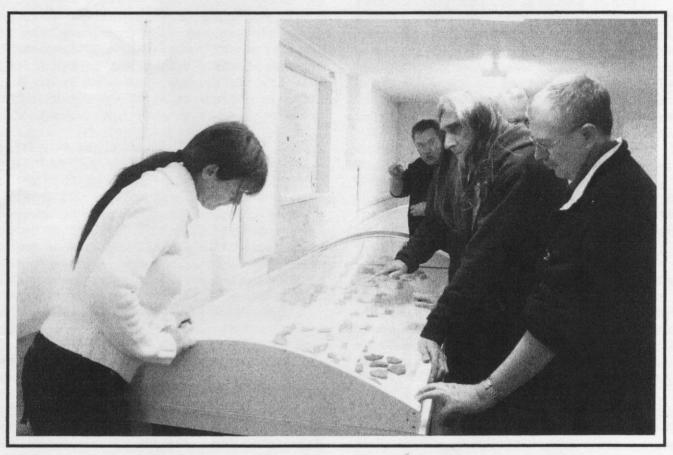
# ERAS News

EAST RIDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

No. 67 JUNE 2007



Field Studies group preparing exhibits at Southburn Archaeological Museum.

Photo: K. Dennett

Sherriff Hutton Trip \* Battle of Crecy \* Farthing Down \* CIA Conference Local News \* New Committee \* Field Studies at Southburn Museum \* Diary Dates

## ERAS Local News . . .

# BOOK NOW! SHERRIFF HUTTON CASTLE TRIP

ERAS has organised a visit by coach to Sherriff Hutton Castle, just north of York, on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July, visiting also, the well-preserved remains of East Lilling DMV (Deserted Medieval Village). We will have ERAS member Ed Dennison as a guide. Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) carried out extensive survey work on Sherriff Hutton Castle, prior to the consolidation work and as those who went on the Thornborough trip will remember, Ed is a very good guide. A booking form with full details and showing a small part of the castle, is enclosed, but we need to confirm numbers soon, so please return the tear-off slip to the organiser, Valerie Fairhurst as soon as possible.

## ALSO NOW BOOKING INDEPENDENT ARCHAEOLOGY CONGRESS AGRICULTURE & ARCHAEOLOGY

Enclosed, also is a booking form for this year's Congress for Independent Archaeologists. ERAS is hosting the 2007 event for the (CIA) at Bishop Burton College on the weekend of August 31 - Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>. The group supports and encourages independent archaeologists, whether professional or amateur and has always been strongly championed by Andrew Selkirk, (editor of *Current Archaeology*) and Neil Faulkner.

Also, if you are involved in agriculture, either as a land-owner, tenant farmer or worker we would like to hear your point of view as this year's event will focus on the link between farming and archaeology, looking at such topics as the new agri-environment schemes, crop regimes, recording of farm buildings under threat and what farmers and archaeologists can learn from each other. There will be examples of successful co-operation not just locally but from all over the north of England. There will also be presentations from some of the winners of the British Archaeological Awards. Please support ERAS at this event as we want to show how well professionals and non-professionals work together in East Yorkshire.

## **EGYPT LECTURE**

Both Dave Evans and Rod Mackey kindly offered replacement lectures, when due to an accident, Egyptologist Rosalie David had to cancel a few days before the April lecture. However, the committee felt that it was important to have a presentation on Egypt, as planned, especially as a group of non-members from a study course was coming specifically for that topic. Many thanks, yet again to Helen Fenwick who stepped

in. Helen gave an excellent illustrated talk, based on her work in Tell el Amarna, Egypt, ending with a look at living and working conditions for the research team. A summary of the lecture will appear in the next newsletter. Rosalie David's lecture has been rescheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> December.

## FIELD STUDY MEETINGS START AGAIN

Meetings have traditionally been held on the first Wednesday of each month, but have lapsed of late, due to lack of a leader. Graham Myers has now taken on the responsibility of Field Studies Officer and meetings are to resume. The June and July meetings will be at 7.30pm at Southburn Museum, on the JSR Farm Estate. To get to the Museum (from Hull and Beverley) turn left on the A164 Beverley to Driffield road, just after passing through Hutton Cranswick, signposted Southburn. The farm complex is about a mile on the right, and parking is at the end of the visitor centre car park. The aim is to process and catalogue all the finds currently in the museum collection, set up displays and create activities for both adult education groups and schools, in order for the museum to function as a local resource.

There is a wide variety of tasks to do - hopefully something to suit everyone, and a good opportunity to learn about different aspects of post-excavation work. Meetings will be on the first Wednesday of the month but might change according to what is convenient for most people. Phone Graham 07815 088573 for details.

#### **NEW ERAS WEBSITE**

Although for several years, we have had a website, organised and run by former committee member Gill Ainsworth, through the local 'Beehive' system and allied to the Humber Archaeology Partnership website, things are now changing and a new website designed by David Clarke is about to go live.

#### **GLASS BANGLES**

Graham Evans is asking for members to email him on graham@evansg.karoo.co.uk if they have any examples of Romano British glass bangles, as he is trying to build a data base. He already has photographs of around 70 examples from Yorkshire and Lincolnshire and is hoping to feature some examples on the ERAS web site. The Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh has invited him to photograph the many examples from Scotland and Traprain Law. Graham did his recent dissertation on the subject of Romano British glass bangles.

**Editor** 

# MEET YOUR NEW COMMITTEE

We have two new Officer posts on the committee, so we thought a you might like a few details on both new and long-standing committee members. You will see that many have studied for archaeological qualifications, but in case you were thinking of volunteering, at next year's AGM, this is certainly not a requirement for service on the committee.

## Fiona Wilson (Chairwoman)

Fiona Wilson lives and work on a Dairy Farm in Arram. She always had an interest in things historical and geological, but decided to learn more after her daughter was born 8 years ago and she got bored of talking to everyone about babies. She attended a 10 week introductory archaeology course in Cottingham, taught by Helen Fenwick and Malcolm Lillie, then started going to the WEA archaeology classes in North Cave, met Peter Halkon and somehow found herself doing a part-time history/archaeology degree at Hull University. Fiona dug at Hayton, North Cave and Sutton Common, then along with her husband Will she discovered the site at Arram that ERAS have been doing field work on since 2003. Fiona enjoys most aspects of archaeology, but as Arram is Iron Age in date, this has been the period she has taken most interest in recently, particularly in the East Yorkshire area. Fiona has always had an interest in environmental studies and would maybe like to learn more in this field at a later date.

## Rod Mackey (Vice-Chairman)

Rod, a founder member of ERAS is a professional archaeologist and has worked on excavations in Britain, France and Peru. A former senior art and design lecturer at Humberside College of Higher Education, he now lectures on the part-time archaeology degree course at Hull University. He has an extensive knowledge of archaeology in East Yorkshire and a special interest in the chariot burials of Western Europe.

## Lesley Jackson (Hon. Treasurer)

Lesley enjoys holidays and has as many as she can get away with, being particularly partial to France and America. A geographer by qualification, in terms of archaeology, Lesley's main interest is the Iron Age and Roman period, especially the Gallic Wars which ties up nicely with holidays in France.

## Rose Nicholson (Hon. Secretary)

After completing a BA in Archaeology and Geography at Liverpool University, Rose worked for five years at Hull and East Riding Museum where she had particular

responsibility for the Roman Galleries. During this time, Rose completed a MA in Museum Studies, by distance learning, at Leicester University. She now works at N. Lincolnshire Museum and teaches for the WEA and Hull University's Centre for Lifelong Learning. Her main archaeological interests are the Roman period and coins.

## Richard Campbell (Hon. Programme Secretary)

A local nurseryman, he joined ERAS after starting archaeology evening classes at Hull University and has now completed the final year of his degree. Richard is particularly interested in the techniques of Iron Age and RB glass production, Iron Age pottery and Celtic art.

## Dave Evans (Hon. Editor)

Dave took up archaeology in 1969, and has been working in this area for the last 19 years. After 25 years he became the County field archaeology Archaeologist for Humberside, and on its abolition became Archaeology Manager for the Humber Archaeology Partnership (a joint service for the new Unitary Authorities). He has published widely on a large range of topics relating to medieval and post-medieval archaeology, was ERAS Programme Secretary in the late 1980s, and has been its editor for the last 15 years.

## David Clarke (Website Officer)

David is a semi-retired IT consultant, who joined ERAS while doing the Archaeology Certificate classes at Hull University. He was involved in monitoring the Valley of the First Ironmasters Website project at the University and is especially interested in geophysics. He is currently putting the finishing touches to the new ERAS website.

## **Graham Myers (Field Studies Officer)**

Graham worked as a field archaeologist for the old Humberside Archaeology Unit. He graduated in Archaeology and History from Hull University in 2006. and has volunteered at Hull and East Riding Museum, working with the collections. He has been heavily involved with the excavations at Arram and his main interest is Prehistoric archaeology.

# **Ordinary Committee Members**

Pam Cartwright

Pam Cartwright has a lifetime's passion for archaeology. She graduated Hull University in 2006, whilst helping with the family's busy seaside cafe. part time. Pam is currently teaching A-level Archaeology at Selby College, and when time permits, also works as a field archaeologist for Northern Archaeological Associates.

#### **Richard Coates**

A former health and safety officer in local industry, Richard graduated from the Hull University full-time Archaeology and History degree course as a mature student and is now doing an MA looking at the River Hull Valley. He was heavily involved in the Arram excavations and is also helping with some work near Leven.

#### **Graham Evans**

Graham, who has been an active field study group member for several years, is a field technician with Yorkshire Water and has just completed the part-time archaeology and history degree at Hull University, with a dissertation on Romano-British glass bangles (see page 9). He hopes to be able to combine his interest in archaeology with his other special interest, photography.

#### Valerie Fairhurst

Valerie was originally a botanist but for many years has been a Biology Research Technician at Hull University. She became interested in archaeology at one of Tim Schadla-Hall's evening classes which she joined simply because it advertised fieldwork and her job no longer involved this. (This series of classes seems to have produced many long-standing ERAS members). Valerie is particularly interested in the Prehistoric period and in rock art and says she could even show an interest in industrial archaeology if inspired by a real enthusiast.

#### Helen Fenwick

Helen Fenwick is Lecturer in Archaeology at Hull University. She studied archaeology at York University before taking up a position as Assistant Keeper of Archaeology at the Hull and East Riding Museum, followed by Field Officer on the Humber Wetlands Project based at the University. This project ended in 2000, when she became Centre Manager for the Wetland Archaeology and Environments Centre, becoming a lecturer in 2004. She has wide interests in archaeology, and although being classed as a Medieval Landscape archaeologist she is also undertaking a large landscape survey of the ancient Egyptian city of Tell el-Amarna.

#### Ian Rowlandson

Ian has recently moved to the East Riding and works as Community Archaeologist at North Lincolnshire Museum, Scunthorpe. Prior to taking up his current post he worked in Lincoln running urban and rural excavation projects for a commercial field unit. His main interest is in Roman pottery in Lincolnshire and East Riding. When not focusing on archaeology Ian enjoys walking, cricket and eating seafood in the Mediterranean!

# A View From the Chair

I felt very honoured when I was asked to stand as ERAS chairwoman, particularly as I have only been involved in archaeology, and a member of the society, for a relatively short time. However. I saw it as a new challenge, and I hope I can maintain the excellent level of work achieved by my predecessor Paul Brayford. One aspect of the society's role that I consider very important is that of actual hands-on archaeology. Over the years ERAS has both led and been involved with a great deal of very significant local fieldwork, most recently the excavations at Arram run by myself and a loyal band of volunteers, plus the many sites covered by the society's resistivity meter. These projects not only provide excellent experience for members, but contribute greatly to the archaeological record.

This year promises to be no exception, with the formation of the Southburn Archaeological Museum, which is now to be host to the well established Field Studies Group. Southburn provides a fantastic opportunity for volunteers not only to learn about many aspects of post-excavation work, but to be involved with the actual running of a museum that offers to be an excellent local resource for both schools and enthusiasts of all ages. A further way in which I hope to see the society move forward is by encouraging the joining of new members; therefore I aim to be involved with promoting ERAS as much as possible.

The very successful 2005 open day held in conjunction with the CBA National Archaeology Week, when literally hundreds of people flocked to see the Arram excavations, served as a reminder that there is a lot of public interest in archaeology, but perhaps many people don't know how to get involved.

Joint ventures with other organizations may serve as a positive advertisement for the society. This year we are hosting the Council for Independent Archaeology's biennial congress, and I am currently in consultation with the new Treasure House in Beverley, regarding the role ERAS can play in their vision to showcase local history and archaeology, whilst providing promotion for ourselves. And of course another exciting prospect is the new ERAS website, proving up to date information on society activities. All in all, I am hopeful that the coming year will see success for the society within a range of new, engaging ventures.

Fiona Wilson

# Recent Work on the Battle of Crecy, 1346

Helen Fenwick, February 2007



On 26<sup>th</sup> August 1346 the Anglo-Welsh army of Edward III met the superior numbers of the army of King Philip VI of France which included a 12,000 strong cavalry. By the late evening the English were victorious and many European nobility had lost their lives. But what is left for the archaeologist in the 21<sup>st</sup> century to discover? From this meeting of two armies at one place in northern France, a battle lasting only a few hours – what would be the archaeological footprint? Only limited archaeological investigation has been carried out at Crécy; this paper

presents the results of a recent study.

What do we expect to find on a Medieval battlefield? Before the advent of firearms, at a time of ritualized forms of battle, with specific codes of conduct, what is left for the battlefield archaeologist? Barring consideration of sieges, battlefields tended to be blank canvases where two sides met, fought and then dispersed, so the extent to which they may have modified the landscape is limited. Archaeologists are looking for any evidence left by this encounter – items

of weaponry dropped amidst the fray, pieces of armour or other body protection, buckles, horse bridle pendants or even encampment remains. Metal detection has worked well at English and American Civil War sites, but Medieval battles pose a different problem as there are no lead shots or ammunition to be found. Arrowheads were easily retrievable and reusable. It is possible on occasion to find mass graves, but how common was this practice and what other methods of disposal of the dead took place?

The battle of Crécy in 1346 was a turning point in the Hundred Years War and a landmark event in European military history. An expeditionary force commanded by King Edward III of England met the French royal army of King Philip VI in a battle which would see many French, and European, nobility dead by nightfall. The battle came after a cat and mouse game which had seen the English forces land in Normandy on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1346 and march across northern France. By 25<sup>th</sup> August, the English forces had reached Crécy, a small French town

to the north of Abbeville, and the next day the French advanced on their position. In addition to several thousand Genoese crossbowmen and an unwieldy mass of levied foot-soldiers. Philip VI had assembled a formidable knightly array, the flower of European chivalry. Edward III estimated that he faced 12.000 heavily-armoured, mounted warriors, which was roughly the number of combatants in his entire Anglo-Welsh army.

The few eyewitness reports of the battle that survive. from campaign newsletters, are insubstantial. There are many chronicle accounts, but they draw, at best, on second-hand testimony, and none provides a continuous narrative of the events near Crécy on the evening of 26<sup>th</sup> August 1346. So we are left to look at the archaeology of the area to aid our interpretations of the battle.

The location of the Crécy battlefield has been established for over 150 years, and although the possibility exists that the traditional site is not the actual battleground. the available evidence is sufficient to confirm this as the most likely site. With the site established, many historians have provided map-based representations of the events of that day, but these have paid little attention to the actual landscape of which they speak. Most models place the English between Crécy

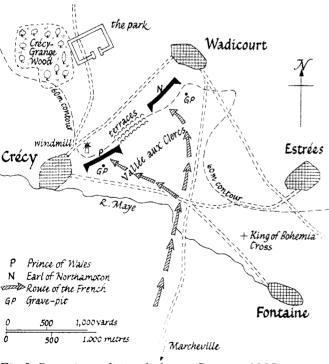


Fig. 2. Burne's traditional plan (Burne 1955)

and Wadicourt – stretched over a distance of between 1 and 1.6 km. If Edward's total force was 12.000, this would have resulted in a single line of men standing at

between 0.8 to 1.3 m apart – too thinly spread to provide any significant attack or defence. Burne's work of 1955 is often quoted as the classic plan and sees all the units to the south of the road between Crécy and Wadicourt. This has formed the basis for further interpretations.

Limited fieldwork has been undertaken at Crécy. Excavations in 1840 reportedly found burial pits, but no further information on this investigation or any associated finds have survived. A small number of finds have been attributed to Crécy but their exact provenance has not been recorded. At the end of the fighting several thousand men lay dead, along with over 1000 horses. In an area which consists of shallow topsoil over solid chalk, digging pits on the battlefield would have been a laborious task, and if such burials had taken place, the following 650 years of agricultural practice in the area, would no doubt have produced more finds on the surface.

In 1995 a small metal detecting survey was carried out in an area in front of the English lines. This survey produced over 500 items, dating to both before and after the battle, but very little could be attributed to the battle itself. A small number of Roman coins were recovered, providing evidence that material pre-dating the battle was present in the topsoil, indicating any material from 1346 should also be present.

A recent review of the evidence undertaken by Ayton and Preston (2005) has sought to re-evaluate the battlefield. A re-examination of both the landscape and the documentary evidence has shown how certain key features of the ground controlled the events that unfolded in the battle. It has also prompted a re-appraisal of English deployment and archery tactics. The authors concluded that the potential of the battlefield may have been known to the English from the outset of the campaign: that, for Edward III, this was a planned engagement on known ground.

Very few artefacts have been found on the battlefield at Crécy. In light of this, and the limited results from surveys on other medieval battlefields, it was decided that for this current piece of research, a landscape approach was the way forward to a fuller understanding of the events of 1346. The battle occurred in a small valley, known locally as La Vallée des Clercs, with the English situated on the north-western side, and the French approaching from the southeast Figure 1 shows the battlefield today, an area constantly under plough. Here we are standing on the English Frontline, looking towards the advancing French army. This is the centre of the traditional battlefield with the action at the bottom of the slope.

Although, at first glance, it would appear to be an uncomplicated landscape, a number of features known as taluses are located in the valley, controlling the ways in which the landscape can be used and traversed. A talus forms a sudden drop of between 2 m and 6 m, impeding direct progression across the landscape (Figure 3). Consequently, a full understanding of these features is required to provide a more realistic account of events in the battle, especially as the largest talus runs directly between the traditional English and French lines.

In June 2006, a Global Positioning System (GPS) survey was undertaken of the main taluses on the battlefield. This has enabled a 3D model of the battlefield landscape to be created. Previous topographical surveys have relied on the contour information on the IGN maps of the area. Although the more recent editions feature the position of the taluses, there is no indication of their exact height.

The GPS uses information from satellites to provide an exact position for any points being recorded. The system used was the Leica 500 series, which allows subcentimetre accurate height readings to be taken by the use of a fixed base station with additional rover, seen here recording the start of a talus. The entire battlefield was not surveyed due to time limitations, but the area of the taluses was targeted in detail. The GPS relies on having a clear view to the sky, and does not work well in areas with tree coverage. This resulted in a number of the taluses not being fully recorded, but from the readings that were taken it has been possible to extrapolate the remaining sections.

Coring was undertaken on a number of taluses in an attempt to understand more fully their development. Coring on one of the smaller talus confirmed that these features were formed from the natural chalk. Cores were taken on the top, base and side of the talus, all showing a shallow topsoil down onto chalk. Cores taken on the longest and tallest of the taluses, in La Vallée des Clercs, provided a more complex picture. The build-up of material on the talus itself may be a result of slope wash activity. Set back from the slope edge, the chalk was found to be close to the surface, suggesting that the current front of the talus consists of loose soil, washed down from above, but that it has nevertheless maintained the angle of the natural chalk dip behind.

Whether taluses are natural or man-made features has been disputed. It has been claimed that they are similar to lynchets, created by ploughing and forming the boundaries of fields. Whatever the reason for the creation of these features, what is relevant to the current research is (i) their presence or absence in 1346; and (ii) their potential size and, therefore, impact on the way in



Fig. 3. The largest talus

which the battle developed. That the taluses were present in the landscape by the fourteenth century is clear from documentary references to their use as boundary markers in Picardy. Although these cases do not refer to taluses from the immediate area of Crécy, it is noteworthy that the largest talus on the battlefield forms the boundary between two communes.

A number of issues now need to be considered – the effect of the taluses, the position of the English, and advance of the French. The largest of the taluses effectively blocks the 'traditional' French line of advance. Although a single horseman would probably be able to descend this slope, a 12.000 strong cavalry charge of warhorses and knights is unlikely to have come away unscathed. Instead, their most likely approach route would have been through the bottleneck at the southern end of La Vallée des Clercs. Once they had entered the valley, their deployment would have been further constricted by a series of smaller taluses.

The traditional French advance is now blocked by the main taluses and the area constricted further by the smaller taluses. This would have reduced the potential width of the advancing army, forcing them into an uphill frontal assault on an ideal position for the deployment of English and Welsh bow men. The events that followed are summarised by Edward III in his newsletter:

'in a small area where the first onslaught took place more than 1500 knights and esquires died, quite apart from those who died later elsewhere on the field'.

One French chronicler noted that 'on this day, men were killed by their horses'. Once into this enclosed area, with comrades falling around their feet, with retreat to their rear blocked by further contingents arriving on the field, and with a landscape controlled by large taluses, the French had no where to go but to their doom.

The battlefield at Crécy can therefore be seen as a well-chosen position for a defensive battle. It dictated a narrow and constricted approach for the enemy, and it offered an excellent position for the archers, shooting down slope into a confined area. The landscape is also deceptive for an approaching force which may not have been familiar with the battlefield. It was only when it was too late to turn back that the dire conditions would have been understood. The natural features in the landscape – the taluses – provided barriers to attack and barriers to retreat.

After the battle, what happened to the dead? It is recorded that, at the end of the battle. Edward sent a team of knights, heralds and clerks onto the battlefield to record the dead. They were joined by French heralds to help in the identification of the corpses. The lack of further documentary evidence poses problems in understanding what happened to those individuals who were of lower rank: was there anyone to identify and claim their remains? Reports of bodies being taken to local churches and abbevs are not substantiated by any discoveries, monuments or other indications at these locations. A chapel 6 km from the battlefield has the title Trois Cents Corps (Chapel of three hundred corpses) but it has been suggested that this is a recent corruption of an earlier name rather than an original naming of the site. Such is the legend that surrounds these events that it becomes difficult to separate local folklore from historical actuality.

If most of the fallen were removed from the battlefield for burial that would help explain the lack of finds. Once the site was deserted, residents of Crécy would no doubt have also availed themselves of items left on the field. Over 1000 horse carcasses may have been used in a number of ways — meat, hide, glue etc., and any remaining material burnt. This one-off firing in the middle of an arable field, which has since been continuously ploughed, would leave little trace for modern archaeologists.

With so little evidence upon which to base any theories, the current thoughts may appear vague. A metal detection survey of a wider area may prove that there is a lack of artefacts from the battlefield, or prove the theory wrong, which would then provide the solid evidence required by some researchers. Further research is required into the activities of battlefield scavengers, a thoroughly un-researched topic but one of the highest priorities to aid our understanding of Crécy and other Medieval battles. Also of top priority is research into the final resting place of those who lost their lives at Crécy. Burial pits might possibly still lie undisturbed on the battlefield, but the geology of the area, the limited metal

detecting survey and lack of finds support a more complex picture of battlefield clearance and burial elsewhere.

Bibliography

Ayton, A. and P. Preston 2005. *The battle of Crécy*, 1346. Woodbridge: Boydell (just released in paperback, 2007)

Burne, A. 1955. The Crecy War: a military history of the Hundred Years war. London: Eyre & Spottiswoode.

Helen Fenwick

#### INTERPRETING HISTORY

A day conference is being planned by the Historical Association to look at the particular influences exerted by the geographical locality and the commercial nature of Hull on William Wilberforce. The relationship between radicalism and major trading towns will be discussed during this meeting, which will look at dissenting chapels, non-conformist families, non-military high-rise monuments and significant Hull people. The conference will be held at Wilberforce House on 27th October. It promises to be a most interesting day, particularly for students of history and will include a look at the archives and a walk in Hull's Old Town area. ERAS member Sylvia Usher has given me advance notice of the event and further details will be in the next newsletter and in the local press but if you are interested, please put the date in your diary.

Editor

# Croydon Council restricts the speed of Chariots!



At first glance it seems that the good citizens of Croyden and Coulsden, Surrey, get off very lightly with the size of their speed bumps. However, if I hadn't worked it out for myself, the information board at the other end of this road over Farthing Downs would have explained all: the road was built over an Iron Age field system. Although flint axe finds indicate even earlier human activity, it seems that after the Iron Age there was little or no cultivation of the poor chalky soil, leaving the field boundaries and lynchets to be seen today.



Though there is no evidence of Saxon occupation on the Down, there are about twenty low Saxon burial mounds. These are cut into the solid chalk and were less than three feet deep. It is believed that the original cemetery contained some thirty mounds dating from the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. The graves were all excavated between 1770 and 1948, yielding skeletons, weapons and ornaments. One of the finds was a fine drinking vessel

made of staves of wood, bound together and decorated with bronze gilt serpents. It has been suggested that one of the skeletons was that of a chief called 'Cuthred' who gave his name to 'Cuthred's Down', which by 1062 had become 'Cuthredsesdune' – not all that far removed from the Coulsden of today.

The grassland of Farthing Downs was probably maintained by grazing; it was listed in the Chertsey Abbey records of 1332 as 'Ferthynge Doune', when it was used as rough pasture. It was last used by a local farmer for his cattle in the 1960s. In order to maintain the habitat of chalk grassland species, including greater yellow rattle, round-headed rampion, wild carrot and small scabious, grazing animals were re-introduced in 1992. Red Sussex cattle, complete with added reflector 'anklets' now wander over the area.

The last major archaeological excavation was in 1948/9, but English Heritage archaeologists have recently been carrying out surveys, and excavating the field banks and Iron Age trackway. It is fortunate that this downland, has been preserved. In 1937 Croydon Council bought just over 100 hectares of it. An adjacent area was earmarked for development but was perhaps saved by the war; it was then designated as Greenbelt and finally bought by the Corporation of London in 2002, for wildlife and recreation. A further two fields were saved from development in 2004 by the Corporation of London, assisted by funds raised by the local residents. Part of it is now scheduled and part is a SSSI. *Valerie Fairhurst* 

# Conferences, meetings and training courses

Wed 4 July	FRAS Field Studies (open to anyone) 7.30pm at Southburn Museum. See Local News page
8 Jul- Aug	Sedgeford Historical and Archaeological Research Project, Norfolk. Iron Age/Roman/Anglo-Saxon. 17 Long running research excavation. Space for 50 volunteers each week. (£50 - £150) Contact Brenda Huggins: 01485 532343 email tanzee@supanet.com Web: www.sharp.org.uk
Sat 14 July	Start of National Archaeology Week
23 Jul-18 Aug	Annual fieldschool at W. Halton, Lincolnshire, run by Sheffield University. Saxon - 16th century site. Training as short courses £200 / £100 per week. Fees include accommodation and food. email west.halton@sheffield.ac.uk
Aug/Sept	North Lincolnshire Museum/HLF. Field projects, open to all, including fieldwalking, finds processing. Contact Ian Rowlandson, 01724 843533. email Ian.Rowlandson@northlincs.gov.uk
Fri 31 Aug - Sun 2nd Sep	Independent Archaeology Congress - weekend/day event at Bishop Burton College starting on the evening of Friday 31 August. Theme - agriculture and archaeology. <b>Hosted by ERAS</b> .
Aug-Oct	Pontefract & District Archaeological Soc. Weekends - excavation of Roman road. Cost: member ship fee only. Contact Eric Houlder 01977 702995
Wed 1 Aug	ERAS Field Studies Meeting
Wed 19 Sep	First ERAS lecture of the new season. Around-up of recent work in the region If you have not received your new card by then, just turn up anyway.
Wed 5 Sep	ERAS Field Studies Meeting
Thur 11 Oct	The Templars. Lecture at Hull University by John Walker
Wed 17 Oct	ERAS Lecture. Rethinking Ingleborough. Yvonne Luke
ERAS lectures	, are held in Room S1, Wilberforce Bldg, Hull University, 7.30pm. Members free, visitors £1.
For a fuller list of all the opportunities available for volunteers or for training excavations I can recommend this month's most excellent issue of Current Archaeology magazine (Issue 209) May/June 2007. web: www.archaeology.co.uk email subs@archaeology.co.uk tel 08456 44 77 07	
I would like to join/renew my ERAS membership from January 2007 - January 2008	
Name(s)	Address
	Tel.
I would like to pay by direct debit, please send me a form	
Or	
I enclose a cheque payable to ERAS for £ (£5 *fulltime student, £15 ordinary member, £20 family) Send to the treasurer, Lesley Jackson, 24 St Stephens Close Willerby, E. Yorks. HU10 6DG	
* Students please give institution, course & year	