



Maritime Archaeology

– Part 1

On 27th July 2024 the Nautical Archaeological Society will be celebrating World Anchor Day. So we thought it fitting to look at the different aspects of Maritime Archaeology.

Shipwrecks

The Stereotype is that Maritime Archaeology is all about shipwrecks. However as we shall see it covers a whole collection of different features.

Submarines



Submarines are a particular type of shipwreck that are often considered different in different ways to shipwrecks and that's often because they're usually closed capsules. They have the possibility of preserving the inside of the vessel in great detail but that also means there are most likely human remains inside

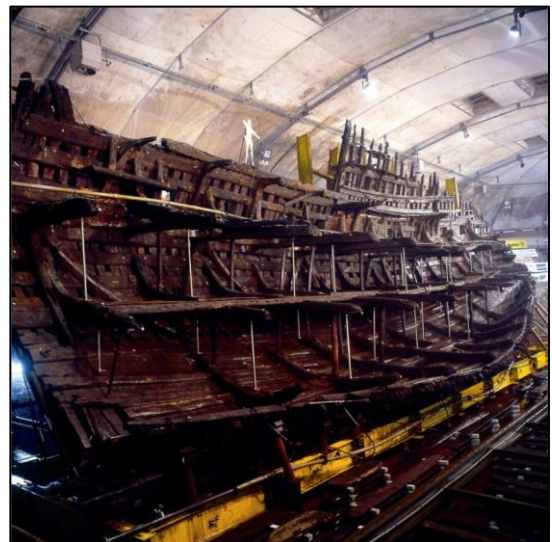
which adds a level of ethics morals, legal issues and logistical complexity.

Wrecked Vehicles & Planes



The skeletal remains of an American fighter plane that crashed during the Second World War off the Welsh coast at Harlech occasionally emerge ghost-like from the seabed.

Recovered Wrecks



FEATURES

The Mary Rose was launched in 1511 and served for 34 years in several wars against France, Scotland, and Brittany. The wreck of the Mary Rose was located in 1971 and was raised on 11 October 1982. The finds include weapons, sailing equipment, naval supplies, and a wide array of objects used by the crew.

The remains of the hull have been on display at the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard since the mid-1980s while undergoing restoration.

CAS visited Portsmouth Historic Dockyard on Saturday 7th July 2013

Wreck Constructions



John Cabot's voyage in 1497 was an attempt to reach land on the other side of the Atlantic, eventually hoping to find perfumes, silks and spices, rare sought after and expensive goods in the 15th century.

His ship the Matthew was reconstructed and shown here in Cardiff Bay in August 2013, having been built in Bristol in 1996.

Buried Boats



In 1994, local archaeologist Derek Upton made a remarkable discovery. While visiting the Magor Pill area with a team of archaeologists led by Rick Turner, Derek came upon the remains of a 13th century ship buried in the mud 500m from the sea wall at Magor Pill.

Boat finds from this period are extremely rare, so the decision was taken to recover and conserve the remains as shown in the above photo.



FEATURES

During the construction of the Riverfront arts centre, in 2002, on the banks of the River Usk in Newport an amazing discovery was made. A Medieval ship was excavated by a team of archaeologists and lifted from the ground timber by timber.

Dating from 1447, during excavation several hundred objects were found within the ship, the above photo shows one of these.

CAS visited the Newport Medieval Ship on Saturday 27th July 2013

Historic Ships



Other publicly accessible examples of Maritime archaeology are historic ships, survivors from their period in history. A famous example of this is the Victory, Nelson's flagship from 1805, preserved in its dock at Portsmouth.

CAS visited Portsmouth Naval Yards on Saturday 7th July 2013

Canals & Inland Waterways



Fourteen Locks is a series of locks, also known as the Cefn Flight, on the Crumlin arm of the Monmouthshire Canal at Rogerstone in Newport. The flight of locks was completed in 1799 and raises the water level 50 metres in just 740 m. This is one of the steepest rises for a major run in the UK which, combined with the sheer number of locks, makes it one of the most significant in the country.

CAS visited 14 Locks on Thursday 26th May 2016

FEATURES

Hulks



Some of you may be looking at the above photo thinking this looks like another wreck well it's not. Sometimes what we might call a ship wreck in layman's terms is actually a Hulk. A shipwreck usually implies an accident often with loss of life but we have some amazing Maritime archaeology sites that were abandoned rather than lost in tragic circumstances and the example of the Purton Hulks is one of these.

The Purton Hulks are a number of abandoned boats and ships, deliberately beached beside the River Severn near Purton in Gloucestershire to reinforce the river banks.

Maritime Archaeology - Part 2 follows in a future Newsletter

Work at Caerphilly Castle

Having watched the official videos on the Cadw website for the Caerphilly Castle Regeneration Project by Dr Kate Roberts, Cadw's Head of Historic Environment, we thought our Members

might be interested in a brief summary of the current work Cadw are undertaking there.

What are Cadw doing?

Phase One of the project is based in the inner ward of the Castle. It involves the lifting of all the Floor Slabs in the Main Hall in order to install new underfloor heating. This will also involve archaeological excavation to see if there are any historic layers beneath the floor. Once the complete refurbishment of the Great Hall is completed, Cadw intend to install a Service area with toilets and other facilities for visitors. This will facilitate future events to be held.

Several bridges also require replacing as they are reaching the end of their lives. Accessibility will be improved wherever possible with the inclusion of ramps.

On the South Dam of the Castle, a new Welcome Centre is envisaged including a Café area and toilets. This will also include Community rooms for educational use. Cadw apologises for any disruption but plan to keep as much of the Castle open as possible during renovation.

What have Cadw already done?

In 2023 Cadw completed the conservation of the three-storied Eastern Gate House. It was part of the original 14th century Castle but was heavily restored by Lord Bute in the 20th century. The gate house roof was leaking quite badly and was letting water come in damaging the structure especially to the surviving fireplaces. Repairs were carried out to the roof and a new structure placed over the top with paving slabs so that visitors will be able to access the fantastic views over Caerphilly from there. Interpretation boards are intended to include the stories of the people who built and

FEATURES

lived in the Castle through the centuries.



How is Cadw interpreting the castle?

Cadw plan to install new interpretations throughout the whole of the main Castle complex in each of the towers. Originally constructed in the 13th century they will illustrate the many hundreds of years of history to visitors by focusing on stories of some of the key people who owned the castle over the years. It is hoped to introduce the historical figures to the visitors, including Gilbert de Clair, the Norman Lord who first built the castle back in the 13th century; his daughter Elena de Clair, who inherited the castle from him and her husband, the infamous Hugh dispenser who played a big role in the downfall of king Edward II; then more recently

The Marquis of Bute who in the 20th century undertook a massive renovation of the Castle rebuilding many of the towers that we see today.

Also integral to the story are people like Llewellyn ap Griffith, Prince of Wales who attacked the Castle on several occasions and Llewellyn Bren, a local nobleman who also assaulted the Castle. The castle was on the very edge of the Norman Marches, so its story is very much about that battle for possession and ownership of these important territories.

What are the plans for the Great Hall?

The Great Hall is the largest room in the Castle, originally a place of splendid feasts and events. Originally built in the 13th century by Gilbert de Clair, the builder of the castle but over the years it was altered by later owners, in particular, by Hugh Despenser who redecorated it in the 14th century to be the finest room of the whole castle. Typical colour schemes for the time will be used in its restoration along with wall-hanging tapestries to recreate what it would have looked like in the 14th century. A series of steps lead down from the Great Hall to a Water Gate and it is hoped to conserve the passageway and open it to visitors again.

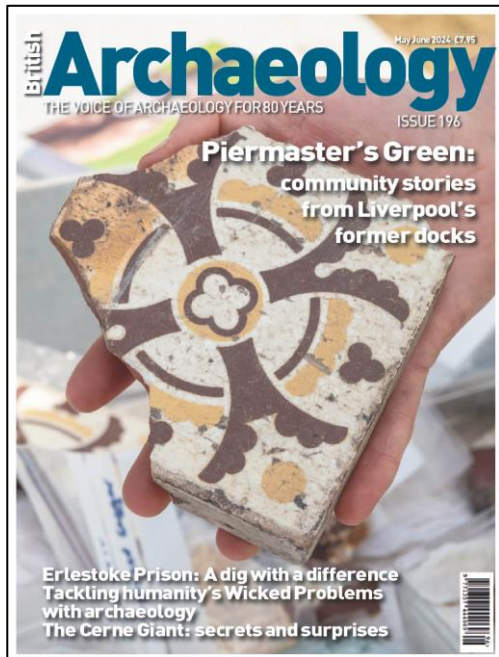
CAS last visited Caerphilly Castle in 1996.



FEATURES

Highlights from the Magazines

British Archaeology May-Jun 2024



Giant Surprises at Cerne Abbas

Piermaster's Green - Stories from Liverpool Docks

Small Wins & Wicked Problems - Global Challenges facing Archaeologists

Legion: Life in the Roman Army

Erlestoke Prison - A Dig with a Difference

Tides of History - Holy Island, Northumberland

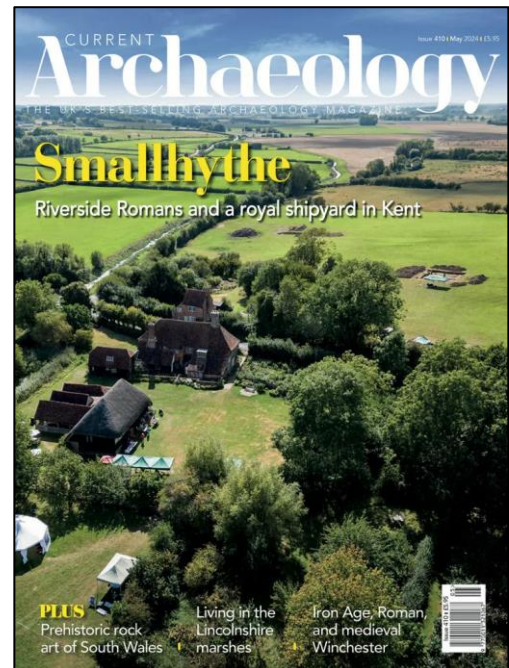
Goshall Valley Solar Farm, near Ash, Kent

CBA Youth Advisory Board - What do we want to achieve

Archaeology on Prescription

Art and Artifice

Current Archaeology May 2024



Science Notes: Hunting for Hazelnuts

ASpring filled with Votive Offerings - Llanfair-Mathafarn-Eithaf Community, Anglesey

Romans, Royal Ships, and a Rural Retreat - Exploring the Archaeology of Smallhythe Place

Between the Salt Water and the Sea Strand - Excavating the Hornsea Project One Cable Route in Lincolnshire

Visualising Venta Belgarum - Touring Prehistoric, Roman, and Post-Roman Winchester

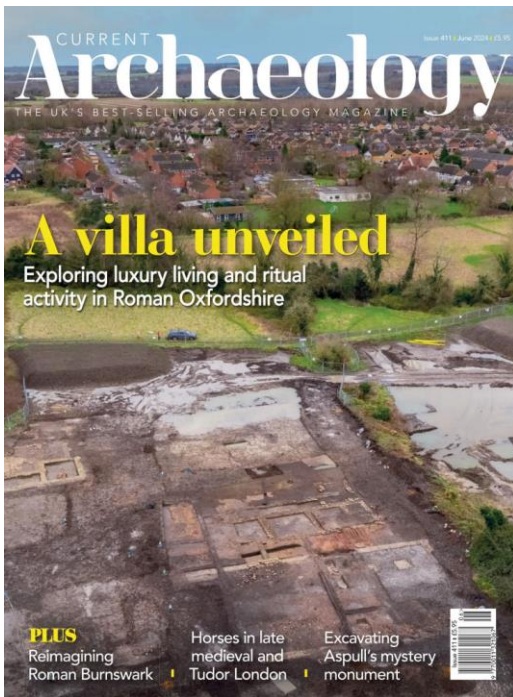
Documenting a Sacred Landscape - Rock Art and Monuments of the South Wales Uplands

A Tale of Three Giants - New Evidence for the Evolution of Cerne Abbas Chalk Colossus

Introducing Must Farm, a Bronze Age Settlement at Peterborough Museum & Art Gallery

Odd Socs - Historic Buildings & Places

Current Archaeology June 2024



A Villa Unveiled - Uncovering Luxury Living and Ritual Activity at Grove Villa in Roman Oxfordshire

Horse Power at Elverton Street - Tracing the Trade & Travels of Elite Animals in Late Medieval & Tudor London

A Wonder of the World - Wandering along London's Post-Medieval Waterfront

Ring the Changes - Investigating an Enigmatic Ring Ditch Monument at Aspull

A Conflict Reimagined - Creating a Digital Model of the Roman Assault on Burnswark hill

Science Notes: The Future is Plastic

Combing through History - Ipswich, Suffolk

OddSocs: The Milestone Society

Amesbury History Centre

World Archaeology Apr-May 2024



Warriors of Rome, The Legion Exhibition - From Soldiers to Citizens in Service of the Empire

The Tomio Maruyama Tomb - Discovering the Longest Sword & Largest Mirror in Ancient Japan

Mapping Histories - Recent Fieldwork at Jebel Hafeet, United Arab Emirates

Zimingzhong - The Mechanical Marvels where East meets West

Exploring an Ancestral Pueblo Community

Scandinavia's Earliest Ship Burial

The Apogee of Monte Cassino Part 2

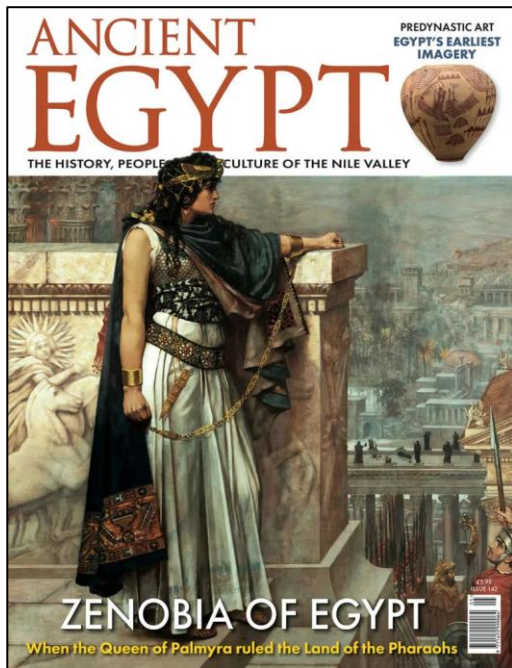
The Iron Age People of the Iberian Peninsula

The Power of Mud-Bricks

Object Lesson - Inscribed Roman Projectile

FEATURES

Ancient Egypt Mar-Apr 2024



The Treasure of Tanis - A Discovery Rivaling that of Tutankamun's Tomb

The Last Cleopatras

Palmyra, Blemmyes, Diocletian, and Egypt

Precise Construction of Funerary Structures at Qubbet El-Hawa (Aswan)

Beliefs and Narratives - Images from Predynastic Egypt

Rediscovering Egypt - The Harrogate Collection in Swansea

Milk

Mud-Brick, Mud-Brick, Glorious Mud-Brick

Object Highlight - Dwarf Lamp Stand

Ever wondered what Archaeology magazines in Germany cover:

Archaeology in Germany Apr-May 2024



Migration Period in the North

Intermediate Period - Continuity and Change in the Southern Baltic Region

Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania - Settlements, Graves, Treasures, Sacrificial Sites

Monsters and People - Finds decorated in Animal Style

Change reflected in Metal Finds Schleswig-Holstein - Settlement Archaeology surrounded by the Sea

Brandenburg - A Place of Encounters

Northern Poland - From all over the World

Quiz

1. Geological Period following the Ordovician
2. God of the Sun in Greek Mythology
3. Tuscan Pottery made from the 1st century BC to the 1st century AD
4. Plant of the Cabbage Family formerly used as a source of Blue Dye
5. Cereal Plant probably First cultivated in China during the Neolithic
6. Roman Glazed Pottery from North Wales
7. Container for Cremated Remains
8. King of Mercia in 796 AD
9. A Barrow Burial Site South-West of Stonehenge
10. Ancient Egypt God of the Sun

Future Events

Self-Drive Trips

A Selection of self-drive venues that we plan to visit this summer:

Medieval Bridgend - Led by members of Bridgend Local History and the Friends of St John's House

Monmouth Castle - Led by Will Davies (Cadw Inspector)

Recently discovered Cup Marked Stone at Llanfabon - Led by Kim Allen (landowner) and Edith Evans (Heneb)

Aspects of the Gwent Levels - Led by Jan Bailey (Chair Monmouthshire Antiquarian

Association)

Castell Meredydd, Lower Machen & Buffet - Led by Chris Bentham (Archaeologist) with Will Davies (Cadw Inspector)

And Saturday excursions to:

A Day at Margam Country Park - Prehistory, Abbey and Castle - Led by Dr David Robinson, and the Friends of Margam Park Walking

Churches and Castles at Ewyas Harold and Kilpeck - Led by David Whithead (Past President of the Woolhope Club)

A Walking Tour of Medieval Bristol - Led by Robert Jones (retired Bristol City Archaeologist)

All dates have been advised to Members with further details to follow.

Links to Websites



This is Archaeology: Maritime Archaeology: It's not just shipwrecks

by Peta Knott, Maritime Archaeological Society

When I introduce myself as a maritime archaeologist, I'm usually met by a positive and excited reaction with comments about how amazing shipwrecks are. This is entirely true. Shipwrecks as time capsules are intrinsically fascinating. But there is so much more to maritime archaeology that does not receive the same recognition, which is leading to its accidental and sometimes intentional destruction. While popular culture has a lot to answer for this uneven view, those working in the discipline have the power and responsibility

EVENTS & LINKS

to widen our collective understanding to ensure that our threatened maritime heritage is appreciated and preserved.

This talk will outline the breadth of maritime archaeology, highlighting a variety of site types from the UK and overseas, particularly those on which the presenter has personal experience. It will also provide heritage practitioners and history enthusiasts with some practical tips on how to share the excitement of all aspects of maritime archaeology with anyone who cares to listen.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DOzliD_opg4



Iron Age and Roman Silchester: 50 years of research in perspective

by Professor Michael Fulford

Once thought to be a worked-out site following the Society of Antiquaries' excavations, 1890 - 1909, excavations at Silchester (Callewa Atrebatum) since the 1970s have shown remarkable preservation of the archaeology through all its periods of occupation from late Iron Age through to late Roman. Thanks to major continuing developments in environmental archaeology and material culture studies, excavation and its subsequent analysis have enriched our understanding of both public and private life and the buildings in and around which those lives were played out.

The lecture will attempt to highlight the more important discoveries and place them in the wider context of urban life in late Iron Age and Roman Britain.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3iCCwX82biA&t=4s>



Talking to the Ancestors: Iron Age Painted Tombs of the Wadi Draa, Morocco

by Prof David Mattingly

The Iron Age peoples of the Sahara remain poorly studied archaeologically, so we have little to counteract the dismissive views of desert communities found in the ancient sources, where they tend to be characterized as barbarians and nomads. The Oasis Civilisations project in southern Morocco has been investigating the Iron Age and Medieval inhabitants of an important desert valley, the Wadi Draa. This lecture will present a stunning archaeological discovery of tombs with painted annexes, featuring both geometric designs and human figures. These pictures open a fresh window on the late Iron Age population and their relationship with the Roman empire to their north. They allow us to compare and qualify the accounts of Greco-Roman writers so as to present a more complex and richer picture of these people, their clothing, lifestyle and beliefs. The lecture will also link to the new data to themes in my recent book on Africa in the Roman Empire.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=powYtZULa_E

Answers to Quiz

1. Silurian 2. Apollo 3. Arretine Ware 4. Woad 5. Rice 6. Holt Ware 7. Cinerarium 8. Ecgfrith 9. Bush Barrow 10. Aten