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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 . .

Local History Book Fair

On Saturday, 17th October, 10am – 4pm, in Beverley Minster, ERAS will be having its usual stall at the local history book fair, where many bargains are always to be had. If you would like to help for part of the day, or if you have books to donate, please contact any of the committee.

Neolithic and Bronze Age Yorkshire

A day school, organized by Yorkshire Archaeological Society and the North York Moors National Park Authority is being held on Sunday 11th October at Helmsley, to mark the contribution made by Terry Manby to the study of the prehistoric period in Yorkshire. Speakers include Ollie Cooper, Chris Fenton-Thomas, Duncan Hale, Gill Hey, Jim Innes, Brendan O'Connor, Jane Richardson, Alison Sheridan and Blaise Vyner. See page 7 for details.

New Venue for the Field Studies Group

Now that initial work at Southburn Archaeological Museum is drawing to a close (see page 4) the committee has arranged to hold future field studies meetings at the St. Nicholas Community Centre in Holmechurch Lane, Beverley, which might be a more central location for the membership. Whilst Field Studies organizer Graham Myers is making good progress with the site drawings from the Arram excavation, there is still plenty of post-excavation work to be done on marking up and sorting the Arram pottery. Other suggested activities have included a guided tour of the archaeology and history of Beverley Westwood, (preceded by an illustrated talk) by Rod Mackey. Meetings at the new venue will be at 7.30pm every first Weds of the month, starting from Oct. 7th. The community centre is opposite the Grovehill pub on Holmechurch Lane and there is on-street parking nearby. Unless you live in Beverley, the easiest approach to Holmechurch Lane is probably just off the big 4 way roundabout at the bottom of the beck flyover, on the Hull Road.

Excavation Opportunity for Volunteers

Make haste if you want to be one of a small number of volunteers on a five day excavation in early September. ERAS is to provide £2000 for the exploratory excavation and recording of a possible Iron Age enclosure on Market Weighton Wold. Details are on page 5.

Beverley Town Trail

If you have only been window shopping or gallery gazing in Beverley recently, then its worth having a closer look at the pavements and buildings. The first artworks in a series commemorating the town's medieval guilds and crafts have been installed and an explanatory leaflet is available. Thimbles, gloves, footprints and a bread loaf are amongst

the many installations, large and small which are already in place along the new Town Trail.

600th Anniversary of North Bar, Beverley

The events on offer for the above celebrations last month were extensive and well planned, and the weather was good. The armed, costumed, combatants fighting it out in North Bar Within, against a backdrop of the tall wooden gate blocking out all sight of traffic were excellent but perhaps wider advertising was lacking, as a bigger audience would have made for a better atmosphere.

Book donations

The thanks which I expressed to Terry Manby in the last newsletter, for donating a copy of *Patterns of Quern Production, Acquisition and Deposition*. to the ERAS library collection should, more correctly, have been directed to the East Riding Archaeological Research Trust, (ERART) for which Terry is one of the trustees. The trust is a continuation of the East Riding Archaeological Research Committee set up by archaeologist T. C.M Brewster to promote and support archaeological research in the East Riding. The other trustees are Rod Mackey, Peter Halkon and John Dent.

Thanks also to Chris Fenton-Thomas of On-Site Archaeology for the donation of a volume of *A Place by the Sea*, the monograph of On-Site's excavations at Sewerby Cottage Farm, Bridlington. The work covers the period 3500BC - AD300 and includes details of the Neolithic buildings and artefacts found (see flyer).

Beverley Minster

An exhibition of artworks entitled *Carved* in Beverley Minster finishes on September 11th so don't delay if you want to see it. Works by members of the East Riding Artists group are based on carvings from the Minster and there is a related display at the Treasure House.

Martin Turns YellowBelly!

Martin Foreman has a new job working on the South bank. He is to be Finds Liaison Officer for Northern Lincolnshire for the Portable Antiquities Scheme and will be based at the North Lincolnshire Museum.

New Hull Archive

The new archive on Mason St. (behind New Theatre) will house the Council's local history collection, family history research facilities, and local history material from Hull University. It is hoped the building will be open by December. Local studies facilities at the University and Hull Central Library have been disrupted for some time now, so let's hope there will be some action soon.

Editor

NEWS FROM THE SOUTHBURN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

From October, 2009 the ERAS Field Studies meetings will be moving from Southburn Archaeological Museum (SAM) to a new venue. The SAM group would like to say a big THANK YOU for all the work that ERAS Field Studies members have done to help us with cleaning, identifying and cataloguing our collection and to wish Field Studies every success in their new venue.

It is hoped that in the future SAM may get permission to organise fieldwork or excavation on the Southburn farm to improve our understanding of Southburn's history and provide members with an opportunity to have 'hands on' practical experience. If this is approved, we will let you know through the ERAS News and will welcome you to take part.

Meanwhile, there has been an increasing number of visits to SAM and a great deal of interest and enthusiasm from people both in the local community, elsewhere in Yorkshire and beyond. SAM is keen to hear from people who are interested in acting as volunteer guides. You don't need qualifications, just to share our enthusiasm for the Southburn story and collection and a willingness to communicate it to our visitors. We will ensure that you are trained and work with an experienced volunteer guide. Please get in touch.

For any ERAS members and their family and friends who have not yet visited SAM, all you need to do is call 01377 271180 and you can make an appointment to visit the museum at a time to suit you. Children are welcome; our 'hands on' experiences have been enjoyed by quite a few young people ... and parents! With group and family visits increasing and planning for school visits well under way, SAM is now giving people an enjoyable and educational experience. Whether you want to be a visitor or a helper, there is a warm welcome awaiting you at Southburn.

Bill Coultard

CHARLES ARTHUR MASON (1914 – 2009)

The following obituary for Charlie Mason, a founder member of ERAS, was written by Alan Williamson of Beverley, who for several years has been involved in researching wartime activities and who knew Charles Mason well, having met him on the first ERAS excavation at Walkington Wold in the 1960s.

Charlie, as he was better known, served as a member of the South Cave Patrol in the East Riding Auxiliary Units from January 1941 to December 1944. By day, as a civilian

aircraft engineer, he was responsible for the maintenance of a flight of 24 aeroplanes at the nearby Elementary Pilot Flying School (RAF) based at the Brough factory of the Blackburn Aircraft Company. By night, he trained in the 'black arts' of sabotage as a resistance fighter in the most secret civilian army, being formed to resist any impending Nazi invasion. His intimate knowledge of the countryside and the handling of firearms (poaching) made him an ideal candidate for this covert organization.

After the war, Charlie was always keen to attend reunions of the Auxiliary Units, both at Colchester and later at the Parham Museum of the British Resistance Organisation until failing health prevented him travelling such long distances. Stimulated by having been a member of both the East Riding Local History Society and ERAS, he actively participated in the research and recording of the East Riding Auxiliary Unit Organisation.

He was always the first to descend into any newly discovered, secret underground bunker and his wartime experiences featured in many national and regional publications, as well as television and radio documentaries, culminating in Channel Four's 'The Real Dad's Army'.

Charlie died earlier this year and leaves a daughter, Jo and two granddaughters, Catherine and Victoria. A good friend to so many people, he and his wry sense of humour will be greatly missed.

Alan Williamson

YOUR NEW ERAS COMMITTEE

It seems like a long time since the AGM in April but the membership card, shows who was elected onto the committee this year. We try to maintain a good mix of professional and non-professional archaeologists running ERAS and I am not giving anyone's age (as I might find myself sacked from being newsletter editor) but although we always seek to include younger people, this is difficult as student members often move away from the area after finishing their courses. As well as archaeologists and museum/finds specialists on the committee, we have a retired primary teacher, a water engineer, an IT consultant, a dairy farmer, a geographer, and a former health and safety officer.

SAD LOSS TO POTTERY STUDIES

2009 has seen the loss of two major figures in the pottery studies fraternity, both in the region and nationally. Roman specialist Vivien Swan died, age 65, in January 2009 after a long illness and Alan Vince, specialist in Anglo-Saxon, Medieval and early modern pottery died age 56, in February.

Editor

REPLICA BRONZE AGE BOAT TRIALS

The press release below was received from John Davis. It should be borne in mind that the original vessel was twice the size of the replica in all dimensions - length, breadth and depth, hence a ship of considerable size. The Roberts article, quoted, makes very interesting reading, although John Davis points out that the Ferriby Heritage Trust does not necessarily concord with all Roberts's views. (Ed.)

The Bronze Age boat which became an international TV celebrity after starring in the BBC's widely-acclaimed *Coast* programmes launched RNLI Filey's Lifeboat Day on Saturday 15th August at the start of a secondment to the port, so the renowned skills of East Coast seafarers can be used in sea trials evaluating the performance of prehistoric vessels.

The Ferriby Heritage Trust, the charity which owns the half scale reconstruction of the 4,000 year old boat found on the Humber foreshore at North Ferriby, is taking up a suggestion in one of several recent scientific papers on the Ferriby finds that "An appraisal of the boatmanship and seaworthiness of the inshore, open-boat fishing fleets around the British Isles in the days before the internal combustion engine would set a benchmark against which prehistoric boats might be judged."*

Barry Robson, Coxwain of the Filey lifeboat, said "The RNLI welcomes the support of what might be described as the world's oldest coble. There is a great tradition of building and handling planked vessels along this East Coast. Experienced seagoers willing and able to help have the skills and knowledge this research needs." Ferriby Heritage Trust chairman Wendy Dobbs said: "Gaining hard-earned international recognition of the immense importance of the Ferriby boats and procuring the replica has been a real community effort for a village charity. It is most appropriate that the next stage toward the building of a full scale replica should come from our neighbouring coastal communities. The opportunity to help the RNLI is a rewarding bonus."

The private venture reconstruction funded by the late Ted Wright, who discovered the vessels, and the leading naval architects Edwin Gifford and John Coates, was described as "archaeology by experiment" and established Bronze Age man's ability to build technically advanced seagoing vessels. "With projects such as a planned £multi-million reconstruction of Stonehenge seeking to use full-scale replicas of the boats used to transport the bluestones from Wales, the experiment needs to continue." said John Davis, the Trustee who, with the support of local shipping businesses, helped bring the replica to the Humber. "The assessments made after initial trials on the Solent need

developing into a more detailed evaluation of the boat's handling and load carrying abilities."

Depending on the progress of the sea trials and the weather the boat may visit other Yorkshire lifeboat stations or ports, but should be back in the Humber for the start of the Round-the-World Clipper race on September 13. Further information: John Davis Tel: 01482 865766

* Roberts, O. T. P., 2006. Interpretations of Prehistoric Boat Remains. *The International Journal of Nautical Archaeology*. 35.1 : 72-78

EXCAVATION OPPORTUNITY FOR VOLUNTEERS NEAR MKT WEIGHTON 10-14 Sept 2009

Aerial photography by Peter Halkon in 2003 revealed a large enclosure south of Market Weighton Wold. On typological grounds and its relationship to other crop mark features, it may be of Iron Age date. A geophysical survey was undertaken between 2006 and 2008 with the aim of locating the feature visible in the aerial photographs and was supported by a topographical and surface material survey, to provide complementary evidence relating to the possible date of the feature and its position within the landscape. The aim of this small excavation, funded by ERAS, is to section the enclosure ditch and adjacent linear earthwork in an attempt to ground prove the geophysics and crop mark data and to provide further dating evidence and clues as to the purpose of the site

Time: 9.00am - 5.00pm, **Lunch:** 1.00-1.45pm

You will need:

- suitable waterproof clothing,
- boots with protective toecaps if using heavy digging tools
- Packed lunch and drinks
- Up to date tetanus immunisation

NB This is a small scale assessment of the features and the farmer has requested that numbers should be kept to a minimum as the field will have been sown and so the **maximum number of diggers per day will be 10**. There may be opportunities for finds processing, depending on what we find.

If you want to participate please e mail Peter Halkon, who will tell you which days are still available and give you the map reference.

a.p.halkon@hull.ac.uk

Tel: (Home) 01482 847926 (Work)

Mobile 07868 050133

ERAS 'BIG FLINT DAY' AT SOUTHBURN

The Big Flint event (re-arranged after last year's failed attempt when the demonstrators' van broke down on the way from King's Lynn) proved to be a great success and was held at Southburn, in SAM's education activity area, which was just the right size for the number of people attending. Flint specialist John Lord and his wife Val, a fibre and textile expert were both keen to help everyone get the best out of the day and worked tirelessly, hardly stopping for the cream scones and cakes provided by various committee members.



Twisting nettle fibres by rolling them on the thigh Photo: R. Mackey

Instead of doing set 'workshops' as planned, John demonstrated making a hand axe and making a barbed and tanged arrowhead and then showed us separately, various techniques, such as striking blades off a core and pressure flaking. His expertise in handling the materials was very impressive and if you check out his website you will see how he learnt! Having brought lots of large flint nodules and small tools of bone and antler for us to work with, he then simply let people gather round and have a go. Thick leather pads or gloves were provided and with plenty of

ongoing tuition, in our keenness, we used up most of his materials, but that seemed to be OK.

Most enthusiastic perhaps, was the youngest visitor, Thomas, who was heard most politely asking for more. Something of a competitive atmosphere developed and Fiona was a natural at the technique, producing a very good barbed and tanged arrowhead, whilst Richard Coates produced a quite presentable leaf-shaped arrowhead. Other people also laboured long, to produced arrowheads, but it was surprising how easy it was with the right tool and a little guidance on the angle of striking, to knock very fine, basic and useable blades off a core. Amazingly, they just seemed to fall off the core into the gloved hand, if the striking angle was correct. Indeed gloves or a leather pad were necessary, for the newly struck flakes were extremely sharp, as John demonstrated by cutting thick hide easily with one of them.

Val Lord (pictured left) demonstrated how to make strings from natural fibres and had brought along a large bunch of nettles, gathered from their land, that morning. After stripping the leaves, splitting open the stem and separating out the fibres in one or two deft movements, she demonstrated how to form a twist by rolling a doubled length of stem on the thigh gradually adding more fibres to make useable lengths of string, or rope. This proved to be a most addictive process for many people, even if it did result in sore fingers by the end of the day.



John Lord demonstrating flint tool making.

Photo: A. Gowland



Photo: A. Gowland

Val really knew her stuff and was able to show examples of different results according to whether the finished string was allowed to dry whilst hung under tension, was loosely coiled or was re-wetted and dried. She showed pictures of fibres coloured with common native plant dyes and talked about different plants which could have been used to make textiles, cords and strings. She demonstrated making a very fine cord which was then used to bind one of the newly made flint arrowheads into a shaft.

Charging £10 per adult including refreshments, ERAS probably lost a little money on this event, especially as several people came only to watch, without paying, but ended up having a go! However, we feel it was most definitely worthwhile and thanks go to Fiona for organizing it and to Margaret and Bill Coultard at SAM for hosting it (we hope we didn't leave too much mess to be cleaned up).

If you would like more details of the background of John and Val Lord, who spent many years, looking after and developing the Norfolk flint mines site known as Grimes Graves, their excellent website is www.flintknapping.co.uk If you have suggestions for any other events of this nature please let us know.

K. Dennett

Miscellaneous Archaeological Events For your Diary

For ERAS meetings see back page.

- 3 – 5 Sept. Conference to celebrate 30 years of Association For Environmental Archaeology. University York. arhr@york.ac.uk
- 11 Sept. Analysing the Bronze Age. Workshop after main UK Archaeological Sciences Conference on 8-10 Sept. in Nottingham. Contact Dr Jane Evans. www.bgs.ac.uk/ukas
- Thurs 10 Sept. Start of Peter Halkon's excavation at Market Weighton Wold. E. Yorks
- 25 - 27 Sept. Romans and the Romanesque in Lincoln and Lincolnshire. Society of Church Archaeology Conference, looking for evidence of Roman Christianity, also 7th-13th century evidence. Churcharchaeology@googlemail.com
- 3 Oct. Medieval Life in the Eden Valley. Appleby Archaeology Group. Day conference at Appleby Grammar School. phyl@rouston.plus.com
- Sun 11 Oct. Neolithic and Bronze Age Yorkshire. A day meeting at Helmsley Arts Centre, Helmsley, N. Yorks. (Includes talks on the use of jet, Fylingdales after the fire, Ferry Fryston and neighbouring Beaker burials, Cayton Barrow, Sewerby Cottage farm Neolithic house ... and much more). Booking forms from— NYMNPA Tel. 01439 770657 g.lee@northyorkmoors-mpa.gov.uk
- Fri 16 Oct. CBA Weekend based in Shrewsbury, with site visits, including Ironbridge, also Beatrice de Cardi lecture on history of UK industrial archaeology. www.britarch.ac.uk/cba/weekend
- Sat 17 Oct. Local History Bookfair. Beverley Minster 10am – 4pm
- The twelve week Autumn series of University of Bradford's 2009 Research Seminars begins on the last Tuesday in September. Meetings are at 7.15pm in A0 08 Phoenix Southwest Building. Convenor: Dr. Janet Montgomery (J.Montgomery@bradford.ac.uk)

FROM THE EAST RIDING FORUM

The East Riding Forum, chaired by Dave Evans, is held in Beverley 2-3 times a year to give those involved in archaeology, in either a commercial, academic or volunteer capacity in the region an opportunity to exchange news and views and disseminate information. The following notes summarise some of the items covered at the June meeting.

YARFF. Due to staff cuts, there is no officer within North Yorkshire to further the Yorkshire Archaeological Research Framework (a plan setting out the archaeological research goals for Yorkshire).

Storage. Dave Marchant (ERYCC) reported the proposed Goole repository was not suitable. There was some discussion regarding the closure of some archaeological units due to the financial situation and the subsequent question of who would pay for archive and finds storage for jobs in progress, in such cases. It was agreed that the profession as a whole needs to deal with storage/archiving issues at a higher level. The question also arose of whether some pre-accession selection, particularly of ceramic building materials, which take up a large amount of space, should take place. This again needs a wider policy decision at a higher level.

Sword Replica. A replica of the South Cave Iron Age sword is being made and is almost ready.

Lectures – Barbara English's history based lecture series had been very popular with some evenings sold out.

Chris Fenton-Thomas (On-Site Archaeology) - reported on the launch of the Sewerby Cottage Farm publication (see enclosed flyer). A copy of this publication was kindly donated to ERAS by Chris and will be kept in the University of Hull's B.J Library. It was estimated that the publication from the Melton A63 site would be out by September or October.

Not much current excavation work was happening, as several building projects had been put on hold by developers.

Gail Hamma (NAA) – reported two Bronze Age barrows and Roman artefacts found on their pipeline excavation (six month ongoing project). The A1 widening project is producing Prehistoric and Roman material.

MAP is currently working on the site of a proposed anaerobic digester at Kirkburn.

Dave Evans (HAP) – giving an overview, reported work in the region was starting to increase again, mainly on large-scale pipeline and industrial sites, including the Whitehills

gas storage project at Aldborough, geophysics on Beverley's Swinemoor Lane hospital site, excavation work at Pocklington Airfield, and at Pollington.

At Moot Hill, Driffield, damage caused by a developer to a scheduled site was being considered by English Heritage, with the possibility of a prosecution. At a quarry site at Catwick, HAP (Humber Field Archaeology) had revealed post settings for a rectangular building c15m x 3m with Beaker pottery, also a post alignment.

It was reported that the Flixborough publication would be ready soon.

Duggleby Howe - Terry Manby reported that Alex Gibson of Bradford University was undertaking a five week excavation to section the enclosure ditch at Duggleby. The Prehistoric Research Section of YAS had arranged a visit later in the month.

(Excavation of the main ditch has subsequently produced five antler picks, which will be used for radiocarbon dating.)

Heslerton Pottery – Terry reported some unusual comb decorated beaker bowls amongst the pottery he was working on from Dominic Powlesland's sites. Large deposits of clay were present, possibly indicative of a small building or a kiln?

YAJ – Terry reported that last year's journal was due out soon and had been produced by Maney's this time.

Alan Williamson – reported the death of Charlie Mason earlier in the year (see obituary on page 4).

DMV Wesite – Helen Fenwick (University of Hull) reported about 60 applications, many with PhDs, for a temporary post, funded by the Maurice Beresford bequest, in the History Department. Steve Clarke had been appointed to the post which involved setting up a website containing information on all English deserted village sites. The surprisingly large number of applications emphasized the major problem with availability of work in the profession in the current economic downturn.

Editor

LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGY FOR BEGINNERS - KILNSEA & EASINGTON

For a beginner trying to understand how features show in section view and in plan view, a good place to visit in E. Yorkshire is the coast between Easington and Kilnsea, where wind and sea erosion have exaggerated the normal weathering rate, resulting in dramatically obvious features.

Walking south along the beach from Easington Lane end, towards Kilnsea and looking up at the cliff face the majority of what you see is glacially deposited clay with stones (erratics) including nodules of flint, carried by the movement of glaciers. Within the brown/grey marbled face of the clay, there are sometimes alignments of small stones, which can be followed for several metres and which represent some sort of pause, event or surface within the deposition process, but manmade features or artefacts would not be expected within this face. It is only towards the top of the cliff, just below the turf and dark brown soil horizon that archaeological features occur, although there are exceptions...

Army trenches

Exposed in section along this short stretch of cliff is evidence of 20th century army activity, marked by spiral iron stakes and chunks of concrete sticking out of the cliff, at a depth not normally accessed during human domestic or agricultural activity. In one place the compacted soil base of a WWII concrete blockhouse, built on the cliff top might still be seen. The blockhouse (Fig. 1) was well known to ERAS members on the 1990s Easington barrow dig, as we passed it daily on the way back to our vehicles. We could pass to either side of it, but due to erosion of the cliff, it has now tumbled upside down onto the beach below. Its visibility depends on the changing pattern of deposition on the beach, and it is sometimes almost buried (Fig. 2).



Fig. 1

Photo: R. Mackey

Ditches

Older archaeological features, such as pits, ditches or graves appear in the upper section of the cliff and generally

show up as darker more soily features against the greyish brown clay (Fig. 3). Viewing such a feature only in *section* as opposed to in *plan*, ie from above, it would be difficult to tell whether it was a continuous ditch or simply a pit. Trying to work out the angle at which a ditch lies in relation to the cliff face can be interesting and in Fig 3 the relatively square cut shape of the central feature might seem to indicate it is approximately at a right angle to the coast, whereas the more amorphous dark feature showing to the right, could be a ditch coming in at an oblique angle to the coast, with its cut profile less distinct.



Fig. 2

Photo: R. Mackey

Sometimes if the beach level is high, it is possible to study the infill of such features and look for tip lines in the fill of a rubbish pit, the re-cut edges of a ditch, layering indicating the gradual silting up of a ditch or even pieces of pottery or bone in the fill. Often the features are too high to see such detail, although binoculars can be a useful aid.

Still following the coast, and beyond the sand dunes, as you approach Kilnsea, with the highly visible concrete war time remains in the distance, the compacted surface of the old Kilnsea Lane can be seen, still eroding away along with its roadside ditch. Fascinatingly, the soft infill of the roadside ditch has been washed away completely, leaving only the harder shell of the ditch cut into the natural clay (Fig. 4).



Fig. 3

Photo: K. Dennett



Fig. 4 Figure on old lane surface, empty ditch to left. Photo: K. Dennett

Rigg and Furrow

Close to this point, if conditions are right, narrow, parallel bands of clay about seven metres apart, and at an oblique angle to the coast, can be seen peeping out of the sand (Fig. 5). These are the remains of Medieval rigg and furrow farming, the wider cultivation platforms having eroded down leaving only a central ridge of clayey soil and the furrows subsequently having been filled up completely by eroded soil and then the encroaching beach sand. Evidence of relatively modern ploughing can also be seen, and is again emphasised by the sand infill (Fig. 6).

Land drains

The beach, constantly advancing and covering former agricultural land, is littered with the debris of earlier occupation, particularly at the low-water line. Curved pieces of brick coloured land-drain are frequently present and near Kilnsea, where the clay subsoil is still battling for survival against the beach, the ends of the parallel lines of these ceramic land drains normally inserted between 40-60cms deep are visible in section, approximately 10 -15m apart. The fact that nearer to Easington, such land drains are also visible in the upper part of the cliff face ie. at a much higher level gives a clue to the shape of an earlier landscape.



Fig. 5

Photo: K. Dennett

A Drowned Landscape

In Neolithic times, when the coast was several kilometres to the east, a wide valley known as Kilnsea Fleet curved in a north-easterly direction from the River Humber across the base of the peninsula. Thus much of what is now the beach area, south of Easington lay within this valley. The Neolithic occupation site and Bronze Age barrow excavated by ERAS in this valley is still visible as a reconstituted grassy mound at the south end of the first lagoon. The remains of woodland in this ancient valley, before it was drowned by later sea-level rise can sometimes be seen nearer the low tide line. In the clays exposed at low tide, the eroded remains of stake alignments (probably fencing) of unknown date can sometimes be traced for several metres, however, understanding the dating and sequence of the clays exposed at the low tide line is a complex and specialist subject.



Fig. 6

Photo: R. Mackey

Sea Bank

The remains of the old abandoned sea defence bank are sometimes visible on the beach, showing as a slight, water-filled linear feature, and as with many archaeological features shows up better in morning or evening light and in damp conditions.

It is always interesting to walk along this stretch of coast as the cliff is constantly showing a freshly eroded surface and the repeated scouring and re-deposition of the beach sand means different features are exposed according to weather conditions. Occasionally the remains of barrows, henges or burials might appear on the beach. If you find anything of interest, let the SMR or ERAS know, but try to record its exact position in relation to several fixed, aligned points on the horizon, as the feature might have disappeared after the next tide. If you can record by GPS, all the better, although coverage is not perfect on the Holderness coast.

K. Dennett

Further Reading

Ellis, S. & D.R. Crowther, (eds) 1990. *Humber Perspectives*. Hull: Hull University Press.

Evans, D.H. (ed) 2001. *East Riding Archaeologist* 10.

Van der Noort, R & S. Ellis, (eds) 1995. *Wetland Heritage of Holderness*. Hull: University of Hull, Humber Wetlands Project.

ERAS DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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 or contact Graham Myers on 07815 088573

- Wed 17 Sept. Reports meeting - A round-up of field-work in the region..
- Wed 1 Oct. Field Studies Meeting, Beverley.
- Wed 21 Oct. Lecture: The Dig Hungate Project, York Peter Connelly (York Archaeological Trust).
- Wed 4 Nov. Field Studies Meeting. Beverley.
- Wed 18 Nov. Lecture: Ten years of landscape archaeology in the southern French Alps – Life above 2000m , from the Mesolithic through to the Middle Ages.
Dr. Kevin Walsh. (University of York).
- Wed 2 Dec. Field Studies Meeting, Beverley.
- Wed 16 Dec. Lecture: Barcombe, Devon – an early post-Roman coastal trading site.
Dr. Steve Roskhams (University of York).
- Wed. 6 Jan. Field Studies Meeting, Beverley.
- Wed 20 Jan. Lecture: Landscape of the Witham Valley, with new evidence from LiDAR survey.
Dr. Steve Malone (Archaeological Project Services).
- Wed 3 Feb. Field Studies Meeting, Beverley
- Wed 17 Feb. Lecture: Archaeology and environment in a changing East Yorkshire landscape: The Foulness Valley c.800BC to c.AD400.
Dr. Peter Halkon (University of Hull)
- Wed 3 Mar. Field Studies Meeting, Beverley
- Wed 17 Mar. Lecture: Experimental pottery kiln firings – recent research. Dr David Walker (Trent and Peak Archaeology).
- Wed 7 April Field Studies Meeting.
- Wed 21 April AGM followed by lecture, Andes, Incas and Indians – Recollections of the Cusicha project in Peru. Rod Mackey.

Sylvia Usher has kindly supplied the programme of Hull & East Riding Branch of the Historical Association and says that ERAS members are very welcome to attend. Meetings are at the Danish Church of St. Nikolas, Osborne Street, Hull, HU1 2PN, unless otherwise stated, and begin at 7.30 pm. Further details - Sylvia Usher, 01482 448065

Sat. 10 Oct. **Georgian Hull:** Exploration walk led by Dr R. Robinson. (University of Hull). 11am–3.30pm. (see below)

Thurs 29th October. **After Plimsoll: Saving Seafarers' Lives in the late 19th Century.**

Dr Richard Gorski, (University of Hull).

Thurs 26th November. **Daughters of Diocletian and Maximianus: History and Personalities on the Coinage of the Tetrarchy c.295-c.326 A.D.**

Professor James Booth, (University of Hull). Joint meeting with the Classical Association.

Venue: the Graduate School, the University of Hull.

Thurs 14th January. **The United States' Presidency in the 20th Century: an Extraordinary Role.**

Professor Jenel Virden, (University of Hull).

Thurs 11th February. **Female Experience of War in the Middle Ages.**

Professor Anne Curry, (University of Southampton, President of the Historical Association).

Venue: The History Centre

Thursday 25th March. **In Search of the English Sabbat: Popular Conceptions of Witches' Meetings in Early Modern England.** Professor James Sharpe, (University of York). The AGM precedes this lecture

The Georgian Hull walking tour on Sat 10 Oct will look at High Street and areas developed between the 1770s and early 19th century, with Blayde's House as study centre. Buffet lunch included. Contact Sylvia for details and booking form.

CONFERENCE - SATURDAY 7th NOVEMBER

British Association for Local History Conference *New Research into the History of Yorkshire* to be held at the Royal (Station) Hotel, Hull. Information will be circulated to Branch members, and can be consulted on www.sp12.hull.ac.uk/November.htm. Bookings to BALH(HC) 147 Oyster Quay, Portway, Cosham, PO6 4TQ- £15

Sorry the system has a bit wrong this time, so for other diary dates see page 7

Editor