



CDAS – Chairman’s Monthly Letter – July 2020

With the lockdown gradually easing we are able to consider some fieldwork and activities. We are working on a number of Geophysics Projects and hope to be able to start some by September. We have added two guided walks to our activity programme and plan other events – all are listed in this Newsletter.

We have made some progress on creating a private YouTube Channel for showing pre-recorded talks. This will allow us to restart our talks program in the autumn if New Park does not re-open or people are reluctant to attend a physical gathering. 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.

I plan to publish our autumn talks programme in August’s Newsletter.

Fish-weir at East Head.

We still plan to visit and record this site on 23rd August, when the tides are favourable. In the light of the latest Covid 19 guidelines we should be able to put together a strong team of people to make the survey and photograph the structures.

Medmerry

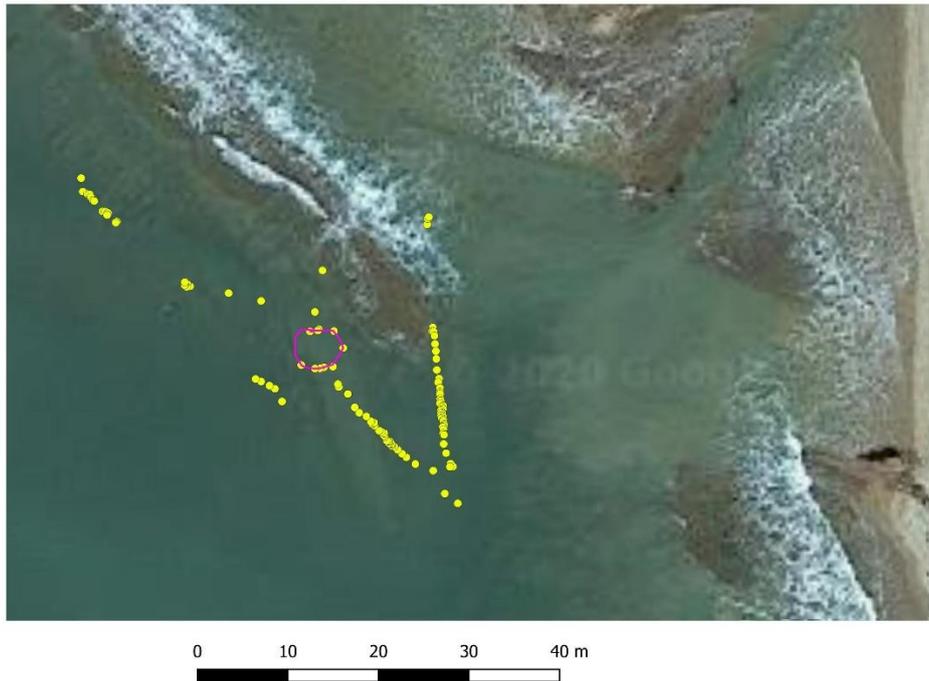
Fish Trap

A lot has happened in June to increase our knowledge and understanding of the significance of the fish trap at Medmerry.

On 6th June a small team lead by Peter Murphy visited the site to photograph, record and take wood samples for radiocarbon dating. It was a very blustery day with water swirling through the various channels around the fish trap. Due to the conditions it proved impossible for Hugh to create his usual 3D model from the photographs. However he did take many good photos and the other aspects of the recording went well.

Following our visit, Therese Kearns of CITiZAN made a visit to the site and recorded the location of the posts using a super accurate Leica GPS. This also had the advantage of creating a plan of the structure which we could load into a Geographic Information System (QGIS in our case). See the picture on the next page. The circular feature looks similar to the one we have seen at East Head. The length of the trap from NW to SE is about 55 metres, making it much larger than the trap we recorded at Medmerry West in 2016/17

Medmerry East Fish Trap overlaid on Google Earth



Peter King suggested that the fish trap at Medmerry East was aligned with a wooden structure (LWS1) recorded by Archaeology South East during their work on the Medmerry Managed Realignment Scheme. This work is written up in the book "A View from the Edge", CDAS has two copies.

Adding in this structure to the fish trap on QGIS gives the picture below.

Relationship between LWS1 and MBE Fish Trap



It is clear from this picture that the two structures are indeed related and together form a much larger fish trap. The overall length from SE Corner to the Northern extremity is 225 metres, an enormous structure. The gap between the two structures is around 40 metres. When we return to the site we might be able to find timbers in this gap.

We hope to be able to confirm the connection by radiocarbon dating our samples and comparing the dates to those for LWS1.

Our thanks to Peter King for pointing out the alignment.

Activities

Unfortunately as you may have seen on the website we have had to postpone Henry Wakeford's popular guided walk around Petworth in August. However we have added two guided walks to our programme.

Mark Seaman will lead a walk at **Idsworth on 23rd July** and **Mike Kallaway** will lead a walk at **Kingley Vale on 19th August**. Full details will be added to the website shortly.

In the past we did not need to know numbers in advance, people could just turn up on the day. In view of the requirement to maintain social distancing we need to know numbers in advance. To book a place please contact Pauline Blagden at activities@cdas.info

We have two other activities that we believe will go ahead based on latest information. We encourage members to book early so that we can manage numbers and social distancing.

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 due by 8 August 2020. Details of how to pay will be sent when your place is confirmed. Places are limited so book early.

Outline: 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!

Study Day: Chichester's Maritime Past, led by writer and historian Ian Friel.

Date: Saturday 28 November 2020

Time: 10:00 – 16:00

Location: Fishbourne Roman Palace (Rudkin Room), Roman Way, Fishbourne, Chichester PO19 3QR. There is plenty of parking.

Cost: Members £25, non-members £30. Payment is due by 30 October 2020. Details of how to pay will be sent when your place is confirmed.

Outline: Covering the area from Pagham Harbour to Chichester Harbour, and the period from prehistory onwards, this study day will explore Chichester's maritime history through both archaeological and historical sources, drawing on Ian's own research. The maritime history of this area is much richer than sometimes realised. It includes, for instance, an Elizabethan sailor from Chichester who vanished in the Indian Ocean, the Harbour's role as a grain-

exporting haven in the 18th century, its surprising history in constructing Georgian warships, the local oyster fishery, and the development of yachting and leisure boating in the 20th century.

To book a place please on either activity contact Pauline Blagden at activities@cdas.info

Membership Renewal

As I write around 65% of the 193 Members at the start of the process have renewed. This is a significantly lower proportion than at this time last year, reflecting the unique circumstances due to Covid 19.

As we restart activities and fieldwork we will need to ensure that participants have renewed their subscription in order not to invalidate our insurance.

In view of the possible risk of spreading Covid19 we ask members not to pay by cheque but use bank transfer instead.

Other activities Members might be interested in

FutureLearn are hosting an **on-line course from University of York - Exploring Stone Age Archaeology: The Mysteries of Star Carr**

Discover Star Carr, one of the world's most important archaeological sites, and learn what life was like over 10,000 years ago.

Further details on how to join can be found at <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/exploring-stone-age-archaeology-the-mysteries-of-star-carr>

Thérèse Kearns of CITiZAN has posted a blog **Incredible hulks and where to find them.**

Estuaries and creeks around the coast of England are littered with the remains of watercraft which have been deliberately abandoned when they are no longer perceived to be useful. The term 'hulk' is used to describe these vessels and it is their deliberate disposal which distinguishes them from shipwrecks which have been lost accidentally. In 2013 a survey by MOLA (commissioned by Historic England) identified at least 199 assemblages of hulked vessels all around the English coastline and this is by no means the complete record.

One such assemblage lies in Forton Lake, a tidal creek in Gosport, Portsmouth Harbour. The collection includes over 30 vessels of various shapes and sizes built roughly between the 1800s and 1960s. Each one has a unique story which illustrates the wide-reaching influence and significance of maritime heritage in this local area and beyond.

You can read the blog at <https://citizan.org.uk/blog/2020/Jun/19/incredible-hulks-and-where-find-them/>

We would welcome any suggestions from you on how to fill the void in our programme. Are there particular topics you would be interested in? Would contact using skype/zoom be of any interest?

I hope that you are all well and managing to stay in contact with family and friends during this difficult time.

Best wishes

Mike Kallaway

CDAS Chairman

30th June 2020

