



Horsham District Archaeology Group

H.D.A.G.

Newsletter Jan-June 2014

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Quern Stone fragment May 2014 (Page 4)

Dear All

It has been a very busy 6 months, both with our own projects and assisting other organisations.

As well as an update of what we have been doing, there are some dates of future events included in this newsletter. As always, we'd love to hear from our members if there are any projects we ought to look at, or any events, speakers or outings you would like us to organize - email or tell us!

Best wishes

Vicky

H.D.A.G. Secretary

Contents

Page 2. Assisting the National Trust at Nymans, Handcross and Petworth Park, H.D.A.G.'s spring talks update and a selection of local investigations by other organisations (developer(ment) led)

Page 3. Our Roman site and Worth Park update, H.D.A.G. AGM

Page 4. Finds, Forthcoming events, courses attended, Wealdon Glass project

Assisting the National Trust

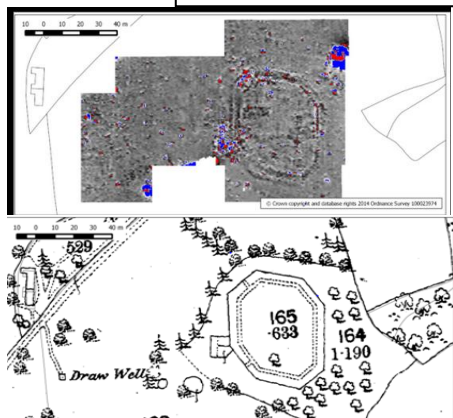
In March and again at the end of April 2014, H.D.A.G. assisted Tom Dommett, National Trust Archaeologist, at Nymans, Handcross.

In March over 60 early 18th-late 20th century graffiti inscriptions were recorded on the sandstone outcrops in Pookchurch Wood and Jack Reedings Wood.

In April-May a Geophysical survey was carried out at the site of the former c.16th Century Hill House and associated 19th Century gardens following up recommendations made in an H.L.S. compiled by A.S.E. The results showed clearly the remains of the walled garden and some associated structures.

The original deeds for Hill House are kept at Nymans, and some of our members arranged to view these. We hope that further fieldwork at the Hill House site will be planned for next year.

Hill House Mag results



Did you know....? Jennie is a volunteer house guide at Nymans

Petworth Park

HDAG members will be assisting with the National Trust excavations at Petworth Park this spring and summer. For more information contact Tom.Dommett@nationaltrust.org.uk

Nymans, Recording Graffiti



Go Joan!
Mag survey at Hill House



Spring 2014 talks update

This spring we hosted 3 superb talks -Dr Andrew Gardener, Roman Military Historian UCL, on his excavations at Caerleon which was a very successful fundraiser, Dr Matt Pope on 'Mesolithic Sussex' and Bob Turner, W.A.S, on 'Where Archaeology Meets Astronomy'

A SELECTION OF LOCAL DEVELOPER LED ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

KNEPP CASTLE, SHIPLEY.

Buck barn field.

Excavation of trial trenches has shown Late Iron Age/ Roman ditches, early and late post-medieval ditches, and a sunken track to a small 19th-century clay pit (West Sussex Archaeology Ltd)

LAND AT BARN GREEN, TWO MILE ASH LANE, HORSHAM

A small number of archaeological features were recorded. A pit and ditch dating from the late medieval period that appears to run parallel to the present main road. The only trace of Mounter's

Farm was the late 19th century track which once led to the farm. A struck flint was recovered from an undated ditch. (Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd)

ITCHINGFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL, BARN GREEN

During trial trenching and small-scale excavation, a medieval pit and rectilinear gullies were recorded (T.V.A.S.)

LAND SOUTH OF BROADBRIDGE HEATH AND WEST OF A24, HORSHAM

A final stage of excavation on this site involved the recording of a small Late Iron Age cremation cemetery. Two Late Iron Age ring gullies, probably for round houses, were uncovered close to the cemetery (Archaeology South East.)

LAND WEST OF SOUTHWATER

A Magnetomer survey, previously carried out by Stratascan on several fields on the west side of Southwater village, was extended to cover a large field on the SW side of the village. A possible area of broad ridge and furrow, and scattered thermoremanent anomalies were identified (A.S.E.)

LAND EAST OF A24, HORSHAM FULLINGMILL COPSE

Excavation across the former mill pond of the presumed site of a fulling mill revealed the pre-buried pond mill stream channel. Work is ongoing.

(A.S.E)

Page 2

Our Roman site Update

Due to recent trespass on, and the illegal removal of artefacts from, a local Roman site that H.D.A.G carries out fieldwork and research at, we find it necessary to withhold its name and location from public documents.

In March we returned to our Roman site with David S. to continue his geophysical survey program of the area. Having begun this process with David three years ago, we have now nearly completed Field B with some very interesting features beginning to emerge.

Whilst David was surveying, some HDAG members took the opportunity to carry out a hand auger survey along one of the linear features that had shown up in one of earlier surveys. After much disagreement over the munsell soil chart colours, and much merriment at rolling the soil into balls then worms, to decide if it was a silty sandy clay or a sandy clay silt!, etc, we came to the conclusion it was a ditch with a fairly even charcoal horizon at around 1 meter in depth.

We are planning to return to site with David in June to explore the possibility of the continuation of a trackway that leads away from the site across field B, and to carry out some more hand augering.

A test pit excavation is being planned for the end of June depending on the survey results.



Hand augering

H.D.A.G. AGM 9th May 7pm Holbrook Tythe Barn, Horsham

We were delighted to welcome our members and guests, John Mills (WSCC Senior Archaeologist), Simon Stevens, (Senior Archaeologist A.S.E. and HDAG's honorary consultant archaeologist) and Valerie Harrison (Landowner) to our AGM in such a lovely setting.

No new nominees for the committee came forward so all current committee members were re-elected, and Vicky gave a talk and presentation on last years Worth Park excavations.

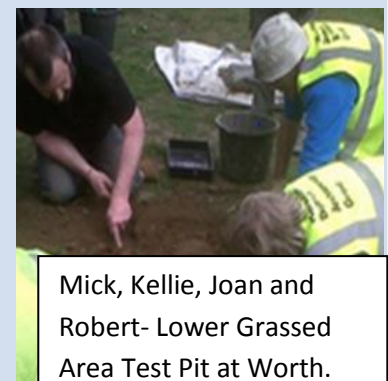
Worth Park latest

Following on from our excavations last year at Worth Park, Crawley, we returned in April to excavate a small test pit in The Lower Grassed Area. The results of a resistivity survey by Worthing Arch Soc's survey team (the brilliant Pete and Connie) had shown a semi-circular area of high resistance that the Worth Park project officer wanted us to investigate.

The feature turned out to be geological (report pending!) but the finds were interesting, including a fragment of a ceramic stoneware electricity insulator, and several examples of struck and worked flint.

The HDAG report for the first Worth Park dig has been written and been submitted to the H.E.R. for entry. The report will be available soon, pending a decision on it being published from the Worth Park project team. A **big thank you** to HDAG member, Lorna Cherry, who created the maps for the first report, and is currently assisting with maps for the second.

As part of The Festival of Archaeology, on 12th July HDAG will be giving talks and a tour of the Worth Park excavation sites.



Mick, Kellie, Joan and Robert- Lower Grassed Area Test Pit at Worth.

Finds and Events

Our newsletter cover picture is a quern stone fragment, found during recent fieldwalking at our Roman site. Other quern stones have been found at this site but they are believed to be made from greensand/Lodsworth stone (not all in the record are available for examination/whereabouts known/description given), but this one would appear to be quite different.

It is a pinkish/grey sandstone with frequent medium to large gravel inclusions and a large black shell. Enquiries with experts so far have drawn no definitive conclusions (although all the identifications so far have been by photograph which is not ideal), with the latest suggestion to date being Old Red Sandstone Quarz Conglomerate from the Forest Dean (David Peacock, Southampton University).

It was found along with other Roman finds on a known Roman site, but we cannot yet try to date it without an ID.

As we know some of our members are Geologists, any ideas would be very gratefully received....

Portable Antiquities Scheme

A recent entry onto the P.A.S. database is the first Iron Age coin to be recorded by a metal detectorist as being found at our Roman site!

A worn and corroded cast copper-alloy Iron Age potin of 'Thurrock' type dating to the c. 1st century BC. The obverse shows a stylised head, with a bull on the reverse.

Broad period: IRON AGE

Period from: IRON AGE

Date from: Circa 100 BC

Date to: Circa 5 BC

Courses attended so far this year by H.D.A.G. members.....

Paleography, Post Medieval pottery, How to write an archaeological report, Geophysics for beginners, Roman study day at The Keep, Basic Surveying for archaeologists.

Did you know....? Joan and Jennie are also volunteers at The Weald and Downland Museum.

And finally.....

In October 2013, and then in March and April 2014 HDAG members were delighted to assist S.C.A.U. with the Wealdon Glass project that began in 2011. Three late medieval-post medieval glass kiln sites were excavated (Billingshurst, Kirdford and Haselmere) and English Heritage conducted archaeomagnetic dating at all three sites (results not available until Autumn 2014). Some members also assisted with the post-excavation finds processing at Woking.

Forthcoming H.D.A.G. events

If any member would like to participate in any of the following activities, or would like to register their interest in an outing, please reply to horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk

June- Survey and test pit at our Roman site – dates TBC

12th July

Presentation/talk and tour of H.D.A.G.'s excavations and research at Worth Park, Crawley

26th July

Free guided tour of Rochester, Kent.

After last years guided tour of Canterbury, Vicky's sister is now training as a SE England Blue Badge guide. She wants some willing volunteers to practice her newly learnt town on. An agenda will be emailed out shortly, but this is a day trip with car sharing where possible. There is no charge for the tour but there may be entry charges for some buildings.

September – Trip to the Mary Rose (and possible guided tour).

The details of any other activities will be emailed out when they are known.

HDAG'S 2015 WINTER TALKS

We are delighted to announce that Simon Stevens, Senior Archaeologist with A.S.E. will be giving a talk to H.D.A.G. on the 'Excavations at Lewes Priory' this coming winter. Details of other talks to be announced shortly.