

# GLOUCESTER BLACKFRIARS

July 26, 2013 Heather Sebire Day of Archaeology 2013, Excavation County Archaeologist, Heather Sebire, Keith Ray, Manchester University, professor, Tony Fleming

Hi everyone I'm Heather Sebire, Property Curator for English Heritage in the west of England. My day started with the usual early morning checking of emails and then I paid a site visit to Gloucester Blackfriars which is in EH guardianship. It is one of the most complete surviving friaries of the Dominican 'back friars' in the country and we have recently undertaken work to enable more of the buildings to be used for concerts and other performing arts. It was magical as there was a rehearsal going on for the Three Choirs festival in the church itself and one almost expected to see the friars appearing at any minute in the cloister.

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/gloucester-blackfriars](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/gloucester-blackfriars)

That was followed by a real treat. I visited Arthur's stone neolithic burial chamber near Bredwardine in Herefordshire

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/arthurs-stone](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/arthurs-stone)

and then went on to visit the excavations at Dorstone led by Professor Julian Thomas from Manchester University and County Archaeologist Dr Keith Ray. This exciting excavation has revealed large post holes from a neolithic building and a series of cists which appear to be associated with a long mound. Among the finds were a beautiful polished stone axe, a polished flint axe and a beautiful flint knife. Here is Julian Thomas holding the flint knife.

There is an open day at the site on Sunday 28th (there is a Facebook page I understand).

Tony Fleming, recently retired Inspector of Ancient Monuments with EH was also there visiting (looking very relaxed) with his wife. Wonderful to see great archaeology in action on this special day.



*Julian Thomas at Dorstone excavation 26th July 2013*



*Dorstone excavations 2013*

Then I had to head for home and back to the emails-hope you all had a great day!