



## **CDAS – Chairman’s Monthly Letter – September 2020**

With Fieldwork resuming in earnest this month things are starting to become more normal. I hope this will continue as we have a number of Fieldwork opportunities in the pipeline.

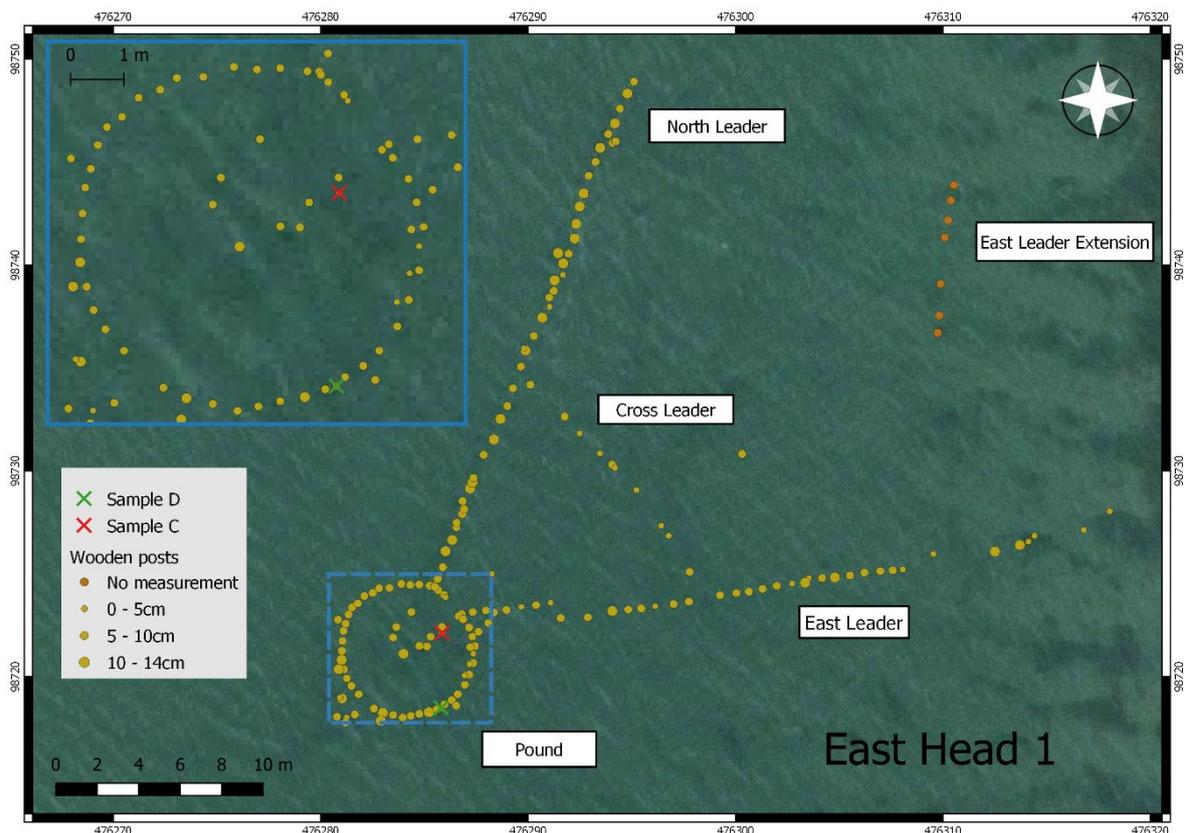
We have had a good response so far to our questionnaire on resuming talks, more about that later

### **Fieldwork**

#### **Fish-weir at East Head.**

We visited and recorded this site on 23<sup>rd</sup> August as planned. The tide was not as low as we would have liked so Hugh was unable to make a photographic model. However, with the help of Therese Kearns from CITiZAN we managed to capture the position of all the posts in the structure (see picture below).

This Fish Weir is smaller than the one at Medmerry, the arms are around 25 metres long compared to the 50 metres plus at Medmerry.



### **Langford Farm**

We have been busy with the geophysical survey at Langford Farm this week. We have been able to run two teams on Resistivity for much of the week and started trials with Magnetometry. Initial results support the case for their being a Roman building probably a Villa on the site. Another building possibly agricultural has also been detected.

We expect to finish the survey next week including an area of the field where we believe the Roman road from Silchester to Chichester runs. We also plan to excavate a trial trench at the Villa site.

### **Bethwines Farm**

Earlier this year we had to postpone the geophysical survey of Bethwines Farm in Fishbourne due to water-logged ground.

We now plan to do this in the week starting on 7<sup>th</sup> September. We have had a good response from our request for volunteers.

### **Talks**

As mentioned in August's Newsletter we have sent a questionnaire to all Members asking them about their views on attending live talks. So far, we have had about 50 responses split roughly 55/45 between those that are happy to attend live talks and those who are not.

Many members have added comments on their responses so the response is more complex than my simple summary would suggest. I will publish a full report on the results in the next Newsletter together with the Committees view on the actions we should take as a result.

For the next month or two we intend to show talks on our private YouTube Channel. This will allow us to restart our talks programme even if we do not have a "safe" venue. Paid-up Members would be sent a link in order to access the YouTube Channel and view the talks. We have no means of charging for viewing the so the service would be for paid-up members only.

We have a programme of talks starting in September and going through to May 2021. The first three talks planned are: -

- 23/9/20 Steve Cleverly
  - Petworth – geophysical surveys and trial excavations
  
- 28/10/20 Trevor Davies
  - Warblington – Overview of all the work done by CDAS
  
- 25/11/20 Bob Turner (Worthing Archaeological Society)
  - America from the ice age to Columbus

### **Activities**

There is good news and bad news regarding activities.

There are still a few places available for the Iron Age Pottery Day. Butser staff and the facilitator have confirmed that they are happy for this event to go ahead as planned. Here are the full details:

## **Practical Study Day: Make your own Iron Age Pot, led by Bill Crumbleholme**

**Date:** Friday 18 September 2020

**Time:** 10:00 – 16:00

**Location:** Butser Ancient Farm, Chalton Lane, Waterlooville, PO8 0BG. There is plenty of parking.

**Cost:** Members £65, non-members £70 if places are available. Payment is now due. Details of how to pay will be sent when your place is confirmed. Places are limited so book early.

This hands-on study day offers CDAS members the opportunity to learn about Iron Age pottery technology and have a go at making an 'Iron Age' pot. The day will include digging clay, preparing it and hand building pots. Then we will watch a simple bonfire firing. No experience is needed but wear old clothes!

## **Guided Walk – Old Idsworth – a repeat of the walk on 23 July which proved a great success**

*This activity is fully booked. Contact Pauline Blagden at [activities@cdas.info](mailto:activities@cdas.info) if you would like to be added to the waiting list.*

**Date:** Saturday 19 September 2020

**Start time:** 10:00

**Meeting point:** The entrance to the footpath up to St Hubert's Church. There's parking along the side of the road or opposite. Post code: PO8 0BE

**Cost:** Members FREE, non-members £5.00 (if places are available) payable in cash on the day. NUMBERS WILL BE LIMITED. IT IS ESSENTIAL TO BOOK YOUR PLACE IN ADVANCE BY EMAILING PAULINE BLAGDEN [activities@CDAS.info](mailto:activities@CDAS.info)

Recent archaeological work by CDAS has revealed that the church of St Hubert's Idsworth is built on top of much older buildings and has potentially been used as a sacred site for thousands of years. In the Bronze Age there were numerous round barrows in the area. A complex series of boundary ditches have been found in the field. These date to the Iron Age and indicate that there is a pagan temple under the church. When the Romans arrived around AD 60, they built their own temple on the Iron Age site. Then, with the arrival of Christianity, a wooden church was built on the site. This was followed by the current stone-built church, the western wall of which has a foundation of Roman pilae. A considerable amount of Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and Medieval pottery has been found in the field.

It is known that Roman religious cults and then the early church "appropriated" significant locations from previous religions to convert or suppress them, and Idsworth would appear to support this theory.

The walk will include Old Idsworth Gardens where permission has been obtained to see its dovecote and icehouse. If open, and social distancing allowing, there will be an opportunity to see the medieval wall paintings in the church.

The walk will be illustrated with Geophys images and other documents. The total length is less than a mile. The going is fairly easy with one style and should take about an hour and a half. There are no facilities.

## **Guided Walk - Kingley Vale, led by Mike Kallaway**

**Date:** Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**Start time:** 10:00

**Meeting point:** West Stoke Car Park, Downs Rd, Chichester PO18 9BE

**Cost:** Members FREE, non-members £5.00 (if places are available) payable in cash on the day. NUMBERS WILL BE LIMITED. IT IS ESSENTIAL TO BOOK YOUR PLACE IN ADVANCE BY EMAILING PAULINE BLAGDEN [activities@CDAS.info](mailto:activities@CDAS.info)

Kingley Vale is a well-known National Nature reserve within the South Downs National Park. Most visitors are aware of the ancient yew tree forest, Devils Hump Bronze Age Barrows and Iron Age settlements. Less well known is Kingley Vale's past as a military training site particularly during World War 2. During this walk we will explore a number of military sites from the 19th Century rifle range to Auxiliary Unit WW2 hideouts. We will look at the evidence that still remains of its military use and the efforts made to clear munitions from the site after WW2. The walk will be illustrated by the use of old maps, aerial photos, LiDAR images and other documents. Other more ancient features such as field systems, settlements, enclosures and unusual barrows will also be revealed.

The walk will start and finish in West Stoke Car Park. From the Car Park to the entrance to Kingley Vale Nature Reserve is around 0.8 miles adding 1.6 miles there and back to the overall route. The full walk will take around 3.5 to 4 hours. A shorter option is possible taking about a mile out of the route. People who chose this option will have a break whilst the others take an excursion to see other sites.

The climb from the car park to the top is around 150 metres and is quite steep in parts so appropriate footwear should be worn. There are no facilities. Please bring a packed lunch and drink.

The **Maritime Chichester Study Day** led by Ian Friel scheduled for 28 November 2020 has been postponed. We had been hoping to go ahead with this event but after discussions with the presenter and careful consideration, we have decided to postpone it until 2021.

We did not feel that we could ensure the safety of all participants as well as providing a relaxed and stimulating learning experience in the current climate. All those who expressed interest will be informed when a new date has been arranged. If you did not sign up but might be interested, please email Pauline at [activities@CDAS.info](mailto:activities@CDAS.info) to receive future updates about this event.

### **Membership Renewal**

We have 141 paid-up and honorary Members which is a little over 71% of the number we had at the end of the last membership year. This is a greater fall in the number of Members renewing than we have experienced in previous years but not a surprise in view of the impact of Covid19 on our activities and talks.

This is the last month when I will use the current mailing list to circulate the Newsletter. I will adjust the mailing list to paid-up members only during September.

If you have not renewed and want to continue to receive details of Fieldwork and Activities now is your last chance.

**Other activities Members might be interested in**

The Novium has now reopened and you can visit the “Mystery Warrior: The North Bersted Man” exhibition which was due to close at the end of September but has now been extended until well into 2021.

To visit the Novium you will need to book in advance. The Novium website is not very clear on how to book but if you follow this link it will take you to the appropriate web page :- <https://chichesterboxoffice.ticketsolve.com/shows/873614639/events/128271113>

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I hope that you are all well and managing to get out an about a bit more now that restrictions have eased. It was great to meet up with some of you during this week’s survey of Langford Farm.

Best wishes

Mike Kallaway

CDAS Chairman

30<sup>th</sup> August 2020

