

Hampshire Field Club Conference, 14 October 2017
Paper proposal

Hampshire Rocks: the *Sarsen Stones in Wessex* project in Hampshire

How much sarsen stone is there in Hampshire? Where is it? What did people do with it in prehistory? How did the first farmers deal with boulders littering the landscape? A project to answer these, and other stony questions, was started in 1974 by Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries. A team of volunteers surveyed Wiltshire, Dorset, and Hampshire, looking for sarsen stones. By May 1975 Dorset had been covered, whilst the hunt in Hampshire and Wiltshire continued. In 1977 Collin Bowen and Isobel Smith published the results, bar gaps in north-east Hampshire and the Salisbury Plain Training Area.

That might have been it, except for the interest of one of the volunteer-coordinators for Hampshire's part of the project. Reverend Peter Gallup retained the county's records, anxious to capture his thoughts and conclusions about people's use of, and relationships with, sarsen stone. He published two reports in the Hampshire Field Club newsletter, one in 1977 and the second in 1986. The Hampshire archive material was not deposited in the Society of Antiquaries Library until 1993, and copies were placed in the county Record Office and the council's planning department.

So, what were the results and conclusions of this project? And is the survey dataset of any use today? This paper reviews the *Sarsen Stone in Wessex* project's work in Hampshire, and, through the digitisation and presentation of the dataset in a GIS environment, gives it a new lease of life.

Katy Whitaker

k.a.whitaker@pgr.reading.ac.uk | 07769 712799 | @artefactual_KW