



## Bronze Age Festival

It has been a busy summer for the South Dorset Ridgeway Project, with the highlight event being the Bronze Age Festival held at Maiden Castle on 19/20 September. Around 700 people came by foot, bike, bus and car to the festival site below the ramparts. This brilliant and unique event was arranged to celebrate the rich archaeological heritage of the South Dorset Ridgeway and of the Bronze Age in particular. Volunteers from the Ancient Wessex Network were on hand to demonstrate more about life in Bronze Age Dorset 4000 years ago. Archaeologists, local artists and a storyteller were also present to help people understand this little known part of our past with activities, workshops and demonstrations.



Edwin describes  
Bronze Age life to visitors



Making a wattle wall for the  
Bronze Age House



Beaker making with potter  
Bill Crumbleholme

Picture credit © Dave Penman

## Project News

### Archaeology on the Ridge

You may be aware of exciting discovery of a mass grave on the South Dorset Ridgeway, uncovered during the construction of the Weymouth Relief Road.

Radiocarbon dating by Oxford Archaeology has revealed a new date for the bodies, which were originally thought to be Iron Age or early Roman due to pottery from this period found in the burial pit. However, radio carbon dating places the remains between AD 890 and AD 1030 or the late Saxon period. For more information please visit the website:

<http://www.dorsetforyou.com/index.jsp?articleid=390745>

Wessex Archaeology will shortly be undertaking a baseline survey of the historic monuments on the Ridgeway. The team will be recording the conditions of individual barrows, changes that have occurred over the past few decades and noting any threats to their survival. The information will inform decisions on future management of these monuments and will be available through the project website.

### [www.dorsetaonb.org.uk](http://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk)

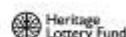
The Dorset AONB launched a new look website in the summer. More information about the South Dorset Ridgeway Heritage Project and updates can always be found at our page:

<http://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/our-work/south-dorset-ridgeway.html>

### Mai Dun Marvels



Supported by  
**The National Lottery**  
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



**Dorset**  
AREA OF OUTSTANDING  
NATURAL BEAUTY



Maiden Castle was the venue in June for an extraordinary day. 130 children from Damers and the Prince of Wales First Schools in Dorchester and Bincombe Valley School in Weymouth climbed to the top of the hill fort to experience a day in the Iron Age. The day started with bartering at a market, and went on with workshops to make butter, flour and string. The children also listened to storytellers.

Following the success of this day we are planning a similar event in 2010 – with a Roman theme. Contact Sarah for more information

### The Osmington White Horse

Officers from the Dorset AONB are working with other partners including Dorset County Council, the Osmington Society and West Dorset District Council to see the restoration of the Osmington White Horse.



This monument is one of the principles landmarks of the South Dorset Ridgeway and we have been actively involved in co-ordinating historic research into the history and outline of the figure. The first part of the project is to understand how the White Horse has changed since it's creation in 1808. We'd like to hear from anyone who has old images or memories of the White Horse. Perhaps you helped clean up the horse with your scout group?

We can then agree with English Heritage how to carry out the restoration work before the start of the Olympic Games in 2012.

### liveIT! love IT! film IT!

We are working with [PVA MediaLab](#) to commission an artist to work with young people (14 - 25) to create four 3 minute films that capture the spirit of the South Dorset Ridgeway.

The project includes

- 🎬 introductory workshops for young people in February 2010
- 🎬 a chance to join in film-making from April to June 2010
- 🎬 the finished films will be presented at the South Dorset Ridgeway Festival in July 2010
- 🎬 the films will be available as downloads in a variety of appropriate formats from our website

**Submissions from artists wishing to lead on this project are welcome now.** For more information please visit the website

<http://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/our-work/south-dorset-ridgeway/get-involved/270-live-it-love-it-film-it.html>

For more information contact:

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## ON THE WAY

The South Dorset Ridgeway Festival July 2010

Two weeks of Ridgeway inspired events, including an archaeology symposium, The Ridgeway Challenge, guided walks, storytelling, open air theatre, film and more ....

<http://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/our-work/south-dorset-ridgeway>