

## The South Dorset Ridgeway Heritage Project

The South Dorset Ridgeway Heritage Project is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Natural England to help local people and visitors to the area discover and celebrate this outstanding ancient ceremonial landscape its archaeology, wildlife and stories. Located in South Dorset, between Weymouth and Dorchester alongside the Jurassic Coast this area is unique in the country for the incredible number of historic monuments along its ridge. Not only does it present fascinating evidence of past lives it has also provided more recent inspiration for art and literature.



Venue:  
Kimmeridge Theatre  
Weymouth College DT4 7LQ

Nearest Train Station:  
Weymouth

### Ridgeway Uncovered

£ Free (Pre-Booked Lunch £5.00)

Booking advisable  
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[www.southdorsetridgeway.org.uk](http://www.southdorsetridgeway.org.uk)



# Ridgeway Uncovered

17<sup>th</sup> July 2010



## A one day symposium to discuss recent archaeological work on the South Dorset Ridgeway

Saturday 17th July 9.30 am to 4.30pm

Kimmeridge Theatre, Weymouth College

## Programme

The South Dorset Ridgeway Festival 16-31 July 2010

# Programme

9.30 Arrival/ Tea & Coffee

## 10.00 Welcome

Sarah Harbige, *South Dorset Ridgeway Heritage Project Officer, Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership*

## 10.10 Introduction to the South Dorset Ridgeway

Peter Woodward

## 10.30 Rather Feeble Little Bumps: topographic and geophysical surveys of the Ridgeway long barrows

Hazel Riley, *Consultant in Landscape History*

*The long barrows on the Ridgeway are some of the very earliest monuments in Dorset, constructed by the first people to farm the land. Surveys of the long barrows, carried out by English Heritage and the Ridgeway Survey Group volunteers have revealed a wealth of detail about these sites, which are still fascinating features in the Ridgeway landscape.*

## 11.15 Eternity is a terrible thought. I mean where's it going to end?

John Gale, *Bournemouth University*

*Preparing for death or perhaps more accurately for what might happen afterwards has been a major pre-occupation of communities the world over from the very earliest times. Dorset in the Early Bronze Age was no exception, but what can archaeology tell us about attitudes and the circumstances that surround the mystery of death in this very small corner of the planet? John Gale has spent a good part of the last decade looking at Dorset barrows most recently on the Ridgeway and this review will hopefully inform and promote a wider appreciation of how our ancestors might have viewed their final act in the theatre of life.*

## 12.00 Flying past the Ridgeway

Andrew Young, *Senior Archaeologist, Historic Environment Team, Cornwall Council*

*For the past year a team of archaeologists have been interpreting and recording archaeological sites on the South Dorset Ridgeway from aerial photographs. The project has involved examining more than 7,000 photographs to produce a map of the astonishingly rich historic landscape of the Ridgeway.*

12.45 Lunch (Sandwich Lunch available £5.00 per head to include drinks)

## 2.00 Not Just Headless Bodies: The Archaeology of the Weymouth Relief Road

Steven Wallis, *Senior archaeologist, Dorset County Council*

*Archaeological finds made during construction of the road, especially the pit containing more than fifty decapitated bodies, have generated much public interest. This talk gives details of these finds and other archaeological work, explaining how archaeology was an integral part of the scheme right from the early planning stages.*

## 2.45 Banks, Bells and Bowls: A 21st century survey of the Ridgeway Barrows

Paul White, *Heritage Team Leader- Landscapes, Wessex Archaeology*

*In early 2010 Wessex Archaeology completed a detailed survey of the various barrows along and around the South Dorset Ridgeway. The survey utilised modern survey equipment to record the condition of nearly 700 separate barrows and by analysing earlier surveys of Dorset barrows a long term picture on the status of these monuments could be established. The aim of the project is to provide practical management advice to land owners and farmers to ensure the preservation or enhancement of these important, inspiring and highly characteristic monuments within rural Dorset.*

## 3.30 Tea & Plenary—Where do we go from here?

