



## East Dorset Antiquarian Society

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### EDAS EXCAVATIONS - Update

#### FROME HOUSE, WAREHAM - NGR SY 9213 8710

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in March/April 2011 during groundwork associated with building work and the replacement of a gas pipe between the house and Worgret Road to the north. No archaeological features were present in the vicinity of Frome House itself; however, a large feature was evident in part of the services trench. This consisted of brick, limestone and raw clay together with 'muffle' material indicative of a clay tobacco pipe kiln. A layer of crushed brick suggested an ancillary building close by. The spoil by the side of the trench yielded over 2000 tobacco pipe wasters. A number of fluted pipe bowls were decorated with the initials 'A' and 'M' and have been identified as those made by Augustus Moore and produced between 1830 and 1834. The kiln was short-lived as Moore was transported to Australia in 1834 for theft.

During September 2011, East Dorset Antiquarian Society members investigated the site further and although the kiln itself was not located, the work implied that any remains may lie at a greater depth than that excavated. A further 4536 fragments of clay tobacco pipe were found, together with kiln demolition material and contemporary pottery and metalwork.

#### SANDFORD HEATH, WAREHAM ST MARTIN - NGR SY 9410 9018

A small excavation was carried out in October 2011 as part of the community-based Sandford Heritage Project and supported by EDAS members, to investigate the origins of a straight trackway through the heath from Sandford to Holton Heath, known locally as the 'Roman Road'.

A single trench 1.20m wide by 17m long was cleared by a mechanical excavator. This cut through part of the track as well as through a series of linear banks and ditches on its north side. The trench was then cleaned by hand and the excavated section exposed a typical heathland sequence comprising an upper layer of decaying vegetation overlying bleached sands and iron pan. A small, serrated flint flake and a flint core are evidence of prehistoric activity in this area before the heath developed. There was however, no evidence for any road or track metalling. The banks and ditches are probably part of a tree plantation which was noted on the Tithe map of 1843.

#### EAST HOLTON, WAREHAM ST. MARTIN - NGR SY 9610 9130

An archaeological investigation was undertaken by volunteers of the Sandford Heritage Project, supported by EDAS members, in October 2011. Three offset trenches measuring 5m long and 2m wide were hand dug and five features were identified in the central trench. These comprised a gravel spread, three discrete deposits of pottery and remnants of a possible hearth. The pottery (349 sherds weighing 4249g) was all quartz tempered and consisted of fragments, many of them large, from pitchers, jugs, cooking jars and bowls dating to the mid- to late-12<sup>th</sup> century. It is likely that contemporary settlement is in the near vicinity.

*Lilian Ladle*