



# Archaeology of Hengistbury Head: Past, Present, and Future

6 – 7 April 2019

*Bournemouth University and Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre*

Sandwiched between Christchurch Harbour and the English Channel, Hengistbury Head has been the scene of settlement and ceremony for more than twelve thousand years. But it hasn't always been that way. For much of early prehistory it was a headland overlooking the confluence of the River Avon and waterways long ago submerged by the rising sea. In later prehistory it was first an extensive and richly furnished barrow cemetery, and later one of the largest trading ports on the coast of southern Britain with connections southwards to France and Spain. In post-Roman times it was an important source of minerals, and most recently a recreation area and nature reserve. Several campaigns of excavation between 1911 and 1979 on the Head have revealed the quality, quantity, and extent of occupation and the changing intensity in the use of this extraordinary landscape.

Forty-years on from the last main campaign of fieldwork it is time to take stock of what we know, how understandings have changed over the decades, and where we might take research over the next few years. Accordingly, this two-day conference organized jointly by the Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre and Bournemouth University aims to explore the current state of knowledge about the site and its environs from prehistoric time to the present day, and develop an agenda to help structure further work. The first day will be held at Bournemouth University's Talbot Campus and comprise lectures and discussions led by distinguished archaeologists with interests in the site. On the second day there will be a guided walk around Hengistbury Head, led by experts involved with the site's management and presentation, followed by a facilitated round-table workshop to build and give life to a new research framework.



## **Saturday 6 April 9:30 – 17:00**

Bournemouth University (Kimmeridge House, Talbot Campus, BH12 5BB)

- 09:30 – 09:45 Welcome and Introduction  
Professor Tim Darvill (Bournemouth University)
- 09:45 – 10:15 Geology and ecology of Hengistbury Head  
Peter Hawes
- 10:15 – 11:00 Ice Age landscapes and hunters at Hengistbury Head  
Professor Nick Barton. (University of Oxford)
- 11:00 – 11:30 Refreshments and displays
- 11:30 – 12:15 Early Neolithic Hengistbury and the lower Avon valley  
Dr Kath Walker (Bournemouth Borough Council & Bournemouth University)
- 12:15 – 12:45 Later Neolithic Hengistbury Head and its context  
Dr Julie Gardiner
- 12:45 – 13:00 Geophysical surveys at Hengistbury Head  
Dr Eileen Wilkes (Bournemouth University)
- 13:00 – 14:00 Lunch
- 14:00 – 14:45 A gateway to the Continent: the Early Bronze Age cemetery at Hengistbury Head  
Dr Clément Nicholas
- 14:45 – 15:30 Iron Age and Roman communities at Hengistbury Head  
Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe (University of Oxford)
- 15:30 – 16:00 Refreshments and displays
- 16:00 – 16:45 Post-Roman Hengistbury Head and the vision for the Visitor Centre  
Mark Holloway (Bournemouth Borough Council)
- 16:45 – 17:00 Discussion
- 17:00 – 18:00 Wine reception and networking

## **Sunday 7 April 9:30 – 15:00**

Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre (Bournemouth, Dorset, BH6 4EN)

- 09:30 – 12:30 A walk on the Head  
Led by Mark Holloway, Gabrielle Delbarre, and Dr Kath Walker
- 12:30 – 13:30 Lunch
- 13:30 – 15:00 Formulating an archaeological research agenda for Hengistbury Head 2020-2025  
A workshop facilitated by Professor Tim Darvill and Dr Kath Walker

Further details and an on-line booking form can be found on the meeting Eventbrite page at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hengistbury-head-past-present-and-future-tickets-54965394976>

Please note that any updates to the programme made before the conference, and further information and links, will be posted on the Eventbrite page as the meeting approaches.

**Directions to Talbot Campus can be found at:**

<https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/about/contact-us/directions/directions-our-talbot-campus>

**A map of the Talbot Campus can be found at:**

<https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/sites/default/files/asset/document/Talbot-Campus-Map-2018-April.pdf>

**Details of parking at Hengistbury head can be found:**

<https://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/Parking/FindaCarPark/CarParks/HengistburyHeadCarPark.aspx>

**A selection of accommodation in Bournemouth can be viewed at:**

<https://www.bournemouth.co.uk/accommodation>