

In the second of our 'Touching the Past: The Archaeology of the Dorset Landscape' series, archaeologist Chris Tripp explores 4000 years of West Dorset's remarkable history. Why not join him and discover your past on the last Sunday of every month during 2010?

A CELTIC VIEW: THE SPECTACULAR HILL FORT AT EGGARDON

Chris Tripp

Sunday 28th February, 2010

£50, including Sunday lunch & refreshments

Celebrate the last day of February by learning all about the remarkable history of one of Dorset's most impressive, but sometimes ignored, hill forts. This second Talk & Walk, in Chris Tripp's series 'Touching the Past: The Archaeology of the Dorset Landscape', requires little effort yet the panoramic views, that would still be familiar to our Celtic ancestors, will take your breath away.

Talk & walk aim:

- For people with little or moderate historical knowledge to gain awareness and appreciation of some of the ancient man-made features in our landscape.
- To walk each site and achieve a real understanding events from thousands of years ago.

Talk & walk outline:

- We begin our day at the Kingcombe Centre where Chris Tripp will provide a talk about the day's walk. This will; then be followed by an informal sit down lunch at the Centre where Chris will be happy to answer specific questions about the day's activities and his series of 'talks & walks' during the year.
- We then take the minibus a short distance to view one of Dorset's, and the Country's most spectacular ancient sites.



- Eggardon Iron Age hillfort is one of the best situated monuments in Britain. Arguably, it has one of the finest views of any British hillfort, from its 250 metres (820 feet) vantage point. The site punctuates the Dorset downs leaving a huge drop off to the Marshwood Vale to the north and west, and to the south the Bride Valley and World Heritage Jurassic Coast.
- Our ancestors knew that this was a special and spectacular place, for defence and spiritually. Despite being known principally as an 'Iron Age' site, earthwork evidence tells us it was colonised at least 4,000 years ago during the Bronze Age era. Our tutor will highlight some remarkably preserved Round Barrows from that time as well as more modern features from its Iron Age past. Although smaller than its more famous near neighbour, Maiden Castle, Eggardon's ramparts are impressive and if you have never ventured across this historic site then here is your chance to learn all about one of Britain's most enchanting locations.

Walk detail:

Muddy in places, but firm ground. Distance 1 mile.

What to bring:

Dress appropriately for a short winter's walk and potentially penetrating cold wind.

About the Tutor:

Chris has a degree in archaeology from the Institute of Archaeology, University College London and an MA in Managing Archaeological Sites and Public Archaeology. He worked as a field archaeologist at a small museum in East London and then at The Museum of London Archaeology Service working on sites across the capital. He was elected to the Institute for Field Archaeologists in 2001.

It was while working for MoLAS that he specialised in community projects as a presenter on The Dig project in 2001, as a consultant for the Time Team's The Big Dig in 2003 and as a freelance Community Archaeologist with his own Xcavate!, a simulated excavation project for children. Chris has also developed and taught Adult Education classes in London and Essex since 1997.

Notes:

This course starts at the Kingcombe Centre at 11.30am and returns after 4pm.

Our food is home-cooked with ingredients sourced locally and organic whenever possible.

Minibus travel available to and from the site.

Background Information: Touching the Past: The Archaeology of the Dorset Landscape

Series Aims:

- To understand the function of the various monuments still to be seen in the Dorset landscape and to put them in context with the rest of Britain.



- To look at the material culture of the various periods from the artefacts unearthed by archaeological excavation. To experience the landscapes in which the monuments were erected.
- To explore the interpretations put forward and perhaps develop some new ones. Most of all to come to appreciate the lives and accomplishments of the past peoples of Dorset.

Series Outline:

A series of one-day courses will explore the impact of our ancient ancestors on the landscape of Dorset. Who built them? Why were they erected here? What is their purpose? We will be looking at monuments from the very last age of stone to the impact of the Roman invasion and tread in their footsteps.

We begin with a brief introduction to the periods and materials of the cultures that produced the monuments to be visited and look at examples from across Britain. We then go out into the landscape to experience the sights, sounds and smells that past peoples would have known as they buried their dead and built their structures to the gods and ancestors.

