Newsletter

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Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society

Newsletter

Contents

General editor, Dick Selwood

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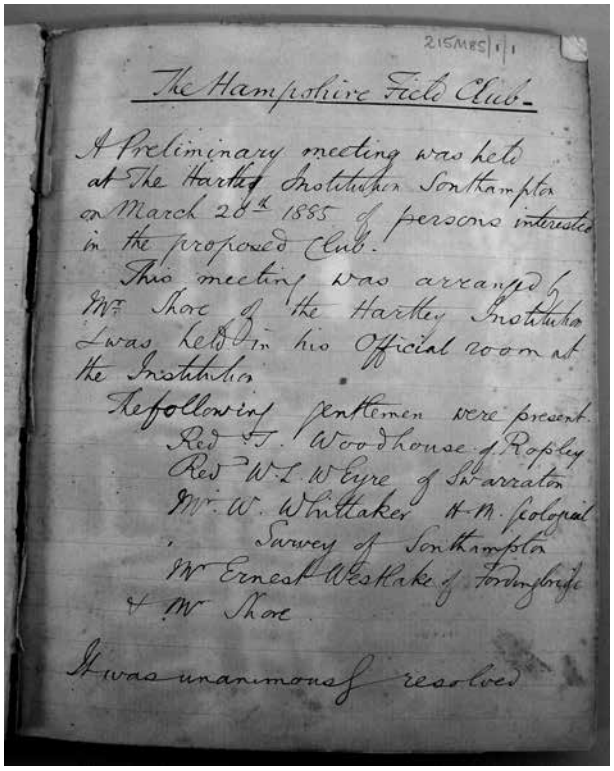
The Society acknowledges the support of Hampshire County Council

From the President

Sarah Lewin,
Email: sarah.lewin@hants.gov.uk

2010 is our 125th anniversary year – the idea of a Hampshire Field Club was first mooted at a meeting at the Hartley Institute in Southampton on 20 March 1885. The first event took place on Saturday 28 May 1885 and was an energetic-sounding field trip starting and finishing at Winchester and taking in Shawford, Compton, Twyford, Twyford Down, St Catherine's Hill and Chilcomb – all on foot! You can find out more



The Hampshire Field Club.

A Preliminary meeting was held at The Hartley Institution Southampton on March 20th 1885 of persons interested in the proposed Club.

This meeting was arranged by Mr Shore of the Hartley Institution & was held in his Official room at the Institution.

The following gentlemen were present.
Rev T. Woodhouse of Ropley
Rev W.L. Wayre of Swarraton
Mr. W. Whitaker H.M. Geological Survey of Southampton
Mr Ernest Westlake of Fordingbridge
& Mr Shore.

It was unanimously resolved

Minutes of the first meeting of the Hampshire Field Club, (Hampshire Record Office, 215M85/1/1)

about this first visit in the Field Club's archive, since 1985 housed in Hampshire Record Office, and if you are interested in reading about the club's first 100 years there's an excellent article in our Proceedings for 1985 written by Beth Taylor. To bring us up to date we're very grateful that Beth has written a short piece for this Newsletter – to cover the last 25 years.

Anniversary events

To celebrate the anniversary we're planning two events – an anniversary conference at St Swithun's School, Winchester on Saturday 22 May, with speakers to represent our four sections, and an outing to Breamore and Rockbourne on Sunday 4 July. We hope to see as many of you as possible there! We've also designed an anniversary bookmark which all members will receive in their posting.

New members' reception

Another new venture for us in 2010 will be a reception to welcome new members. It will take place before the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 28 April, and will be a chance for our newer members to meet officers and Council and committee members, and to learn more about our activities.

Writers' competition

In 2009 we collaborated with the University of Winchester's Winchester Writer's Conference to sponsor the Local History Competition. We had eight entries which were judged for us by Dr James Thomas from the University of Portsmouth, and he was able to award first, second and third prizes. I attended the Writers' Awards reception on 4 July on behalf of the Field Club

Malcolm Walford receives the first prize in the Local History Competition from President Sarah Lewin

and presented the second prize to Peter Finn for his essay entitled 'The Popham Lane –Winchester Turnpike Road 1759-1845' and the third prize to Dave Borrett for his piece 'The First of the Greens: Dr George Vivian Poore (1843-1904)'. The winner of the competition was Malcolm Walford whose submission on 'Hampshire's Highways under Military Occupation' the adjudicator felt added 'considerably to our knowledge about how the county dealt with a major problem and challenge at a crucial time'. Malcolm was unable to attend the awards reception and so we arranged that he should be presented with his prize and the Margaret Kyrle silver salver at the Local History Section AGM on 10 October. The competition will take place again in 2010 – it would be good to see even more entries this year! The deadline for submitting contributions is 4 June 2010 – details are included in the March posting.

One hundred and twenty five years on …

Beth Taylor M.A.

The first hundred years

Founded in 1885 as a society for the study of the natural history and antiquities of Hampshire, the Field Club established a busy programme of historical, botanical, entomological and geological meetings for its members coordinated by a central committee and "local secretaries". The society reported on ancient monuments threatened by development and supported members' own researches. Meetings and research were published in Proceedings, and in special publications such as Hampshire Papers.

These early traditions have underpinned the subsequent development of the society. It has been involved in excavation, site recording, care of archives, and natural history observations throughout the county since its inception, attracting many eminent members. It has had the support of staff from the local academic, archaeological and heritage services which were developing during the twentieth century. Like any organisation it experienced times of controversy and decline but the Field Club always survived these, continuing to attract committed and expert officers and members, maintaining a high reputation.

By 1978 the Ornithological Society was established as a separate group, the Field Club becoming a federated structure of specialist Archaeology, Local History, Geology, Historic Buildings and New Forest Groups. By 1985, it was able to celebrate 100 years of substantial achievement.

Member consultation

At the end of its centenary year, the officers consulted with members: overall they expressed satisfaction with the society's activities but hoped for better coordination of the section programmes. Publicity through the Newsletters and reminders that members can access activities of all the sections has assisted this. An OGS Crawford lecture series has been established, the Monographs series continued to be published up till 1999. Proceedings have been renamed as Hampshire Studies, the Newsletter has been redesigned. A Millenium volume celebrated archaeology in Hampshire from 1980-2000. . A more notable first was the appointment of Gill Rushton as President in 1995 – nearly 70 years since the admission of women members to HFC Council.

Council has continued to be concerned with issues of membership, finance, and the development of the society in this period. Meetings have taken place with societies from neighbouring counties, some of which have their own premises – a source of envy at times when storage of HFC records and publications became difficult. The HFC library, held at the University of Southampton, continues to be a resource open to members.

Local Societies

The growth of local archaeological and historical societies could have posed a threat to membership numbers. HFC worked to develop links, holding joint meetings and supporting Local History Fairs at the University of Winchester. The Local History section encouraged this liaison and through its links with the Hampshire Record Office ensured that members and affiliated societies were informed about new archive accessions and new local history publications. The Historic Buildings Section, formed in 1982, built on this interest in the architectural heritage of the County offering practical surveying courses along with visits and lectures and publication opportunities.

Archaeological interest

The growth of local societies was part of an increasing public interest in archaeology in this period. Excavations – such as that at the Brooks in Winchester and at Danebury and its environs – attracted many visitors. Time Team's work in the county was broadcast on TV as was Meet the Ancestors. Sometimes public interest proved damaging: metal detecting became a popular hobby in the 1980s and many finds went unrecorded, a concern referenced in several Archaeology Section reports in Newsletters. The relationship between amateur and professional – a topic for debate in the society - became more positive with the establishment of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. The work of local archaeological groups continues to be recognised, along with new 'community' archaeology projects.

Landscape section

The Landscape section, inaugurated in 1986, drew on the upsurge of interest in the 'cultural' landscape at a time when the conflict between conservation and economic development was in focus. Concerns about new roads, like the M3, the impact of agricultural practices and ecological damage were aired in their early years as a background to the recording and interpretation of the Hampshire landscape. The New Forest Section kept a watch over developments, too, especially the impact of the establishment of the National Park and planning issues like the proposed Dibden Bay development. They also continued an active programme of fieldwork and excavation reporting regularly in their annual newsletter. While tensions between the parent body and this local section led to its decision to establish a separate excavation group in 2008, the New Forest continues to be an area of interest to the Field Club.

These changes have brought challenges but, at the end of its 125 years, the society remains a valued organisation with a consistent membership base among those – both amateur and professional - who have an interest in Hampshire's heritage.

Editorial Footnote

This is an annex to Beth's very detailed and interesting article, *One Hundred Years of the Hampshire Field Club,* in ***Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society,*** Volume 41, 1985. Some copies are available from the Publications Officer.

Archaeology

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Editorial

Thanks to Jan Bristow we revert to an old tradition in recording the content of the Annual Conference, held last November. This is always a useful reminder of what we covered and when, and generally brings a hot-topic or two to the fore. Our other contributions centre on Owslebury and Roman roads.

John Collis has been able to devote more time to his ground-breaking Owslebury excavations recently and summarises the current state of play. Problems with integrating the earlier work with a more recent 'treasure' find show how short memories are, or how diligent research has to be.

Roman road research east of Winchester is reaching epic proportions. Here we look at the results of two recent digs, reported by David Calow. We have on the stocks an offering by Donald Ashdown on Roman roads, surveying and centuriation. This is definitely a 'hot topic' and the immediate environs of Silchester also appear to be throwing up new related evidence. Watch out for developments in the next issue.

New Light on the Dark Ages

Jan Bristow

Continuing with its programme of examining recent research on a particular period of the past, the Archaeology Section attempted to throw 'New Light on the Dark Ages' at Peter Symonds on 21 November last. The first speaker, Bruce Eagles, focused on the role of place names in establishing early boundaries to the Wessex shires, which may have echoes to the late Roman tribal boundaries. Names such as 'Marden' and 'Marwell' mean boundary down and boundary stream respectively. The county of 'Hamptonshire' has an 8th century reference, but may have been smaller than the present day county. The full transcript to this paper is destined for a future Newsletter.

Britannia Prima

Roger White in his paper *Britannia Prima and the Genesis of the Celtic West* started by showing photographic evidence that Caernarfon Castle, built by Edward I, was the end of a long tradition of late Roman fortresses. Roger was clear that we tend to focus on the early period of the Roman Empire, but that the maintenance of continuing Romanised influence in the west (Britannia Prima) long after the legions departed meant several centuries of Romano-British culture continued to develop. Archaeological evidence of the distribution of key artefacts such as belt buckles, and structures such as the Jupiter column in Cirencester, show a power base functioning in the west, with new trade routes round to the west coast using sites like Tintagel.

Feeding the Rhineland

Sam Moorhead from the PAS titled his talk *Valentian, the hungry Rhineland and British farmers*. He took the premise that the late Roman coin hoards may be signifying trade, and that the province of Britain was being exploited to feed the late Roman army on the Rhine. He further suggested that the Saxon Shore Forts were less for defence than places to assemble produce for export, with Hampshire providing wool. Clipped siliquae are common in British hoards after 402 to about 411 AD, which is post the departure of the Roman army and they are so distributed as to suggest they are still part of a circulating currency.

Religion

Anthea Harris emphasised the development of religious identities in Britain in the 500-700 AD period, mostly with an Anglo-Saxon emphasis. That Christianity already existed in some form when Augustine arrived in the 590s is apparent, though more to the north and west. Religious identity of groups is closely connected to their perception of themselves as a whole. The Staffordshire hoard shows a militarised society, perhaps part of the process of the establishment of the early kingdoms. These then may have been accompanied by questioning of religious beliefs, and the perception of wealth and stability being connected to Christianity. The gold cross from the hoard may have been the equivalent to carrying a standard into battle, causing demons to flee before it.

Rich grave goods

Finally, Ian Blair gave a resume of the rich grave of 'the Prittlewell Prince', a high status Anglo-Saxon from Southend; this 7th century burial had a very rich array of artefacts. The acidic sands meant that bone and organic items have not survived, with the exception of some bone gaming counters (they may have been protected in a bag), but gold always survives. The presence of two small gold foil 'Latin' crosses, which may have been placed on the eyes of the deceased could mean this is the grave of Saebbert, who converted to Christianity in about 606 AD.

In short, the day gave us all a lot of food for thought, but also showed how archaeological finds from different areas can be brought together to give a greater understanding to the whole picture. In this case the so-called 'Dark Ages' from East and West are shown as having a complex interaction, with evidence of the continuation of practices and organisation from the Roman period in the west of Britain.

Bottom Pond Farm, Owslebury, and the 'Winchester Hoard'

John Collis

The excavation that I carried out at Owslebury between 1962 and 1972 may hardly now seem news, but a number of things have brought it into the headlines again. Firstly there is my retirement which has put the publication of my early excavations back on the agenda, and I have just completed a three-year programme of research on Owslebury funded by the Leverhulme Trust. Secondly there is the discovery of the Late Iron Age gold brooches, torcs and other items only a few kilometres from the site, the so-called 'Winchester Hoard' (Hill *et al*. 2004). The site at Bottom Pond Farm featured anonymously in the television programme series *Hidden Treasure* and it is that programme which, unfortunately, in part has provoked this note, as the information given out was not only misleading, but mainly downright wrong, and I now find websites on which it is claimed, for instance, that the site was 'royal', when in fact it was excavated as, and remains to this day, a fairly typical farming settlement of the Iron Age and Roman periods in central and northern Hampshire. Also, we saw the appearance of the sort of 'pseudo-history' that we tried to escape from in the 1960s; the idea promoted by the programme that the treasure might represent a diplomatic gift given by Julius Caesar to the Atrebatic king Commius was of this nature, and ignores the fact that Commius fled to this country to escape the Romans after Caesar had tried to have him assassinated (see François Sabatier's forthcoming article for the alternative approaches to interpreting the find).

The impression given in the programme was that someone in the 1960s had dug a few holes, but that there was little information about the site partly because the excavations were not very extensive, and that little had been published. I was in fact approached by the programme's researcher at a fairly early stage, but my email telling him that he had got the story wrong received no reply (I found out afterwards he had left, and no-one followed up the contact). Thus, the Iron Age 'experts' brought in to pontificate about the site were people who had never visited the site, and certainly knew less than I did about the local and European context of the excavation. Dick Whinney who acted as local consultant was the exception as he had written his Master's dissertation on the Middle Iron Age pottery, and he was surprised when I made no appearance – I heard nothing until after the filming had been done. In fact the excavation was the largest at that time ever conducted under the aegis of the *Hampshire Field Club*, and represented a revolution in the way in which rural sites were excavated, with an early use of machinery to strip the site (we excavated about a hectare), a strong emphasis on economic, social and environmental aspects of the site (we collected, for instance, over 100,000 animal bones, and it was the first site where systematic flotation of deposits was carried out).

The programme claimed it had discovered a 'banjo enclosure' in the geophysics – we have known about it since 1970, and it is still the most extensive excavation of such an enclosure ever undertaken. Fig. 1 shows a sketch plan of the site mainly made during the excavation, but more detailed plans are being put on to AutoCAD which will allow greater accuracy. In fact, a fair amount has been published, including a popular report in *Current Archaeology*, so the failure of the television producers to broadcast a properly researched programme was due to complete incompetence on their part. The first geophysical survey included several areas which I had excavated, but David Bunn and his team from *Pre-Construct Geophysics* have carried out two more surveys since as part of the Leverhulme work, and it changes quite fundamentally our knowledge of the layout of the site, especially on the northern edge of the site where little showed up in the aerial photographs. In this article I will give a short review of the history of the site, though we are re-working the material, so some aspects of the story may well change with further research. I also append a list of the major publications on the site.

The Middle Iron Age.

Though there is evidence of earlier prehistoric activity on and around the site (a long barrow about 1 km to the east; a round barrow 100m or so from the Iron Age settlement; a scatter of worked flints), the first enclosure seems, from the late John Evan's study of the snails, to have been laid out in woodland, though with open land nearby. It was a large banjo enclosure, and dates to around the 4th century BC (banjo enclosures in Wessex are mainly Middle Iron Age despite Barry Cunliffe's recent statements that they are all Late Iron Age). The simple hand-made pottery (characterised by scratched surfaces and cut-off rims) is difficult to date, but it belongs to the transition from the Early to Middle Iron Age around 400-300 BC, when the long-standing Late Bronze Age and

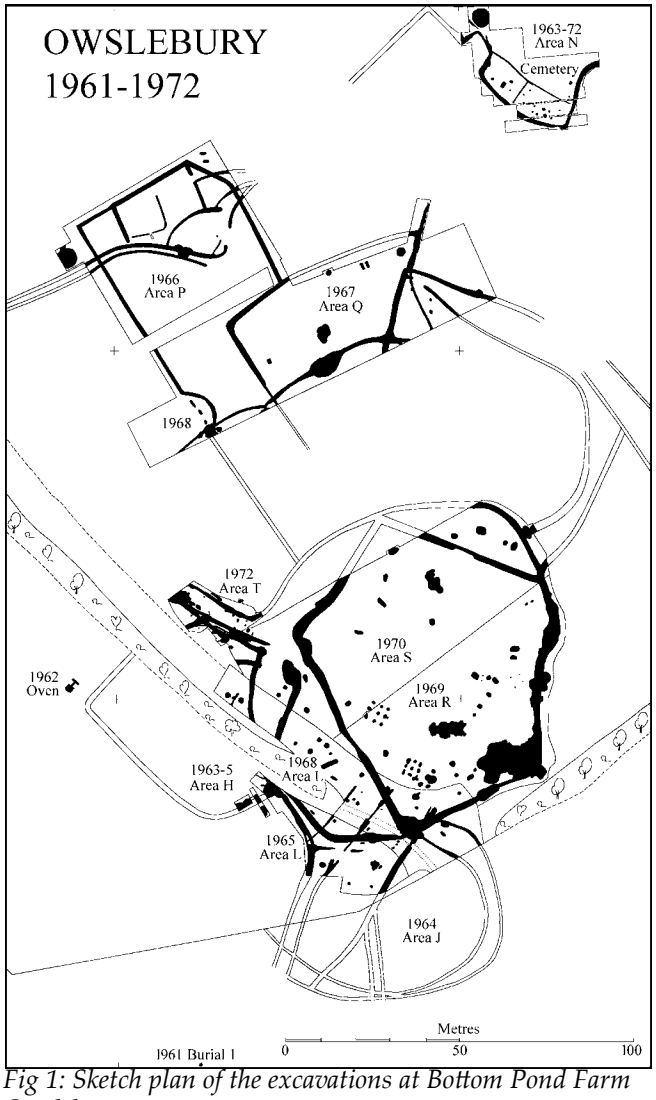

Fig 1: Sketch plan of the excavations at Bottom Pond Farm Owslebury, 1961–1972.

Early Iron Age traditions for making fine cups, bowls and storage vessels associated with eating and drinking, had come to an end (one small chalk quarry does in fact date to the end of the Early Iron Age), a period when Britain became rather more isolated from the Continent, to judge from the localised nature of the pottery and metalwork. Contrary to what is often claimed, there is no sign that the enclosure was specifically constructed to corral cattle; there are storage pits and quarries in its interior as is usual with other settlements at this time. Nor was it defensive as the ditch seems to have been on the inside and the bank on the outside; the entrance ditches and the 'antennae' were shallow, less than 1m deep, and at its deepest the enclosure ditch was only 2m deep. Like most ditches of this period, they seem to have marked boundaries in land-use rather than being physical boundaries to prevent livestock moving (for a discussion of how this may have worked, see Collis 2006). Nor was the enclosure long-lived; it was partially filled in within a decade or two of its construction (and so had nothing to do with the Winchester Hoard as claimed by the BBC, as there was a good 200 years or more between the two). Whatever activities went on inside, they generated a lot of burnt flint.

After the levelling of the enclosure, only the entrance trackway ditches were kept open. However, activity continued on the site, with a small number of storage pits (probably one being dug every decade or so), giving us an important sequence of Middle Iron Age pottery, with the familiar 'St. Catharine's Hill Style' saucepan pots forming the very end of the sequence. Though the sequence established by Cunliffe at Danebury can be used in outline, it is not applicable in detail to central Hampshire, and in my opinion is based on inadequate theory and methodology (for a version of my approach, see Collis 2008, and a more detailed version in German in Collis 2009 which will appear in an English version in the Owslebury report). This sequence will need to be tied down with C14 dating, but the end of it belongs somewhere around 100 BC when we again start to see continental contacts, in the form of an imported Dressel Ia amphora from the lower fill of a large pit (F400), firmly associated with late Middle Iron Age pottery, and just before the appearance of the earliest wheel-turned pottery, one sherd of which was present in the upper filling of the pit. Burials are virtually unknown for the Middle Iron Age: two burials of infants in a storage pit; and the cremation of a child with two fragmentary pottery vessels and a bronze torc or bracelet with a glass bead threaded on it, found in the upper filling of the antenna of the banjo enclosure.

The earlier Late Iron Age.

At the transition from the Middle to Late Iron Age the site underwent a major transformation. A completely new layout of the settlement occurred with multiple enclosures approached by several ditched trackways instead of just the single approach on the line of the entrance to the former banjo enclosure (Fig. 2). The surviving field boundaries also seem to belong to this date as the lynchets respect the lines of the trackways. Part of the ditch of the banjo enclosure was re-dug with a ditch nearly 2m deep, but most of the other ditched enclosures consisted of gullies less than 1m deep. This splitting up of what was formerly some sort of 'community' enclosure into distinct areas either inhabited by different family groups or with differing functions is paralleled on many sites in Wessex (e.g. Gussage All Saints, Old Barn Down, Winnall Down), and may be connected with increasing hierarchisation visible in other evidence such as the appearance of gold objects, burials, etc., at the beginning of the Late Iron Age. Other changes include the disappearance of bell-shaped storage pits, and these are perhaps replaced by bath-shaped pits (though the function of these pits is not obvious), and there are also two nine-post 'granaries', the only distinct buildings recognised in the whole excavation.

In the mid-1st century BC a cemetery was established on the northern slope of the spur on which the settlement lay. It was attached to the main settlement area by a shallow linear ditch which looped round the cemetery, incorporating two rectangular enclosures formed by very shallow gullies. At the centre of the earlier of the enclosures was an inhumation of a middle-aged man buried with a set of weapons, an iron spear, a sword in a scabbard, and a shield with bronze boss. There was also a 'winged belt-hook' of high-tin bronze of continental type. The closest parallels for this shield and belt-hook occur on the battlefield of Alesia, and so a mid-1st century BC date can be assigned (and so contemporary with the Winchester hoard). The man showed signs of good-living, so, even if he had been a 'warrior' in his youth, it was unlikely that he was still active at the time of his death. The burial at the centre of the second enclosure was also mid-1st century BC, with the cremated bones placed in a large urn with a lid. Most of the vessels in the burial were wheel-turned, and this was true of several other burials in the cemetery. But most were only in shallow graves and had been heavily disturbed by later cultivation and erosion. In addition a small cemetery on the settlement was dedicated to infant burials, and this period showed an exceptionally high incidence of infant burials.

The finds from this period consisted mainly of pottery, and metal objects were rare, though there is slag from blacksmithing. One exception was a decorated linch-pin from a 'chariot' found sealed in a buried plough soil underlying the cobbled surface of one of the trackways and associated with scraps of Late Iron Age pottery. Though some pottery of this phase shows similarity with Middle Iron Age fabrics and decoration, the majority of the pottery has new forms of S-profiled bowls, and especially bead-rim jars, many of which were wheel-turned. Some sand-tempered wares bear incised decoration in rectilinear zones, a feature only paralleled at Hengistbury Head. In addition to the Italian wine amphora, other features point to the Hengistbury connection, such as a thin silver coin found in a later context, but other coins (again from later contexts) point to more eastern connections: a Gallo-Belgic E gold stater and a late potin coin.

The later Late Iron Age.

Many of the ditches of the 1st century BC settlement were allowed to silt in, but they were re-cut in the early 1st century AD on a more monumental scale with several of the ditches between one metre and two metres deep. Little else changed on the settlement, and the cemetery continued in use. However, this phase of the settlement and the cemetery was characterised by the appearance of Gallo-Belgic wares, including many terra nigra and terra rubra plates, girth beakers and butt beakers, and white-ware flasks. Some of these imports point directly to Essex (e.g. Camulodunum 113 butt beakers) or to Silchester (grog-tempered pedestal jars, etc) alongside the local flint and sand-tempered wares. Bead-rim jars were still important, but there were also many imitations of Gallo-Belgic wares, especially platters, and these imply changes in cuisine and eating habits. Metalwork was much more common than in previous stages, especially brooches, such as Colchester,

Langton Down, Thistle and Nauheim Derivative types. Three silver minims also point to Silchester or Chichester connections: two of Verica and one of Tincomarus. Grave-goods include a least one iron razor and whetstones (or pendants). Rotary querns were now dominant, and the majority of them are of Lodsworth Greensand, which reach their highest percentage at this phase.

Early Roman.

The Roman conquest marks little change on the settlement, though the ditches were allowed to silt in gradually over the next century. The conquest is most marked by the appearance of samian pottery (only one sherd could be pre-conquest, but it is common by the Flavian period). Roman bronze coinage also appears from the Flavian period onwards, and early Roman brooch types, especially Hod Hill types. The cremation cemetery continued in use, with the latest producing Hadrianic samian. The richest early Roman burial contained five samian vessels, two flagons, and three brooches (one Rosette and two Colchester). The wealth of the site seems to continue until around the mid-2nd century (one of the quarries produced a silver box fitting and a denarius of Trajan), and glass vessels too occur on the settlement, but not in the burials.

Late Roman.

Around AD 150 a fundamental change happens on the site. Imported pottery was still not uncommon in the Antonine period, especially samian and a small amount of other central Gaulish and Rhenish wares. Foreign imports become rarer in the 3rd century and are unknown in the 4th, though this is normal on most Hampshire settlements, even in Winchester. However the range of local wares, especially of New Forest and Oxfordshire colour-coated wares is limited in comparison to Winchester, and it seems as though the status of the site was changing (especially in comparison to sites such as Sparsholt, Rabbit Copse, or Twyford where villas appeared). Glass and coins continued to be deposited on the site (as elsewhere coinage became especially common from the late 3rd century onwards).

The change is especially marked in the burial evidence. The two ditched enclosures in the cemetery were abandoned, though there were later inhumation burials in the gullies surrounding them. But the majority of burials are scattered over much of the settlement with no central cemetery. Burials fall into three types. Firstly there are three cremations: one late 2nd century, one probably 2nd to 3rd century (it was found in the filling of a ditch with no grave goods), and one 4th century, and in addition a couple of fragments of cremated human skull were found in a 4th century quarry. The 2nd century burial was a double cremation with a collection of some 40 vessels, mainly cups and dishes made especially for burial. One of the bodies was cremated with furniture of which the nails and the bone inlays survived, probably from a bed (a similar set of inlays is known from a burial from Victoria Road in Winchester) and there was a fine bone hairpin. The latest cremation consisted of the bones of two individuals in a cooking pot accompanied by three or four colour-coated vessels. The remaining burials were all inhumations, either in coffins, or more irregularly buried, usually in graves cut into the filling of earlier ditches. The majority of these vessels were male, and show a high incidence of pathology and other signs of a low-class status. None of these burials had grave-goods, not even boot nails as are common on other contemporary sites. One interpretation is that we are dealing with a single family of owners or bailiffs (the cremations), and a slave or serf population (the inhumations), though a preponderance of males is a characteristic repeated on other cemeteries, even the wealthier ones in Winchester (e.g. Lankhills). There is also a burial of a goat with broken, but healed, legs, buried with a small pot and an Antonine coin.

However, there are also signs of innovation at this period. One change is the appearance of larger hornless sheep in the 3rd century, though these had appeared in Winchester a century or two earlier. Ovens of various kinds were constructed, often using tegulae or imbrices which must have been especially imported from a nearby villa site. A couple of these ovens belong to the 'corn-drying' category, but others seem to be for baking bread. More surprising are four cess pits, two of them 4m deep. Were these to allow the collection of manure, or does it imply that some members of the community were not free to roam about the settlement unsupervised? The former is more likely as the enclosure in which the cess-pits are located is distinctive by the extremely black fill of the ditch, implying that there was some sort of intensive cultivation going on inside it. However, there is no evidence that the economy on the site was any different from the contemporary villas as is often claimed; it may merely be that the surplus was being creamed off by an absentee landowner.

Post-Roman activity.

The site was abandoned sometime late in the 4th century – the latest coin, of Magnus Maximus, dates to the 380s, and there are none of the House of Valentinian, so common in Winchester. Subsequently there is no sign of any activity until the late medieval period (a 15th century jetton). The centre of medieval activity was under the modern village 5 km away. A house (17th–18th century?) was built in the valley near the cemetery, but it seems to have been short-lived, and one of the trenches cut in the valley to look for environmental evidence, hit a post-medieval quarry. The site was crossed by a couple of post-medieval hollow ways, but there was no intensive activity until the establishment of the modern farm in the 19th century.

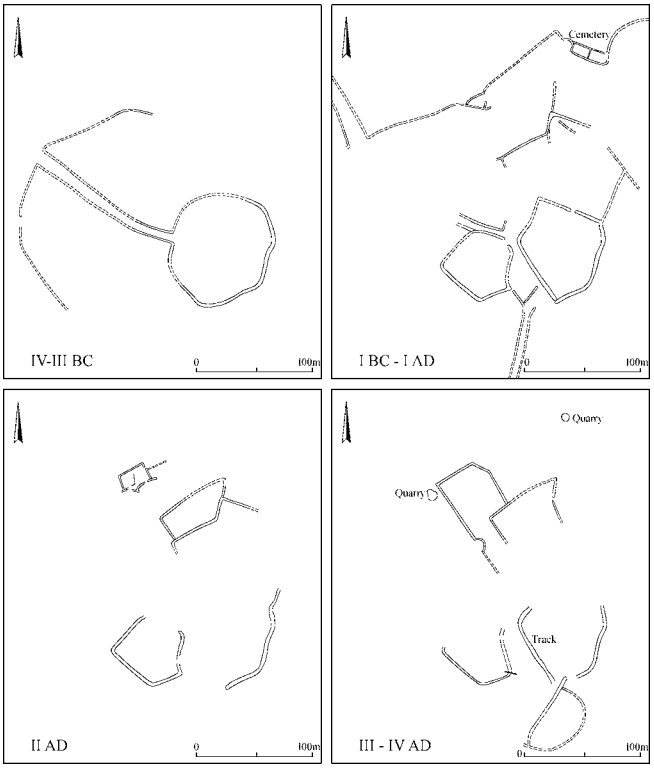

Fig 2: Sketch phasing of the site based on the excavations.

Conclusions.

When the site was excavated, there was little in the way of back-up for the writing up of the site and even the final resting place of the finds was in doubt – no museum was interested in taking the finds. Some we 'sold' to the British Museum which gave us funding for conservation of some of the other finds, but it was not until the establishment of the Hampshire Museums Service in the 1970s that a permanent home was found for them in Chilcomb House. Some finds have inevitably suffered damage or have been lost, and data have been lost due to changes in computing hardware in the universities where the specialist studies were made. Though much work has been done on the finds (and the data is available for consultation) clearly much of it needs to be updated in the light of more recent work, and this is now well under way. But, like the contemporary work in 1960s Winchester, the very process of working on a scale previously not attempted, and with very different questions in mind, forced British archaeology to develop a back-up to fieldwork from which we all benefit today. The Owslebury excavation is thus an important part of the history of archaeology in the later 20th century, helping to lay the foundations of modern methods of carrying out archaeology.

The more recent history does, however, raise questions about the presentation of the results to a wider public; few of the finds are even now on display – some were on temporary display in the British Museum, and the grave-goods from the weapon burial are on display in Andover. Reports have appeared in the specialist archaeological literature, and in publications for the interested public through *Current Archaeology*, but, as mentioned previously, the one attempt at presenting it to the wider public via television has been a disaster. The series, *Hidden Treasure*, was universally condemned by the profession and public alike, and the staff at the British Museum who put so much effort in to it felt betrayed by the programme makers who high-jacked the whole presentation and content; I have even more justification to be angry. One would hope that the BBC would have learnt the obvious lesson that good archaeological programmes can only be made where specialist and media work in close collaboration on an equal footing, and that programme producers are not the best people to dictate the content or foist their presenters on the series, and should rather choose someone who knows what they are talking about. I did write to complain, but received no reply, but after the recent controversies about factual misinformation on the BBC (e.g. the video filming of the Queen) I tried again through the good offices of my MP, Richard Caborn. I did finally get an apology from the Director General himself, Mark Thompson, but for the failure to answer my complaint rather than the original causes of it! I hope in the next few years we can reverse the misinformation put out by the media, but I am not hopeful; if we are not trying to present the best information possible on the past, what is the point of doing archaeology?

Acknowledgements

My thanks to all those who have supplied specialist information which I have used in this report: David Bunn (Geophysics); the late John Evans (mollusca); the late Brian Hartley (samian); Katie Keefe and Stephanie Leach (inhumations); Don Makreth (brooches); Mark Maltby (animal bones); David Peacock (querns); Richard Reece (Roman coinage); and many others whose specialist reports will appear in the final reports. English Heritage financed work on the analysis of finds in the 1980s, and the British Academy and the Leverhulme Trust more recently. Sadly Mr. Philip Hellard who farmed the site in the 1960s and his wife have both died recently before they could see the final results of the work they supported so much.

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Investigation of a possible Roman road at Bighton and Medstead

David Calow

Abstract

The existence of a Roman road between Winchester and Neatham which may have continued to London has been presumed for many years but not proven. A likely route has been suggested between Alresford and Neatham and strong linear features on aerial photographs at Bighton and Medstead align with this route. Excavations at the two sites show the features are probably the remains of a ploughed out Roman road but further work is needed to confirm the route.

Introduction

David Weston discussed possible routes of a Roman road between Winchester and Neatham in his carefully argued article in HFC Newsletter, No. 49 (Weston D, 2008). He showed a likely route would be close to a direct line between the crossing point of the River Itchen at Seward's Bridge near Alresford and the Roman settlement at Neatham. This route is shown in Figure 1 which also shows how different routes have been used to cross the clay covered hills between Four Marks and Medstead.

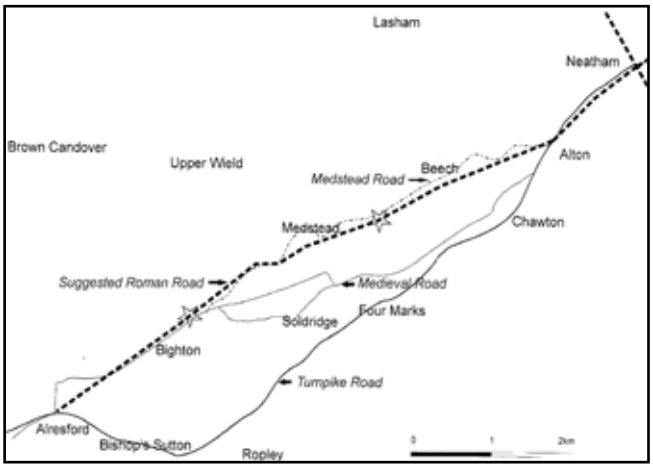

Fig 1. Suggested line of Roman road between Alresford and Neatham, with excavations at Bighton and Medstead.

Martin Millett and David Graham, who discovered and excavated the Roman town at Neatham, found evidence there for an east west Roman road and suggested a construction date in the second quarter of the second century (Millett M and Graham D, 1986 p13). However, perhaps because of the variety of different historic roads and possible routes, the route of the presumed Roman road between Winchester and Neatham has not been proven.

The positive identification of such a road would provide further evidence that the Roman settlement at Neatham was Vindomi, a town mentioned in Iter XV of The Antonine Itinerary, and support the idea that there was a Roman road between Neatham and London. The Antonine Itinerary says Vindomi was 15 Roman miles (22km) from Silchester and 21 Roman miles (31km) from Winchester (Rivet A and Smith C, 1979). The distance along the known Roman road from Neatham to Silchester is 23km and as Weston points out the shortest distance between Neatham and Winchester is 29km.

David Weston identified linear features on aerial photographs of the suggested alignment near Bighton and Medstead which showed many characteristics of Roman roads. Working with him the Surrey Archaeological Society, under the direction of the author and with help from members of the Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society, excavated the sites in June 2007.

An aerial photograph of the remains of a Roman road often shows a long straight light area six or more metres wide bordered by darker strips two to three metres wide. The light area relates to poorer than average growth of grass or crops above the road surface and the dark strips relate to better than average growth above roadside ditches. In practice not all roads had ditches, dimensions differ and ploughing damages or eliminates the remains. Features such as tracks, field boundaries, pipelines and war defences can look like Roman roads and it is usually necessary to excavate. Even with excavation, plough damage and the rarity of artifact finds make it difficult to be sure whether the feature is a Roman road.

The linear feature near Bighton shows on several aerial photographs of which the earliest is CPE/UK 150 21SEP46 4218. The feature is approximately 0.5 km long with a possible five degree deflection at SU 6249 3513. The photographs show two parallel but irregular dark strips each about 10 metres wide separated by a light area 10-15m wide. Later photographs show the light area spreading to the south west. The feature is in line with a similar but weaker mark in a field west of Bighton and a terrace cut into the hillside 25m north of the medieval road through the village. It runs roughly parallel with the medieval road in the valley bottom 80m south of the site.

Two aerial photographs of Medstead show a single linear feature of variable intensity approximately 7m wide and 0.7km long. The two photographs are NMR RAF/58/182 17-07-1967 0118, taken in 1967, and HCC run 18 218425.258 29-07-1984 taken in 1984 (Weston, D 2008). The photograph shows a three degree change of direction in the linear feature at SU 6716 3749. Other possible features are visible on the photograph near this point.

The features at Bighton and Medstead do not align exactly with each other but small changes of direction on the ascent from Bighton to Medstead through a high point at SU 65254 36778 allow the two features to connect.

Both sites are farmland subject to deep ploughing. Permission for excavations was obtained from the landowners and a tenant farmer and the author is grateful for their help.

Bighton

The site is on a south west slope of ploughed land on chalk 103m above sea level. The feature was visible on the ground as a linear concentration of flints ranging from 40mm x 40mm to 250mm x 200mm. The flints started at a point below a break in gradient near the top of the slope and gradually reduced towards the bottom of the slope. There was no obvious source of flints although there were probably flint pits nearby. The farmer said he normally ploughed along the slope and the flints made the area difficult to plough.

The photographic evidence is unusual because the light area and dark stripes are wider than might be expected and the light area appears to spread south west over time.

Resistivity suggested there was an area of deeper plough soil north of the break in the gradient whereas to the south there was an area of high resistivity 2-3m wide followed by an area 6m wide which might relate to a scoop in the natural chalk.

Excavation

A 10m x 1m trench was excavated by hand across the linear feature between SU 62314 35018 and SU 62309 35026. The plan and west section are shown in Figure 2.

The majority of the trench was overlain by modern

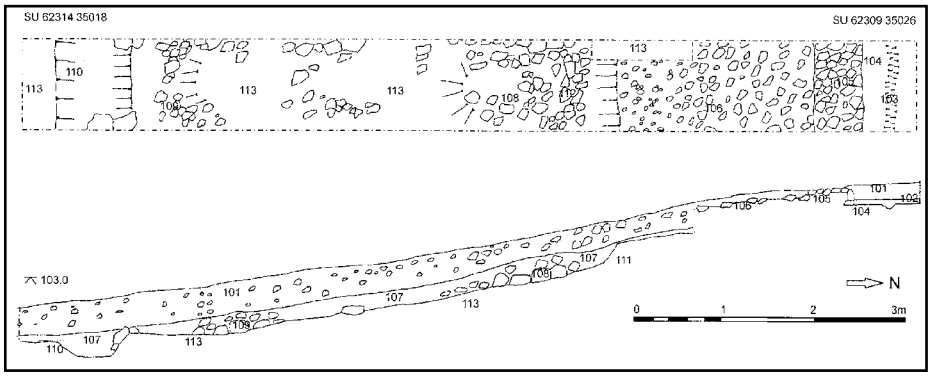

Fig 2. Bighton - plan and west section

dark brown plough soil (101). At the north of the trench the dark brown plough soil appeared free of flints and overlaid a 10cm layer of light brown soil (102) and a layer of orange brown soil (104). A furrow 5-10cm deep (103) had been cut into the orange brown soil. At the surface and immediately south of (104) was a feature of tightly packed flints approximately 50cm wide (105) and south of (105) was a 2.2m spread of loose flints just below the surface (106). A slot 1m x 0.25m was cut and showed the loose flints were about 20cm thick and overlaid a 10cm layer of light brown soil (107) and natural chalk (112).

Deep ploughing south of (106) had formed 20cm-40cm of modern dark brown plough soil (101) containing many flints from 40mm x 40mm to 100mm x 100mm. Beneath (101) was friable light brown soil (107) with few flints but many small chalk fragments. The light brown soil was above and amongst large flints up to 200mm x 250mm lying on or embedded in natural chalk (113). The larger flints were concentrated in two sections (108) and (109). The natural chalk appeared to have been cut in two places: on the uphill side at (111) and approximately 5.5m south on the downhill side at (110) where a U-shaped ditch 80cm wide and 20cm deep was found. South of the ditch the gradient reduced. The plough soil (101) was about 30cm thick with many flints and overlaid 10cm of light brown soil (107) and natural chalk (113).

Flints from the plough soil were set aside during the excavation. They appeared to be regular sizes from 40mm x 40mm to 100mm x 100mm. About 10% had at least one flat surface which may have been knapped but which might have been natural tabular flint. One of the larger flat surfaced flints appeared to be in situ (112) with the flat surface horizontal at the point where the road surface might have been. This may have been coincidence but it raised the possibility that the road surface had been formed with the flat surfaces of the flints.

The loose flints were replaced in the trench after the excavation to form a layer approximately 30cm x 1m x 5m weighing an estimated 1.5 tonnes. If the estimate is correct it would have required at least 750 tonnes of flints to construct the 0.5km linear feature on the aerial photograph. There were no finds apart from a length of rubber pipe at a depth of 30cm in the modern plough soil.

Discussion

Aerial photographs show the linear feature cuts across the side of an uneven slope in two straight sections for 0.5 km and that it aligns with other linear features to the east. It is unlikely that an isolated feature of such size and length was an early field boundary or farm track. The interpretation is that the feature represents the ploughed out remains of an engineered Roman road. A terrace had been formed by cutting into the natural chalk of the hillside at (111). A road base was constructed with parallel banks of large flints up to 200mm x 250mm on the uphill (108) and downhill (109) sides of the road. The road core was filled with earth (107) and a surface was probably formed of compacted smaller flints. There was a possible small gully on the north side and a U-shaped ditch on the south side. The road surface may have been 5m wide and the embankment about 80cm above ground level on the downhill side.

The features on the north side of the road may represent a grass verge 2.5m wide, a flint wall 50cm wide (105) and a ploughed field (104) but it is possible that the flint feature was a catch drain (Creedy, H J 1935). The deeper soil of the upper field, trapped by the flints, appears to have caused the wide northern dark strip on the aerial photograph. The wide light area spreading to the south west appears to relate to the spread of flints downhill. The dark strip to the south does not seem to relate to the ditch (110) but to an accumulation of soil in a low point of the field south of the ditch.

The road presumably went out of use before the medieval road at the bottom of the valley developed. The flint wall, if that is what it was, may have collapsed at the same time or later. The remains of the road may have remained visible as claimed by early commentators such as Camden (1607), Aubrey (1690) and Defoe (1724) until ploughing spread the flints downhill.

Medstead

The site is on high ground at 215m on a ridge running SW-NE between Medstead and Alton. Although the top of the ridge is flat, the land beyond the ridge slopes steeply to the NW and SE. The underlying geology is chalk capped by clay with flints. The clay varied between yellow sandy clay at the site and red plastic clay at other locations on the ridge.

The single 7m wide dark and evenly defined linear feature on the aerial photograph was unusual and suggested a precise zone more fertile than the rest of the field. Research confirmed that this was not the route of a pipeline or other modern trench and there was no sign on early maps that there was an earlier field boundary at this point. However, if the feature was a Roman road, the strip would probably relate to the road surface rather than a single and unusually wide roadside ditch and it was difficult to explain how this might have occurred. If the feature had not been visible on two separate photographs taken 17 years apart it might have been tempting to think the dark strip related to a recent event.There was no trace of the feature on the ground although the adjacent field had areas of dock which might suggest disturbance. Resistivity suggested areas of higher resistivity but was inconclusive.

Excavation

An 11m x 1.6m trench was excavated by hand between SU 67353 37572 and SU 67358 37563. The plan

and west section are shown in Figure 3.

The surface level was approximately 20cm of yellowish sandy clay plough soil with flints up to 50mm x 50mm (101). Underlying this was 5cm of greyish yellow silty clay (102). These layers were removed to reveal four features surrounded by yellow sandy clay (115) which appeared to be natural at this location:

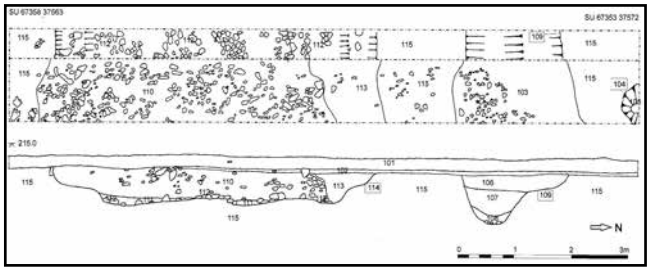

Fig 3. Medstead - plan and west section

1 An area of red clay 5m x 1.6m with many flints ranging from 20mm x 20mm to 100mm x 200mm (110)

2 An area of brown silty clay with few flints approximately 1m x 1.6m adjacent to the red clay with flints (113)

3 An area of brown silty clay 2m x 1.6m with many flints up to 100mm x 100mm (103)

4 An area of brown silty clay 60cm across with few flints in the north-east corner of the trench (105)

An 11m x 0.5m slot was excavated along the west section. This showed the red clay with flints was the fill of a 5.5m wide trench cut (114) into natural yellow clay (115). The red clay was about 50cm thick with many flints distributed throughout. There were three groups of large flints up to 200mm x 200mm (112) at the base of the red clay some of which were embedded in yellow clay (115). The base was wet and between and around the flints was up to 10cm of sticky black material which appeared to contain fibrous matter (111). The stench from this layer was remarkable and lasted at least 24 hours after excavation. Adjacent to the red clay with flints but within the same cut (114) was an area of brown silty clay 1.6m x 1m x 50cm thick (113) with few flints. North of (113) was 1.5m of yellow sandy clay and north of this a U-shaped ditch approximately 2m wide and 1m deep cut (109) into yellow sandy clay. The ditch had three layers; a wider orangey clay layer 30cm thick (106), a greyish brown layer of silty clay 45cm thick (107) and a layer of wet yellow sandy clay with flints at the base (108). In the north east of the trench a semicircular hollow 60cm wide and 30cm deep appeared to have been cut (104) into the yellow sandy clay and filled with brown silty clay (105). There were no finds except two small worked flints from the plough soil (101).

Discussion

The interpretation is that the feature was the remains of an engineered Roman road. In order to construct a road on sandy clay a controlled structure had been formed within a trench 5.5m wide and 60cm deep. The road base was formed of large flints and with perhaps a blanket layer of vegetation. The core of the road was formed from red clay mixed with medium to large flints with a probable surface of compacted smaller flints. A small gully was left on the north and perhaps also the south side of the road.

The natural material was yellow sandy clay but the road was constructed from red plastic clay presumably taken from elsewhere on the line of the linear feature. It is possible that a weathering process during road construction meant the clay was not always replaced in the same place from which it had been extracted. It was noticed during the excavation that after rain the yellow sandy clay dried quickly and without cracks whereas the red plastic clay dried more slowly with cracks. The combination of different water retention and the difference between disturbed and undisturbed clay may have created the dark stripe visible in the aerial photographs which was not otherwise explained.

A 2m wide and 1m deep ditch was dug 1.5m north of the road. This may have been part of the road construction but, since the land surface is level and no ditch was found on the south side despite an exploratory trench, the ditch was perhaps a field boundary. It appeared that deep ploughing had dragged flints from the road surface to the area of the ditch (103). There was no evidence to explain the small hollow in the north-east corner.

Conclusion

The excavations at Bighton and Medstead provide good evidence that a 5m wide engineered Roman road was constructed between Alresford and Neatham. There were no finds which might have provided evidence for the construction date and all that can be said about the end of the life of the road is that it was presumably out of use before the medieval road was established. As David Weston and others have suggested there may be other Roman roads in the area and different routes may have been used at different times during the Roman occupation.

Further work on the suggested line should help to understand the road. This would be particularly valuable between Bushy Leaze Wood and Neatham although it may prove difficult to separate Roman features from more recent activity in this area. It is reasonable to assume that the road reached Winchester. The best fit with the 31km distance from Winchester to Neatham given in the Antonine Itinerary is a route from Alresford on the north side of the River Itchen to connect with the Winchester to Silchester road but a route south west from Seward's Bridge turning west to Winchester on the route of the present A31 gives a total distance from Neatham to Winchester only about one Roman mile shorter than the distance given in the Antonine Itinerary and may be more likely. More research is required to understand this section of the route, particularly the linear features visible in aerial photographs of the area north west of Matterley Farm.

The excavations support the proposal that the Roman road continued beyond Neatham to London but, although much effort has been put into the search, the existence of this section of road has not been proven.

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Local History

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An Earlier Name for the Hundred of Andover

John Spaul

At the Norman Conquest, the hundred was known as the hundred of Andover, since this was the major settlement in the area and the site of a royal farm. By contrast, the names of other hundreds in north-west Hampshire—Pastrow (or Pacchestrowe) to the north, Evingar to the east, Welford to the south-east, and Thorngate to the south-west—seem to have no connection with a town or village in the area, though Welford hundred later became known as the hundred of Wherwell. It is of course possible that Evingar was the early name of Whitchurch, a name indicating the presence of a stone (or white) church, which displaced the early Saxon name. A change in the name of a hundred is known generally to have occurred when a royal farm was established in the area.[1] As Andover became a royal farm probably about 960 AD the change of the hundred's name is explained, but not what it changed from.

The introduction of the hundred as an administrative unit may have been associated with the establishment of Christianity in pagan England. The early hundred probably consisted of a number of villages served by a mother church which was responsible for the conversion of the whole hundred. In the case of Andover hundred, the mother church may not have been that of Andover, as suggested by a deed of Andover parish. When William I gave the parish of Andover to the abbey of St Florent near Saumur, he ordered that 'the churches built under the mother church of Andover should be utterly destroyed or should be held by the monks of St Florent'.[2] No such churches were transferred or destroyed, from which one may infer that they did not exist, and (by implication) that Andover was not a mother church. The presence of a royal reeve in Andover c.1100 is proof of the existence of a royal manor but it does not prove the existence of a mother church at Andover. Hase has suggested that Amport or Abbotts Ann might have been the mother church of the hundred.[3]

Many villages cluster around a parish church, and this is the case in every village in the hundred except one. Even in villages where the church appears to be on the edge of the village, as at Kimpton, examination of the neighbouring field reveals traces of house platforms and drains for storm water. In pre-Norman times Penton was divided into two manors, one held by the king and the other by Queen Edith. In fact the two parishes lie so close together that it is difficult for a stranger to distinguish one from the other. Only a line separates the houses of the two parishes. The eastern part of Penton has acquired the name Penton Mewsey and has its own church. The western part, called Penton Grafton, has no church. Instead the people of Penton Grafton are forced to look for their church to Weyhill, which is nearly a mile away.

The church of St Michael the Archangel at Weyhill was referred to in early times as *La Weo* or *la wee*, names which indicate that the site was known as a 'holy place', and the choice of the Archangel would have been a natural successor to a pagan dedication. Furthermore, the open downland near St Michael's, Weyhill is the geographic centre of the parishes of Andover hundred, and if, as Thorn observed, the creation of a royal manor often displaced the original meeting-place of a hundred, then Weyhill was probably the hundred's original moot.[4] It remained a meeting-place throughout the medieval and early modern periods, and (as records in HRO reveal) a view of frankpledge continued to be held at Weyhill at Michaelmas or Lady Day until at least 1704.

The base of a cross was found near Weyhill church in 1904 and Revd R M Heanley, the rector who found it, suggested that a churchyard cross was added to the rebuilt church around 1280-90 by the abbot of Grestain, who was an Englishman.[5] An earlier Saxon cross is suggested by the presence of two Anglo-Saxon sculptured stones, c.56 cm by 36 cm, now in the west wall of the vestry. These were catalogued as a grave-cover in *VCH Hampshire* IV and vol. 4 of the *Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture* (ed. D Tweddle et al, Oxford, 1995), but they are two stones and would fit more easily as panels of a preaching cross, possibly from the late 7th century.

That Weyhill was a 'holy place' in Roman times may be confirmed by the finding in 1894 at Appleshaw on the east side of the road to Ludgershall of a hidden collection of pewter vessels, one of which was decorated with a 'chi-rho' mark and another with a fish, both suggestive of Christian worship. To some people this means that Christianity was practised at Weyhill in the final years of the Roman period and the 'Appleshaw treasure' was hidden from approaching strangers.

Finally, did Revd Heanley have some other evidence for the status of St Michael's, Weyhill or was it just a supposition by him? In describing the registers of the parish, he remarked on the considerable number of weddings of non-parishioners in the period before 1753 and wondered, since most of the couples came from neighbouring parishes, whether there was 'still a lingering affection for being married in what had once been the mother-church of the whole district'.[6]

Notes

1 F R Thorn, 'Hundreds and wapentakes', in *The Hampshire Domesday*, ed. A Williams and R W H Erskine (Alecto edn, London, 1989), 35-6.
2 *Regesta Regum Anglo-Normannorum: The Acta of William I (1066-1087)*, ed. D Bates (Oxford, 1998), no. 270; J Blair, *The Church in Anglo-Saxon Society* (Oxford, 2005), 450.
3 P H Hase, 'The church in the Wessex heartlands', in M Aston and C Lewis (eds), *The Medieval Landscape of Wessex* (Oxford, 1994), 52-4.
4 Thorn, 'Hundreds and wapentakes', 36.
5 R M Heanley, *The History of Weyhill* (Winchester, 1922), 6.
6 Heanley, *History of Weyhill*, 50.

Vandalised Again:
the Renaissance Frieze in the Chapel of the Hospital of St Cross, Winchester

Nicholas Riall

It is regrettable that it is necessary to record that the Renaissance frieze at St Cross has been vandalised yet again. The first occasion occurred in 2007, when someone wrenched one of the corbel figurines from the section of frieze displayed in the south chapel (also known as the Morning or Lady chapel).[1]The corbel figurine represented the Tiburtine sibyl, and constitutes a serious loss. Sadly, the same section of frieze has again attracted undesirable attention, and further pieces of the frieze have been lost. It is particularly sad to note that the main frieze in the chancel has also been damaged, with one of the lower tier panels having been torn from its place.

Fig. 1. Hospital of St Cross, Winchester. The frieze fragments displayed in the south chapel as photographed in 2005. Photograph: Nicholas Riall.

As has been explained elsewhere in some detail, the suite of Tudor furnishings with its Renaissance frieze created c.1517 had survived largely intact until the early 19th century.[2] Then, over a period of about 30-40 years it was partially dismantled, so that by the 1850s only the canopied benches with the frieze, still attached, remained in the chancel. William Butterfield's mid-century renovations resulted in the complete removal of the Renaissance furnishings from the chancel. Over the following half century or so, and in a rather piecemeal fashion, first the sections of frieze and then the canopied benches were returned to the chancel to create the layout we see today. Fragments of the frieze from the return range, that which crossed the west end of the chancel, were collected together and made up into a display which was originally placed above the door into the south chapel; this was later placed on the chapel south wall (Fig. 1). These fragments provide many of the clues that enable us to recreate the probable layout of the suite of furnishings and allow us some ideas as to the design and theme of this section of the frieze. Thus to lose any part of this collection of fragments constitutes a grievous blow.

Fig. 3. Hospital of St Cross, Winchester. Bay 3 in the upper tier frieze as photographed in 2007 (scale 200mm). Photograph: Nicholas Riall.

Two areas of the south chapel frieze have suffered damage in this latest incident: bay 3 of the upper tier and bays 2 & 3 of the lower tier. This can be clearly seen in the photograph taken soon after the damage was noticed (Fig. 2). The entire left-hand side of bay 3 of the upper tier of the frieze was removed from the frame (Fig. 3). This piece comprised an almost complete side of an original upper tier frieze panel, in which there was a cherub (putto) astride a dolphin—the body form bears comparison with other frames of the south frieze in the chancel—above the frame moulding of the ogee arch that divides all these frieze panels, and below which was another cherub leaning into the corner of the frame.

Fig. 2. Hospital of St Cross, Winchester. The frieze fragments displayed in the south chapel as photographed in 2009. Photograph: Nicholas Riall.

Almost certainly he was placed in this manner in order to be placed straining away from supporting a shield or medallion; a similar design for the employment of cherubs as supporters can be seen in bay 6 of the south frieze in the chancel. Most of this portion of the frieze was found smashed into several pieces on the floor of the chapel. Most unhappily, the cherub's head is now in three pieces.

The lower tier frames have been damaged in a rather more significant way. The entire left-hand section of bay 2 has been torn out, leaving a few very minor fragments of carved work and part of the frame (Fig. 2). Once again, much of this section was found broken up and lying strewn across the chapel floor. Having gathered the pieces together and examined them, it was soon apparent that one significant piece was missing. The cherub's head had been taken. The main theme to the lower tier frames of what was originally the frieze above the return stalls was a series of panels that depicted a centrally placed urn supported on either side by birds that had their beaks lying on the edges of the urn. Placed above the mouth of the urn was a winged cherub's

head. This is now missing. So too is the cherub's head from the adjacent bay 3, as well as one of the birds that flanked this cherub.

It appears to be that it was the cherub heads that this vandal sought to take away. The lower tier bays of the frieze on the north side of the chancel also feature cherubs, although in a somewhat different design series to those in the south chapel. The panel in bay 4 of the north frieze has been ripped from its setting, but in so doing the cherub's head was broken off and remains attached to the main framework of the frieze. The lower tier frame was found lying on top of the canopied stall, presumably abandoned because the cherub's head was not obtainable.

The remains of the left-hand section of the frieze of the lower tier in bay 2 were removed to allow possible conservation and repair, while the companion panel on the right was also taken out because this was now loose. These pieces, together with all the other fragments that have been torn from the frieze and which were found strewn on the chapel floor, have been deposited with the Hampshire County Museum Service pending a decision about the future of the frieze panel in the south chapel.

Notes

1 N Riall, 'Taken from the chapel of the Hospital of St Cross, Winchester: the Tiburtine sibyl', **HFCAS Newsletter** 50 (2008), 25-7.

2 A Smith and N Riall, 'Early Tudor canopywork at the Hospital of St Cross, Winchester', Antiquaries Journal 82 (2002), 125-56; N Riall, 'The diffusion of early Franco-Italian All'antica ornament: the Renaissance frieze in the chapel of the Hospital of St Cross, Winchester, and the Gaillon stalls now at St Denis, Paris', **Antiquaries Journal** 88 (2008), 258-307.

New Hampshire VCH: Mapledurwell Parish

Mark Page

As reported in Newsletter 50, work on Hampshire's new Victoria County History began in 2008. Focusing on the Basingstoke area, the first draft parish history of Mapledurwell has been posted on the website: go to http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/Counties/HampshireNewVCH/Home and click on 'Work in Progress'. Written by John Hare, Michael Hicks, Jean Morrin, and Stan Waight, the text covers Mapledurwell's landscape and settlement, manors, economic history, and buildings. Studies of the parish's social and religious history and local government are yet to be completed. The following summary covers the main points in the text.

Mapledurwell lies on the edge of the Hampshire downs about 3 miles east of Basingstoke. The village grew up alongside a stream, away from the prehistoric and Roman roads which crossed the parish. Until inclosure in 1797 the farmhouses and cottages along the village street were surrounded by open fields in which traditional sheep-and-corn husbandry was practised. Thereafter the growing of watercress became significant. In the Middle Ages the manor belonged to prominent lay lords, most of whom were non-resident, but in 1529 it was acquired by the present owner, Corpus Christi College, Oxford. The college employed a bailiff to manage its affairs, but in the absence of a resident lord, leadership in the village must have devolved upon a small number of wealthy tenant farmers.

The first three centuries of Corpus Christi's ownership were marked by social stability and agricultural prosperity. From the 16th to the 18th century the village probably contained no more than 40 households, most of which were engaged in the production of wheat, barley and malt, and wool for the local cloth industry. Other inhabitants were rural tradesmen, including carpenters and blacksmiths. Though remote from major towns, from the 18th century Mapledurwell was connected to several new transport routes. The road to London (the modern A30) was turnpiked c.1754, the adjacent Hatch public house opening soon afterwards, while in 1794 the parish was crossed by the Basingstoke canal. Roads to neighbouring settlements were improved after inclosure, and in 1971 the M3 motorway separated the village from the northern part of the parish.

Mapledurwell's population expanded in the 19th century, until growth was halted by a severe fire in 1881 and the onset of agricultural depression. Sheep-and-corn husbandry declined, especially in the 20th century, and was replaced by the cultivation of watercress beds and poultry farming. Watercress continues to be grown in the early 21st century, when sheep-and-corn husbandry has also been revived. From the 1960s Mapledurwell was transformed by the development of Basingstoke new town. The timber-framed farmhouses and cottages, many of 16th and 17th-century date, were sold by Corpus Christi to wealthy commuters. A few new houses were built along the village's main street, but most modern development took place to the north of the motorway, thereby preserving much of Mapledurwell's rural charm.

Archives and Local Studies News from Hampshire Record Office

David Rymill

New additions to the archives

Photograph albums filled with images of people will always have the power to engage us with the past, perhaps more immediately than any other kind of archive document. An album of black and white photographs (108A09/1), probably taken by a Miss Davis, feature doctors, nurses and patients at Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital, Alton, c.1929-30, as well as family members, pets and holidays, 1920s-60s. Most of the photographs are identified in some way, and the photographer, an amateur of some talent, also features as a subject. The photographs provide a fresh take on life at the hospital. Unlike many of the more formal shots in the main archive (47M94) held at HRO, showing official visits and images of children focusing on their physical disabilities and treatment, Nurse Davis's photos are taken very much from the point of view of a junior member of staff, and show children more at ease with themselves, and staff members very much 'off-duty'.

The Hampshire, Dorset and Isle of Wight branch of the Association of Teachers of Domestic Science was formed in 1897, and we have recently received minute books for 1933-66 (103A09/1-2). It sought to further the Association's aims, especially the branch's professional and social needs. The general meetings, held every four months, gave the teachers chance to talk with fellow professionals. The meetings usually had a discussion

period and a demonstration, film show or lecture, perhaps on child and baby welfare or home furnishing, or a more directly-related topic such as using self-raising flour.

We have received two research papers about wartime Hampshire from Tony Dowland (99A09/1-2). *Winchester Morn Hill: The First World War Army Camps* relates to the Morn Hill or Magdalen Hill army camps, Winchester, covering the assembly in 1914 of troops from around the Empire for the British Expeditionary Force; the use of the camp by US army personnel in 1917-19; and the American Camp Hospital No. 35 on Avington Down, in existence in 1918-19. *Tragedy before D-Day* relates to the crash of a 'tug' aeroplane and its glider into trees near Hampshire's eastern border, in an exercise in 1944 in preparation for D-Day. The glider crashed in Warnford Park and the tug crashed near Romsey, leading to the deaths of the tug's crew of six, and the 27 in the glider, the majority of whom were from The King's Own Scottish Borderers.

An unusual survival is a log book of the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) Battalion HQ Section, Bentley, based at The Old Parsonage and later at Pax Hill (65A09/1), kept by Volunteer Baxter between 26 August and 31 December [possibly 1939]. It lists names of recruits and their day-to-day activities, from mapping to telephone duty.

There is also a military connection to a group of business records, covering the period 1900-70, of Edward Harrington and Son Ltd, wholesale leather merchants of Wellington Street, Aldershot (85A09), who also dealt in shoes, travel goods, etc. Edward Harrington was born about 1854 in Essex, but by the 1880s he had set up his business in Aldershot; he was joined in the early 1900s by his son Stanley Victor Harrington. The records include customer ledgers, showing each customer's account at a glance, and the day books giving fuller details of each transaction day by day.

Three letter-books and a ledger belonging to Charles Wither of Hall Place (later Oakley Hall, Deane), Surveyor General of His Majesty's Trees and Woodlands, were received as part of a collection of Wither and Hicks Beach family and estate papers (87A09). The volumes, dating from 1720 when Wither took up the post until his death in 1731, include copies of incoming and outgoing letters, personal notes, and detailed reports on particular forests. As Surveyor General, Charles Wither was responsible for royal forests and parklands around the country, including the New Forest, the Forest of Dean, and Alice Holt and Woolmer Forests.

The letter books provide a detailed account of the challenges faced by Charles Wither over the course of his career; much of the correspondence relates to forest lodges in poor repair, the theft of timber and deer from the king's woods, and legal disputes with local landowners. An exhaustive report on the royal forests which Wither made shortly after taking office highlights some of the problems which were widespread in the forests at this time (87A09/2/2a, pp.77-88).

Other items in the collection include account books relating to the Oakley Hall estate near Basingstoke and personal account books belonging to various members of the Wither and Hicks Beach families, such as a 1741-60 account book (87A09/1/9) which gives fascinating insights into household life and charitable gifts: there are payments of 2s. 6d. 'to a poor soldier who sang at Dean church', 2s. 6d. 'to Robinson for horse hire when he brought the mackerel', 5s. 6d. given to 'poor children in the harvest feild', and £1 1s. 'to Mr Wither, on the petition of young Prince, towards equiping him for the Sea'.

We encourage the use of the digital archives held here, and the deposit of other digital archives in appropriate formats. This is a growing area for archives across the world, and it is important to think about the deposit of digital archives earlier in their lives than for records in other formats. More information on depositing digital archives is available at www.hants.gov.uk/rh/hro/digital-archives-pre-deposit-questions.pdf. A recent digital accession comprises images from Eric Rule's scrapbook of Winchester and Crawley, 1890s-1900s (54A09/1). These include colour images of a choir outing, Crawley Pond, and the village street.

Over the years we have received many deposits of records from the Records Preservation Section of the British Records Association. As well as publishing a journal and organizing an annual conference, the Association has for many years provided a clearing-house for archives, especially for title deeds from solicitors' offices in London and elsewhere, which could so easily have been lost.

Recent BRA consignments have included title deeds to property in various Hampshire locations, from Hartley Wintney to Lyndhurst, and include a reminder that title deeds to a single property can give information about a wider area: some deeds to 1-6 Victoria Cottages in Lyndhurst (84A08/4) include an 1880s plan of development plots on

Fig. 1. Photograph of Mary Sumner with her husband Rt Revd George Sumner, bishop of Guildford, and their children (Lady Heywood, Mrs Gore Browne, and the artist, writer and pioneer archaeologist Heywood Sumner), 1898. HRO, 145M85/A2.

the Custards Estate (Custards Road, Pemberton Road, South View Road and Clarence Road), and the first deed, a conveyance by George Egerton, a builder, to Charles Egerton, a commission agent, includes a schedule of deeds giving hints of the estate's story from 1846.

The records of Alton Art Society (56A09) include minute books dating from its foundation in 1925, and exhibition catalogues, 1948-2000. The prime movers in the Society's formation were W Hugh Curtis and Stephen W Warner, curators of the Curtis Museum. Lord Baden-Powell became the first President and performed the opening ceremony at the first exhibition; he exhibited his

own watercolours, and when unable to attend an annual meeting because he was in hospital, he sent a letter of apology with a sketch of himself in bed and the surgeon at the ready.

Three letters about the Leeaan family of Whitchurch (121A08) are proving an intriguing mystery: in one, C F Leeaan of Whitchurch writes to Miss Hopkins of St Mary Bourne, requesting her hand in marriage in 1820; the other two are from E Leeaan and E(liza?) M Leeaan of London to Charles Leeaan and Sally Leeaan (his wife?) of Whitchurch, concerning Sally's illness and recovery in 1825. Presumably C F Leeaan is Charles, but as we have not so far found their marriage entry we are unsure if Sally is Miss Hopkins!

Some unusually vivid insights into life in a north Hampshire village are provided by a typescript copy of notes written by Alfred Woods about the recollections of his grandfather George Woods of Monk Sherborne (1817-1903) (146A09/1). Alfred, who was born in 1867, lived with his grandparents until he married in 1903. The notes include details about George's early life, such as a reference to the Swing Riots of 1830: 'many inhabitants secreted themselves for fear of being forced to join them. My grandfather hid in one of the brick ovens at the farm'. Also covered are his working life as a shepherd, and the restoration of Monk Sherborne church, begun by the Revd Septimus Bellas who became vicar in 1848. There are also vivid recollections of several other 19th-century vicars of Monk Sherborne, such as the Revd Dr Henry Hall (1793-c.1829), described as 'a man of a kindly disposition … none ever went to the Rectory [later known as Queen's House] without being well-cared for' and Revd Dr George Porter (c.1830-48) whose sermons lasted an hour or longer, 'most eloquent and full of zeal … The church … now became too small to find room for the crowds which would come from near and far to hear him, Sunday by Sunday, explain the Scriptures'.

One of the best-known businesses in Aldershot in the 20th century was Gale and Polden, printers and publishers. Sadly, so far as is known, no comprehensive archive of the business has survived, but we do hold digital copies of a number of photographs of their premises (HPP30). To these we have now been able to add some background information about the firm and the Polden family (28A09) and a set of photocopies of Companies House files relating to the firm (123A09). These include lists of shareholders from 1893 onwards, which include a surprisingly large number of army personnel stationed in Aldershot. Gale and Polden traced its origins to a bookshop opened in the 1860s by James Gale in Chatham. 1873 marked the publication of the first book printed by Gale, using hand-operated presses, the first of many titles on military subjects which were to be produced by the firm. In 1877 Gale took as an apprentice (Thomas) Ernest Polden, who later became his partner and took a leading role in establishing the firm's reputation for expertise in Army and Navy printing. He was joined in the business by his brother (Elwyn) Russell Polden. In 1888 they opened a shop in Aldershot at No. 9 Wellington Street, and printing was moved to the new Wellington Works in Aldershot in 1893. In the following year the firm began publishing the Aldershot News. A Portsmouth branch, known as the Nelson Works, was established to capture the naval trade. In 1963 Gale and Polden was taken over by the Purnell Group, later part of Maxwell Communications.

Recent catalogues

The Eastleigh Baptist Church archive (17A04) takes the congregation's story back to the formation of a Baptist cause in Eastleigh in 1887, partly because of the move to Eastleigh of London and South Western Railway staff. There are minutes from 1887, Deacons' minutes from 1901, registers of members, c.1904-74, and Sunday School teachers' minutes, 1890-1938.

Southern Arts was formed in 1968 to promote the Arts in southern England. Its archive (19A03) includes minutes, annual reports and newsletters, giving details of activities across the region at this time. There are also various panel minutes. At a meeting of the film panel on 15 June 1977, a Tony Minghella was turned down for a £5000 grant for a 16mm feature fiction film *A Little Like Drowning*. He made the film without their support and went on to become the Academy Award winning director Anthony Minghella.

The Shering family were established as builders in Fordingbridge by the 1700s. Over the years they came to concentrate on general building contracting and development; the company expanded to operate throughout Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire, but closed in 1996, and its archive, dating back to 1916, is now in our care (69M97). They are mainly financial, and include ledgers, cash books and client accounts, as well as estimate books from 1938. There are also some building plans from the 1920s-30s for properties in Fordingbridge and the surrounding area. Shering family members were associated with the Fordingbridge Turks Football Club, and the collection includes minutes and accounts of the Turks Supporters Social Club, 1935-40. The Turks were formed in 1868, their name evoking the Turkish forces' fighting spirit against the Russian Army in the Crimea.

Forthcoming events

Exhibitions (in Hampshire Record Office's foyer except as stated)

10 Feb-30 Apr: *A Century of Girlguiding*: the Hampshire story

10 May-24 Jul: Los Niños: child exiles of the Spanish Civil War
Topics for exhibitions later in the year are expected to include Florence Nightingale, and the parish of Hyde on the northern outskirts of Winchester.

At Aldershot Library, 1 Mar-14 May, Farnborough Library, 17 May-30 Jul, and Queen Elizabeth Country Park, 6 Aug-12 Sep: Hampshire Heroes: an exhibition exploring the Hampshire roots of some famous figures such as Mary Sumner (Fig. 1) and Charlotte Yonge, and some not-so-famous, from the Olympic walker Tommy Green to the Antarctic artist George Marston, showing the range of family history sources in which they appear.

Lunchtime lectures and archive film shows (Last Thursday of each month, 1.15-1.45pm; free, no need to book)

29 Apr: A Century of Girlguiding: the Hampshire story (it is likely that this will take place in the Learning Spaces, Winchester Discovery Centre, Jewry Street, owing to the refurbishment of our lecture theatre; please phone before travelling)

27 May: 'Last line of defence': the Home Guard in Hampshire – by Heather Needham

24 Jun: 'Los Niños': child exiles of the Spanish Civil War – by David Bond

Family activities: suitable for children aged 6+ who must be accompanied by an adult. Free, but booking essential; please ring 01962 846154 for future events.

Beginners' evenings and Lunch and Learn

Our beginners' evenings help you start family history research. Now booking 21 Apr, 19 May, 16 Jun. Booking required, £7 each.

Our 'lunch and learn' sessions offer you a chance to try reading old handwriting – and, if you like, to bring along a copy of a document you are having trouble reading, for the group to try: usually 1-2pm on the first Friday of each month; no booking needed.

Family and local history workshops and other events: at Winchester Discovery Centre (former Lending Library), Jewry Street. For details of events, please ring 01962 873603 or visit www3.hants.gov.uk/wdc/whatson-wdc

A member of our staff will be on hand to answer your questions at the Andover Library help desk on 26 May, 10am-1pm.

For more information about events, please ring 01962 846154 or visit www3.hants.gov.uk/archives/whatson-hro

book reviews book reviews book reviews book reviews book reviews

An Andover Miscellany, Andover History & Archaeology Society, 2008; pp.131, £8.50 + £1.50 p&p from Mill Pound Cottage, Monxton, Andover SP11 8AW.

The four articles included in this volume are concerned with very different aspects of Andover's 19th and early 20th-century history. Though not made explicit, an underlying theme of all four papers, however, is that of class division. Like many other English towns in this period, Andover's social structure was carefully graded. As David Borrett observes in his study of the origins of Primitive Methodism in the town, the movement appealed particularly to the labouring classes, whereas another important group of Nonconformists—the Congregationalists—drew most of their support from Andover's independent tradesmen. The same author also discusses the establishment (in 1853) of the china and glass emporium on High Street owned by the Layton family. In the early 20th century the shop stocked some prestigious wares by high-class manufacturers such as Minton, Worcester, Derby and Spode, but most sales were of cheaper imitative goods, suggesting that many townsfolk sought to emulate their betters.

Andrew Jackson's study of Andover's cottage hospital, opened in 1877, reveals the considerable efforts of some leading townsmen to provide the poor with adequate health care and the difficulties of enforcing payment of patients' charges for maintenance following their treatment. The town's philanthropy continued after the First World War when the cottage hospital was replaced by a new War Memorial Hospital in 1926. The late Harry Paris's contribution includes many personal recollections of Andover during the 1914-18 war. His particular focus is New Street, at that time regarded as the town's slum, but whose inhabitants suffered the highest number of casualties during the war. The organizers of the peace celebration of 1919 initially excluded the street from the route of the soldiers' procession, but the marchers took matters into their own hands and forced the parade to divert along New Street. The four papers are accompanied by a number of contemporary photographs and by a biographical index of some well known 19th-century Andoverians.
Mark Page

Alton Papers, no. 13, 2009; pp.48, £3+60p p&p from Jane Hurst, 82 The Butts, Alton GU34 1RD; www.altonpapers.org.uk.

Five papers are included in this regular journal. John Heighes discusses the late 17th-century diary of Mary Woodforde, wife of the rector of Hartley Mauditt, who was great-grandfather of the well known diarist Parson Woodforde (d.1803). Martin Morris continues his study of Alton's turnpike roads, examining the reasons for the closure of the turnpike trusts between 1860 and 1878. Margaret Prior prints a perambulation of Medstead manor in 1744, showing that many boundary marks remain recognizable today. Mark Forrester offers an interesting account of Alton's clockmakers in the 18th and 19th centuries, with photographs illustrating their work. Finally, Jane Hurst uses the diary of a local farmer to comment on events in the town in 1859.
Mark Page

Norman Pointing, **Alton's Motor Traders: A Century of Service,** Part 2 (East and West of the Town Centre), Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery: Alton, 2009; pp.48, £3+60p p&p from Jane Hurst, 82 The Butts, Alton GU34 1RD.

The second part of Norman Pointing's study of the buildings and people who worked in Alton's thriving motor trade industry from the early 20th century to the present day focuses on those areas outside the town centre, including the village of Holybourne. The booklet offers a unique perspective on the town's recent history, highlighting both surviving buildings and areas of later redevelopment that are easily overlooked by residents and visitors.
Mark Page

Jane Cowling and Peter Greenfield, **Monks, Minstrels and Players:** Drama in Hampshire before 1642, Hampshire Papers 29, 2008; pp.28, £3.

Hampshire County Council's successful series of Hampshire Papers continues with this interesting account of drama in the county, from the performance of the Visitatio Sepulchri by monks of Winchester Cathedral priory in the 10th century to Parliament's prohibition of public playing in 1642. The authors discuss drama at Winchester College and Southampton Grammar School, the entertainment of the royal court and aristocracy in some of Hampshire's leading houses, and the tradition of performance in the county's towns. Though they lacked the medieval mystery play cycles of York and Chester, the townspeople of Winchester and Southampton enjoyed vernacular saint plays, including the story of St Agnes, the patron saint of virgins.

In rural areas kingales and summer games were a popular means of raising funds for the parish church. Kingales involved the crowning of a mock king or lord to preside over the festivities, but otherwise were similar to the more familiar church ales. These entertainments were held from the Middle Ages to the early 17th century, when they were suppressed by church authorities concerned to stamp out drunkenness and other irreligious activities. In the 16th century the medieval tradition of minstrelsy gave way to travelling troupes of players, who by 1600 were performing the plays of Marlowe, Jonson, and Shakespeare. Even before 1642, however, Protestant opposition led some local authorities in the county to restrict the performance of secular drama, especially in town halls, though inns and other public places may have remained open to the players.
Mark Page

Jane Hurst, **Jane Austen and Chawton**, privately published, 2009; pp.36, £2.50+60p p&p from Jane Hurst, 82 The Butts, Alton GU34 1RD.

This booklet about Chawton in the time of Jane Austen takes the form of a gazetteer of buildings and other landmarks, with short discussions of how Jane would have known them and the people who lived there in the early 19th century. A useful accompaniment to a walk around the village.
Mark Page

Landscape

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Editorial.

The invitation to members in the last issue to contribute to the Newsletter has evoked a most encouraging response - on all fronts! George Watts' question on peat digging in the New Forest has been answered by Catherine Chatters and Jude James who independently directed George's attention to Appendix II of Anthony Pasmore's 'Verderers of the New Forest' and Barry Cunliffe's 'Heywood Sumner's Wessex'. John Mitchell's 'The Titchfield Canal' has stirred up much interest, prompting comments from Gavin Bowie which have been passed on to John, and started a correspondence between John and Peter Stone. As for Mark Page's 'Studying Medieval Settlements in Hampshire', there has been a most enthusiastic response, as the subject is now seen to be more accessible. Comments received have underlined the article's practicability, and one that provides new insights, and methods, but there were also several promises to report ongoing work in Newsletter. And, George Watts has a piece (below) on the evolution of the medieval landscape in the Titchfield area.

Mark's intention to make available the Hampshire lay subsidy roll for 1327 in the Hampshire Record Series, hopefully by 2011, will be a considerable asset to any future work on settlements. Because this was one of the last medieval lay subsidy rolls for Hampshire (there is another for 1332) that has been preserved, in which individuals were assessed rather than whole communities, much more is revealed about the people and their circumstances. Two years ago, when I was studying the Chilworth Estate Map, I referred back to the 1327 lay subsidy assessment and found a list of 12 households assessed for £1-5s-6d, a very modest sum. By comparison, 250 years earlier, the Domesday Book showed an entry of four villagers [plus households] and four slaves, and assessed at £4. So that over that 250 year period this small forest edge community seemed to have maintained itself, but only just. However, although 'slaves' are mentioned in Domesday Book, it is not known how many households in 1327 were excluded because of their poverty. The 1586 lay subsidy assessment found only five individuals in Chilworth wealthy enough to qualify, but again the number of those too poor is not recorded. By contrast, the 1662 hearth tax yielded 30 hearths in 15 houses; but 12 were in Sir Edward Hooper's manor house, and two in dwellings too poor to be taxed. Of the 16 remaining, all were in dwellings possessing either only one or two hearths, 'denoting a degree of poverty' [1], which gives some idea of the proportion of the population about which little is known, but evidence of this community's impoverished state. With regard to the landscape, on the 1755 map, excluding the manor house and Manor Farm, I counted 17 buildings along or near the village street that were probably dwellings. No less than four of these have been identified as 16th/17th century along today's straggling linear village street[2]; their sites, probably older. So it seems that the medieval face of Chilworth may be little changed, and its social make-up until the 19th century, likewise.

George Watts has arrived at a similar conclusion of 'little change in the medieval landscape around Titchfield until the 18th or 19th centuries' (below). So, the landscape seems to retain much vestigial evidence of its medieval past, if we can find it; and the 1327 assessment data, a missing link, about to be restored, will help. Do let the Newsletter know about what you find.

References:

1. Elizabeth Hughes and Philippa White Eds., The Hampshire Hearth Tax Assessment 1665, p.xv,1991;
2. HCC, Hampshire Treasures, Vol. 9, 1984, pp.38/39.

The Evolution of a Medieval Landscape: Titchfield.

George Watts.

The region south of the chalk downs and east of Southampton Water is poor in archaeological materials, and seems to have remained an area of uninhabited woodland and marshy valley throughout prehistoric times. The building of Portchester (Portum Adurni) and Bitterne (Clausentum), and of the roads linking them with each other and with Winchester and Chichester, opened up the northern fringe of the forest, and may have brought the first permanent agricultural settlements around Portsdown Hill. The early 'Jutish' invaders still regarded the coastal areas as too difficult and unsafe for settlement, and they took their boats on into the downs. The settlements of the Meonwara cluster along the upper Meon above Droxford, and it is possible that Corhampton, (a Titchfield Abbey manor) was settled at this time. Titchfield itself was said in Domesday Book to have been a berewick of Meonstoke; its name means 'the kids' pasture' and it may have begun as a pastoral settlement in the forest pasture allotted to a village ten miles to the north.

The villages around Titchfield, such as Brook in Titchfield, Stubbington and Fontley, were probably later settlements, Saxon rather than Jutish, made after the desirable open land further north had been fully settled and the Saxon assault on the forests had begun. Each is half a mile or more from a river and a mile or more inland, and stands on the lighter gravel soils above the valleys, off the skyline for raiders coming up the rivers, and leaving the woods and marshes of the clays and peats for grazing. The size of the Titchfield parish and the position of its Saxon church suggest that these settlements were small, and the area still lightly populated when the ecclesiastical boundaries were drawn. It would seem that the original pastoral settlement at Titchfield was made in the 6th century, and that it was a village with a substantial church

The area between the Hamble and the Meon in 1810, showing a pattern of villages, hamlets and farms, little changed since the early Middle Ages.

by the end of the 7th century. During that century the original clearings of the other settlements appear to have been made, and they grew into villages during the two centuries of Danish raids. The third stage of settlement may have taken place between the end of these raids and the Conquest. It produced a string of farms along the coast, at Lee-on-Solent, Meon, Brownwich, Chilling, Hook, and perhaps Warsash, and another among the woods in the north of the parish, at Lee Ground, Quob, and around Fontley. These never developed into manors on the Titchfield Abbey's estates, and most of them were held by free and knightly tenants of the Abbey in the 13th century. Their creation was clearly the result of settled conditions in which the coasts were safe and in which a number of men above the status of ceorl were ready to spend money on enclosures of the waste and the acquisition of pasture rights in the woods. The holdings usually consisted of a demesne farm, a few tenants, pasture, meadows and wood, and arable fields without any recognisable open field system.

The parish had become saturated with settlements by 1086, and it is unlikely that more than one village, Swanwick, and three or four farms and hamlets like Bovewood, Prallingworth, Posbrook and Abshot, were created between that time and the 13th century. Enclosure being a gradual process here, it is unlikely that there was any radical change in the pattern of settlement around Titchfield between 1086 and the creation of the gentlemen's estates and the beginnings of suburban development in the 18th and 19th centuries. These brought greater changes on the face of the parish than had been made during the thousand years after the clearance of the forests and wastes. In the 13th and 14th centuries it was this process of clearance which formed the historical and geographical background to the economy of the Titchfield Abbey estates.

The Amateur Landscape Detective at Canterton

George Campbell

It is a truth universally acknowledged (to re-coin a phrase), that the further one goes back in history the sparser documentary evidence becomes. When, for example, one wishes to reconstruct the boundaries of a Domesday manor in the absence of an earlier charter, one is in difficulties, but not reduced solely to inspired guesses, as Hoskins once observed. He said that when he was about to explore a new piece of country as an historian, he would ideally like to be accompanied by an archaeologist and a geographer, to keep him on track. However, if one does not have the luxury of the company of that well equipped trio, there are still maps to be read and interpret, and the landscape itself to observe, analyse and understand; and that usually is what the amateur has to get on with.

One prominent enclave that stands out on the map of the New Forest inviting exploration, is the Canterton district of Bramshaw Parish situated about a mile west of Cadnam (fig.1). It is off the beaten track, although it does suffer some through traffic to the Sir Walter Tyrrell pub. Carved out of woodland at an early date, it is oval in plan, and consists of a sprinkling of dispersed farms with fields of pasture bordered by boggy woodland. Its shape, dispersed settlement pattern, and emphasis on pastoral farming, is echoed on similar sites across the New Forest, such as Fritham and Eyeworth, and to the east in Chilworth. In all of them the combination of poor soils and immediate access to woodland pastures undoubtedly contributed to an early dependence on a pastoral economy and created the need for livestock enclosures, of which the circular Iron Age enclosures were the forerunners, and the oval-shaped medieval vaccaries a later development.[1]

The name Canterton is Old English for 'the enclosed farm of the Kentish men',[2] which suggests a resettlement of Jutes from Kent, perhaps at a time when

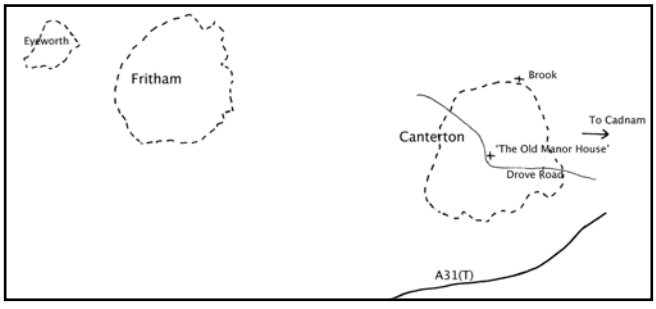

Figure 1: Canterton; places named are mentioned in the text.

that early kingdom was already well populated. The 'enclosed farm' is a reminder of Ine's Law 40 (AD 688-694), which required homesteads to be fenced,[3] a very necessary precaution here in the unenclosed Forest. Their settling at the margins of productive farmland suggests that they were either originally late arrivals or subsequently driven there by their new overlords, the West Saxons in the 7th century. However, the details of this isolated settlement's founding and early development may never be revealed, but identifying the boundaries of the manor recorded in the Domesday Book may be just possible, as by then a farming settlement had probably been in existence thereabouts for several centuries, and, perhaps, left some evidence above ground. There is also the possibility that while the Kentish Men may have cleared new ground, they were not the first to do so. Williamson has demonstrated that in many well-wooded parts of the country, the changes

Fig.2 Canterton Old Manor House.

wrought by the Old English may have simply overlain and extended the work of earlier peoples.[4] Pollen analysis of soils in the New Forest has revealed much evidence of woodland clearance in the Bronze Age.[5] In this north-eastern part of the New Forest, Bronze Age remains occur frequently, though mainly on higher ground than around Canterton; there are none in its immediate vicinity. This, however, does not preclude the possibility of early clearances in the Canterton area for grazing livestock; likewise later, by Iron Age people, although there is so far little evidence of their activity.

Domesday identified a manor of a half virgate in extent, held by Kenna in the reign of King Edward, but reduced by half after the Conquest, but still held by Kenna.[6] This is a very low assessment, but consistent with the poor quality and low yield of the land, which in this area consists of thin acidic soils underlain by the poor sandy-clays of the Bracklesham Beds. Similar low assessments of tiny manors are recorded in Devon on the southern edge of Dartmoor [7], another area of poor soils bordering on an extensive tract of common grazing. The Domesday entry: 'In lordship half a plough' suggests a cultivable area of about 40-60 acres on this low yielding land. Comparing this with the arable fields shown on the large scale Tithe Map of Minstead Parish[8], the proportion of cultivated land would appear to have remained fairly constant; nevertheless still a small proportion of the total area (in the 1840s) of 316 acres. Furthermore, when in 1949 the Canterton Manor Estate was auctioned[9], it was evident from the several isolated fragments of land on the large scale map that accompanied the auction catalogue, that what remained of this estate of 158 acres, was only a proportion of what had at some time been a much larger one. So, is it possible to identify where the original manor, the demesne or home farm and their respective boundaries were located against the many changes that must have occurred in the interim?

An obvious starting point are the buildings and grounds of the present Canterton Manor House. However, the OS 1st Edition 6 inch map (c.1860) shows no evidence of buildings on the site occupied by the present manor house, but does identify buildings as 'Manor House' about 400 metres to the south-west at SU270134. Subsequent examination on the ground at the latter site revealed a large freestanding brick house with a mansard roof and the appearance of a 17th century farmhouse (fig.2). Closer observation showed that the original house had apparently been extended

Fig.3 Mill leet, cart track and back of house showing three gables.

northwards or rebuilt. (There is a marked change in the colour of the bricks along the front walls.)

The VCH gives but fragmentary details of the manor house's history, but enough to reconstruct some of its past. At the beginning of the 20th century, the then owner of the Canterton Estates, a Mr John Jeffreys, stated that "the ruined manor house of Canterton, reputed to have been burnt down some centuries ago, is in the occupation of the gamekeeper' [of Mr Jeffreys].[10] So, it would appear that the manor house named on the OS 1st Edition 6 inch map and the ruined manor house described above are the same. The fact that the present building also shows evidence of extensive repairs or rebuilding seems to confirm this. Finally, the present name of the house: 'Keeper's Cottage' is on the gate, which seems conclusive evidence that this is in fact the site of the original manor house, referred to by Mr Jeffreys. At the back of the house three lateral gables, although externally of brick, endow the whole structure with the form of an 'E- shaped' Tudor house. It is known that in 1608, Thomas Goddard defending his right to hold Canterton Manor, defined it as 'an ancient farm with a dwelling house belonging to the demesne of the manor called the site or farm of the manor of Canterton with commons of pasture in the commons and wastes of Brook Heath and Shave'.[11] It is possible that part of this manor house has survived at least in plan from the Elizabethan period. It is equally possible that an imaginative or well-informed restorer simply built on the gables when the house was rebuilt.

The anonymous author of the Minstead Parish entry in 'Hampshire Treasures' provides a clue to some continuity when the present house was being rebuilt: 'This is the original site and not the site of the modern house called Canterton Manor House. The wall outline was found when farm buildings were built'.[11a] It is significant that neither of the OS 1st Edition 6 inch nor 25 inch maps record the lateral gables.

Without doubt a medieval house preceded the Tudor period one, as stated by Thomas Goddard (above). The VCH confirms this, stating that 'a mill was attached to the manor of Canterton as early as 1348' along with a long list of the successive manor owners and tenants. The VCH report continues: [The mill] 'was probably the watermill of which mention is made in several documents of the 17th century. The last mention of it is in 1703'.[12] All trace of it had disappeared by the time the OS 1st Edition 6 inch map was published. However, examination of the site on the OS 1st Edition 25 inch map revealed the unmistakable feature of the loop of a mill-leet by the stream, Coalmeer Gutter, about 250 metres north-east of the house. Subsequent examination on the ground confirmed its existence, with the bonus of the discovery of the mill foundations a little further on at SU271133, although there was also evidence of later building activity. The early OS large scale maps also indicate signs of a cart-track leading from the mill site to the manor house, and which are still visible on the ground (fig.3).

Fig.4 The right-angled bend on the drove road leading to the ford.

Although the grounds immediately surrounding the house have been extensively modernised with tennis court, swimming pool and manicured lawns, the significance of the site of the original manor house has not been lost. It is on a well-drained broad level site adjacent to a stream but well above its flood level. It is also by an old drove road which crosses a ford several metres from its front gate, at a point where the steep banks of the stream, Coalmeer Gutter, assume a lower profile. This drove road, which was probably originally an early seasonal throughway for the pasturing of cattle and pigs in the Forest, can be traced in a direct line across country for several miles between the Forest and Cadnam, but it has to make its only sharp turn, a right angled bend, around the manor house site (fig.4). A little further north, a right-angled fork from the drove road links it with a Roman road at Brook. The latter diversion suggests that the drove road may have preceded the Roman road; the former diversion indicates that the boundary of the site later occupied by the manor house was in place probably before the arrival of the Kentish Men. But a boundary to what? The most likely explanation is an early stock enclosure; but there is no evidence on the ground to support this. However, the Minstead Tithe Survey identifies the site of the turning point of the drove road by its original name: 'The Forest Pound.' Could this be a lead to a pre-medieval feature?

But, what of the Saxon period home farm? The auctioneers' map which accompanied their catalogue shows a large enclosed field adjacent to and east of Keeper's Cottage, described as 'accommodation pasture'. It is level, well-drained, and extensive. It is bounded to the north and to the east by steep-sided streams, Coalmeer Gutter and tributary, with boggy woodland beyond both; and to the south and west by the old drove road (fig.5). Knowing of the early English settlers' preference for clearly identifiable boundaries, streams in particular, it seems likely that the approximately 10 acre site of manor house, gardens and paddocks along with 'accommodation pasture', protected on all sides, could have formed the nucleus of a home farm. The Tithe Survey (above) tends to support this with the evidence that not only was 'accommodation pasture' divided into three fields of roughly equal size, but that they were named from west to east as: Home Field, Middle Field and Further Field. So, overall it would appear that the evidence in support of an early medieval manor or home farm on this site is strong (fig.5).

As for the boundaries of the Domesday manor itself, the Drivers' Map of the Castle Malwood section of the New Forest (1787),[13] would appear to provide the answer.

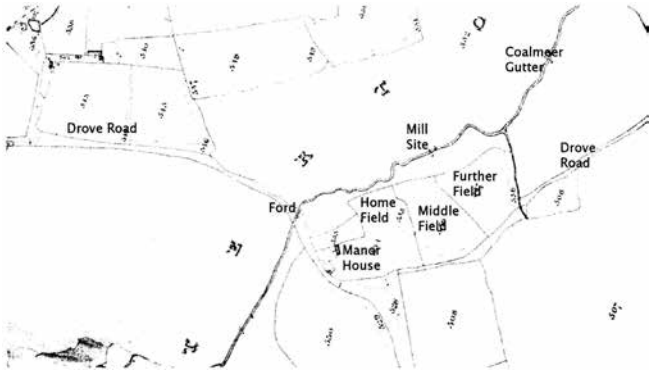

Fig.5 The Minstead Tithe Map, 1840, showing features of the probable home farm of the medieval manor of Canterton.

It shows Canterton Estate as the lands of George Paulet, in the familiar oval shape (fig.6). Closer examination reveals that the boundaries are the old Hampshire/Wiltshire county boundary in the north and east, and the streams that one would have expected of the Saxons in uncharted country. Although the Drivers' Map was surveyed in the late 18th century, a succession of Forest perambulations over the centuries from 1217 indicate that 'the boundaries of the Forest have remained unchanged from the time the Forest was first made until 1964',[14] which suggests that the Canterton Manor boundaries shown are probably the original boundaries.

On the ground the most dramatic boundary marker is part of the old county boundary, the massive double linear earthbank which extends southwards for about 400 metres along the eastern boundary of the Estate between SU275139 and SU276136, and lying immediately to the east and parallel with Canterton Lane. Further south the old boundary is lost due to encroachments beyond the boundary at Lower Canterton which have created a bulge eastwards, breaking the boundary's generally straight run. Much less dramatic but more continuous is the

earthbank fronted by a steep-sided stream or ditch, that runs westwards, from near the Sir Walter Tyrrell pub at SU266126, to beyond the deeply cut stream of Coalmeer Gutter before turning north. In most sections it appears to be about 1.5 metres high, and not old; but in a few places it is underlain by an older, broader, much eroded lower bank behind a stream or ditch. This pattern is repeated on its long straight northwards section to a golf course where it is backed by fields. Beyond this point the bank assumes a lower profile, but the ditch remains.

Inevitably, questions must arise about the viability of a manor of a half virgate, even before the Conqueror took his cut, and situated on such marginal land. Undoubtedly, some of the remaining fields would have been given over to pasture or meadow as suggested by the tithe record, while cultivation would have occurred in others that must have been deeply manured and marled to ensure decent crops, and the survival of this small community in the early medieval period. It should also be borne in mind

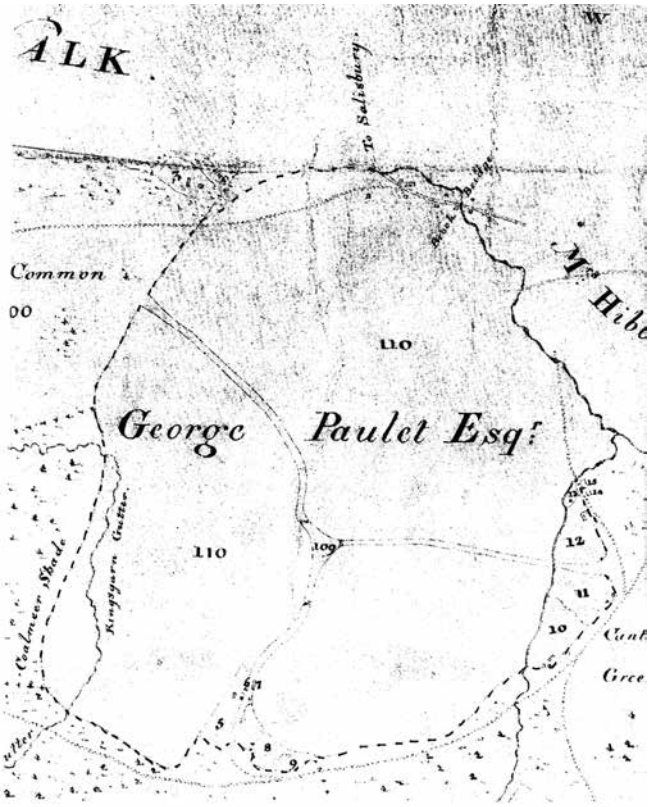

Fig.6 The Canterton Estate in 1787

that although Kenna had been deprived of 'woodland and meadows', his tax assessment was lower, reduced from '20s to 4s', and he continued to enjoy grazing rights for his livestock in the unenclosed part of the Forest [15]. In later times, the expansion of the estate was no less essential to ensure its viability and the prosperity of its owners. However, it seems that the sale of the estate in 1949, in about 20 lots, marked the estate's final dispersal and fragmentation. In a give-away line hidden in notes at the back of the auction catalogue was a reference to the extensive refurbishment and redecoration that the owners had lavished upon the house 'after requisitioning'! So, the present manor house had been occupied by the military during World War II. Was this history repeating itself after a 900 year cycle? After all, what did the Conqueror do, but appropriate the manor? Dismemberment followed.

This is all landscape detective work based mainly on maps and fieldwork. Clues that I have overlooked probably far outnumber those identified. So, I would be grateful for any information that can contribute to a fuller and more accurate picture of this minor Saxon period estate.

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Acknowledgements:

Mr Richard Reeves, Librarian, New Forest Museum Reference Library; Mr Edward Roberts and Mr George Watts, for much valuable advice and help. The conclusions are my own.

A word of appreciation to Mrs F. Crosthwaite Eyre of Keeper's Cottage, Canterton, for her kindness in allowing access to her home and grounds.

Notes on Canterton Manor House.
Edward Roberts

The house has a lobby entry plan – a form typical of the 17th century but which occasionally persisted into the early decades of the 18th century. There is no clear evidence of timber framing. Brick-built lobby entry houses generally date to the decades around 1700. This date is also suggested by the mixture of English and Flemish bond brickwork, by the chamfered spine beams with originally plastered joists and by the half hipped roof.

As present and apparently shown on the 19th century maps, the house has only one bay on either side of a back-to-back chimney. The bay on the north (the hall) has a bread oven within the chimney, and a less refined spine beam than the bay on the south (the parlour). Given the impressive height of the house (it rises to a good attic floor), the lack of an early kitchen bay beyond the hall is unusual. It is tempting to suppose that a kitchen bay was built, demolished by the mid-19th century, and then rebuilt. But this is mere supposition.

Three gabled wings to the rear have modern brickwork, but one or more of them could be on the footprint of an earlier wing. By the same token, the main body of the present house itself may well be on the footprint of an earlier timber-framed house. This may be suggested by the fact that the hall bay has a front of English bond, whereas the parlour bay and lobby entry are fronted in Flemish bond with a plat band. Such a strange conjunction is typically found when a timber-framed house is given a brick skin by degrees as each framed bay is replaced.

Bursledon's Toll-free Bridge

Malcolm Walford

Introduction

" ...Bursledon, where the highroad from Southampton to Fareham passes over a fine toll-bridge."

So wrote D. H. Moutray Read in 1903. The following article explains the reason for the ending of the tolls thirty years later and the replacement of the bridge he crossed.

Background

The Act to build a 30 feet wide bridge across the Hamble river and construct approach roads for "the passage of travellers' cattle and carriages " was passed in 1797 (37 Geo. III cap. 31). The bridge and roads were to be maintained and repaired at the cost of the company who promoted the Act.

The catalyst for change

In 1928 Southampton Corporation promoted a Bill to acquire the Northam toll-bridge over the Itchen river. This was opposed by Hampshire County Council

Bursledon Bridge c.1905.

on the grounds that traffic would then choose to avoid the Bursledon toll-bridge and use roads unsuitable for heavy traffic. Both bridges linked the direct route, via Fareham, between Southampton and Portsmouth. At a time of economic depression, the Ministry of Transport was keen to free this route of tolls in order to stimulate commerce. The Northam bridge was freed from tolls on 16 May 1929.

The county council's decision

The county councillors realized that urgent action was necessary to acquire the bridge and its approach roads. By July 1929, the Clerk to the Main Roads and Bridges Committee (MRBC) reported that he had received a report and valuation from the District Valuer and the procedure required to effect the purchase. The full council accepted the recommendation that the MRBC be authorised to acquire the Bursledon Bridge and Roads Company and to promote a Bill to that end.

The condition of the property

Anticipating the successful passage of Southampton Corporation Bill, the County Surveyor, W Taylor, had directed his deputy, A C Hughes, to get involved, and an initial meeting with the company's solicitor and three directors took place on 30 May 1928. On 31 July the Clerk to Hampshire County Council wrote: "It is believed that both bridge and certain roads are much out of repair and the Company have not fulfilled their obligations placed upon them by Parliament." The Company's roads were still surfaced with either granite and limestone or flint and gravel. These surfaces were quite unsuitable for the ever-increasing volume and weight of 1930s traffic. However, following his deputy's assessment, Mr. Taylor, in a letter dated 13 December, stated that the bridge, for a timber one, was in good condition but the Company had imposed a weight restriction of four tons.

The four ton conundrum

The original Act listed a schedule of tolls. These included the toll charge for seven horses and a timber carriage, used in transporting lengths of material for the shipyards on the Hamble. Mr. Taylor, writing on 3 January 1929, stated that "It would be necessary to measure the timbers of the bridge to calculate their strength and carrying capacity." He had contacted various timber merchants who thought that the combined weight of seven horses, a timber carriage and a load of timber, would be upwards of fourteen tons. Except in summertime when the ground was firmer, there were very few roads at the end of the eighteenth century when the Act was passed, capable of carrying such a weight, but it seemed to him that loads had been limited to four tons some time in the interim for some unspecified reason. A new bridge would be needed.

The acquisition of the Company's assets.

The brief prepared for the House of Lords in the 1929 - 30 Session stated that the property of the Company comprised the roadway from Bitterne, Southampton to Park Gate, Sarisbury. This road was 5 miles 335 yards long of which 1 mile 440 yards was situated in the Borough of Southampton and 3 miles 1655 yards in the County of Southampton. The road crossed the River Hamble by means of a bridge, the property of the company together with a toll-keeper's house, toll-gates, wharf, gravel pit and three plots of land. The foundations of the road were mainly gravel and the road for its entire length would need reconstruction to meet the needs of modern traffic. The owners originally opposed the Bill but withdrew their opposition before it came before the House of Lords; they agreed to accept 100 guineas in settlement of their claim for directors' loss of office for which they had been seeking 400 guineas. The Bill received Royal Assent on 1 August 1930.

The end of the wooden bridge and tolls

The County Council took over control of the bridge on 1 January 1931, and tolls continued until 17 August, the Ministry of Transport refusing to pay a special grant of 75% until they had been removed. Use of the bridge was restricted to local traffic. The reconstruction of the bridge and roads was estimated to cost £145,000 for which a contribution of £108,750 would be received from the Ministry of Transport under the Five Year Programme to help employ men from the " Distressed Areas ". By March plans for widening and reconstructing the road were completed and sketch plans for a new bridge to span 200 feet of tidal water

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Historic Buildings

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Paintings discovered at Palace Gate, Odiham

Sheila Millard and Edward Roberts
with comments by Alastair Laing (Curator of Pictures and Sculpture at the National Trust)

For many centuries Odiham Place, or Palace Gate, had been the manor house or 'Capital Mansion House' of Odiham until it was largely demolished in the mid- 18th century. A survey of the house in 1630 describes many rooms and outbuildings, including a *'faire gatehouse of bricke, cornered and windowed with stone, with convenient chambers; a court walled about and garden; the house hath lower rooms verie faire … all of bricke …and a faire barn …'* The brick barn has been dated to 1532 although the manor house depicted on Will Godson's map of 1739 appears to be an E-plan building of c.1600.[1]

Nothing remains of this manorial complex today, except the barn and a curious, brick-built tower, with raised and plastered-over brick quoins, and with blocked windows whose proportions suggest that they originally held sashes. Inside are lofty rooms on two floors and an attic space that must originally have had a higher roof and may have served as a prospect chamber from which to view the hunt in the adjacent deer park. The brick bond, sash windows and the character of the staircase up to the attic all point to a building-date just before or around the year 1700.[2] At this time, the manor of Odiham was held by James Zouch whose other properties included Hoe Place in Old Woking (Surrey). Zouch had inherited the manor of Odiham in 1658 and after his death in 1708, with debts in excess of £18,000, no further building work could be undertaken.[3] Thus it seems very likely that Zouch was responsible for building the tower.

Refurbishment of the tower in the 1990s involved the removal of some of the boards that both line the stair-well and serve as room dividers within the attic. These boards are made of pine and measure between 8" and 11" in width, each having a chamfer on one edge which was housed into a rebate on the adjoining board. Some of the boards that remain in the tower have clear evidence of painting which is at present indecipherable. However, the painted boards that were removed can be pieced into major portions of two scenes (figs. 1 and 2) and minor fragments of two other scenes. The boards were clearly ex situ, having been cut up to fit spaces within the tower as required.[4]

Mr. Alastair Laing, who has viewed the two major scenes, has kindly provided the following comments.

"In one scene (fig. 1), maidens (devotees of Flora?) garland a herm inscribed *REDIMITUR FLORIDIS*, which I take to mean 'It (or 'He' referring to *Priapus,* doubtless because of his various seductions or rapes: herms of him were garlanded in the spring) is redeemed by [things] made of flowers'. The *FLO* on the surviving half of the panel over the arch above his head must stand for *Flora*, the goddess of flowers. In another scene (fig. 2), a young warrior – Alexander? – is led to pay homage to a seated statue in armour. A picture that I think confirms the view that Alexander is the chief protagonist is Giustino Menescardi's *Alexander paying homage to Jupiter*.[5] This is a rare subject: not, so far as I can see, depicted in any other English mural painting."

"All this suggests a cultivated commissioner of the murals, which one can presume James Zouch to have been. What remains difficult to account for, is painting

" Figure 3. James Zouch's brick-built tower, with raised and plastered-over brick quoins; presumably in imitation of the more expensive stone quoins of the earlier buildings at Place House. The original upper storey has been truncated"

of this quality having been done on unprepared planks. Given that neither of the two scenes would appear to have needed more than two or three more planks to make complete scenes, they might always have been in a fairly narrow space, such as a staircase. If they had been intended for the much earlier, brick-built Odiham Place, it may have been found easier and cheaper

Fig. 1. Maidens sacrificing to Priapus.

Fig. 2. Alexander paying homage to Jupiter.

to attach wooden panels to the walls and have those painted on, rather than plastering the walls to take murals."

Mr Laing goes on to discuss the probable date of the paintings and the possible identity of the painter. Unfortunately, no painters or craftsmen are cited amongst Zouch's debtors at his death in 1708[6] but paintings of a similar date at Zouch's other major property of Hoe Place, Old Woking have been ascribed to the royal painter Verrio and are reportedly similar to the same artist's paintings at Windsor Castle. On these grounds, the paintings discovered at Odiham have been tentatively ascribed to Verrio, or possibly to his contemporary Louis Laguerre.[7] Mr. Laing comments as follows on the supposed Verrio paintings at Old Woking.

"The paintings are only attributed to him. It is, however, highly unlikely that Verrio himself would have redone two of his Windsor paintings at Hoe Place, just as I think he would have been most unlikely to have painted on panels, as has been done at Odiham. The person who would have been much more likely to have done so is his Flemish former assistant Gerard Lanscroon (c. 1655-1737). The red ochre ground, or priming, [of the Odiham panels] points to an artist trained in Italian methods: someone such as Lanscroon."

"The style of the paintings would suggest some time between 1690 (when Lanscroon, as it happens, started work independently of Verrio) and 1710. The fact that the light falls from the left in the *Maidens sacrificing to Priapus*, and from the right in the *Alexander paying homage to Jupiter* indicates that they would originally have been opposite one another. That would suggest two more scenes once having formed two sides between these, which, if the *Maidens sacrificing to Priapus god of gardens* stood for Earth, and the *Homage to Jupite*r – who would have been holding a thunderbolt – Fire, then the two pairs of panels (which I have not seen) may have represented the other two elements. One of these - apparently with a river-god - could well have been part of a scheme symbolising Water."[8]

"The paintings must have been executed some little time before James Zouch's death in 1708, if the painter and carpenter are not cited amongst his debtors; and the fact that the quoins are plaster [in the tower] and not stone suggests a measure of economy even in the profligate James Zouch, which would point to the greater probability of the employment of an assistant to Verrio, rather than the royal painter himself."

As stated above, the paintings were discovered in the brick-built tower that is one of the two standing buildings that survive from James Zouch's residence in Odiham. The fact that they are clearly not *in situ* does not preclude the possibility that they had been intended for another position within the tower. More persuasive, however, is Mr. Laing's suggestion that the paintings may have come from the older part of the house at Palace Gate that was demolished in the mid-18th century, several decades after Zouch's death. This would account for the way in which the panels have been crudely sawn and carelessly arranged as if

they were salvaged materials. Given this apparent low regard, it seems most unlikely that they were fetched from a distant house; an expense that does not match the casualness with which they have been assembled in the brick tower.

A few panels have been removed from the tower and have been professionally cleaned and restored by A. Scott-Moncrieff. These panels are at present on loan to the Hampshire County Museum Service where they are kept in a controlled environment.

Acknowledgements:

We are most grateful to Mr. A. Laing who gave his time and expertise, Hugh Sheppard for photography, Faulkener West & Company Ltd., Miss Elizabeth Lewis (formerly Curator of Winchester City Museum), Mike Clark (Principal Conservation Officer at Hampshire County Council) for funding the restoration of the paintings and Mr. and Mrs. Clive Williams,

Notes

1. Millard, S. 1999 'Odiham Place alias Palace Gate', *Hampshire Field Club Newsletter* **31**, 19-23
   2000 ' Odiham Place Repairs', *Hampshire Field Club Newsletter* **34**; 16-17
   - (forthcoming) 'Odiham's royal deer park', *The Odiham Society Journal*
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   HRO 126M71 Will Godson map of Odiham 1739.
2. Fradgley, N. 1995 'Tower at Palace Gate Farm, Odiham' RCHME, NBR: 88152.
3. H.R.O. 15M50/1010.
4. Reports dated 21/1/1996 from Mr. A. Scott-Montcrieff and Mr. R. Harris now lodged with the Conservation Dept., Hants C. C.
5. Trafalgar Galleries at Maastricht catalogue, 1999, no. 17.
6. HRO 46M72/L14; 15M50/1027; Millard 1999.
7. Reports of Proceedings 1880, *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 7, xii
   Croft- Murray, E. 1970, *Decorative Painting in England,* vol. II, p.238
   letter from Miss E. Lewis to Sheila Millard.
8. As footnote 4.

Stables and barn at Mill Court, Binsted

Edward Roberts

Mill Court is situated about 3 miles north-east of Alton beside the Northern River Wey. It is a small manor within the parish of Binsted (VCH Hants ii, 486). Between the house and the road is a fine, long range built mainly with local malmstone, which bears a date-stone inscribed '1667' (see Jane Hurst's article, overleaf). This range comprises a barn of four bays at one end and stables at the other (Fig 1). Both barn and stables have been subject to minor alterations that, in general, have not obscured their original form.

Fig. 1. The barn and stables at Mill Court as seen from the north. (photo – Jane Hurst)

The door to the south of the barn was always the main wagon entrance. It faced the farmyard away from the house and towards the road. A large porch of 18th-century form is not framed into the original door lintel but only attached to it with iron straps. (It was common at this time for entrances to be enlarged and large porches constructed as four-wheeled wagons superseded two-wheeled farm carts.) The doorway on the north side (Fig. 1) is now wide enough to take a cart but at first there was only a winnowing door (whose outline is still visible) which both gave human access to the barn and could be left open to create a draught for winnowing the corn.

The ground floor of the stables (Fig. 2) is cobbled with two depressions for drainage towards the north. There are lodgings on the two floors above, both of which have original fireplaces and glazed windows. The quality and small size of the stables show that this was not for the numerous farm animals or for the horses that would have worked on the farm. I suggest that these were stables for a gentleman's riding horses. The function of the two lodging chambers of the floors above is uncertain. One room may well have been for the head groom (as at the stables at Chawton of 1593).

About 10 years ago, when I first saw the date-stone in the north wall of the barn, the date '1667' could be clearly read. It is now eroded to a point where it is more difficult to discern. Dating a building by inscription is inevitably problematic but the mid-17th century is certainly a likely date for the internal timberwork and for the stone fireplaces and windows.

Fig. 2. The south-west corner of the stables showing the mid-17th-century windows with hood moulds. (photo – Jane Hurst)

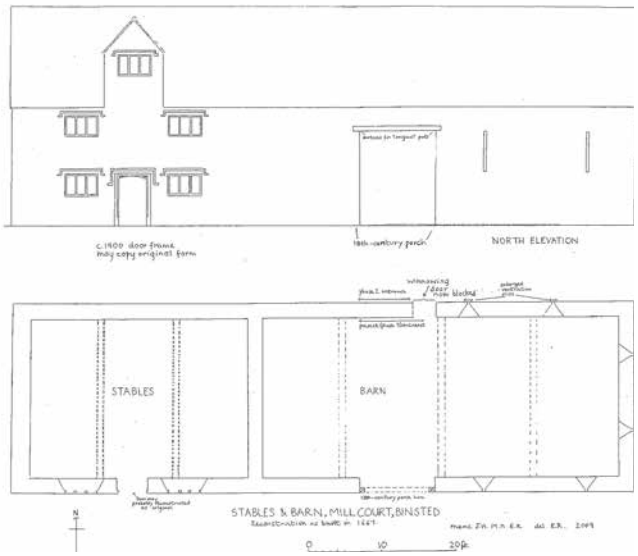

Fig. 3. Barn and stables at Mill Court, Binsted. North elevation and plan of the barn and stables as built in 1667.

Acknowledgements:

These notes could not have been compiled without the help of Jane Hurst, Martin Morris and Geoff Hawkins. Mrs C. Ogilvie-Thompson kindly allowed access. All are gratefully acknowledged.

Nicholas Wheeler - the probable builder of Mill Court Barn and Stable

Jane Hurst

According to a stone over the door of the barn at Mill Court in Binsted, the builder probably had the initials 'N.W.' and the event – presumably the erection of the building - took place in 1667.

This means that the most likely person to have put the inscription there was Nicholas Wheeler senior. He had inherited Mill Court after the death of his father in 1640 and he married Isabel Knight of Upton Grey nine years later. The only other 'N W' alive at Mill Court in 1667 was Nicholas and Isabel's son, Nicholas, who was baptised in 1658 and so would only have been aged about nine years old - hence the initials must refer to Nicholas senior.

With each generation the Wheeler family seems to have extended their holdings in the Binsted area and so Nicholas was quite a wealthy man. In his will (HRO 1672 A106/1), written five years after the date on the barn, Nicholas left the Mill Court Fulling Mill and all its land to his unmarried daughters, Mary and Margaret, as well as the lease of land in the nearby village of Froyle. If their only surviving brother, Nicholas junior, gave the girls £200 each when he reached the age of 24 then he could take over that property. Apart from a token amount to Nicholas senior's daughter Elizabeth, the residue of the estate was to pass to Nicholas junior and his mother Isabell.

The inventory (HRO 1672 A106/2) of Nicholas Wheeler senior's goods, taken on 10 May 1672, gives an idea of his status. The appraisers were the gentry of the area - Henry Christmas, William Knight, John Inwood, Burnard Burningham and John Wheeler. The first room they listed was the Hall which was comfortably set out with three tables, four chairs and ten stools together with a side cupboard. There were cushions for some of the chairs and stools.

In the Parlour was a joined bedstead with a feather mattress and bolster and a chest and table. The Hall Chamber also had a bedstead and feather mattress with a chest and coffer for storage. The Inner Chamber and Outer Chambers both had bedsteads but the former had a feather mattress whilst the latter only had a flock one. The former room also had a press, basket chair and stool whilst the latter had much more furniture - a press, a side cupboard, two chests, a chest of drawers, a form and a chair as well as a looking glass and a side saddle. Was this Nicholas' daughters' room? The linen was kept in the Outer Chamber and included sheets, table cloths, napkins and pillow cases.

The Chamber over the Hall, the Chamber over the Entry and the 'folks Chamber' all had flock beds in them. The Cheese Loft contained 12lb of wool and scales with some weights - but no cheese. The Buttery had a table, form, cupboards, a settle and chairs together with four spits for cooking and the usual selection of pans and cotterils. Also kept here were a fouling piece, two muskets, a sword and bandoleers.

Listed separately were 'Fiftie Eight pounds of pewter', valued at £2 8s 4d, and 11 flitches of bacon at £6. The animals given were horses, cows, sheep and pigs and the crops grown were wheat, hay, oats, peas and vetches. One of the last items in the inventory was 'A parcell of Bookes' worth 6s 8d. Sadly the nature of these was not given

On Nicholas' property there was quite a bit of woodland and, when he died, he had cut wood worth £40 as well as being owed £160 for timber. The items in Nicholas's inventory show that his personal estate (including the lease of Thorne's Mead in Issington) was valued at over £602. Here was a man who could have afforded to erect such a building although he had probably not travelled enough to realise that it was not the height of fashion.

were in process. The construction of a temporary bridge by Messrs. A E Farr took five months after which it was used for through traffic. Messrs. Peter Lind & Co's tender of £51,678 won the contract for building the replacement reinforced concrete bridge which took two years to complete. During 1933 the old bridge was removed. On 13 May 1935 the temporary bridge was closed to traffic, prior to dismantling, and the new one opened. The scenery at Bursledon had changed again and would change again in March 1976 when the M 27 bridge over the Hamble was opened.

Footnote:

In 1930 the Road Traffic Act (20 & 21 GeoV c43) was passed enabling local authorities to stop the collection of private road and bridge tolls, either by agreement or by compulsory purchase.

Acknowledgements:

Photo by courtesy of Hampshire Library and Information Service. My thanks to the staff in " Local Studies " at Fareham Library for their help in obtaining it.

Sources:

Hampshire Record Office

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News Items

Introduction

This is a new, and probably irregular, feature of the newsletter. What we will put in here are items of general interest about the Field Club that might not otherwise come to members' attention. The items below are the sort of thing we are talking about.

Back-numbers

Julia Sandison, the Publication Sales Officer, is trying to assemble a complete archive of all HFC publications. These include Proceedings, Newsletters and monographs. This will allow us to provide copies to researchers who have found references and, in time, build a complete digital archive.

If you are moving house, or just having a spring clear out, and you have unwanted back-numbers, here is a chance to get rid of them. Julia is particularly keen to lay her hands on copies from the 1960s and earlier. If you want to hang on to them for now, you might consider a note to your executors that they should think of sending any Field Club publications to Julia. We have it on good authority that there is no need to change your will, a note is good enough.

Hampshire Archaeology

Until 2003 Hampshire County Council published an Annual Report of Archaeology in Hampshire. The first volume, for 1976, was published in 1977 and for over a quarter of a century it was a valuable resource, bringing together summaries of archaeological work carried out in a particular year, whether by professional organisation, academic institution or local society. Knowledge was easily and conveniently available to all interested parties. The final report was published in 2004 . The absence of a summary covering the years 2004-07 was felt throughout the county's archaeological community and it was logical that the Hampshire Field Club, as the pre-eminent association for the study of the county's past, should become involved in producing a new series of reports. There is now a round-up of the "missing" years, and for 2008 onwards the report will be published annually.

Developments in technology have forced a re-think about the most efficient way to go about the publication of interim statements and it was decided that an electronic format (i.e. a PDF document) provided a convenient and cost-effective solution. It also offers the option of printing only what is required.

There are now four years' (2004-2007) reports on the HFC web site. Each one closely follows the format established for the previous series of reports. Each is organised by District and then alphabetically by location. Individual entries consist of a location that includes a grid reference. This is followed by an identifier, usually a Site UID, which links it to a record held in the AHBR database. The records for Southampton, Portsmouth and Winchester have also provided information about work carried out in these cities, and identifiers that relate to their respective databases are given. It is through the identifier that further information about a particular project can be acquired. Where a project has already been published a full bibliographic reference is provided. In addition to archaeological fieldwork each report includes records of building surveys. Survey projects that encompass large numbers of sites, for example by the Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology or Berkshire Archaeological Surveys, are included, although it has not been possible to provide details of individual projects.

Hampshire County Council Museum's Service have for many years offered an identification service for the general public and a list of finds from the various museums in the county was included in the Annual Report. The lists for the years 2004-07 have been included under their respective years. A number of local societies already publish a selection of the finds recorded on the PAS database for their county. There has not however been a regular publication of PAS finds from Hampshire. Rob Webley, the Finds Liaison Officer for Hampshire, has kindly agreed to compile a selection for each year showcasing some of the most interesting and important finds. These range in date from prehistory through to late medieval times and include a variety of different materials.

The data for each year was assembled and edited by Nick Stoodley, with the help of a wide range of people. The reports can be found at http://fieldclub.hants.org.uk/hants-archaeology-report.html

In the back

General Editor: Dick Selwood, 34 North View, Winchester, SO22 5EH
Email: newsletter@ntcom.co.uk

Logos and stuff

You will have seen from the cover that we now have a new logo. Here it is in full black and white – it looks even better in colour, but I have used up the budget for colour pages in this issue.

The new logo was designed to show continuity with the earlier versions, yet to be easier to be reproduced on computers and other modern systems. The logo is also tied in to a new overall design. Templates for letterheads and so on have been distributed through the sections, but if you do produce printed material, send letters or whatever, please get in touch and I will send you a kit. The idea is that during the year, all material produced by the different parts of the HFC should use the same overall style.

As people use the new style, it will almost certainly need tweaking, so send me your feedback and I will prepare another release for later in the year.

Preparing pages

The Newsletter costs a lot to print and distribute. We are keeping the printing costs down by careful use of colour, and by using a very clever printer.

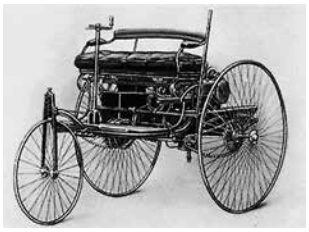
The careful use of colour means that occasionally we will print a picture in black and white when we would prefer colour and, perhaps worse, we will need to continue an article on a later page, as happened in this issue with the prolific and entertaining Malcolm Walford's article on Burseldon's Toll-free Bridge, but we are doing our best to avoid this as far as possible.

Quasquicentennial

With 2010 being the year the Field Club celebrates its quasquicentennial, I thought that I would look at what was happening in the world in 1885. I found the nearest events to the actual foundation date of March 20th, were March 14th, which was the first performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's Mikado at the Savoy Theatre and March 26th, which was when Mrs Jeannette Pickersgill "a well-known figure in literary and scientific circles" was the first person to be officially cremated in the United Kingdom – at the Cremation Society of England's crematorium at Woking, next to Brookwood cemetery. I haven't yet discovered if her body was carried there by train from Waterloo Necropolis station.

Earlier in the year, the Dervish revolution in the Sudan had captured Khartoum and killed General Gordon. I suspect many of you, like me, know the print of Gordon standing at the top of the stairs as the dervishes climb towards him. I tried to find a copy that I could use here, and discovered that the original, by a George Joy, was a brightly coloured oil painting, and my monochrome memory was of the prints that were made of it. There were a number of other prints in circulation, so in the absence of television and the Sun, there was clearly a ready market for the depiction of a hero. Lytton Strachey's more acerbic view was still nearly thirty five years away.

One of Strachey's other targets was Florence Nightingale, the centenary of whose death is being widely marked, including a conference in July at Embley Park, her home near Romsey (and we have worked our way back to Hampshire).



The summer of 1885 saw two significant landmarks, the first petrol powered car, built by Benz, ran in Mannheim and Daimler patented a petrol engine. While one might say that the jury is still out on the overall benefits of this invention, there is generally less concern about Pasteur's first use of vaccination against rabies, which also occurred in 1885.

When the gentlemen of Hampshire were setting up the Field Club, St Swithun's School, where the 125th anniversary conference takes place in May, was into its second term, having been founded by Anna Bramston, daughter of the then Dean of Winchester, John Bramston, in 1884. Meanwhile, across the other side of the United States, Leland Stanford was disposing of some of his dubiously acquired wealth by establishing Stanford University. South of San Francisco, but served by Stanford's Union Pacific railroad, the University was a memorial for their son, who died aged only 15.

Legacy values

Many of these astounding facts were brought to you through Google and Wikipedia, although they have all been verified independently of Wikipedia.

This brought on the thought: when they are celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Field Club in 2135, what will be seen as the legacy of 2010? Let me know your ideas and I will find a prize for the most interesting/entertaining/amusing suggestion, or any combination of all three.

Measuring change

Back to computers again: the initial subscription to the Field Club was set at half a crown. Using some of the different sites available on the web, this can be seen in pesent day values as worth roughly £10 (coincidentally today's single membership) if you are using a retail price index as a measure, or £63.50 if measuring against average earnings. For idle interest, an 1885 half crown, rather well worn, is for sale on eBay as I write, priced at £15.99.

Dick Selwood

Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society

Newsletter

Programme of Events

March - December 2010

27th March SATURDAY, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm

Archaeology Section: "An Introduction to Human Remains in Archaeology", at the University of Winchester.

24th April SATURDAY

Historic Buildings Section: conference on 'Farm Buildings' at Peter Symonds College, Winchester.

28th April WEDNESDAY

Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society: Annual General Meeting; to be followed by the OGS Crawford Lecture.

22nd May SATURDAY

Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society: 125th Anniversary Conference at St. Swithun's School Winchester.

12th June SATURDAY

Landscape Section: visit to Eelmoor Marsh SSSI, Farnborough.

4th July SUNDAY

Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society: 125th Anniversary Field Visit.

11th July SUNDAY

Landscape Section: visit to Basingstoke to look at medieval and post medieval buildings of the old town centre, 10.00-12.30; meet at St. Michael's Church.

24th July SATURDAY

Local History Section: Summer Outing to Emsworth and Warblington.

4th September SATURDAY

Landscape Section: visit to New Forest to look at sites of special archaeological interest, to be led by Frank Green.

2nd October SATURDAY

Local History Section: Conference & AGM at Headley.

30th October SATURDAY

Landscape Section: Conference & AGM: venue to be confirmed;
Theme: Boom & Bust in the Hampshire Landscape.

November SATURDAY

Archaeology Section: Conference & AGM.

The Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society Newsletter is produced by the Society and printed by Sarsen Press of Winchester. Information about the Society, its activities and other publications can be found at www.fieldclub.hants.org