

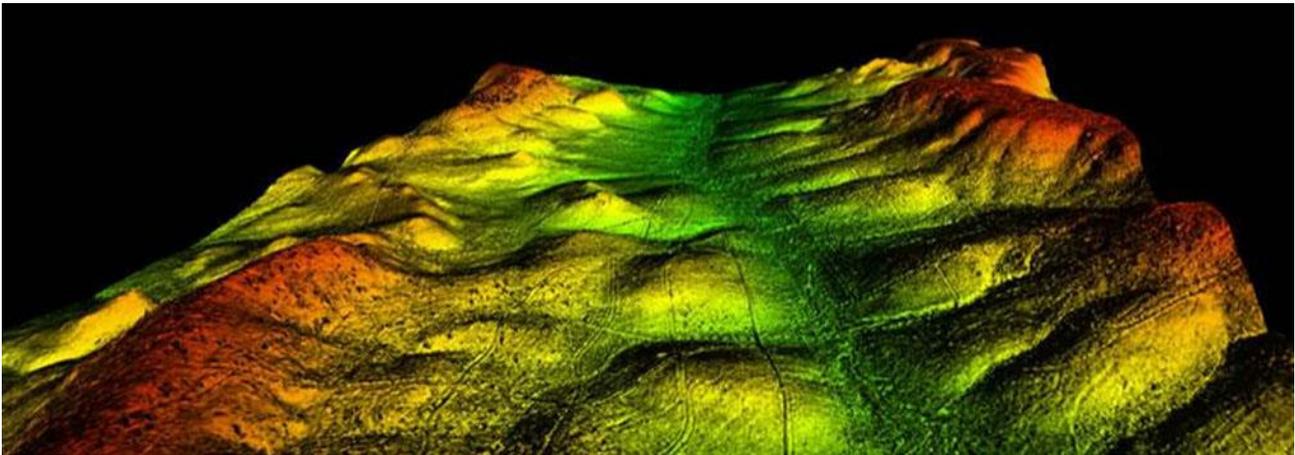
# Redlynch & District Local History Society

## LIDAR: Modern Day Mapping by Lawrence Shaw

Only around 1,000 sites of archaeological interest in the New Forest had been recorded around 2010 giving rise to a concern that in an area not subjected to heavy farming since 1079, many sites had been missed. Accordingly, a survey of the New Forest and its surrounds was undertaken by a light aircraft equipped with LIDAR (Light Detection And Ranging) during the winter months. The technique combined aerial photography, infra-red imagery as well as the Lidar scan which produced a reading every 50 cm on the ground.

The maps and details for volunteers are available to see on line here

[www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/heritagemapping](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/heritagemapping).



Unusual features are checked on the ground by staff and volunteers to determine whether items are genuine features or clumps of brushwood for example. The number of sites of archaeological interest now stands at over 3,000 as a result of these efforts. Amongst the range of sites are a snail shaped iron age enclosure near Brockenhurst, post medieval bee gardens, WW1 training trenches, WW2 hut stands at Beaulieu airfield, and Anglo Saxon ridge and furrow systems in the Southern part of the forest. In addition, known sites can be re-examined using the extra detail provided

The high resolution and combined data have allowed the mapping to be used for ground management: the data processing allows the top of the tree canopy to be measured as well as the ground features beneath hence as a side benefit, the largest trees in the forest could be identified. Rhododendrons can also be identified due to their all-year round, high reflection leaves. Old water courses can be identified and are helping the restoration of some of the old wetlands, and finally track and footpath wear and erosion can be seen and rectified.

Our next meeting is on 4th October, The White Horses of Wiltshire by David Dawson, at 7:30 at Morgan's Vale and Woodfalls Hall. This meeting will also host our AGM.

On Saturday 8th October 1pm – 4p.m. and Sunday 9th October 10am – 3p.m at the same venue, we are holding our Annual Exhibition entitled “Redlynch – the Past 20 Years”; in addition, on loan will be The New Forest Remembers WW1 exhibition plus other items of interest.