

## Dates for Your Diary (cont)

**Saturday 1st July, 1.30pm - 5.00pm:** Mining the Forest: a visit with an Exmoor ranger to remote mineshafts. Meet Ashcombe carpark SS774394. Rough walking; walking boots and weatherproof clothing essential.

**Sunday 16th July, 12.00pm - 4.00pm:** A Walk in the Past: Join a National Park Archaeologist and a National Trust Warden to look at Iron Age hillforts, a battle site, Victorian mines and an early hydro-electric power plant. Booking essential, phone 01598 763306. Meet Watersmeet Tea Garden SS744487. Walking boots and weatherproof clothing essential.

**Friday 28th July, 10.30am - 5.30pm:** Challacombe Cross-Country: A challenging (12 mile) walk on open moorland visiting, among others, Shoulsbury Iron Age fort and Radworthy medieval settlement. Meet in lay-by opposite Challacombe Post Office, SS694411. Walking boots and weatherproof clothing essential. Bring a picnic.

**Saturday 5th August, 11.00am:** Around the Barrows: a visit with a member of the Exmoor Society to Larkbarrow, Tom's Hill and Kittock. £2 donation. Meet at Alderman's Barrow SS837424. For information phone 01398 323335. Walking boots and weatherproof clothing essential. Bring a picnic.

**Sunday 27th August, 11.00am - 5.00pm:** The Acland Story: a walk with a National Park volunteer guide taking in Lady Acland's Hut, Bury Castle Iron Age settlement and St Agnes Fountain. Meet Selworthy SS920467 (overflow carpark at top of village beyond church). Booking essential: phone 01398 323841. Walking boots and weatherproof clothing essential. Bring a picnic.

**Sunday 17th September, 11.00am - 5.00pm:** Ancient Man on the Moor: a walk with a National Park volunteer guide tracing man around Tarr Steps, the Punchbowl and Caratacus Stone. Meet Mounsey Hill Gate SS894319. A 10 mile walk. Booking essential: phone 01398 323841. Walking boots and weatherproof clothing essential. Bring a picnic.

## Other

**Friday 15th - Sunday 17th September:** Society for Church Archaeology & Association of Diocesan & Cathedral Archaeologists Joint Conference: The Archaeology of Ecclesiastical Landscapes. Exeter (Booking details available on request from Terry Green: phone 01271 866662)

**Saturday 23rd September, 10.00am - 5.15pm:** Lundy Studies: a symposium organised by the Lundy Field Society at the Peter Chalk Centre, University of Exeter. For information contact David and Judy Parker on 01271 865311 or write to Alan Rowland, Mole Cottage, Morwenstow, Cornwall EX32 9JR.

**Digging in Combe Martin:** Trevor Dunkerley and the Combe Martin Silver Mines Restoration and Preservation Society will be digging at Mine Tenement on Thursdays from 10.00 am till 4.00 pm throughout the summer. Volunteers are welcome. For information contact Trevor Dunkerley on 01271 883833.



## Useful contacts

**June Aiken** (Parracombe Group) 01598 763316

**Derry Bryant** (NDAS Secretary) 01769 572963

**Sally Cotton** (South Molton and District Local History Society) 01769 572378

**Janet Daynes** (ACE Archaeology, Winkleigh and District) 01837 83925

**Jane Green** (NDAS Treasurer and Membership Secretary) 01271 866662

**Terry Green** (NDAS Newsletter) 01271 866662  
Collette Hall (NDDC Conservation Officer) 01271 346436

**Sean Hawken** (Community Landscapes Project) 01392 263851

**Deborah Laing-Trengove** (Hatherleigh History Group) 01837 810310

**Alison Mills** (Museums Service) 01271 346747

**Jenny Yendall** (Tiverton Archaeological Group and South Molton Museum) 01884 255397

**Lyn Walmesley** (Teign Archaeology Group and Secretary CBA South-West) 01392 432184

**Trevor Dunkerley** (Combe Martin Silver Mines Research and Preservation Society) 01271 883833

**Rob Wilson-North** (Exmoor National Park Authority Archaeologist) 01398 323665

### Other Archaeological Bodies:

Devon County Historic Environment Record: 01392 382246

Portable Antiquities Scheme: (RAM Museum Exeter): 01392 665983

Council for British Archaeology (York): 01904 671417

National Sites and Monuments Record (Swindon): 01793 414600

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*Cover Picture: NDAS members surveying a very tall hedgebank at West Middleton farm, Parracombe.*

## Editorial

### Limitations and possibilities

During the last six years or so archaeological activity and research in northern Devon has stepped up considerably and we pride ourselves on being involved in these developments. We have an increasing number of members who are probing the archaeological potential of their area and contributing to a detailed appreciation of the history of northern Devon. This is very encouraging and all to the good. However, this increased level of activity has now highlighted the need to set out guidelines so that the results of individual researches are found to be useful and valid and so that members do not come into conflict with other people who have a stake in the land and the archaeological resource.

The NDAS Training Day held in February and conducted by Sean Hawken (now appointed Project Manager of Xarch) was concerned with the processes and requirements of setting up a local project. During the day Sean gave examples of community-based projects and detailed the steps that have to be taken to get a project - especially a fieldwork project - off the ground. These included acquiring all the necessary permissions for access to sites, doing the preparatory research, arranging finance, working out a project design and, most importantly, deciding how results are to be made accessible to others. A very good example of the process in action has been the survey of Holwell Castle, Parracombe, conducted by Mary Houldsworth and Jim Knights: they started with consent from the landowner, from Exmoor National Park and from English Heritage (because the site is a scheduled ancient monument) and ended with a very workmanlike report, copies of which have gone to all the interested parties.

Of course, not all local researches by individuals end up as full-scale fieldwork projects. You may simply be curious about humps and bumps in a field or may have noticed a scatter of

pottery or flints or you may have become aware of a development that affects a historic building and feel you should look into it. Since almost everything that may come to your attention will be on private land, there is the immediate question of avoiding trespass. Therefore, before embarking on any intrusive activity, your first duty is to contact the landowner or his or her agent and get permission. This is where your NDAS membership card comes in: the card is your bona fides, your credentials assuring the landowner that you have a legitimate interest and are approaching him or her in good faith. If you wish to look any more deeply into what you have noted, you should make the Society aware of what you are doing, so that you are covered by your NDAS insurance against personal injury and public liability and so that you have the Society's support. In addition you should alert the County Archaeological Service to what you have found so that it goes onto the Historic Environment Record (HER).

Over and beyond these really quite basic conditions, there is the question of what kind of project a local "amateur" society can legitimately pursue. We exist in a situation that involves archaeologists with several different hats. There are the academics, the local government professionals, the commercial archaeological contractors and the voluntary independents or "amateurs". Archaeology in Britain began with the amateurs, mostly vicars and landed gentry and retired army officers, and for a long time there was not even an academic discipline devoted to the topic; and even when it did develop it continued to be identified with the upper classes. By a long evolutionary process, mostly through the second half of the 20th century, we have come to the present situation where the four strands identified here ought to be complementary to each other. Our contribution is

to provide local detail. If we have done our work well enough our results should feed through to the academic quarter where they gain significance on a broad canvas of theories of the past. At the same time, by the very nature of its membership, the local group has the ability to demonstrate the meaning and value of the local heritage to the community who are mostly eager to know. Increased knowledge leads to deeper appreciation and is ultimately a guard against environmental degradation.

So what **do** we do? Unlike 30 years ago, amateur groups are generally excluded from taking on "rescue" or any work where planning is involved: there are indemnity issues which place this beyond the amateurs' reach. On the other hand, it is perfectly legitimate to raise the alarm when something is threatened. We do however, undertake research, which can embrace everything from basic reading around the subject, to documentary research, to survey, to recording to digging and finally to publication. We have the luxury of pursuing our interest without being constrained by the need to make it pay and without being harried by developers or planners. Above all, we are on the spot and through knowledge and a love of the locality are as well placed as anyone to make discoveries and to be alert to the significance of local features. Providing we understand our limits and respect the restraints outlined above, maintaining good relationships with landowners, etc., we can build projects on our interests and contribute to a growing understanding of the past much in the spirit of the indefatigable 19th century gentlemen who started it all.

## Officers of the Society

At the the NDAS annual general meeting held on 20th March the following members were elected to the General committee:

### Representing Members:

Derry Bryant, Malcolm Faulkner, Terry Green, Jane Green, Mary Houldsworth, Marion Hughes, Jonathan Lomas, Alistair Miller, David Parker, Hazel Parker, Chris Preece, Maureen Wood

### Representing Associated Groups:

June.Aiken (Parracombe History and Archaeology Society), Sally.Cotton (South Molton Archives), Harry.Cramp (Torrington History Society), Trevor Dunkerley (Combe Martin Local History Society, CMSMRPS), Jim Knights (Brayford History Society), Deborah Laing-Trengove (Hatherleigh Archaeological Group)

### Representing Interested Bodies:

Malcolm Prowse (North Devon District Council), Alison.Mills (Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon), Sue Scrutton (Torrington Museum)

From among these, officers of the Society were elected as follows:

**Chairman:** Terry Green

**Vice Chairman:** Jim Knights

**Treasurer and Membership Secretary:** Jane Green

**Secretary:** Derry Bryant

In addition, Hazel Parker was elected to take charge of fund-raising, David Parker to chair the Projects Sub-Committee, Alistair Miller to take charge of the winter programme.

Sadly, since the AGM Jim Knights has had to stand down due to unforeseen circumstances. Alistair Miller has agreed to stand in as Acting Vice-Chairman. Also Trevor Dunkerley has withdrawn from the NDAS committee due to the demands of study, home duties and Combe Martin archaeology. The contribution of both gentlemen will be greatly missed.

## Fieldwork: Important!

### 1. NDAS Constitution:

It is proposed to re-word clause 10 of the Society's constitution to bring it in line with recent changes in its membership and range of activities. At present Clause 10 reads:

*Members are encouraged to carry out individual field research, but no member, unless working as a professional, or under the authority of an archaeological society or a recognised archaeologist, may conduct or take part in any archaeological excavation. It shall be the duty of every member who makes a discovery, or who hears of the threatened destruction of any site or object of apparent archaeological value, to report the facts to the Secretary and the appropriate authority.*

The proposed wording is:

*Members are encouraged to carry out individual field research. Any member proposing to engage in excavation, having gained all necessary permissions, shall do so as an archaeological professional or with the approval of a professional archaeological officer or with the authority of this or another archaeological society and shall carry out work to a nationally agreed standard. It shall be the duty of every member who makes a discovery, or who hears of the threatened destruction of any site or object of apparent archaeological value, to report the facts to the Society's General Committee and the appropriate authority*

This is included here so that you can consider the wording of this clause and pass comment. Any decision on a change of wording will be taken at the 2007 AGM.

### 2. Guidelines for Fieldwork:

Before getting round to excavation however, there are many stages that an investigation may go through from first noticing something interesting to setting up a full-scale project. Below is a set of guidelines for the assistance of any member wishing to engage in fieldwork at any level.

- 1 Before entering on private land, contact the landowner and get permission.
- 2 Use your NDAS membership card as your credentials (but not as a "get out of jail free" card!)
- 3 Before embarking on anything that affects a scheduled ancient monument, apply to English Heritage for ancient monument consent.
- 4 For insurance purposes, inform the Society's Committee of and seek approval for your intended project or activity.

And for those who have got this far:

- 5 In order to gain respect for your results, make sure that your project is thoroughly prepared:
  - a) Do the necessary background research (desk-based study) and prepare a project outline (detailing stages and levels of investigation from survey to excavation).
  - b) Communicate your intentions and any results to the Society and to the relevant archaeological officer.
  - c) Cost your project. The Society may be able to help.
  - d) Make sure you know how the results are to be recorded and publicised.
  - e) Ensure the proper archiving of finds (local museum) and reports (local museum, record office, Historic Environment Record).

# Getting back to the NDAS Parracombe Project

Terry Green

The Holworthy excavation came out of the NDAS Parracombe Project which we set up in 2001. The aim was to conduct an archaeological/historical survey of this interesting parish as a contribution to the understanding of the evolution of the North Devon Landscape. The project was to include documentary history, a survey of the buildings of the parish, a field-boundary survey, field-walking where and whenever possible, test-pitting and excavation when required. The ultimate model for the project was the Shapwick Project conducted in Somerset by Mick Aston and Chris Gerrard. While that project was backed by University departments, and could set far more ambitious goals than a local society ever could, it seemed possible that with enough voluntary assistance we might ultimately arrive at an understanding of the evolution of Parracombe, an upland parish.

Inevitably what can be accomplished is determined by the number of people who are willing to become involved, and we are at present only a small part of the way towards achieving the goal which we set ourselves. The most successful part of the project – apart from the Holworthy excavation – has been the field-boundary survey which has so far taken in East and West Middleton (though this farm has yet to be completed) and Holworthy Farm. At Holworthy Farm we have also done field-walking and have completed a measured survey of the house. In fact it was when we came to Holworthy that we became distracted! We were encouraged to take a look at the slight earthwork on the hillside above the farm and the rest, as they say, is history!

The Holworthy Farm excavation, conducted between 2002 and 2005, has been a signal achievement, but now that we are wrapping it up, we can get back to plan A. The first thing to do in the field is to complete the field-boundary survey of West Middleton and move on. In fact we have set dates to continue the survey (see Dates for



*A standing stone near Heale.*

your Diary) and if you are able to volunteer your assistance, please get in touch with June Aiken on 01598 763316.

The purpose of such a survey is to provide data with which to begin to peel away the layers of the historic landscape. Through previous survey work we have begun to establish that certain physical characteristics of the existing hedge-banks can help to pinpoint some of the oldest boundaries. Comparing these with the historic maps, we can isolate tell-tale characteristics and recognise succeeding episodes of enclosure. At Holworthy Farm, for example, there is a boundary on the hillside below the Bronze Age enclosure, which is recognisably a late, probably 18th century construction. In the 1840 tithe award the steep ground below this boundary is called Holy Pound, but it seems very probable that before the boundary was made this name, with its clear



*Voley Castle: a (supposed) Iron Age settlement.*

reference to a pound or enclosure, was attached to the whole outfield area in which the Bronze Age settlement is situated. This suggests that the enclosure was visible in historic times.

Currently a number of NDAS members are offering their voluntary assistance with the Victoria County History project recently initiated on Exmoor. The purpose of the project is to combine documentary and field evidence to produce parish histories of a number of South Exmoor parishes. Parracombe is not included, but what we are trying to do there parallels the VCH project. With this in mind, Rob Wilson-North (ENPA archaeologist) has recently suggested the following "Parracombe Agenda":

It is suggested that we should:-

- Consider the Bronze Age evidence in the light of Holworthy, looking at other enclosures,

Martinhoe Common, South Common, the flint scatters, etc;

- Draw together existing information on field monuments such as Chapman Barrows, Voley Castle, Holwell Castle, etc.;
- Examine the field-systems, their chronology and development;
- Consider the origin of the settlements, both the principal nuclei and the farmsteads (Parracombe Churchtown with the church of St Petrock, Bodley, Middleton, Rowley, Holworthy, Holwell, etc.);
- Develop models to trace settlement evolution;
- Within this framework, consider recent influences such as the railway, road patterns, changes in farming, the World Wars, modern communications, etc.

The questions raised should be considered in the light of Dr Martin Gillard's PhD thesis on the Exmoor landscape, Dr Judith Cannell's thesis on the archaeology of Exmoor woodland, the Holworthy dig, building records, the work going on under the VCH umbrella.

This all amounts to a thorough investigation of the landscape with opportunities for all the main techniques such as fieldwalking, geophysical survey, earthwork survey, standing building recording, documentary research, oral history. A number of elements here tie in with the parish history being developed by the Parracombe Historical and Archaeological Society.

A very important contribution to the Parracombe Project was recently made by Mary Houldsworth and Jim Knights, when they completed a geophysical survey of Holwell Castle. And currently Margaret Reed is doing a documentary sweep in the record offices a necessary and important step towards providing a



Part of the curving boundary of St Petrock's churchyard: an early sacred enclosure or *llan*?

framework of recorded history for the archaeological evidence.

From evidence gathered in these ways, we can piece together a parish history which goes way beyond the written records. Ultimately and ideally one would like to be able to trace a continuous development from the first arrival of Mesolithic hunter-gatherers in the area, through the prehistoric period to the arrival of Christianity to medieval settlement, to the arrival and departure of the railway and beyond up to the present day. In there somewhere there will be a place for the Holworthy Farm settlement, and hopefully its antecedents and successors.

*On 2nd September there will be a guided walk through Parracombe's archaeology. See Dates for your Diary for details.*



NDAS members surveying a very tall hedgebank.

## Holworthy Farm Update

Terry Green

After four seasons of excavation at Holworthy Farm we are at the point where we either continue and turn it into a long-term project, collecting more and more data, which in the end gives us at best a partial picture of the birth, life and death of a single settlement; or we draw breath, assemble the data that we have and publish. Obviously there has been debate about this and the consensus is that the long term commitment would add little in the way of understanding, so for the present there will be no further digging at Holworthy Farm. At this point we are pretty confident about the date range of the site, we have environmental information and we are able to discuss function.

At present all of the Holworthy pottery has been marked up and has been to Henrietta Quinnell so that she can estimate the work involved in writing a report. The single mass of sherds that came from our second "fire-trench" in 2005 has gone to conservators Richard and Helena Jaeschke to be stuck together. David Parker has completed the wet-sieving of the bulk samples taken in 2005 and has recovered quantities of carbonised organic matter, principally wood charcoal and a quantity of seeds and cereal grains – over 1,700 in all. Selected samples of the wood charcoal have been sent to Rowena Gale for species identification, and from among these, five samples plus a number of charred cereal grains have been sent to the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC) for radiocarbon dating. Anne and Martin Plummer have agreed to write a report on the flints from the site and Sue Watts has agreed to report on the saddle-quern that we found in 2004. Not yet scheduled are the plant macro-fossils (seeds, plant fragments), the "wooden bowl" found in 2004, the loom-weights and an odd stone tool (a sliver of fine-grained sandstone with a honed edge and one smooth face) that came from a post-hole.



A "large" sample (3.9 gm) of carbonised grain all from one post-hole (with centimetre scale).

Meanwhile all the context details have been assembled on a data-base, and a start has been made on converting site drawings into digital form.

As indicated above, since the last newsletter, the wet-sieving (flotation) has been completed and organic materials have been isolated. A most pleasing discovery was a substantial quantity of carbonised grain in one post-hole. Substantial is a relative term here – we have 3.9 gm or a small eggcupful – but nevertheless it is important, since the charred grain from Holworthy is the first *direct* evidence of prehistoric cereal cultivation in North Devon or Exmoor. Why there should be this deposit of burnt grain in a post-hole is a question that needs thinking about, especially as this was all the organic matter in this particular hole, while the neighbouring and inter-cutting post-hole contained a very large quantity of oak charcoal. Furthermore the grain was concealed beneath a flat stone in the base of the hole.

As for wood, identified species include oak, hazel, willow, hawthorn, ash, birch and alder. The wooden bowl or platter (?) excavated in 2004 was of oak. Among the 21 charcoal samples that we have had identified, oak and hazel are by far



*Double post-hole within the circumference of the (probable) roundhouse. The grain came from beneath the flat stone in the right-hand hole excavated by Clare Chope.*

the most frequently occurring, as one might expect, but ash occurs only once. This is interesting when you consider that ash is a very common tree in the local landscape today and that it makes very good firewood. I have recently discussed this with Dr Judith Cannell, an expert on woodland archaeology, who suggests that ash flourishes in open conditions such as hedgerows, which were probably not a feature of the local Bronze Age landscape.

With the financial support of Exmoor National Park, the samples for radiocarbon dating were sent to Glasgow in February. The results, which have just come back, help to tighten the date range for the features of the site, currently homing in on 1300 - 1400 BC, ie. Middle Bronze Age, as was suggested by the pottery that was unearthed in 2003. In fact a fragment of hazel charcoal found immediately beneath the 2003 pot is dated at around 1400 BC, as is charcoal found in

association with the mass of pottery found in 2005. A dated deposit found beneath the stone bank makes it probable that the enclosure was built about 1600 BC, and since the 2003 pot must have been left when the site was abandoned, it seems we can narrow the period of occupation down to about 200 years.

For the purposes of writing up and interpreting the site, we need to be able to place it in both a broad regional setting and in a local context where funerary monuments such as Chapman Barrows are a major feature, but nearby settlement remains on South Common are possibly more meaningful in terms of landscape development. For the purpose of such interpretation, we need to return to the Parracombe Project which got somewhat sidelined when Holworthy came along, but which offers a way to assess the landscape as a whole. For this, see below...

## Clovelly Dykes

Derry Bryant

I recently spent a Sunday cutting back gorse and clearing bracken at Clovelly Dykes, the Iron-Age (?) hillfort at Higher Clovelly. The day was organised by Northern Devon Coast and Countryside Service (01237 423655), who asked for volunteers to clear some of the dyke to stop infestation by burrowing animals, as part of an on-going attempt to preserve the site. About 15 volunteers attended, including Stephen Hobbs (Hartland archivist), who spent many happy times

playing there as a child. The site is a massive enclosure with concentric ring ditches and a large central enclosure, and although close to the A39 it is invisible from the road, and is on private land (East Dyke Farm). Although it is on flat land, from the top of the high banks there is a clear view of the Bristol Channel and Bideford Bay.

In super sunny weather, we had a great day, with picnic and bonfire, and cleared quite a large area of overgrown bushes/gorse, etc.



*Clovelly Dykes from the air, 20th July 1996. (Photograph by Frances Griffith, Devon County Council; Copyright Reserved. Ref: DAPIAAO11)*

It occurred to me that NDAS members might like to go and visit the site, (there was in fact an NDAS visit some years ago, I believe), and to this end I contacted the farmer and have arranged for a visit by NDAS members for **Sunday 18 June at 2pm**. We would meet at East Dyke Farm, to find which take the A39 towards Kilkhampton and Bude, turning right towards Clovelly at the Clovelly roundabout. Just down the road a few yards turn right into the farm yard and park. Wear suitable footwear and clothing. Cressida Whitton from the County Archaeological Service has kindly agreed to be our guide for the afternoon.

Please contact me on 01769 572963 if you wish to join in, as the farmer would like to know how many people are likely to turn up!

*Surprisingly unknown to many people in North Devon, Clovelly Dykes is perhaps the most impressive prehistoric structure in the area or indeed in the whole of Devon. The earthwork is situated about a mile from Clovelly village right beside the A39, the road to Clovelly village cutting across the east side of the ramparts and segregating part of the original enclosure. Generally known as a hillfort, the fact that it is not visible from the road because hidden by a hedge and by the buildings of East Dyke Farm indicates that this is not an imposing earthwork such as Hembury hillfort in east Devon and is unlikely to be in any way defensive. The monument, which covers over 8 hectares, is laid out on a flat site and consists of concentric sub-rectangular enclosures with a lesser enclosure in the centre and further minor subdivisions between the major banks on the west side. The major banks have accompanying ditches, and there are several entrances, some ancient some modern. The ancient entrances are not the elaborate hornworks seen on hillforts farther east, but are simple constructions, again suggesting no*

*defensive function. In fact it is suggested that the internal enclosures with their relatively slight banks represent corrals for stock, perhaps for some seasonal gathering such as autumn slaughter.*

*No excavation has ever taken place at Clovelly Dykes so there is no direct chronological evidence, but a comparable site at Milber Down near Newton Abbot was partly excavated in the 1930s by Aileen Fox and C.A. Raleigh-Radford and produced evidence of late Iron Age occupation. The Milber Down site is similarly situated on relatively level ground and is laid out as concentric earthworks with broad spaces between. Lady Aileen Fox characterised Milber Down and Clovelly Dykes as characteristically south-western hillforts, and it was she who suggested that the purpose of the broad internal divisions had to do with the segregation and protection of flocks and herds.*

*Interestingly it was in the area of Clovelly Dykes that H. Eggerton-Godwin spent many hours field-walking in the 1930s and 40s, during which time he collected very large numbers of flints, very many of them Bronze Age in character. Whether this has anything to say about the origin or the age of the site is impossible to determine at present. The site itself is of course a scheduled ancient monument and permission from English Heritage would be required to do any work in it, but it would be very satisfying to know its true age.*

#### *Bibliography:*

- Fox, A.** (1952) *Hillslope Forts and related earthworks in South-West England and South Wales*, Archaeological Journal Vol. 109, 1-22.  
**Fox, A.** (1996) *Prehistoric Hillforts in Devon*, Devon Books.  
**Griffith, F.** (1988) *Devon's Past: An Aerial View*, Devon Books.

## Mesolithic flint working at Morte Point

David and Judy Parker



David Parker(right) and the National Trust Warden examining eroding head deposits on Morte Point.

*Baggy Point, forming the northern arm of Croyde Bay, is well known for its flint scatters. Morte Point at the north end of Woolacombe Bay however, is less well known. NDAS members David and Judy Parker have recently made some significant finds*

Sometime around 10,000 to 5,400 years ago Mesolithic people were knapping flints for tools and implements at Morte Point. These people led a life of hunting and gathering in a period of woodland expansion following the last glaciation. Sea levels were lower than at present and what are now coastal headlands would then have been hills overlooking a coastal plain. Animals hunted

would probably include elk, roe deer, pig and beaver, and possibly the people would travel to the coast to find shellfish and crustaceans to supplement their diet.

We have recently picked up a range of worked flints emerging from eroding head deposits at Morte Point. At present they amount to well over 100 pieces, some 60 of which have been examined and identified with perhaps the same again awaiting examination. All the flints with remaining cortex have originated from sea-worn pebbles and could have been gathered from beaches or possibly from raised beach deposits formed at times of higher sea levels. We have not found any evidence of nodular flint being utilised

at Morte Point so far. The nearest known surface deposit of nodular flint is located at Orleigh Court, some 15 miles to the south. Perhaps this deposit was unknown to the Mesolithic people or perhaps pebbles from a closer source were sufficient for their needs.

Two flints classed as microdenticulates are attributed to the early Mesolithic period 10,000 – 8,500 BP. As the name suggests, they have very fine denticulations (notches) on one edge, like a tiny saw. (Gordon Fisher of ACE suggests, having tried it, that they were used for skinning *Ed.*) Interestingly one is notched on what is described as the left hand edge, the other being notched on the right hand edge. Were they used for different purposes or was there a left handed and right handed person at Morte Point?

Amongst the other finds were a side scraper, a number of blades and three cores, these being the

material from which the tools were struck. The largest number of flints found were just tiny flakes and fragments which at first sight appear unimportant, but this material, known as debitage, is the waste product from flint knapping, and shows that the Mesolithic people actually worked flint at Morte Point.

Anyone interested is urged to keep a watchful eye open if they visit Morte Point, but to remember that digging is prohibited on National Trust land. Any surface finds should be handed in to Barnstaple Museum for identification. This is far better than taking them home to be eventually forgotten and lost, resulting in lost knowledge and interest for future generations.

We are indebted to Ann and Martin Plummer and Rosemary Stewart for the identification and classification of the flints which are now in the charge of the National Trust.

## The Palaeolithic Rivers Project

On Sunday 7th May, a small number of NDAS members responded to an invitation from the University of Reading Archaeology Department (publicised at the AGM in March) to join in a guided walk around Ottery-St-Mary. The walk was a public relations exercise on behalf of the Palaeolithic Rivers of South-West Britain Project which is funded by the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund through English Heritage. On a very fine May morning we met at the Salston Manor Hotel outside Ottery St Mary where we were received by Rachel Young, the organiser and Dr Rob Hossfield, who was to be our guide.

Rob began by pointing out that the study of the Palaeolithic, a period from roughly 700,000 years ago to about 40,000 years ago, is different from other archeology, in that stratified deposits of artefacts are rare and are found exclusively in caves. For the most part the evidence of human or hominin (human ancestor) activity is found in geological rather than cultural deposits, in fact 80% - 90% of the evidence of a Lower and Middle Palaeolithic human or hominin presence has been in the form of stone tools found in river sands and gravels. Artefacts have mainly come to light through gravel and sand extraction, and because of the distribution of Pleistocene sand and gravel deposits, relatively few examples have come from the south-west region. A notable exception is Broom Quarry in the valley of the Axe on the Devon/Dorset border. There, during the 19th and 20th centuries, well over 1,000 chert hand-axes were revealed. The reason for such a concentration is not at all clear. Since they apparently date from the Lower Palaeolithic (about 280,000 years ago), "factory" production is very unlikely. North Devon has produced very little evidence, though there was the flint hand-axe found near Chittlehampton some years ago.

During the period from 1.6 million years ago to around 10,000 years ago, the era known as the

Pleistocene, successive glaciations and interglacial periods heavily influenced drainage patterns, so that the courses and rates of flow of rivers altered considerably over time. Rivers that are now relatively insignificant, such as the Otter, were at earlier periods either broken up in a broad pattern of "braided" channels between shifting banks of sediment or were raging torrents rapidly down-cutting through earlier sediments or through the geological base. The evidence of these changes in character and topography is to be found in the gravel terraces left behind. Such terraces are now frequently disguised as gently sloping grassy shelves on the sides of valleys, and it is not until it is found worthwhile for the gravel extraction industry to dig into them for aggregate that their nature is exposed.

One of the major aims of the *Palaeolithic Rivers of South-West Britain Project* is to record and date the terraces of the rivers Axe, Exe and Otter and evaluate their archaeological content and potential. At the same time the National Ice Age Network (NIAN – [www.iceage.org.uk](http://www.iceage.org.uk)) is working with the aggregates industry to establish a protocol for reporting and identifying Palaeolithic



Dr Rob Hossfield holding forth on the Otter flood-plain.

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*Lower Palaeolithic chert handaxes from Broom Quarry. (Photo with permission from RAM Museum, Exeter)*

finds uncovered during quarrying.

The purpose of the walk to which we had been invited (one of four such walks on the Otter and the Exe with invitations sent to schools, colleges and local societies) was to provide an understanding of the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic in the South-West, to interpret the Otter landscape and to introduce some of the techniques of Palaeolithic geoarchaeology. We walked for about two hours, beginning beside a stream below the hotel where the shelves of former river terraces could be seen on either side. We then crossed a field dropping from one terrace to another towards the River Otter and the town of Ottery St Mary which itself is built on a terrace fragment above the present river. The terraces of the Otter can rise to about 100m above the

present flood-plain, a testimony to the very considerable changes in sea-level and consequently river level during the Pleistocene. Continuing to a bridge over the Otter, we were able to compare the present rather meagre river with its 500m wide flood-plain, and in the river bank we saw deposits of flint and chert cobbles, such as would have provided material for hand-axes. The bedrock geology here is Otter sandstone, on top of which sands and gravels have been laid down. As we passed through the grounds of Cadhay House and took to a steep path, we were able to observe the gravels beneath our feet and in the side of the path – a hollow-way – we could follow the junction between the bedrock and the overlying sediments. To the south of the path was a small abandoned



*Exposure of the junction of ancient river gravels with the Otter sandstone.*

sand quarry, evidence of the small-scale historic sand and gravel quarrying operations compared to today's industrial quarrying. And it was principally in such small scale quarries that 19th century workmen came across artefacts which they perhaps passed on to archaeologists.

The walk concluded with a brief demonstration of flint-knapping and Rob continued to answer questions in a thoughtful, informative manner right up until 2.30 when he was due to start all over again. Those NDAS members who took part were very appreciative of what had been offered. There is currently great interest in Ice Age Britain and the Palaeolithic leading to the setting up of the National Ice Age Network. Some years ago finds of flint artefacts and butchering waste together with a fragment of hominin bone at

Boxgrove in West Sussex extended the human presence in Britain to over 500,000 years, and more recently flint handaxes found in ancient river deposits on the Norfolk coast have extended that period to 700,000 years. These finds demonstrate the scientific importance of understanding Pleistocene deposits which are frequently the source of aggregates for the construction industry. The Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund was set up in 2002 to develop the capacity to manage aggregate extraction in order to reduce its impact on the historic and physical environment. Our area does not attract the aggregate industry, but the lessons learnt elsewhere in terms of recognising potential Palaeolithic find sites could well apply to the valleys of the Taw and Torridge and their tributary streams.

## A Fieldwalk at Heath Hill, Winkleigh

Janet Daynes



Field-walking at Heath Hill Farm

Last year a flint scatter was found at Heath Hill Farm to the northwest of Winkleigh Airfield. The neighbouring farmer's wife had picked up numerous examples when walking her dog. Since then ACE Archaeology Club has been planning a fieldwalk there. The field name is Twenty Acres; but fortunately about a 3rd of it is down to pasture, even so it is a huge area to walk. The ground appears to have been in cultivation only since the 19th century, and in recent times there has been little disturbance by deep ploughing.

The fieldwalk took place over the last two weekends in April, the ploughed area was divided into a 10-metre grid and only a very small section was left unwalked when we ran out of time. There appeared to be two distinct flint scatters in the field, but this will become much clearer when we start analysing the results.

The range of flint is extensive with plenty of tools, débitage (waste flakes) and a few cores being found. There are some blades that are far too big to be late Mesolithic, so could possibly be early and there are plenty of fine, small late Mesolithic and also Neolithic bits and pieces, including the tiniest scraper that I have ever seen and several leaf-shaped arrowheads, one of which was found by one of the children involved; and



A flint core found on the field-walk.

then there is the possible Bronze age stuff. . . .

Looking at what we have got so far could mean, it might be possible to suggest that there is a settlement nearby, as there are so many scrapers and other processing tools as well as a production area.

The flints are in the process of being washed and numbered after which we hope to show the assemblage to Mr and Mrs Plummer for identification. I will report back to NDAS with the results.

Thanks to NDAS members who came to help.

## A Mystery at Tawstock

Jim Coulter

On a prominent site overlooking the River Taw at Tawstock stands the picturesque parish church of St. Peter, famed for its wealth of monumental sculpture commemorating former lords of the manor – Fitzwarren, Bouchier and Wrey. To the east of church in the large field below it, the Ordnance Survey map of 1890 marks the site of *Almshouses* and indicates by a cross nearby – *Priory (site of)*. Also in the same area, Donn's 18th century map shows the location of the former parsonage known to have been abandoned in the early 1800s. Although not marked on any known map, records show that a chapel dedicated to St Lawrence was consecrated in 1400 which, according to Harding in 1856, 'was situated below and to the eastward of the Church, and although in a ruinous state. . . . was in existence not many years since'.

From what must at some time have looked like a fairly crowded building site it is remarkable that



Adapted from OS 1890 survey

virtually nothing remains visible above ground other than a wall fragment and some humps and bumps from which protrudes what appears to be building rubble. Presumably the buildings which once stood there have gone the way of so many



Detail from an oil painting c.1740 of Tawstock Court and Church

through having been 'quarried' for building stone when they fell into disuse.

With the exception of the 'priory', the existence of the other buildings mentioned is well established, even if their exact location is not. In 1385 Ralph Basset the lord of the manor of Tawstock, granted four acres to the Augustinian Hermits ' that they may enclose the same and build there a church and houses for their habitation'. The tithe map dated 1842 depicts a small field and building to the east of the church described as 'Priory House and Garden'. Without stating his reasons, Professor Finberg suggested that the priory was never built but nevertheless its existence remains firmly established in the folklore of the parish.<sup>1</sup> Recalling her childhood in the 1920s, Anne Avery Wallace noted in her memoirs, 'when I was young we used to bring cream teas to the poor folk who lived in the almshouses. Before that they used to live in houses converted from the old priory a mile from the village and a mile from the church'.

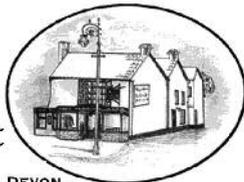
An oil painting dated around 1740 depicting Tawstock Court and church also includes a group of buildings on or about the site described above. They have not been identified as yet, but it is intriguing to speculate whether in this somewhat awkwardly grouped cluster we might have an impression of the almshouses, priory or chapel. Clearly more desk and fieldwork will be required to clear up the mystery.

1. Note: H.P.R.Finberg. Devon and Cornwall Notes and Queries, xxi (1941), p.348

*The religious connections of Bishop's Tawton and Tawstock are intriguing. The place name evidence suggests that Tawton and Tawstock were in origin joined in a single estate. In 1086 (Domesday) Tawton was held by the Bishop of Exeter, while Tawstock was a King's manor. Henry I granted*

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*Tawstock to Judhael of Totnes who gave the tithes from it to the priory of St Mary Magdalene in Barnstaple. At a later date Tawstock was divided, one third going to Buckland Priory in Somerset (Thorn and Thorn 1985). Although the -stock element in the name has fundamentally an agrarian significance (originally "outlying farm"), it is very interesting to make comparisons with Plymstock, Tavistock and Frithelstock, all of which had priories. Related examples in the county would be Stoke (St Nectan), Stoke Canon, Stoke Abbot; and elsewhere in England the element stock/stoke frequently has an ecclesiastical association. (Ed.)*

## Geophysical Investigation at Tawstock

Brian Hummerston

Having been involved with old buildings professionally for thirty years and working on several in the Tawstock area, I listened with great interest to Jim Coulter talking about his long-time interest in and investigation into the history of Tawstock church and surrounding area. He spoke of the possibility, based on old rumours and on early OS maps, of a chapel and a priory being in a field near the church, and he produced a copy of an old painting depicting Tawstock Court and church with buildings more or less in the area of interest. Nearby the picture shows the River Taw with boat and swans. I asked Jim if I could join in his investigations using ground-penetrating radar (GPR) to help find evidence of any buildings or activity in the field, to which he kindly agreed. Arriving at the site, one could not fail to notice the beautiful setting and tranquillity of the area, even complete with swans as in the old picture. It was as if nothing had changed over the years, until a nearby resident remarked, "You know a mains gas pipe runs through that field?"

This was fortunate. Sometimes geophysics results are difficult to interpret with whichever system one uses. This chance remark illustrates just how easy it is for something to slip into the picture which potentially could show up as possible foundations on a scan. You can imagine the ripple of mirth at the operator's expense when, upon excavation, a plastic pipe turns up!

Walking the site with me, Jim pointed out the remains of a low section of wall incorporated into a boundary. This gave us a good starting point, since a few stones and small nettle-covered mounds extended from the boundary into the adjacent field. Using the ground-penetrating radar device, which is very good for accessing rough ground and vegetation-covered areas, a 10m x 8m grid was set out, which, the results indicated, encompassed the major extent

of possible foundations. Immediately it was apparent that on the north side was an area of high mineralisation 2 metres long by 0.9 metres wide and at a depth of 0.7 metres. The response indicated an anomaly that should be investigated. Running down the centre-line of the scan was evidence of a foundation broken in one short area. This at present appears to indicate a possible structure emanating from the low wall section, but further scans into the field will be done to double-check. In close proximity a second area of 30m x 20m has been scanned with a more sensitive GPR device, as it was evident from walking the field that there was a considerable scattering of stones under the grass.

The first results show possible foundations of a building with material in some sections still in place, whereas elsewhere on the same axis disturbance indicates complete removal of stone. Other foundation features show up leading off the 600m<sup>2</sup> scan block. This area will now be doubled in size and will extend to some larger trees, making a natural boundary to the scan. With further surface stone being in evidence beyond the area presently targeted, further investigation will hopefully bring interesting results. Further interest is provided by the fact that in the same field are the remains of demolished almshouses, providing additional material for interpretation.

## Lundy Studies

David and Judy Parker



Lying in the Bristol Channel and a feature of the view from the North Devon coast, Lundy Island is unique in many ways. The island has suffered relatively little disturbance from the modern world, so that the remains of its past are well preserved. When it was a granite hill above a coastal plain some 9,000 years ago, Mesolithic hunter-gatherers brought their collections of flint pebbles here and sat working them on its slopes. When the sea-level had risen and turned the hill into an island, people continued to come here. Bronze Age pottery has been found, as well as dwellings and field-systems. In the early Christian era, the island was a place of retreat, and a number of memorial stones inscribed in Latin bear witness to this occupation. Evidence of a human presence is continuous from the medieval period to the present and the remains of a German Heinkel bomber is a relic of a period of warfare not so long ago.

With this wealth of archaeological interest in mind, NDAS members may wish to learn that an interesting one-day Symposium is being organised by "The Lundy Field Society" at the Peter Chalk Centre in the University of Exeter on 23 September 2006, at which **NDAS members are welcome.**

A variety of talks have been arranged to include archaeology and history. Among the

speakers will be Henrietta Quinnell, who has contacts with our Society, Shirley Blaylock (National Trust) who takes care of the archaeological aspect of Lundy and Dr. Myrtle Ternstrom, the Lundy historian.

There are three other talks on the marine and freshwater ecology of Lundy and three more on the terrestrial ecology of the island.

The cost is £15 per person which covers coffee, a buffet lunch, tea and a copy of the Symposium proceedings. The closing date for applications is 1st. August 2005. An application form with further details is available from:

**Dave & Judy Parker at**  
4 Combe Park, Ilfracombe, EX34 9NY  
Telephone 01271 865311

## Subscriptions

May I remind you that annual subscriptions of £16 per adult member, £24 per couple and £5 per student member became due on 1st April. On receipt of your subscription I shall send you your membership card. Subscriptions (cheques payable to NDAS/NDRA) should be sent to Jane Green, 5 Chambercombe Park Terrace, Ilfracombe EX34 9QW.

Thank you to all those members who have paid promptly and to those who pay by standing order. I need to point out however, that a number of people have not amended their standing order mandate since the membership subscription went up last year. Please may I ask you to check that your standing order mandate is up to date, so that I don't have to write to you asking for more money! Thank you!

*Jane Green*

## Exploring Archaeology (XArch)

**A 3-year community archaeology project funded by Heritage Lottery Fund & the University of Exeter.**

*Project Director: Dr. Howard Williams*  
*Project Manager: Sean Hawken*

The previous well-known Community Landscapes Project (CLP) was concerned with increasing public participation in landscape archaeology and the sciences. While highly successful in this regard, the project faced two challenges. First, how to engage large numbers of people in a greater understanding of their own 'backyard archaeology'? Second, how is it possible for such community projects to incorporate the complex issues of archaeology into educational packages useful to teachers when the subject is not officially a part of the national curriculum?

The new Exploring Archaeology (XArch) project aims to take these challenges head-on. XArch will offer a unique range of opportunities for Devon communities to become actively involved in recording and understanding their own local archaeology and landscapes. This is to be achieved free of cost (all equipment provided, including geophysics) through a programme of locally held indoor workshops and outdoor fieldwork events for researching an agreed local topic. In addition, XArch will create a low-cost, explicitly Devon-based booklet on methods of archaeological fieldwork and desk-based research. As a result, participants will have the basic archaeological and research skills and tools needed to record their own local heritage. This will enable them not only to contribute to public resources, but to present their findings in an end-of-project publication. Equally, schools and colleges are also targeted with workshops designed to support a theme-based approach to learning, whereby archaeology will provide a medium for the delivery of a range of linked learning objectives. These workshops provide children with the

opportunity to experience archaeological thought, methods and the sciences whilst at the same time increasing our children's awareness of their heritage.

Remember, all events are free so if your community or local school would like to be involved, then please contact:

**Sean Hawken (XArch Project Manager)**  
Archaeology Department  
Room 317, Laver Building, North Park Road,  
University of Exeter EX4 4QE  
Tel: 01392 263851  
s.d.hawken@exeter.ac.uk

## Adverts to boost Income

As you have probably noticed, the newsletter now contains some small adverts which help towards printing costs. The cost for a 1/4 page advert in one issue is £7.50, and for ? page is £15.00.

If you would like to place an advert yourself, or could approach a local business for sponsorship, please let the Newsletter Editor know on 01271 866662.

**Every little helps!**

## Victoria County History: Exmoor Project

Anne Todd

*Project Team:*

**Dr Robert Dunning**, Somerset VCH

**Dr Spencer Dimmock**, Exmoor EPE Project

**Rob Wilson-North**, Exmoor NPA

**Sue Parkman**, Exmoor NPA

**Anne Todd**, Exmoor EPE Project, Volunteer Group Leader

**Aretha George**, Education & Skills Manager, EPE Project

So far.....

In March an inaugural meeting was held at Exmoor House, Dulverton to introduce those who had shown an interest in the VCH Project. The meeting was extremely well attended and resulted in nearly 40 people signing up to become volunteers on the Project.

In April the VCH volunteers attended an induction at Exmoor House with myself and Sally Webber, ENPA Volunteers' Leader.

In early May Rob Wilson-North, Spencer Dimmock and myself discussed various ideas for projects which resulted in the following:

- **Farmsteads Project:** A team of volunteers were chosen to undertake the recording of various farmsteads within the project area. Training for this took place on Wednesday 17th May at Cloggs Farm and involved the discussion of various types of farm buildings and their uses; measuring, sketching and photographing the buildings including doorways, windows and any interesting features inside and out.
- **Green Lanes Project:** Another team of volunteers were chosen to undertake the recording of a number of Public Rights of Way. The ENPA Rangers noticed the damage caused by 4x4's, motor cycles and other off-road vehicles and felt it was essential that the lanes were recorded before too much damage occurred. A training day has been arranged for

7th June with Stephanie Knight, ENPA Countryside Archaeological Adviser.

- **Desertion Project:** A further team of volunteers were chosen to investigate the desertion of various farmsteads within the project area. This will involve the surveying and recording of landscape features together with research undertaken at the Records Office. A training day will take place on 15th June with Rob Wilson-North and Spencer Dimmock.

Once the training is complete, the volunteers will be placed in groups of 3 or 4 and will carry on themselves the recording and surveying of their various projects. This information will be placed in a database for use in the final publication by Rob Dunning.



*Green lanes or hollow ways like this are vulnerable.*

## South Molton Museum Reborn

Lalla Merlin

A £48,000 injection of lottery money was just the rejuvenating shot in the arm that South Molton Museum needed to make it the dynamic, vibrant, community-interactive place it is rapidly becoming.

The new Children's Area, with its bright carpet, display of toys and schoolroom artefacts and ceiling painted with blue-sky and clouds, is the site of regular, hugely popular story-telling sessions, craft workshops and costumed role-playing events. The opening exhibition, 'The Green Man and the Roots of Perception' provided opportunities for workshops, drama and story-telling events, while a session on Easter traditions kept us all in mythological mode as we explored the story of Eostre and the Hare in the Moon.

The museum's modest archaeology collection has been redisplayed to great advantage on black cloth, which is a perfect foil for clay pipes, spindle whorls, pot fragments and flint tools alike. There is a small archaeology collection in the Children's Area, complete with fragments of an erotic clay pipe, a bisque doll's head and a lead piglet.

We will soon have on display a silver medieval huntsman's whistle, found locally, which has just been authenticated by the British Museum.

A programme of outreach events is under way. Handling collections are taken to local schools, and also to retirement homes as a basis for reminiscence work. The whole community is invited to take an active part in our exhibitions: children from the local junior school displayed incredibly imaginative artwork for the Green Man Exhibition, and an exhibition by the Local History and Archive Group on South Molton's Peace Celebrations to mark the end of the Crimean War is being put up as I write. Literature on the hugely successful Green Man exhibition is available on application to the museum:  
lalla@southmoltonmuseum.co.uk.

Throughout the museum, from the new red carpet at the entrance to the "Please do touch" signs on the replica stocks in the children's area, it is evident the winds of change have been blowing favourably. Displays have been re-interpreted to be fresh and eye-catching; many of them, such as the railway display and the cider press presentation, are computer presentations. At the other extreme there is an extract in Anglo-Saxon from the poem 'The Dream of the Rood' on our Saxon font.

### Museum Opening Times:

Monday 10.30 – 4.00

Tuesday 10.30 - 4.00

Wednesday closed

Thursday 10.30 – 4.00

Friday closed

Saturday 10.30 – 4.00

Tel: 01769572951

## Website

Trevor Dunkerley of Combe Martin has created a new website for local historical and archaeological groups to publicise their activities. NDAS has an information page on the new site which you can see on HYPERLINK "<http://www.histarc-hands.co.uk/>" [www.histarc-hands.co.uk](http://www.histarc-hands.co.uk)

We hope to keep the site updated with our ongoing activities. Meanwhile, Alison Mills has been working at setting up our own website. She is a very busy person, and would no doubt welcome some assistance with the job. Contact her at the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon on 01271 346747.

## Hatherleigh Moor: Update

We have previously reported on the discovery by Deborah Laing-Trengove of fragments of Roman tile near a stream on Hatherleigh Moor. In Spring 2005 NDAS members assisted with a fieldwalk during which many more fragments of Roman tile and brick were found together with suggestions of a kiln. In recent months John Allen (formerly of the RAM Museum, now of Exeter Archaeology) together with the Finds Liaison Officer for Devon has visited the site and taken away material for closer examination. A note is to appear in the Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society. Meanwhile on the other side of the Moor another tile has been found, suggesting that this industrial site might have been quite extensive. SouthWest Water say that they need to renew some pipes across the Moor. The work will entail a watching-brief.

### **HOLIDAY CHALET**

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Email: derrybryant@hotmail.com

## PASt Explorers

### **Kids and Finds on the Web**

Abridged from *Current Archaeology*  
No. 201, p. 457

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) has just launched a new educational website for children. Called "PASt explorers", it is aimed at children aged 7-11 and their teachers, parents and carers. The website aims to introduce archaeology and archaeological finds in a fun, interesting way that is relevant in the classroom. It includes: the virtual Anglo-Saxon village of West Mucking (Essex), a virtual archaeological survey, a virtual fieldwork planning game called "Pack your Bag", and access to the PAS finds database for researching real archaeological discoveries.

There are guides for young learners on each archaeological period with information about the most common types of archaeological finds, plus a guide to the Treasure Act and what to do if you find something of archaeological interest. There is also a teacher's homepage. The website contains great illustrations and shows the difference one person's finds can make to what we know about the past.

The website is at

**[www.pastexplorers.org.uk](http://www.pastexplorers.org.uk)**

You can log on and discover what has been found near you.

## Dates for Your Diary

### **North Devon Archaeological Society**

**Sunday 18th June, 2.00pm:** A guided walk around Clovelly Dykes. To book, call Derry Bryant on 01769 572963.

**Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd July, 10.00am onwards:** Field Boundary Survey at Parracombe.

**Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd July, 10.00am onwards:** Field Boundary Survey at Parracombe. Volunteers welcome. For details and to volunteer contact June Aiken on 01598 763316.

**Saturday 2nd September, 10.30am - 3.00pm:** An archaeological guided walk round Parracombe. Meet at the DCC gravel storage area, Higher Bodley SS671458 (250 yards off the A39 on the road to Hunters Inn). Bring a packed lunch. For further details and to book, phone Terry Green on 01271 866662.

### **Devon Archaeological Society**

For DAS Field Meetings please book with Janet Cambridge, 20 Devon Terrace, Plymouth, PL3 4JD, Tel: 01752 669737, and make cheques payable to 'Devon Archaeological Society'. Please send individual cheques for each visit.

**Sunday 11th June:** DAS Field Meeting. Tamar Boat Trip from Sutton to Morwellham. Numbers limited to 40. Cost: £8.

**Sunday 18th June:** DAS Field Meeting. Medieval Bristol and Bristol Museum. Cost: £14.50.

**Saturday 24th June, 10.30am - 5.30pm:** *Archaeology in Devon*, a day meeting at the Barnfield Theatre, Exeter. DAS members £17, non-members £19. Tickets from Val Barns telephone: 01837 840123, email: val\_barns@hotmail.com

**Monday 26th June - Saturday 16th July:** Excavations at Mount Folly, Bigbury on Sea. Volunteers enrol with Eileen Wilkes, Archaeology & Historic Environment Group, School of Conservation Sciences, Bournemouth University, Talbot Campus, Poole, BH12 5BB, ewilkes@bournemouth.ac.uk.

**Sunday 16th July:** Archaeology Fair at Beer Head, East Devon. Excavations and other attractions. DAS will be supporting this event.

**Sunday 16th July:** DAS Field Meeting. Silchester. Visit to the ongoing excavations with Prof. Michael Fulford and a possible afternoon visit to Reading Museum. Cost: £18.

**Friday 25th - Sunday 27th August:** DAS Weekend Study Trip to Cambridgeshire. Set off Friday morning, with an afternoon visit to the Museum of Anthropology & Archaeology in Cambridge where we will be guided through collections relevant to the forthcoming weekend. Other sites to be visited include Flag Fen; Grimes Graves, West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village. Numbers restricted to 35. Deposit of £50.

**Sunday 10th September:** DAS Field Meeting. Durrington Walls. Henrietta Quinnell will accompany us to this important site, where Prof. Mike Parker-Pearson will be our guide and give an update on the excavations. Cost: £18.

### **Exmoor National Park**

**Saturday 3rd June, 11.00am:** *A Walk through Time:* An Exmoor Society walk looking at land management through the centuries. £2.00 donation. Meet Brendon two Gates SS765433. Walking boots and weatherproof clothing essential. Bring picnic. For information phone 01398 323335.