

News Release

18 March 2010



Come and Discover the Past at Bodiam Castle

Visitors to Bodiam Castle on **27 and 28 March and 15 and 16 April** can observe a group of archaeologists at work as they undertake a survey to find traces of a Roman Road they believe was once on the site

This is the most comprehensive geophysical survey of the castle estate to date and will be undertaken by archaeology students from Southampton University.

Visitors will also be able to listen to Becky Peacock from the University who will be giving a 10 minute presentations every hour on the history of the castle's landscape.

In partnership with the National Trust, 20-30 archaeologists from Southampton University will be using a variety of techniques to survey Bodiam Castle and its surroundings, looking for features that historical records indicate would have been located in and around the castle.

Property Manager, George Bailey said, "there is evidence of 8,000 years of human habitation at Bodiam but our detailed knowledge is limited. We hope

that the archaeologists will help us to better understand the former appearance and history of Bodiam Castle.”

Much of what you see today at Bodiam, the lines of trees, the appearance of a landscaped park, may in part be due to Lord Curzon's restoration of the site in the 1920s but is not necessarily how the castle would have looked in the Middle Ages. The students believe there was a Roman road on the site and they are looking for traces of its course and they are also looking for the site of the mill that is referred to in documents.

Visitors can observe some of the surveying techniques used by the archaeologists as they undertake topographical surveys (measuring the rise and fall of earthworks and other features) and geophysical surveys (measuring the 'resistivity' of the soil to reveal buried features below the ground). Others will be surveying the castle itself.

The Castle is open every day between 10.30am and 5pm until 31 October but has restricted opening at other times of the year. See website for further details www.nationaltrust.org.uk/bodiamcastle or call 01580 830196.

This event is included in normal castle admission:

Gift Aid Admission: £6.40, child £3.20, family £17.00. Reduced rate when arriving by cycle, on public transport or for visitors arriving via Kent and East Sussex Railway; stations at Tenterden, Northiam and Bodiam.

Bodiam Castle is 3 miles from the main A21, midway between Tunbridge Wells and Hastings. The castle was donated to the National Trust in 1924.

For media enquires please contact:

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Notes to Editors: The students are 2nd and 3rd year Archaeology undergraduates. At the end of the week, they will 'write up' the data they have gathered in a report that will be part of their coursework.