

# **EMAS Archaeology**



## **Study Tour to Devon and Cornwall**



**29 October to 3 November 2018**



## **Itinerary**

<b>Monday, 29 October</b>	Coach pick up at Baker Street Jordan Hill Roman Temple Whitchurch Canonicorum Arrive Exeter
<b>Tuesday, 30 October</b>	The Hurlers Stone Circle King Doniert's Stone Restormel Castle Trethevy Quoit Okehampton Castle
<b>Wednesday, 31 October</b>	Grimspound Prehistoric settlement Lydford Burh and Castle Merrivale Prehistoric Settlement
<b>Thursday, 1 November</b>	Exeter Castle Exeter Cathedral Daws Castle, Watchet Holwell Castle Cleeve Abbey
<b>Friday, 2 November</b>	Hound Tor Deserted Medieval Village Chysauster Iron Age Village Castle-an-Dinas
<b>Saturday, 3 November</b>	Leave Exeter Winterbourne Poor Lot Barrows Christchurch Priory Arrive Baker Street

## **Members attending the Study Tour**

**David Beard – Guide**

**Chris Balyuzi**

**Hushang Balyuzi**

**Vivienne Cove**

**Jane Esden**

**Nigel Firth**

**Jo Jones**

**Chris Lane**

**Tony Lane**

**Florence Marriott**

**Louise Miller**

**Ellen Molz**

**Marilyn Polan**

**Jeanette Sanders**

**Jane Sawtell**

**Marian Simmonds**

**John Taylor**

**Alan Thompson**

**Jan Thompson**

**Rosemary Turner**

**Christine Woodford**

**Chris Woon**

**Jill Woon**

## Jordan Hill Roman Temple

The Jordan Hill site belongs to the end of the period of Roman occupation, when much of the economic structure was beginning to fragment, bringing changes to the social structure as well. It was apparently a small temple of a type common in Roman Britain: symmetrical in plan, with a central sanctuary or cella rising above a low columned portico which surrounded it on all four sides.



The temple was excavated in the 19th century and again in 1931, when the bases of four of the portico columns were located. The capital (head) and base of a fifth column were found loose near the north wall of the cella, and these can be seen in Dorchester Museum.

Surrounding the temple was a large walled enclosure (not now accessible to visitors) about 30 metres (100 feet) square. Within this were found many animal bones and more 4th century coins.

To the north was a large cemetery where more than 80 skeletons were found, some originally in wooden coffins, others in stone cists. Many different personal objects were buried with them, including pots, combs, jewellery, arrowheads and an iron sword. Some of these are now in Dorchester Museum.

## Whitchurch Canonorum

### The Church of St Candida and Holy Cross

The earliest parts of the church date from the 12th century when it was rebuilt by Benedictine monks.

Major rebuilding work took place in the 13th century and in the 14th century the church's prominent tower was constructed.

A Saxon church stood on the site, but nothing remains of that structure.

**St Wite's shrine** is set into the wall of the north transept. The 13th century shrine is made of two parts. A stone coffin with a top of Purbeck marble holds the bones of St Wite. The coffin is supported on a stone base with three holes in it. Pilgrims could insert cloth, etc. into these holes to create secondary relics.



The Latin form of St Wite's name is Candida, hence the dedication of the church.

## The Hurlers Stone Circle

The Hurlers stone circle is actually three fine late Neolithic or early Bronze Age stone circles arranged in a line, a grouping unique in England.

Hurlers Stone Circles are probably the best examples of ceremonial circles in the south west. According to legend, they are the remains of men petrified for playing hurling on a Sunday.

The monument, which was excavated in the 1930s, consists of three adjacent stone circles aligned north-east to south-west. To the west is a pair of outlying upright stones standing close together, known as the Pipers.



Of the northern circle 15 original stones are visible, and excavation revealed the buried holes for a further ten, now represented by marker stones. The regular spacing of the stones suggests there would have been five more, giving 30 in all.

A strip of granite paving, found in excavation, ran between this and the central circle.

The central circle, the best preserved of the three, has 14 original stones and 14 markers. All the stones were hammered smooth, and the chippings were deposited nearby. The southern circle, which has not been excavated, is the least well preserved: it has nine original stones of which seven have fallen.

## King Doniert's Stone

King Doniert's Stone may be the base of one cross and the taller broken shaft alongside it is probably another.

King Doniert's Stone stands about 1.37 metres (4 feet 6 inches) high, and is decorated on three of its faces with interlaced ornament of a style common throughout Britain.

The upper end of the stone has a deep mortice in the top to take an upper shaft or cross head. The east face bears a weathered inscription which reads *Doniert rogavit pro anima* ('Doniert has asked [for this to be made] for his soul['s sake']').



The clue to Doniert's identity lies in a passage in the early Welsh chronicle known as the *Annales Cambriae*, which names a king of Dumnonia called Dumgarth (or Dwingarth). He is recorded as having drowned in the sea in about AD 875.

## Restormel Castle

The great 13th-century circular shell-keep of Restormel still encloses the principal rooms of the castle in remarkably good condition. It stands on an earlier Norman mound surrounded by a deep dry ditch, atop a high spur beside the River Fowey.

The castle was twice visited by the Black Prince, it finally saw action during the Civil War in 1644.

Stone robbing has damaged all the circles to some extent, while the introduction of cattle onto Bodmin Moor has resulted in many of the stones falling over: cows use them as scratching posts, eroding the ground and undermining them.

The small pits visible within the southern and central circles are the remains of post-medieval tin mining. (See plan on last page of brochure.)



## Trethevy Quoit

These distinctive structures are found mainly in the far west of Cornwall but this one, on the southern edge of Bodmin Moor, is perhaps the finest.

It consists of five standing stones, surmounted by a massive capstone. The capstone may have been designed to be slightly tilted, but now slopes at a much steeper angle than it would have done originally, because the most westerly of the supporting stones has collapsed and lies within the tomb chamber itself.



There is a hole near the highest corner of the capstone that appears to be man-made. The whole structure stands 2.7 metres (9 feet) high and was probably originally covered by a mound or cairn: the chamber is surrounded by the clear remains of a low mound on all sides, except at the entrance. This was at the east end, where the stones form a sort of antechamber, but it is not clear how the chamber was reached from outside the original mound.

The contents of this box-like chamber were removed long ago. At the few portal dolmens that have been excavated, pits and post holes have been recorded within and in front of the chamber, containing charcoal and cremated bone. Many portal dolmens were reused for urned cremations, especially during the Middle Bronze Age.

## Okehampton Castle

William I appointed Baldwin FitzGilbert as Sheriff of Devon. Baldwin was granted permission to build his own castle and he chose Okehampton where he constructed a traditional motte-and-bailey castle aimed at dominating the nearby Saxon settlement of Ocmundtune as well as several nearby trade routes.



The initial castle, as built in the early eleventh century, was largely a timber affair although the tower topping the motte had stone foundations and may have been partially a stone construction. A prosperous market developed around the castle, which is referred to in Domesday book, but little further information is known about the castle at this time.

By the late thirteenth century, having lacked any significant modifications, the castle was outdated and its role as a military stronghold had ended. Modifications were made to make the castle a hunting lodge. (See plan on last page of brochure.)

## Grimspound Prehistoric Settlement

Grimspound is one of the best-known prehistoric settlements on Dartmoor, probably dating from the Late Bronze Age (about 1450–700 BC).



The remains of 24 houses enclosed within a stone wall, and further houses outside the enclosure, lie in a fold in the hills about 450 metres (1,500 feet) above sea level, between Hookney and Hameldown tors.

It is not known precisely how long Grimspound was in use, but by about 1200 BC the settlement pattern was changing.

Grimspound was excavated at the end of the 19th century by the newly formed Dartmoor Exploration Committee.

They excavated 16 of the houses and found numerous structures and artefacts, including porches, paved floors, hearths, raised benches, cooking holes, charcoal, pottery and flint. However, no organic matter which might date the site was recovered. The excavators restored parts of the perimeter wall and some of the hut circles, although not very accurately.

## Lydford Burh and Castle

An Anglo-Saxon burh of the promontory type, later the site of a Norman castle.

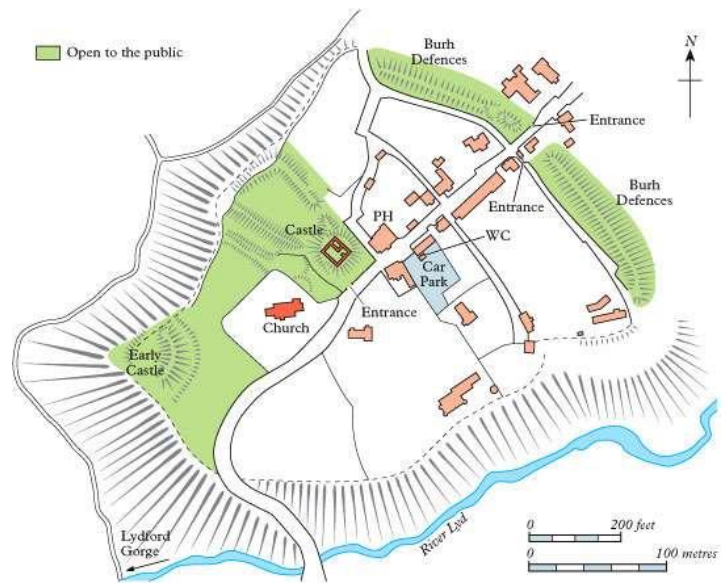
In the 9th century Lydford, or Llidan, is documented as one of four important towns or burhs in Devon, its streets laid out in a grid pattern still evident in the village today, where modern hedges and footpaths enshrine the courses of earlier streets.

By the 10th century the town had its own mint. Its prosperity – probably founded on profits from the tin trade – is evident from the fact that it paid as much in taxes to the king as Totnes or Barnstaple. It occupied a position of great natural strength, a triangular promontory protected on two sides by deep river valleys.

The third side was defended by an earthen rampart, the remains of which can be seen as you enter the village from the north-east on either side of the road, near the village hall. These strong defences may have been the reason that an attack by the Vikings in 997 was repelled.

Soon after the siege and capture of Exeter by William the Conqueror in 1068, a small defensive earthwork was built on the extreme south-west tip of the promontory at Lydford. Excavations have revealed the remains of five wooden buildings protected behind a crescent-shaped earth and timber rampart with a deep ditch.

In 1194 King John authorised the building of a new tower east of the church, to house offenders against both the forest and stannary laws.



## Merrivale Prehistoric Settlement

Merrivale includes many of the archaeological features associated with the Neolithic to Middle Bronze Age (about 2500–1000 BC). The monuments here comprise a group of round houses; two double stone rows and one single row; a small stone circle, with two standing stones nearby; and a number of cairns (earthen mounds), associated with burials. Nearest to the road is the area of a typical Bronze Age settlement, a large cluster of round houses.



## Exeter Castle

The city of Exeter has been strategically important since its foundation in the Roman Period when the original walled defences were constructed. Exeter was also an Anglo Saxon burh and so continued to be a highly influential central place.

Exeter Castle is sited on a natural knoll of igneous rock called Rougemont in the northern angle of the Roman-and-later City wall. It was built shortly after 1068, on a site selected by William the Conqueror immediately after his subjection of Exeter in 1068, under the supervision of Baldwin de Meules, who became the first custodian.



From the combination of typical features of late-Saxon masonry (long-and-short quoins; triangular-headed windows; etc.) with other features more typical of early Norman building (cushion capitals to the attached shafts of the entrance archway; billet ornament in the imposts of the top-floor doors and windows) it has been suggested that the building dates to the early 1070s.

## Exeter Cathedral

A monastery had developed near the site by the 7th century, but it was not until 1050 that Exeter became a bishop's seat when the Bishop of Crediton and St Germans moved here. The first Bishop of Exeter, Leofric, was installed by Edward the Confessor, and the former minster church of St. Mary and St. Peter became the cathedral.

The Saxon church was rebuilt in 1114, but most of what remains is the result of rebuilding between 1275-1375. It seems that Bishop Bronescombe was impressed with the new cathedral at Salisbury and decided to rebuild his own church at Exeter in the new Gothic style. The Norman towers were retained from that first church, but little else.

The Lady Chapel and retrochoir were added, to be followed by the presbytery and the choir.

The Early English Chapter House was built in the mid 13th century, and the nave was rebuilt in the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century, under the direction of Richard Farleigh, who was also responsible for the spire at Salisbury.



## Daws Castle, Watchet

An Anglo-Saxon promontory burh of 513 hides. The effectiveness of the burhs as a mustering point as well as a purely defensive site was seen in 914 when a Viking attack was successfully stopped, as reported in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle:

“Þa be stælon hie hie þeah nihtes upp æt sumum twam cirron, æt oþrum cierre be eastan Wæced, 7 æt oþrum cierre æt Port locan; Þa slog hie mon æt ægþrum cirre, þæt hira feawa on weg common, buton þa ane þe þær ut æt swummon to þam scipum.”



“However, they then stole up by night on two certain occasions: on the one occasion east of Watchet, and on another occasion at Porlock; then on each occasion they were hit so that few came away, except only those who could swim out to the ships.”

(Anglo-Saxon Chronicle anno 915 [914])

## Holwell Castle

A well-preserved earthwork castle dominating Parracombe and its river crossing.

Holwell is a motte and bailey castle measuring 40m in diameter and 6.2m high above the bottom of a rock cut ditch which is 2.7m deep. The ditch is complete except on the north and west sides where the bailey impinges. Within the bailey are traces of five building platforms terraced into the hillside. On the summit of the motte is a linear hollow thought to be the remains of the 1905 excavation.



## Cleeve Abbey

A 12<sup>th</sup> century Cistercian abbey founded by William de Roumare, Earl of Lincoln.

Although dissolved in 1536, when the church was destroyed, many of the claustral buildings remain in excellent condition, especially the m15th century frater with its superb angel roof.



## Hound Tor Deserted Medieval Village

The remains of an abandoned and isolated settlement lie on the eastern edge of Dartmoor, between the granite landmarks of Hound Tor and Greater Rocks.

The village, which was excavated in the 1960s, consists of a cluster of rectangular longhouses and barns which were shown to date from the 13th century, though the area may have been used for summer grazing during the Roman period.



The life of the permanent settlement may have been short. Pollen evidence suggests that cereal farming had ceased by 1350, but a recent re-examination of the pottery suggests occupation to the end of the 14th or early 15th century.

## Chysauster Iron Age Village

Chysauster was surrounded by fields, where the inhabitants grazed their flocks of sheep and grew cereal crops. The field boundaries have survived for 2,000 years as low walls and earthworks.

The village is laid out on top of a series of field lynchets, probably dating to the late Iron Age. Lynchets are ridges created by the build-up of soil along the lower boundary of a field when it is ploughed. These long fields were divided into smaller plots, creating the characteristic brick-shaped fields of this period.



## Castle-an-Dinas

Castle-an-Dinas is one of the largest and most impressive hillforts in Cornwall, sited in an imposing position on the summit of Castle Downs with extensive and panoramic views across central Cornwall to both north and south coasts. It dates from around the second and third centuries BC and consists of three ditch and rampart concentric rings.



It is mentioned in Cornish legends as one of the seats of the Duke of Cornwall and as the place where Cadour, Duke of Cornwall and husband of King Arthur's mother, met his death.

## Winterbourne Poor Lot Barrows

A 'cemetery' of 44 Bronze Age burial mounds of varying types and sizes, straddling the A35 main road.

All four types of round barrow can be found at Winterbourne, including the rarer disc and pond barrows.

Some are in groups of two or three, perhaps suggesting family relationships. The largest barrow is a bowl barrow, at the centre of the group: it has a diameter of 35 metres (115 feet) and is 2.5 metres (8 feet) high. To the west of this is a large group comprising one disc barrow and seven bowl barrows.



Unusually, the Poor Lot Barrows are located across the bottom and sides of a valley, rather than on a ridge or hilltop as was the norm.

Very few of the barrows here have been excavated, so it is not known what kind of burials they contain. Some may contain bodies, although by the Early Bronze Age cremation had become common: the ashes of the dead were placed in pots with a raised band around the top, known as collared urns. Sometimes food vessels are found with the urn, and occasionally weapons such as bronze daggers or stone axe heads.

## Christchurch Priory

In 1094 Ranulf Flambard, a chief minister of King William II (Rufus), began the building of a Norman church on the site of the old Saxon Priory.

In 1150 Baldwin de Redvers, Lord of the Manor and Earl of Devon, dissolved the secular Priory and reconstituted it as a Priory of Augustinian Canons Regular.

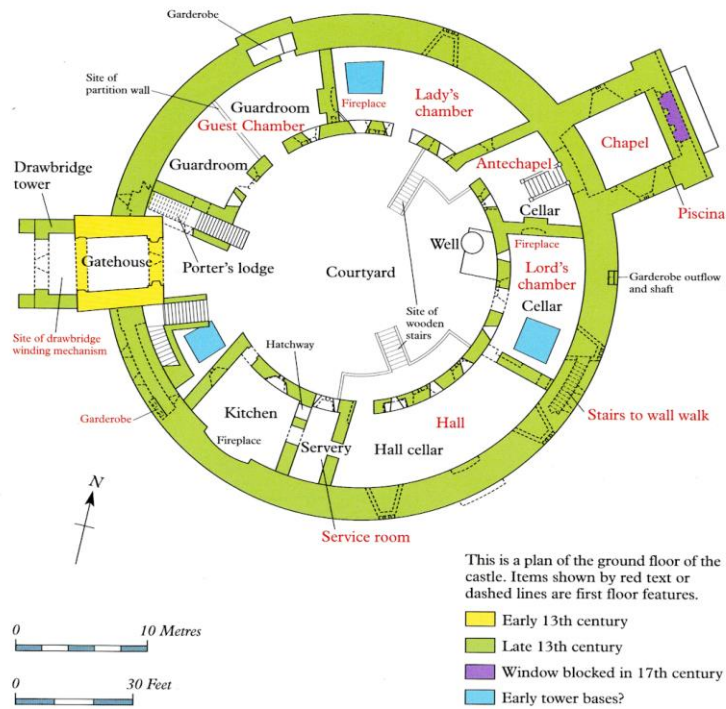
Building work continued and in the 13th century the nave aisles were vaulted and the clerestory built in the Early English style.



By 1350 the Nave roof had been lifted to its present height over the clerestory. Towards the end of the 14th century the Lady Chapel was started in early Perpendicular style.

In 1470/80 a new tower in the Perpendicular style was erected at the west end of the church to replace the old central tower.

# RESTORMEL CASTLE



# OKEHAMPTON CASTLE

