

IfA London Group Newsletter No. 2



London Area Group

MAKING AN IMPACT: PUTTING PPS5 INTO PRACTICE

IHBC and IfA London Joint Seminar

Thursday 20 January 2011 – 2.00 pm

The Gallery, 70 Cowcross Street, EC1M 6EJ

Please note: Places should be reserved by emailing Sheila.stones@english-heritage.org.uk

Payment of £5 on the door



I trust you have all seen the notification of the meeting above, the first of what I hope will be continuing close engagement with our colleagues in IHBC. I apologise for having omitted the contact details for Sheila Stones, secretary to London IHBC, for you to notify your intention to attend, so that we can keep a track of numbers.

Robert Whytehead LAG Chair

Making PPS5 Work: realising the benefits of planning-led investigation of the historic environment

Following hard on the heels of our IHBC/IfA PPS 5 seminar, comes a series of workshops organised by the 'Southport Group' – formed at the IfA Conference there. These are being held in London, at the Museum in Docklands: -

For further details on the Stockport Group and the workshops go to:-

<http://www.archaeologists.net/Southport>

Workshops

A series of workshops will run in January. All of them will be held at the [Museum of London in Docklands](#).

24 January

10.00-1.30 Workshop 1: How to achieve better quality in delivery (Chairs Peter Hinton, Stewart Bryant)

2.30-6.00 Workshop 2: How to achieve better opportunities for public participation and involvement in decision making, and improved quality of publication and dissemination (Chairs Mike Heyworth and Matthew Slocombe)

25 January

10.00-1.30 Workshop 3: How to achieve proper compilation and transfer of archive material and improved access to archives (Chairs Duncan Brown and tbc)

2.30-6.00 Workshop 4: How to achieve a better research focus in delivery, and how to address fragmentation in the sector (Chairs Chris Gosden, Adrian Tindall and Frank Kelsall)

For information about these workshops and the agendas please [download this document](#).

To book your place email southport@archaeologists.net by **10 January 2011**.

We thought you might like to know a bit more about the members of your Group Committee, so we are featuring some of them, and what they did on their holidays, in mostly sunnier climes.....

Summer 'break'

Geoff Morley MSc FSA Scot PIfA - IfA LAG Secretary

Summer for the self-employed is usually not much different from the rest of the year, intermittent work with little chance for pre-booked breaks in case a job appears. This year, the summer was the busiest part of the year, with the recession seeming to ease slightly. As a result, my summer 'break' was actually spent at the exotic destinations of Sussex, various locations along the North Kent coast and also at the more unconventional 'holiday spot' of North Manchester.

The archaeology encountered along the way was as good and varied as the localities, and if the phrase, 'a change is as good as a rest' is to be believed I should feel well rested and not in need of a holiday.

The first project involved a semi-demolished Second World War air-raid shelter in northern Kent. This was to be preserved *in situ*, however, the developers required an exact plan of the footprint of the shelter, so as to be able to alter their foundation plan, a building survey was also undertaken at the same time.

The next project involved a small excavation in the grounds of a Grade I medieval Manor House, definitely dating to the C13th, and uncovering a previously unsuspected C12th moat.

After this, work took me to the north with a project which required the location, excavation and accurate recording of the footprint of two early cotton mills. The object was to form an accurate plan so that a decision could be made as to whether preservation *in situ* was a possibility.

None of these jobs were in my specialist region or in my specialist period, but continuous learning on the job is one of the joys of this trade, as is living out of a rucksack! ~~~~~



The battlefield viewed from the citadel at Cannae

Cannae, Mussolini and the pitfalls of battlefield archaeology William Filmer-Sankey (Alan Baxter & Assocs.)

On 2 August 216BC, a Roman army, under the command of Gaius Terrentius Varro and Lucius Aemilius Paullus, was surrounded and massacred by Hannibal's Carthaginians at the Battle of Cannae; some 50,000 Roman soldiers are said to have died and only 3,000 escaped. The site of the battle, which is some 15 km inland from Barletta, in Puglia (Southern Italy), can be viewed from the partly excavated citadel which commands a superb view of the broad valley of the river Aufidus, where the battle took place.

Today, the site is largely deserted. In the 1930s, however, it was the scene of extensive excavations with an overtly political purpose: for Mussolini Cannae was not a defeat, but a heroic example of Roman self-sacrifice in defence of the Republic. Comparisons were made between Mussolini and Scipio Africanus, who assumed command after Cannae and was finally able to defeat the Carthaginians, and between the Second Punic War and Mussolini's invasion of Ethiopia. It is hardly surprising that the excavations at Cannae – which uncovered a series of graves, one identified as that of Paullus and others of brave legionaries who died for their country – were interpreted to bolster this view.

It is also hardly surprising that recent, more rigorous scholarship has reached a different conclusion: Paullus' grave was in fact a cistern and the remaining graves were medieval. Like many battlefields, Cannae today is a place of many ghosts, and well worth a visit, both for the atmosphere and for a chance to reflect on the perils of over-zealous archaeological interpretation! ~~~~~

What I did on my holidays, the archaeology of population movements

Roy Stephenson (Museum of London) – LAG Treasurer

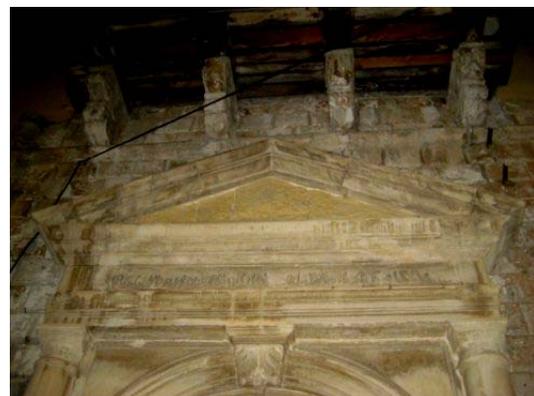
My usual day job is at the Museum of London, with a particular interest in public archaeology and material culture, i.e. finds. The Stephensons decamped to the Greek Island of Crete for their summer holiday, and while I tend to avoid Museums and historical sites I allowed myself the treat of going to the seminal site of Konossos, the site of Arthur Evans sometimes much slated reconstruction of the Minoan Palace, Which, despite what ever critical comment you read, is fantastic it brings to life an ambiance that might be missing from a conventional excavation site presentation. Arkadi monastery was the destination of our pilgrimage on another day, Arkadi the site of the 'Holocaust' when the abbot allowed the magazine to be ignited while under attack by the Turks in 1866 when nearly thousand refugees were killed along with besieging Turkish forces. Skulls from the dead are displayed in a charnel house or ossuary.



Clearly a human remains display policy has not circulated far in the Greek Orthodox Church.

This was a turning point in the struggle for Greek independence, which saw the creation of a detached autonomous Crete in 1898, and subsequent declaration of union with Greece in 1908, and recognized internationally in 1913. After the Greco-Turkish war there were considerable population exchanges between Greece and Turkey as a consequence of the treaty of Lausanne in 1923. In the case of Crete people had been leaving since the late 19th century for Turkey and other parts of the Ottoman Empire, such as the Lebanon and Syria. Ultimately the figures of how many left is unclear, possibly between 200,000 and 300,000. Curiously some of the 'Turkish' refugees were actually of Greek extraction, having converted to gain tax advantage and advance under the Ottoman regime. The misery of Greek and Turkish refugees is documented elsewhere, and ultimately the nature of urban sprawl of Athens owes some to this influx.

What interested me in Crete are the tantalizing remnants of a substantial minority population. There are indications of the Turkish influence in language, cuisine and occasional place names. There is a dwindling amount of evidence in terms of buildings and landscape. Needless to say Crete has gone through some substantial changes since 1923 including occupation in World War 2 and widespread post-war development to accommodate tourism, there are substantial relics in the main towns mostly of Mosques. Occasionally there are signs in Turkish Arabic script, for instance in Rethymon, a sea side town on the north coast is this large urban mansion with an overhanging balcony.



The nearby Fortessa, the biggest fort built by the Venetians in the 16th Century designed by Sforza Pallavicini - in response to pirate raids by

Barbarossa and others, and subsequently overrun by the Turks in 1645 - contained within it a domed mosque dedicated to Sultan Ibrahim. This airy building is now used as a concert venue. In the underground cistern are many Turkish stone grave markers, presumably gathered from the vicinity of the mosque



Perhaps the onsite presence of the Ephorate responsible for conservation has led to their preservation.

In light of discussions at PPS5 and Archaeology in London meeting on the 14th October 2010 about the sense of memory and place, in Crete a major episode in its history is substantially physically diminished. In less than 90 years the presence of a major minority is almost gone, this can be seen in other Mediterranean and Balkan countries, the removal of the remains of displaced people is clear in Cyprus, and presumably in Israel and former Yugoslavian countries.



Jane Sidell (IAM, English Heritage) spent her holidays doing environmental archaeology on her long-term project at the naval fortress of Noviodunum, on the Danube in Eastern Romania. This largely meant assessing animal bone from the recently dug Roman deposits, including a hypocaust building, coming up, as ever, in the last few days of this, the last season. Being on the Danube, the site is tremendously rich in fish remains, of which I looked at roughly 23,000 this year.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Committee discussed a number of possible topics for forthcoming events at their last meeting. We don't have firm dates as yet, but are considering day conferences on:

- Late post-medieval archaeology
- Historic building recording and the research framework for London
- Archaeology on major infrastructure projects in London

Also a meeting on sampling and other areas for consistency of working across London; and making the IfA relevant to students

We would be delighted to hear from you if you have any ideas for meetings, or topic areas you would like to see covered by IfA London Area Group



Roman Barrows at Noviodunum

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