

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
11th July, 1974

At the AGM the following officers were elected:

Chairman	Les Fawcett
Secretary	Richard Searle
Treasurer	Peter Hoath

Proposals for committee were received for Barbara Applin, Mary Oliver, Duncan Russell, Pam Judkins, Iris Gregory and Joy Needham. The first four were elected; we hope that Iris and Joy will be proposed again next year. It was agreed to ask the Industrial Archaeology Group to continue to send a representative to our Committee meetings.

Richard Searle will not be able to take over as Secretary immediately, as he is involved in completing a thesis and moving house, but Barbara Applin will continue with secretarial duties until he is ready.

Two motions put to the meeting were carried:

"That the Society's subscription rates should be amended to include a rate for pensioners of 50p"

and

"That the Society initiate an approach to the new Basingstoke District Council for the provision of funds so that a full time District archaeologist may be appointed and maintained".

This last motion is designed to follow the example already set in Winchester, Southampton, Portsmouth and the Test Valley District where money has been allocated from these District Councils for the appointment of archaeologists. The scale of archaeological work in the Basingstoke District - especially in the light of Planning Area 8 - is beyond the resources of our Society alone, and we feel that a professional appointment to the District Council staff is essential. This proposal already has the backing of several societies and individuals, and a Working Party has now been set up to present a case to the District Council.

Visit to BUTSER
Sunday, 4th August '74

The Society is invited to visit the Ancient Farm at BUTSER on Sunday, 4th August, when Peter Reynolds will show us round. This is something not to be missed: among the experiments being carried out there are the building of huts, growing and storing of grain and breeding of pigs and sheep - all of Iron Age type.

Meet in the car park at Butser Hill (SU 717 203; just off the A3, between Petersfield and Horndean) at 2 pm. Own transport. Mrs Verstage (109 Cliddesden Rd, Basingstoke 4664) has offered a lift from Basingstoke, and Josie Wall (Woolhampton 3477) has offered a lift to anyone on her route from Padworth.

If any members can't manage the visit on 4th August, the Basingstoke Field Society invite them to join them on 29th September; meet at Butser at 2.15 pm.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS

At our request, the Basingstoke Library will now take copies of the Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Current Archaeology. Do make use of these. There are other publications which contain a great deal of useful and interesting material and we are considering asking the Library to take these:

Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society
 Britannia
 Archaeological Journal
 Medieval Archaeology
 Post-Medieval Archaeology

Please let the Secretary know if there are any other publications you would like us to ask for - and continue to ask for them at the Library.

Visit to DANEBURY
Thursday, 5th September 1974

Vic Emery has kindly agreed once again to meet us at Danebury and to show us the results of this year's excavation. This time the dig is going on for longer, so our visit will take place while it is still in progress.

Meet at Danebury car park at 7 pm. Site reference: SU 324 377, 3 miles NW of Stockbridge.

Society Excursion
6th July

We were very lucky in having a fine day for what proved to be an even more interesting trip than we had expected. Our first stop, at Andover, seems not far from home but Max Dacre introduced us to a most impressive site now being excavated. It began as an investigation of a group of round barrows showing up on air photographs - and even these are larger than anyone else's barrows! Running through this group is an Iron Age boundary ditch, containing a dump (or votive offering?) of Romano-British pottery, and this leads into an Anglo-Saxon cemetery. Some of the grave goods from the cemetery have been displayed for one day in Andover Library, but members who didn't manage to see them will be glad to know that Max has offered to come and give us a talk about the site.

From Andover we went to Avebury and were given very interesting introductions to the Sanctuary and to Avebury itself by Alan Burchard, who used to be Assistant Curator at the Devizes Museum and knows the area very well. Some of us then visited the delightful Avebury Manor, with its lovely gardens, while a few hardier members walked back to the Sanctuary, where the coach later met them. We reached Devizes in time to look at the museum or explore the town before tea, and on the way back we stopped to look at the flight of locks on the Kennet and Avon Canal, just outside Devizes. Mary and John Oliver did a splendid job of organising the excursion, and made

us feel as if we'd visited even more places than we did, by pointing out a white horse, hillfort, causewayed camp, barrows etc. that we passed.

FORTHCOMING BOOKS
by Norman Webster

Many members will remember Mr Webster's talk to the Society in April 1972 on Joseph Locke and the London and Southampton Railway. Mr Webster's next book, *THE GREAT NORTH ROAD*, will be published on September 2nd this year; in it Mr Webster has given the result of his walks on abandoned medieval tracks which the road once followed. Railway enthusiasts should also look out for his study of the London and Birmingham Railway, to be published early next year by David & Charles.

Visit to
SOUTHAMPTON

One recent fine Sunday afternoon eleven members and friends set out in a Minicoach for Phil Morris's Tour of Southampton.

Instead of entering the town along the Avenue, as one usually does when coming from Basingstoke, we went in further to the west along what, in Phil's opinion, was the old Roman lead export route, past Southampton 'Cliffs' now well inland after reclamation over the last 70 years for the docks. The Itchen was crossed on the St Denys Bridge, with a stop for geography chat, to visit Clausentum, the Iron Age/Roman settlement - now a rather neglected open space. Recrossing the river brought us to Hamwih, the Anglo-Saxon settlement in present day Northam. The main settlement is now under a block of flats but a small area was being excavated. A visit to God's House Tower was next on the itinerary. This is one of the series of excellent Museums that Southampton has created in some of its historic buildings. God's House Tower is one of the Towers in the Town Walls, and the view over the lower part of the town and the docks is well worth the climb to the roof. The building houses Iron Age, Roman and Medieval collections.

After a welcome stop for tea, the tour continued with a look on foot at various parts of the wall near the Royal Pier, the outside of the Tudor House museum and a medieval area being excavated, and a peek through the wall to the Norman chimney on show in the museum grounds, the very finely restored King's Head public house and the wine vaults in the Bugle Street area.

The last walk was sufficient for most of us, and the rest of the tour was done in the coach. Crossing the Itchen again, this time by the chain ferry, we climbed out of the river valley and eventually came round to the limit of the tideway at the Swaything Tide mill. A drive westwards took us out of the town, past the modern development, and the open country of the Test valley for the journey home.

This briefest of outlines does not do justice to Phil's very comprehensive and well planned tour. The many small unusual things that one would not notice without them being pointed out, the buildings that have changed their use but still have many of their original features, as well as the archaeology and geography made an excellent tour. Many thanks, Phil. Many thanks also to Josie Wall for driving the minibus.

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BASINGSTOKE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

EXCAVATIONS AT VIABLES FARM, BASINGSTOKE

Members will know from the local press that redevelopment work has been set in hand to turn the former farmland attached to Viables Farm into a light industrial estate. Preparation of the feeder roads and services for this estate included excavation for a water main; this revealed sufficient of interest for a gradiometer survey of the area to be carried out by the Ancient Monuments Laboratory of the Department of the Environment.

The survey has revealed a pattern of readings which can be interpreted as an enclosure ditch and associated features, the whole being broadly similar in outline to that at Ruetstalls Hill (but on a much smaller scale). The Society has accordingly decided to carry out trial trenching during this summer; should the results be encouraging, the intention is to proceed with major excavation next year.

This year's excavation is planned for six weekends (17/18 August, 24/26 August, 31 August/1 September, 7/8 September, 14/15 September, 21/22 September) and volunteers would be very welcome on these dates. Work on the site will take place from 9.30 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 6 pm. Volunteers should provide their own packed lunches, waterproof clothing, kneeling pad if they use one, and a trowel (for those who have not dug before, a WELDED 4" POINTING TROWEL, made by HES or Bradco or similar, is the most suitable). A small hand-brush, hand-shovel and polythene bucket are also useful. Other equipment will be provided by the Society. Transport may be available for those who give us sufficient notice.

Will those wishing to attend please tear off the slip at the bottom of the page and return it to Pam Judkins at the address given.

To reach the site from the town

Go south down Cliddesdon Road until you reach the ring road roundabout, close to the Golden Lion inn and a Jackson's garage. Go straight across, down the road marked Jay's Close (it is is a cartway at the top, don't be confused). Follow this road as it sweeps round first to the right and then to the left past the ICI Factor factory site; continue to the end of the road, which is then the site!

Please tear off and return to: Mrs P.M.J. Judkins, 43 Sylvia Close, Basingstoke

I shall attend the Viables Farm excavations:
(Delete the times and days not possible)

17 August am/pm	31 August am/pm	14 September am/pm
18 August am/pm	1 September am/pm	15 September am/pm
24 August am/pm	7 September am/pm	21 September am/pm
25 August am/pm	8 September am/pm	22 September am/pm
26 August am/pm		

Name
Address