

# ERAS news

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No 27

August 1988

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It may seem as though the summer is nearly over but it's not time to hang up your trowels for the winter yet. Just when you may be thinking that the summer has sunk without so much as a crop mark, another excavation is looming on the horizon. In addition to the planned excavations at Redcliff etc (at which volunteers are very welcome - see end of newsletter), trench warfare will also be taking place at Siggleshorne, a shrunken medieval village surveyed by the North Holderness Survey Team in advance of house building on the site. Before the development takes place, ERAS hopes to mount a small excavation to extract as much archaeological information as possible.

The village was first mentioned in the Domesday book as a manor of six hundred acres of cultivated land with seven ploughs, but the village declined during medieval times. The plan of the SMV produced by the survey team shows house platforms, trackways, the remains of a hedge and a few basin-shaped features.

As I write this, a date has not yet been arranged for the proposed excavation, but mid-September is a possibility. Any members interested should contact Peter Didsbury.

And for a day's rest from the rigours of excavation you couldn't do better than the Society's excursion to Ilkley to look at rock carvings on the Moor (details included with this newsletter).

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EAST RIDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

EXCAVATION REPORTS

BEVERLEY GATE UPDATE

Phil Hampel,  
Hull City Planning Dept

In September of this year engineering work is due to start on the theatre around the Beverley Gate, Hull. The theatre will eventually enclose one of the gate's two guard chambers and a short section of the town walls (fig 1). The unexcavated guard chamber will be marked out in the pavement adjacent to the theatre.

The design of the theatre lends itself to the classical theatres of the Roman Empire (fig 2). These generally consisted of a D-shaped auditorium (cavea) with tiers of seats in a semi circle surrounding an arena (orchestra) which was fronted by the stage (pulpitum) and stage buildings (scaena).

- (1) seating
- (2) arena
- (3) stage
- (4) stage buildings
- (5) Beverley Gate

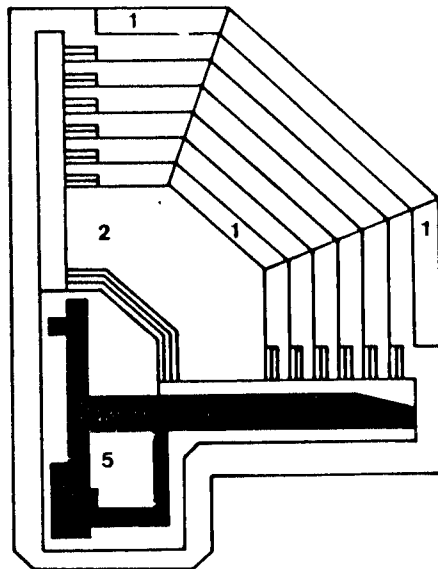


fig 1

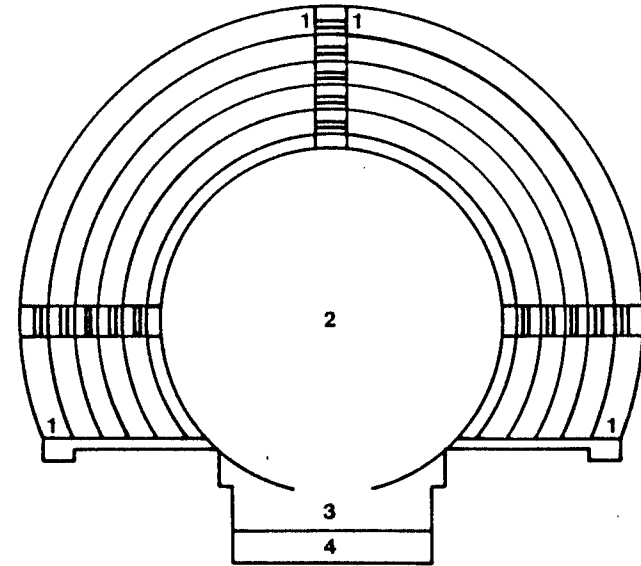


fig 2

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BORING WORK AT WINESTEAD?

Angus Smith

The work at Winestead, begun in 1984, is now in its fifth year. You may recall that a preliminary excavation revealed a deposit quite rich in animal bone and pottery in a section lying beneath a layer of blue estuarine clay just above the water table. Using a J.C.B. the area was opened up in 1985 showing a linear spread of 'dumped' rubbish containing fragments of bone, charcoal and some flint, all sealed beneath a thin lens of blue clay. Thermoluminescence dating at Durham of pottery samples subsequently gave results of 20±400 BC for sample 1 and 230±440 BC for sample 2.

Further excavation revealed a series of small rectangular pits or postholes and a ditch, while further to the north, some hundred metres away, in the

bed of a man-made lake, a three-metre square produced more crude pottery of the same type as that found in the original excavation. The original dig seemed exhausted but the dark organic layer running SSE-NNW through the excavation required some investigation. To this end we began augering to the north and south of the excavation during 1987 in an attempt to trace its extent, a task made more difficult by the high water table. This year, however, despite a disastrous July the water table is remarkably low, making augering much easier. The screw auger kindly lent by Hull University's Department of Geography enables a depth of 1.5 metres to be reached.

The results have been surprising as the mysterious layer now appears to be 2-3 metres wide, 10-15cm thick and at a depth of 60-80cm below ground level in the shape of a crude half annulus some 30m across. The open end faces eastwards to low ground and Winestead Drain, while there may be a 2m gap in the feature, facing the higher ground to the west, as no dark layer is apparent, only a few small fragments of pottery. Could this be an entrance to a settlement?

Except for a break at Redcliff we hope to continue on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays into October, weather permitting - heavy work, especially because every hole must be infilled immediately as any left open, even during a lunch break, could mean a cow with a broken leg. I should like to thank ERAS members who have helped with this work: Ray Ketch, Ron Smith and John Cuthbertson, not forgetting Mrs A. Hamilton the landowner and her invariable kindness.

We have bored through about 200 metres of Holderness clay so far!

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#### HULL CITADEL - Martin Foreman

On July 4th a two-month excavation began on the site of the Hull Citadel, which formerly lay between the River Hull and the Victoria Dock. The work is being carried out by the Humberside Archaeology Unit and is funded by Bellway Urban Renewals Ltd, major shareholders in the Victoria Dock Development. It follows trial-trenching in 1987 which established the considerable survival of the brick and stone wall which formed a protective facing for the earthen ramparts of the Citadel. Subsequent negotiations between the Archaeology Unit, Bellways and Hull City Council have aimed to protect this substantial monument, and to explore the possibilities of presenting it to the public.

The Hull Citadel is a remarkably little known feature of the town, though it occupied 30 acres immediately east of the River Hull at a time when the area of the walled town was only 90 acres. It was built as part of the updating of the fortification of strategic ports and dockyards round the south and east coasts. Tilbury Fort in Essex is perhaps the best known English example of this type of fortress. The Hull Citadel was designed by Martin Beckman, a Swede who served Charles II as Master of Artillery. It was built between 1681 and 1685 and formed a massive triangle with a bastion at each angle (fig 1). Two of the bastions included the Henrician Castle (fig 1, E) and South Blockhouse (fig 1, D) as ready-made strongpoints. These were examined in the 1970s and their substantial remains enjoy Scheduled Ancient Monument status, though no part of them is presently visible.

Henry's fortification of the east side of the River Hull was in part inspired by the domestic turmoil of

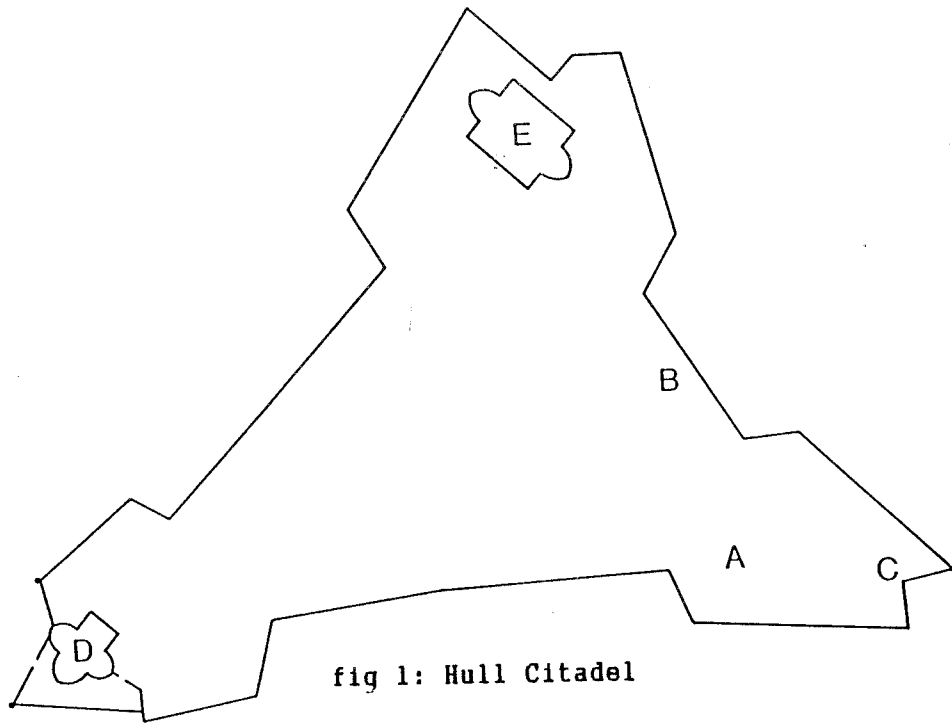


fig 1: Hull Citadel

the Pilgrimage of Grace (1536-7), during which Hull twice fell into rebel hands. Charles II's strengthening of these defences was motivated by an external threat: intense commercial rivalry with the Dutch had flared into open warfare in 1665-7 and 1672-4. A need for improved coastal defences was forcibly highlighted in 1667 when the Dutch Admiral De Ruyter sailed into the Medway and burnt part of the English fleet at its moorings. The Citadel would have served as a formidable deterrent against a naval raid on Hull roads; political change, however, was no respecter of the engineering feat which raised ramparts 40 feet thick on the very edge of the Humber. Within three years of the completion of the Citadel William of Orange was established on the English Throne, and Anglo-Dutch hostilities were at an end. The Citadel remained in military use, however, as a barracks, as a P.O.W. Transit Camp in time of war, and as a strategic arsenal. In 1807, for example, it held

enough munitions and supplies to equip 12 frigates, 6 ships of the line, and 35,000 men. During the 19th century further magazines were built within the Citadel. In the 1840s it passed out of military use, and after forming the subject of a detailed Ordnance Survey (1853) the fortifications were levelled in 1864 and the site redeveloped as dockside facilities. The only relict of this great fortress, a Bartizan or watchtower, presently stands in East Park (fig 2).

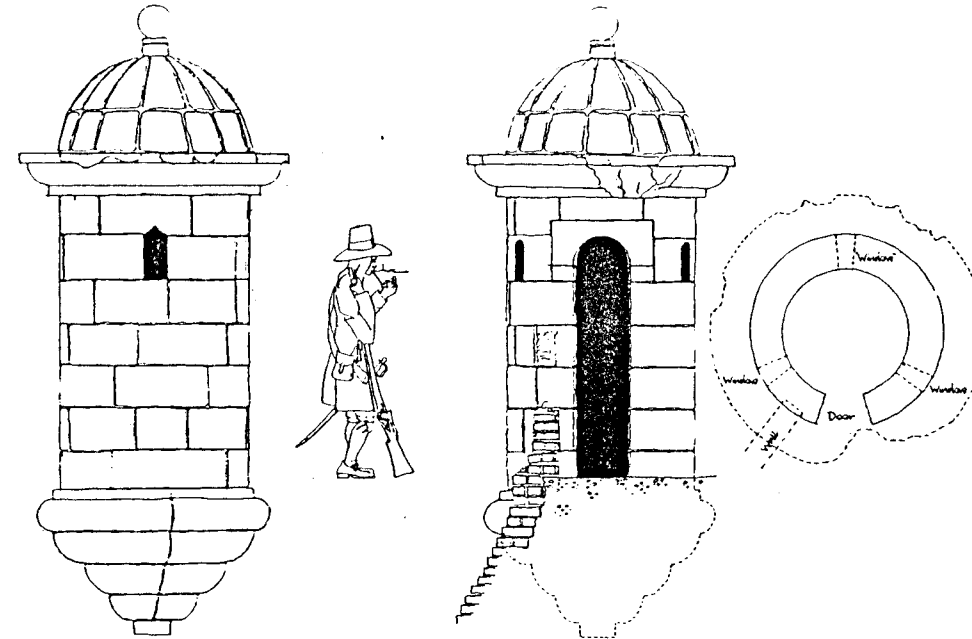


fig 2: South-west bartizan, East Park (illus. by Grant Cairns, Hull City Planning Dept)

The 1988 excavation has opened up a large area at the eastern tip of the south-east bastion (fig 1, C) which, it is hoped, will form the basis of a partial reconstruction illustrating the form and nature of this massive fort. Should a present City Council policy decision be reversed the bartizan could be returned from its present position in East Park to the

exact spot where an identical tower once stood. The wall-facing of ashlar and brick, substantial brick buttresses and a sally port (where defenders could "sally out" to attack besiegers) flanked by a pair of casemated (built into the rampart) guardhouses survive. In places the remains lie only six inches beneath the modern landsurface. These are all very thick and the rampart behind them would have added a well-nigh impregnable thickness of shock-absorbent clay over three feet of brick walling rises above a sloping "sea wall" faced with limestone blocks. This was shown in 1987 to go down another twelve feet or more.

Another sally port has been exposed to the north. Fragments of the iron-studded door lie at the entrance together with a limestone block from the arch over the doorway. The passage serving this sally port was equipped with a further set of internal doors behind which were set a pair of brick sentry boxes - all buried within the thickness of the rampart. Away from the Humber, on the east side of the Citadel, the rampart was not faced with brick or stone walling as the tidal flow would not reach it here.

Half of the Great Entrance (fig 1, B), later used as a prison, then as a casemated magazine, has been exposed. The brickwork survives at varying levels, but a neo-classical pillar-base and decorative stone facing show the position of the entrance. Cobbled and gravel yard surfaces lie outside the entrance, and a well includes massive timbers from the bucket-lift.

The 19th century Regimental Magazine (fig 1, A) has been fully exposed - all that survives of this is the brick and concrete base of a small rectangular structure with very little space within. This little powder store served the garrison of the Citadel and, unlike the depot magazines for strategic stores, was positioned close to the gun positions looking out over

the Humber.

Three more trenches have been positioned to pinpoint the further course of the south face of the Citadel ramparts. All have revealed substantial brick walling and buttresses, and in two trenches extensive stretches of stone facing in immaculate condition have been exposed. For the first time the top course of the masonry face has been identified; it is marked by a heavy roll-moulding. Above this the brick walling with clay ramparts behind would have risen a further fifteen feet or so.

The recording of these various features will give one of the most intricate and detailed views to date of the "nuts and bolts" of military architecture in the 17th century. This period saw the final transition away from heavily defended "castles" on strongpoints towards the artillery fort where defence was by flanking fire directed from low and well-protected earthen fortifications. The casemated magazines, corridors and guardhouses are a modest precursor of the underground warrens of the Maginot line or the modern nuclear bunker.

Hull City Council are particularly keen to minimise any damage to the remains; the only significant disturbance will be caused by the passage of a sewer trench through one side of the south-west bastion. Humberside County Council have drawn up plans to insert school buildings within the south-east bastion. The line of the defences will form the boundary of the school site, and it is intended to mark their course by mounding and planting during landscaping of the site. The exact form of presentation to be adopted for the tip of the south-east bastion is yet to be decided. What is certain, however, is that an imaginative approach to this work will confer an unique and distinctive character to the redevelopment of this area of the town.

## HUMBERSIDE ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT Surveys and Publications

Two field teams of the Humberside Archaeology Unit have been out and about in North and South Humberside. Based at Epworth and Hornsea they have been busy researching the archaeology and historic landscape of the Isle of Axholme and North Holderness. The results of their work are now summarised in the latest two displays in the Unit's successful series about the county's archaeology.

The Isle of Axholme display reveals that much of the land around Epworth, Belton and Haxey continues to be farmed in open strips, as it has been since medieval times: this is one of the few places in the country where this method survives. The Enclosure Acts of the 18th and 19th centuries did however create a landscape of regular enclosed fields throughout the rest of the Isle. Featured on another panel is a description of the flax and hemp industry and its former importance to the economy of the Isle. The display looks as well at the changes to the farming caused by the drainage of the Isle in the 17th century and the commoners' opposition to it. There is also an explanation of how the Epworth team have collected much archaeological material and discovered several new settlement sites by fieldwalking the ploughed land. Some of their fieldwalking finds are illustrated.

The North Holderness display reveals how the ancient landscape of lakes and meres was formed by the Ice Age and how these meres were exploited by man from prehistoric times. Today only Hornsea Mere survives but serves as a reminder of what this former landscape must have looked like. Coastal erosion has been a constant problem along the Holderness shoreline. Since Roman times it is estimated that a strip over a mile wide has been lost to the sea and a map shows those villages of medieval date which have been eroded

away. Another panel describes the teams' survey of the medieval village of Siggleshorne, which was then much larger than it is today. The team surveyed the earthworks of the abandoned buildings and trackways which survive there, in advance of a housing development scheme on the site. The development of Hornsea from its Anglo-Saxon origins to the present day sea-side resort is the subject of the last panel.

The displays have been produced by a Community Programme Scheme jointly funded by the MSC and Countryside Commission and run by the Humberside Archaeology Unit.

The North Holderness display can be seen at Hornsea Library from 9 August - 1 September.

The Isle of Axholme display will be at the Mechanic's Institute, Epworth from 1 - 13 August and in Crowle Library from 15 - 27 August.

If, however, you are unable to see either of the displays this time round - and this newsletter may well miss the current dates - do not despair! The Unit is also producing a series of bulletins, which are available free of charge. You may have come across some of these information sheets before - single or folded A4 pages - without realising quite how many have been produced. There are five already available or planned to cover the Isle of Axholme Survey, and eight for the North Holderness Survey. In addition, there are 21 summarising aspects of the region's archaeology from the chariot burials at Wetwang to the excavations on the site of the Augustinian Friary, Grimsby, 1987. All these bulletins are still available from the Humberside Archaeology Unit, c/o Property Services, County Hall, Beverley, HU17 9BA, for the price of a suitably stamped, self-addressed A4 envelope. The full range of titles is listed below:

Community Programme Scheme Bulletins:

Isle of Axholme Survey

1. General bulletin setting out objectives of the survey with illustrations of archaeological finds
2. Drainage of the Isle of Axholme

Forthcoming:

3. Fieldwalking in the Isle
4. Flax and Hemp
5. Warping

North Holderness Survey

1. General bulletin setting out aims, objectives, etc.
2. The Meres of Holderness
3. The Sigglesthorne Survey

Forthcoming:

4. Hedge Surveying
5. William Morfitt (antiquarian of Atwick in the late 19th - early 20th century)
6. Mills
7. The open fields
8. Lost villages of the North Holderness Coast

Other Information Sheets:

1. Archaeology at Eastgate, Beverley, 1984
2. The Bishop of Durham's Manor House at Howden, 1984/5
3. Chariot Burials at Wetwang
4. Excavations in Deepdale, Barrow-upon-Humber, 1981
5. Excavations at Winteringham, 1981/2
6. Roman Mosaic Pavements
7. Humberside Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)
8. Excavations at Garton-on-the-Wolds, 1985
9. An Anglican Cemetery at Castledyke South, Barton-on-Humber, 1982/3

10. Pottery from a Medieval Kiln at Grovehill, Beverley
11. The Anglican Cemetery at Hornsea
12. Excavations at Skerne, near Drifffield, North Humberside, 1982-3
13. The Medieval Roof Tile Factory in Beverley
14. Roman Small Town on Ermine Street at Staniwells Farm, Hibaldstow
15. Excavations at New Baxtergate, Grimsby, 1986
16. Skipsea Castle
17. The Beverley Gate and the Medieval Town Walls of Hull
18. North Cave Excavations
19. Dominican Priory, Beverley - Excavations 1986-7
20. Lurk Lane, Beverley - Excavations 1979-82
21. Excavations on the site of the Augustinian Friary, Grimsby, 1987

The Unit have also added a further title to their series of booklets which expand the information shown on their various archaeological and historical displays.

Appropriately enough, in this Armada anniversary year, the new title covers the Tudor and Stuart period.

The full range of booklets is therefore:

Prehistoric Humberside  
The Romans in Humberside  
Anglo-Saxon and Viking Humberside  
Medieval Humberside (1066 - 1485)  
Tudor and Stuart Humberside (1485 - 1714)

The booklets are A5 size, contain approximately 36 pages of text and illustrations and can be ordered from the Humberside Archaeology Unit for 60p each.

YORK UNIVERSITY PUBLICATIONS OFFER

The University of York's Department of Archaeology is offering a 20% discount on their publications to members of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society and ERAS. Since this is a once only, single order offer, I suggest that anyone interesting in ordering any of the five titles contact me (Valerie Fairhurst, 10 Etherington Drive, Hull, HU6 7JU, Tel: 858274) by the end of September.

The publications on offer are:

	<u>Usual</u> <u>Price</u>	<u>Discount</u> <u>Price</u>
Wharram Percy: the Memorial Stones in the Church Yard	£ 4.00	£ 3.20
Two Roman Villas at Wharram le Street	£ 5.00	£ 4.00
Cowlan Wold Barrows	£ 4.00	£ 3.20
An Anglo-Saxon Inhumation Cemetery	£17.00	£13.60
Rescue Archaeology - What's Next?	£10.95	£ 8.76

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LECTURE SUMMARIES

13 January: CASTLES OF THE CONQUEST - Brian Davison

Brian Davison explained that there was a long history of political bias in the study of the Conquest and its buildings. He described the Normans as basically a Viking people, largely of Danish extraction, who inherited a Frankish/Roman tradition. The Normans must have seen substantial Roman buildings and inherited a joint tradition of Scandinavian

fortifications of timber and Roman engineering in stone.

For the background to the castles of the Conquest more knowledge is needed about pre-Conquest castles in Normandy. Though the Bayeaux Tapestry shows buildings of the motte and bailey type it is impossible to find a pre-Conquest example in France. Falaise Castle was built by Henry I and Philip I but nothing survives on the ground of William the Conqueror's time.

In 1066 there was a need for quickly and cheaply built bases for the men and horses that were brought across. It is estimated that there were 6-8,000 men of whom some 2,000 were mounted. William landed at Pevensey where he took advantage of the Roman defences leaving a small garrison behind and then rapidly moving on to Hastings. The Bayeux Tapestry shows the building of a motte with reinforced layers of stone at Hastings. During the Yorkshire campaign in 1069 there again seems to be a tendency to leave the garrison behind in one corner of the existing structure (eg at York).

Most of these fortifications were built of earth and timber. Very few have been excavated and there is no evidence of gatehouses; it is to the earliest surviving stone buildings that we must look for gatehouses, eg Rougement Castle, Exeter (1068) and Ludlow Castle (1086).

By 1086 (Doomsday) most castles were of the motte type, an upturned pudding basin-shaped mound, perhaps 30 feet across and 20 feet high within an outer enclosure defended by a bank and a ditch, eg Thetford, Norfolk and Abinger, Surrey. At Castle Acre, Norfolk, digging in the motte and bailey revealed the remains of an early Norman palace on two floors, with two rooms on each floor. The position of the entrance at ground level indicates that security was not a high priority.



It was William who ordered the building of the White Tower in the Tower of London so the building should give us information about how he wanted to live. The Tower contains in vertical sequence all the accommodation that in the more normal palaces of the period would have been laid out horizontally on the ground - store-rooms, service rooms, hall, chamber and chapel. The Conqueror's purpose seems to have been as much to broadcast his wealth and authority as to secure his person and court. The White Tower is decorated externally with pilaster buttresses and with blind arcading more appropriate to an ecclesiastical building than to a fortress.

Brian Davison asked us to consider whether the Normans really would have lived in a wooden fort on top of a mound, and went on to propose a theory for a construction sequence rather different from the traditional view. At South Mimms the evidence from excavation is not of a sterile mound with a wooden fort on top but that the tower was built first, and when a surrounding ditch was dug the upcast was piled around the tower. When this eventually collapsed it would leave an earth mound. The speaker did not claim that every motte and bailey of the Conquest looked like this, but of 25 investigated, 23 were indeed earth-filled timber works. They would have been more similar to the stone buildings of the day, particularly if plastered. The timber construction would explain the record of Norwegians attacking Rothesay Castle with axes.

Brian Davison concluded with a rather newer motte and bailey - that which he had been asked by the Irish Government to build for the new Heritage Centre at Wexford.

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The summary of Tim Potter's lecture will appear in the next newsletter.

10 February: THE WORK OF THE TRENT AND PEAK  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST - Graeme Gilbert

Graeme Gilbert gave us a brief history of the Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust, described the physiography of the areas it covers and outlined some of the projects in which it has been involved. The Trust is an independent, project-funded, non profit-making limited company. Rescue archaeology units like it came into being as a result of the discovery of sites, primarily by aerial photography, in the 1950s and '60s. In the early '80s the Unit expanded and in 1984 its title was changed from the Trent Valley Archaeological Research Committee to the present title. The new area included a great variety of topographical zones, from the peat uplands of Kinder Scout to the flood basin. In the limestone area of the White Peak each peak is, somewhat confusingly, called a 'Low' and, typically, has a barrow on top.

Upstream of Burton-on-Trent is Flatholm, one of the river gravel sites detected by aerial photography, where a multi-phase ring ditch was excavated which showed seven or so phases of recutting. Also found were postholes of a timber building of earlier age than the ditch, and adjacent to the building a series of pits. Carefully placed on the sides of these pits were large sherds of the late Neolithic pottery known as Peterborough ware. Flintwork found included microliths and arrowheads of barbed-and-tanged, leaf and petit-tranchet form.

Catholme is a site with middle Bronze Age and Anglo-Saxon remains, the ground plan of the former defined by the postholes of a circular building with a porch. The site is famous for the excavation of a Saxon village of eight acres and some 65 buildings of two types: (a) rectangular and post built, the largest

divided by internal partitions into rooms, and (b) sunken-featured buildings (previously called grubenhäuser); several loom weights are associated with these. These gravel terrace sites do suffer from loss of stratigraphy but it is possible to see the ground plan of an area after machine-stripping.

In 1987 the cursus monument which had been the first excavation of the river gravel sites was again excavated because half a mile was under threat from gravel extraction. The cursus consists of two long parallel ditches; it is an area which includes many other cropmarks.

Graeme Guilbert explained that excavation was not the only activity of the Trust: resistivity survey and fieldwalking is also employed as with such a large area (some 37 hectares) under threat, it is necessary to pinpoint those areas upon which to concentrate. Derrick Riley's book "Early Landscape from the Air: Studies of Crop Marks in South Yorkshire and North Nottinghamshire" shows a network of field systems and smaller enclosures in the area, including on the bunter sandstone.

The Trust is occasionally able to carry out work for reasons other than rescue. In Nottingham Castle the motivation has been the improvement of the display to the public, including information boards and a popular booklet.

Fieldwalking in the Peak District has shown that flint artefacts are relatively common. On Tintwistle Moor a survey in 1983 and 1984 of peat areas attempted to identify archaeological sites. The Mesolithic flintwork found in these eroded areas was not in situ but it was hoped that the results would indicate adjacent sites where erosion had not yet occurred and where it would therefore be profitable to excavate; however, the construction of the CEBG's reservoir

allowed no opportunity for excavation.

At Lismore Fields on the west side of Buxton an area of uncultivated land owned by the Chatsworth estate was being sold for housing. A trench was dug for the purpose of locating the Roman road - no road was found, but sieving yielded Mesolithic and Neolithic material and thus was unexpectedly found an important site. In 1985 a further season's excavation revealed what were probably three rectangular timber buildings with central hearths of the Neolithic period, also pits and gullies with (early Neolithic) Grimston ware.

Survey work and conservation also falls within the brief of the Trust. Hoburst House, a squared mound surrounded by a ditch, is a guardianship monument being eroded by sheep. At Mam Tor the erosion of the bivallate hillfort is being caused, not by sheep, but by the passage of human feet. The survey of this monument is to start in the summer of 1988.

The monuments are not only prehistoric - the 1984 excavation of part of the vicus of a Roman fort in the Hope valley revealed a whole stratified sequence, while at Chesterfield the church lies within a Roman fort, areas of which were scheduled for destruction during a new development but could be recorded by means of the structural engineer's test pits. The speaker explained that architectural recording, often in advance of consolidation work, is becoming an increasingly important part of their work.

Graeme Guilbert's lecture showed that though the Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust is not a research-directed organisation yet as a result of the type of work undertaken across a variety of topography it is increasing archaeological knowledge at no mean rate.

13 April: ROCK ART OF AUSTRALIA - Paul Bahn

At the last lecture of the season Paul Bahn gave members something of an art "preview" - both in the sense that it now appears that Australia may have the oldest art in the world and that, because it is only in the last few years that many of the examples have been discovered, much of the work has yet to be published.

Early examples come from Koonalda Cave, where there are finger tracings on the soft walls of a cave once used for flint mining 26,000 years ago. Further evidence for Pleistocene art is found at Early Man Shelter where there are various marks, the lowest pre-dating an archaeological layer of 13,000 b.p. Rock carvings take the form of circles at Mount Cameron West on Tasmania, which was originally joined to Australia.

The greatest contribution of examples in recent years has come from the Gambier area, near Melbourne, where 22 caves with examples of early art have been found. The aborigines of today still do not venture near these caves, which is further evidence of their antiquity. At Paroong there are finger markings and circular markings with gashes inside (fig 1), like the Tasmanian carvings. Many caves were filled with large amounts of modern rubbish: one such is Karlie-n'goinpool which has 75 square metres of finger markings and, right at the back of the cave, a tiny chamber covered with circles with scratches inside. The finger marking tradition is very widespread - at least 26,000 marks across about 3,000 miles, dating from at least 13,000 years ago.

Desert engravings have become important because there is now a way of dating them by the "desert varnish", a mixture of minerals and organic material which gets thicker with time. A date of 31,600 years ago has

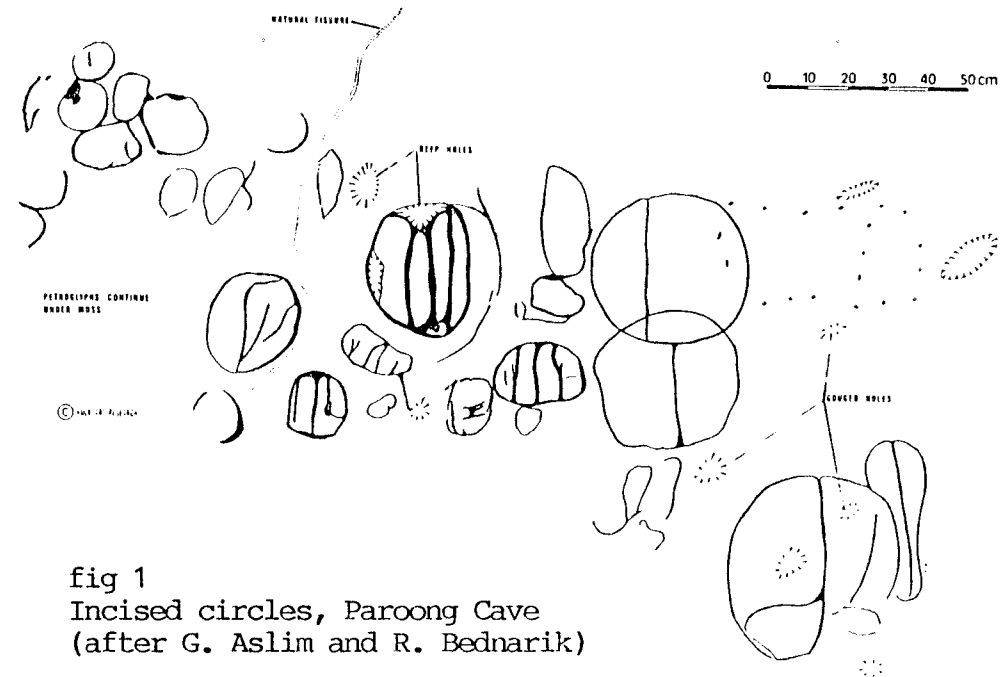
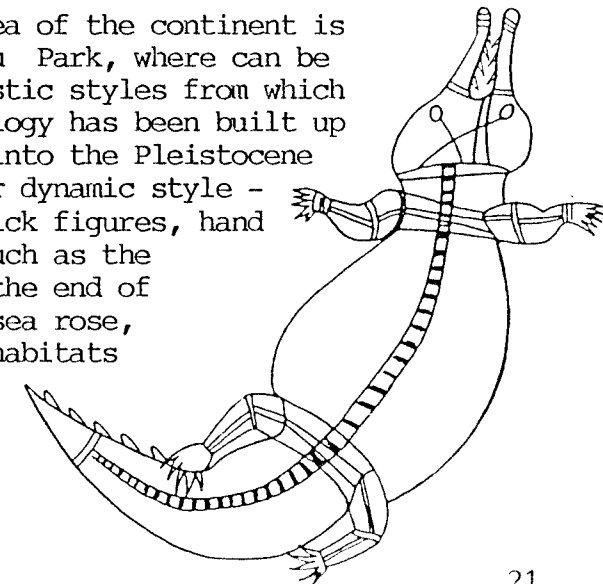


fig 1  
Incised circles, Paroong Cave  
(after G. Aslim and R. Bednarik)

recently been obtained for a sample of this varnish from Australia, indicating an even older date for the carvings underneath.

Another important area of the continent is Arnhemland, in Kakadu Park, where can be found different artistic styles from which a comparative chronology has been built up believed to go back into the Pleistocene. The early period - or dynamic style - is represented by stick figures, hand prints and animals such as the Tasmanian tiger. At the end of the Pleistocene the sea rose, producing estuarine habitats such as saltmarsh characterised by the saltwater crocodile (fig 2)



and fish spears - the X-ray style - rather than the tigers and boomerangs of the dynamic period. Finally, in the "contact period", we see men on horseback and ships (fig 3).

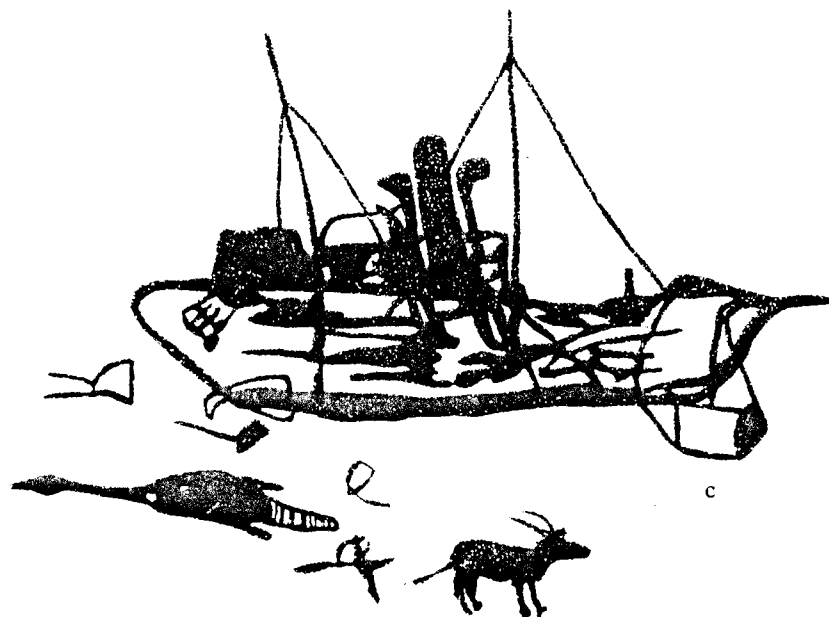


fig 3  
European boat and its cargo  
(after G. Chaloupka)

The last period of Rock Art is characterised by the use of white paint. If the aborigines are asked who made these paintings they cannot provide an answer because they are unable to comprehend the question: to the aborigines nobody "created" them - they are the spirits and the aborigines are just touching up the paintings.

Some paintings have been found by low-flying, followed

up by trekking over country to inspect them. In Quinkan country the Giant Wallaroo Gallery and Magnificent Gallery have representations of men, wallaroo, giant eels and catfish, together with hand stencils.

In the Sidney area there are two main types of art: (1) flat rocks deeply engraved, such as Devil's Rock and (2) in rock shelters (Canoelands) very large depictions of the creator spirit and hand stencils and stencils of artefacts such as boomerangs. The stencilling of artefacts is an obvious source of information for archaeologists. At Glen Isla, in the Melbourne area, the Grampian style is found, consisting of stick figures and lots of little strokes which probably represent some form of calendar. Ayers Rock is a site particularly sacred to the aborigines and recently returned to them with only a part of the rock now open to the public. There are some paintings to be seen but they are mostly in a poor state.

One major purpose of art was to teach the rules of society. Aborigines in one area, for example, observed the mutual avoidance rule, whereby after marriage a man and his mother-in-law were not allowed to acknowledge each other's presence. Such rules were made to maintain the stability of society.

Paul Bahn also considered some of the moral aspects of archaeology where it involves skeletal remains - for example only casts of the material can be exhibited, not the actual bones themselves.

For further insights into Paleolithic art we await Paul Bahn's book "Images of the Ice Age" which is due to be published by Windward in September.

OBITUARY

Norman Crosby

The death, in July, of Norman Crosby should not go unmentioned by the Society. Norman Crosby was one of the early members, if not a founder member of the Society, and he participated together with his mother and father in all of the Society's excavations during the 1960s, including Walkington Wold, Broomfleet and Brantingham. He regularly attended the Society's monthly field studies meetings and the winter lectures. He will be sadly missed.

Bryan Sitch

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DIARY OF EVENTS in East Yorkshire - and further afield

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Further information  
can be obtained from

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9 August - 1 September

Humberside Archaeology  
Unit's North Holderness  
display, Hornsea Library

Humberside Arch. Unit  
Tel: (0482) 868770

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13 August for 3 weeks

Manton A/S excavation

Kevin Leahy  
Tel: 0724 - 733652

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14 August - 4 September

Seamer Mesolithic excavation.  
Excavations this year will  
take place in Flixton Carr

Tim Schadla-Hall,  
96 New Walk,  
LEICESTER, LE1 6TD

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15 August - 27 August

Humberside Archaeology Unit's  
Isle of Axholme display,  
Crowle Library

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20 August - 30 September

Redcliff excavation  
Dave Crowther  
Hull Museums,  
Tel: 222737

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7 September

Field Study Group Meeting at  
Redcliff. Meet near Capper  
Pass entrance at 7.30 pm  
(Brickyard Lane)

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16 - 18 September

Conference in Henderson Hall,  
University of Newcastle:  
"The Neolithic: a Review of  
Current Work".  
Fee £61 (full board)  
£16 (Conference only)

P. Topping, Centre  
for Continuing  
Education,  
The University,  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 7RU

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21 September

ERAS Reports Lecture Meeting  
Ferens Art Gallery at 7.30 pm

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24 September

ERAS excursion to Ilkley  
Angus Smith,  
93 Tranby Lane,  
ANLABY, Hull  
HU19 7EB  
Tel: 655546

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Date to be arranged

ERAS excavation at  
Siggleshorne  
Peter Disbury  
16 Ventnor Street,  
HULL. HU5 2LP  
Tel: 494711

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1 October

Day School: "Gothic  
Architecture" (Dr Barbara  
English), The Friary,  
Beverley  
The School of Adult &  
Continuing Education,  
University of Hull,  
FREEPOST, HULL.  
HU6 7BR  
(Tel: 0482 - 465524)

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15 October

Day School: "From Romans to  
Racecourse: the History and  
Heritage of Malton, Norton  
District" (Peter Wenham,  
John Dent et al)  
Malton Library  
The School of Adult &  
Continuing Education  
University of Hull, and  
FREEPOST, HULL.  
HU6 7BR  
(Tel: 0482 - 465524)

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If you are unable to contact the Director of an  
Excavation (he may already be on site!) further  
information can usually be obtained from a member of  
the Field Study Group.