

ERAS news

No. 23

August 1986

25 YEARS (4/1)

ERAS NEWS 20 carried a piece chronicling the twenty-five years of the Society's history. The article did not succeed in stimulating a fireworks display of unprecedented extravagance to mark the occasion of the Society's jubilee, but there remains a feeling nonetheless that the year should not pass entirely uncelebrated. It is planned therefore to make something of a special event on the evening of December 10th, when Dr Ian Stead is scheduled to speak to the Society on the remarkable discovery of Lindow man (otherwise known as the bog man, or Pete Marsh!). Ian Stead is himself one of the society's founder members, and we are delighted to announce that the Honorary Chairman for the evening will be John Bartlett, one-time director of Hull Museums and, of course, the Society's first Secretary and motivator in its formative and developing years.

It will be an occasion too to remind ourselves, and perhaps for most members today to review for the first time, the work and achievements of the East Riding Archaeological Society since its foundation. It is intended to illustrate the exploits of the Society over its twenty-five years by an exhibition of photographs, finds, and documents.

But in the mounting of this display the Committee needs your help, not only in providing as full a picture as possible but

EAST RIDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

also in the actual presentation of the material itself. There will be further announcements at forthcoming lecture meetings, but in the meantime if you would like to help to prepare this celebration of the Society's twenty-fifth birthday, please contact David Crowther at Hull Museums, or have a word with any of the members of Committee.

AN ERAS ARCHIVE

A subject not unrelated to the above is a proposal by one of our new Committee members, Peter Didsbury, to establish a documented archive of the Society's history in all its facets for deposition in the Local History Library. This would be an invaluable, growing source of reference available to anyone interested in the archaeology of the East Riding and it would be of particular use to students working on project assignments. The Society's journal, EAST RIDING ARCHAEOLOGIST, and issues of ERAS NEWS are already taken by the Local History Library, and it is a logical and desirable step to establish a much more comprehensive archive as suggested. There already exists a scrapbook of newspaper cuttings, lecture summaries, and a miscellany of ERAS circulars to members, etc., but this is far from complete. For example (and unbelievably), there is no complete run of membership cards/lecture programmes held by the Hon. Secretary. It is certain, however, that there will be many members who have compiled their own file or cutting book of archaeology, or have simply retained their ERAS papers over the years.

To set up an ordered archive in the first instance therefore, we are seeking your help. If you have any such material that you would be prepared to donate, or merely lend in order for it to be photocopied for inclusion, please contact the Hon. Editor of ERAS NEWS in the first instance, or have a word with Peter Didsbury or any Committee member at lecture meetings as soon as possible.

In the meantime and to jog the old memory, Jean Dawes who retired from the Hon. Secretaryship at the AGM has compiled a

little more of the Society's background, together with a roll-call of the principal officers gleaned from the Minute Book ...

The East Riding Archaeological Society was inaugurated at a meeting on October 26th, 1960, and the first proper full meeting of the Society took place at the Victoria Galleries, Hull, on January 9th, 1961. One hundred and five people were present and after voting on the proposed constitution and electing the first Officers, they heard a lecture by Mr J.S. Wacher on *"The Roman Fort and Town at Brough-on-Humber"*.

The original Committee consisted of Mr J.E. Bartlett, Mr F.W. Brooks, Mr G.D. Lloyd, Mr T.E. Norfolk, Professor A.F. Norman, Mr K.A. MacMahon, Professor W.J. Varley, Mr R.H. Whiteing, Mr J.G. Watts, and Mr E.V. Wright. Since that time sixty members have served on the Committee from one to fifteen times each. The record of fifteen years service belongs to Mr Derek Brooks, with a further seven individual members topping twelve years apiece. The major Officers of the Committee are listed below. Until 1979, the retiring Chairman was automatically elected as Vice-chairman for the period of his successor's term in office.

	CHAIRMAN	HONORARY SECRETARY
1960	Mr F.W. Brooks	Mr J.E. Bartlett
1964	Mr E.V. Wright	↓
1967	Prof W.J. Varley	↓
1970	Mr A.L. Binns	Mr C. Clappison
1972	↓	Mr A. Burl
1973	Mr J Robins	↓
1976	Prof B. Jennings	Mrs P. Simcock
1978	↓	Mr. P. Armstrong
1979	Mrs J.D. Dawes	↓
1981	↓	Mrs M. Redpath
1981	↓	Mr P. Wilkinson
1982	Mr E.K. Simcock	↓
1984	↓	Mrs J.D. Dawes
1985	Prof A.F. Norman	↓

1986

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Miss V.J. Fairhurst

ARCHAEOLOGY AT LARGE

After a relatively slow and unpromising start to the year there has been a surge of activity calling for rapid archaeological responses by the Archaeology Unit, Hull Museums, and ERAS at a number of sites in the county. Some approaches are, of course, more measured, such as the work at Bursea and Shiptonthorpe in the continuing programme of work in the Holme-on-Spalding Moor area, details of which were advertised with ERAS NEWS 22. But site work is either just completed, currently under way, scheduled to commence within a matter of days, or crying out for attention at no fewer than eleven other sites in all! They are: Stray Farm (medieval bridge structure near Holme-on-Spalding Moor - see p 10), Sharpe's Warehouse (medieval building in High Street, Hull), Brantingham Cockle Pits (RB villa), Arnold, near Long Riston (Iron Age settlement), North Cave (Iron Age industrial complex), Beverley Gate and Hessle Gate (medieval town defences of Hull - see p 11), North Ferriby (Iron Age/RB occupation), Beverley Eastgate (Dominican Friary site), Beverley Grovehill (medieval tile kiln complex), Thwing (Anglo-Saxon cemetery - see p 10), and Grimsby (medieval and earlier waterfront site).

To say that resources are stretched is something of an understatement. Time is also at a premium, which is why the story behind each and every one of these sites cannot be rehearsed at length and at leisure now. But ERAS members can of course become not only well-informed but quite deeply involved too in almost all of the fieldwork activities in our area through the Field Study Group. Most projects are short-staffed and volunteer assistance at all levels is welcomed. Enlist now!

THE DESTRUCTION OF HEDON'S PAST

Since starting at the Dorset Institute of Higher Education in September of last year, I have been unable to keep a watchful eye on the numerous building activities that seem to be plaguing the town of Hedon at this present time. It appears that the developers are hell-bent on developing every last bit of open space within the town boundary. This, in addition to destroying the character of the town, is also threatening the town's archaeology more and more. Besides the excavation carried out by Richard Williams in 1975/76 (published as *The Medieval Town of Hedon* by Colin Hayfield and Terry Slater), very little other work has been carried out within the town.

Despite the scheduling of the more sensitive areas of the town, well over a quarter of this has already been developed in recent years. Just in the four months since my last visit at Christmas, two further sections of the scheduled area have been encroached upon. One of these, down Ivy Lane and involving the extension of the town cemetery, is in a particularly sensitive area. This part of the town, still largely undeveloped (although even here the developers are starting to make inroads) is thought to contain the earliest phases of Hedon's development.

I was also sad to note on my return home the loss of Hedon's last vestige of maritime history. All the section of the Haven that entered the town and connected the Humber to the medieval port of Hedon has now been filled in, and the area at present resembles a World War I battlefield. With more developments undoubtedly on the way, I'm sorry to say the future looks bleak for the town's dwindling archaeology.

Phil Hampel

[Footnote: The concern that Phil Hampel rightly expresses in this piece, which was written last April, is shared by others both in the Unit and at HBMC (English Heritage). Moves are currently afoot to rationalise the schedule and to improve the monitoring procedures to safeguard what remains of Hedon's undoubtedly

valuable and important archaeology. We can all help to ensure that wanton destruction of archaeological sites is minimised by striving to bring into partnership those who unwittingly or otherwise fail to recognise the value of our common archaeological heritage. Ignorance, complacency and resignation has to be replaced by awareness, vigilance and a sense of responsibility by all concerned. Ed]

SOUTH BANK LETTER

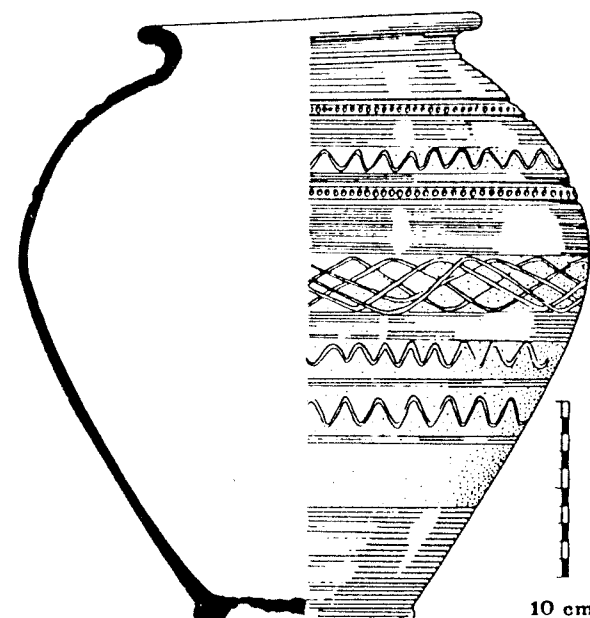
If there is one sort of archaeological discovery that excites the public imagination it is the coin hoard. Buried treasure is really the stuff of headlines but, as I have pointed out to journalists in the past, the archaeological importance of most coin hoards is very limited. This attitude on my part led one member of the press to say that the discovery, in South Humberstone, of King Tut with all the trimmings would at best produce a comment of "possibly significant" from me! I expect that readers of these priceless pages are well aware that something need not be made of gold or silver to be archaeologically valuable. The finding of a small, bronze brooch can be more significant than the discovery of a hoard of silver coins.

Coin hoards can of course give us important information about the past; they are vital to the numismatist on whose work we depend when using coins to date our excavations. They can help fill out the evidence of history. Most of the coin hoards found date from troubled periods of history during, for instance, the third and fourth centuries, and later during the seventeenth century. People with money wished to conceal it and they often failed to collect their savings.

All of this brings me to the subject of this epistle, the Walcot hoard. It was found in 1931 but has only just been published in detail (we are very thorough on the South Bank). The find consisted of a highly decorated Roman greyware pot, measuring

345mm (13.70") high by 320mm (12.50") diameter, which contained the massive total of five small, brass coins. I expect that you are all saying to yourselves "Poor old Kev, just his luck, that bloody great pot with damn all in it". Well, let me tell you that five coins is, in my mind, just about right.

The five coins range in date from AD330 to 337 and are all quite unworn, showing that the hoard was deposited not long after 337. What is archaeologically important is that this date can be extended to the pot and can help with the dating of pottery. Of course, there are objections to this simple assumption: how old was the pot when the coins were put in it? In this case the pot is both a local product and a kiln waster, and it is unlikely that it would have been very old when turned into the fourth century version of a bank account.



Why did this large pot contain only five coins? The answer must be that they are the remains of a large hoard, most of which was removed in antiquity by the person who was, we hope, their rightful owner. Fortunately, he was thoughtful enough to leave me just enough coins to date the pot but not with the mind-destroying task of identifying the hundreds of coins that it once no doubt contained.

Kevin Leahy

LECTURE SUMMARY

19th March; THE THWING PROJECT 1973-85: FROM THE NEOLITHIC TO THE
MIDDLE AGES IN TWELVE YEARS. Terry Manby

Archaeological work at Paddock Hill, Thwing, was planned as a major project of landscape archaeology on the Wolds. The focus of the project is a neolithic henge monument which proved upon excavation to have been a major centre over many periods.

Thwing lies south of the Great Wold Valley near Rudston. The site is on a prominent ridge, and the henge monument which is 300 feet in diameter was revealed by aerial photography by J.K. St. Joseph, even though it survives on the ground as an earthwork - not however recorded by the Ordnance Survey. The entire area of the site and its surroundings have been geophysically surveyed, revealing a dyke system, round and square barrows, and a field system around the henge.

Excavation revealed the site as a Class II henge, having opposed entrances, and dated to c2000BC. The ditch was six feet deep and contained Beaker pottery. Recutting of the ditch to a V-shape with steep sides demonstrates a second period of use, and Bronze Age rubbish accumulated within it. A large hollow at the centre of the henge showed several phases of activity. The monument has many similarities with Cairnpapple Hill, Lothian. The Bronze Age refuse in the reworked ditch contained much burnt material. A Bronze Age bronze-working installation was found and at the centre lay a massive timber building, possibly standing to

a height of 60 or 70 feet. The outer ditch in this period was 10 feet deep and 25 feet wide at the top - clearly defensive in character. Beam slots and post holes betrayed the strong entrance gateway, and tie-backs from front to back of the associated rampart held the bank material in place. A chalk pavement of half-crescentic plan lay in the central hollow with a pit containing pottery and a burial. A ring of posts surrounded the area and the central building was constructed around this. A ring slot to take sills with an inner ring of double post settings provided the ground plan of the massive structure, 90 feet in diameter. Also of this period was an unweathered hollow, possibly therefore formerly lined to serve as a water catchment, which was enclosed by posts. A large rectangular trough may have been used for heating water. The period of occupation, 1400-1100BC, was marked by a host of finds. Grimthorpe, Barmston, Enthorpe, Boltby, and Eston Nab are other community sites in the Riding which were occupied in the same period. Such sites occupy central positions in their areas and would appear to have served as ritual and political foci.

The henge was also occupied on a significant scale in the Anglo-Saxon period after a long period of apparent abandonment. Late 7th to 9th century AD occupation was in evidence. A hall structure, 20 x 10 metres, and smaller grubenhausen (sunken-floored buildings) were identified together with palisade trenches marking out enclosures. The area also contained a cemetery of this period. Tightly compressed burials were aligned east to west as well as slightly off-east to west. The bodies lay on their backs and on their sides (in one instance on its face and therefore possibly a malefactor), and all ages and both sexes are represented. Marker posts were placed at both head and feet, and coffin fittings were present in some graves. Several graves were reopened for further burials. An iron-bound box with a lead patch accompanied one burial. The evidence points to a high status burial ground.

Also within the henge was an Anglo-Saxon building open at its west end and containing a hearth and an oven, but there was a

marked absence of occupation debris of the period across the area. However, rubbish did gather in the old Bronze Age ditches. The enclosures have parallels at Yeavering, and the site would appear to have been a moot or administrative centre where the people of Deira would have been required to come to pay taxes and where military musters might have been held. A recollection of this old meeting place may perhaps be discerned in the name of Dickering (=Dyke Ring) wapentake.

ERAS REPORT: Terry Manby returns to Faddock Hill, Thwing, shortly to continue the excavation of the Anglo-Saxon burials and would be pleased to hear from Society members who would be prepared to assist in this work. Anyone interested should contact Mr Manby for further particulars at Doncaster Museum and Art Gallery, Chequer Road, Doncaster.

A MEDIEVAL BRIDGE AT STRAY FARM,
HOLME-ON-SPALDING MOOR (SE 843896)

During the excavation of a large irrigation pond at Stray Farm, Holme-on-Spalding Moor, not far from the main Holme/Market Weighton road, several large pieces of timber were removed by mechanical excavators. These were laid on the side of the trench by the digger driver, Mr David Jackson. There they were recognised by the landowner, Mr P. Payne and his sons, as being of potential importance. Mr and Mrs Payne informed me of their discovery and I visited the site on May 11th accompanied by Steve Roskams of York University's Archaeology Department. Several large worked timbers, some with joints fastened with dowels were identified as being possibly medieval in date. Some large timbers were still in situ in the trench section.

During the whole of the next week the area was cleared and recorded with the help of ERAS Field Study Group members, Hull Museums and students from York University, led by Steve Roskams. The structure appeared to be a bridge or causeway across a relict

stream bed, which probably formed a former branch of the River Foulness, prior to canalisation. The structure consisted of piles, large limestone blocks, and squared-off timbers, the largest being about 2 metres in length. Several of these were found in situ, still connected to upright piles. The latter were found in a small trench opened on the northern edge of the trench, into the field. The remainder of the timbers will be excavated during the coming season's ERAS/Durham University joint excavation. Meanwhile, a watching brief has been carried out by John Dent.

Finds included the bones of horse, cattle and sheep, sherds of pottery which have been provisionally identified by Mr K. Leahy of Scunthorpe Museum as being 12th-13th century in date. The most impressive find was a crossbow trigger mechanism made out of antler. All finds were in a layer of dark silt which contained frequent molluscs, identified provisionally as species associated with sluggish fresh water, including a large amount of rotting vegetation. The whole site had been covered by about 0.5 meters of wind-blown yellow sand. Environmental samples were taken and Dr John Flenley has offered to supervise work on these. The timbers have been drawn and recorded by Steve Roskams, and samples taken for dendrochronology.

It is possible that the structure is recorded in a charter of c.1210, in which William Constable undertakes to make a bridge for wagons and carts for those holding land in the northern area of Holme-on-Spalding Moor (Clay, C.T., 1965 "Early Yorkshire Charters Vol XII", YAS Record Series, p.72).

Thanks must be given to Mr Payne and family for their generosity in allowing work to go ahead; to Hagrapat Ltd., Subwith for their help; to John Dent and David Crowther for the loan of tools and equipment; to Steve Roskams for his help and advice; and to all those who took part in the excavation.

Peter Halkon

EXCAVATIONS AT THE BEVERLEY GATE, HULL

The Archaeology Unit of the Humberside County Architects Department, in conjunction with Hull City Museum, Hull City Planning Department and Hull City Engineers Department, began a site investigation on June 30th to locate the position of the Beverley Gate and to examine its survival and condition. These works are in advance of a new paving scheme for the area within which it is planned to define the remains of the Gate if the excavation proves successful in establishing its ground plan. Similar investigations are also planned for the Hesse Gate which lies at the west end of Humber Street close to the Humber Dock.

The Medieval Defences of Hull

In the medieval period Hull was a strongly fortified port of strategic importance to the Crown. It was enclosed by a moat and a stout wall of brick linking the Hull to the Humber. The construction of these major defences was begun soon after 1321 when a licence to build was granted by Edward II. The Chamberlains' Accounts show that the work of construction continued throughout the fourteenth century, and additions and repairs are chronicled into the seventeenth century. The original wall circuit measured 2491 yards and had towers placed at intervals within the curtain together with a number of gates at the main points of entry. Of these, the four principal ones were North Gate, Hesse Gate, Myton Gate, and Beverley Gate, this last perhaps always the most important entrance to the town.

Beverley Gate

The Beverley Gate took its name from its position in the wall circuit where the main thoroughfare to Hull's ancient neighbour, Beverley, eight miles to the north, left the town. Within the walls the street leading to the Beverley Gate was first known as Aldgate. Later the name changed to Whitefriargate, after the Carmelite, or White, friars whose house lay on the south side of the street close to the defences. In the street names the "gate"

part is the old Scandinavian word, *gata*, meaning street and which later came to refer to the barriers which were erected at their ends. Beverley Gate is perhaps best known as the scene of that momentous event early in the Civil War when the Parliamentary governor, Sir John Hotham, denied King Charles I and his retinue entry to the town on 23rd April 1642.

Plans of the Town Defences

There are two plans of the town that are particularly valuable for the detail they provide about the character and appearance of the town defences and the gateways. The earliest was drawn c.1540 and shows six gates in the circuit: a "watergate" giving access to the Humber foreshore, Hesse Gate in the south-west corner of the town, Myton Gate at the mid-point on the western side, Beverley Gate at the north-west corner, and North Gate close to the river Hull and through which High Street passed. Beverley Gate appears as the most monumental of all with a towering broach spire. Windmills and the town gibbet are shown beyond the bridge which spanned the moat in front of the gate.

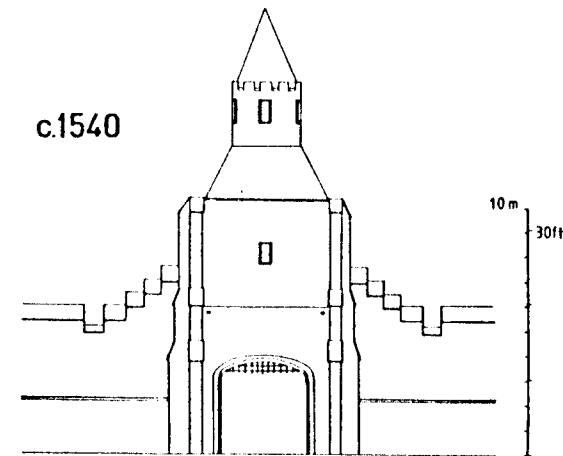


Fig. 1

The well-known plan of Hull by Wenceslas Hollar drawn a hundred years later c.1640, only two years before the episode between the governor and Charles I, shows the same six gates plus two others, each posterns, on the western side. One lay at the end of Blanket Row; the other at the end of the street whose name still signals its position to the present day, Posterngate. Like these, Lowgate and the gate against the Humber shore were also posterns and were not regular or main points of exit. Hollar's plan also depicts the way in which the gates at the ends of the moat - North Gate at the north-east and Hessele Gate at the south-west - were built out over the moat to contain the apparatus needed to open and close sluices, or "cloughs", in order to control the outfall into the tidal rivers.

The Appearance of the Beverley Gate

The Beverley Gate, as Hollar shows it, is less imposing than in the earlier view since it no longer has its spire, but guard chambers flanking the entrance and a room above the gate can be discerned. It is a useful reminder that the gates, the towers and the wall itself were all subjected to changes in the course of the

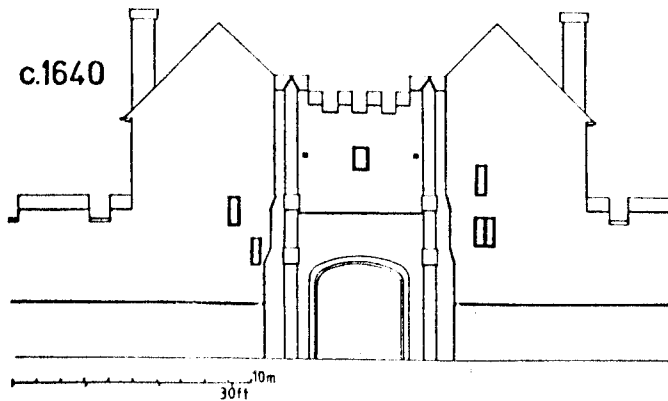


Fig. 2

long and chequered history of the town defences. From a careful examination of these representations and drawing upon a number of other later sources too, attempts have been made to reconstruct the appearance of the Beverley Gate as it would have been seen by people approaching the walled town in the middle ages. The two elevations shown in Figs. 1 and 2 are versions of reconstructions compiled more than twenty years ago by Col. R.W.S. Norfolk. The plan view of the gate (Fig 3) is a further speculation which excavation may substantiate or disprove.

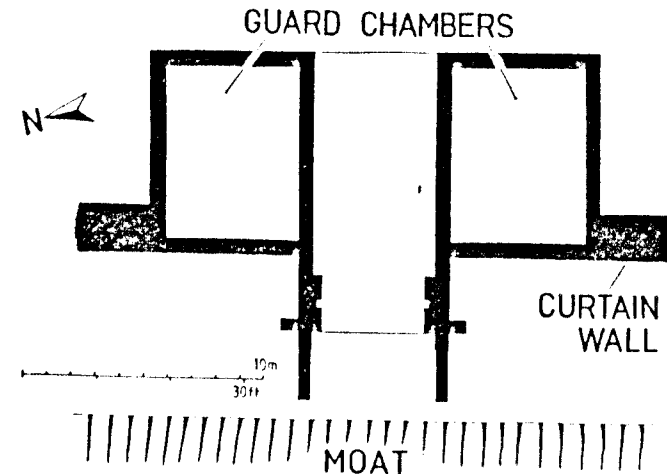


Fig. 3

What Happened to the Walls?

No trace of the town walls survive above ground today. Ever since the time that the defences were first built, the cost of upkeeping such extensive works was a burden upon the town. By the eighteenth century they were in serious decay, and in a period when their military value had long since passed it was a terminal decline. The confining nature of the walls in a by-now

overcrowded town was also felt to be a hazard to the health and well-being of the populace. The walls were therefore abandoned making way for an expansion of the town's port facilities. A chain of linked docks, the first of which was opened in 1778, replaced the old defensive circuit. The Beverley Gate was taken down in 1776.

The Remains of the Town Defences Below Ground

Over the years there have been several exposures of the old walls although not all have been reported and there remain some uncertainties in alignments. The broad outline, however, is well known and much appears to have been lost in the excavation of the nineteenth century docks on the western side of the medieval town.

In 1969 an excavation in North Walls Road by Hull Museums and the East Riding Archaeological Society revealed the plan of an interval tower which remained standing to a height of more than seven feet, the uppermost surviving part being as little as eighteen inches below the present day ground level. But most significantly the excavation proved beyond doubt that the town wall was constructed of brick and not stone. The results of this valuable excavation also allowed an estimation of the quantities of brick needed for the whole work - 4.7 million! Because it is known that building began soon after 1321, the defences of Hull can therefore be seen to represent a bold new concept in constructional design and execution that was unparalleled for the country as a whole. Nowhere else in England at this time was brick adopted on this scale.

The "sea wall", an integral part of the town defences built against the Humber, has also been glimpsed on the southern side of Humber Street. At different times in recent years both the North Gate and the Myton Gate have been partially exposed and their locations verified. The Myton Gate was unfortunately very largely destroyed in the course of the construction of the South Orbital Road in 1976. If the Beverley Gate and the Hessele Gate have

escaped the ravages of time, however, they may soon re-emerge once again as gateways into Hull's Old Town.

Peter Armstrong

CORRESPONDENCE

Department of Archaeology,
Hull City Museums

Dear Editor,

Full marks to David Haldenby (Correspondence Column, ERAS NEWS 22) for the regret he expresses at the "incredible price that the archaeological world has paid in terms of lost information through its refusal to work with and educate metal detector users".

I share his concern. That is why I have never refused to work with a metal detector user nor, I think, have I ever refused to educate one. Nor have I refused to work with a drainage contractor, or an arable farmer, or a supermarket developer, or someone who has dug the garden, or anyone else in the earthmoving or demolition business.

Everyone, yes even those outside David Haldenby's "archaeological world" (wherever that may be) stands to benefit from the goodwill and initiative of people who find something old or curious in the course of their work and bring the thing into the museum to learn something of their discovery. If it is weird or wonderful, we tell them so as best we can, using the limited time and resources at our disposal. We call it an identification service, and it's free. If we think an item has display, research or teaching potential, we may ask the owner (generally in these cases the finder) to consider offering it to the museum to add to that great public resource, the collection.

Part of my job is to manage and develop the archaeology collection in all sorts of ways. An hour spent away from the

collection is an hour lost in the care and curation of a donor's generosity. Mindful of this, I have to exercise my judgement as to where my limited time and resources are best spent. Now certain decisions are easier than others.

Consider, for example, the question of identification services for even the most sincerely motivated private collectors; people who actively collect antiquities out of the ground, who might remember the museum in their Will, but in the meantime intend to keep them because, after all, they have collected them and they want to enjoy them.

Laying aside the professional, ethical difficulties facing a museum over establishing ownership, and ensuring accuracy of the find-spots, are museum resources best spent in identifying (or rather trying to identify) literally hundreds of items in private ownership in return for which a descriptive record (with a line drawing or photograph if you are lucky) is the public benefit? Such services may be provided by museums secure in the knowledge that, fingers crossed, the next generation of curators may have bequeathed to them the residue of metalwork collections that have had no professional conservation and no environmental storage controls for decades. Museums have inherited quite enough rotting material from our forefathers, and picked up a hefty bill as a consequence. Then it was unavoidable; now it is not.

The fact is, I'll work with anyone who cares about the material evidence of the past, and I'll work even harder with those who don't. Rather low on my list of priorities come those who see the past as their's for the taking, as a means of private gain rather than public benefit. This is not the "offensive disdain" which David Haldenby senses, simply the common-sense approach that has to be followed when dozens of competing demands draw upon the museum's resources each and every day.

To briefly deal with two specific points raised in David Haldenby's letter:

1. The evidence on which the "enormous potential" of Redcliff is based comes from the material lodged - and therefore readily accessible - in the Hull Museums Archaeology Department.

By far the most important is the excavated material from the 1930s; individual finds, kindly donated by many people over the years, some of whom are metal detector users, are an invaluable additional source of data.

2. The evidence on which my "deep worry" is based comes from measured surveys of the cliff edge which shows the deliberate undermining, during a 12 month period, of up to 15 cubic metres of sealed deposits, with individual holes tunneled into the cliff edge of some 10-20 cms in depth. Sadly, storm damage is only a small part of the problem of that site's destruction, as anyone who goes there regularly will know.

Yours sincerely,
David Crowther

AN AUTUMN EXCURSION

A second Society outing is proposed this year on Saturday October 18th. Members are invited to follow in the footsteps of the Roman legionaries to visit fort sites of the Stainmore Pass and Dere Street in North Yorkshire and County Durham. Sites to be included will be the fine earthwork fort at Greta Bridge, the marching camp at Rey Cross, Piercebridge fort and river crossing, and Binchester with its remarkable bath house and hypocaust system. The Iron Age *oppidum* of Stanwick is also on the itinerary and there will be a lunchtime stop at Barnard Castle. The excursion will involve a fair amount of walking, rough and smooth. Cost is not yet finalised but is anticipated to be about £5 or £6 per head depending on numbers and arrangements for high tea.

To gauge interest before finalising arrangements, a provisional booking slip is included with this newsletter. So if you would like to participate, please return this as soon as possible, enclosing a £2 deposit (returnable in the event of cancellation) to ensure receipt of a further communication in September giving final details of the excursion.

1986/87 PROGRAMME

The membership card enclosed with the newsletter contains details of the forthcoming lecture programme. Our Programme Secretary, John Dent, continues the tradition of producing a first-rate line up of speakers and has compiled a most attractive programme of lectures for our education and delight. Our thanks go to him.

One event not printed in the programme but which you may care to make a note of is the Annual Dinner. After arranging a run of exceptional period pieces over the last few years, Stephanie Armstrong is hanging up her cookbook. Warm thanks are extended to her from all of us who have enjoyed these memorable occasions. But like all good traditions, this one continues; Nicola Hope and Lesley Overton are making plans for next year's dinner which is to be held on Friday, 3rd April 1987 at Cleminson Hall, Cottingham. Details will be given in ERAS NEWS 24 later in the year.



Letters and contributions for inclusion in the newsletter should be addressed to :
The Editor, ERAS News, 37 West End, Swanland, HU14 3PE