ERAS news

No 33 April 1990

Three events in the ERAS calendar have just taken place within little more than a week: the Wessex weekend excursion, the annual general meeting and the annual dinner. Dr Peter Chowne, Assistant Director of the Trust for Wessex Archaeology, was a knowledgeable and helpful guide around Dorchester, Maiden Castle, Avebury and many points in between and ensured a most enjoyable and satisfying weekend. The area certainly lived up to expectations: by the end of the weekend everyone was "barrow-spotting" as we went along - which was not that difficult because these weren't the sort you have to lie flat on the ground to see but whole shoals of humps of all the different types - and it was exciting to learn that even in an area with such a density of known monuments and a long history of investigation, new sites are still being found, particularly in the river valleys.

A description of the Wessex sites visited will have to await the next newsletter, but one decision made at the AGM can be reported now, although it doesn't come into effect until 1st January next year. The committee reluctantly felt that it was necessary to increase membership subscriptions to meet rising costs and suggested a £1 increase. Those members present at the AGM agreed with the necessity but decided on a slighty larger increase (except for the student rate) to avoid the possibility of having to review the rates again next year. Thus from 1st January 1991

EAST RIDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

membership subscriptions will be as follows:

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

It is some five years since subscriptions were last increased and we hope that you will agree that this still represents good value for money. The remaining Old Town Report is well on its way to publication and will be received by ERAS members at no extra cost.

This seems an appropriate point to ask you to check whether you have paid your subscription for 1990 (students £5, ordinary £8, family £12) - we never like to lose members and particularly not as a result of a brief memory lapse. Our Treasurer requests that you include your address (eg on the back of your cheque) because we have had a few payments from people for whom we unfortunately do not have address records. Confusion can also arise with common surnames if no address is included. If you have difficulty remembering whether you have paid each year, perhaps you would find it convenient to pay by Banker's Order, as do a number of members.

Since the AGM, the officers of the Society are:

Chairman	Peter Halkon
Vice-Chairman	Valerie Fairhurst
Secretary	Bryan Sitch
Treasurer	Lesley Jackson, 24 St Stephen's Close Willerby, HULL HU10 6DG
Programme Secretary	Andrew Foxon
Editor	Dave Evans

There is just space to thank Lesley Jackson for organizing a most enjoyable dinner and Kevin Leahy for entertaining us with some of the behind-the-scene perils of working in a museum.

EXCAVATION REPORTS

21.2.90

MARKET WEIGHTON BY-PASS

Peter Halkon

Hawling Road Excavation - the final weeks

The unwritten law of archaeology - that the best things turn up in the last weeks of a dig, certainly operated on this site. In my last contribution to ERAS News I reported on the discovery of a recut ditch containing substantial quantities of Roman pottery. Continuation of the excavation on Sundays and Wednesday afternoons from 8th January until 11th February showed this to be part of a system of intercutting boundary/enclosure ditches. The aerial photographs taken in the summer showed that the excavated features formed part of a much larger complex running along the top of the sand/gravel ridge for several hundred metres. The only concentrations of pottery found during fieldwalking on the line of the by-pass itself were found to coincide with these ditches. Jim Pocock of the Department of Archaeology, Bradford University, reassessed and replotted the results of his resistivity survey. The new plot clearly showed that the high resistance readings which he had originally interpreted as walls, were natural ridges of gravel and the real archaeological features were those with low resistance - the very same ditches as those revealed by aerial photography and excavation. The major magnetic anomally found during Jim's gradiometer survey turned out to be a steel anchor for an electricity pylon, which at first looked frighteningly bomb-like!

During the summer excavation a shallow, slightly curved gulley was found at the eastern end of the trench where the subsoil was sand, running almost north-east across the trench. On the last afternoon of the dig it was found that this length of ditch had a counterpart and both ended in sharply cut terminals forming an entrance-way. The sand between the ditch

terminals had been discoloured in a "corridor" containing animal bone and burnt stone. This curved gulley could represent a very large roundhouse ring-ditch, or a circular enclosure. It was noticeable that there were more pits containing burnt stone, pottery and animal bone inside this feature. The biggest of these pits, which was cut by a later pit, was only discovered in the last hours of the dig and was found to contain masses of pottery in the Iron Age handmade tradition, and over 50 burnt cobbles mixed throughout its fill.

The sequence of six intercutting ditches described above, forming part of square-ditched enclosures, was also clarified and it was interesting to note that Holme-on-Spalding Moor greyware pottery only appeared in the latest of these. This suggests that occupation on this part of the site was present before the third century AD and is likely to have begun in the Iron Age - the pottery found in the earlier ditches would, on preliminary inspection, appear to confirm this. The main concentration of pottery, covering five ten metre fieldwalking squares just to the south of the line of the bypass contained much Holme pottery and also Huntcliff and Crambeck wares. The settlement, therefore, appears to span the Roman period.

Further evidence of Neolithic activity was revealed in the form of some nicely worked flints. These and the flints found earlier provide hints that the Iron Age and Roman sites had destroyed a much earlier one.

Grateful thanks must be given to all those who helped on the excavation. More than thirty people including Wilberforce College students as well as ERAS members took part from October to February, often in appalling weather conditions. I am grateful to John Creighton, Martin Millett, "Chip" and Jeremy Taylor for driving down from Durham for a couple of weekends to help. I hope I will be forgiven if I make special mention of some individuals - John Marten, Ian Chorlton, David Priest, Ray Ketch, Susan Gibson, Lee Dexter, Max Davies, Maurice and Tony Bibby, without whom the continuation of the excavation would have been impossible.

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LECTURE SUMMARIES

Dec 13: RECENT DISCOVERIES IN ROMAN YORK- Patrick Ottaway

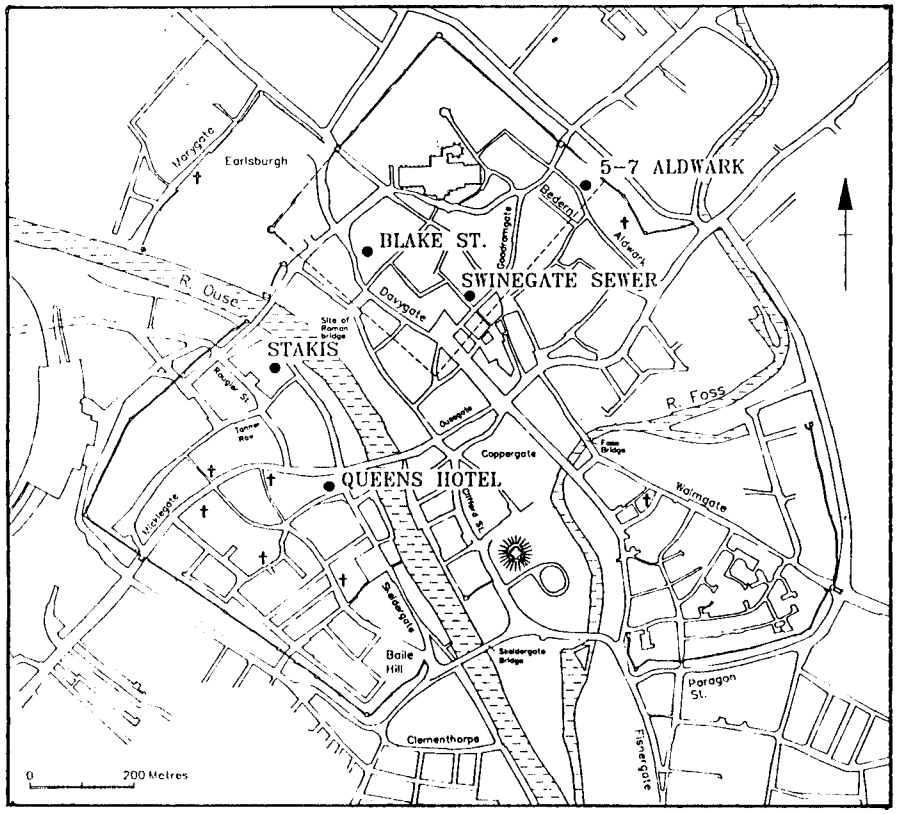
With the large-scale excavation at the Stakis Hotel site, 1989 was a very good year for Roman archaeology in York. Before describing these latest discoveries, however, Patrick Ottaway looked at the background to the study of Roman York.

York is situated at the confluence of the rivers Ouse and Foss in an area of prime agricultural land in the north of England. It was a logical site for the base of the IXth legion Hispana when the Romans crossed the River Humber in AD 71 in the governship of Petillius Cerialis. The legionary fortress was sited on the north-east bank of the River Ouse. The civilian settlement quickly grew up on the opposite bank and was granted the title of colonia in the early third century AD, possibly by the emperor Caracalla (AD 196-217).

Although many of the most exciting recent discoveries were made in the colonia, it is important to understand the development of the legionary fortress. There have been a number of excavations on the defences of the legionary fortress, though there have been few opportunities to excavate within the fortress itself.

A useful cross-section of the legionary fortress

defences was provided by an excavation near the east corner tower. The remains of the timbers at the base of the clay and turf rampart of the later 1st century AD legionary base were clearly visible. The rampart would have been topped by a timber palisade with interval towers, and probably looked like the defences of the reconstructed Roman fort at the Lunt near Baginton.



plan courtesy of York Archaeological Trust

In the early 2nd century AD the earth and timber defences were replaced in stone. Though more durable, the stone walls rarely survive for more than a few courses because many were demolished and reused in Dark Age and medieval times. In one place, however, the fortress wall survives almost to its original height. It survived only because it was later covered and incorporated in the medieval rampart.

The defences were also located at Monkbar where Parliament Street cuts across the line of the fortress wall. Here, on the premises of Granada Television, evidence of subsidence could clearly be seen. A crack had developed in the wall as one end of the shop gradually sank into the soft soil in the ditch running around the fortress. An exploratory excavation in the basement of the shop revealed a six foot high section of fortress wall complete with plinth and tooling marks.

At Blake Street another small but deep excavation trench revealed the remains of the legionary tribunes' quarters.

One of the most exciting military finds of recent years was the bronze cheek piece from a Roman helmet. The cheek piece is decorated with an attractive embossed rosette design and was found on the Nuffield Purey Cust Nursing Home extension site (York Archaeological Trust News Autumn 1986; Beverley News 25.4.1986).

More unusual was the work on the Roman sewers at York. The sewers were constructed of millstone grit and limestone, and it used to be possible for people to walk upright in them. Unfortunately the deterioration of the Victorian sewers led to flooding of the Roman system and visits had to be suspended.

Until last year relatively few discoveries had been

made in the colonia compared with those known from Roman towns in the south-east. York Archaeological Trust was grateful for the opportunity to excavate on a site close to the Roman road into York from the south-west. The General Accident and Insurance site revealed well-preserved timbers and other organic remains including a panel from a military tent.

The developer on the Stakis Hotel site close to the River Ouse agreed to cover the cost of excavation, and last June excavations began. Fifteen feet below the modern ground level a mat of branches and twigs was found. This acted as a base for the gravel and cobbles of the first Roman road surface. The area was subsequently flooded and the road surface was raised. This road was a major routeway. The road went through Micklegate Bar, through the Stakis site and over the river to the fortress.

The Stakis site was one of the largest areas to be excavated in the colonia, and it was to provide the first opportunity to study a complete rectangular Roman building in York. The walls were in fair condition, standing six feet high, complete with their put-log holes. The earliest building had a wooden floor and was mostly destroyed in a fire. The building was later extended over a base of massive wooden foundations. The entrance was not on the Roman road because of the problem of run-off.

The illustration in The Daily Telegraph (11.12.1989, p14) is rather fanciful but it does give some impression of the building and its location. Unusual finds from the outside of the building included glazed Roman pottery sherds decorated with little naked athletes from a double-handled jar or flagon made at Lyons in the mid-1st century AD. The sherds were found in a layer dated to the 3rd century AD so the vessel was presumably a treasured family heirloom.

The building apparently had a religious use in the 3rd century AD because a number of complete pots were found in pits in the floor. In the 4th century AD the area was still being used as a focus for ritual activity: votive deposits comprising over 1000 small bronze coins and the bones of a puppy wrapped in a woollen cloth were found. By the later 4th century AD the building had fallen into disrepair and had become a rubbish dump. Later post-Roman building work was indicated by a very poor quality stone wall bonded with mud.

The Roman road continued to be used, because it provided a raised path through the ruins of the colonia. However, the medieval road, which follows the route of the Roman road, bends sharply to the right at the Brewers' Arms Public House near the approach to the old Roman bridge over the Ouse. The speaker suggested that one explanation for this was that the Roman bridge had long since collapsed and that the medieval road-builders wanted to avoid the mound formed by the accumulation of road surfaces running up to the bridge.

One site which attracted unprecedented media attention last year was the Queens Hotel development. The original building was demolished and building work began without consulting the archaeologists. Rescue work subsequently revealed a length of wall about 5 feet across which was clearly part of a major Roman building. There was much speculation in the press that this was the palace of Septimius Severus who died at York in AD 211. The wall measured about 12 feet from its base to the present ground level and featured some interesting blocked-up arches. Unfortunately the excavation had to be back-filled but there was sufficient evidence to suggest that this was perhaps part of the public baths complex of the colonia.

There are plans to excavate within the legionary

fortress this year and it is hoped that Patrick Ottaway will be able to give news of further discoveries at York in a future lecture.

Bryan Sitch

The Editor apologizes for the absence of a summary of the January lecture on the medieval hospital of St. Giles, Brough, which she was not able to attend; however, a brief account of this site appears in the report of the CBA 4 annual symposium later in this newsletter (pp 24-25).

February lecture

Francis Pryor was unable to give the lecture on Flag Fen scheduled for the 21 February, for the good reason that he was in the USA at the time. We hope to arrange another date for this lecture next year; in the meantime Dave Evans nobly stepped in to bring us up-to-date on the work of the Humberside Archaeology Unit.

21 Feb: RECENT WORK OF THE HUMBERSIDE ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT — Dave Evans

1989 was apparently a good year for crop marks, particularly on the Wolds. Some new sites were found, for example, a ring ditch (probably Romano-British/Iron Age) at Burshill, near Brandesburton, while other sites known about for a long time, such as the DMV earthworks at Towthorpe, were clearly visible.

On the excavation front, Dave Evans reported that the bulk of the work has been urban, particularly in Beverley and Hull. The southern part of Beverley has

been much developed in recent years. When the Unit excavated at Wylies Road, not just the town ditch was found but also gravel quarries. From the fill of the ditch substantial medieval and post-medieval pottery was found. It was apparent that German stoneware mugs were imported from 1350-1470 and later copied by local potters. The Unit have been excavating again in recent weeks in the hope of finding Roman material.

Last May the Unit was working at St Mary's church, Beverley, which it is suspected might have a late Saxon or Norman foundation because it lies at an angle to the medieval grid pattern. The land behind the church is to be developed as a hotel complex. The area was found to be honeycombed with gravel quarries down to 4 or 5 metres in depth, while the latest buildings found were pad-stone structures of late 14th-early 15th century date and underneath these were traces of earthfast-post buildings.

In Hull, the Unit has been working on a number of sites: in High Street opposite Wilberforce House, in Blaydes Staithe, on the carpark site between Queen Street and Blackfriargate, and on Beverley Gate.

The excavation of the High Street site was reported by the speaker, Dave Evans, in ERAS News 32; his lecture enabled us to see slides of some of the finds from this site on reclaimed land near the River Hull, where interesting material was found despite the shortage of both money and time. The pottery included the base of a jug and other vessels associated with the wine trade (Hull controlled the whole of the wine trade for the north-east coast) which would have been imported from Saintonge, to the east of Bordeaux, between 1230 and 1437. There were good examples of jugs with three strap handles. Also Saintonge pottery, but of 16th century date, was part of a chafing dish; this would have been filled with hot embers or charcoal to keep warm a dish of food placed on top. Of later date,

probably 1630-1640, was part of a Dutch slipware firecover, of which only five have previously been found in Britain.

At Blaydes Staithe on the edge of the River Hull, the intention was to look for traces of the old waterfront. During this excavation (also reported in ERAS News 32) two vats were found dating to c.1500, still watertight and linked by a pipe with a sluice to control the flow. It was at first conjectured that these might have been used for salting fish, but now thought more likely that they were used for storing live fish. Hull and East Riding Museum is to conserve these for eventual display. Waterfront timbers dating to c.1400 were found and funds are being sought from English Heritage for dendrochronology.

Work on the Citadel site also encompassed Hull Castle (1541-1543) and was able to show that parts of the south side of the castle still survived. The excavations of 1970 and 1976 have not been published and the curtain wall was something of an enigma, but John Tibbles in 1988 found the wall in good condition, a brick structure faced with masonry, surviving to a depth of three metres below present ground level. According to tradition, Henry VIII reused stone from Meaux Abbey; another story has the stone coming from the tower of St Mary's church. Certainly there is reused stone in the structure; probably it came from all over the area.

The purpose of investigating the Queen Street/Blackfriargate site was to discover how far the site of the Blackfriars Monastery extended and what early land reclamation took place. A substantial sequence of post-medieval deposits was uncovered and a number of wells. Only a few days before the lecture part of a jet chess piece decorated with a ring dot pattern was found. This is probably of 13th century date, which makes it only the second piece of this

period to be found in the country, the other being from Castlegate in York. It is hoped to return to the site when building demolition is finished to see what medieval deposits might be found.

Of the city's town gates, Myton Gate was destroyed and Hessle Gate has been looked for but not located; however, in an area thought destroyed by sewers and other services it became clear that remains of the original timber gate of Beverley Gate had survived. Excavation was not made easy by the complicated phases of construction in a small area but it was found that oak sill beams were laid on the boulder clay, with diagonal braces. The stone foundation, chalk rubble on the inside, with a limestone facing, dates to the late 14th or early 15th century, while the two massive guard chambers were added in the 16th and 17th century. The moat itself was a large flat-bottomed ditch built in 1321-24, the upcast forming a clay bank. During the Civil War a second outer moat was dug. By the 18th century, however, the need for town defences had diminished and in 1734 the tower on the top of Beverley Gate was allowed to collapse. There was a series of inept shoring work, complaints were being made about pig styes on top and there were houses on the sides and top. In 1776 the gate was demolished and the town wall reduced to its present level to make way for the construction of the first of Hull's docks.

During the excavation, material spanning five centuries was retrieved. With good organic preservation, timbers over 20 feet in length survived. Approximately 140 shoes were found and some 10,000 clay pipes. Other finds included a nice bone handle of a late 17th century/early 18th century knife and part of an early 18th century bone whistle.

Dave Evans also reported that some archaeological work has been undertaken over the last three years in

Grimsby - unfortunately none took place before 1985, by which time a large part of the medieval street system had been destroyed.

A number of other sites have been covered by the Unit: at Kilham three skeletons were excavated, probably from a pre-Conquest graveyard. There are records from the 19th century of 97 skeletons being disturbed in one set of digging operations, and 68 on another occasion. At Barton-on-Humber work has been continuing on the Anglo-Saxon cemetery, most of which is of 7th century or early 8th century date, with three separate phases of burial. The Unit has also been digging at Roxby, site of a previous mosaic discovery, the exact location of which was later lost. At Low Caythorpe the Unit has been involved with the East Riding Archaeological Research Committee in a survey commissioned by the tenant as part of the English Heritage farm presentation scheme and incorporating fieldwalking with environmental, earthwork and geophysical survey.

At another site a superb collection of metalwork and bonework has been found including styli, decorated pins, window glass and vessel glass. The location cannot be published for obvious reasons but we look forward to hearing more about what was probably a monastic site.

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NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM

In February, Andrew Foxon took up the post of Keeper of Archaeology for Hull Museums and Art Galleries, replacing David Crowther who is now working in Bury St Edmunds. Andrew studied archaeology at Glasgow University and worked on exhibitions covering the Neolithic and Bronze Ages for Orkney Museums and the National Museums of Scotland. He comes to Hull after

four years in Glasgow Museums and Art Galleries, where he was Assistant Keeper of Archaeology.

Behind the scenes at the Hull and East Riding Museum there is a lot of activity for the new Iron Age group of displays, "A Celtic World", which opens later this year. Construction of part of a farmyard and homestead is almost complete, bringing together thatchers and woodworkers. Specially commissioned figures with bright Celtic costume have been delivered. At Wyke Sixth Form College, students are working under the guidance of John Knowles to build a chariot like those known from burials. Figures of horses, bridles and other gear are being created by specialists in an exciting piece of experimental archaeology.

On The Spot Video has recently completed work for the Archaeology Department producing a video tape about the recovery and display of the Hasholme boat. The tape will be used in the Hull and East Riding Museum and features the voice of Ian Cundall of Yorkshire Television. On The Spot has also produced archive tapes showing the various stages in the boat's travels to HERM. These will be available for researchers and others interested in the detailed story of the boat.

The completion of the excavations at Albion Sreet have seen the end of the public phase of the Phoenix project. Work on recording and studying the finds has already begun, but will continue for quite some time. Anyone interested in the future of the project or wanting to contribute to it should contact Andrew Foxon or Bryan Sitch.

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ROMAN TOWNS - THE WHEELER INHERITANCE
A Review of 50 Years Research 17-19 Nov 1989

This conference was designed as the culmination of Verulamium Museum's 50th anniversary celebrations and was so well attended that the venue was changed from the Museum lecture theatre to the larger Abbey Theatre, still only a few hundred yards from one of Roman Britain's most famous towns. There were so many famous names there that if such a publication as "Who's Who in Archaeology" existed, most of the entries would have been present and many of the speakers expressed the feeling that Sir Mortimer himself was looking on. The conference was brilliantly chaired by Professor Martin Biddle who kept speakers exactly to time by the use of a digital kitchen timer/alarm which he nicknamed "the gremlin" and set the mood for a most stimulating series of papers. I am sure that members will be grateful of an update on expert thinking concerning this topic.

The Keynote Speech, entitled "Roman Towns: the last 50 years" was given by Professor Malcolm Todd (Exeter University) who outlined Wheeler's work leading to the publication of "Verulamium". This book was much criticised at the time, especially by J.N.L. Myres, as having a misleading air of finality, but despite this coloured many people's thought by creating the impression that many towns in Roman Britain were basically the same as their counterparts in the western Empire. Professor Todd went on to describe the debate about Romano-British cities which grew out of the post-war excavations in London, Canterbury and Exeter and the important work of Shepperd Frere. He then questioned the idea of the hierarchy of towns by saying that the distinctions between municipium and colonia were far from clear and that urban and rural economies were much closer than hitherto supposed and

many contained large areas of open space. The town walls were no longer thought to have been predominately Theodosian in date and their bastions more likely to be expressions of municipal pride than platforms for artillery. Recent work in London shows that the collapse of towns was far less dramatic than previously thought and as early as the 4th century, London's basilica was dismantled and that of Verulamium went out of use. Professor Todd concluded by pointing out how greatly more recent work on Roman towns had been influenced by socio-economic ideas.

The next paper, delivered by Gustav Milne (Department of Urban Archaeology Musem of London), put an end to the theory that the modern capital owes its position to the Roman precedent and that it simply expanded through the Anglo-Saxon and medieval period to become Britain's major town. This, he said, was to impose a modern view and past archaeological discoveries had been wrongly interpreted to fit this theory. Recent work has shown that Londinium was neither as large nor as advanced as once thought and the mid-Saxon town was built outside the wall in the area of the Strand. Occupation was never extended as far as the city wall, constructed in AD 200; the reason for its size was to take in the Fleet watercourse and Cripplegate Fort. The first Roman settlement, which was to be destroyed in the Boudiccan revolt, ought to be regarded as an unplanned "boom town", largely concerned with waterbourne trade. In the 70s and 80s a new town suddenly appeared over the Boudiccan destruction levels which included the spectacular Huggen Hill baths and recently discovered amphitheatre. A whole insula was demolished to make way for a great basilica which reflected London's promotion to provincial capital around AD 100. Mr Milne suggested that the great fire of AD 150-160 which also occurred in Verulamium may have been due to civil unrest and that the deposition of pieces of the famous bronze statue of Hadrian in the Thames should be equated with the

demolition of Stalin's head in the Hungarian uprising of 1956.

By AD 300 the basilica was demolished and was sealed by "dark earth", which has long been the source of great debate and is thought to be plough soil. With the further subdivision of the Roman province, such great public buildings were no longer needed.

Professor Mike Fulford described the recent work he had conducted at Silchester, whose plan is so familiar from spectacular air photographs. Calleva Artrebatum was a substantial settlement prior to the conquest covering an area of 80 acres, surrounded by massive earthworks. Calleva produced inscribed coins with the mint mark CALLEV and the personal name EPPI which has been attributed to Eppilus, one of the late Iron Age kings. The excavations which have been carried out on the forum/basilica revealed 1 metre of untouched stratigraphy, undisturbed by Victorian diggers. There was some activity on the site as early as 50 BC but the most important horizon was that of the last two decades of the 1st century BC, which contained Terra Sigilata and Belgic imports.

Pollen analysis suggested that the area around the oppida was wooded which fits in with the name of the settlement Calleva - the wooded place. Suddenly the tree pollen diminished suggesting an open landscape during a period of major expansion around 20-10 BC. At this time a metalled road and a palisade were constructed. The site was planned out bearing some resemblance to Roman towns. In 1988 large ditches around the settlement were excavated which bore similarities with Camulodunum. These ditches constrained the growth of the later Roman town. Once again masses of imports were associated with this phase and Professor Fulford has suggested the presence of a Gallicised community here. The high proportion of sheep to pig bones was interpreted as further

evidence for this. Was this an exploitative centre before the Claudian invasion of AD 43? Mould fragments for the production of horse fittings were also found. The earliest Roman building on the site is now thought to have been a Claudian period fort and it is now thought that there is a connection between Calleva and the client king Cogidumnus.

The Director of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, Paul Bennet, outlined the work of Williams after the Luftwaffe had created space for excavations! Frere continued here for 32 seasons of work supported by entirely voluntary labour. Like Silchester, Canterbury had an Iron Age predecessor with three paved streets, complete with ruts. A Roman fort and a two phase theatre were constructed. The excavator suggested that the early Roman settlement would have had the feel of a cowboy town. The second phase theatre was massive with a temple precint added, covering about two acres, which would have dominated the topography of the town. The public baths were discovered under the appropriately named Fountain Hotel. The city defences were constructed in AD 270-90 and part of the wall, complete with crenelations, formed most of the north wall of St Mary's church, Northgate.

In the later Roman period town houses declined and their sites were occupied by timber buildings. A great deal of military metalwork suggests that Canterbury became the hub of the Saxon Shore defence system. Some kind of activity remained in the town as late as AD 475 and evidence of a late Roman Christian community has been found as well.

Colchester also did not escape from Wheeler's attention and extensive modern development has resulted in continued excavation by Phillip Crummy. He suggests that the town was founded on the site of a fort whose ditch was filled in between AD 47 and 49 to

provide space for grid pattern streets and public buildings. Crummy suggested that the planning of many Roman towns was heavily influenced by fortress layout, to the extent that a regular scheme of measurements from military handbooks may have influenced the planning of Silchester, Gloucester and Cirencester. Further evidence of the Boudiccan fire of AD 60 was found and in reaction to that disaster a rampart was built in AD 65-80. There is growing evidence to suggest that some of the once-bustling town was never rebuilt. Whole insulae of the town were cultivated: evidence of Roman plough soil, a plough share and a small granary and corn oven were found. Crummy suggested that if this was the case in one of Britain's leading towns, perhaps it was time for a reassessment of how "urban" they really were.

Peter Halkon

Summaries of the remaining papers from this conference will appear in the next newsletter.

CBA GROUP 4 ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM - 3 February 1990

A number of ERAS members attended this year's symposium of CBA group 4. These annual meetings are an excellent example of communication between the professional and amateur in archaeology and enable us to "catch up" on archaeological activities in other parts of Yorkshire in a friendly atmosphere (and for a very reasonable fee).

Thwing: A Summary of the excavations

Terry Manby, of Doncaster Museum, was an early speaker in the day's programme, bringing us up-to-date on the Thwing excavations which began in 1973 and are now well into the post-excavation phase, with a

publication date of September 1990. The excavation was initially planned to investigate a Neolithic henge monument, discovered as a circular cropmark during an aerial survey in 1967, but the site also encompassed a small Bronze Age hillfort and the work has continued with the excavation of Anglo-Saxon levels.

The site is strategically situated on Paddock Hill in the middle of the Wolds, overlooking the only water source in the area and a large tract of good agricultural land. The Neolithic henge monument was remodelled in the Middle Bronze Age, involving a recutting of the inner ditch and construction of a central post structure 17 metres in diameter. At a later phase of the Middle Bronze Age the structure was developed into a circular hillfort with 10-foot deep outer ditch and chalk rampart reveted at the front with a palisade and retained at the back by two rows of posts. A central building replaced the earlier structure and would have entailed considerable expenditure of manpower and timber. The 60-foot-high roof was supported on posts mostly set in pairs in oval postholes. Pottery dating to c.900 BC by radiocarbon methods was associated with the pre-rampart construction. A remarkably large collection of decorated bronze pins was found. Thwing represents a major phase of the Bronze Age in East Yorkshire.

The site was re-occupied in the Anglo-Saxon period, identified by somewhat enigmatic features of slots and hollows, also a grubenhause and two or three phases of a halled building. The normal occupation features were not present; rather, it seems to have been a high-status site. There were graves of at least 111 individuals, possibly of 9th century date, some 25 percent of which contained coffin fittings. A collection of Anglo-Saxon coins in mint condition, from Egbert to Ethelred II, suggests that there may have been a mint on the site; it certainly seems probable that the site had some sort of administrative

function in the Anglo-Saxon period.

Recent Fieldwork by the Aldbrough Research Committee

Colin Dobinson reported on the first season of work undertaken at the Roman town of Aldborough in North Yorkshire. He discussed the sources of available evidence for early occupation. Excavation in the 1930s showed 1st century occupation in the north of the site. A scatter of pottery has also been found, mainly during later work. The position of the Roman fort might also be indicated by the street grid of the later Roman town: this could be visible as parch marks in the northern part of the site, which is under pasture, while in the southern part under buildings it is thought that one of the present streets might follow the line of a previous Roman street. The forum is known from an excavation in 1970 and an extramural temple was tentatively identified. The layout is unusual, similar only to Lincoln and Gloucester, and might reflect that of an earlier fort.

Colin Dobinson explained that the aims of the field survey were to understand more about Roman Aldborough outside the walls - unusually, the defended area was smaller than the area occupied by buildings - and to find out about Roman land use outside the town. Fieldwalking started last year and so far the areas to the east, north and north-west of the town have been walked. A characteristic distribution has been found which seems to indicate the cultivation pattern. The earliest material found is worked flint , probably of Bronze Age date or earlier.

Recent Work by the Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society

Trevor Pearson talked about three projects in which this society (winner of the Thubron prize last year) has been involved: 1) the Paradise project, 2) the

town defences, 3) the Roman excavation in the Vale of Pickering.

1) Close to the 12th century castle new housing development was planned for an area which has been mainly open ground for 250 years. Following trial trenches in 1988, the Society excavated three areas jointly with Birmingham University in 1989. There had been substantial quarrying of clay for brick-making in the 1760s and one of the 1989 trenches uncovered the levelled remains of the clamp kiln used to fire the bricks, which overlay a back-filled clay quarry of the 12th century. Excavation against the exterior wall of the 18th century Paradise House revealed part of a medieval building fronting onto the southern side of Paradise Street. A third trench was excavated on the north side of this street, exposing a cobbled pavement aligned at right angles to the street with the drystone foundations of buildings on either side. One of these structures was excavated and appears to have been a single-roomed building with a large hearth, which might have started out as an almshouse and then been converted to industrial use.

It would appear that in the 12th century the sloping land to the south of Paradise Street was used for quarrying clay, while occupation was on the more level ground on the north side of the street. Later in the 12th or 13th centuries buildings spread to both sides of the street, but towards the end of the 13th century these buildinds reverted to gardens when the focus of activity moved away from the church to the harbour.

2) Building work provided an opportunity for a rapid investigation of the town ditch. A 3m wide section of the rampart survived, formed of clay upcast from the ditch. In the middle of the rampart a robber trench indicated the approximate position of the wall. In the fill of the ditch the skeleton of a horse was

found which had presumably fallen into the ditch and could not be extracated, even with the help of the long poles which were also found.

3) The Romano-British and Anglian site of Crossgates on glacial gravels on the northern side of the Vale of Pickering was first revealed by gravel quarrying shortly after the Second World War. The only part to have survived by 1989 was due to be developed as a business park, but a month's excavation was funded by the site's owners. Seven thousand square metres of gravel were stripped of topsoil before the excavation by Birmingham University in which SAHS members were involved. The main settlement lay in the north-west of the area where part of a 1st century ditched enclosure which had escaped quarrying was located. At 2-2.5 metres the ditch was unusually deep and thus the site might have had a military function.

St Giles Hospital near Brompton-on-Swale

Peter Cardwell, N.Y.C.C

It is believed that Dere Street crossed the River Swale at this site between the Yorkshire Dales on the west and the Vale of York to the east. There is evidence from a legal document that the hospital was known as St Giles by Brompton Bridge, a reference to the medieval crossing of the river. The existence of the hospital was documented in 1181; it may have been established as early as the 1160s. It continued in use at least until the latter half of the 15th century. The site was then occupied by a farmstead until finally being abandoned in the late 18th century. Three metres of river bank were lost in Hurricane Charlie in 1986 and the site is being excavated by N.Y.C.C. with English Heritage funding because of the threat of further river erosion as a result of a shift in the course of the river.

The site is marked by well-preserved earthwork features. A strip along the river bank was excavated

in 1988; this was extended to two earthwork features in 1989, with further excavation planned for the summer of 1990. Excavations of medieval hospitals are rare; though approximately 750 existed, only about a dozen have been excavated.

The earliest features examined at St Giles in 1989 were a drainage gulley and a number of postholes, marking a number of substantial buildings. The area was then divided by a stone wall, aligned north-south. A structure was built to the west of the wall, while the area to the east contained a number of pits. The wall was later demolished and most of the west half of the site became a yard with pebbled surfaces. Postholes, probably indicating another structure, were later cut into this surface. A wall was then built demarcating the western edge of the main hospital complex.

The most substantial medieval building found was the hospital chapel, which is to be further investigated this summer. The interior walls of the chapel were plastered and painted. A single skeleton found at the edge of the excavation suggests that the hospital cemetery lay to the east, but this is not an area due to be excavated as it is not under threat. In the post-medieval period the building was reduced in size. A possible alter base suggests that the building was still used as a chapel in an area known to have been a centre of Catholicism.

These are summaries of just a few of the reports presented at this year's CBA 4 symposium. For a fuller account of this year's work, may I recommend that you go the next symposium on the first Saturday in February, 1991.

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BOOKS

There are always too many new archaeology publications to mention, but members who heard Paul Bahn's ERAS lecture in 1988 on rock art in Australia might be interested to learn that Oxbow Books are selling his book "Images of the Ice Age" (Hb, 240pp with colour pictures) at the reduced price of £5.00 + £1 p&p (originally £15.00). The address for orders is: Oxbow Books, Park End Place, Oxford OX1 1HN.

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OBITUARY

Elsie Margaret Lamb

Many long-term ERAS members will remember Elsie Lamb, who died recently, but few will have known of her traumatic childhood. Her father was Harbour Master in a north German port before the First World War. In 1914 he managed to get his wife and Elsie out of Germany with nothing but the clothes they were wearing. During the war Elsie and her mother lived in conditions of great hardship helped only by the generosity of relations. After the war her father returned to England.

Elsie, who became a Diocesan visitor, trained as a teacher. In 1969 she came to Tranby Croft and taught there until she retired in 1971.

Elsie joined ERAS in the early days of the Society and was a member of John Bartlett's archaeology classes at the University where she exercised her enquiring mind weekly. She did a little digging and attended lectures until ill health intervened.

Elsie was a "character" who will be missed by all who knew her.

DIARY OF EVENTS

	Time and Venue
Wednesday 6 June	7.30pm
Field Study Group	Castle Warehouse, Chapel Lane Staith, High St, Hull
Wednesday 4 July	7.30pm
Field Study Group	Castle Warehouse, Chapel Lane Staith, High St, Hull
Wednesday 1 August	7.30pm
Field Study Group	Castle Warehouse, Chapel Lane Staith, High St, Hull