

# BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2021 – 2022

ANDREW HUTT

**Registered Charity No.:** 1117197

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

## Trustees 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021

<b>Joint Chair</b>	Ms Alison McQuitty, Dr Maggie Smith
<b>Secretary</b>	Mrs Anne Harrison
<b>Treasurer</b>	Dr Andrew Hutt
<b>Tour Organiser</b>	Vacant
<b>Other Charity trustees</b>	Mr Keith Abbott, Mrs Ann Griffin, Mrs Anne Helmore, Mr Tim Lloyd, Mrs Catherine Petts, Mrs Griselda Truscott-Wicks, Mrs Julie Worsfold

## Trustees 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

<b>Chair</b>	Dr Andrew Hutt
<b>Secretary</b>	Mr. Keith Abbott
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mrs Anne Harrison
<b>Tour Organiser</b>	Vacant
<b>Other Charity trustees</b>	Ms Alison McQuitty, Mrs Ann Griffin, Mrs Anne Helmore, Mr Tim Lloyd, Mrs Catherine Petts, Mrs Griselda Truscott-Wicks

**Bankers** Lloyds TSB Bank  
Skipton Building Society  
Newbury Building Society

**Independent examiner** Mr John Butler

This report covers the period from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.

### 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.

By 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022, the work of the Society was assigned to seven working groups. They were:

- Management Team
- Walks and Visits group
- Day School group
- Berkshire Archaeological Journal Editorial Board
- Study Group
- Outreach Group
- Communications Group

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 is kept.

**POLICIES**

In addition to its constitution the Society is governed by the following policies:

*Safeguarding Policy* dated 11th December 2015, approved by the Council on 12th December 2015.

*BAS Data Protection and Privacy Policy* approved by the Council on 15th September 2018.

*BAS Expenses Policy* approved by the Council on 6th July 2019.

*BAS digital voting policy* approved by the Council on 21st September 2019.

*BAS Policy for publishing BAS Grey Reports* approved by the Council on 12th December 2020

**ACTIVITIES**

The activities in this period were:

**Four issues of the quarterly newsletter** sent to all members. The Society thanks Julie Worsfold 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 2021 to April 2022** (Table 1). The Society thanks Andrew Hutt for organising this programme. These lectures were delivered to members on Zoom.

**A Spring Tour** was not arranged in Spring 2022 as the post of Tour Organiser is vacant. The Council is exploring other means by which a tour can be organised.

No **Archaeological walks and visits** were possible in the period April 2021 to April 2022 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** was held on Saturday 2 October 2021 at The Cornerstone, Wokingham (Table 2). This was the Society's first face to face meeting since the start of the Covid restrictions so the Society celebrated with a birthday cake. The Society thanks Julie Worsfold for organising this event.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lecturer</b>	<b>Title</b>
18th September 2021	James Mather, Maidenhead Search Society	Responsible Metal Detecting and Discovering the Watlington Hoard
16th October 2021 - AGM	John Painter, Friends of Reading Abbey	Reading Abbey and Reading Gaol
20th November 2021	Keith Abbott, Berkshire Archaeological Society	All roads lead to Wickham
11 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	Members talks	Blounts Court, by Nigel Spencer The Steventon Causeway, by Catherine Petts Runnymede, learning geophysics: the results, by Andrew Hutt
15th January 2022	Dr Jennifer Foster, University of Reading	Sutton Hoo
19th February 2022	Dr Robert Hosfield University of Reading	Surviving in Lower Palaeolithic Europe: four seasonal perspectives
19th March 2022	Dr Lisa Backhouse PhD student University of Reading	Understanding the Early Mediaeval Pottery Assemblage from Lyminge, Kent
23rd April 2022	Professor Duncan Garrow, University of Reading,	Islands of Stone: Neolithic Crannogs on the Outer Hebrides

Table 1. The 2021 to 2022 Archaeology on Saturday lectures

**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 Berkshire Archaeological Journal:** Work was completed on Volume 85, a volume arising from a collaboration with Cotswold Archaeology and reporting on their work in Berkshire. The Society thanks Andrew Hutt and the Berkshire Archaeological Journal Editorial Board for producing this journal.

Volumes 71 to 85 of the journal were 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.

**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 plastic crates which are held in the Society's store. The Society thanks Andrew Hutt for managing these libraries.

## FIELDWORK

### Near Wickham led by Keith Abbott

From 9th April 2021 until 10th July 2021, the Society carried out a geophysics survey of several fields and a topographical survey of the water features on land near Wickham. The objective of the work was to find evidence of the Roman Road from Silchester to Bath which previous research by Hugh Davies and Toller suggested crossed this land.

The key outcomes of this project were:

- 1) The survey failed to find any evidence of the Roman Road to Bath which was projected to pass to the south of Wormstall House. This suggests that the route of the road may lie elsewhere
- 2) The topological survey revealed a swathe of permanently boggy ground across which it would have presented a considerable challenge for the road's construction up the steep escarpment to intersect with Ermin Street, again suggesting that the Road to Bath might have followed a different route to that currently projected
- 3) The likely remains of a building close to Church Hill
- 4) A collection of coins and other artefacts from Mr Tett that have now been identified and recorded on PAS.

TIME	TITLE, SPEAKER & ORGANISATION
10.00	<b>Welcome</b> Professor M. Fulford, President, Berkshire Archaeological Society
10.05	Excavations of the Roman public bathhouse at Silchester, 2018-21 <i>Professor M. Fulford, University of Reading</i>
10.35	Recent archaeological work in East Berkshire Fiona MacDonald, Principal Archaeologist, Berkshire Archaeology
10.55	Recent archaeological work in West Berkshire Sarah Orr, Senior Archaeologist, West Berkshire Council
11.15	COFFEE – 25 mins
11.40	The Berkshire Archaeological Society - 150 years! Andrew Hutt, Berkshire Archaeological Society
12.40	LUNCH – 1 hour 15 minutes
13.55	Sonning Palace Dig, 1924 Catherine Petts, Berkshire Archaeological Society
14.25	Reading Abbey - the archaeological surveys of the 1970s compared with the 2016 GPR survey John Mullaney
14.55	TEA – 25 mins
15.20	Roman <span style="float: right;">Abingdon</span> Tim Lloyd, Berkshire Archaeological Society
15.50-16.00	<b>Questions and Conclusions</b> Catherine Petts, Berkshire Archaeological Society

Table 2. The Archaeology of Berkshire Date School programme

### **The geophysics learning event on the Council Meadow site, Runnymede in 2021 led by Andrew Hutt**

In the week Monday 13th to 17th September 2021, as part of National Lottery Heritage Funded (NLHF) Runnymede Explored project, the Society in partnership with the National Trust and Surrey Council Archaeological Unit ran a geophysics training event on the Council Meadow site on the National Trust's lands at Runnymede.

Council Meadow is thought to be the location where the Barons camped in 1215 as they negotiated and signed the Magna Carta with King John. The geophysics survey results found anomalies round the edge of the higher ground in the Meadow and suggest that the central area of Council Meadow is devoid of archaeological evidence. If these anomalies are the result of the Barons' camp, this suggests they camped round the edge of the higher ground leaving the centre free for meetings and events such as jousting.

### **Fieldwork at Radley Farm, Near Hungerford Newtown in West Berkshire led by Keith Abbott**

The aims of this work, carried out between September 2021 and March 2022, were to gain a better understanding of the fabric of the Roman Road to Bath at this location, to look for evidence of earlier phases of construction, and to document the characteristic geophysics signatures of the Road's surviving remains beneath various modern agricultural landscapes as a reference for later work.

The best preserved remains of the Roman Road were revealed within the ancient woodland of Three Gate Copse. The unpublished transcript, thought to have been lost, of an excavation of the Roman Road within Three Gate Copse in 1968, shed new light on the Road's construction and state of preservation. Earthworks of the Road were also found on the steep slope to Radley Bottom and within Stibbs Wood, although it is likely in this location that they were used as a point of entry to the farm until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, and may have been much modified and repaired since their initial construction. East of Stibbs Wood no trace of the Roman Road was found using geophysics surveys, but in the field southwest of Three Gate Copse traces of the Roman Road were detected over a 50m stretch where the remains of the Road's parallel ditches and what appears to be a small area of surviving agger were detected. No evidence of occupation close to the Roman Road was found. Neither was any evidence found of earlier phases of construction of the Road using a different route to cross Radley Farm.

### **Other work field started in the year 2021 to 2022**

In late April 2022, excavations at Blounts Court were started. They finished in May 2022 and hence will be recorded in the Society's 2022-2023 Trustees report.

### **THE BAS STUDY GROUP**

The BAS Study Group met via Zoom from April 2021 to March 2022. The group provided opportunities to learn about the archaeology of Berkshire and acted as a peer review of work undertaken by the Society.

Over the year, the group discussed:

*Berkshire Romans Project 2:* by Andrew Hutt and Martin Labram

*Ground Penetrating Radar:* By Simon Cairns

*Roman road from Lake Farm, Dorset to Alchester* by Bob Brewer

*Fieldwork Near Wickham* by Keith Abbott

*Runnymede geophysics training event* by Andrew Hutt

*Radley Farm project* by Keith Abbott

*Software used to process LiDAR data* by Bob Brewer

*Beacons of the Past project* by Paul Seddon

*Tutorial on using Microsoft Word to produce project proposals and reports* by Andrew Hutt

*Roman coins found at Wormstall* by Keith Abbott

*Unlocking Old Windsor project* by Andrew Hutt

*Brainstorm: What social benefits have you gained from being a member of BAS?*

*Middle Thames Archaeological Partnership* by Andrew Hutt

*Brainstorm: What heritage sites do you take visitors?.*

*The surveys at Arborfield Mill and Hall Farm* by Nigel Spencer

*BAS Gazetteer development 2015 to 2022* by Andrew Hutt and Martin Labram

*Results from the geophysics survey of Radley Farm* by Keith Abbot

*Runnymede geophysics survey* by Andrew Hutt

### **THE BAS OUTREACH GROUP**

The two main deliverables from the BAS Outreach group were:

**Teaching about Archaeology in the School Curriculum: A Guide for Primary Teachers** written by Jill York and Maggie Smith

This consisted of an introductory web page and a web page of material on teaching the Stone Age. The latter provided a brief introduction to the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic periods followed by a list of resources which teachers may find useful.

### **The Poster Competition**

The Society ran a poster competition which invited entrants to produce a poster about either their special archaeological site in Berkshire or about the Roman archaeology of Thatcham. To help with the latter, Keith Abbott gave a presentation *Life in Roman*

*Thatcham.* The competition was launched in February 2022 and with a closure date in April 2022. By the closure date nobody had entered a poster.

**THIS REPORT**

This report was approved by the Trustees on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

