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Comments or contributions are always welcome. Please send to the editor, Kate Dennett, 455 Chanterlands Ave. Hull. HU5 4AY
Or email katedennett@katedennett.karoo.co.uk

ERAS LOCAL NEWS . .

Marketing ERAS

If you have any ideas about how we can improve our image and attract more members, (especially younger people) we'd love to hear from you, and if you have professional experience of marketing or publicity work, so much the better. Just email or phone me, or any other committee member, if you think you can help.

We'd like to have a volunteer, who would deal specifically with marketing for ERAS. This would be a new 'officer' post and so we must first put it to the vote at the AGM in April. Whenever we do fieldwork, or make an effort with publicity, we do get an influx of new members, so the marketing should be quite rewarding.

Although ERAS is not currently short of funds, it is vital to keep the membership fees coming in, as we are hoping to bring out our major publications on a more regular basis and this is expensive. We are also committed to publication of our Easington Neolithic and Early Bronze Age site (currently underway) which will mean paying for a flint report, and a pottery report. These specialist studies still need to be done, even if publishing is in digital form, as opposed to traditional print. Other financial commitments include the publication of the Arram site and the digital editing and completion of a CD of the 1960s Walkington Wold excavation, already produced from cinefilm taken on site, as well as more recent on-going work at Burshill (see right).

Commercial Companies – ATTENTION PLEASE!

Volume 13 of the East Riding Archaeologist is nearly ready to go for printing estimates, but is awaiting text for the round-up section at the end. This is a great opportunity for commercial archaeology companies to get work in print at ERAS's expense, so let's hope they'll make the effort to get their stuff to our editor Dave Evans, ASAP!

If you are a paid-up member and haven't received your free copy of Volume 12 (the mauve one) please let us know or collect it from a lecture meeting.

Capturing the East Riding, Photography Competition

Anyone, except professional photographers, can enter this innovative competition, either via a group or as an individual. There are no subject categories and landscape, although a possibility, is not necessarily what might capture the essence of the county. Images can be digital or on film and must be taken in the East Riding, between 1st October 2010 and 30th September 2011. To take part, go to senseofplace@eastriding.gov.uk or see the ERYC's website.

Warm Venue at last

Very good results were reported from the 2010 Local History Bookfair, after the venue was changed to the Treasure House. It was **warm** and people spent money. Thanks to Richard Coates, Graham Myers and others who helped to do the ERAS stall, which made well over £100

Rod Mackey, FSA

Congratulations to Rod, who has been elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. Rod has contributed a great deal to archaeology over the years, especially in the East Riding, and has recently retired from lecturing at the University of Hull. Amongst those also elected recently are ERAS member Peter Cardwell and former member Bryan Sitch (Manchester). Other ERAS members, whose expertise has been acknowledged in this way include Terry Manby, Dr Kevin Leahy and Dr Peter Halkon.

Grant application for study of pottery

A well prepared and supported application was made to ERAS by Richard Coates last year, for funding for radiocarbon dating of residues on pottery from a small excavation carried out by members on an Iron Age round house at Baswick, Burshill Carrs, near Leven. It was proposed that this would provide a valuable chronological marker for Iron Age pottery in the area. The application was approved and Richard has now got three different quotes, for the work. With the help of Dave Evans the committee is looking at the best way to proceed with this and the project should fit well with the current work of the Field Studies Group dealing with the pottery from the Arram site, of the same period.

New Book by Robb Robinson

Far Horizons - From the River Hull to the Ends of the Earth. Of interest to historians, this book has 242 pages, 60 photographs and some remarkable accounts of people from Hull. Copies are on sale at Browns Books, Waterstones, Barkers in Cottingham, the Hesse Bookshop, and Blaydes House.

Local Government Cuts

Government cuts are affecting our Museum opening hours and staffing levels. It is difficult to see how serious volunteer research work can be done at the museum, when there are so few professional people available to supervise. This has long been a problem, but a situation which will surely become much worse. For a fuller idea of what the cuts will mean, see the article on page 13. The Museums Libraries and Archives Council, is also being disbanded and this will especially affect smaller museums which have often relied on the MLA for support and staff training etc. Without doubt, it will be disastrous for archaeology.

RECENT WORK AT 'FIELD STUDIES' MEETINGS

Following the success of the work by the ERAS Field Studies team at Southburn Museum led by Graham Myers along with Richard Coates the team has moved on to work in Beverley. They are now concentrating on the post-excavation work on material from the excavations at Chapel Garth, Arram (2003-2005). The excavations produced evidence of extensive Iron Age and Roman occupation including field boundaries, enclosure ditches and a metalled surface and gave members the chance to participate in excavations.* Since then the Field Studies group has been working to bring the site to publication.

Graham has organised the team to focus on producing a pottery report. All the sherds have now been ink marked with context information so that each one can be linked to its find spot so and vessels from separate deposits can be potentially 'cross joined' from one area of the site to another. This process has given participants the chance to handle the ceramics from the site and get tips on recognition of diagnostic attributes. During this process tutorials on identifying Iron Age and Roman pottery have been conducted to show the team a range of similar material from elsewhere. Some volunteers have taken the opportunity to hone their drawing skills, as tutorials have been held on illustrating pottery for archaeological reports. This has identified a number of budding draftspersons!

The process of recording the pottery is now underway. The team works in groups of 2 or 3 recording onto *pro-forma* sheets which are discussed and checked so people can improve their recognition skills. The participants learn to spot the different materials used to make the pottery, the vessel shapes, how the vessels have been manufactured and how to quantify the pottery to current recording standards. These attributes can help us understand the date that the pottery was disposed of in the many pits and ditches around the site. It also gives us information about how people were cooking, eating and disposing of their rubbish on the site, which will inform the final report.

Each tray of pottery is worked through by the team and is checked. Vessels suitable for illustration are selected and will be drawn by members of the team. Most pottery work is usually undertaken exclusively by archaeological ceramics specialists and is then deposited in museums. This project gives ERAS members the rare chance to participate in the process, learn, study and handle ceramics from the excavations conducted by the group.

Graham has digitised the site drawings so that illustrations for the report can be prepared. He has also entered the context data onto the computer and is working with Fiona

Wilson to structure a site sequence. This data, along with the information for the pottery recording, will be drawn together into a report for inclusion in the ERAS journal.

Meetings are on the first Weds of the month at 19.30hrs at St. Nicholas Community Centre, Holmechurch Lane, Beverley. More participants are welcome. Please come along or to know more about what we do, contact Graham Myers on 07815 088573.

**See previous editions of the ERAS newsletter on the website or see Fiona Wilson's article in East Riding Archaeologist 12 (2009) to learn more about the Arram excavations.*

Ian Rowlandson

REBURIAL OF ALL EXCAVATED HUMAN REMAINS

Since 2008, licences for the archaeological excavation of human remains in England & Wales have required eventual reburial of all remains, of all periods, regardless of their scientific research value. **Before** 2008, licences required either reburial or curation in a museum or other appropriate institution. This is a crucial change in the interpretation of the 1857 Burial Act (Section 25), which states only that the Secretary of State responsible can impose "precautions" on the excavation of human remains. All human remains must now, by law, be reburied if they were excavated after 2008, although reburial is not specified by the Act itself.

This major change has been caused only by the Ministry of Justice's interpretation of the Act, and no-one appears to know who made the decision, or why. Archaeology didn't change significantly in 2008 - nor did public opinion about the curation of ancient human remains. Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State now responsible, had apparently been told that the profession has no problem with it! There is also the question of the screening of excavations of human remains from public view, also specified on MoJ licences. Screening of even small-scale research excavations (often of huge interest to the community) is an anomaly that makes no sense, given that we want to engage the public, not conceal our activities from them!

Along with many organizations, ERAS has protested to Kenneth Clarke and although it seems he has already responded that there can be more flexibility, it is still not clear what this really means. To find out more go to http://www.deathandsociety.org/pages/events-detail.php?news_id=68 where a variety of background information documents have been posted.

Editor

OBITUARY - GARETH WATKINS

Gareth, who was well known to many older ERAS members died suddenly, in late November, after a short illness. He had worked as first the (medieval and later) Pottery Researcher, and then Finds Officer for the Humberside Archaeological Unit between 1975 and 1996; subsequently becoming a genealogist and working in the Family History section of Hull Libraries until 2007.

Gaz (as he was better known) made a considerable contribution to medieval and post-medieval studies during his time with the Humberside Unit (1975-1996), and helped to significantly enhance the profile of Hull and to put it "on the map" for those outside the region. One of his greatest, largely unsung achievements, was to be the local organiser for the classic 1980 MPRG conference at Hull - which was not only a major coup for Hull, but also marked the coming of age of the MPRG as a more mature specialist interest group, which could have a genuinely international appeal, and not just a parochial group of largely Southern English pot researchers.

His legacies were:

- (a) A pottery type series for Hull.
- (b) An overview of the range and diversity of medieval pottery in Hull, and particularly its imports, published in *Medieval Ceramics* volume 2 for 1978.
- (c) The 1979 *BAR* monograph on the clay tobacco pipes of Hull.
- (d) The extensive pottery types series and reports in two of the large *Hull Old Town report series* (Watkins 1987 and 1993). They are still a comprehensive starting point for ceramic studies in this area.
- (e) The pottery report for *Lurk Lane, Beverley* (Watkins 1991), and a jointly authored pottery report for *Eastgate, Beverley* (Didsbury and Watkins 1992).

Gaz saw himself more as a social and economic historian, than an archaeologist: it was where his original university studies had lain. In subsequently moving into family history research, he found his niche. He will be sadly missed and we send our condolences to his family.

Dave Evans

YORK BIDS FOR WORLD HERITAGE STATUS

York is bidding for World Heritage Status designation, basing its application on the quality, preservation and presentation of its archaeological deposits, especially in recent years, with the Jorvik and Hungate sites. They have produced an excellent leaflet (and bid) but it's a very competitive arena and we wish them all the best.

CIA - COUNCIL FOR INDEPENDENT ARCHAEOLOGY DISCUSSION GROUP

The CIA, an organization started by Andrew Selkirk, founding editor of the *Current Archaeology* magazine, has set up a user group, for comments and discussion of archaeological queries. It is open to anybody, whether you are a CIA member or not and the moderator of the group is Gerard Alan Latham. If you have site queries or unidentified artefacts for example, or simply want suggestions as to the best way of tackling a topic or site, you can discuss it with other independent archaeologists in this on-line group.

It has been created under Yahoo Groups and the CIA says it should be pretty secure. Some basic security has been added, as it was felt that the term CIA would attract significant spam! To join, you have to answer two basic questions, proceeding as below -

In your internet browser address type <groups.yahoo.com> The main page of yahoo groups should appear, then under Find a Yahoo Group! type in <Council for Independent Archaeology> Group CIAUK should appear. Click <join this group> You will now have to enter your user ID and password if you are already a member of yahoo groups or join yahoo groups as a new member. (Use the Help button if necessary).

When joining the user group, two simple questions have to be answered.

1. Are you a member of the CIA? (yes or no – it doesn't matter, as they welcome non-members).
2. Briefly, what is your interest in this group?

The moderator will then allow you as a member, by invitation, on an email which should arrive within a day or so. This could be a useful way for independents, especially newcomers, to get into discussion with more experienced people without any commitment to meetings etc.

8th - 11th September 2011 An Opportunity to Showcase East Yorkshire's Heritage

Heritage Open Days are a good opportunity for communities, voluntary organisations, businesses and individuals to promote rural heritage.

This annual four day event attracts more than a million visitors making it the biggest heritage event in England, and provides a platform for participants to show off local heritage by generously opening their doors to visitors, providing guided tours, open days, events and activities.

LEADER Coast, Wolds, Wetlands & Waterways are supporting this year's Heritage Open Days by co-ordinating and publicising events. LEADER will be running three half-day training events throughout East Yorkshire to help you develop and deliver your event. We will support you through the process including free inclusion in regional promotional material.

By taking part in this national scheme and registering an event on the Heritage Open Days website your event will be automatically fully insured and guaranteed to be included in all national and local publicity.

But nothing will happen without **YOUR HELP**. Why not take this opportunity to get involved. If you have an historical gem you would like to show off, perhaps it's an historic building, archaeological monument or heritage walk you enjoy why not share your passion with others.

East Yorkshire is home to some of England's best heritage, and yet one of the poorest participants in the Heritage Open Days scheme. Let's show off what we have to offer!

For further information check out:
www.heritageopendays.org.uk

And to find out more about how **YOU** can develop an event in our area contact the Rural Communities Heritage Co-ordinator
david.bull@eastriding.gov.uk



LEADER
Coast, Wolds, Wetlands & Waterways

Heritage @ Risk in the East Riding and Yorkshire Wolds

As many of you will know English Heritage publishes an annual @ Risk register which assesses the risk level of each designated heritage asset including listed buildings, Scheduled Monuments etc across England.

The @ Risk register for the Yorkshire and Humber Region shows that 28% of its 734 Scheduled Monuments are considered to be at high risk. This figure jumps to a startling 58% at high risk, that's some 246 archaeological monuments out of our 419, when looking specifically at the East Riding and the Yorkshire Wolds. What is worse perhaps is that 241 of the 246 high risk monuments can be described as declining.

Not unsurprisingly for the East Riding and Wolds area 88% are @ high risk due to arable cultivation, with many designated monuments in serious decline. Monuments that once stood as earthworks are becoming nothing more than crop marks.

How can this trend be reversed? Heritage protection through the Higher Level Stewardship scheme is having some impact with some monuments coming out of cultivation. However, this is nowhere near as successful at protecting our monuments as we might wish.

The Rural Heritage Officer with the LEADER Coast, Wolds, Wetlands & Waterways programme is exploring ways of developing projects to assess further the damage being caused by cultivation in the East Riding and Yorkshire Wolds, and is hoping to work with ERAS to develop a project examining sites through fieldwork. David Bull from LEADER will be attending the AGM in April and will be available to discuss the development of a project with members.

For further information see the English Heritage @ Risk website:

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/heritage-at-risk/>

The Yorkshire and Humber 2010 @ risk register:

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/HAR-2010-regional-registers/>

Or contact: david.bull@eastriding.gov.uk

A RANT AGAINST COMPLACENCY !

Presentations from the recent York Archaeological Trust Conference

Introducing York Archaeological Trust's excellent one day conference, *Modern Answers to Ancient Mysteries*, in February, Chief Executive John Walker, FSA, reminded the audience how little we really know about the past and appealed to the profession not to be complacent about the current state of archaeology. He estimated, for example, that although public presentation in York has been very successful, only about 2% of what is underlies the city has been excavated and we do not even know where the amphitheatre was. In terms of publishing, it was time, he said for archaeologists to stop talking so much to each other and start talking more to the general public and to the government. Entitling his introduction 'A Rant Against Complacency', he appealed for the profession to get back to doing MORE DIGGING!

Three of the six presentations are summarised briefly below, although, had I the energy and power of concentration, I would like to have recorded each one.

Keynote Speech:

The Mesolithic Site of Star Carr: past, present and future. Dr Nicky Milner, Senior Lecturer at the University of York.

Dr Milner (who has also lectured to ERAS on this topic) spoke about recent work at Star Carr and around the former Lake Flixton. A long-term programme of augering for soil samples every 15 metres around the periphery is defining the shoreline of the former lake and Star Carr is, so far, the only site with evidence for occupation. However, the lowering of the water table in the Vale of Pickering has resulted in peat loss and more acidic conditions, causing major problems to the survival of evidence. The condition of antler now being found is much flatter and less solid than that found in the 1950s. Bone collagen has turned to gelatine and is very soft.

The site, now in the process of being protected, was previously not scheduled by English Heritage, as it was thought that Grahame Clark's famous excavations in the 1950s had uncovered the whole of the archaeological evidence. It is now estimated that Clark's excavations covered only about 3% of the site. Whilst his discoveries were certainly spectacular, and led to a greater understanding of the Mesolithic period, recent research has shown that his collecting and archiving policy was somewhat selective and very biased. Various bones and artefacts have been found in storage in other people's attics and the recent re-excavation of his trenches showed

that many bones, three barbed points and a worked wood object had been thrown back into the trench (together with a coronation mug and a trowel).

During the excavation of a new slightly drier area, a little to the east, in 2008, three stone axes and a great many more artefacts were discovered, the most exciting find being evidence for a house, a quite substantial structure and the earliest in Britain. Dr Milner considers that further buildings are a possibility as it is unlikely that the excavation chanced on the only one in the area.

She commented that results so far, would tend to contradict Neil Oliver's suggestion, on a recent TV programme, that in the Mesolithic, Britain might have had a population of only about 1000 people. She estimated that the site had been occupied or used for a period of several hundred years - far longer than used to be thought. Work is ongoing and further examination is needed on what would have been the slightly the drier land, further away from the lake edge.

What was Bugging the Vikings?

Beetles, parasites and environments in the Viking Age. Dr Philip Buckland, Assistant Director of the Environmental Archaeology Lab, University of Umeå, Sweden.

Philip Buckland, of the Dept of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies at Umeå spoke with humour about working in Sweden, referring to the less well known aspects of Scandinavian archaeology, such as good preservation of beetles, fleas and lice; also the inconvenience of excavating 10cms then having to wait for the next 10 cms to thaw out.

Much of his time is spent in developing computer data bases and systems to allow archaeologists and environmental specialists to analyse the huge amount of data now available. Bearing in mind that there are so many different environments, such as rivers, bogs, lakes, settlements, waste disposal areas, animal pens, woods, forests, mountains etc, we need to understand changes to these environments and how the beetles and insects tolerate or adapt to change and how quickly new species can come in and take over. He is developing better software for mapping searching and questioning the data, on a world-wide basis, but did acknowledge the need to

keep in touch with the evidence on the ground, in spite of all the time spent in front of a computer screen.

He described how different rooms in a farmhouse, for example, will have different sheep parasites, according to the function of the rooms, thus wool lice might predominate in one room, whilst head lice would predominate in another and foot lice elsewhere. Whilst good preservation occurs in frozen contexts, dehydrated contexts, as might occur in Egypt, give even better preservation. In response to a question from the audience, he said it was indeed possible to distinguish between human fleas, dog fleas and cat fleas, if the specimen (and the specialist) was good enough.

Dr Buckland was born in Doncaster and his research interests are in the use of fossil insects to reconstruct past climates, environments and human activities, along with the development of quantitative and digital methods of analysis and visualisations of these. He is the co-author of the Bugs Coleopteran Ecology Package (BugsCEP) a database system integrating modern, archaeological and Quaternary fossil insect datasets into a set of ecology driver, user-friendly and freely available tools

**Finding the 'Lost' Viking Longphorts of Ireland.
Eamonn. P. Kelly. Keeper of Irish Antiquities at the
National Museum of Ireland, Dublin.**

Eamonn Kelly has written extensively on diverse aspects of Irish archaeology and his most recent research has been on the subject of Irish Iron Age bog bodies, Viking rural settlement in the west of Ireland and on the identification of Viking ship fortifications, referred to in the Irish annals as 'longphorts'. Although records of Vikings attacks go back earlier, a new phase began in c840, when longphorts appeared, to protect fleets and to facilitate trading and raiding. Many of these, usually D shaped, fortifications have long been known, flanking waterways, but the term 'longphort' eventually became a generic term for fort. Much of the early work on this subject has been dismissed by modern scholars and it has been difficult to re-assert the term and to get the evidence recognised for what it is.

Although in Scandinavia, many D-shaped earthwork enclosures flanking waterways are known, there is apparently still much resistance, in the world of Irish scholarly archaeology, to this type of earthwork in Ireland being interpreted as of Viking origin. Indeed radiocarbon dates, often using heartwood (which can give a misleading date, due to the longevity of the growing timber) have been used to favour the sites as being early Irish and only later perhaps, taken over by Vikings, an idea certainly not supported by the speaker.

These large D-shaped earthworks, up to 150 metres x 360 metres, flanking shores or rivers sometimes with small 'nausts' (berths) for ships, may contain a citadel or fortification within the flat enclosed area and frequently have marshy ground to the landward side. The ditch on the most recently excavated site was cut down to a depth of 3 metres from the cut surface and it was estimated that the adjacent bank, with a palisade on top, would have had a height of approximately 4 metres. So these are massive fortifications. (Think in terms of Danes Dyke? Possibly!)

Many possible longphort sites investigated have been found to have Viking artefacts, including silver ingots, metalworking slag, conical weights or ingots; also gold armlets and horse gear. Sadly, I was not quick enough to note down the names of the many sites mentioned, but Las-na-Rann, Annagassan, Navan, Linduachail, Carlingford Lough and Roth Laibh were amongst the places included, (with apologies for my possible misspellings). I felt that despite the lack of site names, the talk was too interesting to leave out of the summary.

Other speakers were

Kurt Hunter-Mann, on York's Headless Romans – Gladiators or not?

David Parham, on The Swash Channel Shipwreck – a 17th century mystery

Dr. Philip Freeman, on The Siege of Burgos – Landscape archaeology of the Peninsular War.

Kate Dennett

A WOLDS DMV PERHAPS ?



As a bit of light relief, I thought you might like this picture of what Rod Mackey tentatively identified as a Deserted Mole Village on the Wolds, although the mini-hillocks were later said by members of the Hull Naturalists Soc. to be much more likely to be anthills.

Kate Dennett

Recent Work at Duggleby Howe, East Yorkshire

A summary of the lecture given to ERAS by Dr. Alex Gibson, in November 2010

Dr. Gibson gave an introduction, placing Duggleby Howe in its context, before looking at details of Bradford University's recent excavation of the ditches surrounding the burial mound. Although antiquarians were very interested in the 4th- 1st millennium BC complex of Wolds long barrows and round barrows, dating has always been somewhat vague. Most of the 20th century dating carried out appears to have been based on oak charcoal, which is problematical, due to the longevity of growing oak trees, which can span several hundred years.



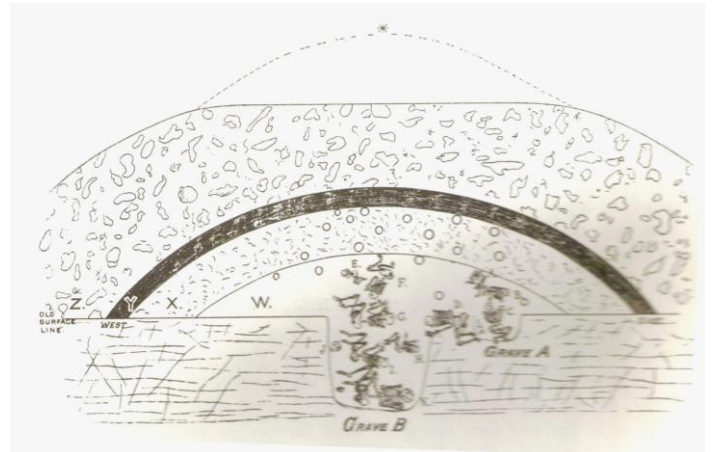
English Heritage commissioned the University of Bradford to carry out a survey, with a view to making decisions on future conservation management. Duggleby Howe, one of the most iconic of the Wolds barrows, is surrounded by what appears to be a causewayed ditch, with a further outer ditch in some places, the whole monument having no true parallel.

The many drawings which have been produced over the years, of the ring ditches surrounding the barrow are all very different. Some new work needs to be done on these versions, looking at the reasons for the differences and producing a definitive up-to-date plot. New work carried out by Bradford shows that the large ring ditch does survive topographically, whereas it was previously known only as a cropmark. No banks appear to remain upstanding. An intriguing question which arises is why the massive internal space between the barrow and the ring ditch has remained so clear and empty of any archaeological features.

Dr. Gibson referred to the difficulty of dating barrows by using bones retained, but possibly selectively retained, from antiquarian excavations. In his day, J. R. Mortimer used wire, together with sealing wax, glue and dental cement to reconstruct some skulls, and this contamination

now causes problems with accurate radiocarbon dating. Although Mortimer himself considered that his own osteological samples were well labelled and stored, he seemed at a loss to understand why Dr Garson, the osteologist whom he commissioned to report on the bones, required so much more information. Dr Garson complained (quite rightly) that many parts were missing. Indeed, Dr. Gibson found that not all skulls in the archives had the correct jaw or teeth.

Examining the sequence of burials in the barrow, and referring to Mortimer's original diagram (below) burial K a weathered skeleton of a middle aged person was dated to the mid Neolithic, 3520-3415 cal BC (68%). Burial I – a mature male and Burial J, only represented by a skull were approximately the same period, ie just after the mid 4th millennium, and slightly later than burial K. Current thinking is that holes at each side which used to be considered to have been made for hanging the skull, are in fact the result of blunt force trauma, ie likely to be the cause of death. Burial G, a mature male with bad tooth decay, was the final burial of this part of mound. The accompanying antler mace head was older than the skeleton, but only by 50-90 years. The whole pit, it is estimated, took between 100 and 300 years to fill. So, Dr. Gibson asked, was it filled in and re-opened for each burial or was it left open? Was there an annual event at the site, to keep it a focus of attention, or some other ongoing ceremonial?



There appears to have been a gap of no known activity, possibly about 150 years, before burial C took place. This burial has been dated to 3010-2895 cal BC (68%) and was accompanied by a boar's tusk dated to 2990-2915 cal BC – possibly a bit old, but probably not an heirloom. Burial D accompanied by a flint knife, was dated to 2925-2890 cal BC, thus giving a TPQ for the primary clay mound piled

over the burial. Burial E, dated 2870-2710 cal BC and burial F, dated to 2880-2800, were both children. Burials A and B do not survive. Assuming the other burials are a representative sample, a completion date for the primary mound phase can be calculated.

Discussing the geographical origin of those buried in the mound, Dr. Gibson said that Strontium and Oxygen isotope analysis resulting in declarations such as 'they were all foreigners' can be problematical. Firstly there is always the possibility that the results could simply be wrong! Secondly, he pointed out that there is a big difference in how each university calibrates and interprets such results. All that can be said for certain, at Duggleby, is that they were not from the Wolds, or any other chalk area. Of course this does not rule out adjacent geological areas, such as Holderness, the Vale of York or West or North Yorkshire. There is indeed very little actual settlement evidence for this period on the chalk Wolds. It was suggested that it might even be relevant to consider whether there could be any link between their wider origin and the fact that some violence was apparent on the skeletons.

The excavation carried out in 2010, was dug in the traditional manner, but recording was a totally paperless process, resulting in millimetre accuracy. Operated by specialist staff, the laser scanner, made approximately 500,000 readings per scan, each scan taking about half an hour in terms of loss of digging time, thus the traditional flow of the excavation day was a little different, with these frequent interruptions to the digging process. Even the sections were recorded digitally. In addition, a digital camera attached to the top of the scanner meant that detailed photographs of the ground surface could later be digitally draped over the scan results. Results were downloaded at the end of each working day and multiple copies made and stored, in case of any electronic or human failure or fire!

In terms of the size of the monument, the area excavated was relatively small, only 0.7% of the whole ditch circuit being excavated. However, the area was carefully chosen to include the two ditches, close to the point where they appeared to swerve around the outside of a small pit, but the pit appeared, on investigation, to be a Medieval chalk pit. The outermost of the two ditches, which acts as a modern field boundary ditch, but which appears to follow closely the curve and irregularities of the inner, causewayed ditch, was found to be of Roman date and some upcast did remain. The causewayed ditch, on the inner side of the Roman ditch, proved to be two metres deep and showed evidence of a very gradual, natural fill. In the bottom of this ditch, just on top of the primary silts, an area of *in-situ* burning was found, with several hazel

nut shells, which (at the time of writing) are awaiting radio-carbon dating. Also found in the lower levels of the ditch were antler picks, in very poor condition, which have are being radiocarbon dated. Very little in the way of environmental evidence, such as snail shells etc, was found in the ditch fills at the lowest levels and Dr. Gibson suggested that the idea that the area was heavily forested in Neolithic times would appear not to be valid.

Duggleby Howe, the Neolithic mound at the centre of the causewayed ditch is still a huge structure, and it might be asked where the material to build it came from. If the mound is seen as originally being a conical frustrum, it can be worked out, using estimates of total ditch fill volume, extrapolated from the excavated of ditch fill volume, that the ditch could certainly have provided the material for the mound.

Dr. Gibson concluded by speculating about the purpose of the massive space between the mound and the causewayed ditch and the fact that it appears to have been such an empty area. Was it a special reserved area, similar to that at Stonehenge? Dr. Gibson had earlier suggested that the site seemed, in scale, comparable to Durrington Walls or Avebury. It would appear that the monument was still very evident in Roman times and it was suggested that perhaps the Romans were superstitious enough to dig their field boundary ditch around the outside of the existing monument, taking care not to breach the causewayed ditch.

The excavation recording method resulted in some interesting and enlightening lecture material, enabling on-screen animation of the excavation process. This was a very well attended lecture, in the newly refurbished lecture theatre. Our thanks go to Dr. Gibson for his excellent presentation and we look forward to hearing further results as they become available.

Kate Dennett, editor

NB Any errors in this summary are the responsibility of the editor and not of Dr. Gibson.

GRIM NEWS FOR ARCHAEOLOGY IN BRITAIN

ERAS would like to draw your attention to the cuts which are being imposed on archaeology and to encourage you to make your objections heard. Dr. Mike Heyworth, MBE, Director of the Council for British Archaeology, commenting on the grim news, appealed for as many individuals as possible, to join CBA, which is the best way people can show their support and enable the organisation to sustain activities in support of the entire discipline.

Dave Evans commented –

The bulk of the CBA's funding comes from Central Government via the British Academy. It was announced yesterday that this is to be phased out from April onwards (2011-2012), and **cease completely by 2015-16**. This will potentially threaten all of their activities - from running a website, being a pressure group and lobbying force for archaeology, producing British & Irish Archaeological Bibliography, publishing Research Reports, providing advice to teachers on educational materials, and championing the Young Archaeologists Clubs.....and so many other things (like commenting on planning applications for Listed Buildings, etc.). Sad news.

Mike Heyworth wrote -

Dear colleagues

2 March 2011 - <http://www.britarch.ac.uk/news/110302-cbafunding>

The CBA received confirmation yesterday that our grant funding from the British Academy is to be phased out over the coming five years. This funding stream has been pivotal to the work of the CBA across the UK for over fifty years and in the current financial year the grant totalled UKP 306k - some 25% of the CBA's income. The British Academy has now told the CBA that this grant will be removed by 2015-16 with a significant year on year decline starting in 2011-12: see the British Academy's statement

<http://www.britac.ac.uk/news/news.cfm/newsid/464>.

CBA President, Dr Kate Pretty CBE, said

'We deeply regret the British Academy decision to cut funding to the CBA, particularly as this decision was not forced by reductions in its own grant from Government, but was a strategic choice by the Academy in spite of their praise for the continuing high standard of our work. We will continue to develop our relationship with the British Academy as the CBA has much to offer, especially in maximising the impact of the academic research which the British Academy supports for the humanities and social sciences.'

CBA trustees had met to consider the financial position of the charity in January. The decision was taken to make some early adjustments to the broad programme of work which the CBA had planned for the coming years, and to focus more effort in the short-term on developing a sustainable financial platform with an expanded membership of the CBA and its Young Archaeologists' Club. CBA's new 5year strategy for Making Archaeology Matter <http://www.britarch.ac.uk/cba/objectives> remains highly relevant and the trustees of the CBA maintain a strong belief in the value of and need for the CBA's work. A challenging new action plan is now being prepared to ensure that the CBA's most important priorities are taken forward, despite the withdrawal of funding. CBA trustees regret that restructuring and a reduction in the CBA's staffing is now needed.

ERAS can only ask you to consider the excellent quality of CBA's work generally, especially their publications and to support them by joining as an individual member, if you possibly can. Visit www.britarch.ac.uk/join

CBA supported ERAS's Easington Barrow excavation, some years ago, with a grant towards radiocarbon dating, which resulted in our Easington dates going onto a national database for the Neolithic period.



Pots produced in the replica Romano-British pottery kiln at the Study Group for Roman Pottery's weekend conference last year. (see article overleaf).

Photo: Ian Rowlandson

The Study Group for Roman Pottery Conference

University of Nottingham, 2nd – 4th July, 2010 *Ian Rowlandson*

This conference was a great success and a very enjoyable weekend. Speakers at the meeting focused on pottery from the East Midlands and there was a range of papers presented by university lecturers, commercial pottery researchers and local societies. Interesting summaries were given by Nick Cooper on recent work in Leicester, Ed McSloy on the pottery from the A46 road improvement scheme and Maggi Darling on the pottery industry at Market Rasen, Lincolnshire. A series of round table discussions were held on subjects such as face pots, *mortaria* and Roman drinking. These sessions offered the chance to get 'hands on' with some of the pottery, including an excellent collection of face pots brought to the meeting by researchers from around the country.



The highlight of the meeting was the construction and firing (above) of a replica Roman pottery kiln. This was done by Beryl Hines an experienced replica kiln maker along with Grahame Watson who managed much of the stoking and younger members of the SGRP who excavated the holes for the kiln chamber, stoke hole and rake-out pit. Members of the group also brought along pottery to be fired in the kiln. A large quantity of wood and clay was procured for the process and thankfully the University of Nottingham groundsmen were kind enough to let us dig a big hole and light a fire in a secluded area of the parkland!

Beryl built the kiln using a fire bar technique used by Roman potters in Cambridgeshire during the 1st century AD. The bars were laid from a central plinth radiating out to the sides of the kiln, like the spokes of a wheel (right, emptied). The bars supported the pots during the firing. As

the kiln had to be made and fired in a weekend Beryl used pre-made bricks for the superstructure of the kiln which was covered in clay and earth. A modern kiln shelf was also used to help construct the flue. Two modern pyrometers were also used to check the temperature during the firing. The kiln was great fun and provided a focus for a glass of wine and a chat in the evening during the firing. It also varied the programme with periods of time spent in the lecture theatre and time spent outdoors. The exciting conclusion to conference was the opening of the kiln when all the delegates gathered around as Beryl carefully opened and unloaded the kiln. Eight of the 53 pots had cracked but the most vessels were successfully fired (page13). Beryl explained that the presence of some hawthorn on the fire had caused a rapid rise in temperature which had resulted in a number of pots blowing in the kiln. A video was also made as a record and as a teaching aid for students.

The SGRP will be holding their 2011 meeting on 24 -26th of June at the Allard Pierson Museum, Amsterdam. A range of international speakers will discuss (in English) the pottery transported by the North Sea and the River Rhine, including Britain, with a view to researchers exchanging knowledge and ideas and the chance to learn about some of the traded wares from the continent.

The author wishes to thank Gwladys Monteil, Jane Evans and Ruth Leary from the SGRP who organised the conference. A detailed write up of the lectures and kiln firing is in the SGRP Newsletter 50, November 2010 available to SGRP members and will subsequently be posted on the website-<http://www.sgrp.org.uk/> where more details about how to join and how to book for the forthcoming Amsterdam conference are available.



COURSES AND EVENTS

In view of the cuts announced, the following info, received via CBA/YAS some weeks ago, will need to be checked out before you attempt to make any bookings. Editor

The Council for British Archaeology has received funding from English Heritage to deliver training workshops across England based on the findings from the research carried out in 2009 into the needs of voluntary sector archaeology groups. Over the next three years, many of these sessions will be organised by trainee Community Archaeologists through the Community Archaeology Bursaries Project, (www.britarch.ac.uk/community/bursaries), a new initiative supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund.

CBA hopes to run the first of these sessions in May 2011, and have been in discussion with Dr Chris Gaffney and his team at the University of Bradford about running a weekend workshop on geophysical survey. Dr Gaffney is an internationally recognised expert in archaeological prospection, and as well as his doctorate in Earth Resistance, has an honorary doctorate from Bradford for popularising geophysics through Time Team and other media opportunities. The course would take place over two days, with an introductory session on the first day and a more practical, hands-on session on the second. If anyone felt that just one of the two days were more appropriate for their level of experience and confidence, or if they felt a whole weekend was too much of a time commitment, they could just book for one of the workshop days.

Since the funding is not extensive, and as a means of minimising last minute cancellations, we propose to charge a small fee, with a reduction per day if both days are booked. The course will be at Bradford University. We will have more details, including a finalised fee, confirmed dates and workshop outline, in due course. At this stage I wanted to canvass the opinions of archaeological groups in the Yorkshire as to whether this workshop opportunity would be of interest to local group members, and would be glad for any feedback you could offer.

Many thanks in advance

Dr Suzie Thomas, MIfA, Community Archaeology Support Officer, Council for British Archaeology, St Mary's House, 66 Bootham, York YO30 7BZ
tel: +(44) (0)1904 521245 (direct line) | fax: +(44) (0)1904 671384

www.britarch.ac.uk | <http://www.britarch.ac.uk/> |
www.britarch.ac.uk/caf

Join the Community Archaeology Email Discussion List:
<http://www.britarch.net/mailman/listinfo/communityarchaeology>

Hull and East Riding Branch of The Historical Association.

Thurs. 24th March - 'Suez-cide' : Prof. Simon C. Smith (University of Hull). The meeting brings together foreign and home politics, clashes and controversial views. Prof. Simon Smith will present a paper on *Suez-cide: Anthony Eden and the Suez Crisis*. His research work has concentrated on the Mediterranean and the Middle East, and he edited 'Reassessing Suez 1956' exploring recent research on one of Britain's most controversial campaigns. This meeting will be preceded by a brief AGM.

All meetings of the Historical Association are held at 7.30pm at the Danish Church of St Nikolas, Osbourne Street, Hull, unless otherwise stated. Visitors are welcome to all lectures but a donation of £2 is asked from visitors. For membership enquiries, please contact Sylvia Usher on 01482 448065

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

26th-29th May, 2011

Iron Age Research Student Seminars (IARSS)

This year the event is to be held at Durham University. It's a small scale, student-led event, really worth attending if you want to discuss or present any aspect of your research. There is real discussion in between sessions, rather than just the usual 'questions for the speaker' routine. To submit a paper, the deadline for abstracts is 18th March. Registration deadline is 30th April. Details from <http://sites.google.com/site/iarss2011/home>

Saturday 9th April, 2011,

Heritage in the South Pennines

10.30 – 4pm at the Birchcliffe Centre, Hebden Bridge.

Speakers in the morning and workshops in the afternoon on Geocaching, GPS, Surveying, Digital archiving and eTRAILS . For details edie.jolley@pennineprospects.co.uk or telephone 01274 431259

12 – 14th April -Foragers 2 Farmers Conference

Bradford University

<http://www.brad.ac.uk/events/cpd/foraging>

16th – 20th April, 2011

Roman Army School. Annual event, by the Hadrianic Society. St Aiden's College, Durham.

Details from annepdobson@yahoo.co.uk
www.hadrianicsociety.com

18 April, 2011- Prof. Vince Gaffney

Lost Worlds: Doggerland & prehistoric climate change

Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Soc.

7.30pm Concert Room, Scarborough Library. Free.

PTO for Diary Dates

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed 6th April

ERAS Field Studies Meeting, Beverley

Wed 20th April

ERAS Annual General Meeting at 7pm, Hull University,
followed by Lecture –

Curses, Collapsed Walls and Lost Churches:
Recent work in Roman and Medieval Leicester.
Dr. Nick Cooper

Wed 4th May

ERAS Field Studies Meeting, Beverley

Tues 10th May

ERAS Committee Meeting, Arram

Wed 1st June

ERAS Field Studies Meeting, Beverley

Sat. 17 September

Day event at Driffield School, in memory of J.R. Mortimer (1825-1911) eminent antiquarian and author of *Forty Years Researches in British and Saxon Burial Mounds of East Yorkshire*. Includes talks on landscape, settlement patterns, geophysics, aerial photography, excavation, isotopic analysis, artefact studies. Details – mortimer2011@cba-yorkshire.org.uk or follow @mortimer on Twitter

Wed 21 September

Reports Meeting, Hull University
A round-up of recent fieldwork in the region

New programme cards will be posted out in early September or see website. All ERAS lectures are held in Room S1 of Hull University's Wilberforce Building, Cottingham Rd, Hull at 7.30pm Members free, visitors, £1.

Field Studies Meetings. 7.30pm St Nicholas Community Centre, Holmechurch Lane, Beverley

Contact Graham Myers on 07815 088573 for further details

I would like to join ERAS / renew my membership.

Name.....

Address.....

..... Tel

Email

I enclose a cheque made payable to ERAS for £.....
£5 (fulltime student rate, please state course and year).....

£15 Ordinary member £20 Family member

Please return form and cheque to the treasurer, Mrs L. Jackson, 24 St Stephens Close, Willerby, E.Yorks. HU10 6DG