

Visit to Kingston Lacey and Badbury Rings

On Sunday 28th September 9 intrepid members of HADS set out in pouring rain. Travelling more in hope than expectation they were on their way to Kingston Lacey and Badbury Rings, both in the county of Dorset.

Kingston Lacey is a country house and estate near Wimborne and is managed by the National Trust. For many years it was the family seat of the Bankes family who lived nearby at Corfe Castle until it was destroyed in the English Civil War.



The Stables at Kingston Lacey.

Badbury Rings is an Iron Age Hillfort set in chalk grassland which is home to a wealth of wildlife. It has a long history stretching back thousands of years but today you can see the remnants of the hillfort overlaid with Roman roads.

The journey to Dorset was not inspiring, but as we reached Kingston Lacey the rain stopped, the clouds disappeared and blue sky brightened everything up! Hardly believing our luck we had refreshments outside in the stable yard and then set off to explore.



The house at Kingston Lacey

Some stayed in the gardens, whilst others made for the house where there was an intriguing event called “Meet Rembrandt: a slow looking experience.’ Here, in a darkened room we were encouraged to sit still to spend quality time with Rembrandt’s self portrait in a Feathered Bonnet. All those who experienced it thoroughly enjoyed it.

Meanwhile, outside Don was finding a Roman road and later we all had the opportunity to dowse for it and find it for ourselves.



On the Roman road in the sun.

The sun was shining on us now as we made the short journey to Badbury Rings. For some this was their first visit and they were astonished at the size of this site. We walked around the ring until we came to a point where Don encouraged us to dowse for a Roman road, and there it was.....snaking back to Kingston Lacey.



At Badbury Rings.

Then some of us set off for afternoon tea! Two members, Ray and Trish had moved to an apartment in the area and invited us back to see where they now live. The apartment is beautiful with stunning views over the Dorset countryside. Afternoon tea was truly delicious and rounded off our day perfectly.

We drove home in sunshine, thinking about all we had seen and done. I'm sure that some like me will have reflected on how fortunate we are to live in an area abounding in history and archaeology. Thanks of course always go to Don who makes sure we have a rich programme of visits to enjoy.

Ed Cole

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