

# Pen Selwood History Society

## Purpose

The History Society is for everyone interested in the history of Pen Selwood. We foster and promote the study and appreciation of local history by sharing what we each know about the past.

## Meetings

The meetings will be held monthly between October and March on Tuesdays at 7:30pm in private homes. We may arrange some outdoor daytime visits. [There will be a need to balance weather and vegetation growth to pick the best time for a visit to castles for instance.]

## Format

One or two people will lead the topic followed by a general discussion. We will pool what we each know and then we'll discuss what else we want to know and how we might get that information.

## Capture of information

At this stage we are still finding out what we do know and what interests us all. Richard Place has made a great start to capturing what is known. We will revisit this after a few meetings. Meanwhile Peter will act as librarian to Richard's 2 folders so that those interested can have a look through them.

## Topics for meetings

- Castles
- Pen Pits
- Alfred
- Monmouth
- People of Pen
- Buildings of Pen including Pubs and Mill
- Site visits

## Meeting 1 - 21 Oct 2014

Discussed Cenwalh's hillfort & 3 Motte & Bailey castles

Some key areas of discussion for research

Caer Pensauelcoit, the Primeval metropolis. Was this Pen Selwood? If so where is the evidence?

Was Selwood Forest present around Pen when the Castles were in use?

Where were the main roads?

## References

Pen Selwood's history has been recorded in considerable detail in various publications over the years, including:

- CAER PENSAUELCOIT a long lost unromanised BRITISH METROPOLIS - published in 1882 by Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.
- The Result of Further Excavations at Pen Pits - by Rev 1-LI-I. Winwood, F.G.S. published by Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society in 1885.
- The Story of PEN SELWOOD by Mary Harfield in 1965
- Pen Selwood - A Village on the edge of the great Selwood Forest by Jock Baker and Michael Shiel (illustrated by Olivia Bovil) in 1988
- Pen to Paper - Memories of Pen Selwood by Vi Hocking (compiled by Andrew Jenkins) in 1997.
- [British History online](#)
- [Domesday record](#)
- [Early Roads in Wiltshire](#)
- [Selwood Forest](#) N.B. First warden of Selwood in Wiltshire 1175
- [Selwood Forest map](#)
- [The dispute over Pen Pits](#)
- [A Primaeval British Metropolis](#)