

ERAS news

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AUTUMN EXCURSION

The Society's second excursion this year is to Dominic Powlesland's remarkable Anglo-Saxon excavation at West Haslerton in the Vale of Pickering, with the added attraction of a visit to view the current exhibition of the dig at the Malton Museum. The date for your diary is Saturday, 26th September. Numbers are limited to 35, and at only £4 a head this is sure to be a popular attraction. So claim your place without delay. Further details and booking form are enclosed.

PROGRAMME 1987/88

We are indebted to our Hon Programme Secretary, John Dent, for another extremely attractive programme of lectures which you will find listed on your enclosed membership card. Since the programme went to press, arrangements for the Annual Dinner have been put in hand which you may care to make a note of. Final details and booking forms will of course appear in a later issue of ERAS News. The venue will be Thwaite Hall, Cottingham, as last year, and the date is Friday 15th April, 1988.

The first meeting of the session is on September 16th and in time-honoured tradition is the Reports Meeting, when members can

get right up to date with the results of this year's fieldwork activities. Speakers will include John Dent on the second season of excavation at North Cave; Martin Foreman on the new discoveries at the Dominican Friary site in Beverley and the exciting potential of the 17th century Citadel in Hull; and Peter Halkon on this season's work on the Holme on Spalding Moor project, and other Field Study Group activities. Don't miss it!

REDCLIFF 1987

A second season of surveys and excavations at this fascinating Iron Age port-of-trade at Redcliff is due to commence on the last weekend of August, and continue for five weeks. All help - part-time, weekend, or other - would be welcomed. Subsistence payments may be available for anyone interested in working a six-day week. So if you've got the time, need a tan, and keen to get to grips with the prehistory of the Humber, get in touch! Contact David Crowther, Town Docks Museum, Queen Victoria Square, Hull, telephone 222737.

GET CERTIFICATED

We are fast approaching the time of year when enrolment in adult education classes begins. Courses in archaeology have figured quite extensively in recent years both in the WEA and Hull University programmes. Members can explore what is on offer this year by consulting the prospectuses which are advertised in the local papers.

There is a new departure this year, however, which may be of special interest to Society members. Hull University's Department of Adult and Continuing Education begins a two-year Certificate Course in Archaeology this September. Several tutors with expertise in the local archaeological scene are combining to teach the course which leads to the award of the Certificate through

written work and examination. There is a practical element too. The course is designed for the serious student who is prepared to do the necessary reading and study, but there is no entry qualification other than a willingness to undertake the work. So it is open to everyone. The course will appeal particularly to those who wish to delve a little deeper than usual into the study of archaeology and have something to show for it at the end of it all! Get in touch with the Department at 49 Salmon Grove, Hull for more details.

EXCAVATIONS AT BURSEA HOUSE AND RUNNER END, HOLME ON SPALDING MOOR, SPRING 1987

Bursea House

Bursea House, which has been the focus of archaeological attention for some time, largely due to the interest of the farmer, Mr Alan Johnson, lies on a sandy plateau north of the River Foulness to the south of the parish of Holme. Since 1980 extensive fieldwork has been carried out there by the writer and members of the East Riding Archaeological Society, showing the site to have been a centre of Romano-British occupation and industry.

During the early Spring of this year, Mr Johnson started to hand-dig a drain across his kitchen garden, which lies close to the areas excavated by Durham University's Department of Archaeology and ERAS (Halkon 1983; Millett and Halkon 1984). As almost every shovelful of soil excavated in this new drain contained sherds of pottery, some of which the farmer recognised as being different from those discovered in the previous kiln site dig, he reported the find to the writer. Several of these sherds of pottery were identified by Peter Didsbury as being of a wheel-thrown Belgic type similar to those found at Dragonby, near Scunthorpe (May 1980), dating from the last years of the first millenium BC. Almost identical vessels have been found in recent years at Risby and Brantingham. It is likely that this pottery represents evidence of some commercial contact along the dendritic

creek system associated with the River Humber. Although from earlier in the Iron Age, the Hasholme boat provides a further example of the possibility of trade along these now relict watercourses.

The Dragonby-type pottery found at Bursea was associated with large pieces of iron slag, supporting other research of the writer in showing that substantial iron working was being carried out at this time.

It was decided that further action should be taken, and with full support from Mr and Mrs Johnson a geophysical survey was conducted by Mr Jim Pocock of Bradford University in which a series of ditches and other features were located. A 5m square trench was opened around the findspot of the pottery and slag by members of ERAS with support from Steve Roskams of York University. It was found that the top layers had been disturbed by the activity of rooting pigs and damaged by cultivation, but contained large quantities of pottery, including late 4th century AD painted parchment ware from Crambeck, near Malton. Undisturbed beneath this layer was a sequence of hearths comprising burnt stone and clay, with the greater part of a large hand-thrown vessel with slashed decoration across the top of the rim on top of one of these features.

A substantial ditch was excavated containing a large quantity of Iron Age pottery most of which was concentrated under a layer of cobbles. Similar cobbles appeared to have been deliberately laid over one section of the ditch to form a causeway. The highlight of this small excavation was the discovery of more of the original Dragonby-type vessel in a shallow gully which may have been associated with a building. A few fragments of bone were recovered and it is hoped that soil samples collected from the waterlogged deposits at the bottom of the main ditch will provide palaeo-environmental information complementing that already gained from previous excavations at Bursea.

Runner End

At the same time as the Bursea excavation, Mr Johnson also reported the discovery of extremely large quantities of medieval kiln wasters on a building plot belonging to Mr Paul Simpson, next to Runner End Farm. This pottery was very similar to material picked up during fieldwalking at "The Homelands" by the Field Study Group of ERAS and York University students in Spring 1986. Mr Simpson gave permission for sample rescue excavation to be carried out and a small team of Society members braved some very inclement weather to do this. Although a kiln was not found, the large amount of wasters and burnt material betrayed the presence of one close by. It appeared that the sherds had been piled up into a bank some 10m long.

This new discovery implies that the area covered by the medieval pottery industry in Holme and its output are much larger than hitherto suggested. The small watercourse, or "runner", and two ponds nearby may have been part of this industrial complex. A kiln site was excavated in 1944-5 near Kiln Garth, Selby Road, by Mr Ernest Greenfield, which has been dated to the later 15th century. The Holme kilns supplied the medieval town of Hull (Mayes and Hayfield 1980).

Acknowledgements

Thanks must be given to Mr and Mrs Johnson and Mr Simpson for allowing excavation to take place; to Mr S Laverack for filling in the excavation at Bursea; to all those who took part in excavation and fieldwork; and to Mr S Roskams and Mr P Jackson for the loan of equipment.

Peter Halkon

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SOUTH BANK LETTER

When one hears about archaeologists discovering a lost kingdom, the image that comes to mind is that of Indiana Jones fighting his way through the jungles of Central America and not of me fighting my way through the sprout-fields of South Humberside! You may therefore have been surprised to hear all of the excitement regarding my "discovery" of the lost Kingdom of Lindsey.

Some of you were no doubt shaken at this momentous discovery. Others, I suspect, were surprised that Lindsey should have ever been considered to have been lost; we have always known where it was. I would, however, argue that there is more to a kingdom than the mere knowledge of its existence and that work in recent years has, at last, started to show something of how people of the Anglo-Saxon Kingdom of Lindsey lived.

Perhaps I should fill in something of what we know about the Kingdom of Lindsey. The kingdom was probably established with the Anglo-Saxon settlement in the 5th century and retained some independence until the end of the 8th century. It was never powerful and its kings spent most of their time being dominated by their warlike neighbours in Mercia and Northumbria. Following the death of Aldfrith, Lindsey's last king, the kingdom was absorbed

by Mercia but was still administered by its own Alderman. At the end of the 9th century Lindsey was conquered by the Danes and became one of the most Scandinavian parts of the Danelaw.

The Kingdom of Lindsey is a very convenient area in which to work. It is small enough to be manageable and is, geographically, perhaps the best defined of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. Its borders are marked by the sea to the east, the marshes of Thorn Waste and the Witham fen to the west and south, and the Humber to the north. Across the Humber, of course, were you lot in the Kingdom of Deira.

The archaeology of Lindsey is amazing. Far from being a barbarous backwater, we can now see that the kingdom was in the forefront of Anglo-Saxon culture. It had good links with Carolingian Europe across the North Sea, and was very prosperous. This prosperity continued after the Viking conquest and we can now, at long last, see archaeological evidence for the Danish settlement. Excavations in Lincoln have shown the prosperity of the 9th and 10th century Danish city, and at Goltho we have the country's first 9th century Anglo-Saxon aristocratic manor.

With all of the work that has been carried out, Scunthorpe Museum has decided to put on its first major archaeology exhibition which is to be called "The Lost Kingdom: the Search for Anglo-Saxon Lindsey". This will open on September 11th and will show something of the riches of Anglo-Saxon and Danish Lindsey - and of the excitement of its rediscovery. For the exhibition we have borrowed from many other museums and will be putting on a good show. It closes at the end of January and so you will have chance to see it at least once!

Kevin Leahy

DIGGING INTO OUR POCKET

Every member knows that the Society exists to promote archaeology, and particularly the archaeology of our immediate area. Recent meetings of Committee have discussed ways of

encouraging more fieldwork and research activities by more members. Readers of ERAS NEWS will know full well that the Field Group is a very active body providing support to major fieldwork projects as well as developing its own initiatives which are worthy of financial support. The Society does not have a big reserve of funds to finance costly large-scale operations, but Committee feels there are means enough from its available resources to provide some level of grant-in-aid to members who seek support for work they are undertaking to extend our knowledge and appreciation of the archaeology of the East Riding.

Any awards made must of course be based on the usefulness of the project in archaeological terms and on the understanding that the results of the work will be made freely available through some form of publication. To this end the Committee has drawn up a set of guidelines, and these are reproduced below for information. Copies of the guidelines are also available on request from the Hon Secretary.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AWARDS:
GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

- 1 The Society invites applications for grant aid from any individual member, or group of members, engaged in archaeological fieldwork in the East Riding or undertaking research pertaining to the archaeology of the Riding which is intended for publication.
- 2 Awards are at the discretion of the Committee and are made on the strength of a detailed written application submitted to the Hon Secretary of the Society. Purchase of materials and equipment, hire of plant, photographic expenses, the cost of specialist services for scientific dating or geophysical surveying etc, preparation of artwork for publication, are

examples of the type of requests for financial assistance that are envisaged. Out of pocket expenses, such as travelling or accommodation costs, are not deemed appropriate items, unless an exceptional case can be presented or such expenditure is central to research requirements.

- 3 Applications should be submitted in advance of the start of the project or excavation season for which financial assistance is sought. There is no annual closing date for submissions but for their own benefit applicants are advised to make requests for grants as early as possible in the year to allow time for Committee's deliberations. It is appreciated that special cases will nevertheless arise, such as rapid-response fieldwork situations, where applications in advance may not be possible. In such cases retrospective requests for grant will be considered but this will be on the basis of documented expenditure only.
- 4 For assessment purposes applications should be structured and must contain certain basic information. The points listed below (i-vi) are offered as a guide:
 - i The nature of the project or research topic must be clearly stated and an outline of its history and forward timetable should be given. Both the overall aims and the immediate objectives of the work should be specified.
 - ii The amount and purpose of the grant requested should be clearly itemised. Supporting documentation, such as written estimates, scales of charges or product specification, should be included as appropriate wherever possible.
 - iii The involvement of Society members and the means by which this may be further encouraged should be described.
 - iv A publication proposal should be outlined.

- v If financial support has been received or is being sought from other institutions, details should be given.
- vi The application should include the name of a person suitably qualified to comment on the applicant's ability to pursue the work effectively.

5 A condition of award is that an interim statement, or statements, on the results or progress of the fieldwork or research should be submitted for publication either in the Society's journal, *East Riding Archaeologist*, or in *ERAS NEWS* as appropriate.

6 Where an application is related to an ongoing project and support for the project is given in one year, no commitment to continuing financial assistance should be implied. Each proposed season of work or phase of research will be judged according to its own merits.

ERAS Committee

April 1987

LECTURE SUMMARIES

4th February; MILITARY ARCHITECTURE, Andrew Saunders

The period under review was from AD1500 to the modern age. The development of gunpowder and guns led to a radical new approach to military architecture after the Middle Ages. The form of architecture adopted became a state monopoly because of the great expense involved in building permanent fortresses that were defensively and logistically self-sufficient. Four main period divisions may be distinguished, each with its own design forms which were linked to the current developments in weaponry:

- 1 Late medieval to the mid-16th century - Modifications to traditional fortification design
- 2 c1550-1800 - Bastion System
- 3 1820-1870 - Polygonal System

4 1870-1945 - Post-fortress System

The development of the systems defined was stimulated by identifiable phases of great danger, real or merely perceived, of which there are seven in the period under review:

- 1 Henry VIII and the threat from Spain in the first half of the 16th century
- 2 The Armada threat of the later 16th century
- 3 The Dutch Wars in the late 17th century
- 4 The threat from France under Napoleon in the late 18th and early 19th centuries
- 5 Fear of French hostility in the 1840s and 1850s
- 6 The German threat of the late 19th and early 20th centuries
- 7 The second World War 1939-45

PERIOD 1: The earliest MS illustration of canon is dated 1326. The defensive response to gunpowder-powered artillery was the use of bastions with gun-loops at low level which were added to existing fortifications. The first example of coastal defence employing canon is Dartmouth Castle. In 1517 a treatise by Albrecht Dürer advanced new ideas about this type of heavy fortification with rounded towers to deflect shot.

PERIOD 2: The principal behind the Bastion System was the provision of flanking cover to keep breaching batteries as far away as possible. This was a continental system born of necessity, and Italy showed innovations in the 1490s in response to French invasions. Angle forms were introduced and round towers became more pointed. At Ostia Antica the round towers had angular bastions. Drillons, or eared bastions, appeared. The system lent itself to symmetry and balance, and Renaissance engineers designed fortifications that were works of art, such as the defences at Palma. These developments reached England in the 1550s. The works on the east side of the River Hull were formative, whilst the defences of Berwick-on-Tweed in the 1550s demonstrate a full understanding of the principles. The best example of the system is in Europe, at Malta, where defences were provided in depth pushing further and further out from the original line of defence.

The 17th century saw greater refinements to the system. Architectural responses were made to the standardisation of artillery, which came about to permit the mass-production of ammunition. Dutch ideas entered Britain during the Civil War period and at the Restoration. Masonry and brickwork fortifications were further protected by earth embankments to absorb the force of shot. The zenith of the Bastion System was reached in the late 17th/early 18th centuries in France. The military architect, Vauban, designed many strongholds for Louis XIV, and French influences dominated the military architecture of Europe at this time.

In England this phase is represented by Fort George which was built to hold the Scottish Highlands. Dissatisfaction with the system began to creep in the 18th century. Being too static and with its emphasis on a core-defence strategy was burdensome with large garrisons to supply and maintain. Change came with the development of towers. They were used in the Channel Islands in the 1770s, earlier than the better known Martello Towers which were built to meet the Napoleonic invasion threat. In this form as a coastal defence system the use of towers at this time was, nevertheless, a novel development.

PERIOD 3: With the Polygonal System came the separation of the main network of defence from the local defence. For coastal defence a response had to be made to the improvements that had taken place in fire-power with guns having a range of 8000 yards and to the introduction of ironclad, propeller driven ships. In 1859 a Royal Commission on the country's defences recommended major works. Those that were implemented were the last works undertaken on such a scale. They included the provision of casemated batteries and barracks.

PERIOD 4: In the Post-fortress System the residential element was abandoned. Guns were moved away from the garrisons and the fort became an infantry redoubt. Structures of concrete and steel were sited to provide defence at points of vulnerability and it was the development of the machine-gun that led to the use of the pill-box system of coastal defence.

11th March; EXCAVATIONS AT OWSLEBURY, HANTS. Dr John Collis

As a schoolboy in 1962 with a known interest in field archaeology, Dr Collis was invited by Winchester Museum to investigate a site at Owslebury where the farmer had been finding Iron Age pottery. The site was worked by the young enthusiast during his final year at school. The discovery of a cemetery - rare for its period in the south of England - changed the complexion of the project when a grant was made by the then Ministry of Works. The schoolboy project ultimately was to expand into a ten-year programme of excavations on this Iron Age/Romano-British farming settlement.

The work involved the stripping of large areas. From this extensive examination of the site a changing pattern of land exploitation through time became apparent within which the modern-day farm, favouring the lower ground in the valley, is placed in the context of its ancient predecessor which occupied the higher ground. Four major phases of activity on the site could be discerned from the archaeological record.

PHASE 1: The earliest settlement took the form of a "banjo"-shaped ditched enclosure. The long-necked entrance lay opposite the area of richest pasture. The bank of the enclosure lay on the outside of the ditch, which varied between 3ft and 6ft wide. Clearly this was not defensive. The enclosure was a short-lived feature of the site and belonged to the fourth century BC. Storage pits were present within it set out in an arc, and some post holes were found although no certain house structure was identified. Bell-shaped storage pits, presumably used to contain the seed corn, were a feature of the site in this phase. These became progressively larger suggesting that the land under cultivation was being extended. Decorated pottery types were also introduced.

PHASE 2: Ditched trackways and a series of enclosures in an irregular configuration constituted a complete rearrangement of the Phase 1 pattern. The cemetery was associated with this period. Part of the trackway was excavated and a linch pin of bronze and iron, indicating wheeled traffic, was recovered. Storage pits continued to be used into the first century BC, but

then they disappeared from the site. An amphora handle of the period c150-50BC came from a late pit and indicates the importation of wine and the establishment of continental contacts. Coinage on the site also demonstrates links to Northern France, and material from this quarter would have reached the site via emporium at Hengistbury Head.

Amongst the burnt deposits in an otherwise clean ditch fill was found the burnt skeleton of a child. The cemetery itself spanned the period c50BC-AD125. It lay in an area exposed to ploughing and the remains were at a very shallow depth. Only one inhumation was found; all other burials of this phase were cremations. The inhumation was of a male in his late 30s or early 40s with a sword, spear and shield, a rare warrior burial at the time that it was discovered. In Europe parallels for the burial type belong to the mid first century BC. The grave occupied a central position in one enclosure of the cemetery area. In the centre of an added enclosure was a cremation in a large lidded pot, a wheel-thrown vessel originating in Northern France.

Nine post structures were recorded for this period and a number of sub-rectangular pits with sloping short sides and undercut long sides are enigmatic features of this phase.

PHASE 3: In the first century AD a perceived decline of the settlement was reversed. The revival saw yet another entirely new layout. Larger ditches were cut which produced much pottery including Gallo-Belgic wares. In the middle of the century the trading contacts appear to have been more easterly than southerly. In the wake of the Roman conquest the fortunes of the settlement appear to have picked up, an assessment made on the evidence of the burials and the associated pottery.

PHASE 4: A fundamental change occurred about the middle of the second century AD. Burials were taking place in the settlement area and there was a shift from cremation to inhumation practice without grave goods. There were only a few exceptions. A curiosity was the burial of a goat with a pot and a coin. Some pottery was made expressly for burial. The normal rite was extended inhumation, and male burials predominated.

All the evidence, including the pottery, points to a general decline. The change was possibly an organisational one, perhaps from a family farm to a bailiff system with the farm economy based on slave labour. A feature particular to this latest phase was the use of cess pits. Four were excavated and their existence indicates the implementation of a waste removal/collection policy, itself suggesting fairly tight controls.

The occupation of the site extended into the fourth century AD.

15th April: EASTER ISLAND. Dr John Flenley

Dr Flenley described the results of his palaeobotanical researches on Easter Island.

Easter Island takes its name from the fact that it was discovered by the Dutch on Easter Day 1722. The famous feature of the island is the massive standing stones fashioned from two types of volcanic rock. The statues (over 600 in all) are set out in groups (*ahus*) on low elevated platforms normally sloping down towards the settlement areas. Easter Island is isolated and has three volcanoes. It is triangular in shape and only 20km long. It is a grassy place today with very few trees, those there are having been introduced from Australia. No native trees occur. The native flora consists of only forty-six species, only one of which is a tree. The last example went in 1956. Many more species have been introduced such as yam, banana, triumphetta (a tree used for rope-making), maize, potatoes, and pineapple.

Thor Heyerdahl undertook excavations in the 1950s to attempt to solve the mystery of the statues. Radiocarbon dates were secured from charcoal, the earliest of which was AD300-400. The occupation periods were split into early, middle (AD110-1700), and late. In the early period the statues were crude and made from a variety of rock types. Evidence still survives to show that quarrying of the volcanic craters took place and there are examples of statues being fully shaped before detachment from the parent rock. Stone tools of harder rock were used to fashion the

statues and many are still to be found littering the ground at the working sites.

Some of the statues have long ears and Heyerdahl theorised that a battle between the "long ears" and "short ears" took place for supremacy on the island. Some of the statues were moved considerable distances, up to 10km, and movement by mechanical means would require timber, as would the process of setting them upright which Heyerdahl reconstructed. But it would appear that insufficient timber was available for this purpose. The statues were set into sockets at the *ahus*. Different rock types were used for the eyes; the "hats" were drum-shaped making them easy to transport.

A form of writing developed on the island known as Rongo-Rongo script. Twenty tablets are extant depicting figures. These have never been deciphered to the satisfaction of all. Each successive row of writing is inverted, a style found only elsewhere in the Indus Valley and Central America.

The evidence of houses showed that a former construction method was the use of stone bases with sockets for wall posts, indicating availability of timber.

Some catastrophe occurred in the past which led to the deliberate destruction of the statues. Stones were placed on the ground in such a way that as the statues were toppled they broke at the neck.

By the 1770s the population of the island was about 4000 people, but at an earlier date it seems likely that it was about 10,000. Europeans reported that the natives were given to theft, and amongst the native population there were stories of famine and warfare.

A bird cult seems to have developed associated with offshore islands where the sooty tern is found. "Bird men" were created and revered by the people. Later there was a history of forcible expatriation of the males to work in Peruvian salt mines. Many were killed by small pox and the disease was brought back when they returned.

An environmental history of Easter Island is contained within the layers sequentially deposited in the three crater swamps. Dr Flenley undertook a study of each of them. At the caldera Rano Raraku three bores were put down through the swamp. An inwash of soil into the lake was evidenced in the core at about one metre down. A radiocarbon date for the sediments showed that the lake was 35,000 years old, and the inwash layer was c1000 years old. Chemical analyses were also undertaken on the samples and these indicated that something was happening in the vicinity of the lake concentrating around the inwash layer.

In the caldera Rano Kao one borehole was put down and a single reed plant originating from South America was found to predominate. On the edge another native of South America, a polygonum (a medicinal plant), was found to occur. This lake was younger at only c1300 years old. The chemistry showed peaks at about 3 to 4 metres down, and fossilized pollen grains were extracted and counted to give a history of the vegetation.

The polygonum has been on the island for only c1000 years, but the large sedge present in the core can be shown to have been on the island for 35,000 years - a native species, therefore, and not an import by man as Heyerdahl maintained. The pollen also showed the presence of a species of palm (probably not coconut) and a large shrub of the dandelion family. But neither of these occur on the island today. A significant change in vegetation is apparent. The *triumfetta* tree is also an indigenous species according to the pollen record, which means that timber and raw materials for rope were available to the first peoples who came to the island.

Woody plants were in fact a feature of the island's vegetation until relatively recently. The major change occurred between 800 and 1400 years ago. There is no doubt that the island was deforested. The loss of trees would account for the erosion which the inwash soils in the cores demonstrate. The forest clearance was the work of the native population, and the borehole samples have provided the finest archaeological record of this effect anywhere.

An appendix to the story is provided by the discovery in caves of nut shells of a palm species very close to the Chilean Wine Palm. The fruits are eaten by man and animals, and are also used to make wine. A specimen is in Kew Gardens and has the distinction of being the largest glasshouse plant in the world. The type of tree it is lends itself in trunk form as a roller, and this may have been the mechanism for moving the statues. The palms, however, may have failed to regenerate because of rats. Rats were introduced to the island by man as a food resource and they may have helped to render the palm extinct by consuming its fruits.

Dr Flenley left his audience with a summation of arresting impact; the human population of Easter Island was healthy, numerous, fecund and intelligent, living in a simple, self-contained ecosystem; and they destroyed it. What hope for us living in a very complex one?

13th May: INCLESMOOR AND BEYOND, 1407. Prof Maurice Beresford

The stimulus for the investigation of Inclesmoor was provided by the Oxford University Press's decision to publish a collection of fifty manuscript maps of villages and estates drawn before 1500. This has now been published at £250 per copy! Professor Beresford was allocated the map of Inclesmoor for study, an area of some 400 square miles to the south and east of Goole and now known as the marshland.

The map was made on a full sheepskin and covers the area bounded by the Ouse, Trent and Old Don (east branch) to the north, east and south, and the west branch of the Don (River Tanne) to the west. The map is undated, though catalogued (incorrectly as Prof Beresford later showed) in the Public Record Office as early sixteenth century because of the ambition of its draughtmanship. This incorrect dating had prevented the discovery of any associated documentation (a lawsuit as it turned out), simply because material of the wrong period had been looked at. The map depicts waterways in blue and roads in red. By showing vegetation the connection between the riverine villages around the edge with

the marsh itself, represented in green, is brought out indicating penetration into the moor from the villages. The villages themselves are depicted with their churches, if existing; houses, tiled or thatched; and areas of arable. The four points of the compass are marked and the village names are given so as to be read from each compass point, ie the map was meant to be walked around while being looked at.

The map is in the archives of the Duchy of Lancaster, which are based at Pontefract, with a sub-base at Snaith. The scale is not very accurate, particularly outside Inclesmoor, but it provided a means of identifying features of the area for knowledgeable and interested parties. The context of the map is a lawsuit concerning disputed boundaries, of which it gives a convenient summary. It is supported by a book of AD1407 consisting of deeds and including as its centrepiece a simplified map of the same area covered by the large map. The deeds which are here copied date from 1206 to 1380+ and they record grants of land and rights of access in the moor by Dukes or tenants mainly to monastic houses.

Another item of supportive documentation which Prof Beresford examined was the files of receipts of the Duchy appertaining to the area, and this served to date the map. The receipt file shows an expense claim for two of the Duchy's surveyors who surveyed Inclesmoor in November 1406. This was a time after the date of the last recorded deed and matched the dating of the collection in the parchment book, and there is no record of any litigation subsequent to this survey. The sheepskin map, therefore, can be seen to belong to this period and would have been drawn in 1407.

On the map Snaith and Cowick, though beyond the limits of the marshland, have their boundaries pushing into the marsh. The port of Airmyn (man-made with a lighthouse) appears as a "frog". The old embankment road (the modern A161) runs eastwards north of the marshland, crossing a warping dyke and sluice at Swinefleet and passing other tongues driven into the marsh from Reedness to Gusefleet/Adlingfleet.

Other items of interest also appear, such as a bank pale and parish boundary crosses, one of which survives on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1850. That the riverine parishes each claimed chunks of the marsh from all sides is demonstrated by the course of the parish boundaries which follow the lines of these earlier penetrations. Why this eagerness by the peoples round about to lay claim to the marsh?

In addition to the provision of fish, fowl, withies and rushes, the deeds indicate that the prize was peat. Rights of turbary with fixed access roads were recorded. One of 1304 records a footway of sixteen yards width from Inclesmoor to the Ouse. Similarly a lawsuit of May 1300 mentions a quay at Swinefleet and confirmation of access roads by boundary stones. Thornton Abbey received a grant of 13,000 turves. The brickmakers at Hull got 10,000, and the potters at Snaith also used peat from the moor.

The exploitation of the marshland was thus of industrial proportions, with peat as the staple fuel of the area. The map thus belongs to a time when the local people were arguing about an increasingly scarce natural asset. Each was demanding the continuation of its established rights to a share of this dwindling resource.

ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE HUMBER

CBA Group 4, in conjunction with the University of Hull's Department of Adult and Continuing Education, is celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the discovery of the first of the Ferriby boats in the mud of the River Humber by hosting a day school entitled "The Humber and its Environs in History and Prehistory". This is to be held on Saturday 19th September in Lecture Theatre C in the Arts Building on the University campus. Many members will be keen to attend this very special event, and details of the meeting including a booking slip are being circulated with this newsletter.

An added point of interest is that the University is also celebrating this year its sixtieth anniversary and has agreed to publish a volume of papers developing the theme of the day school under the editorship of Dave Crowther and Steve Ellis.

... AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Whilst we are on the subject of publication, it is worth mentioning that this year has seen the issue of a number of inexpensive booklets dealing with various aspects of the archaeology of our area.

The Archaeology Unit, Humberside County Architects Department, has released four separate titles on the archaeology of Humberside in Prehistory, in the Roman period, in the Anglo-Saxon period, and in the Middle Ages. The booklets have been produced in conjunction with the Manpower Services Commission and have been written to accompany four displays which illustrate the archaeology of these same four periods. The booklets self-contained summaries in their own right and are exceptionally good value at only 60p each. They are available from the Archaeology Unit, County Hall, Beverley. Teachers or exhibition organisers may care to note that the displays themselves are available for educational purposes. Contact the Archaeology Unit if you would like further information.

Humberside Leisure Services Department's County Heritage Unit has also just published a lavishly illustrated account of the Archaeology of Humberside by Ben Whitwell and Jeff Watkins at £2. It is available from the Central Library and will no doubt also find its way into bookshops because of its undoubted popular appeal. Watch out also for the Beverley Friary report, entitled "Excavations at the Dominican Priory Beverley", also in the County Heritage Series of publications and due to be published later this year.

Finally, Hull City Council's Planning Department has published an interim report on the Archaeology of the Beverley

Gate, Hull. This is also excellent value at only 50p. It is available in bookshops (if you can't find it, ask them to stock it - and all the other titles mentioned too!), from the Central Library, from Hull Museums, and from the City Planning Department in the Guildhall.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

It may seem a bit late in the year for gently nudging those members who have overlooked their subscription payment, but if you find in sorting through the contents of this mailing that you are the (un)lucky recipient of a concise little note from Susan Gibson, rest in the contentment of knowing that you have already enjoyed six months of Society membership free of charge! However, without further action on your part, amongst other good things coming up this year you will miss out on the weighty forthcoming journal, *East Riding Archaeologist* 8 ("Excavations in High Street and Blackfriargate", Number 5 in the *Hull Old Town Report Series*, somewhat delayed but due to be published now in the autumn and of course issued free to members.

If you find that you have been singled out for the subscription reminder but feel that there must be some mistake because you are paying by Banker's Order, please check to see whether your Order has been changed to take account of the current subscription rate. This is a common cause of confusion, and an incomplete subscription payment means that you will not appear in the Society's records as a paid-up member. This is obviously an unsatisfactory state of affairs from both points of view, since the maintenance of an out-of-date Standing Order implies an intention to remain in membership, whilst the Hon Treasurer must take the line that a shortfall in the subscription is a disqualification from full membership. The Society certainly does not wish to "lose" members in this way, so please check on the position if something seems to be amiss in your case.

A CHANGE OF EDITOR

The twenty-fifth issue of ERAS NEWS seems to be the right sort of number for the present editor to finish on. And now is the time too, for other reasons, to hand over the editorship of the Society's newsletter to another seeker after archaeological copy! You will be pleased to know that Valerie Fairhurst will be taking over this enjoyable pursuit with the next issue. Let me take this opportunity then of thanking everyone who has contributed to the production of ERAS NEWS since number 1 in May 1979. And let me part with the exhortation that the support be maintained in order to ensure its continuation. I hope too that it has been as enjoyable to read as it has been for me to compile. There is a little story behind this which perhaps now is the time to share.

The late Jack Robins, an active Society member from the earliest days, a diligent and respected Chairman from 1973-76, and a true gentleman if ever there was one, quietly observed the serious-minded professional organisation of archaeology expanding around him, and on one occasion while he was Chairman shared with me his philosophy of the subject which seemed to be out of step with the prevailing condition. It was simply this: that at the bottom of it all archaeology was actually fun for a lot of people.

If the odd little pieces of nonsense that have surfaced periodically in ERAS NEWS over its first eight years have been a source of amusement (or perhaps even bemusement) to readers, then I can reveal now that deep down some of us have always felt the same way about archaeology as Jack Robins did!