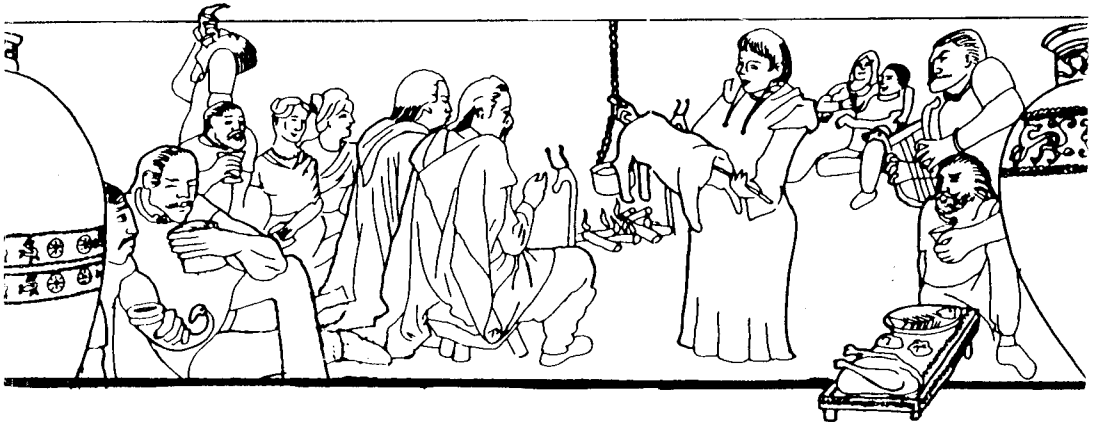
ERAS news

No 35 March 1991

Forget about the year of the goat: this is the year of the Celt, with the opening of the new gallery at the Hull and East Riding Museum on 8 March, and a Celtic theme to the ERAS annual dinner on 18 April at Thwaite Hall.

To celebrate the opening of the new gallery of the Iron Age, Hull Museums and Art Galleries have organised a series of talks and events; details of these are incorporated in the diary at the back of this newsletter. And while the museum is satisfying the Iron Age mind, ERAS is providing the Iron Age stomach with nourishment of a more substantial kind, accompanied by music performed on the Celtic harp by Dave Hill. We have been fortunate in being able to book this accomplished musician to play at the annual dinner. There will also be a raffle with a number of prizes. Anyone turning up in Celtic garb will be especially welcome! If you haven't already booked for



EAST RIDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

this social event, and wish to do so, Lesley Jackson would like to hear from you by 5 April. Non-members are welcome, so bring your friends along. The price of the dinner has not been increased since last year; it remains at £11.50.

Another event rapidly approaching is the ERAS weekend excursion to the Antonine Wall from Friday 5 April to Sunday 7 April, arranged by Bryan Sitch. The itinerary includes a visit to the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow in addition to Antonine Wall sites at Seabegs Wood, Roughcastle, Watling Lodge, Kinneil, Croy Hill and Bar Hill. An archaeologist who has worked on the Antonine Wall for 15 years, James Walker, will be our guide for these sites. The first visit, however, will be on the Friday afternoon when Walter Elliot will show us round Pennymuir Roman marching camps and Newstead (Truinontuim) before our coach takes us on to Edinburgh in time for the evening meal. To check on the late-availability of places contact Bryan Sitch (Tel: Hull 222737 ext. 2736 during office hours). If you have booked for the trip and have not yet paid the balance of £60 (+£7 for packed lunches), Bryan (and the Society) would like your money as soon as possible.

There is a third reason why I am trying to get this newsletter to you before the end of March: if you receive the following request on 1 April you might never believe it to be genuine. Bryan Sitch asks that you save bread bags (the plastic sort with holes in) for the Field Study Group. Apparently they make ideal collecting bags for pottery sherds when fieldwalking.

Virtue may be its own reward but I am happy to report that archaeology sometimes brings a little extra recognition: at the CBA 4 Annual General Meeting in February, Angus Smith, an ERAS Committe member, was presented with the David Thubron Award for his work at Winestead. By a piece of fortunate programming, Angus

is to talk about the Winestead excavation after the ERAS AGM on 24 April. Another local excavation on which ERAS members worked has brought an award for the farmer involved: in the 1990 British Archaeological Awards John Chapman was a joint winner of the BP Award (for the best non-archaeologist who in the course of non-archaeological work made archaeological finds and reported them to the authorities). John Chapman found Roman pottery while constructing ponds for a fish farm on his farm at Woodmansey; as a result of his finds there was an excavation, led by Peter Didsbury, in the summer of 1989.

Now for the sordid topic of money. This is a reminder for anyone who hasn't yet paid their subscription for 1991. The annual subscription falls due on January 1 so please treat this as a final notice. You are reminded that the new rate, agreed at last year's AGM, is as follows:

under 21 or in full-time education	£5.00
ordinary membership	£10.00
family membership	£15.00

Cheques, made payable to the East Riding Archaeological Society, should be sent to Mrs Lesley Jackson, Hon. Treasurer ERAS, 24 St Stephens Close, Willerby, Hull HU10 6DG. If you pay by standing order please check that you have altered it to take account of the new subscription rate.

One of the benefits of ERAS membership is the Society's journal, the East Riding Archaeologist. I am pleased to be able to report that Dave Evans has been directing his editorial skills towards the "missing" volume of the Hull Old Town Report Series. This has involved our Editor in rather more work (some of a detective nature) than would normally be expected of an editor, but the volume is now nearing completion. The Society hopes to be able to publish this volume,

no. 4 of the East Riding Archaeologist, later in 1991. ERAS has also reviewed its publication list and is now offering previous volumes at substantially reduced prices, so this is an excellent opportunity to fill in any gaps in your collection of ERAS publications. Only small numbers remain of some of the early volumes so it would be wise not to delay too long if you wish to purchase them. A list of prices is included with this newsletter.

J. R. Collis Publications has a pre-publication offer for Excavations at Lurk Lane Beverley 1979-82, by Peter Armstrong, David Tomlinson and D.H. Evans (288 pp, 158 illustrations, 17 plates). The pre-publication price of this hardback volume (normally £35) for orders taken before 30 April, is £25 including postage and packing. Cheques should be made payable to:

J. R. Collis Publications,
Department of Archaeology and Prehistory,
University of Sheffield,
Sheffield S10 2TN,
South Yorkshire.

Don't forget the AGM on the 24 April. Although the lecture which immediately follows this, to be given by Angus Smith, is the last of the season, the Field Study Group will as usual continue to meet throughout the summer at Hull Museum's Castle Warehouse.

Lastly, I must apologise if some items in this newsletter seem a little belated, but an enforced study of the National Health Service last year left little time for writing and editing ERAS News. I would like to thank Bryan Sitch for producing the last newsletter - and those many members who sent me their good wishes.

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NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM

SOCIETY OF MUSEUM ARCHAEOLOGISTS CONFERENCE 1990

The SMA conference was held in Hull during October 1990 and attracted over 50 delegates from Truro to Orkney and Belfast to Colchester. Its theme was READY FOR THE NEW MILLENIUM?: Futures for museum archaeology; and explored a wide range of topics.

The conference opened with a reception and keynote address from Max Hebditch - Director of the Museum of London and President of the Museums Association. He examined the struggle for funding in British archaeology, raising a concern echoed by most other speakers about the priorites and practice of English Heritage and the equivalent government agencies in the rest of the United Kingdom.

Over the next two days was covered a range of issues considered to be of current and increasing importance. These were presented under the headings Museum archaeology: What will it be for?, Museum archaeology: How will we do it? and Making the links outside museums. Speakers were from within the museums profession, other areas of archaeology, from universities and industry.

The roles of museums and the effectiveness of museum archaeologists were central in most discussions. The notion of 'sense of place' was examined in several ways and attention drawn to the work which museums can do in helping people locate themselves physically, intellectually and emotionally. This raised questions about the distinction between history and heritage, their exploitation and the use of such techniques as 'reconstruction', living history etc.

Following on from concerns about quality of work and modern management methods, another group of papers

explored the aims of training and the ways one might measure performance. The effects of tendering, whether compulsory or not, were discussed within both museums and archaeology. Changes are taking place in the way we present information and the types of demand put on us from visitors. Time was given, therefore, to considering the accessibility of archaeological and museum information and the effects of the national curriculum.

In most papers there were useful case studies which showed how some approaches had worked or failed to work. Developments in Aberdeen; the Archaeological Resource Centre, York; the Museum of London; the National Museums of Scotland and Hull provided useful views of work which look like setting future trends. New presentation systems on videodisc and in multimedia formats gave us other insights. In hearing about 'virtual reality' and the idea of the 'virtual gallery' we felt that we had seen the future and hoped we could afford it.

The stalwarts of the Society then took part in a tour of Hull's museums and a day's field trip to see archaeological sites on the Yorkshire Wolds and on the Plain of Holderness.

Publication of the papers is intended to follow soon and information on progress to publication and other SMA publications can be got from:

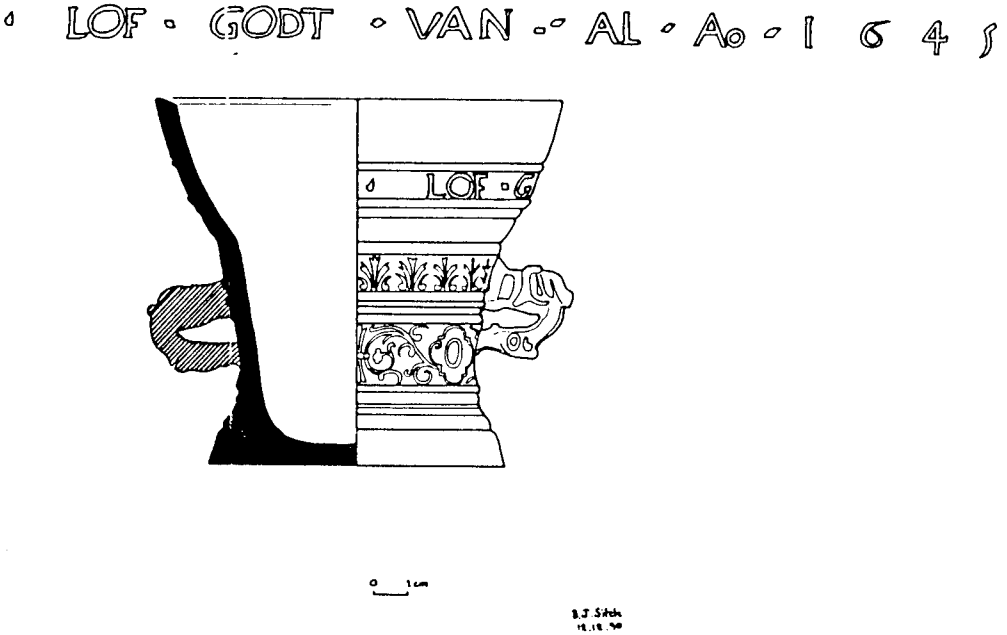
Ed Southworth
Curator of Archaeology and Ethnology
Liverpool Museum
William Brown Street
Liverpool L3 8EN

Andrew Foxon
Keeper of Archaeology
Hull and East Riding Museum

CURIOSITY CORNER

The Hull and East Riding Museum's identification service for members of the public has received a number of interesting enquiries recently, including a fine copper alloy mortar and two pocket sun-dials.

The mortar is 108mm high, 88mm base diameter, 120mm in diameter across the top and is in good condition (see illustration). It bears the Dutch legend "LOF.GODT.VAN.AL.Ao.1645" or "Praise God above all else"."Ao" is an abbreviation for "anno" or year. There are bands of floral decoration running around the waist of the mortar. Two stubby zoomorphic handles appear to have been soldered in position slightly out of line with one another.



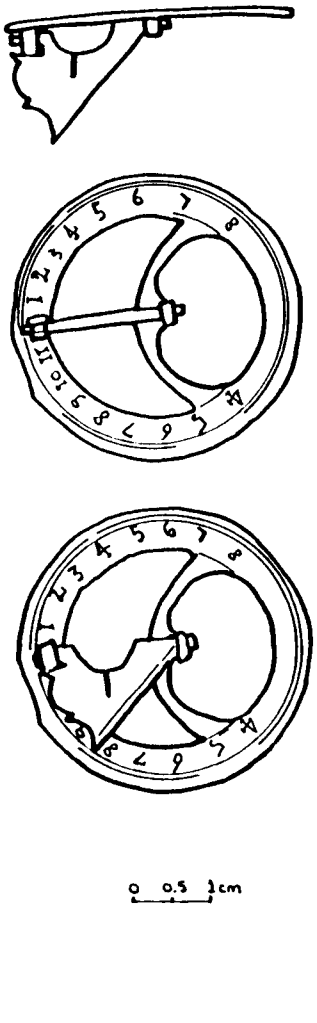
17th century Dutch copper alloy mortar

Mortars formed part of the standard equipment of most large kitchens from medieval times up to the 17th century and beyond. They were used (with the aid of a pestle) to grind coarse foods, drugs, cosmetics and chemicals. Mortars were highly valued, as is clear from old inventories and wills in which they are frequently listed. Quite apart from their practical use, mortars were also kept with the ultimate intention of melting them down for re-casting. It therefore comes as no surprise that this one was found amongst the stock of a scrap metal dealer and is of uncertain provenance.

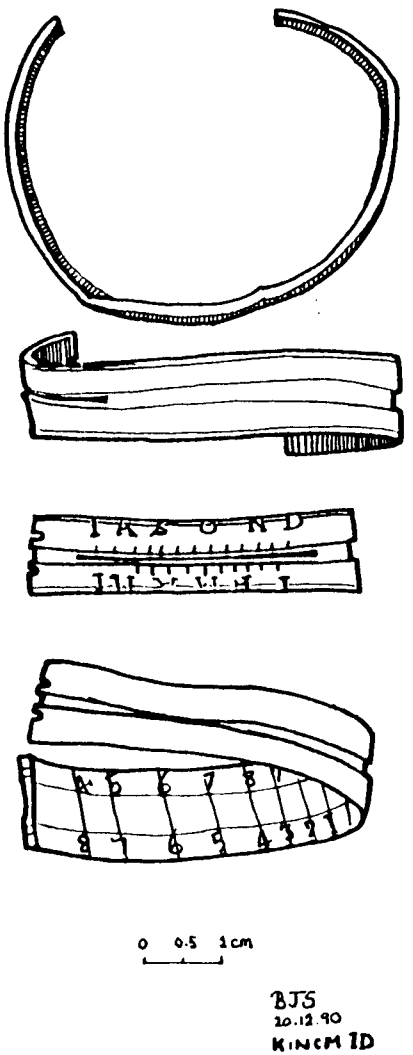
The mortar has now been returned to the enquirer, although details and photographs are kept on file at the Museum (KINCM Identification Number 070).

The portable sun-dials are made of copper alloy and were both found near Elloughton. The pocket sun-dial (see illustration) has been made out of sheet brass or bronze and has a hinged gnomon which still works. The hours of the day are inscribed in Arabic numerals around the circumference. A compass was mounted inside one of the cut-outs so that the sun-dial could be pointed to the north.

The second item is less obvious as a time-piece, but it is a damaged and incomplete ring-dial (see illustration). Originally the copper alloy strip formed a complete circle, rather like a miniature dog's collar. The groove around the middle of the exterior once held a movable small brass fitting that was pierced to allow a ray of light to pass through. When in use the ring-dial was suspended vertically from a thread or chain and the brass fitting moved to the month of the year indicated in abbreviated form (IFMAMI = January, February, March, etc.; IASOND = July, August, etc.). A ray of light passed through the fitting or gnomon and fell on the interior which was inscribed with Roman numerals to give the time of day.



Pocket sun-dial, showing gnomon in raised and lowered position



17th century pocket ring-dial

Ring-dials were introduced into England in about 1577 and appear to have been common in the 17th century and later. One was still being used by a farm labourer in Cornwall in the mid-19th century. Ring-dials were made in great numbers by Messrs Proctor of Sheffield.

Bryan Sitch
Assistant Keeper of Archaeology
Hull and East Riding Museum

THE FIRST RECORDED IRON AGE COIN IN EAST YORKSHIRE

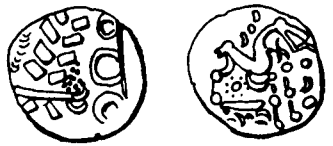
Jeffrey May's fascinating lecture to the Society last December (see this issue of ERAS News pp 30-34), about coins of the Iron Age tribe of the Corieltauvi found on the north bank of the Humber, coincided with research on one of the first recorded Iron Age coins from the Holderness coast of East Yorkshire.

The coin, first mentioned by Tom Sheppard, Curator of the Municipal Museum in Hull (1905), has been the subject of considerable confusion in the archaeological and numismatic literature, primarily because of the Morfitt family's failure to publish detailed reports about their discoveries on the Holderness coast, but also because of Sheppard's animosity towards the family. The Iron Age stater in question was found in or before 1904: Sheppard said that it was found before another Iron Age coin from Hornsea which was donated to Hull Museum (1905).

Corieltauvian gold stater found at Hornsea and donated to Hull Museums

George Benson (1914) gave the provenances of these coins as Atwick and Hornsea respectively. The Elgee's gazetteer of archaeological finds in Yorkshire listed an Iron Age coin for both Atwick and Hornsea (1933), as did Allen's corpus of coins of the Coritani (1963, coin nos. 10 and 223). Unfortunately Allen thought that both of the coins had been in the private collection of the Morfitt family, but Sheppard's acquisitiveness is legendary and it is inconceivable that he would have passed the Hornsea gold stater on to his rivals.

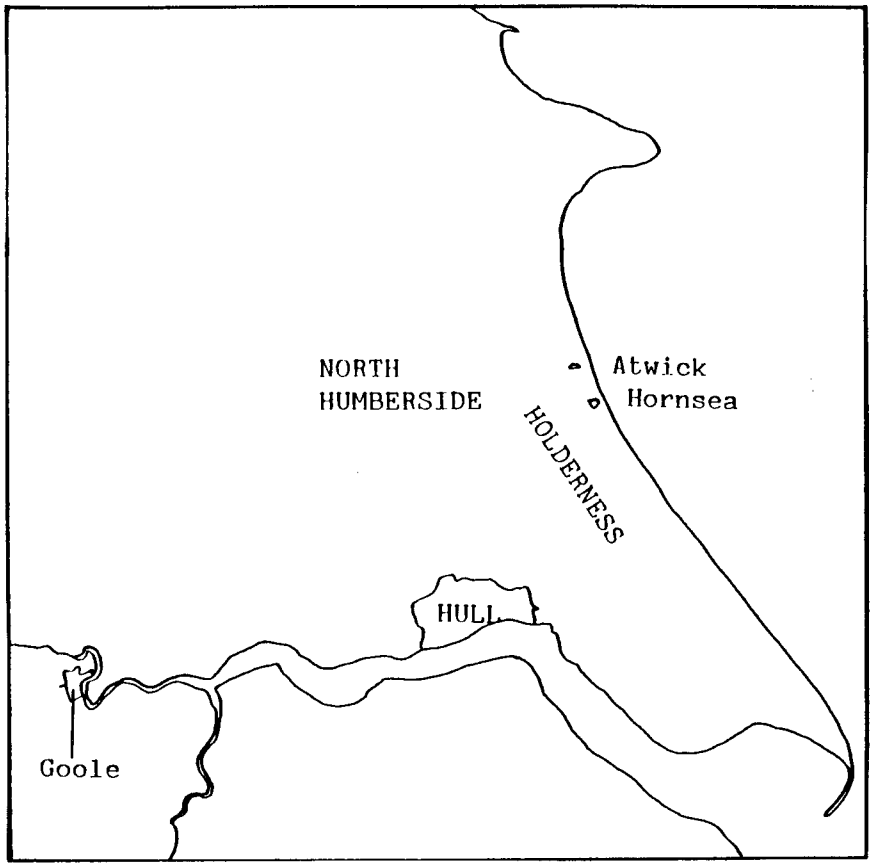
The Atwick coin was undoubtedly found by members of the Morfitt family and was part of the private collection in their East Coast Museum. The Morfitts had moved from Goole to Atwick in 1890 when the head of the family, William (1832-1923), retired from business (Sitch 1988). He and his sons Beaumont (1856-1929) and Aaron (1863-1928) spent the next 30 years beachcombing between Skipsea and Hornsea. The Holderness coast suffers from one of the severest rates of erosion in the world (Kent 1980, p126) and the Morfitts found many archaeological and geological specimens. The circumstances of discovery are not known but it is certain that the family found the Iron Age stater that was bequeathed to the British Museum by one "Beamont Morpeth" and presented by W. Arnold Middlebrook in 1949.



Corieltauvian gold stater found at Atwick and bequeathed to the British Museum by Beaumont Morfitt

Arnold Middlebrook was one of the executors of Beaumont Morfitt's estate and a long-time friend of the family. Furthermore, in a lecture about the East Riding's contribution to numismatics, given to the Hull Numismatic Society in 1969, an obvious reference was made to the Morfitts and the stater, although the speaker, Fred "Monty" Banks, did not mention the family by name. Banks said that the finder of a "bone harpoon head of primaeval origin... also had a small cabinet of pre-Roman and Roman coins which he had picked from the beaches and a gold stater from his collection is now in the national collection. These finds were made just after the turn of the century" (Banks 1970, p24).

Some 90 years after its discovery, it is now possible to resolve the confusion surrounding the first recorded Iron Age coin found on the Holderness coast. A hitherto unprovenanced coin in the British Museum (Accession No. 1949.1.4.6) bequeathed by "Beamont Morpeth" (actually Beaumont Morfitt) is in fact the stater from Atwick. One can also eliminate the bogus coin record 223 in Allen's 1963 corpus and one of the Iron Age coins listed under Atwick in Whitting's gazetteer of coin finds in the East Riding (1969, p68). However, this clarification of the archaeological record represents only a minor amendment to the distribution of Iron Age coins in the region as discussed by Jeffrey May in his lecture to the Society on 19 December 1990. More importantly it focusses attention on the Morfitt family and their discoveries on the Holderness coast between 1890 and 1929. Not only were they the first to find Mesolithic bone harpoon points in Britain, but we are indebted to them for the first record, however tenuous, of an Iron Age coin in East Yorkshire.



Map of North Humberside showing location of Atwick, Hornsea and Goole

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Bryan Sitch
Assistant Keeper of Archaeology
Hull Museums
30.1.1991

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ERAS WESSEX WEEKEND 20-22 April 1990

I admit it: I was worried. How long would it take to get there? Would the coach be able to get close enough to the sites we wanted to visit? Had I given the correct dates to Peter Chowne? Had I booked the correct number of rooms at the hotel - had I even

booked the correct weekend? But what was really worrying me, of course, was whether all those sites I had looked forward to seeing would live up to expectations.

The ERAS weekend trip to Wessex had been for so long just an idea bounced along from one Committee meeting to the next that it seemed too much to hope that it might be successful, but that is just what it turned out to be - or, at least, if anyone thought otherwise they were too polite to say so. Peter Chowne proved to be an excellent guide and the sites, well, they didn't need any help to make them impressive.

With Peter Chowne's expert guidance we certainly managed to fit a good number of sites into our weekend visit; if I have omitted any in the following somewhat belated account, I apologise. The archaeology started before we reached Salisbury, our base for the weekend, and so did we. The Rollright Stones in Oxfordshire (SP:296308) consist today of seventy-seven limestones around the circumference of a circle, but some of these are the tops of broken stones wrongly re-positioned about a century ago. To the NNE and just outside the ring is an outlier, the King Stone; in a field to the east are the Whispering Knights, the stones of a chambered tomb. There are a number of legends associated with the circle stones: I particularly like the one which has it that the stones go down the hill to drink water from a spring on New Year's Day - unfortunately we were unable to test this!

We arrived at Devizes museum just in time to fit in a visit before it closed for the day. The necessarily brief visit nevertheless gave us an opportunity to see some of the finds from sites, such as the Oakley Down Barrow Cemetery, which we would be visiting later in the weekend.

Our first stop on Saturday morning was to see a stretch of both the Ackling Dyke Roman road (SU:022178-ST:967032) from Old Sarum to Badbury Rings and Bokerley Dyke (SU:016200-SU:063168), one of a number of linear earthworks in the area. Bokerley Dyke extends for nearly four miles across Cranbourne Chase. Though the dyke was never fully investigated, excavations in 1958 by Philip Rahtz confirmed the conclusions of Pitt-Rivers that it was built in late-Roman times in more than one stage. This was during a period of increasing turbulence, indicated by a gap in the archaeological record for Dorchester and thought to be part of a wider disruption. The relationship of the Roman road and Bokerley Dyke indicates that the latter was concerned with controlling the Roman road, which it blocked, when either the Rear Dyke or the Fore Dyke was built.

The Romans set a precedence, followed to the present day, by cutting a road, (the Ackling Dyke) through the Oakley Down Barrow Cemetery (ST:018171). This group of 31 round barrows includes the two best disc barrows in southern Britain as well as bowl and bell barrows and a single saucer barrow. All the barrows are within sight of the Wor Barrow (SU:012173), which was excavated by Pitt-Rivers in 1893-94. Wor Barrow, a late-neolithic long barrow of rather oval shape, is one of a number of neolithic funerary monuments that cluster around the Dorset Cursus.

The Dorset Cursus (ST:97012-040191), which runs for 9.6km from Bokerley Dowm to Thickthorn Down, is a great elongated enclosure of two parallel banks with external ditches lying about 91m apart, the longest earthwork of its kind in the country. Much of the monument has been destroyed by ploughing, but we were able to see the soil mark of the west bank. The construction of the Cursus must have been a tremendous undertaking for the people who built it -

have possessed both the organisational skills needed for such a large community effort and the time to devote to building it. It was constructed in at least two stages, probably in the Middle Neolithic but incorporating an early neolithic long barrow. Excavation of pits associated with it revealed gooved-ware pottery, antler picks and axes. Little is known about the purpose of the Cursus but it is thought to have had some great ceremonial function, perhaps as a ceromonial way linking important areas. Its importance is emphasised by the observation that it became the focus for the construction of later barrows.

Knowlton Circles (SU:025100), our next stop, is another example of a monument attracting later monuments. This practice continued long enough at Knowlton Circles to include the building of a church in the middle of a neolithic henge. The church was founded in the 12th century and added to in the 15th century. The polygonal shape of the Church Henge, created by the joining up of short straight lengths of ditch and internal bank, is fairly typical of a neolithic henge. The enclosure is about 106m by 94m overall, while the ditch is up to 10.5m wide and 1.2m deep. Other monuments in the group are less obvious but include one of the largest henges in Britain (the South Circle), a horseshoe-shaped enclosure, a D-shaped enclosure (called the Old Churchyard) and the Great Barrow.

After Knowlton Circles our route took us through Gussage All Saints, an Iron Age enclosure excavated by Wainwright.

Next stop was Thickthorn Long Barrows (ST:971123), where we also encountered the Dorset Cursus again, in its [illegible]t-preserved section, the south western [illegible] Additional banks and ditches in this area [illegible] as the Thickthorn Linears: the date of these [illegible] but they are probably not contemporary with

Church Henge, Knowlton Circles
Kate Dennett

the Cursus but form part of a Bronze Age ditch system.

It was then on through other sites - Pimperne Down Barrow Cemetery, an Iron Age settlement and a post-medieval water meadow system - to Dorchester (SY:694900). The town was the capital of the local Iron Age tribe, the Durotriges, though no Iron Age material has yet been found there, only part of a Roman wall. We were somewhat surprised when our guide led us into Waitrose's underground carpark, but there on the floor were marked the positions of twenty massive oak posts which had formed an irregular circle, part of a late-neolithic monument. If we couldn't see the monument, at least we see where it had been - and been excavated.

Dorchester Museum houses the Dorset county collection and so was well worth a visit. Then, out in the open air again, we visited Maumbury Rings (SY:690899), a site used in three periods widely spaced in time. Initially it was a neolithic henge monument consisting of an external bank and an irregular ring of pits within it. The henge had a NE entrance which was also used by the Romans when they converted the site into an amphitheatre. The site was again used in 1642 as part of the Parliamentary defence of Dorchester.

Just to the south-west of Dorchester lies Maiden Castle (SY:669884). From this hilltop it is possible to see the South Dorset Ridgeway with hundreds of barrows. The site was extensively excavated by Wheeler in 1934-1938 and more recently by the Wessex Trust for Archaeology (who even found the skeleton of an alligator left by Wheeler!). The excavations found roundhouses tightly packed against the ramparts, and small four- and six-post structures, in addition to pits, trackways and areas of metalworking, but no trace of wells. There was a dewpond which probably

would have served to water the animals, but it seems that water would have had to be carried onto the site for human use. It is possible that in some periods the site was used for storage, rather than intensive occupation.

The usage of this hilltop site extends beyond the Iron Age. The first monument on the site was an early neolithic causewayed camp which consisted of two concentric lines of causewayed ditches some 15.2m apart, most of which were destroyed or buried by the Iron Age hillfort. In the Middle Neolithic an unusual long mound was constructed, 545.6m long and flanked by ditches 18.3m apart. At the eastern end of this mound were two neolithic child burials and what was shown (more recently than Wheeler's excavation) to be a secondary burial of the dismembered remains of a Saxon male.

In the second millenium BC the hilltop appears to have been largely abandoned until the early Iron Age, when the first of a series of defences was built. Phase I consisted of a single rampart and ditch on the eastern hill, enclosing 6.5ha on the site of the neolithic settlement. The rampart was timber revetted and there were two entrances. In Phase II the fort was extended to the western hill, enclosing an area of 19ha. A claw-like extension was built outside the eastern gates and a new western entrance was added, also with two passageways and barbican outworks. Phase III involved rebuilding of the fortifications on twice their original scale. The ditch was enlarged and additional ramparts and ditches were built. Later the site underwent further remodelling (Phases IV).

All these defences seem to have been to no avail when in about AD 44 the fort was attacked and overrun by the 2nd Legion under Verspasian. Approximately thirty skeletons were found by Wheeler to have been buried at the eastern gateway, but it is not clear whether these

resulted from the Roman attack or earlier in-fighting.

After the Roman attack the fort continued to be occupied, though not defended, until it fell out of use. In a later period a small rectangular Romano-Celtic temple was built on the eastern part of the site. The date of about 370 AD for the temple places it in a period of pagan revival in the Roman Empire.

Leaving Maiden Castle, our party returned to Salisbury by a route which enabled us to pass many more monuments, which we unfortunately had no time to visit. Thus the Poundbury Roman aqueduct; the hillforts of Poundbury Hill, Hod Hill and Hambledon Hill; Yarnbury Castle; Winterbourne Stoke Barrow Cemetery, and Stonehenge were glimpsed from the coach, but would have to await a future date for a closer inspection..... (as will the rest of this account, due to lack of space).

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RECENT RESEARCH ON EARLY CHURCH BUILDING IN YORKSHIRE

The rise of Christianity, and its close association with Rome, encouraged the emulation of all things Roman, including the building of stone churches. The incoming migrants to Britain in the 5th century traditionally built in timber so that during the Saxon period masonry skills were unknown. Without the skills to work in stone the re-use of already quarried and dressed material satisfied both the requirements of the builder and the virtue-seeking ecclesiastic.

The re-use of building material, quarried from the remnants of Roman structures in the Medieval period, is a surprisingly well documented occurrence throughout Europe. Lanciani's book, The Destruction of Ancient Rome, published in 1899, is comprehensive on

the subject and shows in detail that this process has been continuous from within the Roman period itself. The re-use of Roman building materials in Britain had been noted from time to time, but perhaps not extensively considered until petrological analysis was undertaken at All Saints church, Brixworth, Northamptonshire (Sutherland and Parsons 1984). Before this analysis the recognisable Roman material in the fabric of the church, mostly clay tiles, was considered to have originated from a local Roman villa, but the problem of non-local rubble stonework could not be resolved. A glacial origin was considered, but generally rejected. The petrological analysis showed that the re-used material was from the major Roman town of Leicester, about 40km to the north of Brixworth, with possibly some of the limestones coming from the Roman town of Towcester, 22km to the south.

Early church builders of the 9th and 10th centuries looking for Roman building material would be confronted with a landscape devoid of the remains of the insubstantial British Roman Villa, defunct for over five centuries. The more public buildings and walls of the Roman towns, however, would still be visible and, as a royal gift, available for re-use.

York became a focus of interest in this field and a substantial candidate for research when it was found that the suite of building stones used by the Romans was more complex than at first thought. The Vale of York contains no useful building stone and, apart from small quantities of glacial cobbles, all material has to be transported in. The nearest sources are the Limestones: Lower Magnesium Limestone from Tadcaster, 12km to the west, and Jurassic rocks 20km to the north east. These are the common building stones of all periods until the industrial revolution when cheaper transport methods allowed extensive use of the harder sand and grit stones. However, the Roman military

engineers required a stone that was hard wearing and of great structural strength. For this they transported large quantities of Millstone Grit, the nearest outcrop to York being 30km away at Knaresborough. It was used, in massive blocks of several tonnes weight, in the foundations of the fortress walls; as columns; and in the walls and lintels of the sewers. It is this stone that can be usefully traced in re-used situations, since it was not again imported into the region in significant quantities until the 19th century.

Petrological analysis of the fabric of St Mary Bishophill Junior in York (Wenham et al 1987) showed that this early church was built extensively (if not originally exclusively) of Roman material. It appeared logical that the dismantling of Roman York could provide enough material for church construction in the countryside as well as within the early medieval city. Several papers were written to this effect (Buckland 1988; Morris 1988) highlighting the need for a detailed research programme into the subject. My research programme to this end is now in its third (and hopefully final) year.

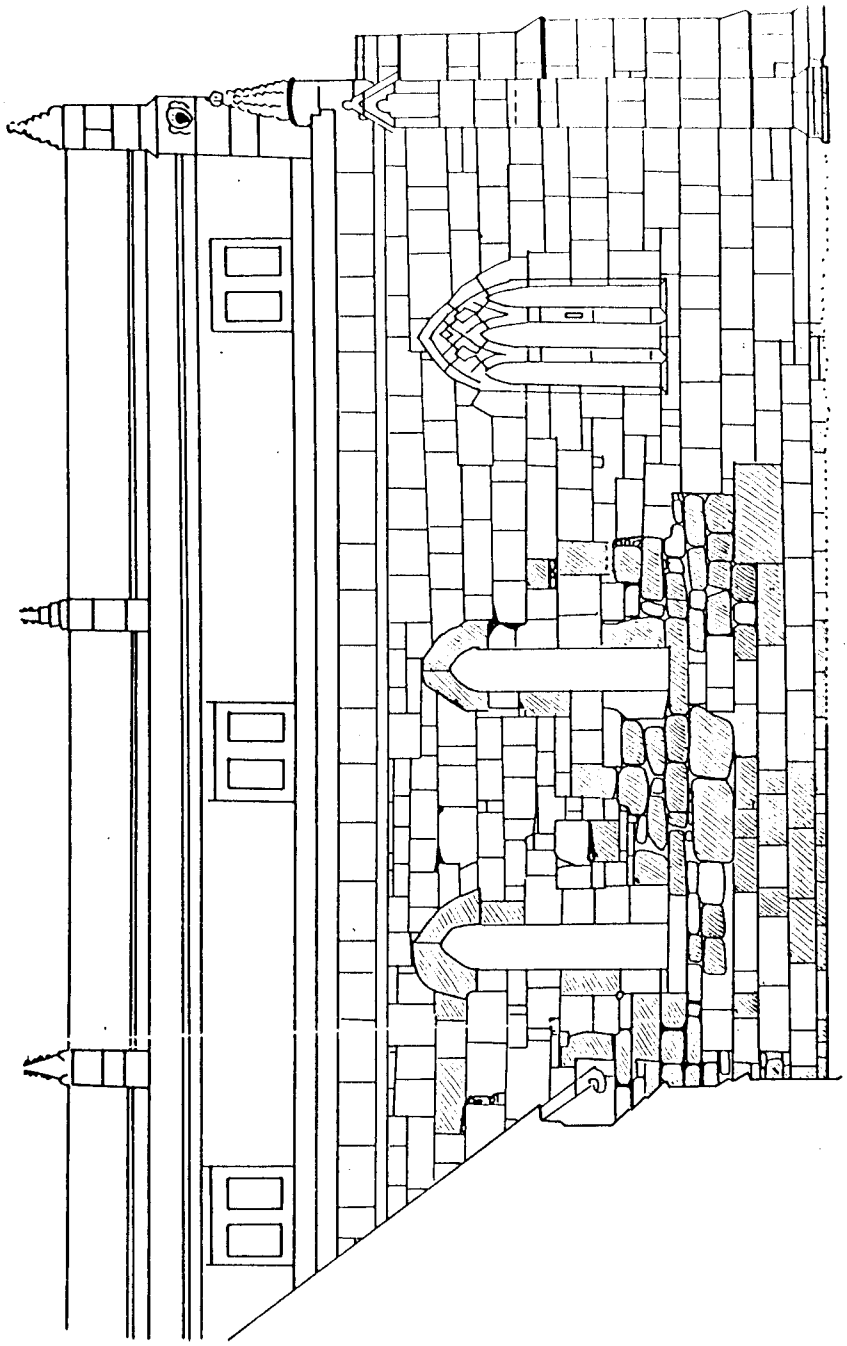
Using Pevsner's Buildings of England series as a base guide I have visited and geologically assessed over 700 ecclesiastical buildings in the area of Yorkshire, (south from the North York Moors), North Lincolnshire, North Nottinghamshire and North Derbyshire. Of these buildings some 10 per cent have an occurrence of Millstone Grit in their fabric that is considered to be of a pre-19th century date. Many of these buildings may be eliminated since the Millstone Grit content of their fabric may be too low to be considered as a redistribution of the York material and, of course, there are a number of buildings that may be built with Roman material from sources other than that of York. Clear examples are the churches of Aldborough and Kirby Hill in North Yorkshire that are the result of

the re-use of material from the Roman town gates and walls of Aldborough. Redressing the balance, there may be some buildings whose Millstone Grit content has been missed, especially where the building has been rebuilt in the modern period and the only evidence of older fabric is in the foundations and wall cores. Other buildings have also been found rebuilt in the more up-to-date perpendicular style using Lower Magnesium Limestone encasing the original old fabric (e.g. St. Michael, Cowthorpe, W.Yorks). Since most churches are locked due to increasing vandalism, much internal evidence is missing from the research, as is also the case with plastered interiors.

Low quantities of Millstone Grit in the fabric do not eliminate the building from being considered as long as the blocks are of sufficient size to be used as quoins or cill beams. It may be that some buildings only received enough of the ashlar blocks to be used for these two purposes. Many of the early churches were built of coursed rubble set between massive re-used quoins and the tradition of primary church building in timber may in some cases have progressed by the 10th century to timber construction on gritstone cills, still observable in the foundations of the later stone church.

Those churches that have enough Millstone Grit content in their fabric, whether in original positions or as part of a rebuilt structure, are having stone-by-stone scale drawings produced from photographs upon which the petrological analysis is mapped (see Fig). This does not prove a Roman origin, but the number of distinctive Roman features that have been found, such as lewis holes and butterfly clamp holes, is such that the general theory is legitimised.

Although much work has still to be done the fieldwork to date has shown that the structural evidence of these buildings is under severe threat from natural



South Aisle, Skipworth St Helens
Millstone Grit re-used in the south aisle wall from the demolished south wall of the nave when arcade inserted and south aisle built. Millstone Grit cut down into smaller ashlar sizes.

erosion, unsympathetic renovation and repair. In some cases this threat is so severe that the recording of the fabric now is of major, if little recognised, importance. Many of these churches appear insignificant and are being overlooked in preference to the more well known examples such as Barton-on-Humber. It is an area of archaeology where the amateur and the local society could once again play a leading role.

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Patrick Foster
August 1990

LECTURE SUMMARIES

21 Nov: TRADITION AND CHANGE: ASPECTS OF NEOLITHIC AND BRONZE AGE BURIAL PRACTICE - Blaise Vyner

Blaise Vyner explained that the investigator of prehistoric burial practices in northeastern England is restricted by the way in which they have been examined in the past by such as Atkinson, Greenwell and Mortimer. There has been little recent excavation so the scientific data which one would normally expect

is rather scarce - there is a lack of environmental evidence and virtually no radiocarbon dating. Because round barrows tend to yield more finds than long barrows it was the former that got more attention from those energetic 19th century antiquaries who were, moreover, more interested in finds than burial practices. Many of these sites are now scheduled and thus not accessible for excavation, though on the moorland fringes some sites have been looked at because they have been threatened by agriculture. These include Street House and sites on Great Ayton Moor and towards Eskdale. A further source of evidence is fieldwork, which can be more productive than was once thought, despite the damage which the burial mounds and other field monuments have suffered since the last century.

Following a survey of all the Bronze Age mounds in Cleveland, the Cleveland County Archaeology Section undertook the excavation of what appeared to be an eroded Bronze Age mound at Street House, on the edge of high cliffs overlooking the North Sea. The Bronze Age barrow proved to be constructed on the east end of a small neolithic cairn. Excavation of the monument in 1979-81 found clear evidence (as carbonised wood) of a wooden structure. This consisted of vertical timbers standing close to each other at the front, while at the rear a curved enclosure with an area of paving was the site where the bodies were originally placed to disintegrate before some of the bones were moved to the mortuary structure. The mortuary structure contained fragments of the disarticulated skeletons of at least eight individuals. After the first phase the timber was burnt down and then the structure extended as a stone cairn without timber. Blaise Vyner suggested that this represents planned funeral activity.

At Kilham, the initial stage must have been some sort

of mortuary structure and avenue, followed only later by the construction of a mound. A timber structure would probably only last for a maximum period of 30-40 years, a short period of availabilty for use compared with the stone-chambered cairns. There is evidence that the mounds were not necessarily built in one stage, but rather that there was differential mound construction relating to different elements of the funeral ritual.

Bronze Age ritual has previously been interpreted as being concerned with individual burial but, for example, at Street House, a collared urn found in the Bronze Age barrow contained the remains of three individuals. Such examples were offered by the speaker as evidence for the tradition of multiple burial extending into the Bronze Age. There was a change to the circular mound shape in the Bronze Age but this was already happening in the Neolithic: there are circular mounds of the third millenium BC at Duggleby and Callis Wold. The change in the shape employed was probably gradual rather than rapid and the idea of round cairns being wholly Bronze Age is a misconception. Blaise Vyner suggested that in the Bronze Age some of the functions were being dispersed among the mounds where these were grouped together, whereas in the Neolithic these different processes were taking place within the one long barrow.

At Street House, 500 yards away from the neolithic cairn, a horseshoe-shaped bank of clay within a palisade was excavated by the Cleveland County Archaeology Section. The original vertical timber structure appears to belong to the very beginning of the second millenium BC. Radiocarbon dates of c.1750 BC were obtained from a scattering of charcoal found in the backfill created when the timbers were deliberately uprooted. It was not a house, neither was it used for burial, though in the clay and rubble backfill were found two saddle querns, suggesting some

domestic use. Burial only took place there at a late date: a collared urn containing a single cremation was found in the rubble which filled depressions created by the collapsed fill of the palisade trench and central pit. This rubble also contained cup-marked stones. Blaise Vyner interprets this strange site, the "Street House Wossit", as a ritual site, rather than a burial site.

Other changes in the Bronze Age are the siting of monuments on the skyline, their prominent, though not necessarily very high, positions having a territorial function. Some sites occupied special positions, eg Herd Howe, which is in an area demarcated by linear earthworks, with a dyke cutting across a promotory. On some sites were kerbstones and stones with cup and ring marks.

The speaker concluded that a study of neolithic and Bronze Age burial sites in East Yorkshire has yielded more evidence for their chronology than was previously thought could be elicited. It is possible to see the burial practices of the Bronze Age not as quite separate from the Neolithic tradition but as developing from it.

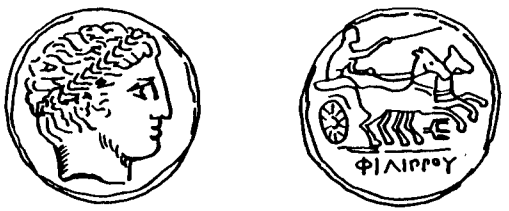
Dec 17: THE EARLIEST COINS IN THE HUMBER REGION - Jeffrey May

"North of the heavily-wooded Midland Plain, where pre-Roman occupation of any kind is likely to have been scanty or transient or both, we come into the well-known area of Brigantian hegemony." S. Piggott (1958, p13)

Jeffrey May showed just how wrong this sweeping dismissal of the pre-Roman archaeology of the Midlands was, especially from the numismatic point of view. By the early 1960s over 270 coins struck by the Iron Age

tribe of the Coritani or Corieltauvi (Tomlin, 1983) were known, but the advent of the metal-detector in the 1970s had increased that total to 1543, showing that within certain parameters, the machine has great value. Over the last few years Iron Age coins have been found at the rate of 30 per annum. This new body of provenanced coins can tell us a great deal especially as a corollary to the excavation and study of sites such as Acaster and Dragonby.

Celtic coins display a high level of craftmanship and were ultimately derived from coins issued by King Philip of Macedon. John Evans (1864) showed that as the Macedon stater was copied and recopied by the Celts details of the design became more and more stylised. This did not worry the die-cutters who wished to provide and reflect political and economic stability. Corieltauvian coins were derived from a Greek prototype via Gaulish copies. They retain details such as the head band and the horse but they are stylised, not naturalistic. A range of coins developed during the 100-150 years leading up to the Roman Conquest.



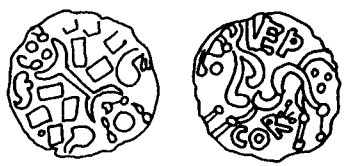
Gold stater of Philip II of Macedon

Early British imitation of the stater

In the early 1980s high quality cup-shaped thin gold coins were found in Lincolnshire. At first dismissed as forgeries, the strongly convex coins were clearly Iron Age. One obverse design shows a boar with a ridge of stiff bristles on its back. Another shows a stylised face. Most have been found in Lindsey, though one was found at Snettisham in Norfolk. These coins don't fit the sequence of copies initiated by the Macedonian staters, and they have little in common with the Gaulish types, by which they were replaced in the 1st century BC.

In the mid-1st century BC a silver coinage was introduced, with two denominations, large and small. Reverses are always clean and fresh but obverse designs are often worn smooth. Clearly obverse dies were allowed to wear out but reverse dies were replaced quickly. Estimates of the number of coins that could be struck with a pair of dies vary between five and twenty thousand.

In the 1st century BC inscriptions appear on the Corieltauvian coinage. The obverse retains the wreath and symmetrical pattern, but reverses have legends such as AVN COST, ESVP ASV, VEP CORF, TIGIR SENO and DMNO COVER. Derek Allen, the expert on Celtic coinage, wondered if these were the names of joint rulers or elected kings, though the eight or nine paired names known would suggest very long reigns. The relationship of uninscribed to inscribed coins is about 2:1.



Coin of the Corieltauvi in the Yorkshire Museum with the legend VEP CORF

The distribution of Corieltauvian coinage can be very informative: coins of VOLISIOS are virtually absent in Lincolnshire and Leicestershire but are noticably more common near the River Humber. Unfortunately more records of coin finds are needed to confirm that coins of VOLISIOS were struck north of the Humber. So far, more than 80 Iron Age coins of the Corieltauvi have been found in East Yorkshire, and there was a Coroner's Inquest on a discovery last year. Forty-three coins have been found at North Ferriby, compared to 38 from excavation and surface collection from Dragonby. A string of finds have been made along the Holderness coast, suggesting that there was a sea-borne trade-route in the Iron Age.

These coins must have circulated and travelled inland; the original Iron Age coastline now lies several miles to the east and has been eroded by the sea. Any small ports which served as points of entry have long since disappeared in Holderness, though Sleaford, formerly on the edge of a tidal creek, may have fulfilled such a role in South Lincolnshire. Interestingly, over 3000 mould tray fragments for making coins - the largest deposit anywhere in Celtic Europe - were found during Margaret Jones' excavations at Old Sleaford.

Coins might be used in a predictive way when mapping the political geography of the Corieltauvi. Jeffrey May suggested pagi or sub-districts with central places at Old Sleaford, Ludford, Dragonby, Ownby and Thistleton. Most high-status sites are on higher ground away from flood plains with low-status peasant farmsteads in the valley areas. Unfortunately it is difficult to try the same exercise on the north bank on the basis of just 80 coins, but it is interesting that most Iron Age coins have been found in the lowlands near Ferriby and in Holderness, whereas the prestigious finds of the Arras culture come almost exclusively from the Wolds. The distribution of coins may point to the development of the lowland areas at

the expense of the uplands in the later Iron Age.

The key to answering such questions is undoubtedly the detailed recording and photographing of new discoveries of Iron Age coins in the region. With this appeal Jeffrey May brought his lecture to a close.

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Bryan Sitch
7.2.1991

DIARY OF EVENTS

Saturday 23 March	2pm
Poetry of Wales, a performance (Dr Dafydd Johnston, UCW Cardiff)	Hull & East Riding Museum, 36 High St Hull
Tuesday 26 March	12.30pm
HERM lecture: The Hasholme boat in its Iron Age landscape (Peter Halkon)	Old Grammar School South Church Side Hull
Thursday 28 March	7.30pm
Hull and District Numismatic Society lecture: Medieval Indian coinage (Mr F Mellor)	Central Library Albion Street Hull
Saturday 6 April	2.00pm
YAS lecture: Iron Age settlement at Piddington, Northhants. (R M Friendship-Taylor)	Claremont 23 Clarendon Road Leeds
Tuesday 9 April	12.30pm
HERM lecture: Getting ahead with the Celts (Andrew Foxon)	Old Grammar School South Church Side Hull

Wednesday 24 April	7.30pm
ERAS AGM followed by lecture: A wetland site in Holderness (Angus Smith)	Old Grammar School South Church Side Hull
Thursday 25 April	7.30pm
HDNS lecture: 19th century silver tokens (Mr M Roberts)	Central Library Albion Street Hull
Saturday 4 May	2.00pm
YAS lecture: Identifying coin finds (Dr Davies)	Claremont 23 Clarendon Road Leeds

HDNS: Hull and District Numismatic Society
HERM: Hull and East Riding Museum
YAS: Yorkshire Archaeological Society

Letters and contributions to the newsletter should be addressed to: The Editor, ERAS News, 10 Etherington Drive, Hull, HU6 7JU.