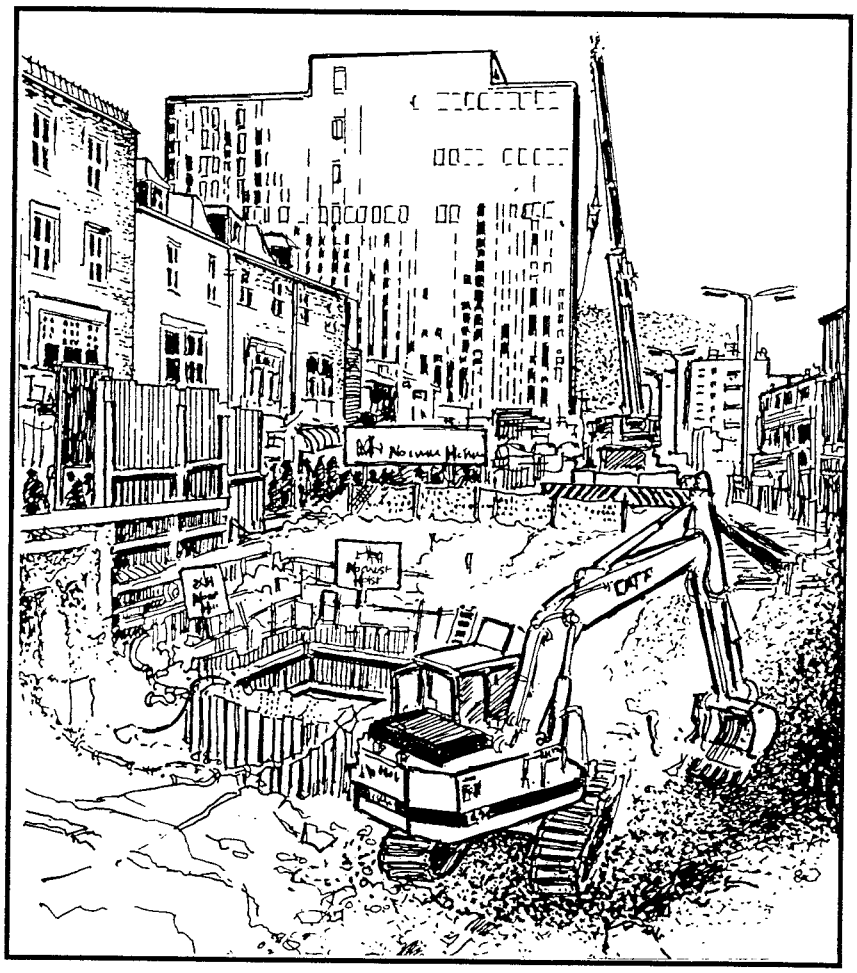
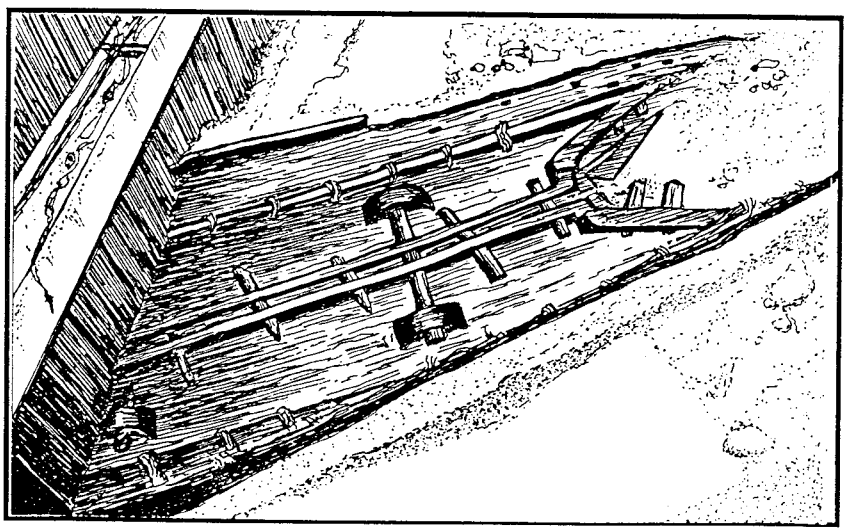
ERAS News

EAST RIDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY No 46 MARCH 1998





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cover illustration

top: **the Dover Boat site**
bottom: **the Dover Boat exposed *in situ***

drawn by Kate Dennett

Editorial

So, the final measurement has been taken, the last sample removed, the blue plastic shelter dismantled, the tools all cleaned and put away and the swans have swum into the distance as we said 'goodbye' to the Easington excavation. The Society dug at Easington for eleven weeks without a break in 1997, making twenty-two weeks in all. There will be no more digging in the sand and mud, but that doesn't mean that work on the project is over and finished with; there is a lot more to excavation than digging holes in the ground: generally speaking, the post-excavation work takes about twice as long as the excavation itself. The different types of material from the site are going to appropriate specialists for their individual reports. The pottery has been washed and initially examined before going to Terry Manby, the environmental and timber samples have been sent to Pat Wagner at Sheffield University, and the flint to Peter Makey. Plans of the excavation have already been produced for publication in due course. Additional radiocarbon dates will be sought if funding permits.

Meanwhile, back at Unit 3 on Chapel Lane Staithe, society members have been busy washing the pottery from the excavation of the Romano-British kiln at Skiff Lane, Tollingham, and sorting it into broad groups. Many thanks to those who responded to Angela Gowland's pleas for help in the December short newsletter. This was pottery washing and sorting on a noble scale.

And yes, there is life after Easington - and it's called the Bainton Project. This study took a bit of a rest while the Easington dig was on, but reports on work in the parish have been continuing at various Field Study Group meetings and there will be a visit on Saturday 21 March (meet in the lay-by at) to continue the field survey of 'Hilly Fields'.

Members suffering from excavation-withdrawal should have an opportunity to assuage their symptoms at Hayton in the summer (date depending upon the crop harvest, but expected to be during August). The excavation this year will be of a limited area, so if you do want to take part, Peter Halkon asks if you would contact him beforehand. As you can see from the article by Peter and Elaine Hicks, members have come from far afield to take part in this joint Durham University/ERAS excavation.

Though it will be some time before the Easington Report is ready for publication, the latest volume of the East Riding Archaeologist, volume 9 'An East Riding Miscellany', is now (at last) out. This journal of the East Riding Archaeological Society is free to members (a substantial benefit, because it will retail at more than £18) and many of you may have very recently collected your copy at Barry Cunliffe's lecture. For those of you not at the lecture, or expecting to be at the April Field Study meeting or the AGM lecture, could I ask you to arrange with Kate Dennett on (01482) 445232 to collect your copy, if at all possible, to minimise postage costs for the Society. We are all indebted to Dave Evans for his valuable and determined work as editor.

Another recently-produced volume with ERAS associations is 'New Light on the Parisi'. Containing papers from the recent dayschool, this booklet is available from Peter Halkon, priced £4.

The University of Hull venue for the 1997/98 lectures has its advantages and disadvantages, but it is difficult to find suitable facilities at an affordable price. Many miss the opportunity for a chat over coffee before the lecture (or over something more alcoholic afterwards), others welcome the audibility and visibility in the lecture theatre. Public transport may be a problem for some members, while those arriving by car appreciate the easier parking. Please write to the Secretary, Kate Dennett, with your opinions and suggestions.

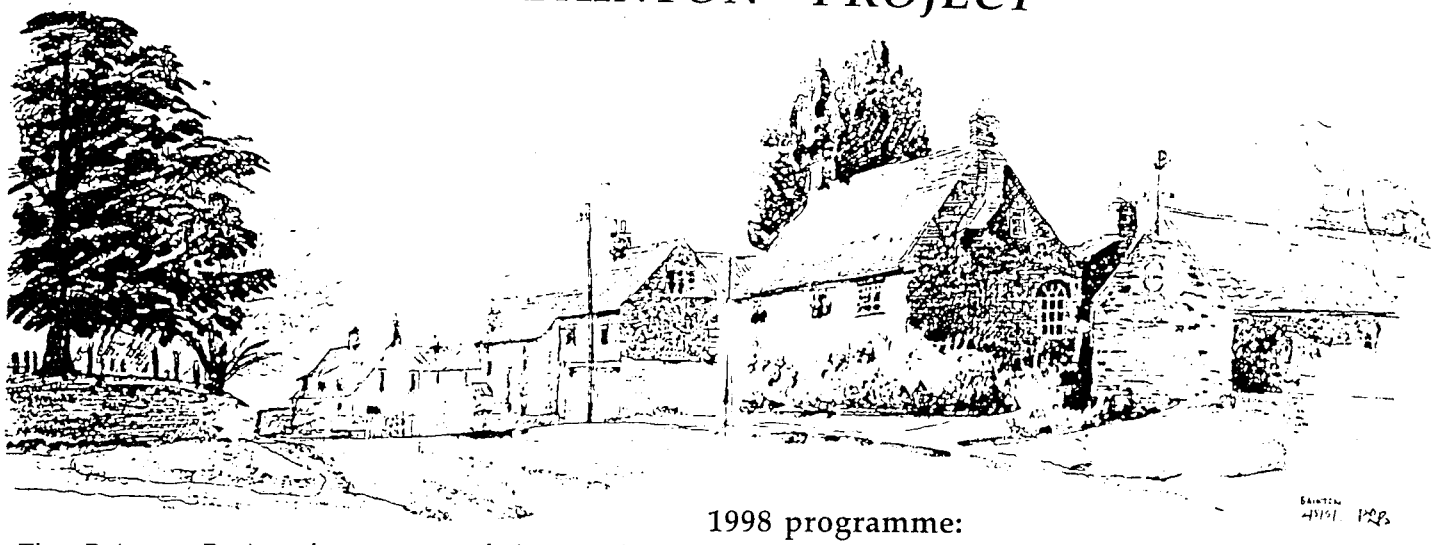
There was insufficient support for the Denmark trip proposed in earlier newsletters, but Joe Santaniello has arranged two coach excursions for the summer. Details are at the end of the newsletter. You may copy the form if you don't wish to cut into the page.

For some time, I have been intending to compile an index for ERAS News. Though this publication was only ever intended as a newsletter, members do sometimes like to refer to back numbers, and the Secretary does receive requests for information lurking somewhere in old copies. I have an almost complete run of issues, but there is one missing, number 4, so if there is a copy out there which has escaped recycling for hamster bedding or whatever, I'd be grateful if you would contact me so that I can make a copy.

Please remember that the AGM is on April 15. As is usual for the AGM, it starts at **7pm**, a fact which seems somehow to have escaped inclusion on the membership card: sorry! Notice of the meeting, together with the Committee's nominations for the officers of the Society, are included with this newsletter.

Finally, can I remind you that subscriptions were due on January 1st (£10 ordinary members, £15 families, £5 students: a bargain!). Our Treasurer, Lesley Jackson, (24 St Stephen's Close, Willerby HU10 9DG) will be pleased to receive your money.

THE BAINTON PROJECT



The Bainton Project has appeared in previous newsletters and it is intended that these accounts will be a regular feature. For the benefit of new members, a little background might be helpful. The project had its origin in a lecture given by Bryan Sitch to the Lund Agricultural Association, several of whose members responded with invitations to ERAS to fieldwalk some of their fields where pottery had been found. At that time, the nature of the Field Studies meetings was under review and members expressed a desire to be more directly involved with the planning and execution of projects. It was agreed that Bainton could be an ideal candidate for such a project, particularly with sympathetic farmers in the area. The project aims were to train members in archaeological fieldwork (practical and research) and to carry out original research into an area that had not been the subject of any detailed study.

On February 11 this year, a Bainton review meeting was held in Unit 3 with the following objectives:

- to assess information gathered to date
- to make members aware of what other members were doing to avoid duplication of effort
- to focus research and fieldwork in particular directions
- to agree a programme for 1998

The meeting was well attended, with 14 members present. By the and of the evening it had become apparent that, even without any special effort, members were beginning to accumulate a substantial body of material. Of particular interest is the way in which information related to a known site is emerging. There are several examples already where map evidence of site ownership can be linked to documentary evidence.

1998 programme:

- to complete the 'Hilly Fields' earthworks survey, including levelling, and collect the continuing documentary research relating to this site
- to carry out a building survey
- church research, particularly evidence for an earlier foundation
- fieldwalking (in the autumn)
- fieldwork/research into a possible Roman road running south from Wetwang
- photographic survey of surviving railway features
- continuing research of documents, photographs, illustrations and articles.

In addition to the above, members are researching air photographs, transferring SMR information onto base maps, producing topographical plans and, possibly, arranging for photographic flights over the area.

The following is a random selection of items already researched (sources etc will be discussed in future reports).

'Whereas by letters patent dated May 3, 18 Elisabeth (1576), the Queen had demised to John Ottley all her messuage or tenement, one cottage and seven bovates of arable land, meadow and pasture lying in the vill, fields and parish of Baineton'.

Note: part of 'Hilly Fields' was owned by Duke Ottley.

'Bainton. common armour 1 corselet, 1 calever, 1 bow. 4 pikemen S, 31 billmen S.14, 2 calevers S.1. 7 archers S. all. Total-44.

Note: East Riding Muster Rolls 1584.

'In 1394, Robt de Hilton complained that John de Etton, George de Etton and others had broken his house and close at Bainton, carried of his goods, and assaulted his men.'

Note: evidence that Robt de Hilton had a substantial property in Bainton.

Finally, members should note that Saturday, 21st March is the date of the first site visit of the year, meeting at 10am in the long layby opposite the windmill stump to the north of the village (south of the Driffield roundabout); dress: appropriate for surveying wet fields; food: bring a packed lunch or use the Wolds Tearooms at the roundabout. All members are welcome and any research that you feel willing to contribute will be gratefully received. For further information, phone (01482) 871452.

Peter Bartle

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OUT OF THE ARMCHAIR
a Hayton holiday

Peter and Elaine Hicks, exiles from ERAS living in Cumbria tell of their successful holiday in Hayton, September 1997

In September 1997, after years of doing nothing more practical than turning the pages of countless issues of Current Archaeology magazine and reminiscing fondly about the summers of our youth, we took the plunge - and volunteered to join the excavation at Hayton.

We thought about it very hard. Would it live up to the distant memories of sun-drenched days spent carving perfect sections through the soft clays of Humberside? Would we keep up with the pace? - We're not as young as we were. What exactly were we letting ourselves in for, digging on a site jointly run with amateurs and students? After all, our interest in archaeology began before some of today's students were... (better not say any more - we're giving our ages away).

Throwing caution to the wind we signed up for early September and braved the Bank Holiday traffic to return to East Yorkshire. First impressions count for a great deal in our estimation. The site, positioned beyond the modern village, was an orderly plot amid flattened stubble and mounds of spoil. Neat sliced sections, with a range of delicately trowelled dips and depressions were delineated with a warp and weft of coloured lines and labelled with an assortment of numbered tags. There was a very obvious deep well and instantly recognisable wall footings. However out of touch we might be on the finer points of modern, high-tech archaeology, it was reassuring to see features we could identify.)

At this point our misgivings started to fade away. We were made welcome. Peter Halkon alluded to our previous achievements with the Society in his introductions and we ceased to be onlookers standing sheepishly on the baulk. After à thorough induction on the features of the site, its current interpretation and the complex layout of the site caravan, we went to work. Alongside students, both undergraduate and postgraduate, sixth formers and a whole range of ERAS members, we dug for several days. There were no great gaps of age, culture, town or gown, just diggers.

There was no shortage of advice and encouragement - thanks Ed and Jeremy for answering all our questions, letting us fill in our own context sheets and draw the position of the animal bones on the plan. We learned a lot in a short time and rediscovered skills we've not used for many years. We weren't sure about the wisdom of sieving wet earth (it takes a lot of muscle power) - but we do acknowledge that we found nearly as many corroded misshapen nails in the sieved spoil as we spotted in the ditch fill as we dug. This made a much better statistical sample for the volume of spoil removed. As Martin Millett explained, this was a technique the students had to evaluate, so after that we didn't mind contributing to their experiment.

The sun did not warm our backs every day. The rain resulted in work being curtailed after the tea break on at least one afternoon (which explains the local custom of always leaving hand tools covered by an upturned bucket at every break time) and the cumulative effect of several showers was to turn parts of the site into an unworkable state. There was grave danger that a late-twentieth century wellington boot or two was going to be left stuck for ever in the morass adjacent to the caravan (or even *in* the caravan). But everyone diligently wiped their feet before stepping back into the excavated area. This was a dig with discipline!

If you feel a bit too comfortable in your armchair this summer, a stint at Hayton (or wherever they go next) is to be recommended. Your contribution will be as welcome as ours, whatever your level of fitness or practical experience. In the last twenty years it has seemed as if the interested amateur has had a rapidly diminishing role to play in excavations. We were delighted to find academics and amateurs working well together and fully intend to come back for more.

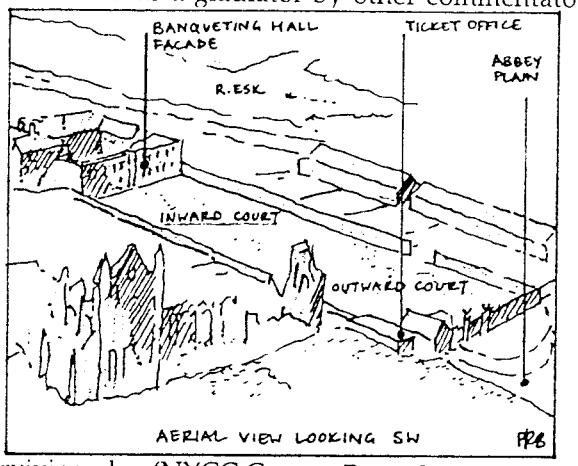
Peter and Elaine Hicks

WHITBY ABBEY HEADLAND PROJECT

(Views expressed are the author's and not necessarily those of E.H and S.B.C.)

Built in the 1670s by Sir Hugh Cholmey II, the Banqueting Hall was the latest addition to the Cholmey residence now known as Abbey House. A contemporary description by Ralph Thoresby in 1682 records that:

> *'adjoining to the Abbey, Sir Hugh Cholmley has a most delicate and stately hall, supposed to be exceeded by few in England for the bigness of it. The hall is of freestone, with large courts and walks with iron gates and a curious statue* in solid brass.....in the midst of the square....'*
> (*identified as a gladiator by other commentators)

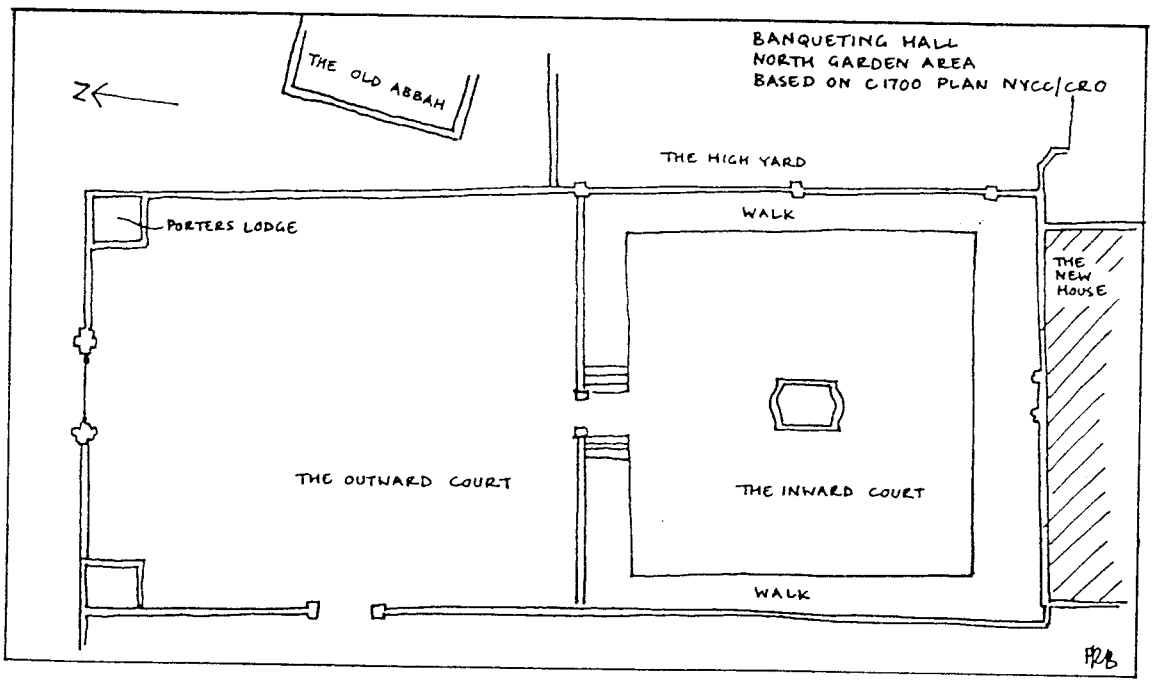


A surviving plan (NYCC County Records Office) *c1700* shows the garden area as 'The Outward Court' (160' x 146') with steps to raised walkways and a central feature culminating in the near Baroque central entrance to the Banqueting Hall.

By 1740, however, the Cholmeys had moved away to Howsham and, following a severe gale in 1780 which took off the roof, the banqueting hall was abandoned. The rear external walls were demolished and the windows blocked up. Little is then recorded until the 1860s when Sir William Strickland rebuilt a large part of Abbey House, constructed a new lodge adjacent to the present Abbey entrance and covered the courtyards with grass. Today the blind, roofless façade remains largely hidden to visitors on the Abbey Plain by the high stone walls of the Outward Court.

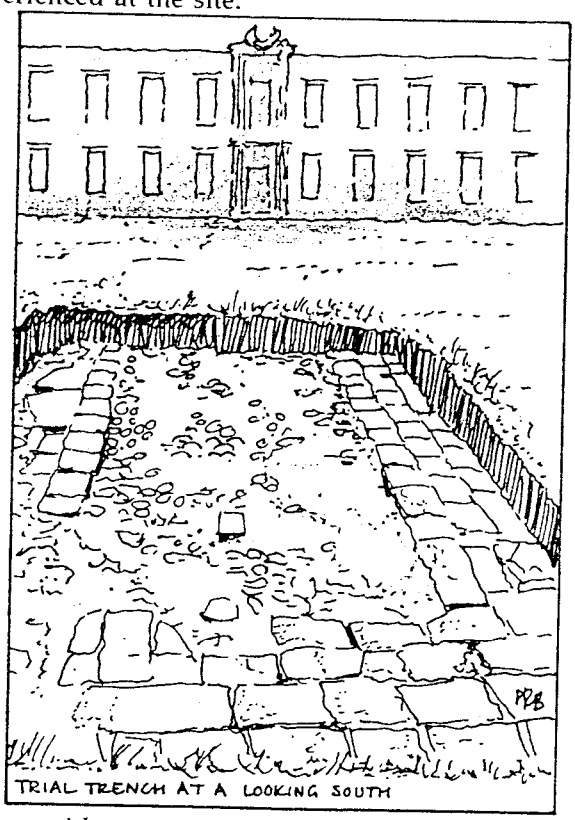
The situation should soon alter dramatically under proposals planned as part of the Headland Project (a partnership between Scarborough Council and English Heritage - see previous issues of ERAS News). The aim is to insert a visitors' centre within the Banqueting Hall shell and to restore/recreate the garden areas, which are particularly important as both the Civil War and 18th century landscaping left few 17th century gardens intact.

Garden design underwent a period of transition during the 17th century. The medieval/Tudor garden was essentially enclosed and inward looking, a place of refuge from the outer world. By contrast, from the 16th century onwards, the garden became transformed into a place from which to contemplate (and borrow) the surrounding landscape: *'incorporating into the prospect of items of local and natural history'* - for example, a ruined abbey. As foreign travel became more common and the ideals of the Renaissance spread, Italian garden planning became the model for aspiring garden designers in this country.



Particular features of the Italian garden were changes in level using such devices as steps, terraces and mounds: *'a high walk like a Terrace from whence might be taken a general view of the whole plot below.'* Books on garden design became highly popular and influential; for example, Wilton House 'The Grand design' featured the statue of a gladiator on its main axis.

Archaeological evaluation under the direction of English Heritage Central Archaeological Service has begun with a geophysical survey which established the accuracy of the *c*1700 plan by confirming the evidence of the raised walkways. This was followed up with a series of trial trenches to locate surviving paving layers and provide clues to the layout of any formal planting. As the sketch view shows, the extent of surviving paving was greater than expected and it appears on available evidence that during the 1860 works the whole of the courtyard area was simply covered with a layer of topsoil and grassed over. The other surprising factor was the lack of any evidence for formal planting layouts, which a study of contemporary gardens would have lead one to expect. This absence might be explained by the harsh climate experienced at the site.



Other evidence revealed by the trial trenches included possible gate piers between the inner and outer courts, and confirmation that the central feature shown in the inner court was in fact constructed with the strap ends as the *c*1700 plan. The only disappointment so far has been the failure to find any trace of the bronze gladiator.

Peter Bartle

ROCK ART ON SOUTH AFRICA'S SEVILLA TRAIL

Tom Wray

Modern South Africa claims to have its sights firmly set on the future. But the foundations on which this "new" nation is being built derive from a diverse and fascinating cultural heritage. Few of South Africa's original inhabitants, the hunter-gatherer San (!Xam), or Bushmen, remain today. But evidence of their presence throughout countless ages survives in rock paintings to be found in various caves and other sites.

I was in South Africa last year on assignment for my employer and, with the weekend free, had driven north from Cape Town to the village of Clanwilliam. My intention was to do some hiking in the Cedarberg Wilderness Area. It was in Clanwilliam that I heard about the Sevilla Trail and Salmonslaagte, which offer rambles through the world of the San.

"There are many sites on the trail which offer a stunning glimpse of the rock art that the San left behind," Wilma Jacobs told me. Wilma runs the Saint Du Barrys Country Lodge in Clanwilliam with husband Johan. "The Sevilla Trail and Salmonslaagte have been opened to the public as a co-operative venture between the Strauss family, friends of ours, and the South Africa Museum," explained Wilma.

The venture is an experiment, and I was told that the condition of the sites is closely monitored. Any evidence that public access to these sites is causing any deterioration of the paintings could lead to the sites being closed to public access.

I stayed the night at the Swiss couple's thatched lodge after spending all day Saturday on the coast, driving from Saldanha Bay to Strandfontein, north-west of Cape Town. Clanwilliam is a charming place. One of the Republic's ten oldest settlements, it lies inland 140 or so miles north of Cape Town. Next morning, deciding to leave Cedarberg for another occasion, I took the Wuppertal road over the spectacular Pakhuis Pass to Traveller's Rest Farm. There, Heffie Strauss told me about the rock art sites and gave me a trail guide. I also bought a booklet, *Rock Art of the Western Cape*, by Peter Slingsby

Returning to the Wuppertal road, I drove the short distance to the Brandewyn River. There, I parked my car in the shade of some gum trees, climbed a fence and headed across the weathered rocks to the first site on the Sevilla Trail. The rocks I hiked over were alive with dassies (hyraxes), small grey-brown, rabbit-like mammals.

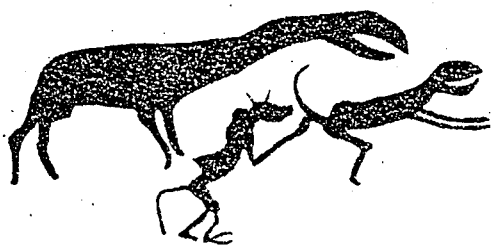
The San are said to have been the first true human inhabitants of Southern Africa. Archaeological evidence points to their continuous inhabitation of this corner of the world for over 100,000 years. Evidence suggests the probability that *Homo sapiens* arose in Southern Africa. A significant number of scientists feel that the San were the branch of humanity who "stayed behind" while the rest of our Negroid, Caucasoid or Mongoloid ancestors migrated away and colonised the planet. It has been suggested that the San remained genetically closest to those first true humans. Small and finely built, they evolved a gatherer-hunter existence in which they co-existed in close harmony with the natural environment.

Somewhere over 2000 years ago the San's existence was challenged from the north-west by their herder cousins, the Khoi-khoi, and in the east by the herder-pastorialists, the antecedents of the present day Nguni peoples. The evidence suggests that the San accommodated and survived these invasions, maintaining their lifestyle especially in the mountainous areas that were less hospitable to herders and pastorialists. That changed dramatically, however, in the mid-17th century. European invasion from the south-west pushed the Khoi eastwards until they came up against the Nguni. The San were the ultimate losers. They were massacred, enslaved and absorbed until, today, their descendants are found only in the inhospitable deserts of the Northern Cape, Namibia and Botswana.

The name Bushmen, still perpetuated in the popular media, is a demeaning name, believes Peter Slingsby. "It was the early European colonists who, while practising genocide against them, scornfully dismissed them as 'boschesmense'", he says. "Khoisan is a popular modern term, but it wrongly mixes two distinct peoples; it's like lumping the Celts and Vikings together and suggesting a common culture. San seems completely acceptable; !Xam may be better."

The San have left no written record of their history, but in well over 6000 recorded sites scattered across South Africa they have left a visual story of their lives and times. The paintings record a lost and forgotten fauna; every imaginable aspect of their own lives; even many of the artefacts they used.

Site one on the Sevilla Trail is less than a mile from the start of the trail. The site is notable for a strange, black image of a large group of people superimposed upon older and weathered images. **Site two** features a remarkable trio of strange "monsters" as well as many human figures and a notable zebra-like creature. This is said to be a representation of the extinct quagga.



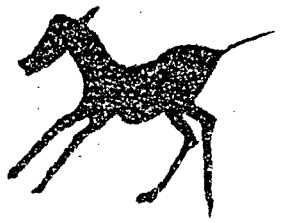
Oozing out of the rocks in and around this site I noticed masses of a tar-like substance. I was told later that dassies always defecate in certain places. These accumulations of literally hundreds or even thousands of years of dassie dung undergo chemical changes and ooze through cracks in the rocks. They are extremely useful to paleobotanists as they contain trapped pollen grains which enable botanists to study vegetation and climatic changes in the past. There is some evidence that this "tar" was also used occasionally as a medium in painting.

I found **site three** about 100 yards beyond site two, on top of a rocky ledge above the river bed. It is remarkable for a huge "balancing" boulder. There are paintings behind this boulder, underneath it and on the surrounding rocks. I had to lie down under the balancing boulder to see one extraordinary painting properly. It included incomplete animal shapes with human legs.

Records from early researchers who had contact with surviving San, as well as sparse analysis of some paintings, suggest that a wide variety of materials formed the basis of pigments. These include earth ochres, clay, ash and bird droppings. Blood, egg-white and urine were probably used as fixative materials. Many colours from black to white, red, yellow, blue and green have been found in the paintings. Although the majority of paintings are simple monochrome or bichrome, highly detailed polychrome paintings have also been found. Paint was applied with everything from fingers to sticks, feathers and animal hairs. The fineness of line in many paintings is said to indicate the use of sophisticated brush techniques.

Site four involved a short scramble off site three's rocky ledge. In the overhang I spotted several zebra or quagga figures. I found **site five** further on after a

delightful walk below high cliffs. It is situated on a rocky shelf above the river. Below is a fine patch of indigenous river forest, with wild almond, Cape lance-leaf and wild olive trees. The site itself is shaded by a huge, ancient olive tree that must be several centuries old. Site five has some of the best paintings on the trail. Representations of an archer and a zebra/quagga foal are highlights of this site, but if you study the rocks carefully you will find hundreds of images.



I wondered how old the paintings were. "Paintings of sailing ships, of trekker wagons, of men on horseback, stock raids and battles with the Xhosa can be reasonably dated to within the past three hundred years," I read in Peter Slingsby's booklet. "Beyond that we face a frustrating void. Paintings on rock faces cannot be dated; there is simply not enough material for reliable carbon dating. The best we have been able to do is to date, reasonably accurately, paintings on loose stones which have been excavated from the accumulated litter in caves. Because the layers of cave litter can be accurately dated, the time when the stones were buried can be similarly dated — although there is no way of knowing whether such loose stones had not been painted perhaps many thousands of years before they were buried!"

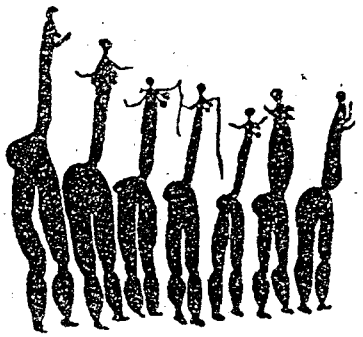
In Namibia, painted stones have been found in cave litter dating to 27,500 years ago; in the Southern Cape, similar stones have been found in litter that is over 6000 years old. In 1995 a piece of cave wall, with paintings, was found in litter in an Elands Bay cave which dated to more than 3500 years.

Perhaps we could find some clues in the paintings themselves. Many of the paintings I saw depict naked human beings, or at least people with few coverings. Yet many of the most faded (oldest?) seem to show people wearing heavy skin cloaks or karosses, even wearing hoods.

Says Peter Slingsby: "In France Cro-Magnon people painted woolly mammoths 27,000 years ago, during an ice age. There was no glaciation in Southern Africa, but the climate was certainly colder and wetter when northern Europe groaned under the ice-sheet. Do these ancient pictures reflect the necessities of survival, countless millennia ago?"

Whatever may yet be discovered, Peter Slingsby believes it is safe to say that the paintings on the Sevilla Trail are, at the very least, two to three centuries old; that many are probably at least 2000 to 3000 years old, and that some may be 20,000-30,000 years old.

Site six on the Sevilla Trail is really just an extension of site five. It has many fascinating images, including a remarkable group of dancing women. The figures show the characteristic "steatopygia" of the San. I was told that this remarkable physical characteristic allowed the people, especially women, to store fatty reserves of food in enormously enlarged buttocks.



I found **site seven** after a descent through a bushy gully. There, I saw faint yellow elephants and two faded figures. At **site eight**, in a low cave that had been used as a kraal in the past, I saw many hand-prints, including those of small children. It is thought that the hand-prints were probably made by the Khoi, rather than the San.

Site nine has dozens of fine paintings, including a large number of zebra/quagga, several human figures, eland, and so on. This is the last site on the Sevilla Trail. While this trail is marked with white footprints, if you turn back in order to revisit the previous sites, as I did, the footprints are hard to find. You can easily lose your way, as I did, unless you take careful note of landmarks along the route.

Salmonslaagte, the start of which is about a mile or so from Travellers' Rest, is not so much a trail as a walk to the caves and back. The route is unmarked and not very clear. There are also other excellent rock art sites in the area, but visitors will not be directed to any of these unless they have a letter of authority from the SA Museum.

The passage of time, weathering, chemical change and acts of senseless vandalism are diminishing this incredible heritage all the time. "We need an urgent awakening to the value of this heritage: it is uniquely South African," believes Peter Slingsby. "In a country striving to find symbols which transcend the divisive histories of our peoples, the rock art left by the first South Africans is a heritage which stands aloof and above those divisions. It is surely one of our most priceless national treasures."

Further reading:

Rock Art of the Western Cape, Book 1: The Sevilla Trail and Travellers' Rest by Peter Slingsby. Published 1995 by Ekkoprint. ISBN 0-620-19810-9.

Major Rock Paintings of Southern Africa, with facsimile reproductions by R. Townley Johnson, edited by Dr Tim Maggs. Published 1979 by David Philip.

CBA SYMPOSIUM

The annual symposium of the Council for British Archaeology, Yorkshire, was held this year on 7th February in the Tempest Anderson Hall in the Yorkshire Museum. As usual, it provided an excellent opportunity to find out what archaeological work was being done in other parts of the region; this proved to range from excavations at King's Mill Leeds to an underwater survey of Malham Tarn. Rodney Mackey described the re-excavation of Easington barrow and Peter Halkon talked about the Iron Age and Romano-British landscape of Hayton. Only a selection of the reports are summarised below.

The carved rocks of Nidderdale, Wharfedale and Airedale

Edward Vickerman described a project to survey the carved rocks of a large area of the Yorkshire Moors bounded by Bradford and Leeds to the south and reaching up to Grassington and Pateley Bridge in the north and drained by the rivers Nidd, Washburn, Wharfe and Aire. Some ERAS members may remember being shown some of the carvings of Ilkley Moor during a day trip a few years ago.

Ilkley Moor, part of the larger Rombalds Moor, and the small neighbouring Baildon Moor have long been known for their rock carvings, attracting the attention of a number of late Victorian writers, but their lists are by no means comprehensive. Members of the Ilkley Archaeology Group were brought together in 1976 largely as a result of some education classes on the prehistory and local history of Rombalds Moor and its environs. The Group has changed a little over the years, but it has steadily worked across the various Moors, examining and cataloguing the carved stones. Over 600 records have been made.

The records should ideally include an eight-figure grid reference and a description of each location, though this can be difficult in sometimes featureless moorland. Both the rock and its carvings are described and measured. Drawings are prepared and the surface is photographed within a one metre frame. Some carvings are only visible in certain lights.

Middleton Moor is the most densely carved, though no explanation can be given for this; it is quite a featureless area. It is difficult to say with what the distribution of carvings is associated. There are, however, some repeating characteristics: the carved rocks are always gritstone, they tend to be found in groups and are not often found on the highest ground. The present day distribution may differ from the original: some of the rocks from lower altitudes may have been moved from their original positions, some carvings may have weathered away, either as a result of less-resistant rock or of more-exposed position, and some areas of carved rocks may have been obliterated by the conurbations of Leeds and Bradford.

The speaker considered that the study of carved rocks on the Yorkshire Moors has proved a very suitable project for an amateur archaeology group. This opinion has been endorsed by the presentation of CBA Yorkshire's King Award to Edward Vickerman and the Ilkley Archaeology Group.

Harrogate Community Archaeology Project: prehistory in Nidderdale

I was particularly interested to hear *Mary Kershaw's* account of how the Community Project was organised, in the light of the Bainton Project being undertaken by ERAS. It was encouraging to learn how successful the Harrogate Project had proved. The Knaresborough Archaeology Group had started unofficially in about 1988 with the excavation of Knaresborough Castle Keep. Members learnt the skills necessary for drawing 100 architectural stones and 600 cut stones. They later became involved in various operations, assisting in the earthwork survey of the Grange at High Cayton, drawing the elevation of the courthouse at

Knaresborough Castle, redocumenting and repackaging the prehistoric collection at the museum, and cataloguing the Egyptian collection.

By 1995, it had been decided to launch the Community Project, with the aim of involving volunteers in non-destructive archaeology through identifying all the known prehistoric archaeological information about the area and recording it in an accessible format. The study area was to be the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAONB). Within this area, the village of Ellingstring was chosen for a pilot study. This upland Parish was an archaeological blank on the SMR, and a desk top survey revealed very few records, almost all from the Dales Survey. A preliminary field survey was conducted from public rights of way. Group visits caused a certain amount of interest among villagers who thought they were being descended upon by footpath inspectors!

After features had been identified, sketches and very detailed field notes were made. These notes were written up and put on a computerised database. All features outside standing buildings were included. For this pilot study, no primary documentary sources were consulted. As a result of the survey, the number of SMR records was increased from zero to more than a hundred.

The method of collection of data for the Nidderdale AONB survey was somewhat different from the pilot, covering a much larger area. Although selective field inspection was undertaken from public rights of way, the majority of the information was obtained from sources which included published works, unpublished archives, maps, aerial photographs, geological and land use information. All the information was transcribed onto standardised record sheets. Each archaeological feature was given a separate record sheet, was noted on base maps and transferred to a computer database. Because more records were generated by detailed inspection of aerial photographs than by any other means, it is recognised that this in itself would introduce an imbalance in the distribution. Aerial photographs are not effective for areas covered in woodland or peat; moreover, they have not always been taken for archaeological purposes.

Although the results of this survey do not claim to be the definitive statement of the prehistory of the area, they give a clear picture of the wealth of information available for further research and of areas which need more attention. The final report has not yet been published, but the Harrogate Community Project has increased the number of pre-Roman sites on the SMR from 100 to some 1400.

Recent discoveries in medieval Scarborough

This presentation by the Scarborough Archaeology and Historical Society also illustrated the involvement of the community in archaeology. The Society is 50 years old and has a long tradition of small-scale excavation and work in the town.

The town of Scarborough built up following the mid-12th century founding of the present castle by Henry II. Later in his reign, he ordered the addition of the new part of the town - the Newborough.

Over a hundred people have taken part in the Society's excavations during the last ten years and digs have taken place in most parts of the town. For his contribution to the CBA symposium, *Trevor Pearson* talked about four excavations which have been undertaken since 1996, in the harbour area, in the Oldborough, and in the Newborough.

The Harbour

In July 1996 an excavation on the north side of Quay Street provided a rare opportunity to investigate part of the medieval harbour. The main trench uncovered the remains of a building buried beneath 80cm of domestic refuse containing large pieces of 15th century pottery. It is thought that this refuse may have been dumped at the edge of the medieval waterfront in an attempt to raise the land surface.

The Newborough

By investigations in this area of the town it is hoped to answer some questions about the medieval expansion of the town.

An opportunity arose to look at a stone wall which 18th and 19th century historians claim was the last vestige of the town wall (of Richard III). The wall proved to have no foundation trench, but rested on the truncated remains of a clay rampart, which may be a remnant of the original clay rampart of Henry II. The squared forms of the stones of the wall itself may be in agreement with Tudor descriptions of the medieval town wall of Richard III's reign. Evidence elsewhere on the site suggests that this part of the Newborough was never densely occupied.

The Oldborough

During the first six months of 1997, trial excavations took place at the rear of the former Quaker Meeting House. Excellent archaeological preservation was found, with deposits of black organic mud up to 2 metres deep. Timberwork of medieval date was preserved in these waterlogged deposits. The infilled channel of a stream, known in the middle ages as the Damyet, crossed the site. It appears that the stream may have been a focus for settlement and at one time was directed along a stone-walled channel.

The speaker commented that they have yet to find evidence for a Viking town.

IRON AGE BRITAIN

This is the completion of a summary, started in ERAS News 45, of a conference held in Oxford in February 1995 and attended by Peter Halkon. Two papers from the conference are not covered: Peter Crew's contribution has already been covered by the summary of his ERAS lecture, while Professor Barry Cunliffe's work on Danebury will be reported on in a later issue, as he is giving the March ERAS lecture.

Richard Hingley - Scotland

Scotland is the largest of the areas covered by the speakers at the Conference and has many very well-preserved Iron Age sites, perhaps the most famous being the brochs. The wheelhouses of the island of Lewis (named after their distinctive floor plan) also remain in excellent condition, with not only the buildings but the remains of whole associated landscape surviving. These houses of Atlantic Scotland are substantial, but the rest of Scotland is different, with more enclosed settlements. Climate was of great importance in determining the availability of land. The period 1200-1000 BC was wetter and colder with improvement after 400BC. Pollen analysis shows that in 1000 BC much of Scotland was covered in trees, though not in the harsher climate of the Northern Isles. By the 1st century BC the situation had changed completely and large areas of S. Scotland were cleared.

For this later period of the Iron Age, there were substantial round buildings in the Atlantic zone and, in the East, enclosures. Substantial roundhouses dating from 800 BC have been excavated and there are Brochs dating from the last two centuries BC. Some Brochs, such as Mousa, which is 8m high with three floors, appear to have origins as exaggerated roundhouses. There is a strong regional pattern and many of the homesteads have western entrances. It is possible that some may be ritually orientated. There is evidence for re-use of Neolithic chambered cairns Late Bronze Age activity has been found on or close to a number of these. At Quanterness in Orkney, there is a structure from this period which appears to control access into the chamber of the chambered cairn. The Howe chambered cairn is used as a souterrain (underground passage or storage area), suggesting environmental pressure.

Ritual deposits have been found in bogs, also in hillforts in the Lothian area. There is also evidence for burial in cists.

Many fine artefacts have been discovered in Scotland of which the Torrs pony cap and Deskford Carnyx (war trumpet) are perhaps the most famous. These were deposited in the Roman Iron Age.

Barry Raftery - Ireland

In Ireland there is a problem in reconciling archaeology with written sources and in adopting the invasion hypothesis. The evidence consists of idiosyncratic burials with most of the rest of the information coming from stray objects, especially those found in rivers, lakes and bogs. Many, such as iron objects and looped, socketed axeheads and riveted bronze cauldrons, were found in the 18th and 19th centuries and have no proper provenance,

Some finds have been misappropriated - for example, a gold torc of mid-Rhine Waldalgasheim type, thought to be from Clonmacnoise, was actually found at Knock on the Shannon. This is a superb piecedecorated with applied gold wire. At Lisnacrogher, Co. Antrim, more bog finds were made, including very fine metal work, decorated scabbards and ring-headed pins. In the Bann, very fine scabbards and chapes in La Tène art styles have been found, which some say have parallels with Yorkshire. Piggot, in the 1950s, went so far as to suggest a 'plantation' of Ireland by Yorkshire charioteers descending on an unsuspecting Ulster! On close examination, however, the styles of art are similar but not identical. The chapes are quite different, as is the position of the suspension loop, which in Yorkshire is at the centre. The swords found so far are of limited quality, none of which were capable of the Irish hero Cu Chulainn's feat of splitting his foe from head to navel!

Horse trappings, some of very fine quality, are also common as stray finds. There are also enigmatic Y-shaped metal objects. Chariot gear is very scarce, considering the numbers of descriptions from Irish Epic poetry such as the *Tain*.

Various wooden objects have also survived, such as a block wheel from Co. Roscommon and roadways made of split oak planks 4m in length and stretching for 2km. The dendrochronological date for this is 148 BC. Other finds include parade trumpets from Loughnashay (?) decorated with repoussé La Tène ornamentation. At Broighter, Co. Derry, a hoard of artefacts from a bog includes a superb collar, which is supposed to have affinities with Snettisham, and an amazingly detailed golden ship. Other objects include the bronze discs with repoussé ornament from Loughan Island in the River Bann.

Hill forts are widely spaced and multivallate. Some sites have cheveux-de-frise (stones placed close together to impede access) made of lethal limestone spikes. Many forts thought to be Iron Age are in fact Late Bronze Age. Dun Aengus, a cliff fort on the island

of Inishmore,was once thought to be a classic Iron Age site, but Late Bronze Age finds have been discovered there. Professsor Raftery said that evidence for hillforts being brought in by supposed Celtic invaders is scarce. The classic sites of Tara, Co. Meath and Navan are both older in origin than previously thought. Navan in Ulster has a ditch on the inside and a great cairn of stone. The outer wall was made of longitudinal planks and a series of rings of upright posts. One oak post from the ambulatory was dated by dendrochronology to 95 BC and once stood to 11m. Finds included the skull of a Barbary ape.

As for the contraversial theory of a Roman invasion of Ireland - Raftery doesn't think so!

Andrew FitzPatrick - Iron Age burials -

One of the great problems of the Iron Age is the lack of dead, apart from the Arras culture of East Yorkshire and the Aylesford-Swarling culture of south-east England. This may be due to disposal of the dead in bogs and rivers. Although Lindow man was probably Roman, the ^{14}C dates suggest that the tradition behind his deposition is still Iron Age in influence.Several spectacular metal objects may also be associated with this method of burial.

The Arras burials of East Yorkshire involve burial in barrows which, in size and shape, orientation of bodies and placing of animal offerings, show variation through time. Although square enclosures have been found elsewhere, the closest parallel to the Yorkshire examples is still in the Marne area of France. Is the Arras culture a traditional Little Woodbury-type indiginous Iron Age culture but with a new religion?

In the South West there are cist burials, such as that at Trethallon Farm. In the territory of the Durotriges (Dorset), Wheeler excavated graves at the entrance of Maiden Castle whichhe interpreted as war graves. Could these simply be carelessly-made burials following local tradition? Some of the bodies do, however, bear evidence of wounds. In Dorchester and Weymouth, pit burials have been exacavated; at Portesham in Dorset an Iron Age mirror was found in a grave; at Whitcombe, a sword and tools. Burials with sword go through the Iron Age. At Owslebury (Hants), a sword and shield are buried with what John Collis argues is merely a rich farmer; others believe he is a warrior/chief. At Deal (Kent) a further important burial was excavated containing what has been interpreted as priestly regalia, including what was possibly a crown.

At Danebury there are both complete and partial burials: the latter may be as a result of rituals involving retrieval and scattering of bones. Burial of animals was common - these represent a considerable economic resource.

In recent years there has been an overall shift from the migration/invasion hypotheses for the Iron Age. There are many more traditions to be identified. Burial can only be understood properly in the context of the living.

One tradition is cremation burial, the distribution of which is discontinuous. At first it was thought that the rite was contemporary with Caesar's visits (55-54 BC); then the practice was thought to be later. Very possibly, this rite was connected with the Belgae, who were continental immigrants. The distribution of the coins makes this plausible and perhaps the invasion hypothesis holds true for this area.

In these late cremation burials the influence of Rome is strong. Elites are gaining access to wine and other commodities. Amphorae of wine (holding the equivalent to 120 bottles of Chianti!) are often found in rich burials, such as those found at Welwyn Garden City. King Harry Lane, St Albans, remains one of the most important cemetery excavations with 90 burials. Mortuary enclosures wee also found and graves with lids.

At Colchester, royal burials have been found on the edge of the *oppidum*. The individual is of Iron Age date but all the artefacts are Roman. At St Albans, deliberate breaking of artefacts may relate to ritual stages. At Baldock, evidence of sacrifice and a feast for the living was also found.

New types of ritual site are being identified, with temples creating sacred space in the landscape. At Westhampnett, near Chichester, an important cemetery was found and 160 burials were carefully excavated. In the middle of the site there was a Bronze Age ring ditch with post-holes. Roman and Anglo-Saxon inhumation burials were also found there. Careful study has been made of the grave fills. Pyres and other related features have been identified. A shrine was cut through by an A/S grave. Whereas most features face east on the settlement, the shrine faces south. The pyres are grouped round a circular space and the arrangement is predominately north-south. Environmental evidence from pyres has proved most interesting and it is possible to reconstruct a sequence of events for ceremony. Oak, ash and other coppiced wood was used for the pyre. Cereals and sloes were also found and it is suggested that these were scattered on the pyre. Animals were then sacrificed and some bone from from previous cremations included with the burials. After burning, the pyres were raked over and pots deliberately smashed and included.

It is estimated that a population of 85-95 used the site - too many for the size of settlement and so the ritual site is likely to have been communal. Forty percent of the animal bone was cattle. No weapons or costume jewellery were discovered, but there were very elaborately-decorated pots. Pottery from the cemetery was different, in surface finish and inclusions, from that found on settlements and may therefore have been specially made for burial.

Finds suggest corpses were cremated fully clothed. Women have more items than men; the older people also have more grave goods. There is no clear evidence for ranking, though a fragment of gold torc has been found. The older people also tend to be found buried in a circle near the space which may well have contained a symbolic house.

It is possible to work out a likely burial ritual on the following lines:

- corpse dressed
- carried to platform in central house
- pyre built and sherds of pot and ashes from previous cremationplaced there
- grain and sloes scattered
- fire lit and burns for a day and a night
- pyre cools and all bone collected. A representative part was taken for burial in pots. The rest was dispersed.

A similar rite in France in the 1st century BC has been recognised.

Philip De Jersey - Iron Age coins

All Iron Age coins have their origin in the gold stater of Philip II of Macedon 359-336 BC. The obverse of this coin bore the head of Apollo and the reverse a two-wheeled chariot. This continued to be produced for 40 years after his death. Gradually, Gallic copies deteriorated and became more stylised. As the legend lost its meaning, the image began to break up and the wheels of the chariot started to appear elsewhere on the coin; the design has been likened to Jimi Hendrix and a horse blowing bubbles!

These coins have been regarded as the main basis for the invasion hypothesis. Derek Allen (1960s) categorised the coins into Gallo-Belgic types A-F which illustrated 6 waves of invaders. Gallo-Belgic C were regarded as regional derivatives. John Sills identified irregular versions of Gallo-Belgic C as the first British, as opposed to imported, gold coin. Gallo-Belgic type D has a coastal distribution in Northern France. Its reverse has a boat with 3 men in it. The 'oak tree by the stream type' has a different distribution.

Regional types have been identified in the territories of the Durotriges (Dorset) and the Cantii (Kent). At Clacton-on-Sea coins were found in 1898, now there are a dozen other finds. In Norfolk, the coins been found (together with gold torcs) in the Snettisham hoard bear the depiction of a wolf or dog.

Gallo-Belgic E coins date to the Gallic war and were produced in vast numbers. These were probably for the payment of mercenary warriors. Other types have been identified in Cambridgeshire and Norfolk. Metal detector finds have had a big impact on distributions.

Potin coins (bronze coins with a high proportion of tin in them) also have similarities with continental types. These coins are made in a different way and cast in a clay mould. The coins themselves were used to impress the next mould, and thus the definition became worse with time. Finds have been made at Hayling Island and these too have similarities with Central Gaulish prototypes, dating from 60-30 BC. There is evidence for the steady import of Gallo-Belgic type coins into the Silchester area - can the invasion idea be ruled out altogether?

Peter Halkon

ERAS LECTURE SUMMARIES

Reports Meeting *17 Sept 1997*

Humberside Archaeology Partnership
Ken Steedman

In October the Unit carried out a trial excavation at Hengate. Until 1995 the archaeology in this area has been rather sparse. The sites are on gravels rather than the boulder clay of many local sites; for this reason, the site is well drained and, although there was material available for environmental analysis, much had decayed. Three trenches were dug on the Crown Bush site, two indoors and one outdoors. Instability of the sides of the trenches required shoring, but in spite of these difficulties at least one metre of stratified deposits was available for study. Deposits indicating occupation back to the 13th century were evaluated. The site fronted to the west of Hengate and not on the street itself. The stratification was very complex, providing evidence for a number of phases and indicating the use and reuse of the building over a long period of time.

In November, trenches south of Beeford church were dug, five in all. Aerial photographs show signs of earlier habitation, including during the Iron Age/Romano British period. The discovery of pottery during the 1970s confirmed the aerial photographic evidence. There may have been a moated building in

Main Street and an Iron Age ditch was discovered along with 1st century BC/1st century AD pottery. A watching brief is being kept on the area.

In March a long trench and three other trenches were dug at Sammy's point for Hull City Council. The purpose of the excavation was an evaluation exercise ahead of the construction of the 'Deep' heritage centre. Work was carried out on the South Blockhouse at the southern end of the fortification. An access road is to be rerouted and, where possible, remains exposed and conserved as a separate tourist attraction; there will be a diffrent Heritage bid for this work. It should eventually be possible to view the Citadel Walls, gun ports and chambers and the clover leaf form of the Bastion. The walls are several metres thick, some of the stone coming from monastic estates. The mounting of cannon was shown in an illustration. Mention was made of the much-publicised cannon reported in an earlier Newsletter. It survived because it was left in the blockhouse, it was rusty and it was probably too inconvenient to dispose of it further afield. It may have leaked in use and was not very efficient; it would, however, have had a range of about 300 yards and may have fired on Royalist ships. It is currently in the York Conservation Laboratories and will eventually be displayed in the Hull and East Riding Museum.

An excavation lasting eighteen weeks was carried out on the Kingswood site near the Ennerdale link road and the Foredyke and Engine Drains. Geophysical survey and documentary evidence suggested the presence of post-medieval, medieval and Romano-British archaeology. The excavation was carried out to investigate the settlements, determine their extent and provide material for the paleoenvironmental investigations.

The first site indicated that the river Hull is currently very close to its Roman course. Within the sediments hundreds, if not thousands of flooding episodes were visible. It was possible to use archaeomagnetic dating on this site - this is very unusual. The dates gave a period of 800 BC to 1300 AD (See also the 'Ask the Expert' column in the last edition of the short Newsletter).

An area about 0.5 metres above the surroundings was also excavated. This artificial mound was dated to the 14th-15th centuries. Three buildings were excavated, one with a stone and two with timber foundations. A post-medieval barn with 25-30 column bases was discovered, some of the walls of which were placed on piles. Unfortunately dendrochronology dating, when used for these structures, can be unreliable and in consequence an accurate date has not become available.

There was evidence for industrial activity, including cloth washing, lasting from the 14th to the 17th century. Also discovered was the edge of a Romano-British settlement.

Bainton Project *Peter Bartle*

The area recently investigated is known as 'Hilly Fields', where there are a number of interesting earthwork features which are being survieyed by members of the Field Study Group. There have been meetings with the local vicar and contact made with the Parish Council. There was also a description of evidence for prehistoric occupation using information contained in the SMR and similar sources (see September Field Studies Meeting notes).

Mention was also made of a double dyke, a possible Roman road from Ferriby to Beverley and a turnpike road which may have used the same route until 1780/1800. There was a description of a map dated to 1620 showing buildings in three dimensions, and an enclosure plan confirming the orientation of some buildings with boundaries unchanged for very long periods.

A 1770 map was shown depicting buildings during a period covered by the census returns of 1855. Some features on this map cannot be seen today. An OHP of the plan seen in ERAS News 45 was shown and the method used for surveying was described. The area included flat areas, which may have been platforms for buildings, a ditch of about 1.5 metres depth, and lines of hawthorns which might help in dating. In a prominent mound, chalky deposits can be seen which include worked stone with chamfered sides.

There was a description of the equipment used for surveying and a brief discussion of the potential provided by the secondhand theodolite recently acquired for the Society by Rodney Mackey.

Easington *Rodney Mackey*

As most of the eleven-week 1997 excavation took place after the Reports Meeting, only a brief summary is reported here. The excavation area was extended this season, i) to find any evidence of a barrow ditch, ii) to search for further evidence of a structure in the occupation area, iii) to reveal more of the timber circle. Prior to excavation, the whole area was carefully stripped by machine, removing most of the previous season's backfill and the remaining parts of the barrow mound. More of the timber circle was immediately revealed.

Samples taken in 1996 gave a radiocarbon date of *c*2000BC for the circle of oak timbers, whereas charcoal from one of the post holes sealed beneath the

barrow gave a date of *c*3,750BC. (Charcoal from one of the hearths gave a date of c3,200BC, but might have been contaminated with later barrow material). Levels taken on the original land surface showed that the barrow had been built on a small natural hill and the grave had been positioned at the apex, explaining why the burial was off-centre in relation to the barrow. The excavation revealed no trace of a barrow ditch. Further post holes of the possible structure on the occupation area were found and, if funding can be obtained, it is hoped to submit more samples to confirm and clarify the dating of the occupation area.

Reconstructing the Dover Boat

Dec 17 1997 *Damian Goodburn*

The Dover Boat was discovered one lunchtime in September 1992 by the Canterbury Archaeology Trust. The Trust was keeping a watching brief during the construction of an underpass which would allow the good citizens of Dover access to the waterfront. A member of the Trust, having been to a lecture by Ted Wright, remembered that the planks of the Ferriby Boat were lashed together with yew withies and made the connection with what was emerging from a sump dug to drain the underpass.

Damian Goodburn described the initial reactions of the professional archaeologists as panic and fear, because the road construction was already delayed and the recovery, recording and preservation of a prehistoric boat would require all sorts of specialist expertise and considerable amounts of money. Such an important find, however, demanded attention and various urgent telephone calls, meetings and pleading letters to the press resulted in permission to excavate and money to do so from English Heritage.

Since the boat would have to be removed to allow the contractors to continue their work, it was decided to lift the boat. Further portions of the vessel were located in a second coffer dam. About two-thirds of the boat were recovered in all, though it had to be cut up with a circular saw in order to remove it from the site. Clever cradles were constructed to protect the portions of boat during transport. It could then be studied in detail by the Canterbury Archaeology Trust and conserved.

Built from four huge oak planks, the boat was about 15 metres long, with a sculpted, flat, punt-shaped end, though the timbers have been compressed by the overburden. Two curved planks were used for the sides and two flat planks for the base, resulting in a rather flatter bottom than any of the Ferriby Boats. Damian said that it was difficult to describe many of the boat's features because it didn't seem part of a boat-building tradition leading to future boats and therefore terms are not available to describe many of the boat's features. The side planks were stitched to the base with yew withies, whereas the central seam between the base planks was fixed together by ramming wedges and cross-timbers between a pair of ridges either side of the joint and through a series of cleats. The speaker commented that this complicated method seems a strange one to choose as it does nothing to strengthen the line of weakness of the central joint. The joints were packed with moss to make them more waterproof.

The boat appears to have been abandoned in fresh water, leading to debate over whether it was a sea-going vessel or not. However, the river Dour today is only a stream, flanked by steep-sided hills and it is difficult to imagine it ever having required a sizeable craft like the Dover boat. Most believe it was a fair-weather sea-going boat propelled by paddles. Radiocarbon dating produced quite a spread of dates, but places the boat in the Middle Bronze Age, making it roughly contemporary with the Ferriby finds.

It was decided to build a reconstruction of a 3m mid-ship section of the boat, using replica Bronze Age tools, in order to answer questions about how the boat was built. Two logs about 1m in diameter were split into four half-logs; these were sculpted into the base and side planks by hammering in wooden wedges to split off sections of timber. These roughly -shaped planks were then finished off with metal tools - palstaves, a socketed axe, a chisel and gouges. The excess wood could be removed by cutting grooves into the wood and splitting out the waste.

It was difficult to find information about the hafting of Bronze Age tools, so some techniques were worked out as the need dictated. The edges of the bronze tools had to be hammered to make them stronger. The tool-marks on the reconstructed boat matched the originals perfectly, even to the parallel fluting on the bottom planks which had originally been thought to be possibly decorative. It was soon discovered that it was easy to produce a better finish than the original builders, who must therefore have been working fairly fast: they were not trying to produce a prestige product!

Damian told us that the replica boat section would go on display in the museum. The process of reconstruction had been recorded on video and it was hoped that a television programme would be produced. At the end of the lecture members were were given the opportunity to handle some of the Bronze Age-type tools.

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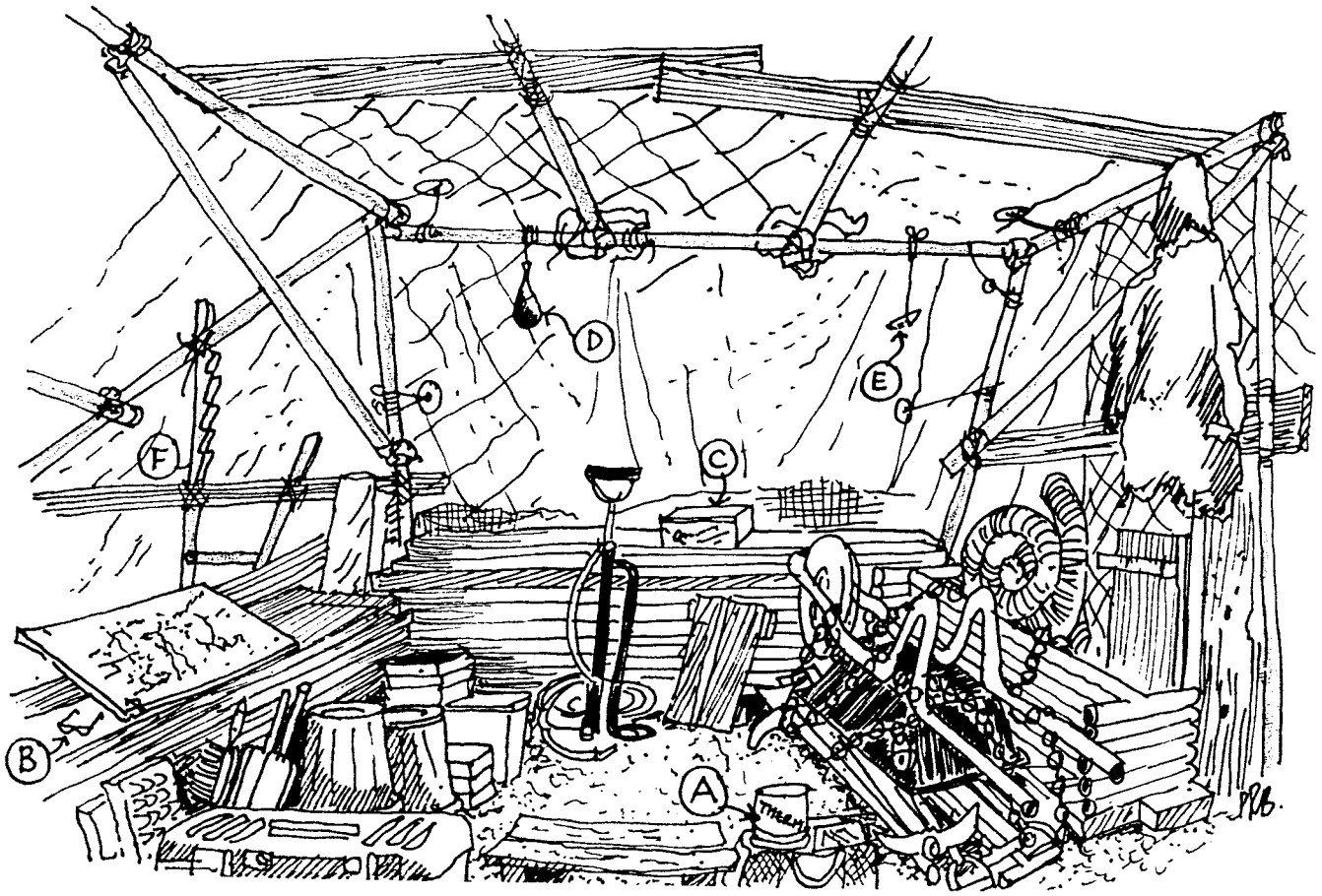
As we learnt in the lecture, Damian Goodburn is a specialist in ancient woodworking techniques. He runs courses on some of these - see page 18 for address.

EASINGTON DWELLING RECONSTRUCTION circa 2098?



The sketch attempts to illustrate a typical dwelling interior from the site, based on posthole and finds evidence. Approximately rectangular in plan, the dwelling would appear to have accommodated up to a dozen people with possessions. Rust stains from postholes suggest some form of metallic structure and recovered fragments indicate an inorganic covering of unidentified composition. The following artefacts were of particular interest. (see sketch for location)

A) Circular plastic? fragment with inscribed lettering 'TH- - M - S' - possibly a drinking vessel; its enormous size suggests use by a person of high status. Organic evidence from the inner face of the fragment indicated a plant of exotic origin for the source of the fluid contained within.

B) Semi-circular glass fragment with traces of metallic surround. Appears to have been some sort of magnifying lens perhaps used as a scribing aid -could even have comprised 2 separate lenses joined with a framework as the sketch suggests.

C) Tin section, badly corroded, lettering traces 'QUAL - - - ST - - - T'? use unknown, clearly a storage container of some kind. Note, possibly related scatter of coloured paper fragments with traces of similar lettering found within dwelling perimeter.

D) Item - blue elastic material with cord) Both appear to have ritual significance
) and may have been suspended within the dwelling
E) Item - flint, possibly worked, with cord) as sacredobjects.)

F) Timber, 3 pieces with pin joints and serrated rebates on 2 principal lengths. Possibly a re-used item of furniture. (*cf.* 20th century deck chair)

DIARY DATES

Sat 28 March **Bradford University dayschool.** *New Light on the Northern Isles: the excavation of an Iron Age village at Scatness, Shetland.* D4 lecture theatre, Richmond Building, fee £19 incl. lunch (£13/£15 concessionary) Bradford University Centre for Continuing Education 2 Claremont, Bradford BD7 1BQ Tel: 01274 235363

Wed 1 April **ERAS Field Study Meeting** . 7.30 pm Unit 3, Chapel Lane Staithe, Hull

Wed 15 April **ERAS AGM followed by lecture:** *The archaeology of the Humber Wetlands* **7 pm** Wilberforce Building, Univ of Hull, Cottingham Road, Hull

Sat 18 April **Bradford University dayschool.** *Gods and Kings of Ancient Egypt* D4 lecture theatre Richmond Building, fee £19 incl. lunch (£13/£15 concessionary) Bradford University Centre for Continuing Education 2 Claremont, Bradford BD7 1BQ Tel: 01274 235363

Sat 18 April First National **Conferenceon** *Open studies in Family and Community History,* Open Univ, Milton Keynes, fee £6 incl light lunchdetails from: Dr Dan Weinbren, (OSFACH Conference) Faculty of Social Sciences, Gardiner 2, Open University, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA by 10 April

21 April-26 May **York architecture walks** details from:WEA Yorkshire North, 6 Woodhouse Square, Leeds LS3 1AD, tel: 01132 453304

1 - 3 May **Cambridge University dayschool** *Medieval Cities,* details from: Board of Continuing Education Univeraity of Cambridge, Madingly Hall, Madingly, Cambridge CB3 8AQ tel: 01954 210636

Wed 6 May **ERAS Field Study Meeting** . 7.30 pm Unit 3, Chapel Lane Staithe, Hull

Wed 3 June **ERAS Field Study Meeting** . 7.30 pm Unit 3, Chapel Lane Staithe, Hull

12 - 14 June **Field Study Course.** *The Southern Lake District: Its Geology, History and Scenery* Castle Head Field Centre Grange Over Sands, Cumbria details from Bradford Univ Dept of Continuing Education

Sat 20 June **ERAS excursion to Lilla Howe** *see next page*

Wed 8 July **ERAS Field Study Meeting** . 7.30 pm Unit 3, Chapel Lane Staithe, Hull

Sat 11 July **ERAS excursion to Eston Nab** *see next page*

10 - 14 Sept **Conference on Neolithic Orkney** details from Katherine Towsey, c/o Tankerness Museum, Broad street, Kirkwall, Orkney.

Ed: if you'd like further details of any of these events, please phone me and I'll try to help, if I can.

CBA Briefing is published on the Internet on the CBA's website at: http://www.britarch.ac.uk/cba/

MISCELLANEOUS

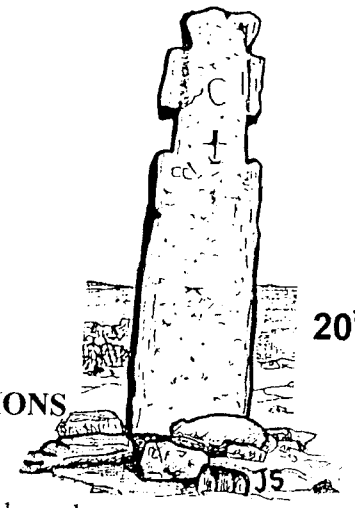
Ancient Woodworking courses run by Damian Goodburn. There are number of one, two or three-day courses for small groups of people during 1998. Topics covered range from Prehistoric Woodworking Techniques (10-11 Oct, London) to Tudor Shipwrightry (29-31 August, Portsmouth). Fees range from £20 for a one day introduction to making spoons and other traditional woodwares at Chatham, 28th Nov, to £90 for a three-day introduction to early woodworking (18-20 Sept). Often one subsidised place is available on each course. For more information, please write to: Damian Goodburn, 8 Duvards Place, Borden, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8LJ or telephone (01795) 429442 between 8.30pm and 10pm only.

A database of East Riding **hedgerows** is being set up by the Department of Environmental Planning. If you have any knowledge or are able to give any assistance which could be of use in compiling the database, please contact Amdrew Hamilton on 01482 885332.

ERAS EXCURSIONS

20th JUNE & 11th JULY 1998

COACH & WALKING EXPEDITIONS



LILLA HOWE & ESTON NAB

Two walks in the North York Moors have been arranged during the summer months, which might be an antidote to the World Cup. The first on 20th June is to Lilla Howe near Whitby following the Whinstone Sill or Cleveland Dyke, a geological outcrop formed by a volcanic eruption millions of years ago. The ridge has attracted the attention of moor dwellers since prehistoric times and is lined with long barrows and medieval crosses marking a natural route across the moors. It is intersected by 18th century inscribed boundary stones. Lilla Howe is a mutilated round barrow which was 'recycled' for a later Anglian burial reputedly of Lilla, a Saxon thane who put himself between an assassin's knife and his king. The oldest medieval cross on the moors surmounts it. There will be stopovers at Pickering and possibly Saltersgate. The walk will be about 14 km [8 miles] in total.

In a spectacular fashion, Eston Nab overlooks Middlesborough, the North Sea, the Cleveland Hills and the uniquely shaped Roseberry Topping. It was a Bronze Age settlement, which developed into an Iron-Age fort. Although much eroded by quarrying, it still has a D-shaped rampart and ditch 400 metres long cut into the rock. The circular walk is about 6 km [4 miles]. En-route we will look at the little visited but intriguing deserted village of Whorlton with its castle and ruined church. There will be stopovers at Stokesley, an attractive market town built alongside the River Leven.

You will need a packed lunch and waterproof walking gear, as there is no shelter on either walk. A change of footwear will also be necessary to stop mud being tramped into the bus. Although both walks are along gradients, these are very gradual and require no great effort. Return time cannot be guaranteed but on both occasions should be late evening. Provision of toilets is restricted to Stokesley and Pickering.

Cost per person £13, children [under 15] £10. Forms must be in by 6th June [Lilla Howe] and by 27th June [Eston Nab].

Trips leave Hull Ferensway at 8.30 picking up at Fiveways, Darleys, Humber Bridge car park and Goole.

To: Joe Santaniello Briar Garth, Atwick Road, Hornsea , HU18 1EA [Tel: 01964 534053]

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I would like to book .....places on the Lilla Howe walk

I would like to book .....places on the Eston Nab walk

Name.....Tel: .....

Address.....

I enclose a cheque for £.....payable to East Riding Archaeological Society

Pick-up point.....