

# Chichester excavations.

## Phillimore - Bignor

The excavations reported in this volume represent slightly over half of the total archaeological activity which has taken place under our direction during the period 1963-69. All the work has been carried out by properly trained volunteers working throughout the whole period at weekends and holiday times, in bad weather and good. Nearly all the diggers are from Chichester and the surrounding district, but some travel regularly each week from farther afield. The majority have taken courses at the College of Further Education or sponsored by the W.E.A.s, in order to achieve the necessary standard in archaeology, but many of the team bring to the task individual skills associated with their everyday work which are often of great value when special problems have to be dealt with. The wealth of goodwill and "knowhow" that we can now draw upon derives directly from the work and example of Dr Wilson himself, and we take pride in carrying on in the pattern which he laid down: that of local people with a great love and interest in their own local history, excavating it with their own hands. It is most heartening in an age where almost everybody expects to get paid, to find people who are eager to contribute so freely in time and money towards enriching the cultural heritage of our city and county.

Much of the work is of a rescue nature, mounted at short notice to extract what archaeological evidence there is before the site is redeveloped, but in some cases it is possible to undertake long term research within the city, well in advance of development. For these opportunities we are always grateful as the yield in knowledge is correspondingly higher.

It has been the settled policy of the Committee that all sites within the City and its environs should be investigated whenever possible, and whilst this sometimes imposes strains upon the organization the ultimate result cannot fail to be a great advance in the understanding of our city and the various phases of its history. Hitherto the Roman period has received the major share of attention, largely because the remains are more prolific, but also because the late Saxon period has been difficult to define and because the medieval remains are almost wholly destroyed by later Georgian buildings. Nevertheless, a start has been made, and the formation of a documentary research study group under the leadership of Dr Gough may eventually assist us to a better understanding of the lay-out of 15th and 14th century Chichester.

In this volume we have attempted no more than to clear some of the backlog of reports which have accumulated over the last six years and to produce for the convenience of students a comprehensive Gazetteer of the Roman material from the city, known and reported on in a number of publications over the years. The next task is to produce a further volume in 2 to 3 years time which will include some excavations not hitherto published and work currently in progress. It is also intended that this volume will include a comprehensive survey of all the medieval and post-medieval pottery from the city, which the Committee's Consultant on these matters, Mr K.J. Ratton F.S.A., F.M.A., is preparing, and for this reason we have not attempted to deal in detail with these pottery types on sites where the

Description: -

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Notes: Professional and scholarly.

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## Exploring the castle at St Ann's Hill, Midhurst

Cirencester Roman Amphitheatre, Gloucestershire Roman Amphitheatre The remains of one of the largest Roman amphitheatres ever found in Britain although unfortunately no stonework can be seen, only earthworks. Barber-Surgeons' Hall Tower After reaching St Giles Cripplegate Tower, make a sharp left and continue through the gardens.

## Bignor

This included some trial trenching in an effort to understand which walls were ancient and which had been rebuilt by Hope, and to try to solidify a dating sequence for the site. The fort itself was the home of the official guard of the Governor of Britain, and would have housed around 1,000 men in a series of barrack blocks. The reason it has survived for almost 2000 years is that the wall was once used in the structure of a nearby church.

## Latest weekly Covid

The modern track from the village to the hill top climbs steeply up to and then roughly follows the Roman route, but before the car park at the top Stane Street can be seen as a wide flat terraceway below the modern track.

## Bignor

The next event will be held on 26-27 February 2021 — save the date! Highfield Barrow, Hemel Hempstead Roman Barrow User submitted by Stephanie Nield This well preserved Roman barrow is at the junction of Queensway and High Street Green in Hemel Hempstead, and although not currently open to the public it can be seen from the side of the road. Littlecote Roman Villa, Wiltshire Roman Villa The remains of Littlecote Roman Villa is perhaps most famous for its well preserved Orpheus mosaic which dates from the latter half of the 4th century AD.

## Exploring the castle at St Ann's Hill, Midhurst

Ham Hill, Somerset Roman Fort Originally an Iron Age hill fort, the Romans captured the site from the Britons in AD45. It is in the civil parish of. He volunteered to use the manor house as a secret forward base for members of the resistance who were waiting to be flown by light aircraft to on moonlit nights from air base.

## **Bignor Roman Villa**

Remains that can be seen today include Dere Street as well the camp's ramparts and entrances. Excavations ceased in 1819 after Samuel Lysons' death.

## **Bignor**

This section of the wall subsequently became the southern boundary of the churchyard, and thus escaped relatively unharmed from any redevelopment over the next 200 years. If you head to the front of the church you will also notice a fairly substantial wall. Newly discovered Pictish Fort under excavation.

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