

ERAS News

EAST RIDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY No. 87 MARCH 2017



Members engrossed in handling Iron Age artefacts from chariot burials during the ERAS trip to the British Museum, London, on 10th March 2017.

Photo: K. Dennett

Local News ~ Lecture Summaries: North Lincolnshire Sites & Pocklington Iron Age Cemetery ~ British Museum Visit ~ AGM Notice ~ Events ~ ERAS Diary

Contents

<i>Local News</i>	3
<i>Iron Age & Roman Sites in N. Lincolnshire</i>	4
<i>Iron Age Cemetery at Pocklington</i>	6
<i>British Museum Visit</i>	8
<i>AGM Notice</i>	9
<i>Events</i>	10
<i>ERAS Diary</i>	11

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ERAS LOCAL NEWS . . .

Rod Mackey's Books

At the ERAS lecture in April we will continue to sell some of the archaeology books which belonged to our late vice-chairman Rod Mackey and which his family kindly donated. The committee is still considering what to do with the more specialised volumes.

Thanks to Jackie Wilcox

Many thanks to Jackie Wilcox for donating books to ERAS last year. Second hand book sales have become a good source of income for us and solve donor's storage problems at the same time.

Skiff Lane Pottery

The 'Field Studies' Group is considering starting work on cataloguing the greyware pottery from a Romano-British kiln at Skiff Lane near Holme on Spalding Moor excavated by ERAS in 1996. Older members might remember washing and sorting the vast assemblage when it was stored next door to Castle Warehouse off High Street, but had to pack it away when the premises were needed to form the shop and new entrance to Hull & East Riding Museum. The Field Studies Group is friendly and informal, so join them at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month at St Nicholas Community Centre, Holmechurch Lane, Beverley or ring Graham on 07815 088573 or contact Richard Coates on coates8@coates8.karoo.co.uk.

Yorkshire Archaeological & Historical Society

YAHS (formerly YAS) has moved from its traditional base at Claremont, in Leeds. The house is about to be sold and the Society has moved to leased premises, close by, at the Joseph's Well Building, behind Swarthmore Education Centre on Woodhouse Square. The address will be YAHS, Suite 10E, Joseph's Well, Hanover Walk, Leeds LS3 1AB
The premises has very limited parking.

Parking at Hull University

As part of Hull University's accommodation building programme, the open car park at the back of the Wilberforce Building, which most of us use for lecture parking, is to be made into a two storey car park. Starting in Spring/summer, watch out for temporary parking signage, probably accessed off the Inglemire Lane entrance.

Volume 15 of East Riding Archaeologist

If you were a paid-up for 2016, you should have received Volume 15 of *East Riding Archaeologist*

by now, although committee members are still in the process of delivering some locally. If you do not live locally and cannot collect, we send them out post-free before the end of the lecture season. Thanks to Ed Dennison for doing this job, also to editor Dave Evans, who has Volume 16 well on the way. It will include the traditional 'round-up' of work in the region and will be quite a large volume.

Help us run our new Website

We need someone to replace our website organiser, Dave Clarke, who is retiring after setting up and running the site for many years. You don't need to be an experienced archaeologist, nor a professional IT person, as we having a new website designed. You would just need to be capable of maintaining and adding to the site and Dave has offered to help you initially. If this appeals to you, we'd love you to join the committee – and we promise not to load you with any other jobs!

See the AGM notice in this newsletter or see our Facebook page

Work at Skipsea Brough

A small evaluation excavation across the bank and ditch of Skipsea Brough Castle, in Holderness, is being carried out this week (5 days from Monday 13th) by a team from Reading University, who will also do an earthwork survey. Geophysics has already been completed on the Brough, the crescent shaped enclosure south-west of the mound, and is in the process of being interpreted and written up. The work was funded by YAHS. If you visit, remember that parking is very limited at the site.

Chariot burial at Pocklington

Paula Ware tells me that a chariot burial, including two horses, has recently been found at the Pocklington Iron Age cemetery site, since her lecture to ERAS. (See Lecture Summary). Burials with horses are rare in this country, so this is most exciting.

New Resistivity Meter

We are awaiting delivery of the new all singing, all dancing resistivity meter, developed by Bob Randall of TR Systems, the designer of our original meter, from which we have had so much use.

Membership Renewals were due in January

Use the form on the back page or pay at a meeting, but please support local archaeology by renewing and it helps us if you pay by standing order, as most members already do,

Lecture Summary:

*Archaeological Investigation of Iron Age and Roman sites
in N. Lincolnshire Dec. 2016, Chris Caswell: Allen Archaeology*

These six large sites, on clay land south-east of Barton, located between an oil refinery and the Humber foreshore were mostly dug during the winter of 2015/16, geophysical surveys having been carried out to define potential areas of interest. Chris gave us a summary of the work so far, with many interesting details, but the sites were, at that time, still at the assessment stage, prior to the development of Able Marine Energy Park (AMEP) and Able Logistics Park (ALP). The following is my summary of the lecture and cannot be taken as comprehensive. Many thanks to Chris and *Allenarchaeology* for their prompt response to my enquiries and for permission to use the image of the stone lined well.

AMEP 1. This 100m x100m site dating to the late Iron Age had a complex mass of ditches and enclosures, although much had already been lost to ploughing. Iron Age finds included the pommel of a La Tène sword. During the Roman period, many of the earlier ditches were re-used and the site was obviously still quite wet. Human bone recovered was in very poor condition. A silver coin of Mark Anthony, minted in Turkey and found in a Roman context, dated to 42BC and was likely to be a keepsake.

AMEP 2. This huge site of four hectares, took seven months to excavate. Findings included the postholes of a large Roman aisled building of approx. 10m x 25m, which would have had limestone/tuf external walls probably with chalk on the inside. Coins recovered date from both the period of use of the building (early mid 4th c) and later. Nearby, there was evidence for a range of agricultural buildings, including barns, granaries, crop dryers and a possible smithy. Charred layers in pits showed there was much agricultural processing happening and Chris commented that the site was as close to a villa as one can get. One corn dryer had a later burial within. Evidence from postholes showed there was an earlier phase, which was probably domestic.

Of special interest was a well, square in section and nearly two metres deep, which took a month to dig out. (See photograph top right). It was rafted onto a jointed oak platform which was lifted out

complete, although it was not possible to obtain a dendrodate from this timber.

ALP 1. The late Iron Age phase of this site was an unenclosed settlement, consisting of a string of houses on a ridge of higher ground. Most of the round houses, at 5-6m diameter, were slightly smaller than might be expected. During the Roman phase, the ridge was used as a trackway and the site produced large amounts of pottery and bone, but very little in the way of Roman imports or evidence for wealth. It probably continued to be used for seasonal grazing. It was tentatively suggested that a large heap of stones found (in an area where stones are unusual) might have been brought in as ballast.

ALP 2. This mid-late Iron Age site was very wet and laced with many modern land drains, supporting the idea that the complex mass of Iron Age ditches was for drainage rather than defence. 3D computer modelling with water showed that the drainage system had indeed been very efficient.

ALP 3. In a late Iron Age re-cut enclosure, the ring ditches of the round houses within were heavily truncated. By the Roman period, the site had been sub-divided into smaller enclosures, probably for livestock.

ALP 4. Of special interest on this late 1st - early 4th c site, a long notched piece of oak timber, associated with an early well, turned out to be a ladder with four rungs. It was dated to the late 1st century AD and is currently being stabilised. The site, on the edge of a much larger Roman settlement also produced what appeared to be a small Roman cremation cemetery, of 13-14 vessels.

The results of the above excavations are starting to fill up what was previously a somewhat blank area on the maps of Roman Britain and we look forward to the full publication of the sites.



Section of the square stone well, rafted onto a jointed timber platform, N. Lincs.

Photo: © Allenarchaeology



Julia Farley, Keeper of Iron Age, at the British Museum, showing artefacts to members during our London trip.

Lecture summary:

Pocklington, A New Chapter for Iron Age Cemeteries in East Yorkshire.

January 2017,

Paula Ware: Malton Archaeological Practice Ltd.

Paula Ware described recent work on a housing development at Burnby Lane, Pocklington, East Yorkshire, on the edge of the Wolds dip slope, which has revealed a site of national importance. (This article is written from notes taken and any errors are the fault of the newsletter editor.)

Geophysical surveys had been carried out prior to development, but the ditch fills were very similar in colour and texture to the background material, so it was not until the trial trenching stage that a square barrow burial was revealed. A mitigation strategy of stripping the site showed four square barrows and further work has revealed a major site with 86 square barrows and 164 burials. Some burials were on the ground surface, others in burial pits, some in barrows and some in small circular ring ditches. Most were either contracted or crouched burials, aligned north/south, head to the north and facing east. There were some large graves, possibly with space for a second later burial. The skeletons were in poor condition, partially due to Medieval ploughing and disturbance by secondary burials, but also due to the varying water table.

It is estimated the cemetery had been in use for 200-300 years. Three Anglian burials had been placed in an earlier Iron Age grave, showing evidence of some continuity on the site.

There were many burials of special interest in the cemetery, one being the burial in a basket, of twin infants of 7-8 years, with bangles on the wrists. Barrow 12, revealed a female age 17-20 years and pregnant (32weeks+). Barrow 20 had a male 36-45years old, aligned east/west and facing north with a complete pot, a narrow bladed spear and a knife.

In the northern group there was a group of 'warrior' burials in circular barrows of 5-6m internal diameter. Barrow 34 contained a male of 17-25 years with an iron sword in a wooden scabbard with remnants of a horn hilt and textile fragments. Five spears lay along the spine but none appeared to have punctured the body and might represent some part of ritual rite. Barrow 32 in this northern group contained a male of 17-25, with major death trauma injuries to head and ribs and

with defensive injuries to his arms, buried prone in a deep grave.

There are no known parallels for the burial in a box, in round barrow 37, of a male age 36-45 laid on a shield (stain only) with the strap over the body.

There were some unusual brooch types, including in Barrow 2, in the north-east cluster, a female of 46+ yrs buried in a crouched position, facing west, with bangles on both wrists and a copper alloy brooch of Adams Type 2A (mid Iron Age). These unusual brooches are H shaped with an arched bow. This example was riveted and decorated with coral and some textile was preserved on the back. It is the first example of this type to be found in an archaeological context, which can tell us so much more than when found as a casual, isolated, unstratified item.

The barrow ditches yielded much animal bone waste especially the south-west corners and some whole animal burials. There is potential for dietary analysis on the human bone found on the site and that should yield information on origins and immigration. There will be a huge amount of post-excavation work to do and there is much interest in the findings locally.

There appears to be no evidence for a settlement on this particular part of the site, although there is a settlement known at Burnby Lane, not far away. It might be significant that on an adjacent housing development, built in the 1980s, no archaeological work was done prior to the building of the houses, as it was not then a legal Planning requirement. A dump of unstratified material including bone, was noted at the periphery of the present site, close to the 1980s development and might have come from there.

It can be a difficult situation, when builders are waiting for each separate area of archaeology to be exposed and recorded, but Paula Ware noted that there was good cooperation with the developers David Wilson Homes, the builders working in close proximity to the archaeologists as recording proceeded. Much work is still to be done. *Editor*



*Skeleton placed on a platform of organic material in the Iron Age cemetery at Burnby Lane, Pocklington.
Photo: © Malton Archaeological Practice Ltd.*

Since the ERAS lecture about this site, further work has revealed an Iron Age chariot burial with two horses, so we will no doubt be inviting Paula back to talk about this at some point. She estimates that excavation of the site should be completely finished by mid March. See also, the report of ERAS's visit to the British Museum, where staff sounded quite excited about the Pocklington finds.

East Riding Archaeological Society
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
7.0pm WEDNESDAY 19 APRIL 2017
WILBERFORCE BUILDING, UNIVERSITY OF HULL

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the 2016 AGM**
- 3. Matters Arising**
- 4. Secretary's Report**
- 5. Treasurer's Report**

- 6. Election of Officers**

Committee Nominations are:

Chairperson:	Angela Fawcett
Vice Chairperson:	Fiona Wilson
Programme Secretary:	Richard Coates
Secretary:	Colin Parr
Editor:	Dave Evans
Treasurer:	Kate Dennett
Website Officer:	-
Field Studies Officer:	Graham Myers
Marketing Officer:	Samantha Braham

Any other nominations for the above posts are welcome and should be sent to the secretary, Colin Parr, in writing, no later than 9th April. Colin's address and email can be found on your membership card or the website. Members wishing to nominate someone else should seek that person's agreement before doing so.

7. Election of Five Ordinary Committee Members

Ordinary committee members who are willing and eligible to stand for re-election are:

Lisa Johnson, Ken Parker.

Other nominations for the places are:

Richard Lamb, Alison Spencer

We have four nominations for five places. Further nominations are most welcome and may be made in advance or from the floor of the meeting. Members wishing to nominate someone, should seek that person's agreement before doing so.

Should there be more nominations than places, an election will be held.

8. Any Other Business

The meeting will be followed 7.30pm by a lecture, by David Williams of ASWYAS, on the Excavations for the Onshore Cable Route, for the Westernmost Rough Offshore Windfarm Project. (NB. This is a change from the lecture scheduled)

ERAS VISIT TO THE BRITISH MUSEUM

This week has seen 24 ERAS members at the British Museum, on a day trip organised by Angie Fawcett. Those members who could face getting up to catch the early train did it in a single day whilst others, especially those with friends or relations offering accommodation on London, went a couple of days before or stayed over after the museum visit.

Julia Farley (see photo page 5) Keeper of the Iron Age artefacts in the BM, took us to visit her workroom and examine and handle some of the artefacts from our local area, specifically those items relating to chariot burials. In the relative quiet of the workroom she discussed Iron Age burial rites and particularly the Yorkshire chariot burials, noting that the latest thinking is that they all occurred within quite a tight period of time between 220BC and 160BC, although the continental ones started much earlier, indeed there is something of a time lag between the two traditions.

She noted how useful the data from the current excavations at Pocklington Iron Age cemetery would be and it was hoped that DNA analysis might show up family ties. Previously, the only place in the UK where a whole Iron Age population has been available for analysis is the Garton/Wetwang Slack cemetery, where the analysis of the age groups represented has not been fully resolved. It appears that although adult males with healed injuries were present at Garton/Wetwang, young males were under-represented. It might be that warriors killed in battle were given a different treatment, perhaps cremation or a rite which did not involve burial in a square barrow cemetery.

We already knew that most of the chariot burial artefacts from East Yorkshire were not stored at the BM, but in another off-site store (Blyth House) so Julia had taken some key items from the main BM displays for us to handle. We were particularly pleased to be able to examine the site notebooks from Ian Stead's excavations of square barrows on the Yorkshire Wolds. Indeed we marvelled at the

lack of mud and coffee stains on the pages! Other items removed from the main museum displays, for us to handle were a pottery vessel with sheep humerus from Rudston, a spear head, and linch pins - the function of the latter being to help hold the chariot wheels in position on the axle. One linch pin was not only functional but beautifully shaped and finished to resemble a horse's hoof. We were also able to examine bronze harness gear including strap unions for the parts of the tack which bore the strain of pulling the chariot and a set of five terret rings from Kirkburn, which would have been fixed to the yoke and acted as guides for the reins, coming back from the horse bit to the charioteer (see below).

After our time in the workroom, we were shown the main Iron age displays, where Julia made a valiant attempt to talk above the noise of the many enthusiastic schoolchildren looking around. It is hoped that we might at some time in the future, arrange to go to the Blyth House store, in a different part of London to see further artefacts, including items from the Wetwang Village chariot burial. For anyone who has not been to the BM, I would certainly recommend a visit. The displays are well set out, with plenty of information and more recently, several smaller access points for food, drink and rest. A good tip would be - concentrate on one area of interest and don't try to see too much in one day.



*From left; One of a set of five terret rings, a strap union and a linch pin.
Photo: K. Dennett*

OTHER EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Pocklington Arts Centre

23 March 4.30pm-6.0pm - Lecture, by Jim Ainscough. Major Percy Stewart, A Man of His Times. First of the Burnby Hall Gardens Lecture Series. £4, includes entry to Burnby Hall Gardens. Bookings 01759 301547 or www.pocklingtonartscentre.co.uk

University of Hull

Society for Post-Medieval Congress

April 1st – 2nd – Conference at Hull University as part of the Roots and Routes season of Hull City of Culture Programme. Starts on 31st March with walking tour of Hull and drinks reception. Saturday social in Old Town/Fruit Market area. Saturday & Sunday conference sessions at Hull University. Monday minibus tour of Wolds. Special discounts for members of local archaeology societies.

Bookings, see Eventbrite bookings page.

Also see

<http://www.spma.org.uk/events/pmac2017>

Yorkshire Architectural and York Archaeological Society (YAYAS)

March 15 – The Archaeology of Excrement: The Passed and the Present. Dr. Andrew Jones

April 19 – Coin Use in Roman Britain: how did the Romans regard their money? Barry Crump (PhD research)

May 17 – Beneath the Stage: Excavations at the Theatre Royal. Ben Reeves (YAT)

Meetings - 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, Friargate, York YO1 9RL. Refreshments from 6.45pm Visitors welcome, £2 donation.

The Historical Assoc. (Hull Branch)

Thurs 27 April

Lecture 1. Trading in the ‘The Great Port of Hull’ and the Merchants of the Hanse, 1300-1520.

Eva La Pensee, MA.

Lecture 2. 19th Century Cholera. This Time It’s Personal.

Kate Brennan.MA.

All HA meetings are held in the Danish Church of St. Nikolas, Osborne Street, Hull HU1 2PN

Open Campus History@Hull Series

May 20 - Our Roots: what is Britishness? Lecture by Dr Jenny Macleod. 11am – 1pm

Hull University Wilberforce Building Lecture Theatre 2. Book online by email or visit the OpenCampus web page.

June10 - The Making of a Mosaic: The influence of Celtic migrants upon the development of Hull.

Dr Nick Evans, Lecturer in Diaspora History, University of Hull. Wilberforce Building, Lecture Theatre 2. 11am – 1pm.

Bookings are essential for these lectures. Book online by email or visit the OpenCampus web page.

Iron Age Research Student Symposium (IARSS) University of Bradford

May 31st - June 3rd. This is the 20th of these student research-based events, which although aimed at students and consisting of fairly short presentations, are usually very interesting to attend and give a glimpse of what is going on in the early stages of archaeological research.

Further details from Bradford University.

CBA Festival of Archaeology

July 15-30th

Many events are planned nationally for this annual festival and the ERAS committee is discussing the possibility of doing an archaeology event at Burton Constable Hall during this period. Further details will appear on our website/Facebook page.

Arras 200,

Iron Age Conference at York

Royal Archaeological Institute in partnership with University of Hull and York Museums Trust.

November 17-19th- Major conference, to celebrate the Arras Culture. Speakers to include Tim Champion, John Dent, Mel Giles, Peter Halkon Fraser Hunter, Robert Hurford, Mandy Jay, Paula Ware.

Further details from pete.wilson@btinternet.com

ERAS Diary

- Wed 15 Mar Kate Giles
The Vicar, the Archbishop and the Antiquarian: the story of Pickering's Medieval Wall
Paintings and their Victorian Restoration
- Wed 5 Apr Field Studies meeting, Beverley
- Wed 19 April AGM at 7pm, followed by lecture by David Williams
Excavations of the Onshore Cable Route for the Westernmost Rough Offshore Windfarm.

The lecture season starts again in September and you will receive a newsletter and details of the Autumn –Spring lectures in the post in early September 2017. Also check our website and Facebook page.

All lectures are at 7.30 pm at the University of Hull, Cottingham Rd. Hull, in the Wilberforce Building's main lecture theatre, opposite Zuccini's café. Non-members welcome (£1 donation).

Field Studies meetings are at 7.30 pm in the St Nicholas Community Centre, Holmechurch Lane, Beverley. No charge, just turn up.

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Renewal Form,

I would like to join ERAS **or**

Please renew my ERAS membership for 2017 (due Jan 2017)

Name I enclose cheque for **£15 single / £20family/ £5 fulltime student**

Address

.....

Email

Telephone.....

Please make cheque payable to ERAS & return to membership secretary Colin Parr, 32 Woodgate Rd, Hull HU5 5AH



Ed Baldock, Fiona Wilson and Graham Myers at the British Museum last week.