

## HADS FIELD REPORT THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2011

We had nine members out last Thursday; our target for the day was to locate a possible River Itchen crossing from the site of the Roman Port of *Clausentum* (modern day Bitterne Manor) to Priory Road, St Deny's.

We assembled at a riverside park near to the railway crossing of the river and soon found ourselves the centre of attention as many members of the public were enquiring as to our actions. To our amazement we found at least two crossing points within just a few minutes of starting the survey! One seems to be that of an early ford whilst the second appears to lead to a later bridge that has been rebuilt at least twice giving different approach roads to it.



Three possible routes across the Itchen

Meanwhile, Laurie and Ray were given the exercise of attempting to find a third route further downstream, the route is the one that the archaeologists prefer because a series of stakes were found in the river bed which they dated to 201AD and they may well be part of a river bridge. Surprise, surprise, this crossing point was also located and is marked in orange on the above map.

After lunch Laurie and Don were able to carry on their research and the route was followed through Portswood (Shaftesbury Avenue) to climb the ridge towards Stoneham. We presume it will meet with our landward route somewhere near the University Playing Fields but this still has to be established.

Overall this was a splendid day's achievement and thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Roman Route through Portwood



River Crossing Number One to *Clausentum*



River Crossing Number Two to *Clausentum*