

Marchers Archaeology

Popping Stone Excavation

Newsletter 1 - 22 August 2010

The excavation was opened on Thursday 19th by WH and new member IK who managed to clear the site of rushes and brambles, make a plan and open Trench 1 across the doorway of the building.

The building-trace was almost invisible below the vegetation, but thanks to the loan of a magnificent brush-cutter from the Wildes we made short work of it, revealing a rather spread but definite outline of a rectangular structure about 8m long on a N-S alignment. There is a hint of a cross-wall and the apparent doorway is on the E side, but the N end of the building is difficult to detect. The building is only a few metres from the present-day river bank.

A small 2x1m trench was begun across the doorway, revealing a scatter of stones to the outside and a very large “doorpost” stone similar to the one at Herd Law. Several pieces of white earthenware, some with a blue transfer pattern, dated to the mid C19, were discovered between these stones. Perhaps the ruin was more prominent 150 years ago and formed a landmark where parties might have stopped to open their picnic hamper ?



Before



After