

Southampton Archaeology Society

July 2019 Newsletter



Dear Members

It's been a busy time since our last newsletter in April, with the AGM in May followed by our Study Day on *Life & Death in Medieval Southampton* in June. Both were enjoyed by everyone present, and for the study day we were happy to welcome many people new to SAS. A report on the day has been posted on our website www.southamptonarchaeology.uk, and I'm attaching a shorter report with this mailing for your interest.

The main feature of this issue is Andy Russel's preliminary report on the Queensway excavation earlier this year, which is a scoop, thanks to Andy! – the first publication of the results, which we heard something about when Andy gave us his annual update at the AGM. This report covers the earliest activity at the site (Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon) and we eagerly await a further instalment in the October newsletter, covering more recent periods. I am grateful to Martyn Dowell too for his article on a visit to the Crofton Beam Engines near Marlborough, managed by the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust.

It's great to see so many events celebrating the CBA's Festival of Archaeology again (13th to 28th July) and I hope you'll find something of interest among those selected here, and other local attractions to visit during the holiday season. We're already looking forward to September and the start of our new lecture programme: brief details are given below, with more to follow in a few weeks.

Best wishes for the summer to you all.

Sarah

Southampton Heritage Federation Heritage Fayre

Saturday 14th September 2019 - 09.00 to 19.00

Concourse of West Quay Shopping Centre

Southampton SO14

The SHF Heritage Fayre takes place this year on Southampton's Heritage Open Day, 14th September, and as in previous years, Southampton Archaeology Society will be taking part. We'll have a display showing photographs of our activities, more information to take away and an archaeological handling collection.

The change of venue to West Quay Shopping Centre means the hours have been extended to fit in with the Centre's opening times. We shall need help to maintain the requirement that displays should be attended throughout the day, and we'd like to appeal to our members to volunteer for two or three hours during the day to help. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet the public, communicate your enthusiasm and help to attract new interest in the Society and Southampton's heritage.

Please could anyone who is willing to help please contact me, Sarah Hanna on sarahvhanna@hotmail.com or John Langran john.langran@hotmail.com before 19th August, please stating whether you'd prefer to be there in the morning or afternoon/late afternoon.

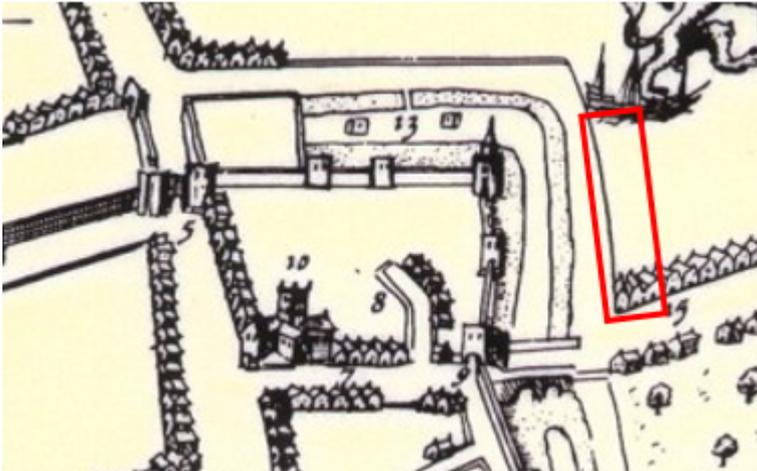
Many thanks!

www.southamptonarchaeology.uk

Excavations at Queensway SOU 1791.

Part 1 Prehistoric, Roman and Late Saxon periods

The Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit have completed most of their excavations on the east side of the Bargate Quarter development. There will be smaller excavations yet to come in a few parts of the site but now is a good time to pull together some preliminary results so people know what we have discovered.



The site lies on the west side of Queensway, and runs North-South covering a strip of land outside the medieval town ditches. The earliest finds date back to the Middle Iron Age, when a near complete pot, plus a sherd from a larger vessel, were buried in a small pit at the north end of the site. A great deal of burnt flint was found scattered across the site, which might also be of that date.

John Speed's map of Southampton, published 1611, showing area excavated as SOU 1791 in red.

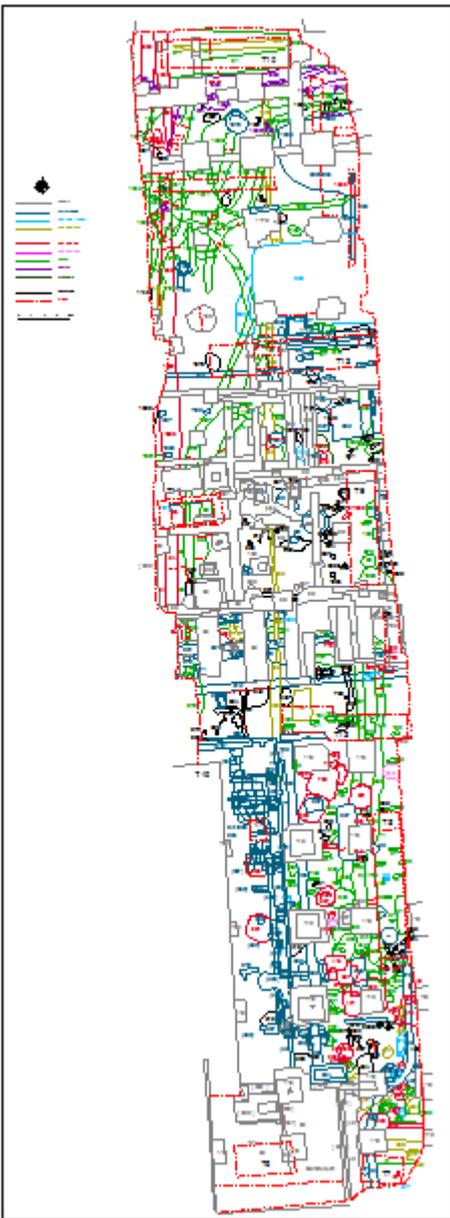
The next phase saw occupation in the Roman period, also concentrated at the north end of the site. The Prehistoric and Roman levels consisted of grey-clayey soils, which suggest a very wet environment at that time. It is possible that a stream ran down to the site from the spring to the north, known in the medieval period as the Houndwell. Most of the Roman finds turned up in Late Saxon features, so it is difficult to know exactly what form the Roman occupation took. The Roman finds are mostly sherds of pottery. A few pieces of Samian suggest activity before 250AD, but the majority of pottery dates to the late Roman period, with sherds of storage jars and cooking pots in Late Roman Grog-tempered ware, and a few sherds from the Oxford and New Forest kilns. Grog-tempered ware is low-fired and hand-made and is a marker for the last phase of Roman Britain.



The numerous Saxon ditches (in green) at north end of the site.

People came back to the site in the 10th or 11th century, and again most activity was at the north end of the site. The soils were still grey and sticky, and the Saxons dug numerous ditches across the area, presumably to drain the water away, suggesting this area was fields. Further south there is an East-West ditch, south of which we have Late Saxon pits, and two side by side ditches, perhaps marking a property boundary between two houses on East Street, which we think was established at that time as the route from the new 'Hamtun' to the church in old 'Hamwic'.

Plan of whole site showing features of all periods.



Archaeologists excavating the Late Saxon remains underneath the British Heart Foundation store.

The most unusual Saxon find recovered was a stone anchor (below). It is a 25kg slab of water-worn rock with a hole cut through it, and we believe this is the first stone anchor to be found on an archaeological site in the UK, as opposed to on the bottom of the sea. It is testimony to the role that maritime trade played in the early years of Southampton.

Other Late Saxon finds include a spindle whorl for spinning thread, pottery imported from France and two ice skates, carved from horse and cow-bones.

Site director Emma Anderson and stone anchor.



Archaeologist Toby Riley with a Saxon ice skate.

Crofton Beam Engines

During the May bank holiday I visited the Crofton beam engines near Marlborough, Wilts, which supply the highest point on the Kennett and Avon canal. The first change I noticed was that the detached chimney had been rebuilt to its full height (in the 1990s - I last went there in the mid 1970s), which was very useful as Tomtom took me to a farmyard about a quarter of a mile away. Having found the car park, the engine house is across a narrow lane, and is accompanied by a brand new toilet block and a small barn containing a temporary bar. There is also an established cafe (The Engineman's Rest) in the main building. From this high point there are fine views of the canal, the river and God's Wonderful Railway (GWR!) all running parallel across the landscape.

The engine house, built by John Rennie, contains the one surviving Lancashire boiler, fired by all-in house coal (unsorted), and alongside is a display of old agricultural steam engines, gently ticking over. Both beam engines are now in use, alternately, and still pump water into the leat. These are an 1812 Boulton and Watt, now the oldest steam engine still serving its original purpose, and a later replacement lookalike by Harveys of Hayle of the 1840s. I was there long enough to see both engines working, and it is indeed impressive to see the massive beam rock almost silently to and fro, and to see a huge surge of water gush out at every stroke. It is also possible to view the well from which the water comes, and the two huge pumps within it. Strangely, this is accessed through the cafe!

There is something very novel to us about such heavy industry in the midst of unspoiled countryside, and makes for a pleasant change of scene.

Martyn Dowell

Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, Nr Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 3DW. See croftonbeamengines.org.

Southampton Archaeology Society Lectures 2019/20

We meet usually on the second Tuesday of each month between September and April, at St. Joseph's Hall, Bugle Street SO14 2AH, 7.30 - 9.00pm (tea and coffee from 7.00pm). Lectures are free to members and £3 to visitors - bring your friends! Please join us afterwards at the Duke of Wellington pub in Bugle Street.

2019

- September 10 Alan Morton – 'Southampton's Opium War'
October 8 Matt Leivers – 'The Larkhill Causewayed Enclosure'
November 12 Mark Brisbane – 'Novgorod Revisited'
December 10 Martyn Dowell – 'Sound Recording from the Earliest Efforts to c 1905'

2020

- January 14 Paul McCulloch – 'Investigating the Hessian Militia and Hampshire's Camps at Barton Farm, Winchester: kitchens and sleepy hollows'
February 11 Mary Harris – 'Saxon Charter Boundaries for the Romsey Area'
March 10 Roger Leech – 'Archaeology and the Ordnance Survey'
April 14 Karen Wardley – 'If Walls Could Talk: recent discoveries from the Hampshire Medieval Graffiti project'
May 12 A G M, with update on Southampton Archaeology Unit's projects by Andy Russel

Full details of the programme will be available in September.

www.southamptonarchaeology.uk

Council of British Archaeology (CBA) Festival of Archaeology July 13th to 28th 2019

The Festival returns this year with hundreds of events across the country, waiting for you to join in! See below for a selection of some of those being held within reach of Southampton. The Festival is now in full swing, and details on all events are on the website festival.archaeologyuk.org. This works best if you click on 'Find an Event' and enter the date/s and location/s you wish to see. Events are listed in chronological order.

13th to 28th July – lots of Festival events at Butser Ancient Farm, Chalton Lane, Waterlooville, Hants PO8 0BG including talks, mosaic making, storytelling and activities for adults and children. There will be two weeks of the popular Warrior Camps (8 to 14 years) 22nd - 26th July, and 29th July - 2nd August, plus Romans in Residence - Butser IX Legion 27/28 July. Visit butserancientfarm.co.uk or call 023 9259 8838.

Friday 19th to Sunday 21st July 11am to 4.00pm. Rockbourne Roman Villa, Rockbourne Road, Fordingbridge, Hants SP6 3PG tel 01275 518541. New and Old Archaeological Skills presented by Avon Valley Archaeological Society (AVAS), New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) and Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT). Activities include geophysics, aerial drone surveys, finds identification and family activities such as creating Roman mosaics or pots, sand box digs and possibly meeting Roman soldiers. Free entry to the villa over the three days - donations welcome!

Saturday 20th to Sunday 28th July 10.00am to 4.30pm. Tudor Shipwright at the Mary Rose, Portsmouth Dockyard. Discover the ancient skills of shipwrighting as an expert team use replica tools recovered from the Mary Rose to demonstrate hewing, hacking and cleaving to build a replica Jolywat, a 16th century ship's boat (it will take a number of years to complete). The shipwrights will answer questions. Tickets from <https://maryrose.digitickets.co.uk/category/11568>. Mary Rose Museum Main Road, Portsmouth PO1 3PY.

Sunday 21st July 11.00am - 3.00pm. Winchester: Beneath Our Feet - a one-day event on the archaeology of Winchester, including talks, an exhibition and the opportunity for hands-on geophysics. Professor Martin Biddle will give the keynote talk on *Winchester: walking in the 'footsteps' of Alfred the Great*. Based at Winchester Discovery Centre, Jewry Street, SO23 8SB. Contact: Dick Selwood at dick@nt.co.uk.

Wednesday 24th July 11.00am - 12.30pm and 1.00 - 2.30pm. Today I'm an Archaeologist! at St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery, Lymington, tel 01590 676969 (Mon - Sat 10am to 5pm, Sun 10am to 4pm). Find out how archaeologists study the past, and about their main tasks - learn to dig, what clues to look for, understand how to identify Roman coins, plus other interesting and fun activities. Free event but please book in advance by phone (as above).

Friday 26th, Saturday 27th, Sunday 28th July 1.00 to 5.00pm (26th July); 10.00am to 4.00pm (27/28th July) History of Forest Flying at East Boldre. Explore the WWI flying heritage of the New Forest: a flying school was created at East Boldre in 1910, running until 1912; and in 1914 the building was taken over by the Royal Flying Corps (RFC). East Boldre Village Hall will host an exhibition of photographs from WWI, diaries and other objects. Free event, no need to book. Guided walks of the airfield will be held each morning/afternoon, and there is a self-guided walk leaflet. East Boldre Village Hall SO42 7WD.

Isle of Wight Friday 26th July 10.00am to 3.00pm. Brading Roman Villa Archaeology Day – a family day celebrating the archaeology of the Isle of Wight. Finds identification by IoW Finds Liaison Officer, artefact displays, talks and craft activities. Free event outside the museum, no need to book. One-day offer for entry to the museum: 1 child free with a full paying adult (Museum open 10am - 5pm). Brading Roman Villa, Morton Old Road, Brading, IoW PO36 0EN www.bradingromanvilla.org.uk.

Saturday 27th July 11.00am to 3.00pm. Free entry to Newport Roman Villa, finds identification with the Finds Liaison Officer; sandpit excavation and hands-on archaeology - fun for families. Newport Roman Villa, Cypress Road, Newport, IoW PO30 1HA www.iwight.com/museums. Drop-in event, no need to book.

Other events

Friday 5th July to 29th September 9.00am to 7.00pm Monday - Friday; 9.00am to 5.00pm Saturday; 11.00am to 3.00pm Sunday. An exhibition on Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel (The Vatican, Rome) is opening in Winchester, based at City Space, Winchester Discovery Centre, Jewry Street SO23 8SB and in the Great Hall. Tickets £5 online at www.hants.gov.uk/shop or £6 from City Space.

Monday 15th to Friday 26th July. New excavations at Clarendon Palace, near Salisbury! The Friends of Clarendon Palace will be excavating a previously unexplored part of the Palace site and hope to locate site of the well. Volunteers are welcome to join, for information please contact clarendon850@btinternet.com.

Saturday 20th July 9.30am to 4.30pm. Southampton Ancient Egypt Society Study Day 2019 - **Valley of the Kings** with Aidan Dodson. The Valley of the Kings was the site of burial for kings, queens, princes, princesses and nobles of Egypt for more than four centuries. Today, we look in detail at some of its most important sepulchres, and explore memorial temples linked with the tombs. Cost: members £20, non-members £25, including light refreshments (lunch not included). Venue: Oasis Academy Lordshill, Romsey Road SO16 8FA. Please visit www.SouthamptonAncientEgyptSociety.co.uk. or contact 07729 627901.

Thursday 31st July 10.00am to 3.00pm. Summer Garden Party at Tudor House & Garden: entry £1.95. Enjoy activities such as crafts, tours, fairy door hunt, face painting and archery (charges apply for some events). BBQ lunch 12 – 2pm. Tudor House, St Michael's Square, Bugle Street SO14 2AD.

Saturday 14th September 10.00am to 5.00pm Heritage Open Day at Tudor House, free entry. Drop in to explore 500 years of history in the house and garden. Charges apply to some activities; details as above.

Saturday 5th October 9.30am to 5.00pm. First national symposium for the study of Historic Graffiti **Making your Mark**. University of Southampton Avenue Campus, Highfield Road SO17 1FB. Free event, book on www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/makingyourmark. A flyer is attached with more information.

Lectures are free to members and £3 per visitor. Please bring your friends! All lectures will take place in St. Joseph's Hall, Bugle Street, Southampton SO14 2AH, unless otherwise stated, from 7.30pm to 9.00pm. Tea and coffee is served from 7.00pm. Please join us at the Duke of Wellington pub after the meeting.

2018-2019 SAS Committee

Chair – Sarah Hanna
Vice-Chair – Martyn Dowell
Hon Treasurer – John Langran
Hon Secretary – Mandy Kesby
General Committee Members – Rowan Bright, Chris Evans, Karen Wardley and Matt Garner. Archaeological Advisor: Dr Andy Russel.

Subscription Rates 2018

Individuals	£10.00
Senior Citizens	£8.00
Juniors/Students	£8.00
Family	£14.00

If you or a friend would like to join (or if you haven't yet renewed your subscription) please send your details to John Langran, with a cheque for the appropriate amount, payable to Southampton Archaeology Society – or you can pay at the next lecture.

Contact us

www.southamptonarchaeology.uk

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We would love to receive contributions to the Newsletter – by e-mail to sarahvhanna@hotmail.com or post to Sarah Hanna, 346 Hill Lane SO15 7PH. We reserve the right to edit as necessary.