



Bishopstone Excavations 2005

Aims and Objectives

The forthcoming season will be the last in the current programme of University of Kent/Sussex Archaeological Society excavations at Bishopstone. In this final investigation we aim to strip the remaining accessible areas of the village green and map exposed archaeological features, a selected sample of which will be excavated by hand. This approach will allow maximum coverage whilst providing vital structural, stratigraphic and artefactual information required for phasing and characterising the archaeological remains. From previous years' experience we expect to find structural traces of timber buildings and other habitation features from a settlement complex occupied between the 9th and 12th centuries AD. We also hope to locate and excavate further burials from a Late Saxon phase of St Andrews churchyard. For a possible interpretation of the historical context for the excavations please see the Research Design which can be downloaded on the website as a PDF file, as can Interim Reports on the past three season's work – the files are listed on the right-hand side of the introductory Bishopstone page.

Taking part

This year's excavations will run from **Monday August 8th until Saturday Sept 17th Aug to Sept**. If you would like to take part as a volunteer or trainee, please open up and complete the relevant word-file application form (listed on the right-hand side of the introductory Bishopstone page) and return it to Alison Lawrence at the Sussex Archaeological Society: castle@sussexpast.co.uk.

You must be 17 or over to take part and, should you want to join as a volunteer, prove that you have had previous excavation experience. We ask volunteers to contribute a site fee of £35 (£25 students) which helps to cover the cost of site and campsite facilities; your place will be confirmed once payment of the site fee has been received. Please make cheques payable to 'Unikent' and send to Alison Lawrence at Barbican House, 169 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1YE. Priority is given to applicants wishing to attend for extended periods of three weeks or more; the minimum period of attendance is one week.

The Bishopstone Training Course

As in previous years, those with no previous archaeological experience can still take part in the excavations by attending an intensive, 5-day archaeological training course. Offered during the first 5 weeks of the excavation (8 Aug – 5 Sept) at a cost of £180, the course is designed to mirror as closely as possible the sequence of methods and techniques used to locate, survey, excavate and interpret archaeological sites. Techniques covered include: geophysics and surveying (including the use of a Level and Total Station); excavations skills, the stratigraphic record and site recording using drawn, written and photographic techniques; finds and environmental sampling; and landscape interpretation.

The programme runs as follows:

Day 1 will comprise an introduction to the landscape setting of Bishopstone village followed by training in geophysical and earthwork survey on a targeted site within the Bishopstone Valley. During **Day 2** students will gain hands-on training in excavation techniques on a selected part of the open-area excavation. **Day 3** provides an introduction to the sampling and processing methods applied to excavated artefacts and environmental remains, while on **Day 4** trainees will rejoin the open-area excavation to gain training in archaeological recording and planning techniques. **Day 5** will be split between a half-day session on the main excavation to develop skills learnt earlier in the week and a study-tour designed to encourage trainees to apply their newly acquired analytical skills to reading and interpreting elements of the historic landscape around Bishopstone.

Confirmation of a place on the training course will be made on receipt of full payment or a deposit of £80. Please make cheques payable to 'Unikent' and send to Alison Lawrence Barbican House, 169 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1YE. We ask that the full balance is paid by June 30th 2005.

Accommodation

Accommodation will comprise a campsite offering toilet, washing and self-catering facilities. Those intending to use this campsite should come prepared with tents and sleeping bags, and if they wish to prepare their own

food, pots, pans, cutlery etc. Further details on camping arrangements will be posted up in due course.

Alternative arrangements are left to the individual; information on B&Bs local to Bishopstone can be obtained from the Lewes Tourist Information Centre on 01273 483488. The local Youth Hostel, located nr the village of Alfriston (approx 3 miles from Bishopstone) can be contacted on 01323 870423.

Further details

Should you require further information on the Bishopstone project in the first instance you should contact, Alison Lawrence at Barbican House, 169 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1YE or during working hours on 01273 405730, email: castle@sussexpast.co.uk. For detailed queries please contact the project director, Dr Gabor Thomas, on 01227 827528 or: g.thomas@kent.ac.uk. For more information on what to expect if this is your first ever dig, the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) has published a useful guide available on-line at www.britarch.ac.uk/cba/factsht8.shtml. Otherwise, we look forward to seeing you at Bishopstone later this summer for what promises to be an archaeological extravaganza!