



ARCHAEOLOGY

The Newsletter of the Berkshire Archaeological Society

Spring 2023

Vol. 24, No.4

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 8th February 2023: BAS Study Group Lunch – TBC

Saturday 18th February 2023: Lecture*: *Test Pitting in North Warnborough* by Carenza Lewis

Wednesday 1st March 2023: BAS Study Group: 2:30pm at Woosehill Community Centre and on Zoom

Wednesday 8th March 2023: BAS Study Group Lunch – TBC

Saturday 18th March 2023: Lecture*: University of Reading PhD Candidate – Details TBA

Saturday 1st April 2023: BAS Day School - The Cornerstone, Norreys Avenue, Wokingham, RG40 1UE

Wednesday 5th April 2023: BAS Study Group: 2:30pm at Woosehill Community Centre and on Zoom

6th April 2023: Membership subscriptions are due: For more details see the back page of this newsletter and the enclosed Membership renewal form

Wednesday 12th April 2023: BAS Study Group Lunch – TBC

Wednesday 3rd May 2023: BAS Study Group: 2:30pm at Woosehill Community Centre and on Zoom

Wednesday 10th May 2023: BAS Study Group Lunch – TBC

* Please note that unless otherwise advised all Saturday lectures take place at RISC, London St, Reading, RG1 4PS with refreshments from 2pm 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. Lectures will start at 2:30pm.

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

From the chair

The three months from December 2022 to February 2023 have been fairly quiet.

Fieldwork is progressing at Moulsworth, Wickham and Inkpen. The Study Group has started desktop research on the Berkshire Roman Project 3. This work will be continuing in the next months.

I am sorry to tell you that due to lack of support, meetings of the Outreach Group have been suspended for the next three months. If you would like to get involved in outreach then please contact me.

A significant change, approved by Council, is that we expect all future Archaeology on Saturdays and Study Group meetings and the forthcoming day school to be held as face-to-face and Zoom events.

Before she retired at co-chair, Alison McQuitty had developed a draft of a revised constitution for the Society. I have now started work on it. If all goes well you will be asked to approve it at the 2023 Annual General meeting.

Last, but not least, Julie Worsfold has delegated the task of producing this edition of the newsletter to me.

Andrew Hutt

IN
BERKSHIRE

Archaeology on Saturdays

The December meeting: members' talks

Our Christmas meeting is devoted to members talking about projects in which they have been involved.

Personal report on Ankerwycke and Cookham excavations by James Peddle

James Peddle gave a talk on two excavations he had worked on in the summer 2022.

Ankerwycke

The land at Ankerwycke is owned by the National Trust and this site is mainly known for the yew tree, said to be as much as 2,000 years old. However, it is also the site of a priory, founded in the 12th century, occupied by nuns, and closed during the Reformation in the mid-16th century.

The priory was built first of wood, later replaced with stone. In trench 1 there was evidence of this timber/stone transition, with the base of some of the walls being built on stacks of tiles. A feature not seen elsewhere in similar buildings.

In 1552, a Tudor house was built on the site, reusing part of the existing priory walls. Trench 2 crossed some of the Tudor house's garden features and garden wall.

The National Trust will be excavating this site again in 2023 and will welcome BAS volunteers.

Cookham Paddock

Cookham is the site of an Anglo-Saxon monastery which has been lost, but recent excavations suggest that it lies under the existing church and cemetery.

BAS undertook a geophysical survey at the site in May 2022,

It had been hoped to find evidence of metal working in trench 1, but all that was found was evidence of ovens, hearths, pits and a trackway on the north of the site.

Trench 2 was dominated by north/south and east/west ditches containing 13 burials, three of which did not have heads. Burials in the east/west ditch were dated to AD 680-770. The burials in the north/south ditch were dated to AD 870/990.

Work on the site is being led by the University of Reading. It has money for the excavations, but none for the post excavation work.

***Lost Voices of Rome's Imperial Slaves* by Keith Abbott**

The Paedagogium, Rome was a school that taught the children of slaves and trained them to work in the royal palaces. There were two Paedagogia in Rome. The one discussed here is the one between the Flavian Palace and the Circus Maximus.

These schools educated high class slaves. Young men, who were good looking, many of them Greek. They were educated to be seen in public associated with the

powerful men they worked for. They worked as waiters in public banquets, or as personal slaves. These slaves were elaborately dressed and made up and while there is little mention them in Roman texts the graffiti found on the walls of this building indicate both who was educated there and details of their lives.

Where we know the names of the slaves, they are mainly Greek, many associated with North Africa and often reflecting their function in their owner's household.

The graffiti can be found in public and private spaces in the building and much of it is quite low on the walls. Much of it is ribald - and sexual - speaking mainly of homosexuality. However, some was about their position as slaves, their awareness of their servility and that they were valued for their functionality not for themselves.

While graffiti is common in Roman buildings, the graffiti in the Paedagogium relates specifically to the lives of those who lived and learned there.

Catherine Petts

The January Meeting: 'Neolithic Malta' by Tim Lloyd.

Tim started his talk by showing us Malta on a map of the Mediterranean, and telling us how, on this 'sun, sea and sand' holiday destination, amazing Neolithic temples have been found, which are, in the words of the Daily Mail, "Older than Stonehenge and the Pyramids". They date from 3,200 BC, when Neolithic people built megalithic structures; temples and grave sites, with this coming to an end with the arrival of Bronze Age people in 2,000 BC.

Tim explained that the 'temples' were so called because of their design, and because they are the earliest man-made structures found on Malta.

We looked briefly at the Ghar Dalam Cave (5,200-4,500 BC), and at grey and red female figurines from the Skorba Phase (4,500-4,100 BC).

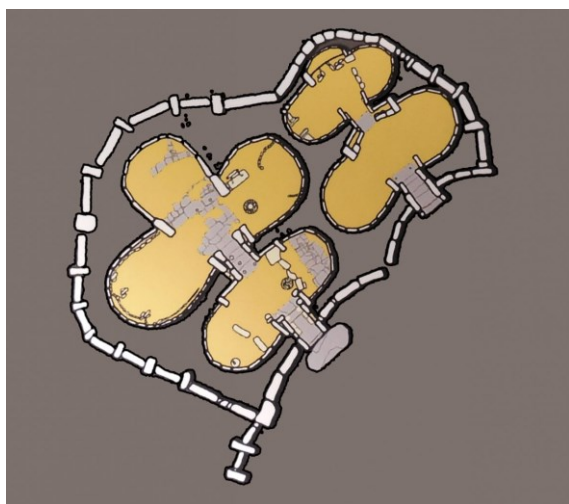
We looked at the temple remains at Ggantija ('place of the giants') on Gozo. Named after this site, the Ggantija Phase of temple building is dated 3,600-3,000 BC. We looked at a plan of the two temples at Ggantija, both shaped rather like a 5-lobed leaf, with the stem as the entrance corridor. The apsidal chambers to each side are called 'chapels', and the apsidal chamber facing the entrance of the older temple was called the 'chancel'. In the more recent, smaller temple, there was a small apse with a niche facing the entrance. The temples were enclosed by a megalithic wall, and each entrance had a curved stone facade. We saw photographs of the inside of the temples, showing structures called 'altars', which reminded viewers of the stone cupboards at Neolithic Skara Brae, Orkney.

We then looked at the temples of Hagar Qim and Mnajdra, first excavated in 1839, which have been roofed

to protect them from the elements. A plan of Hagar Qim showed multiple curved-walled 'chapels', seemingly squashed into the available space, with the temple possibly being expanded over time. The entrance trilithon doorway had been reconstructed. Inside were found relief sculptures and extraordinarily carved stones. A 'Porthole' doorway was cut through a megalith, and had 'tie holes' cut into either side, suggesting it once had a door which could be shut and fastened. The wall stones were more finely cut and fitted than at the older temple of Ggantija. Part of Hagar Qim showed the remains of stone corbelling, and this may have been how the temple was once roofed. One chamber marked the summer solstice, suggesting that the temple, although distinctly 'ritual' in design, may have been involved in predicting the seasonal calendar, which would have been of great practical use to Neolithic farmers.

Situated next to Hagar Qim, was Mnajdra, which has three temples. An aerial view showed that the oldest, smallest temple was in the shape of a 3-lobed leaf, while the other two had four lobes or 'chapels', and with niches rather than 'chancels' facing the entrance. The central, most recently built temple had an 'altar' still in place in its niche. In the forecourt of the three temples was seen a large posthole, called a 'tethering point', with a suggested function as a place to tether sacrificial animals. We looked at high quality stonework, and at niches cut neatly into megaliths for unknown purposes. One doorway had its lintel and other nearby stones decorated with an extraordinary pattern of densely packed small pits.

We then looked at Tarxien, one of the last temples to be built on Malta at around 3,000-2,500 BC. An aerial photograph showed us this roofed site situated in an urban area. A plan showed an entrance leading into the first of several double-lobed chambers, all connected to each other by short corridors. There was a separate smaller temple with its own entrance to one side, with both temples lying within an enclosure wall. We learned that during the Bronze Age this structure was used as a



Plan of the temple at Ggantija

cremation cemetery and that later, during the Roman period, the area was used for agriculture.

At Tarxien, as with the other temples, trilithon doorways were seen. Again, the stonework was of very high quality showing how, as time progressed, the Neolithic stoneworkers became ever more skilful. We saw large stone balls, which Tim told us littered the site, and which were probably used to move the megaliths. We saw a finely made 'altar' and relief sculptures of spirals and foliage, as well as a large broken sculpture of a well-built person. One extraordinary spiral-decorated stone had a section neatly cut out, and Tim told us that when the cut stone was removed, there was a small niche behind, where objects could be hidden.

All of the carved stones at temple sites were copies, and at Valletta Museum we saw the originals. Spirals with foliage were a popular design, but animal and fish relief sculptures were also seen. We saw human sculptures, including obviously female figures, and also phallic sculptures. A rather lovely terracotta sculpture, painted with red ochre, of a female reclining on a couch, is called the 'Sleeping Lady'. She was found in a burial chamber at the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum.

The Hal Saflieni Hypogeum is an amazing underground structure, built on three levels, the lowest part being 33 feet (10.6m) below ground. Used for Neolithic burials, it has many similarities with the temples, including trilithon doorways and curved-walled chambers. Tim explained that on Malta, people had first buried their dead in natural features such as caves or rock holes in the ground, only later cutting into the rock to make burial chambers. We looked at the 'Brochtorff' Circle on Gozo, which has similar underground burial chambers, with high quality stonework, including corbelled roofs, and red ochre spirals painted on some ceilings.

Tim ended his talk with a list of interesting questions, such as what rituals occurred in the structures, which future research and archaeology may or may not ever answer.

Joan Burrow-Newton



Inspired by the Sleeping Lady found at Hal Saflieni Hypogeum by Tim Lloyd

From the field

Geophysics at Inkpen

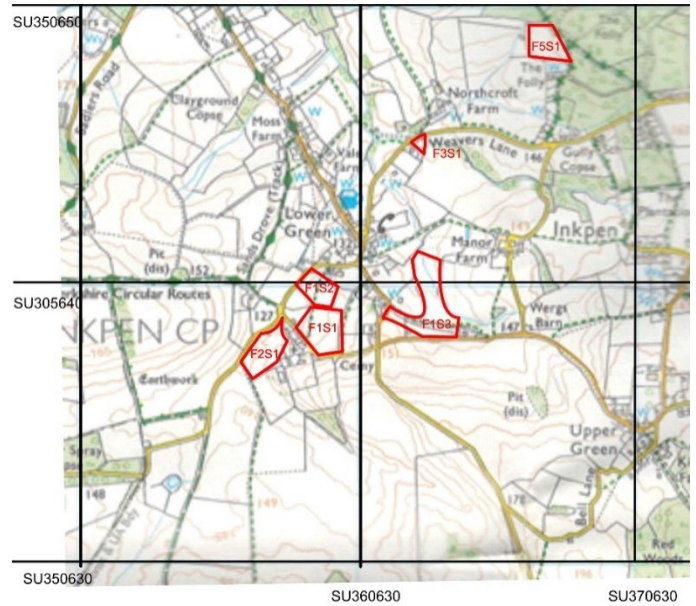
The Inkpen Parish Council has invited the Society to undertake geophysics surveys on 10 sites across the parish (see figure). From the 28th September to 6th October 2022, a small team surveyed site F2S1 with the Society's gradiometer and earth resistance meter. The survey found evidence of three phases of structures on the site;

Phase 1 was a structure some 20m north-south and 10m east-west

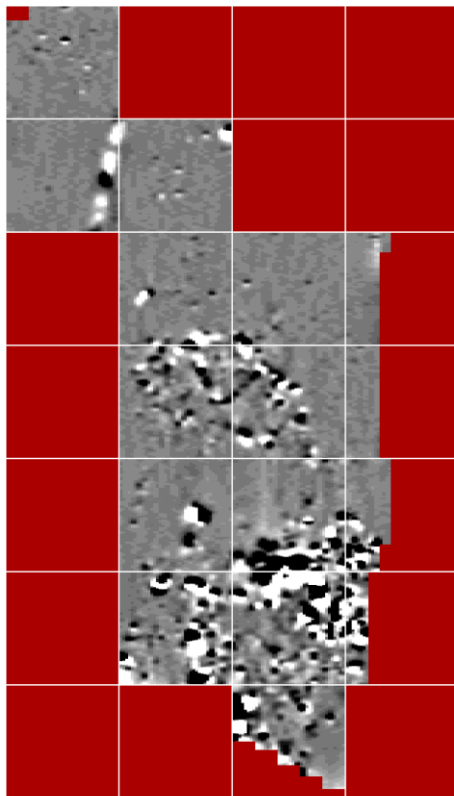
Phase 2 was a series of buildings aligned to Spray Road but located some 40m above the road. The largest of the buildings was some 14m x 5m

Phase 3 was a series of buildings on the side of Spray Road, these included what may prove to be two barns, the largest of which may have been 30m x 8m. They were aligned at right-angles to the road.

Unfortunately, a geophysics survey does not allow us to date these phases of use of the site.

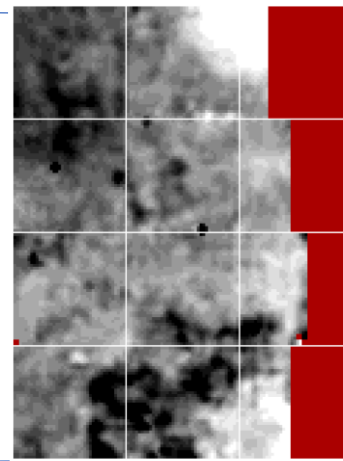


Six of the sites at Inkpen



Document: Ink2GVView
 Grid Width: 160 (80 m)
 Grid Height: 1120 (140 m)
 Orig. Sample Size: 1.00 x 0.25m
 New Sample Size: 0.50 x 0.13m

Gradiometer results



Document: Ink22RView
 Grid Width: 120 (60 m)
 Grid Height: 160 (80 m)
 Orig. Sample Size: 1.00 x 1.00m
 New Sample Size: 0.50 x 0.50m

The lines show the relationship between the 12 squares of the earth resistance survey and the gradiometer survey

Earth resistance survey results

Andrew Hutt

The Study Group

There was no meeting of the Study Group in December; nobody had anything they wanted to present.

January 2023, was the first face-to-face meeting of the Study Group since the start of the Covid restrictions. Some 20 of us met at Woosehill Community Centre with another 20 people online. This meeting was devoted to a presentation and discussion of the Berkshire Romans Project 3. This project is assessing changes in society and power in the Berkshire region from 55 BC, when Caesar invaded Britain, to AD 410 when the communities in Britain were told to see to their own defence. Andrew Hutt gave a presentation of the project proposal.

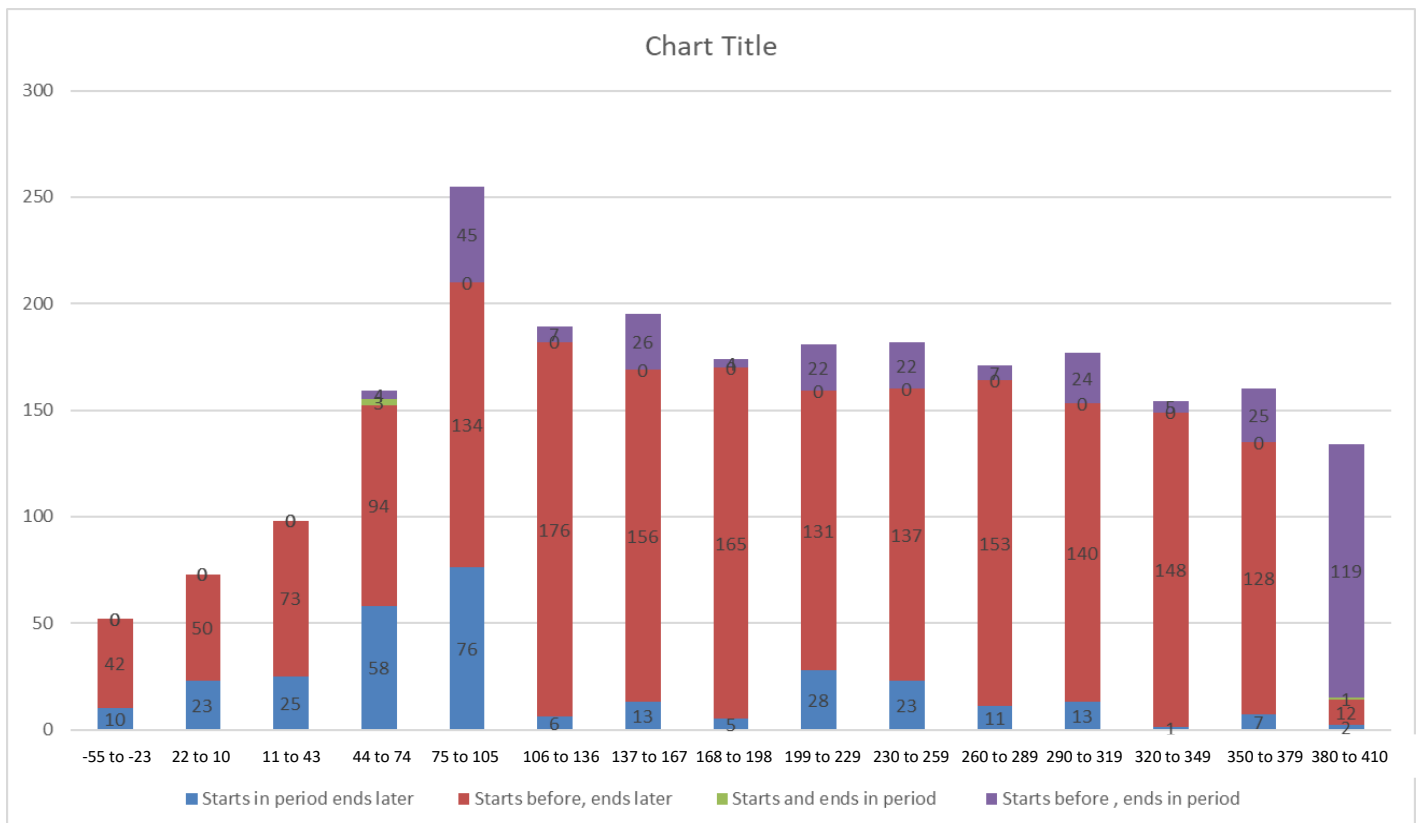
By February, groups of people had decided they wanted to answer 3 questions related to changes in Roman society and power in the Berkshire region. These questions are:

- Do changes in the built environment reflect social changes in the period 55 BC to AD 410?
- Where were the elite in period -50 to +75 and +100?

- Who built the Roman roads across the Berkshire region and how was the Cursus Publicus developed?

At the February Study group meeting Andrew Hutt explained how we should go about answering these questions and gave a presentation on changes of the built environment (chart below). In this chart the light blue shows investment in the built environment in approximately 30 year periods. This shows that during the Late Iron Age and through the period of the Cogidubnus client kingdom and into the Early Roman period there was steady and growing investment in the built environment which continued until AD 105 some 30 years after the death of Cogidubnus and when his kingdom was separated into civitates. After AD 105, investment levelled off until AD 380 when across the region, sites were abandoned.

Three teams of Study Group members are proposing to work on the questions, if you like to join in, please contact me.



Andrew Hutt

Membership subscriptions 2023-24

Subscriptions to the Society are due in April 2023 for the year to April 2024, except for those who joined after 1st January 2023. Subscription rates are £15 for an individual and £20 for a couple at the same address and are due on 6th April. Correspondence should be sent to me at the address below. Please note that your membership will lapse if the subscription is not paid by 31st July 2023.

A number of members already pay by Standing Order or the equivalent, and we are most grateful to them for this. If you would like to pay electronically direct to the Society's account in future please ask me for the details. **A renewal form is enclosed with this newsletter** for use by those who prefer to pay by cheque, and also to record any changes in a member's name, address, telephone number or email. The latter is particularly important as the bulk of communication with you now is carried out electronically. Thank you.

Anne Harrison

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tel 01189785520, email treasurer@berksarch.co.uk

Input to the quarterly newsletter and monthly What's On

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

If you have an archaeological story you feel would interest the Society, please email it to Tim Lloyd, who produces 'What's On', the society's monthly e-news sheet, at webmaster@berksarch.co.uk and to me at newsletter@berksarch.co.uk by the 27th of the month.

Please submit your text and images separately as this makes them much easier for Tim and me to handle than when the images are embedded in the text.

The copy date for the next edition of this publication, the society's quarterly newsletter is Monday, 27th May 2023.

Thank you,

Julie Worsfold

BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Patron: Her Late Majesty 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.

Officers of the Society:

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