

Sarratt Local History Society – Treasures of the Ridge

On 23 November we were given a wide ranging talk by Ron Masefield, Director of the latest A41 dig around Aston Clinton. The roughly triangular site north of the old A41 and adjacent to the Roman Road to Cirencester and on the edge of the prehistoric Icknield Way, revealed significant archaeological finds which can only be summarized here. The landscape was settled in Prehistoric, late Bronze and early Iron Age; and subsequently by middle to low status Saxons associated with small farms. The low lands were used for pasture and cereals from the middle Bronze Age and remain so to the current day. The Chiltern Forest occupied the uplands and was the site of large numbers of forts from the Bronze and early Iron Age. Roy Masefield showed many slides and overheads detailing the excavation works and the many artefacts found in burial grounds, soil pits, and an area close to an Iron Age round house. The burial sites showed a variety of body positions but all were facing north suggesting ritual burials. Artefacts included gilded brooches, glass and amber beads and a 5AD Celtic coin.

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