

HADS

LATE SUMMER 2012

NEWSLETTER



Don Bryan ~ Archaeological Director HADS

Hi everyone,

By the time you read this Newsletter it will be September, but as the events that are included in it took place in late July/August I have decided to call it the Late Summer Newsletter. What ever happened to August? It seems to have passed us by so quickly this year, probably because we as a group, and individually, have been so busy with our research and excavations.

Our last newsletter mentioned that we would meet on the 12th July at the Horse & Jockey at Curbridge to trace the *Clausentum* Roman road through Barn Farm and after quite lengthy discussions with the land agent, permission was finally given for us to carry out the survey across three fields of Barn Farm and I am pleased to say that we located the line of the road



Members at Barn Farm ~ Curbridge on the Clausentum road

HENGISTBURY HEAD FIELD TRIP

As part of the Festival of Archaeology several members of HADS visited Hengistbury Head on Sunday 22nd July. Don led this event and explained the importance of the site. Hengistbury Head is now only about a half the size it used to be due to coastal erosion. The Iron Age coastline would have been about four hundred metres further out than it is today.

The headland has been the site of human habitation for thousands of years and a hunter-gatherers site, dating back to the Palaeolithic period, has been excavated. There have been several large scale excavations on the headland over the years which have revealed just how important the site was in the Iron Age. It was once one of the most important Iron Age ports in Southern Britain. Vast buildings of this period have been located through excavation. Along with the port a large settlement existed alongside.

Artefacts discovered during the excavations show that it was a large trading port with goods coming in from Roman Gaul as well as Wales, Cornwall and Devon. The smelting of ore and the manufacture of iron objects appears to have been a major industry as too was silver and gold working. It appears that the site was abandoned not long after the Romans arrived in 43AD when they built a new port at Hamworthy.



Clear blue skies at a very busy Mundeford Quay



A far more tranquil scene on Hengistbury Head



Don explaining the archaeology of Hengistbury Head



What a merry bunch!

MANOR FARM TO CURBRIDGE 26TH JULY



An intrepid band of explorers

In the morning we were able to trace the *Clausentum* road from Manor Farm to the banks of the River Hamble where fragments of Roman brick and tile could be found in the mud. A section of the road excavated many years ago could still be recognised in the bank of the river. This crossing point of the Hamble has been a focus for many people over the years.



Site of the River Hamble crossing point (Manor Farm side)



Ray standing on a possible Roman quay with the line of the Roman road to Wickham on the ridge behind him



A well-earned pub lunch

After lunch we were able to continue our research on the Curbridge side of the River Hamble where we easily located the Roman road as it followed a natural ridge climbing up from the river crossing and heading towards Barn Farm where we had located the route a week earlier.

WARG's BIG DIG

A few members of HADS took part on the excavation of St Elizabeth's Chapel site to the south of Winchester College. Don was given the job of being the Trench Supervisor of Trench 12 for the first ten days of the dig. This trench was put across the whole width of the chapel and many interesting features were observed including three graves and the bases of possible chancel arches and two altar bases!

(For more information, have a look at www.warg.org.uk)



Trench 12 ~ St Elizabeth's Chapel

WALPOLE HIGHWAY – WISBECH

Several members of HADS assisted on this BSD Archaeological Dowsing Group survey on the Medieval Moated Site at Walpole Highway near Wisbech. It was arranged that a “phased survey” of the site took place. This led to the discovery that the moated site had had a long history of occupation, with an Iron Age enclosure, a Roman trackway, Saxon (Angle) dwellings and at least two phases of buildings dating to the 12th and 13th centuries. This proved to be a valuable exercise and one that may be repeated on other sites in the future.



Some members of HADS at the BSD ADG event at Wisbech

BELINUS LINE SURVEY AT TITCHFIED

On the 15th August members gathered at Titchfield church to discover where the Belinus Line passes through the church-yard. This was located along with at least two spiral forms of energy. The line was also searched for at Titchfield Haven with mixed and confusing results as there seems to be several lines crossing to the Isle of Wight. Further research will be continued here.

We were pleased to welcome Sue Colley who joined us on this occasion.



HADS at Titchfield



Sunset at Titchfield Haven

IBM HURSLEY PARK 18th & 19th August

This weekend was scheduled as a training exercise and was meant to be held at St Cross, but due to difficulties at St Cross we had to change our plans and were very fortunate to have the opportunity to dowse on the south lawn of Hursley House looking for the remains of the Great Lodge, the home of Richard Cromwell and his family for many years.

We were fortunate that Len Peach, an ex – IBM employee and a dedicated local historian gave us an introduction to the site and implied that the “parch-marks” sometimes visible under the south lawn may in fact be the foundations of “The Old Lodge” which was constructed in the 14th century.

A 10 metre grid was set up on the Saturday morning and work commenced on dowsing for the foundations of the structures with excellent results being

achieved. On the Sunday we had the opportunity to have a guided tour of the house in the morning whilst in the afternoon we were able to finish the drawing up of our results.

I would wish to thank all members who participated in this event and produced some fine drawing which Ray Davies will digitalise for a report on our results. The staff at IBM could not have been more helpful, they too would wish to know what lies under the south lawn!

We may have the chance for a return visit.



Marking out the site of structures under the south lawn and the view from the roof of Hursley House.

AND FINALLY: -



August 24th – 26th

Our last event for August was at Coldharbour Farm, Titchfield Lane, Wickham where Mr Tom Houghton had given HADS permission to carry out a survey on two sites. The first, to the west of Coldharbour Farm was a vast field, too large to contemplate setting up a grid but one of high potential being on the site where two Roman roads converge and the location of possible Roman buildings.

On the Friday morning, the Roman road from Bitterne was identified and it soon became apparent that the route from Bitterne and that from Winchester did not converge in the targeted field but in the field to the east of Coldharbour Farm.

On the Saturday it was decided to trace the Winchester Road across the landscape and to carry out a large field-walking exercise. This proved to be of great interest as many Roman tile fragments were discovered in two locations in the large west field, one on the ridge nearest the road and the other close to woodland quite a distance away.



Field-walking on the west field

On the Sunday we concentrated our efforts in finding out where the two routes did converge in the east field. It appears that the two routes do converge very close to the boundary of Coldharbour Farm and Park Place.



On the Winchester Roman road ~ east field



What is she doing?



Well, so that's what happened to August! Obviously none of the above would have happened without you, the members of HADS. Your support over the years has been an inspiration to many people and HADS is now recognised as one of the most professional archaeological dowsing groups in the country.

Thank-you all for your dedication, time and above all your friendship – long may it continue!

Kind regards
Don

