



Registered Charity number: 1201251

Newsletter 152

Autumn 2023

Welcome to the Autumn 2023 GlosArch Newsletter. Our members have been busy since the spring, so there is plenty to report and the programme for the exciting 2023-24 lecture series can be found below. The 2022-23 lecture series finished strongly, to be followed by some interesting visits and, despite the poor weather, two excavations and some more geophysical surveying. The forthcoming lecture series looks excellent with subjects ranging from the Neolithic to the Medieval. There will also be further fieldwork at two, if not three sites and we are planning an excavation on the grandstand of the original Cheltenham race course next spring.

I am also excited to announce that the new website is fully up and running now, so please take a look and register to gain access to the member-only content.

STOP PRESS:

VISIT TO ARCHAEOSCAN SLIMBRIDGE EXCAVATION

Sunday 1st October 2023, 2pm

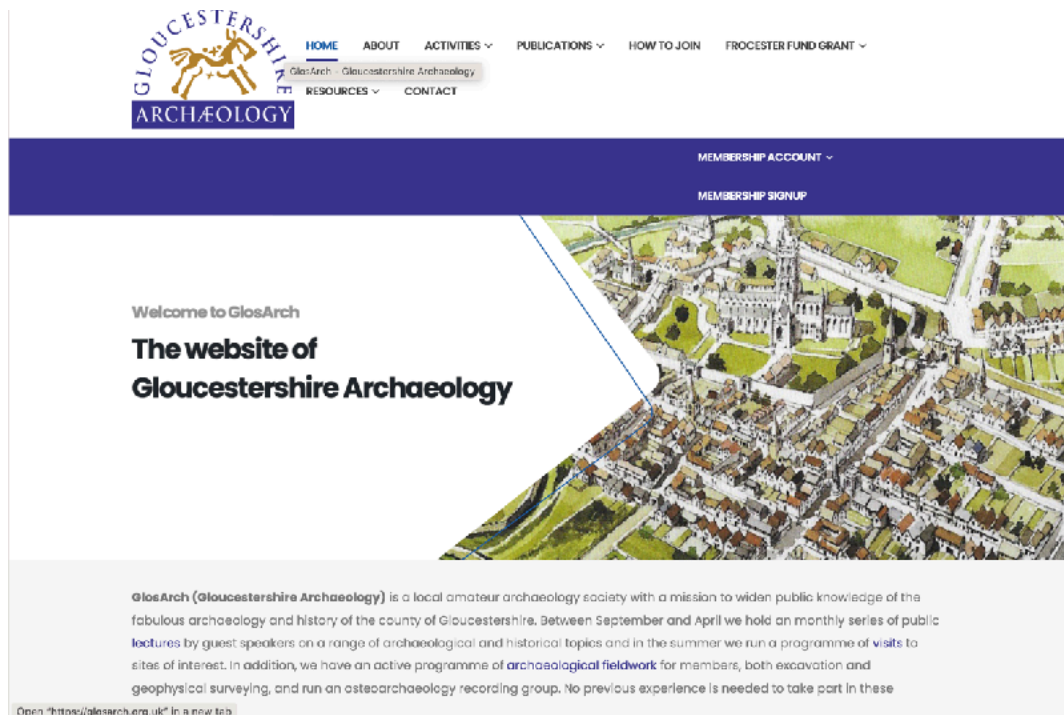
Mike Milward has arranged an extra visit at the end of this summer's programme. We will be returning to Tony Roberts' amazing Roman site at Slimbridge for an update on progress during the 2023 dig season.

Previously the dig had uncovered a significant series of Roman buildings close to the old shore line of the River Severn. Initial indications were that there was a high status aisled hall that was in use from the early Roman period to the middle of the 3rd century AD, with high status domestic finds and elements of underfloor heating. This year further work in May began to uncover what is believed to be the main villa building that accompanies the large aisled barn. Now Tony will be focussing on the main villa buildings.

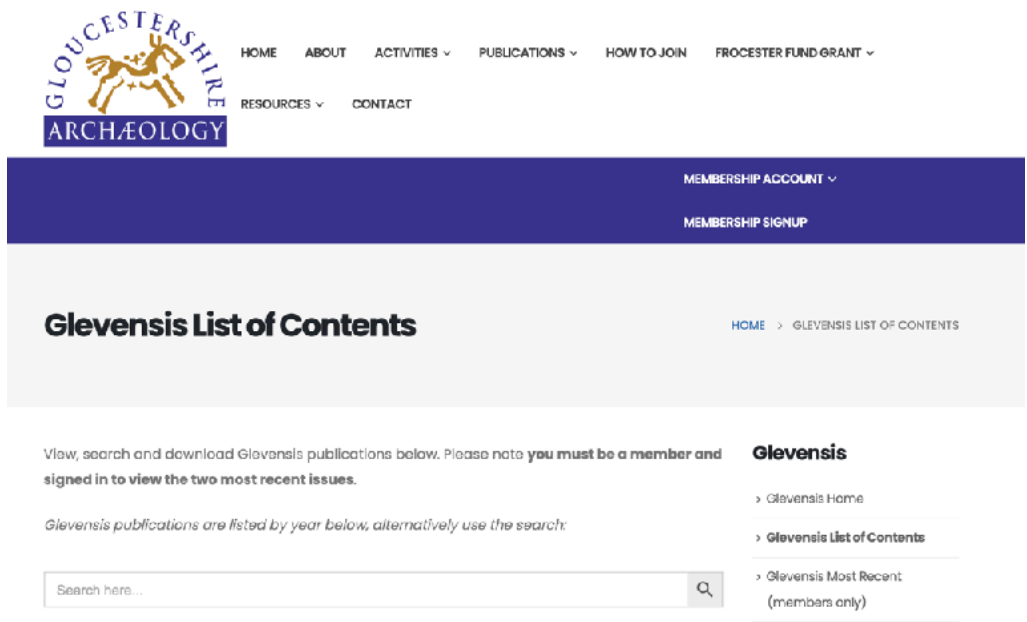
To find the site: From the A38, pass through Slimbridge village and follow the directions on the map available [here](#). Precise instructions on where to park will be provided nearer the date.

The New GlosArch Website

After several months of hard work by the website team and Karl Jones of KNM media, our web designer, the new website (still at www.glosarch.org.uk) went live at the end of June. Most of the glitches have now been ironed out and it seems to be working well.



In addition to information on forthcoming and past activities, the new site includes a searchable contents list of *Glevensis* as well as downloadable *Glevensis* volumes and a range of other reports and information, including an expanded Gloucester Maps and



Prospects compiled by Nigel Spry. There is also a dedicated members area, which can be accessed by creating an account on the website and logging in once your account has been activated. **Please note: existing members only need to complete the information on the membership checkout page on the website and do not need to submit a new application form and Gift Aid declaration.** Member resources include the latest two volumes of *Glevensis* and the archive of recorded lectures from the past two years.

The screenshot shows the Gloucestershire Archaeology website's Recorded Lectures Archive page. At the top is the Gloucestershire Archaeology logo, featuring a horse and rider. A navigation menu includes links for HOME, ABOUT, ACTIVITIES, PUBLICATIONS, HOW TO JOIN, PROCESTER FUND GRANT, RESOURCES, and CONTACT. The main heading is "Recorded Lectures Archive" with a breadcrumb trail: HOME > RECORDED LECTURE ARCHIVE (MEMBERS ONLY) > RECORDED LECTURES ARCHIVE. Below the heading is a note: "Click on the month/year button below to view the recorded GlasArch lectures." A list of lectures is displayed, each with a blue button for the month/year and the lecture title:

March 2023	Tony Roberts – 2022 Archaeoscan review
February 2023	Kurt Adams – 2022 PAS review
January 2023	Peter Warry – In search of the tiles that built Roman Corinium
December 2022	Members evening
November 2022	Chris Dyer Gloucestershire peasantry
October 2022	Mark Brett Forest Green Rovers
April 2022	Jon Hart – Milford Haven to Tirley pipeline

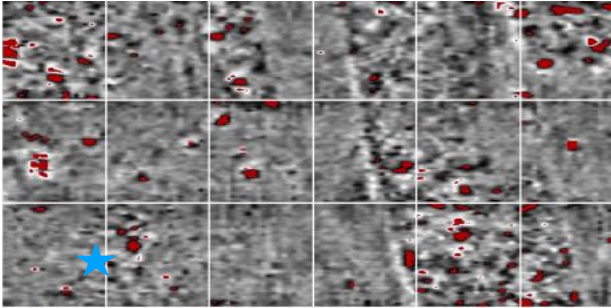
A blue arrow button is visible at the bottom right of the list.

Fieldwork

Although the weather has not been great over the summer months, GlosArch members have been busy out in the field with both geophysics and excavations.

Cleeve Common

Since the last Newsletter we have continued our geophysical surveying in relation to the grandstands of the original Cheltenham Racecourse, which was situated on the top of Cleeve Common. Racing took place here on the flat between 1819 and the 1840s. The original grandstand was wooden and was burnt down (probably arson) in 1829. Its replacement, built in the 1830s, was constructed of stone and could apparently be seen from the Promenade in Cheltenham. It was demolished when racing ended in 1842. Our previous resistivity survey showed evidence of the remains of the second, stone-built grandstand (see Letter 151). In May we returned to the site with the magnetometer to see if we could locate the site of the burnt first grandstand. The results of this survey were inconclusive, but our work sparked further media interest with your secretary and the



MAGNETOMETRY SURVEY (BLUE STAR IS SITE OF SECOND GRANDSTAND)



survey team of David Aldred and David Jones appearing on BBC Points West, whilst Mike Milward gave an interview to The Racing Post.

We are working with the Cleve Common Conservators to obtain permission from Natural England to undertake an excavation of the site in 2024, to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

Minsterworth

In August a team of excavators, led by Neil Cathie, returned to the site in Minsterworth where we have previously undertaken geophysics and excavation in search of a lost building which was evident on 18th and 19th century maps, but of which no trace remains on the surface. The excavations last year failed to locate the building, but identified a trackway and yielded a variety of pottery of various dates and other finds. Armed with new LIDAR data, showing the remains of ancient hedge lines, we were more confident of locating the structure. The weather was unhelpful, with rain turning the clay subsoil to a sticky, slick mess, however, more building material, nails and pottery were recovered and finally, at a depth of 50-60cm, rather deeper than expected, we located what appears to be a wall line. The dig was also notable for the first outing of the new sturdy gazebo, bought thanks to a generous grant from BGAS, for which we are very grateful.



Miserden

Following an approach from the landowner of a farm near Miserden, Neil Cathie visited the site of some possible unrecorded buildings. In June, he led a small exploratory excavation which identified well-preserved wall remains as well as some nearby architectural stonework. A second visit has identified further walls on this terraced platform. There seems likely to be much more to find here and further excavation is planned for 2024.



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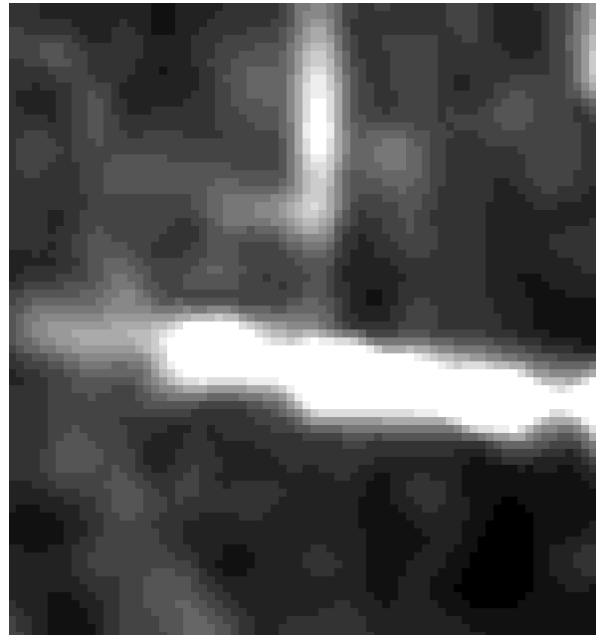
Geophysics Training. 26th August 2023

On this dry(ish) August Bank Holiday Saturday three GlosArch members took part in training on the resistivity meter and magnetometer, on the green in Lansdown Parade, Cheltenham, led by your Hon Sec.

Once we had set out our 20m grid we started by working through the set up of the resistivity meter and then proceeded to survey the grid, with some interesting results. After a short break we then moved on to the magnetometer. Once again we worked through setting up the device, which is a little more complicated than the resistivity meter, and then proceeded to survey the grid. To finish we retired to the secretary's kitchen to take a look at downloading and processing the results in the Snuffler software package.



Hopefully the trainees went home feeling more confident to use the equipment on other projects. A further training day can be organised in the coming months if there is demand.



RESISTIVITY SURVEY RESULT

Forthcoming Fieldwork

Brookthorpe

Neil Cathie is planning to return to Brookthorpe later in the autumn for a further few days of excavation close to the site of the Roman villa that was largely destroyed when the M5 was constructed. We will be looking in some previously inaccessible areas and trying to make sense of the features found last year. Dates for this dig will be confirmed in the next few weeks and volunteers will be sought. No previous excavation experience is needed for you to take part.

Cleeve Hill

Along with the Cleeve Common Conservators we are planning to undertake an excavation on Cleeve Common at the site of the grandstand of the original Cheltenham Racecourse. Having identified probable building remains by geophysics we want to excavate to confirm what is there and also look for further remains in the adjacent area. 2024 marks the 100th anniversary of the Cheltenham Gold Cup so it is an auspicious time to be looking at evidence of the sports history.

Castlemeads, Gloucester

As reported previously we are still intending to perform a magnetometry survey of possible civil war remains on Castlemeads, Gloucester. It is hoped that this can take place in the autumn of this year once arrangements have been finalised. Details will be circulated when they are available.

Summer Visits 2023

May 17th

Uley Walk

On the (fine and warm) evening of 17 May, Andy and Belinda Holley led nine members on a walk around their home village of Uley. The climb on old roads and paths led eventually to the location of the Roman pagan/Christian shrine on West Hill, excavated between 1977 and 1979. There is nothing to be seen at the site today, but the excavation



indicated that the site may have had neolithic origins. The Roman temple was dedicated to the god Mercury, and goats seem to have been central to the temple rituals. Adjacent to the shrine was the Iron Age hillfort of Uley Bury, and the walk took us round the impressive banks and ditches, before heading back into Uley to see the weavers' cottages and some of the fine Georgian buildings reflecting the wealth generated in Uley by the manufacture of cloth.

June 3rd

Behind the Scenes at The Folk of Gloucester

12 GlosArch members and one guest were given a tour by a costumed guide of the historic Tudor houses which are occupied by The Folk of Gloucester museum, in the heart



of Gloucester City centre. The houses, probably built around 1500, were owned by a wealthy merchant, Joseph Sandford. It was believed, until recently, that Bishop Hooper spent his last night here before being taken to be burnt at the stake, however, no evidence for this has ever been identified.

We were told of the buildings' past uses and the future plans for the museum. The front at street level has been a range of shops, including an undertakers, sweetshop and cobblers whilst the upper levels were once cloth store and clothing

workshop and later a pin factory. We were shown some original wallpaintings, and talked through the building's construction as we climbed the various stairs between the levels. The nimble were also able to explore the cellars. We finished the tour with a welcome cup of tea and slice of cake in the cafe. We look forward to future developments The Folk.



Winchcombe Walk - 7 June.

Searching for traces of Winchcombe Abbey in the Landscape.

On a pleasant, if slightly cool, evening David Aldred led a walking tour around the historic market town of Winchcombe. His aim was to show how the once powerful Benedictine abbey had left its mark on the town despite having fallen victim to Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries. The abbey had held the remains of St Kenelm and as such was a site of pilgrimage in the early Middle Ages. Starting in Back Lane car park, and with the aid of a map, David led us around the town to show how the centre of Winchcombe had been shaped by the abbey precinct. Along the way he pointed out some of the notable



buildings and sites, including: The George Inn, once a pilgrim's hostel, which was given an extensive makeover in Victorian times; the site of the silk mills; the Jacobean schoolhouse which shows evidence of overzealous cleaning of the stonework. He also showed us several buildings in which the original position of the ground floor front wall was shown by the timbers a few feet behind the present front window which had been



brought forwards in line with the originally overhanging upper floor. Although the abbey is long gone, its boundary wall remains in part. We finished by walking around the outside of the 15th century St Peter's church (once the abbey church) and through to the field behind. From here we could see the remains of the Saxon walls of Winchcombe and the last remaining buildings of the abbey, now houses, but then, probably out-buildings. As ever, David's vast knowledge provided us with a fascinating and educational evening.

2023-24 Autumn-Winter Lectures

I am delighted to be able to bring you the programme of lectures, assembled by Neil Cathie, for the 2023-24 series (See below or go to <https://glosarch.org.uk/Activity/lectures/>)

Topics range from family relationships in Neolithic chambered tombs, through the multi-period site of Littledean temple (which some of us visited last year) and the cold-case work of Tim Copeland on a 1980s excavation in Kingsholm, to two talks on Medieval

Glosarch – dates and location details for autumn/winter lectures 2023/2024

Date	Location	Title	Presenter	Comments
Monday 25 th September 2023	Physical and Zoom meeting	The Infirmary's Lodging of St Peter's Abbey, Gloucester: investigating a monastic dwelling and prebendal house.	Chiz Harward, Urban Archaeology	
Monday 30 th October 2023	Physical and Zoom meeting	Making a Living on the Severn Vale: The Invisible Potters of Domesday Harresfield.	Jon Hart, Cotswold Archaeology	
Monday 27 th November 2023	Physical and Zoom meeting	Kinship and Early Neolithic chambered tombs in the Cotswolds and beyond.	Chris Fowler, University of Newcastle	
Monday 18 th December 2023	Physical and Zoom meeting	Members meeting – field work updates for Severn Bank, Honeycombe, Cleeve Hill and Brookthorpe.	Neil Cathie, Phil Cox and others.	
Monday 29 th January 2024	Physical and Zoom meeting	TBC	TBC	Bernard Rawes memorial lecture
Monday 26 th February 2024	Physical and Zoom meeting	Littledean – ritual Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman site?	Don Macer-Wright	
Monday 25 th March 2024	Physical and Zoom meeting	'Cold-case' Archaeology: Gambier Parry Gardens alias 'Coppice Corner', 9/83	Tim Copeland	
Monday 29 th April 2024	Physical and Zoom meeting	Update on the latest results from excavations on Medieval and Roman sites around Gloucestershire.	Tony Roberts, Archeoscan	The Eddie Price memorial lecture

Gloucester and Gloucestershire. Added to this we have our annual member's evening and this year's update from Tony Roberts on the 2023 Archaeoscan digging season.

As in previous years, the lectures are free to attend for members and non-members alike. They will again be held in the church hall of St Andrew's URC in Montpellier St, Cheltenham, GL50 1SP, starting at 7.30pm. We will also be broadcasting the talks live, via Zoom. Members will receive the Zoom link automatically a few days before the talk. Non-members can obtain the link by emailing: mailbox@glosarch.org.uk Non-members are welcome to make a small donation to GlosArch to support our work. This can be done by bank transfer to: Gloucestershire Archaeology, Co-op bank, Sort Code: 08-92-99, account number: 6728578

Other Activities of Interest



Gloucester History Festival 2-17 September 2023

Gloucester's annual History Festival is almost upon us once more. The festival, whose President is well-known historian Janina Ramirez, boasts some 46 talks over the two weeks, across a wide range of topics, by a glittering array of speakers, including archaeologists Andrew Armstrong, Neil Holbrook and Julian Richards. In addition there are a number of activities around the town during the festival. You can download the brochure here: <https://www.gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Autumn-Festival-2023-Programme-with-links.pdf>

To book tickets go to the website: <https://www.gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk/autumn-2023/>

It looks like being another great festival.

Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

The programme for the BGAS Autumn-Winter lectures is now available. For full details go to the BGAS website at: <https://www.bgas.org.uk/category/news>

The Gloucester Section lecture programme is as follows:

Wednesday 27 September 2023

'A Roman Settlement and Medieval Manorial Complex at Lydney B' Alex Thomson (Cotswold Archaeology)

Wednesday 25 October 2023

Richard Bryant, 'The eleventh century eastern chapel and early Lady Chapel at the abbey of Gloucester St Peter'

Wednesday 22 November 2023

Jim Pimpernell, 'The Development of the Berkeley Estate during the 18th Century'

Wednesday 24 January 2024

Henry Elwes, 'Colesbourne: A Village History Through the Ages'

Wednesday 28 February 2024

Edward Biddulph (Oxford Archaeology), 'Settlement on the edge of Roman Gloucester: discoveries at Twigworth and Innsworth'

Wednesday 27 March 2024

Jon Hart (Cotswold Archaeology) 'Making a Living on the Severn Vale: The Invisible Potters of Domesday'

Venues

The lectures in September, November, January, February and March will be held at the Dunrossil Centre, Gloucestershire Heritage Hub, Clarence Row, Alvin Street, Gloucester, GL1 3DW, beginning at 7.30 pm. Free parking at the Heritage Hub is available.

The October lecture will be held jointly with the Friends of Gloucester Cathedral and will take place in the Parliament Room in the cathedral precincts at 2 pm on 25 October 2023. Entry to all lectures is free both to members and non-members of the Society. There is no charge, but donations are welcome. Refreshments are provided.

Cotswold Archaeology will be hosting a webinar on Wednesday 27th September 2023:

'The Staffordshire Hoard: an unparalleled treasure of the early Anglo-Saxon period'

Free to attend via Zoom from 7:15pm, Chris Fern will be presenting a lecture about the hoard.

The Staffordshire Hoard is the largest 'treasure' ever found for the early Anglo-Saxon period. Discovered by a metal detectorist near Lichfield, in July 2009, it contains a unique combination of military and church objects, dating c. 570–c. 650 AD. The incredible finds ask critical questions: why and how was it brought together at the heart of one of England's greatest kingdoms — Mercia — and who could have buried it?

To join this event follow this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/thestaffordshirehoard>

Views of England and Wales

You may be interested to take a look at the recently digitised collection of images that has been added to the University of Leicester's Special Collections Online.

This collection of drawings, paintings and photographs of rural landscapes, buildings and maps is freely available online and Gloucestershire is particularly well-represented.

To access the collection go to: <https://www.balh.org.uk/NHW153>

GlosArch Membership

Existing members are reminded that membership subscriptions fell due on 1st March at the new rate of £20 per year. If it has slipped your mind there is still time to pay. Please make your payment by bank transfer to: Gloucestershire Archaeology, Co-op bank, Sort Code: 08-92-99, account number: 67285787

Alternatively you can send a cheque to our membership secretary, Angie Newcombe at 2 Warren Close, Churchdown, Gloucester, GL3 1JP.

If you would like to join GlosArch, please go to our website: www.glosarch.org.uk and choose Membership Signup. Once your account is active, go to Membership Account, complete your application and pay the relevant level of subscription.

Benefits of membership include:

- Regular emails about forthcoming GlosArch events, including lectures, visits and fieldwork activities as well as selected activities of other archaeological organisations
- The opportunity to take part in archaeological fieldwork (no previous experience required)
- Two Newsletters per year
- A paper copy of our annual journal *Glevensis* as well as online access to the latest two editions (not available to non-members)
- Access to our archive of recorded lectures