

FOOTBALL FIELD, WORTH MATRAVERS

This site which was evaluated and excavated by EDAS members between 2006 and 2008 is currently undergoing post-excavation analysis. All the finds have been washed and marked, then counted and weighed into their separate categories. The largest categories of finds are pottery and animal bone, and significantly, there was more pottery in one of the stone-lined pits than from the rest of the site all put together. The site record has also been checked against drawings and photographs. Fabric analysis of the Late Iron Age pottery is currently underway, this is a long, slow job as each sherd has to be looked at under magnification and fabric series and pottery types have to be set up. This process has also to be undertaken for the earlier and later pottery. Specific lists of finds for specialists are being prepared.

Bob Kenyon the landowner will be seeking grant-aid to help publish the site. To this end, Mark Corney has been involved to help assess the site material which he considers is of 'National' importance. For example, the range of pottery is extensive, with several new forms and a date range of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age to Roman. Analysis of the pottery fabrics indicates that much of this was made locally. Exotic continental Late Iron Age pottery, amphora and metalwork, together with copious amounts of animal bone, and the stone-lined storage pits, hint at a site of high status at this time.

Costings and a time scale are being prepared for specialist input, and because of the importance of the site, it has been decided that a paper will be prepared for submission to the Prehistoric Society for inclusion in their 'Proceedings'. In this way, the results will be accessible to the wider academic community. The Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age transition is a current 'hot research topic' and fitting our site into its local landscape at this period is very exciting. EDAS and Football Field, Worth Matravers are going to become much better known!

I am indebted to all members who helped last summer and particularly to Bryan Popple who has given much time over this winter in helping get the material to the stage it is now.

I have submitted an archaeological watching brief which has been accepted. Building work at the site is planned for later this year. Part of this includes an access road to the development. Work on this will start on 4th May and possibly last for about two weeks and I am hoping that EDAS volunteers will be involved. There will be more information nearer the time. If you are interested, please give me a ring on 01929 553144 or email at Bestwall@tiscali.co.uk

Lilian Ladle
April 8th 2010