



HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT TODAY

Herefordshire Council's Historic Environment Newsletter

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Archaeology Symposium

The Seventh Annual Symposium on Archaeology in Herefordshire will be held on Saturday 27th November at The Courtyard, Hereford. A panel of speakers will talk about recent archaeological surveys and excavations in the county, and future archaeology strategy.

'The aim of the symposium is to share with the public news of archaeological discoveries and initiatives from the previous year.'

The symposium was established in 1998 at the creation of *Herefordshire Archaeology*. It mirrored a series of annual symposia organised by Keith Ray when he was City Archaeologist in Plymouth. Initially held at Brockington House, the symposium moved to The Courtyard in 2000. This year marks the fifth at this venue, held in the Studio theatre, but the first time the event has been announced in The Courtyard brochure. Next year, the eighth annual symposium will be held in the main house due to the increasing demand for places. The event will be moved forward to mid-November, however, because of the theatre's annual pantomime!

The aim of the symposium is to share with the public news of archaeological discoveries and initiatives from the previous year. There is a deliberate attempt to include information on the work of archaeologists and local groups other than the county archaeology service. As the latter's programme of field and other activities,

including partnerships, increases in scale and scope, however, this is proving more difficult.

The programme for the 2004 Symposium will include the following speakers and topics:

Morning Session

- Paul Stamper: Shaking up the Heritage: a New Approach to Protecting the Past
- Keith Ray: Research and the *Herefordshire Archaeology Strategy*
- Cllr Phil Edwards: Launch of the *Herefordshire Archaeology Strategy, 2004-7*
- Neil Rimmington: Countryside advisory work in Herefordshire
- Clementine Lovell: *Herefordshire Archaeology and the Community*
- Chris Musson: Aerial Archaeology in Herefordshire, 1998-2004
- Ruth Richardson, Chris Musson and Andy Johnson: Launch of the 'Millenium Air Survey' volume

Afternoon Session

- Paul White and others: The Frome Valley Archaeology, Landscape Change and Conservation Project
- Tom Vaughan and Simon Woodiwiss: Roman Road, Hereford: an old straight track
- George Nash: The Weobley Castle Project

Tickets are available from The Courtyard Box Office (see box feature on page 4 of this issue of HET).

Richard Lello, Field Archaeologist

Inside: Croft ⇨ Environmental Stewardship ⇨ Much Birch ⇨ SMR ⇨ Pipe Aston

The latest finds from Croft



Copper alloy buckle from Croft Castle excavations, 2004.

This summer's excavation at Croft Castle was the last of four seasons of work undertaken by *Herefordshire Archaeology* in partnership with The National Trust.

'A big 'Thank You' to all the volunteers who have worked at Croft over the past four years.'

The small finds recovered this summer include pottery, animal bones, building material, slag, various metal finds, clay pipe fragments, and vessel and window glass. Eight hundred and seventy six pottery sherds were recovered, ranging in date from the 11th century to the 19th century. Up to 80% of the pottery is medieval. Places of production include Richard's Castle, Worcester, and as far away as Italy.

This year's star find was a copper alloy buckle dating to 14th or 15th century (see above). A small piece of leather was still attached. The finds will now be sent to specialists for analysis. We could not have recovered all of these finds, however, without the help of our volunteers, who are now experts at differentiating between a pottery sherd and a piece of bedrock! A big 'Thank You' to all the volunteers who have worked at Croft over the past four years.

Benedikte Ward, Finds Officer

Environmental Stewardship

A new agri-environment scheme called Environmental Stewardship will be starting in 2005. It will replace a range of existing schemes including Arable Stewardship, Countryside Stewardship, Environmentally Sensitive Areas and the Habitat Scheme. The scheme will have three elements:

- Higher Level Scheme (HLS)
- Entry Level Scheme (ELS)
- Organic Entry Level Scheme (OELS)

The HLS, which is designed for holdings that will have significant environmental gain by entering the scheme, will require the preparation of a Farm Environment Plan. One element of this plan will be the identification of archaeological and historical features on the holding, through formal consultation with *Herefordshire Archaeology*.

The ELS and OELS are designed to be 'light touch' approaches. Owners are supplied by Defra with a Farm Environment Record (FER) highlighting what is known about their holding. The archaeological information supplied in the FER is not a complete record for the county and owners are encouraged to add additional features on to their record to take advantage of the archaeological and other relevant management options in the scheme. Further information of archaeological sites on your holding can be found in the Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record (www.smr.herefordshire.gov.uk), or by contacting *Herefordshire Archaeology*.

In both cases, advice and information is available through the Countryside Adviser (Archaeology), telephone 01432 260351, email nrimmington@herefordshire.gov.uk, or by post, PO Box 144, Hereford, HR1 2YH. Further information about the schemes can be found on the Defra Internet site, www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/schemes/es/default.htm.

*Neil Rimmington
Countryside Adviser (Archaeology)*

People

In August, *Herefordshire Archaeology* welcomed Clementine Lovell, appointed to the post of Community Archaeologist. Clem will assist with three community archaeology and conservation projects: the Frome Valley project, the Heritage Upton Bishop project, and the People of Old Whitbourne project.

On September 24, we said goodbye to Toria Forsyth-Moser, the SMR Education Officer. Toria has been with *Herefordshire Archaeology* for over two years and during that time has increased significantly the awareness of the county's schools to the SMR as a teaching resource, as well as creating education pages for Historic Herefordshire On Line and undertaking outreach in the county's schools. We wish Toria, and her family, all our best in their move to Yorkshire; she will be greatly missed.

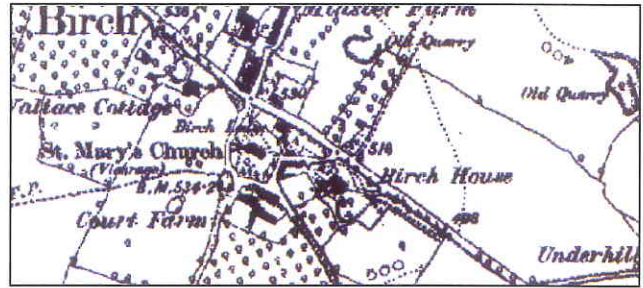
Toria's responsibilities will be taken over by Miranda Greene, currently the SMR New Audiences Officer, who has worked alongside Toria in creating the Historic Herefordshire On Line website. Miranda can be contacted by telephone on 01432 383238, or by email at mgreen@herefordshire.gov.uk.

Happy Birthday!

In September this year, Historic Herefordshire On Line celebrated its 2nd birthday, and in that time we have received over 300,000 visits from more than 70 different countries. You can now access both the SMR database and the Fieldnames and past Landowners database, and learn about aspects of Herefordshire history from Romans to Railways, and from Prisons to Public Health. We have changed the layout of the front page to make it easier to use, and we have added a search facility. Why not log on at www.smr.herefordshire.gov.uk and read about Herefordshire's interesting and sometimes turbulent past. We also welcome feedback; simply go to 'Contact Us'.

Miranda Greene, SMR New Audiences Officer

Much Birch moves



Much Birch churchyard (OS 1st edition 6" map).

A gravedigger using a mini-digger at Much Birch was surprised recently to bring up in his bucket a finely decorated piece of Cotswold limestone. Members of the PCC called in the county archaeology team to advise upon what it was part of, and what to do with it. The parish church of St. Mary and St. Thomas of Canterbury was rebuilt in 1837, but was clearly on the site of an earlier building. Could the piece have come from this? Upon inspection of the stone sculptural piece, the answer was immediately evident. The piece is a somewhat damaged but highly decorated head of the churchyard cross, featuring depictions of a bishop, the crucifixion, and an apparelled patron, all in niches, with the fourth side indecipherable.

'the stone sculptural piece...is...a highly decorated head of the churchyard cross'

The present cross features a new shaft and modern head, and it is interesting to note that it is now located to the north of the nave, in view of the A49 that runs close by. Alfred Watkins, in his survey of Herefordshire's churchyard crosses, showed the stepped cross with sculpted cusped base and niche (but then with only the stump of the original shaft present) to be located to the *south* of the nave looking out westwards, however. The cross head fragment was found in just this area, downslope from where the cross was originally located. This location probably also explains the weathering pattern evident on the fragment, which shows that the crucifixion scene most likely faced westwards.

Keith Ray, County Archaeologist

SMR news

Have you ever searched through the Woolhope Transactions looking for an article which you just know is there but have forgotten exactly where? Well, in one year's time you should be able to find it quickly and easily, and a lot else too. Thanks to a lottery grant awarded to the Woolhope Club, the complete indices and table of contents of the Transactions will be put onto a searchable database on line. This will be housed on the SMR website, with links to and from the Woolhope website. It will use a total word search facility which means you can type anything in and if that word is in the title or the index the article will come up on screen. The technology is quite new, and does away with the need for formatted tables to find information. Work on the database will start in a month.

*Rebecca Roseff
SMR Officer*

Archaeology Strategy

The Herefordshire Council's Archaeology Strategy 2004-7 has followed on from a consultative process in 2001-2. The four-page document provides headline statements on service principles and programme priorities for the next three years, with new emphasis on aspects such as urban archaeology. When formally adopted by the Council's Cabinet, the Archaeology Strategy will be printed and circulated widely. It is supported by a Strategic Plan for the same period that provides more detail. The Plan also lists 36 specific targets that it is hoped to achieve during the strategy period. The Strategic Plan will also be issued at the same time as the Strategy. Many new changes in central government policy on the historic environment during this period will eventually have a profound effect upon local government conservation services, and some of the initiatives in the Plan will be laying the groundwork for the changes for Herefordshire.

*Keith Ray
County Archaeologist*

Up in smoke

'Pipe Aston...was once the location of an important and thriving clay pipe industry.'

With the introduction of tobacco to Britain in the 16th century, the clay pipe industry was born. Today, often the only evidence we have of production is the discarded fragments of pipes. Few people are aware that Pipe Aston in North Herefordshire was once the location of an important and thriving clay pipe industry. Join Dr. Allan Peacey, Director of the Pipe Aston Project, for an illustrated talk on this site of international importance, and on the social history of the clay tobacco pipe industry. The talk will be held at Ashperton Village Hall on Wednesday 28th October at 7.30pm as part of the Frome Valley Archaeology, Landscape Change and Conservation Project. The event is free of charge and open to all.

*Paul White
Landscape Archaeologist*

SEVENTH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON ARCHAEOLOGY IN HEREFORDSHIRE

**Saturday 27th November 2004
9.30am to 5pm**

Studio Theatre
The Courtyard
Edgar Street
Hereford

Tickets £6.50
Available from the Box Office
Tel. 0870 1122330
Fax 01432 346549