

AONB & PARTNER REPORTS

Purpose

To advise members of activity of the AONB Unit and Partners, relating to:-

- a. Undergrounding update
- b. Offa's Dyke Collaboratory
 - i. Lancaut investigations & Day School
 - ii. Knighton (attached) & Oswestry events
- c. Youth Rangers 4th cohort with Foresters' Forest
- d. mindSCAPE with Foresters' Forest
- e. Ross Riverside enhancements with Ross Town Council

FOR INFORMATION

a. Undergrounding update

Work continues on the Reddings Farm and Penterry Church schemes near Tintern and St Arvans. The overhead cables have been placed underground and Western Power Distribution (WPD) are working to remove the poles. The scheme at New Mills Hill, Goodrich is still with the local WPD Wayleaves team. A potential scheme at Coppett Hill is still with the local WPD team undergoing more detailed consideration.

b. Offa's Dyke Collaboratory

The Offa's Dyke Collaboratory supports a network of individuals, groups and organisations working to manage and investigate Offa's Dyke and related monuments and their wider landscapes, see <https://offaswatsdyke.wordpress.com/>.

i. Lancaut investigations & Day School

The AONB Unit is coordinating an archaeological partnership project at Lancaut on behalf of the Forest of Dean Buildings Preservation Trust, who own Lancaut Church. The project includes archaeological walkovers, geophysical surveys and targeted excavations around the medieval church yard at the Lancaut DMV and in the promontory fort at Spital Meend, where the embankment appears to be on the line of Offa's Dyke.

A Day School event is planned for Friday 16th March, at the Chepstow Drill Hall 10am-3.30pm. This will reveal the results from the small partnership project at Lancaut and Spital Meend. The questions the project hopes to shed light on include whether Lancaut was a Celtic (British) / Early Christian monastic complex, how and when Spital Meend was occupied and used, and how these

related to Offa's Dyke. The Programme is outlined below. Tickets cost £5 from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/464418> and include a light lunch & refreshments).

The partnership is between the Forest of Dean Buildings Preservation Trust, Historic England, Gloucestershire Archaeology, Herefordshire Archaeology, Offa's Dyke Collaboratory, Southern Marches Archaeological Practice Ltd., Wye Valley AONB Partnership and local landowners, with funding from Heritage Lottery Fund and Gloucestershire Environmental Trust.

Programme - Lancaut Revelations, Friday 16th March, at the Chepstow Drill Hall

| Time | Speaker | Topic |
|-------------|--|--|
| 9.30 | | <i>Doors open; Refreshments & Registration</i> |
| 10.00 | | |
| 10.10 | Andrew Blake Wye Valley AONB | Welcome & introductions |
| 10.15 | Kate Biggs Forest of Dean Building Preservation Trust | Forest of Dean Building Preservation Trust |
| 10.30 | Jon Hoyle Gloucestershire Archaeology | Forest of Dean LiDAR survey project |
| 11.00 | Mel Barge Historic England | Management of Scheduled Monuments in the area (England) |
| 11.30 | | <i>comfort break</i> |
| 11.45 | Rob Iles (retired English Heritage) | Medieval Lancaut and its environs |
| 12.05 | Tim Hoverd Herefordshire Archaeology | Results of the archaeological fieldwork at Lancaut & Spital Meend |
| 12.45 | | <i>Lunch</i> |
| 1.30 | Dr Keith Ray Southern Marches Archaeological Practice Ltd | Interpreting the landscape of the Early Medieval Lancaut area |
| 2.15 | Dr Mark Redknap National Museum Wales | Local artefacts in context and the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) |
| 2.45 | Andrew Blake | <i>Questions</i> |
| 3.15 | Kate Biggs | Closing remarks |
| 3.30 | | <i>Depart</i> |

ii. Knighton (attached) & Oswestry events

A further event is planned in Knighton the following week –Friday 23rd March, (flyer appended) under the Offa's Dyke Collaboratory. A later event is planned in Oswestry on Saturday 21st April.

c. Youth Rangers 4th cohort with Foresters' Forest

The new recruits to the 4th cohort of AONB Youth Rangers have been on their third outing of their 2 year programme. They have been undertaking and learning about habitat management, geology, green woodworking and willow hurdle making, navigation skills and veteran tree surveying working with Foresters' Forest Landscape Partnership.

d. mindSCAPE with Foresters' Forest

The mindSCAPE project is now coming to the end of its final year of Big Lottery funding. A project proposal to continue the existing group and take forwards lessons learnt from the project is being led by Artspace Cinderford and is currently awaiting a decision on Arts Council funding.

Through the Foresters' Forest Landscape Partnership Scheme, with Heritage Lottery Funding, the mindSCAPE project is extending into care homes. Initially Arts practitioners were working in the Coombs Nursing Home and they have just started delivery in Hazelhurst, Bishopswood. Two resource guides, one focused on Care Homes and the other aimed at local community groups, are in production. These provide details of mindSCAPE activities and how best to plan and deliver them. These will be made available to Care Homes and community groups to encourage mindSCAPE activities to continue beyond the end of the current funding.

e. Ross Riverside enhancements with Ross Town Council

The partnership between Ross-on-Wye Town Council, Natural England and the Wye Valley AONB Unit has continued, undertaking work to manage the riverside in Ross to encourage biodiversity and improve riverside views. The programme of tree management work carried out with contractors from the Wye and Usk Foundation, has recently seen more coppicing, pollarding and pleaching along the riverbank. This varies the height structure of riverside trees, creating views of the river and more light and shade on the river and along the river bank enhancing habitats for a variety of species. Shade helps to maintain beneficially high oxygen levels in the water, whilst adequate light means the growth of aquatic plants is not inhibited.



Offa's Dyke Heritage

New Research on the Heritage of Offa's Dyke and other
Linear Earthworks

The 3rd Offa's Dyke Collaboratory Meeting

10.30–17.30, 23rd March 2018

The Offa's Dyke Centre, Knighton, Powys, LD7 1EN

£10 including refreshments + packed lunch

To attend, please pre-book by Monday 19th March by contacting the Offa's Dyke Centre:

Phone: 10.00am–3.00pm daily: 01547 528753

Email: oda@offasdyke.org.uk

This is the third meeting of the Offa's Dyke Collaboratory – a research network investigating the early medieval linear earthworks of the Anglo-Welsh borderlands: <https://offaswatsdyke.wordpress.com/>. The Knighton workshop follows on from successful meetings at Shrewsbury (April 2017) and Cardiff (December 2017). The day workshop will explore the heritage conservation, management and interpretation of Offa's Dyke and other linear earthworks of the Anglo-Welsh borderlands.

Talks will include:

Offa's Dyke by Numbers

– *André Berry*

Recent Revelations from the Lancut Peninsular

– *Andrew Blake*

Community Stewardship of Mercian Monuments Project (CoSMM)

– *Ian Mackey and Mel Leggatt*

Archaeological Earthworks & Visitor Carrying Capacity: Proactive Versus Inactive Management

– *Dave McGlade*

Bridging Boundaries: Creating an Integrative Digital Approach for Linear Earthworks Research

– *Patricia Murrieta-Flores*

Making Earthworks Visible: The Example of the Oswestry Heritage Comics Project

– *John G. Swogger*

Offa's Dyke, Death and Memory

– *Howard Williams*