



Visit to Old Sarum

Historic Buildings Section

2.00. Sat. 9. October 2021

This is the section's first visit since Covid struck. It has been chosen both as a follow up to Gavin Bowie's recent newsletter article and an attempt to provide a Covid-safe visit. The site contains important historic building but is entirely open except for the English Heritage shop. Tickets and guidebook, however, can be obtained in the open. The tour will be conducted by John Hare and Gavin Bowie.

Old Sarum, the precursor of Salisbury, provides us with a long, fascinating and sometime notorious history from an Iron age hill fort, to a rotten borough. The tour will focus on its period of greatest prominence as an important royal and ecclesiastical centre in the 11th to 13th centuries, before the cathedral was moved to Salisbury in the valley below, and on the its two greatest buildings: the cathedral and the castle. The site underwent major transformation in the twelfth century under bishop Roger, one of Henry I's key ministers, who rebuilt much of the cathedral on much grander scale and built a great new courtyard residence. The castle remained important in the twelfth century civil wars and was further enlarged and rebuilt, but ceased to be important after the middle ages. When the cathedral was moved to Salisbury, that at Old Sarum was demolished, some of the stone being reused in the new cathedral and later in the close wall there. The whole site achieved a new notoriety in the 19th century as an uninhabited site that still sent two MPs to parliament: to many it became a symbol of political corruption, a far cry from the City of God.

The charge for the tour is £5 per person plus entry charge on the day. Many members are also members of English Heritage and for them the entry and parking is free. If we have 11 non EH members their entry cost will be reduced. Non EH members will therefore have to make an additional payment on the day, which can be done in the open air and by debit/credit card. We will get the best possible deal once we know final numbers, so please book by 2.Oct. There is plenty of parking, but there is now a £3 parking charge for non EH members [members please remember your parking sticker]

Please send the form, and cheque to John Ashworth, Oakfield Farmhouse, Natley Scures, Hook, RG27 9JR, together with either a stamped addressed envelope or an email address, by 2.Oct.

✓ _____

Please reserve _____ place(s) for the Historic Buildings Section Visit to Old Sarum. I enclose a cheque for £_____ [£5 per person] payable to Hants Field Club Historic Building Section. Cheques will not be cashed until it is certain that the trip will go ahead, In the event of a cancellation, cheques will be destroyed. Please include an Email address or SAE for booking confirmation.

NAME: _____

I am/ am not a member of English Heritage. If not, do you qualify for any concessionary rates: >65, student, jobseeker or are you bringing a child <17?

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____