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of Reading to read a master's degree in archaeology. Before applying applicants need to have worked on the Society's projects and to agree that, once they have completed their degree, they lead projects on behalf of the Society for at least 5 years.

The bursary's terms and conditions have been approved by the Council. They have also approved an award for Keith Abbott so that he can start his master's degree at the University of Reading in September 2022. If members of the Society want to be considered for a bursary, please contact me.

### The Society's project list

The fact that the Society is now undertaking a large number of projects has led to a formalisation of the process for managing them. The Society now has a project list which identifies:

- **Projects being discussed**
- **Projects: active.** To reach this stage. The project leader(s) must have written a project proposal which is approved by Council. Each proposal explains the background to the project, the project objectives, the work to be undertaken and addresses all the terms and conditions which need to be addressed before the project can start
- **Projects: reports being worked on**
- **Projects: to be archived**
- **Projects: completed**

### The Society's digital archive

The Society is generating a large volume of digital material in the form of project proposals and reports and all the data (work sheets, photographs, geophysics data, maps etc.) collected during the project. I have made a start on creating a digital archive, so all this information is collected and archived on to two 4 terabyte drives and hence become a Society asset.

If you want information from the archive, please contact me.

*Andrew Hutt*



Keith Abbott receiving his Harman bursary from Anne Harrison and Andrew Hutt – Photo: Tim Lloyd

## Annual General Meeting 2022

The AGM will take place on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2022** at 2:15 p.m. There will be a face-to-face meeting at RISC with live streaming to those who prefer an on-line meeting. Details of the arrangements will be notified later.

AGM papers will be emailed to members before the meeting and posted to those who have no email address.

All positions on the BAS Council are open for election. For more information, please contact Keith Abbott. All nominations for Council membership, proposed and seconded, must be sent to the Hon. Secretary (Keith Abbott, 5 The Priory, Winnersh, Wokingham, RG41 5DE; [secretary@berksarch.co.uk](mailto:secretary@berksarch.co.uk)).

### Agenda for the AGM

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the AGM held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2021
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Librarian's Report
7. Election of Officers of the Society
8. Election of Council Members
9. Appointment of the Independent Examiner
10. Any Other Business

After the AGM members will hear a talk on The De La Beche family of Aldworth given by Professor John Blair.

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## Fieldwork Opportunity

### Geophysical Survey near Wickham

As covered in recent editions of this newsletter, there have been two fieldwork projects in West Berkshire to locate the route of the Roman Road to Bath (Margary 53) over the last section of its route from its most easterly visible remains north of Hungerford to where it joins Ermin Street (Margary 41) in the vicinity of Wickham.

The first project near Wickham produced no evidence of the Roman Road along its projected route close to where it is thought to join Ermin Street. The second project at Radley Farm earlier this year captured some useful geophysics images of the remains of this Roman Road and allowed us to assess the extent to which they survive across the local terrain.

This next project will build on these earlier projects carrying out further geophysics surveys to track the route of the Roman Road from its last visible location eastwards towards Wickham. We plan to start the project on **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August continuing for 4 weeks**. If you want to get involved in the project **at any point** and learn about geophysics surveying, **please email [keefandtrace@hotmail.com](mailto:keefandtrace@hotmail.com)**. No previous experience is needed as we can provide "on the job training", but you will need to be fit enough to be comfortable walking over stubble fields.

*Keith Abbott*

## Summer Visits

### BAS Guided Walk around Piddington

On 12<sup>th</sup> June 2022 Simon Cains led the first of a pair of walks near Piddington in Buckinghamshire, to give BAS members ideas for topics to show local people, perhaps as an add-on to a walk to see a BAS archaeological dig or geophysical survey. Historic England is funding projects which involve local people and give them a sense of place, so BAS could provide a narrative to their finds. The BAS Outreach Group is working on this.

Piddington has nothing pre-1903, unlike the nearby ancient villages with flint walls, thatched roofs, and a pond. So, this is an unusual hamlet which started on a greenfield site 1 ½ miles from the nearest village. A photograph database for the Wycombe area shows North's furniture factory in 1904 on the site, before any houses. Newspaper archives show that North's business was in West Wycombe until 1902 but had to find a new location when they lost land at the railway station for use as a timber store. Almost all the surrounding countryside except the Piddington field was owned by Sir Robert Dashwood who set unacceptable terms for any sale. Some of the original factory buildings are extant but many were destroyed in fires. Simon pointed out the earliest terrace houses for the workers, and the large villas for the owner and managers. The owner Mr North set conditions for the plots, e.g., no alcohol to be sold. The factory supplied water and electricity to the village, and paid for a Methodist church, so Piddington has some aspects of a "model village" like Port Sunlight and Bournville.

The rest of the walk largely covered historical routes across this part of the Chilterns. The public are generally interested in changes in their local area shown on a sequence of old maps. The main road west from the village has taken 3 routes

up the steep hill. Until 1810 the route followed a curve to reduce the gradient. This became a holloway probably due to cattle droving. Simon showed a photo taken after a severe storm which had washed out a mass of stones down another nearby holloway. This route was then adopted as a turnpike, so it was possible to add some narrative such as a list of tolls and exemptions from local history museums and libraries. At the top of the hill, in 1968, an antiquarian identified a possible trace of Roman road and made a small trench finding some flints. This section of road from Piddington was replaced by the turnpike trust in 1810 by a straight section, but this made the route steeper. Further on there is a milestone from 1744. Milestones are shown on the old large-scale Ordnance Survey maps, so it would be worth searching for any which have been overgrown. Finally in 1927 another route was made with large embankments and cuttings to reduce the gradient.

The medieval settlement in Fillington Wood dates from 13<sup>th</sup> century and was excavated from 1967, see full details in linked reports. The trenches have been partly left open. There is still a circular ditch and embankment, with several buildings found inside. (This was unknown to any of the inhabitants of Piddington and the current landowner). The archaeologists dug into what they described as a well with 4 human skeletons at the base, but a BAS member suggested it was a mineshaft for mining flint. The water table here would be far too deep to reach with medieval technology. The archaeological report includes a discussion of the people who may have lived at this site and paid taxes.

Simon has written a book, 100 pages for everything about the history of the North furniture business and Piddington. Many high-quality early photographs inside the factory. Only £12, + £2.70 postage. Just email [simon.cains\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:simon.cains(at)gmail.com)

*Simon Cains*

For further information Simon has provided a list of links which are available in the copy of this article on the Society's web site: <https://www.berksarch.co.uk/index.php/bas-guided-walk-around-piddington/>



## BAS Visit to St Andrew's Church Sonning

Due to demand, there were two group visits to St Andrew's Church, Sonning, for familiarisation with its external mediaeval graffiti both led by James Peddle. The first took place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July with 7, and the second on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July with 6 BAS members.



The visit started with a short introduction to the topic, then a look at various markings on one of the church walls. In mediaeval times there were no clocks, so time was not structured then as it is now. Consequently, people would go by the general position of the Sun and may have had access to a sundial. We found 'scratch dials' (crude sundials) on the church -these would have been little practical use. They are likely representative of a more symbolic relationship between an individual commitment to pray to God.

Memorials in the form of a headstone in the churchyard or on the church wall were too expensive for most people. So, some have been engraved onto the outside walls. They usually use a 'house' shape enclosing the person's initials and date of death, e.g., RE 1701 was found.

In a mediaeval context, daisy wheels, also known as 'hexafoils' or 'compass drawn petals', were apotropaic, i.e., to ward off evil. They were believed to work by the evil spirits getting 'trapped' in the design with no way out. They were mainly drawn with a two-pronged tool like a compass. But as compasses were specialist items for mediaeval people, these were likely drawn with commonly available scissors or shears. They are often found by doors and windows where evil may enter, or around spiritually significant areas (font, altars, devotional paintings...).

VV, W & M symbols are thought to be associated with an appeal to the Virgin Mary for positive outcomes. The VV standing for Virgo Virginum, Virgin of Virgins, and when VV or W are turned upside down then they are an M – an incorruptible symbol.

Small holes in the stones could be where people have scratched for grains of the church as a holy potion to recover their health.

At this point we split into two groups, one led by James, the other by Keith Abbott, to look for examples of the above and other graffiti on other areas of the walls.

The groups swapped over after which as a full group we looked at some other significant stones and stone markings. Masons marks are typically in the centre of a stone, whereas guild marks tend to cross stones possibly indicating, 'We paid for this'. Lead roofs sometimes have outlines of the hands and feet of workers. Glaziers sometimes put their name and date on their glass. The same is true of woodwork. There is some graffiti inside the church, but most has been covered in heavy lime whitewash.

As there is currently no record of any of this graffiti, we looked at how might we record it formally. James demonstrated the use of a tripod and a mobile phone camera set to take images in raw file format. The advantage of most mobile phones cameras is the single lens which needs to be situated about 0.5 m from the carving. An archaeological scale also needs to be used to determine the size of the markings. Then, holding a torch at different raking angles, take photos recording the shadows cast by the graffiti and later integrate them using a graphics package. Record the site of graffiti seen on a plan of the church and on a record sheet. Church histories can be found in the 'Victoria County Histories'. Both visits concluded with a chat over a drink in the nearby Bull Inn.



It is hoped that these two experience/discoveries of graffiti sessions at St Andrew's, Sonning, will have served as the forerunner to a future BAS project. If you are interested in being involved in this or in seeing some mediaeval church graffiti, please contact James Peddle, peddle(at)[hotmail.co.uk](mailto:peddle@hotmail.co.uk).

*Julie Worsfold and James Peddle*

## BAS Walking Tour of Abingdon

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2022 nine members of BAS were led on what turned out to be a nearly 2 hour walk by Kevin Thomson and his colleague Mike of "Walk.About.Abingdon" ([www.walkaboutabingdon.org.uk](http://www.walkaboutabingdon.org.uk)). This is now a charitable venture, so our £10 contributions went straight to local charities. We were also joined at intervals by 2 then 4 foreign tourists which made Kevin's efforts worthwhile without making the group cumbersome. Kevin is very knowledgeable and has a head full of dates. The early archaeology of the town is hidden below ground so our tour began with the Saxon abbey.



We started at the Guildhall and the adjoining gate into the former abbey grounds. The abbey itself was so thoroughly dismantled after the Dissolution that it can only be traced by lines of bricks in the very attractive park. What look like standing remains are in fact a folly built by Edwin Trendell in 1780 to enhance the view from his new "Abbey House". Fortunately, some original buildings survive adjacent to the mill stream which diverts from the Thames. These included a granary – now the Unicorn Theatre – and the impressive Long Gallery – once a monastery dormitory. Some impressive medieval wall paintings survive on the gable of one of the dividing partitions. Sadly, the large mill buildings, until recently the Upper Reaches Hotel, have been abandoned and are decaying fast.

Back in the town centre we saw the school built by John Roysse in 1563. It cost £63, is 63 feet long and housed 63 scholars!

More medieval paintings could be seen on the ceiling of a chapel in St Helen's Church, a short walk towards the southwestern end of the town centre. These trace the family tree of Christ from his ancestor, Jesse. The church itself is unusual in possessing 5 aisles. It would perhaps have had more if the river was not so close! Around the corner on the gable end of one of several alms-houses is a framed 17<sup>th</sup> century painting showing the now destroyed Abingdon Cross.

We then retraced our steps back to the impressive neo-classical Market Hall, now home to the Abingdon Museum, passing the house where Charles I stayed and further up, the oldest house in Abingdon. By this time, we were tired and hungry so headed to the nearest pub for an enjoyable lunch! Many thanks to Kevin and all those who attended.

*Tim Lloyd*

## BAS Guided Tour Around West Wycombe

On 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022 Simon Cains led a small group around West Wycombe in Buckinghamshire. The aim was to suggest topics which BAS could show to the public in Berkshire, as part of the society's Outreach initiative. The group walked round the ditch of an iron-age "hillfort" at the end of a ridge, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> century BC, within sight of the Desborough Castle hillfort 2km away. Both forts had later occupation inside, which is unusual. There was a Saxon settlement and church within the West Wycombe hillfort from 635 AD. James Peddle identified many features on the present St Lawrence church, including scaffolder's holes, some possible recycled Roman tiles, and earlier blocked-up windows. The church tower and interior were remodelled by the Dashwood family around 1763 including a large hollow golden ball on the tower which was used by Sir Francis Dashwood for private meetings and to signal by mirror to another tower 21 miles away. There are some interesting building debris piles which would be worth checking in winter.

Simon pointed out some gravestone inscriptions, including a postman who had been hit by a train on the level crossing, and some Commonwealth War Grave Commission stones. Only servicemen who died in the UK could be buried in the UK, but there are also family memorials. The writing on many gravestones is rapidly fading but family history societies will usually have a full record. The churchyard should be part of any village tour for the human-interest stories.

The hilltop looks down on the site of a large army encampment in 1905, some 5500 men and 44 guns. These manoeuvres were very common from 1850 to 1914, the later ones covered several counties. Before 1900 they tended to be in Berkshire because it was near Sandhurst and planning for a possible French invasion of the south coast heading for London, so BAS could find more local examples of these in <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>



The group climbed a nearby hill where many Roman coins have been found, some now in a collection of Sir Edward Dashwood. He is interested to know why so many coins are here, so he would likely support some geophysical work on his land. A Roman cemetery has also been found in West Wycombe, adding to the possibility of a Roman building nearby.

Simon took the group along West Wycombe High Street, relating some more modern history narratives. The village is all owned by the National Trust. There was a small Cavalier raid in the English Civil War in 1643, the commander left a very colourful account of this “beating up”. The oldest building is the Church Loft, 1465. James was able to show many examples of additions and changes to this building. There is also a small village lock-up. Simon showed the original site of the North’s furniture factory before it moved to Piddington, which is only seen in 3 of 1200 photographs of West Wycombe, so there are still some new discoveries even in such a well-documented village.



*Simon Cains*

For further information Simon has provided a list of links which are available in the copy of this article on the Society’s web site: <https://www.berksarch.co.uk/index.php/bas-walking-tour-around-west-wycombe/>

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## BAS Study Group

There was no meeting of the BAS Study group in June 2022

In July 2022, the meeting started with a presentation by Keith Abbott of the geophysics survey of Cookham Paddock 2022 (see separate article).

This was followed by two presentations on training. The first was written by Anne Harrison but in her absence was presented by Andrew Hutt. In it, she reminded us of the fieldwork knowledge and skills we have developed in: geophysics - data gathering; trench work; site preparation; excavation recording and in desk-based research: geophysics - interpretation (Snuffler and Affinity Designer); finds processing in the field - washing, counting, weighing; finds processing off site - marking, identification, analysis, recording; plans, context diagrams, stratigraphic drawings; finds integration (linking finds and contexts); report writing and outreach - publication, presentations, exhibitions. She then went on to remind us of the many suppliers of training in these areas including the Society.

The second was by Keith Abbott. He started by recording all the knowledge and skills he had learned while working with the Society for the last 2 years. It was a very long list and reminds us that the Society has provided and is providing lots of learning opportunities. He then went on to present the learning opportunities being offered to BAS members by the University of Reading through the Middle Thames Archaeological Partnership.

The meeting concluded with a presentation by Andrew Hutt on the Integrated Archaeological Database, a software system developed by York Archaeology and used by the University of Reading to record the work on the Silchester and other projects. The Society is interested in this because it provides a strong link between finds and contexts on archaeological excavations and mechanisms to group contexts and finds to provide well founded interpretations of the archaeology.

*Andrew Hutt*

### Researching past BAS excavations at Reading Abbey

Recently Nigel Spencer and I have been researching evidence from excavations carried out by Cecil Slade, a former President of the society. Our particular interest was in the excavations carried out in 1973, in an area which then and now lies within the walls of the former Reading Jail. At that time there was a brief opportunity to excavate within the walls of the jail, and Cecil believed he had found evidence not only for the presence of abbey remains, but also, at a level below the remains, evidence of earlier occupation which he thought predated the abbey. This is documented in volume 68 of the

Berkshire Archaeological Journal, published in 1975 and available online, via the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) library: <https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/library/>.

Cecil's report gives information on material from the dig which had been deposited with Reading Museum. It is this evidence that we are trying to identify, by searching on material from the Museum stores. So far, we have identified slides from the time, all in good condition, and giving us much better information than the black and white pictures we had previously.

We aim to research the museum stores for relevant information on masonry with plaster, which could give us some relevant dating evidence.

*Isobel MacLean*

## The Scratching Post

Whilst on holiday in Kent we visited Fordwich's medieval town hall and discovered some unknown graffiti. The hall was built about 1570, the graffiti and taper burn are likely to have been created shortly after. A small poster was designed to help visitors appreciate them.



### Graffiti in 'Jury Room' at Fordwich Townhall

The triangle, crossed at the top, is likely a representation of the Holy Trinity. The Trinity is God, Jesus & the Holy Spirit. The mark would have been thought of as a protection against evil.

Black marks - Taper burns, made by holding a candle near the timber to scorch it. Believed to give a protection against possible future fires

M - Marian' mark (Mary the mother of Jesus). Placed near windows or doors as a defence against 'evil' entering the building. A common Medieval Graffiti mark often found in churches, it can be inverted as 2 interlocking Vs

Photograph and interpretation by James Peddle

*James Peddle*

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## From the Field...

### Earth resistance survey of Cookham Paddock

Cookham Paddock is located 60m from the south bank of the River Thames and to the west of Holy Trinity Church and its cemetery (grid reference SU 897 855).

In August 2021, the University of Reading Department of Archaeology led a team of staff/students and volunteers from local societies affiliated to the Middle Thames Archaeology Partnership (including BAS) to evaluate the potential archaeology in Cookham Paddock through a series of test trenches. This evaluation revealed strong evidence of a sizeable Mid-Saxon settlement there. The pottery finds in particular were almost exclusively from the Mid-Saxon period. The numerous parallel running ditches suggested the settlement was structured into defined zones of occupation, and the postholes attested the presence of at least one timber building which would have housed the inhabitants of the settlement and suggested the



presence of other buildings close by. The artefacts found across the site included food remains, pottery vessels used for cooking and eating; and a bronze bracelet, bone comb, bronze pins and an iron axe head (Thomas and Mudd, 2022).

Based on these results the University of Reading, Department of Archaeology planned further excavations within Cookham Paddock for August 2022. To assist in the planning for this BAS was asked to carry out an earth resistance survey of Cookham Paddock to provide data to locate trenches and identify anomalies of interest for further investigation during this excavation.

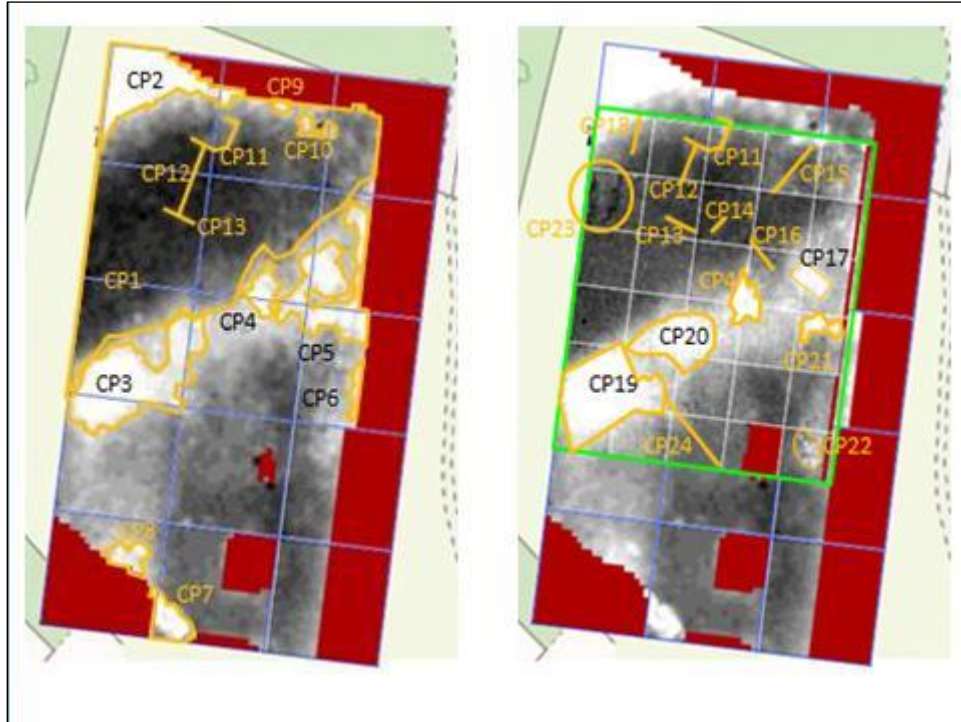


Figure 1 Earth resistance survey image for Cookham Paddock, 1.0m resolution left and 0.5m resolution right with anomalies highlighted.

The BAS survey team (Andrew Hutt, Paul Seddon, Nigel Spencer, Martin Labram, James Peddle, Philip Rawstron and Keith Abbott) carried out the earth resistance survey from 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May, using 20m x 20m grids with a 1.0m survey resolution across the entire Paddock area, and using 10m x 10m grids with a 0.5m survey resolution in areas of interest in the north of the Paddock. The 10m x 10m survey technique, whilst requiring 4 times more effort to capture the additional data, was able to provide significantly enhanced image resolution as can be seen in Figure 1 above. The earth resistance data was combined in a layered image stack along with the 2021 trench plans and coring data so that the anomalies identified could be seen with as much context as possible.

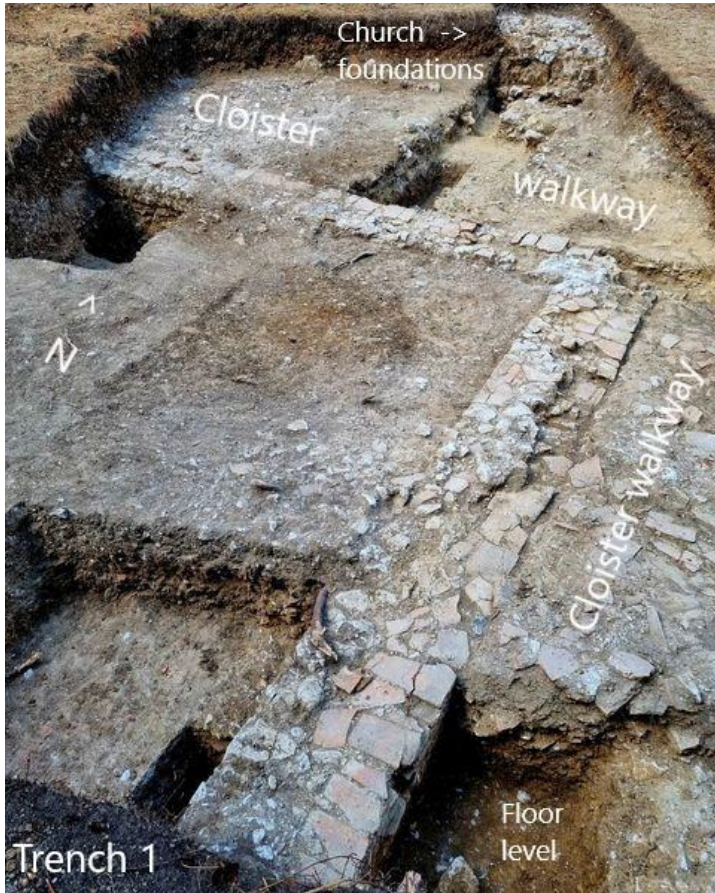
The survey report was provided to the University of Reading Department of Archaeology on time and was used to determine the location of the trenches to be excavated. This project is a good example of how the skills and experience within the voluntary sector can be called on by the University at short notice when needed.

A report on the 2022 excavations is planned for the next newsletter.

*Keith Abbott*

## **Ankerwycke Dig – 2022**

In July the National Trust (NT) organised a community excavation targeting the 12th century medieval priory and later Tudor mansion at the Ankerwycke site (part of Runnymede). The plan was to investigate the potential buildings identified by the geophysical surveys that BAS and others have carried out over several years. The NT excavations were admirably run by two members of Surrey County Archaeological Unit supervising several dozen public volunteers, including some BAS members.



The first trench was positioned over the probable north-east corner of the priory's cloister, exposing both the inner and outer walls of the cloister walkway with, to the north, an abutting large wall foundation likely to have been part of the church. Some encaustic mediaeval tiles and a thimble were recovered. The walkway side of the inner cloister wall (garth wall) was constructed of flat laid tiles which may be the first time this design has been observed.

The second trench some 15m south focused on the geophysical cross-shaped anomaly thought to be a garden feature. The gravel deposit which aligned with the anomaly was mostly machined away to reveal chalk blocks (some with mouldings) similar to those which exist in the remaining upstanding walls on site. To the sides of the gravel were spreads of demolition material from the priory. It is thought these spreads were used to make up the levels to form the formal gardens of the 16th century Tudor mansion constructed by Sir Thomas Smith, the gravel forming paths dividing up this part of the garden. At the eastern end of the trench the lower six courses of a boundary wall were uncovered containing Tudor-sized bricks; this wall was likely the formal garden's surrounding wall but may also have been the priory boundary.

James Brown (NT Regional Archaeologist) and Harry Farmer (NT Assistant Archaeologist) gave a very informative public site talk one evening towards the end of the dig with details of the excavations and the history of the site. They discussed the likely four properties on site which

started with an early wooden cell/building for an anchorite (female hermit), and which was later developed into a stone priory from which we still have some upstanding remains. The priory was replaced by the 16th century Tudor house of Sir Thomas Smith with its formal gardens, which was then replaced in turn by an early 19th century house with pleasure gardens which then burnt down in the 20th century.

The National Trust initial assessments of the excavation results have started to answer their research questions including layout and design of the medieval cloister, lives of the nuns at St. Mary's Priory, a clear picture of what areas and materials were used for Sir Thomas Smith's Tudor manor conversion. They plan to continue the excavations over the next few years providing further opportunities for BAS involvement.

*James Peddle*

## BAS Outreach group

There was no meeting of the BAS Outreach group in June 2022.

The Society's outreach efforts are moving towards giving communities a stronger sense of place by explaining and interpreting archaeological sites in their area. This meeting focused on how to formalise this work within the Society.

The first presentation by Andrew Hutt briefly explained the boundary between the interests of the Study group with its focus on doing research and recording the results of their work in reports and the interests of the Outreach group with its focus on providing short interpretations of significant archaeological sites, showing exhibitions, and building relationships with local communities.

The second presentation focused on how best to formalise outreach work so that the Society has a clear understanding of the commitments that it is making to other societies and to town and parish councils. The next step in this work is to develop an example and hence gain experience with this approach.

*Andrew Hutt*

## Talks by other groups

### **Berkshire Archaeological Research Group (BARG)**

BARG holds quarterly evening meetings in person at The Cornerstone, Norreys Ave, Wokingham RG40 1UE. £3 fee for non-members. None are listed at the time of writing, but if interested please keep an eye on: <http://www.barg-online.org>

### **Maidenhead Archaeological and Historical Society (MAHS)**

Talks are usually on the last Wednesday in the month on Zoom - 7.50pm for start at 8pm.

£3 fee for non-members. For the list of forthcoming talks and to book:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/maidenhead-archaeological-and-historical-society>

For more information please email: [paul@c21networks.co.uk](mailto:paul@c21networks.co.uk)

### **Marlow Archaeology Group (MAG)**

Talks are once a month on varying Thursdays and start at 8pm. For more information and to book those on Zoom: <https://www.marlowarch.co.uk>

### **South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group (SOAG)**

Talks run from September to April (except December) on the fourth Thursday in the month starting at 7.30pm and are either in-person at **Sonning Common Village Hall or on Zoom**. Talks are open to all although donations at the door are appreciated. For more information:

<http://www.soagarch.org.uk/events.html>

## Input to the quarterly newsletter and monthly e-newsheet

Further to a recent meeting of the Communications Working Group the Society is adopting a unified copy date, the 27<sup>th</sup> of the month. So articles for the monthly e-newsheet which is being renamed to 'What's On', and for this newsletter now need to be submitted to Tim Lloyd, who produces 'What's On' at [webmaster@berksarch.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@berksarch.co.uk) and to me at [newsletter@berksarch.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@berksarch.co.uk) by the 27<sup>th</sup> of the month. Please submit text and images separately as this makes them easier for us to handle.

Therefore, the next copy date for 'What's On' will be Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

This newsletter will continue to be produced quarterly, putting the final copy date for the next issue at Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

My thanks to all the contributors to this newsletter and to Anne Harrison for proof-reading.

*Julie Worsfold*

## BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Patron: H.M. THE QUEEN

President: Professor Michael Fulford  
CBE FBA FSA

The Society was founded in 1871 and for over 150 years has encouraged and supported archaeological activities in Berkshire.

Everybody with an interest in archaeology is welcome to attend our meetings and join the Society. It does not matter whether your interest in archaeology is newly found or long standing, the Society offers activities from regular lectures, an annual Day School (conference) and visits to excavations and research.

All members receive a monthly e-news sheet with news of the Society's events and other events in Berkshire, this quarterly newsletter and a free copy of The Berkshire Archaeological Journal published by the Society.

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