

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT TODAY

Herefordshire Council's Historic Environment Newsletter

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Herefordshire Archaeology and Community Engagement



Volunteers working with Herefordshire Archaeology.

An important priority of Herefordshire Council is the concept of community engagement. *Herefordshire Archaeology* (HA) has actively promoted this concept through the work of the Archaeological Projects Officer, through support of Local Heritage Initiatives projects, and through a range of public events and activities.

Tim Hoverd, in his role as the Archaeological Projects Officer, is involved in many community projects. Since 1999, this has included supporting investigations at Burton Court undertaken by members of the Eardisland Oral History Group; topographic surveys of churchyards at Leintwardine and Weobley in partnership with the Caring for God's Acre project; reconnaissance surveys and other work at Credenhill Hillfort in partnership with the Woodland Trust; surveys of the Croft and Lower Brockhampton estates in partnership with The National Trust.

Herefordshire Archaeology supports Local Heritage Initiatives projects co-ordinated by the Countryside Agency and part funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Nationwide Building Society, and works closely with local groups on projects that have a strong

archaeology interest. In 2003, the Arrow Valley Archaeology, Landscape Change and Conservation Project, supported by the LEADER+ Herefordshire Rivers Project and English Heritage, involved co-operation between HA, the Arrow Valley Farmers group and members of the Eardisland Oral History Group.

The Frome Valley Project, planned for 2004, will be organised jointly by the Bromyard and District Local History Society and HA.

During 2004, HA will continue the series of monthly historic landscape walks and will again participate in the Herefordshire Walking Festival. Other public events and activities planned for 2004 as part of HA's commitment to community involvement include Herefordshire Archaeology Week and the Annual Symposium of Archaeology in Herefordshire. New this year will be the involvement of HA in the Three Counties Show at Malvern.



An historic landscape walk at Frith Wood.

Details of some of the public events and activities planned for 2004 are listed in this edition of HET. Further information can be obtained from *Herefordshire Archaeology*.

Richard Lello
Field Archaeologist

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The Frome Valley Project

Herefordshire Archaeology has teamed up with the Bromyard and District Local History Society to deliver the Frome Valley Archaeology, Landscape Change and Conservation Project. This follows on from the pilot project in the Arrow Valley, and as with that study the recent project is financially supported by Herefordshire Rivers LEADER+ project and English Heritage. The aim is to achieve a better understanding of, and to celebrate the rich historical and cultural heritage within, the river valleys of Herefordshire. For the coming year a variety of historical and archaeological studies will be undertaken within the parishes that the River Frome flows through or borders upon. The Frome is of particular interest because it is the only river in the LEADER+ Herefordshire Rivers programme that has both its source and its confluence within the county.

'...historical and archaeological studies will be undertaken within parishes that the River Frome flows through or borders upon.'

There is a variety of elements to the project, including a series of whole farm audits to assist landowners and farmers in the management of the historic environment on their land, and a study of how the river channel of the Frome has altered since the last Ice Age nearly 12,000 years ago. There will be a series of public events throughout the year including illustrated talks, guided walks and workshops. Members of the community are encouraged to become involved in the project. An aspect of the work that we are seeking assistance with is the basic recording of building materials in villages that define the local characteristics of settlements; these can then be compared to other settlements along the river valley, and also to other river valleys. Full training will be given to those participating in the survey by staff of *Herefordshire Archaeology*. If you live in or around the Frome Valley and would like to find out more, contact Paul White or Cori Renfrew (telephone 01432 383353, email pwhite@herefordshire.gov.uk

*Paul White
Landscape Archaeologist*

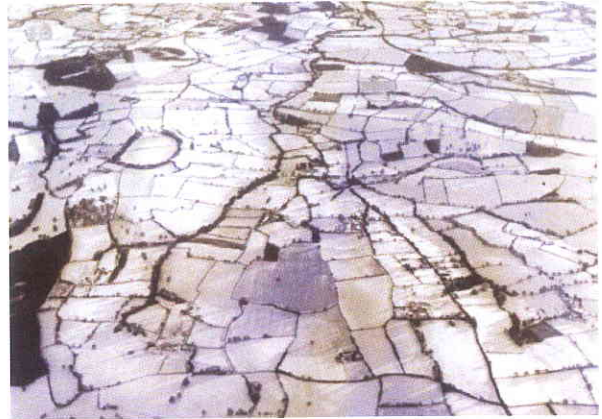


Photo by Chris Musson

The River Frome rises near the Iron Age hillfort of Wall Hills near Thornbury.

All things rural and archaeology...

In the last issue of HET, I was introduced as a new member of staff of *Herefordshire Archaeology*. In this issue I would like to explain a little more about my role as Countryside Adviser for Archaeology. Herefordshire is one of only fifteen local authorities in England to have this type of post. The posts have been around since 1999 and were established to provide archaeological advice in the rural environment beyond the normal planning process. The principal focus of the posts has been to provide advice to agri-environment schemes such as the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, and to forestry schemes such as the Woodland Grant Scheme.

In Herefordshire we want to provide archaeological advice on a wider basis so that landowners and farmers can maximise the benefits and minimise the impact on their archaeology when making decisions about managing their land. So in addition to the agri-environment and forestry schemes, we are encouraging individuals to contact the service when they are erecting a new barn, creating a pond or lake, installing a new forest track, converting an old barn or doing a whole farm plan.

I can be contacted by post at *Herefordshire Archaeology*, PO Box 144, Hereford, HR1 2YH (telephone 01432 26035, email nrimmington@herefordshire.gov.uk

*Neil Rimmington,
Countryside Adviser (Archaeology)*

Forthcoming Events in 2004

Herefordshire Archaeology's programme of historic landscape walks continues on a monthly basis throughout the year and will include walks around Ballingham on 17th April, Almeley on 19th May, and Cwm Dulas on 16th June.

Herefordshire Environment Day will be held on 9th June at High Town, Hereford as part of the United Nations World Environment Day. The event is organised by the *Environmental Sustainability Unit* of the Herefordshire Council, working together with the Herefordshire Partnership's *Environment Ambition Group*. You will find further details in this issue of HET.

For the first time, HA will participate in the Three Counties Show to be held on 18th, 19th and 20th June at Malvern. Further details of the event, *A Walk through Time*, will be available in the near future.

Once again, HA will participate in the Herefordshire Walking Festival between 19th and 27th June. The following historic landscape walks are planned:

- *Midsummer Megaliths: a walk at Huntsham*
- *Up & Around the Deerfold Forest at Lingen*
- *Dinedor—a Herefordshire Hillfort in its Landscape*
- *Bromyard—around & about a Medieval Hill Town*

For further information including ticket prices, or to make a booking, contact the Festival Office (telephone 01568 797842) or visit the website at www.visitherefordshire.co.uk.

Herefordshire Archaeology Week 2004 will take place between 12th and 17th July. Events will include an Archaeology Day on 14th July at Lower Brockhampton in collaboration with The National Trust.

The Seventh Annual Symposium of Archaeology in Herefordshire will take place on 27th November at the Courtyard Theatre, Hereford.

Further details of events and activities can be obtained from *Herefordshire Archaeology*.

Herefordshire Environment Day

World Environment Day is celebrated each year on 5th June as part of the United Nations Environment Programme. The theme for 2004 is *Wanted! Seas and Oceans—Dead or Alive?* This calls attention to the condition of the seas and oceans of the world, and prompts the question, "Do we want to keep the seas and oceans alive and healthy, or polluted and dead?" (Visit the United Nations Environment Programme website at <http://www.unep.org> for more information

'...the most important source of marine pollution is land-based activities.'

At first glance, the world's seas and oceans may seem remote from life in Herefordshire but one of the county's major environmental and recreational assets, the River Wye, flows from its source in the Welsh mountains to the sea at the Severn Estuary. Although marine pollution results from a range of activities, including shipping and dumping at sea, the most important source of marine pollution is land-based activities.

The Herefordshire Partnership's *Environment Ambition Group* (EAG) is working with the *Environmental Sustainability Unit* (ESU) of Herefordshire Council to promote Herefordshire Environment Day on 9th June at High Town, Hereford in support of the United Nations Environment Programme. There will be 25 stands representing a wide range of environmental issues and topics. Everyone is invited to come and visit the displays, to take part in some fun activities, and to find out more about the environment in Herefordshire. We will learn what we can do to reduce our impact on our local environment, and on the seas and oceans of our world.

For more information, please contact Sue Lloyd (telephone 01432 383363, email sloyd3@herefordshire.gov.uk), or Geoff Perrott (telephone 01432 260707, email gperrott@herefordshire.gov.uk).

Sue Lloyd (ESU)
Geoff Perrott (EAG)

A Milestone for Herefordshire



A Herefordshire milestone. (Photo by George Storey, reproduced by courtesy of Mrs G. Storey.)

Milestone enthusiasts in the county are hoping to set up a branch of the Milestone Society in Herefordshire with the aim of recording and photographing all existing milemarkers (posts, stones, wallplates etc). Although many milemarkers in Herefordshire are listed, few are properly maintained and many are at risk from misappropriation, as well as damage from roadworks and hedge cutting. The Milestone Society is also able to undertake restoration work on milemarkers (with full liability insurance cover). Most of the cast iron posts date from the mid 19th century, while the stone milemarkers generally date from the 18th century. In 1767 milestones became compulsory on all Turnpike roads, and at one point during the 18th century Herefordshire had the largest Turnpike system in Britain.

Tony Boyce, currently the national publicity officer of the Milestone Society, will become the co-ordinator of the new Herefordshire branch. Any information concerning existing or missing milestones, or enquiries about joining the Herefordshire group, should be directed to Mr Boyce (telephone 01544 340548) or to Miranda Greene (telephone 01432 383238, email mgreen@herefordshire.gov.uk). The results of the project will be included in the Sites and Monuments Record website—'Historic Herefordshire On Line' (www.smr.herefordshire.gov.uk).

*Miranda Greene
SMR New Audiences Officer*

Roman road found on Roman Road

Many of us have driven along the A4103 'Roman Road' between Stretton Sugwas and Holmer (probably stuck behind a lorry!). The road is both very narrow and very straight—a clue to its origins as a Roman road leading eastwards from the Roman town of *Magnis*, now the village of Kenchester. Herefordshire Council has for some time been investigating how to upgrade the highway, with a substantial programme of archaeological investigation and conservation in relation to the planned road improvements. The road improvement works have been designed to minimise the impact on any archaeological remains present. Areas of unavoidable disturbance will be subject to controlled archaeological excavation prior to construction.

'...Roman road surfaces have been discovered in the form of cobble surfaces...(and) even the original drainage ditches.'

Archaeological investigations undertaken by Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service have revealed remains of considerable interest directly adjacent to the modern road. Preserved Roman road surfaces have been discovered in the form of cobbled surfaces adjacent to, and running parallel to, the existing road. There are even the original drainage ditches. Geophysical survey along the eastern section of the road has indicated that the modern road is directly above the Roman road, and there are probable remains of a Roman farmstead nearby.

Finds from the investigations currently include Roman pottery (such as high quality samian ware), Roman glass, metal working debris and artefacts, and even cremated human remains from alongside the road. It is anticipated that further finds will be made in the next few weeks, as other areas are excavated.

*Julian Cotton
Archaeological Advisor*

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Learn more about Roman Herefordshire at
'Historic Herefordshire On Line'
(www.smr.herefordshire.gov.uk)