

LANDSCAPE
SURVEY GROUP
Quarterly news bulletin

January 2016

Apologies for the delay in sending this out.

I rely on members passing items of interest to me, so if news items crop up during the rest of January, February or March, or you spot any events in April to September (or later but with deadlines during the same period) please pass them on to me at any time – magnus.alexander@HistoricEngland.org.uk. Thanks in advance.

News

The Environment Agency has released 17 years' worth of LIDAR data under an open government licence that currently covers about 72% of England (sadly no data for Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland yet). Follow the link (<https://houseprices.io/lab/lidar>) and then click 'open the map', which should allow you to pan around and zoom-in to the Lidar mosaic. Becca Pullen tells me she has looked at a site on the Hoo Peninsula that she knows well to assess the quality and it is pretty good as a first-glance tool. Once you've zoomed in though it is quite hard to navigate because it doesn't have a map overlay or any grid references, but as something to play around with it is quite satisfying.

Members may be interested to know that the first tranche of fieldwork for the University of Reading's *'Extending Histories: from Medieval Mottes to Prehistoric Round Mounds'* project began in September 2015. The aim of this inter-disciplinary research project is to uncover prehistoric mounds that were adapted for medieval defence or have been misidentified as later mottes – a previously unrecognized phenomenon that could re-write our understanding of both the later Neolithic and Norman periods. The 2015 fieldwork involved the coring and analytical earthwork survey of ten castle mottes from across England (including: Berhamstead, Brinklow, Bramber and Skipsea), which will be followed by a programme of scientific dating and detailed environmental analysis. If members want to find out more about the project and follow results they can visit the Round Mounds Project blog page: <https://roundmoundsproject.wordpress.com/>.

A short film about landscape survey at the WWI training complex at Redmires, in the Peak District National Park near Sheffield, has just been released by the University of Sheffield's Department of Archaeology <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kg-GKrnPqJk>. The film was made by Al Oswald during his time teaching Landscape Archaeology at Sheffield last year and stars Helen Ullathorne, who kindly led the LSG on a tour round the site in 2013.

"The POWs of Holmbury Hill: a walk through First World War forgotten history" by Peter Brown, is now available to download from the Amazon Kindle store for £1.99, with proceeds going to the Holmbury Bonfire Boys. Following the recent survey, the story of the Holmbury POW camp is now told through a walking guide downloadable to your Kindle, tablet, smartphone or PC. Directions and a walking map enable locals and visitors to explore this intriguing piece of local history.

Events

March 5, London: The Prehistoric Society are holding a day school at the Society of Antiquaries – ‘The Land, The Sea and The Sky’ will look at prehistoric landscapes in the broadest possible sense. Info at www.prehistoricsociety.org.

March 18-19: **The 2016 LSG AGM and spring field trip, York.**

Meet Friday lunchtime in the Hotham Room (ground floor), Historic England, 37 Tanner Row, York, YO1 6WP. The provisional timetable is:

Friday 18th March	
1-2pm	Lunch in the Hotham Room (to be confirmed)
2-3.30pm	AGM
3.30-4pm	Tea/coffee
4-5pm	Short presentations by members
5-5.30pm	Wine reception
Evening	Evening social
Saturday 19th March	
Field trip into the Yorkshire Wolds. Transport should be available depending on confirmed numbers of attendees. Anticipated return to York (stop at train station) by mid-afternoon	

Full details of the Friday evening and Saturday field trip elements will be announced to attendees nearer the time. Please confirm your attendance with Rebecca Pullen (rebecca.pullen@HistoricEngland.org.uk) ASAP to allow her to plan, but no later than Friday 4th March. Rebecca is also the person to contact with general queries and if you would like to offer a presentation on any current landscape research project that might be of interest to other members. Nathalie will be in touch nearer the time to request Agenda items but please get in touch (nathalie.barrett@winchester.ac.uk) any time with any ideas, suggestions or comments either for this meeting or about the LSG in general.

April 1: deadline for submission of abstracts to the Landscape Archaeology Conference 2016, Uppsala, Sweden, 23-25 of August, 2016. The 4th International Landscape Archaeology Conference will be hosted by the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, Uppsala University, Sweden. The list of Sessions and Panels can be found here: http://www.arkeologi.uu.se/LAC_2016+/Sessions/

April 9: There will be a Sussex conference on Roadside Settlements in Britain. Book online at: <http://sussexpast.co.uk/event/roman>.

May 16 -18: A 3-day Introduction to Landscape Archaeology course, to be held in North Yorkshire. Check the Historic England website.

June 8 A 1-day Introduction to Landscape Archaeology course at Leicester University. Check Historic England/Leicester University websites.

*And advanced notice of the **2016 LSG 3rd Annual Conference:***

September 16-17 in Exeter. With thanks to Phil Newman for co-organising. Nathalie Barratt (see above) will be in touch with more details later in the year but please contact her with any advance queries. If you'd like to contribute then please see the Call for Papers previously circulated, and

available on the LSG website and social media pages. Please help publicise the event by distributing the Call for Papers poster to your contacts.

Finally...

Apologies for any glaring omissions and thanks to all contributors. Once again, any items for inclusion in the next newsletter to me (magnus.alexander@HistoricEngland.org.uk) by the end of March please.