ERAS News

EAST RIDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, No. 98 SEPTEMBER 2022

Fig. 5. EDAS interpretation of earthworks at High Hunsley *Image: Ed. Dennison, EDAS*

Local News ~ Subscription Increase ~ High Hunsley Survey ~ Book Reviews ~ Beck End Farm, Arram ~ John Coles ~ Petuaria Revisited ~ South Blockhouse, Hull – Wolds Geology

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ERAS LOCAL NEWS . . .

Can you help deliver ERAS newsletters in the Hull and East Riding area?

Members seem to appreciate getting the printed newsletter every March and September, but postage prices are always increasing, so we are looking for more volunteers to deliver a few newsletters in their own area. You don't have to commit to doing it every time, but the larger the bank of volunteers, the better

Six of our members already deliver either on foot, cycle or car, to nearby addresses or to areas through which they commute.. Many thanks to Stuart Leadley, Ken and Jackie Parker (Holderness) Peter Robinson (Beverley) Margaret Nicholson (Avenues/Dukeries) Claudia Telbis (East Hull). Just email or telephone the editor, if you think you can help.

Thanks to Richard Coates

The committee would like to thank Richard for all the hard work he has put in for ERAS, as both a committee member and as Secretary, over the past few years, including, amongst many other things, organising the fund-raising second-hand bookstall we have at meetings and events. Following Richard's resignation, John Deverell is currently acting as Secretary.

Wouldn't it be brilliant …

'Wouldn't it be brilliant, Grandma, if we found like a flint arrow or something …'

I was walking down the chalk track to Huggate Dykes, East Yorkshire, with my eleven year old Irish grandson a few weeks ago, and as he said this, I glanced down to find I was indeed standing on the artefact pictured below. Possibly a 'blank' for making an arrow, there are some flaws in the flint, but it appears to have some secondary working and may have been used as a knife. It certainly made his week here in the UK. (Scale in cms)

Learn to record standing buildings

Field Studies organiser Nathan Berry is hoping an exciting new training event on how to record standing buildings and a visit to Wharram Percy planned for Field Studies will be well supported, so check out the back page for dates. These are for all members and you don't need any experience or to belong to the group (but booking is required).

St. Marys Church, Beverley

New statues are being added to the exterior of St Marys Church, to replace original carvings, now almost completely eroded away. Characters from C.S Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia are being installed, as well as figures depicting nine exceptional women, including Mary Wolstencraft, Amy Johnson, Marie Cure and astronaut Helen Sharman. It is interesting to consider the choices and to wonder how these decisions will be interpreted in 500 years time - if the church is still standing. *Editor*

HOW TO UPDATE YOUR SUBS

Don't forget an increase of £5 across the board to the annual membership subscription was agreed at the last AGM. New rates will be

Family membership £25
Single membership £20
Student membership £10 (Under 18 yrs or in full time attendance at college or university)

The increase will come into effect from January 2023, but **please note** that if you usually pay next year's subs early or if you have either a Standing Order or Recurring Payments set up, to pay between September and December this year, for next year's subs, you will still need to increase your payments.

Those members who have bank Standing Orders already set up, will need to amend them accordingly.

Members with PayPal Recurring Payments will need to cancel their existing payment and start a new plan for the increased amount.

Please try and do this promptly to avoid our Treasurer having to send out reminder letters or emails, or even worse, crossing you off our membership list. Even with the increase, your ERAS membership is incredibly good value.

Colin Parr, Treasurer

HIGH HUNSLEY DESERTED SETTLEMENT

By Ed Dennison

In January 2020, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were fortunate to secure a grant from ERAS towards an earthwork survey of the deserted settlement at High Hunsley, Rowley, near Walkington, East Yorkshire. The fieldwork was undertaken in February-March 2020, and was followed by an appropriate level of documentary research to place the site into its archaeological and historical context. The area of survey covered 4.63 hectares, located between High Hunsley farm and High Hunsley Hall. More recently, the site has been the subject of several geophysical surveys by ERAS/Richard Coates, the Fimber, Fridaythorpe and Wetwang Archaeology Project (FFWAP), and James Lyle for Ethos Heritage CIC, while the first phase of limited excavations has just been completed by Ethos Heritage CIC. The following summary has been taken from the detailed EDAS survey report, which also contains full references and sources for the information set out below.[1]

Hunsley is only one of several deserted villages in the various townships making up Rowley parish, the others being at Riplingham, Rowley (possibly) and Risby, while settlements survive at Little Weighton and Bentley. Previous excavations at Riplingham in the 1950s showed that its desertion was a gradual process, from the late 14th to the mid-18th century, and many other examples on the Wolds were actually deserted or abandoned between the mid-17th and mid-18th centuries rather than during the medieval period. The reasons for desertion are many and can include the enclosure of open fields, the conversion from an arable to a pastoral agricultural regime, a decline in population due to plague, crop failure or animal diseases, the rise of individualism, the policy of the major landowner, and deteriorating climatic conditions. In many cases, it was a combination of several of these factors which led to desertion or depopulation.

Medieval History

Hunsley was established as a settlement before 1086, place-name evidence perhaps suggesting in the 6th or 7th centuries, although the surrounding area contains significant evidence for prehistoric and Romano-British occupation. At the time of the Domesday survey, half of Hunsley township was held by the bishop of Durham, although the half containing the village was probably held by Hugh son of Baldric as part of his Little Weighton holding. However, this passed to Durham Priory in 1100, and by 1316 they had secured ownership of the whole of the township; the Benedictine priory was one of the wealthiest in the north and had extensive landholdings in Durham, Northumberland and east and north Yorkshire, the latter including the whole of Howdenshire. In common with most of the ecclesiastical landowners on the Wolds, the priory used Hunsley as a sheep pasture, and they may well have established a grange or 'bercery' in or around the village from which to manage their flock. A later document of 1534 refers to *a certayne pasture or schepe grounde called Hundeley pasture, lying in the paryshe of Rowley*, while another dating to 1570 notes *the Grange called Hunsley or Hundesley Grange*. It is not known when the grange was established, but it was presumably after the mid-14th century when the priory became the dominant landowner, and its location may coincide with the site of the present High Hunsley farm (see below). It should also be noted that the village never had its own church or chapel, these needs being met by the church at Rowley which existed from c.1150.

Hunsley village was never particularly large, with only 24 poll tax payers recorded in 1377 and 25 in 1381, equating to perhaps 14 households in total, all of whom would have been tenants of the priory. These figures suggest that Hunsley was relatively small compared to other contemporary villages, for example the 1377 total is about half that recorded for Little Weighton, Bentley and Risby. Similarly, the average for all Holderness vills in 1377 is between 80-100 taxpayers.

Unfortunately, the printed accounts for the priory are not particularly informative, and contain only passing references to tenants at Hunsley during the medieval period, although research is still continuing. One useful reference dates to the mid-14th century, when it is noted that William, son of Nicholas, the bailiff of Hunsley, owed 46s in rent for his farm, and Richard, son of William owed 30s for his farm. The priory appointed stewards to manage their East Yorkshire estates which also included land in Hemingbrough, Brackenholme, Woodhall, Hunsley, Drewton and Yokefleet. For large parts of the medieval period, the stewards were successive generations of the Babthorpe family (usually called Ralph or Robert), based at their moated manor house at Babthorpe near Hemingbrough. The first Ralph de Babthorpe was actually originally from Hunsley and he changed his 'de Hunsley' surname to Babthorpe in the late 12th century, presumably when he left the area. It is assumed that the family kept a house in the village, and indeed a free tenement belonging to

them is mentioned in 1432. Not everything went smoothly under the Babthorpe stewardship - for example, in c.1450, the prior wanted to grant some pasture at Hunsley to John Marshall but found that another Ralph Babthorpe had already let it to someone else without his knowledge! Subsequent stewards included John Neville (in 1455), John Pylkyngton (1463), William Percy, brother of the Earl of Northumberland (1504), and William Warne (1515). In each case, the priory was receiving between £10 and £12 a year in rent from their Hunsley estate.

In c.1530, the priory leased their Hunsley land to Sir William Percy, and in 1538 to Sir Marmaduke Constable; the latter documentation notes the presence of a house as well as pasture for 720 sheep. The fact that the priory was not actually farming the land themselves at this time is confirmed by documents issued in connection with a 1534 Court of Star Chamber 'murder and mayhem' dispute between the Percys and the Constables, when it was alleged that Sir Marmaduke Constable '*had entred in to the same [Hunsley] pasture ryotously ... with a great nombre of ryotous persons'*. It is assumed that the priory's bercery had become abandoned by this time, perhaps the main building being the 'house' referred to in 1538. The decision of the priory to relinquish their holding must be due to economic factors, such as the decline of the European wool trade and the growth of cheaper woollen production in West Yorkshire - this wider aspect needs further research.

Post-Dissolution History

Ownership of Hunsley in the decades after the Dissolution is complex, and it is important to note that the township was sub-divided into three units, namely High (or Upper), Low and Little Hunsley, each centred on an individual farmstead. The divisions between the three units can be worked out by using the 1838 tithe map and the first edition Ordnance Survey maps; High Hunsley, containing the deserted village site, comprised some 600 acres.

A large estate in Hunsley belonged to the Rossetor family by 1558, when Alice Rossetor was licensed to grant 700 acres to Edward and George Rossetor - the grant refers to two messuages (houses, outbuildings and yards). This might be a reference to the *Hundesley Grange* noted in 1570, and Saxton's 1577 map of Yorkshire does depict a 'Hunsley House', although it is difficult to be sure of its precise location. A tithe case of 1606-08 also makes reference to one dwelling house and also '*the lodge where Henry Browne dwelt'* in Hunsley. However, the later 1672 Hearth Tax records only one two-hearth house and two single hearth houses in Hunsley township, and the larger one belonging to Mrs Northend can be associated with Low Hunsley. By 1651 the majority of the township was described as being mostly enclosed, i.e. divided into manageable fields or units bounded by hedges, although a 'North Field' of 240 acres is recorded in 1685 - this probably occupied much of the area between the village and the northern boundary of the township.

One of the post-Dissolution owners of the High Hunsley estate was the Legard family. In 1685, when this land was owned and leased by Alexander Montgomery of Welton, the holding comprised a messuage or farm and 484 acres divided between North Field, West Close, Inge Close, Calfe Close, New Intack, South Close, and East Pasture, together with a coney (rabbit) warren and sheep walk (pasture), all occupied by John Coates. In 1715 the estate was sold to Richard Tate of Laytham (in Aughton parish). He was certainly living somewhere in High Hunsley by 1724 and, given that the previous 1672 Hearth Tax shows there was no significant house surviving in the area at that time, he must have either been living in a newly-built house, or in a property enlarged from one of the two modest single hearth dwellings recorded in 1672 - perhaps one of these was the farm noted in 1685. Warburton's plan of Yorkshire for 1720 marks 'Hunslet House', although again its precise location is unclear, and a later privately-held estate plan of 1735 only shows a house and farmstead at the east end of the deserted village site where 'Hunsley Cottage' was later to be located in the mid-19th century (now High Hunsley Hall). It is therefore likely that Tate's new or enlarged house is part of this complex shown in 1735.

On his death in 1726, Richard Tate left the 600 acre estate to his nephew Hugh Fawsitt. The Fawsitts were already prominent landowners in the East Riding, and so had some social standing and importance. They were responsible for the 1735 estate plan and corresponding account book - the plan shows an impressive farm complex with a fold yard, other courtyards, a garden and two nurseries, probably based around or including Tate's earlier property, at the east end of the village, on the site now occupied by High Hunsley Hall (Figure 1). The Fawsitts also planned to sub-divide the existing large areas of sheep pasture and rabbit warren into smaller more manageable fields, and appear to have diverted the Walkington road from its original course through the deserted village to its existing more northern and straighter tree-lined alignment. Jefferys' 1771 map of Yorkshire depicts

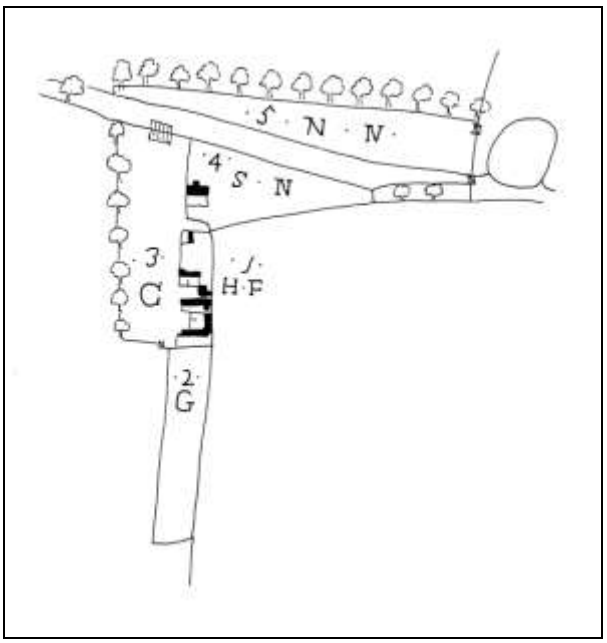


Figure 1. Sketch of part of 1735 estate plan showing the farm complex on the east side of the deserted village site, constructed between 1726 and 1735 by Hugh Fawsitt and probably based around or including Richard Tate's earlier property.
HF =House and foldyard, G = Garden,
C =Courting, SN = South nursery
NN = North nursery. (North is to top of page)

a substantial property, named as 'Hunsley', which presumably represents the Fawsitt house.

In 1802, High Hunsley passed to John Hornby, the head of an enterprising and prosperous farming family, on condition that he changed his name to Fawsitt. He must have built the existing Hunsley House to the west of the former village before his death in 1812, replacing the presumably old-fashioned and inconveniently laid out Fawsitt farmstead shown on the 1735 plan to the east. This new house reflected the family's increasing wealth, influence and social aspirations, and the earlier complex to the east was partially demolished although some buildings were retained to house agricultural workers. By 1838, only the house, surrounded by shelter belt plantations, had been built with the adjacent farm buildings following on by 1852 (Figure 2). The Hornby/Fawsitt family also undertook other significant landscape improvements including the planting of belts of woodland around the edges of the township. In 1837 the estate was made up of about 329 acres of arable, 126 acres of meadow or pasture, and almost 49 acres of woodland. From the mid-19th century, the farm was let out to various tenant farmers, including the Thompson and Bartram families, although the Fawsitts retained ownership until 1933.

The Village Earthworks

It should be noted that only those earthworks between High Hunsley Hall to the east and Hunsley House Farm to the west were subject to detailed survey, although these do represent the core of the settlement. Other earthworks lie to the west of the farm, meaning that Hunsley House and farm actually sit in the approximate centre of the village, and its site will also presumably contain remains of the former settlement.

The first known published reference to the village earthworks comes in 1855, when Sheahan and Whellan note that *This place appears to have been anciently of more importance than it is at present, many foundations of buildings having been dug up at various times*. In the same year, the Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile map (sheet 225) marks 'Site of the Village of Hunsley' and depicts the earthworks in some detail (Figure 2). Although the site is recorded in the archaeological record, for example in Maurice Beresford's 1952 list of deserted or 'lost' villages of Yorkshire, it has not attracted any previous research or investigation. Indeed, a field observation made in November 1969 for the Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division states that the *site falls in a pasture field, which, although uneven, shows no coherent remains of depopulation*. Nevertheless, the earthworks and especially the ridge and furrow of the village's former arable fields, show up well on modern LIDAR imagery (Figure 3), and several individual structures are visible on the geophysical surveys.

Figure 4 depicts the earthworks as recorded by EDAS in early 2020. A central hollow way (**A**) runs east-west through the village, this being better preserved and up to 13m wide and 0.8m deep at its east end. Its alignment to the west can be seen continuing as a track between Hunsley House and its farmstead, to eventually meet up with the Hunsley crossroads. A second hollow way (**B**) approaches from the south, up to 10m wide and 1m deep with well-defined sides; this might represent the line of a prehistoric linear boundary named as 'Double Dike' to the south of the site.

The earthwork survey has shown that the core of the village comprises five 'toft enclosures' (**D to H**) to the south of the central hollow way, and perhaps seven (**I to P**) to the north. The toft enclosures show some degree of regularity in their widths, although not all the divisions between them are immediately obvious, and their lengths vary; they do not include longer crofts to the rear. The ridge and furrow of the associated field system does not run up to the rear of the toft enclosures, but instead terminates to leave a strip of level

Figure. 2. Section of 1835 OS 6" to 1 mile map (Yorkshire sheet 225) surveyed 1852. Depicts the village earthworks, the remains of the Fawsitt farmstead to the east (Hunsley Cottage) and John Hornby's new house (Hunsley House) built between 1838 and 1852. Earthworks to west of Hunsley House not shown. North to top of page on both images.

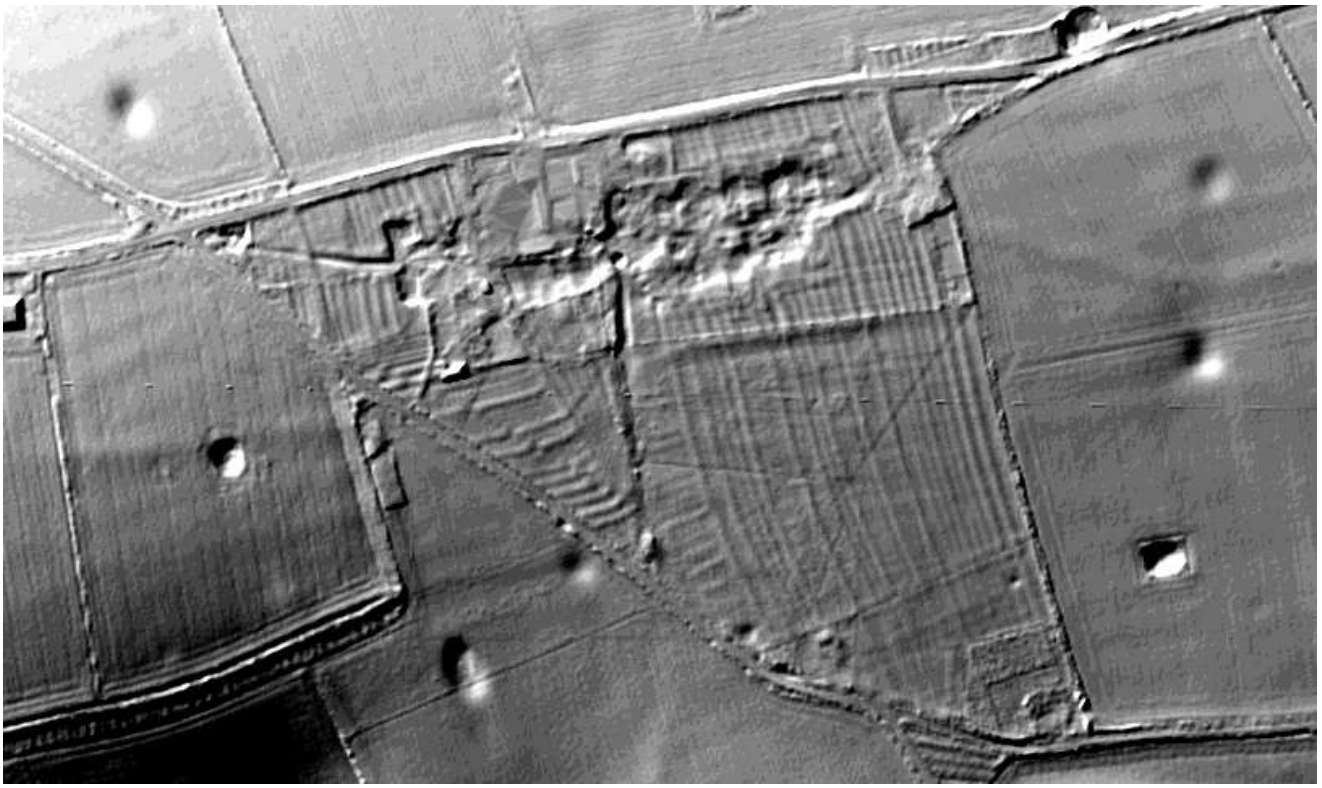


Figure 3. LIDAR Composite 1m hillshade imagery (reproduced from Environment Agency LIDAR Composite DTM 2020 1m data. Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government License v.3.

ground which might suggest potential back lanes which were subsequently abandoned. Some of the enclosures show evidence for sub-division or amalgamation, as seen on many deserted village sites, for example building **J2** appears to straddle the division between enclosures J and L. At least one (**D**) appears to have been established over part of the open field system. Many of the toft enclosures have an east-west frontage or width of around c.40m, similar to that seen on other East Yorkshire deserted villages.

The majority of the toft enclosures have a substantial building placed on or close to the street frontage, typically 15m-20m long by 9m-10m wide (e.g. **D1, E1, F1, J1, J2 and M1**). These earthworks are well defined, suggesting chalk foundations of cruck-framed domestic 'long-houses', and some contain evidence for internal sub-division. Some of these are also well represented in the geophysical survey data. There are slightly sunken yards to the centre or rear of the enclosures which have one or more sub-rectangular platforms around their edges (e.g. **E2, F3, N1 and N2**). Some of the platforms at the rear of the enclosures could be potential stack-garths (e.g. **J4, I2, K and L1**) where crops could be stored.

Other features indentified by the earthwork survey include a prominent mound (**Q**) off the north-west corner of the site, which is likely to represent modern disturbance associated with abortive attempts to construct an agricultural building. Two hollows (**R**) off the north-east corner of the site might be natural features, but an area devoid of ridge and furrow to the east (S) represents the enclosure shown in 1735 and named as 'Courting' (Figure 1). The plantation (**U**) in the centre of the south side of the site was planted between 1852 and 1888, possibly by the Bartram family to improve the visual and aesthetic appearance of the local area.

Discussion

Figure 5 (front cover) offers an interpretation of the earthworks. It should be stressed that not all the potential buildings or other structures are likely to be contemporary, and examples from other deserted villages show that they typically saw a gradual decline over a long period of time, meaning that not all the toft enclosures were necessarily occupied at the same time.

The village was laid out along a main street or thoroughfare (A) running broadly east-west. This is likely to have formed part of a longer medieval route, perhaps connecting Walkington and Beverley to the east with North Newbald and beyond to the north-west. This particular section of the route was replaced in the early 18th century by the present straighter tree-lined road to the north. The original and amended lines are clearly shown on the LIDAR image (Figure 3).

A plan form comprising two rows of plots or tofts and crofts along a central street or thoroughfare, with or without back lanes, is by far the most common type of deserted village plan seen in East Yorkshire. Many also show some degree of regularity in terms of the width and length of the plots. However, at Hunsley, there do not appear to be any enclosed crofts to the rear of the toft enclosures, which would have formed small pieces of land used for domestic pasture or arable. This arrangement appears to be relatively uncommon on deserted sites in the Yorkshire Wolds, although it can be seen elsewhere. At Wharram Percy, one row of tofts without crofts is suggested to represent an early planned element of the village, dating to before c.1180. Similarly, at Hanging Grimston (North Yorkshire), two rows of tofts with no corresponding crofts are thought to be separate planned elements within the wider deserted village which does otherwise have crofts. However, the situation is perhaps slightly more complicated at Hunsley due to the monastic ownership. At present, it is not possible to determine if the village represents a planned settlement, although it is possible that the strips of level ground to the rear of both rows of toft enclosures form earlier back lanes which were subsequently abandoned. In addition, the fact that building D1 appears to have been laid out over the ridge and furrow might imply that the village (or at least this part of it) was laid out over an existing arable field system.

Several types of buildings, structures and platforms of differing forms and settings were noted within the toft enclosures. Recent excavations and research from elsewhere has shown that most 'peasant' long-houses functioned solely as dwellings, and were not a combination of domestic and animal accommodation. Many of the Hunsley toft enclosures have a building placed on or close to the street frontage, either aligned with it or placed at right-angles to it, and these presumably represent the main house or dwelling. Most of these buildings fall into a range of between 15m to 20m long by 9m to 10m wide, with two (G1 and H1) being over 20m long, and so they will represent substantial structures. It is assumed that they will have chalk footings with a cruck-type roof structure. Four examples of 'two-cell' buildings or

Figure 4. EDAS earthwork survey February – March 2020

structures were also identified by the earthwork survey.

On many deserted sites, houses are frequently paired with long buildings, often facing one another across a central yard and placed on the boundaries of the toft to maximise the central space. This can also be seen at Hunsley, with the slightly sunken yards placed to the sides or rear of the toft enclosures. These yards are traditionally thought to represent animal pens or 'crew-yards' for over-wintering stock. Almost all of the yards have one or more slightly higher level platforms around their edge. These are likely to represent barns, byres, granaries or other agricultural outbuildings, while smaller squarer examples could be pigsties, poultry houses or stores. As previously noted, other platforms to the rear of the yards could be crop storage areas. The arrangement of a house and agricultural buildings grouped around a yard is now thought to date to before 1200, and the examples seen at Hunsley appear to indicate a series of small farms, especially those sited towards the east end of the north side of the holloway (e.g. enclosures I, J L and M). Do some of these represent the farms noted as being in rent arrears to the priory in the mid-14th century?

Only excavation can confirm the function of these buildings or platforms. Long-houses or other dwellings would be expected to contain hearths for example, while horseshoes would often be found in stables. Excavations have shown that a continued process of rebuilding and replacement, sometimes on different alignments or footprints, is common, and many show changes in function, for example a cart house or bake house could be converted into a dwelling, and vice-versa. Another important factor increasingly being recognised on deserted sites is the presence of a small garden in a toft for growing vegetables; it could tentatively be suggested that the small divided space between buildings M1 and M2 is such a feature.

One of the toft enclosures has an internal arrangement which differs from the others. On the south side of the main street, enclosure E contains two buildings (E1 and E2), possibly linked to a larger structure (E4) at their west ends which is set at a right angle to them; this larger structure measures c.27m long by 14m wide. The enclosure is also about twice the width of its neighbours. The earthworks are well defined compared to others, and so might represent a small farm complex that remained in occupation after other parts of the village were abandoned. Is this enclosure the free tenement held by the Babthorpe family from the mid-12th to the early 15th century as part of their stewarding role for the priory? Another point can be made in relation to the width of the tofts. At Cowlam deserted village, excavation showed that a larger courtyard farm had been created from the amalgamation of two earlier smaller tofts. Something similar might also be seen at Hunsley, with enclosure F perhaps originating as two narrower tofts. The joining of enclosures J and L might also explain why building J2 appears to span a boundary.

Turning to the wider question of when the village was deserted or depopulated, two possibilities can currently be suggested. One might have been in the mid-14th century when the priory became the dominant landowner and when they presumably established their sheep-farming grange or bercery. However, although one of the main reasons for village desertions is the conversion of arable fields to pasture, the priory may have needed some of their tenants to provide labour on their grange, and the township was certainly large enough to have accommodated a sizable sheep pasture as well as the village with its associated arable fields. The continued and regular income from the tenants would also have been important to the priory, especially in the later 15th century when the wool trade through Hull was declining. The other possibility for when depopulation occurred is in the early 16th century, i.e. around the Dissolution, after which the priory's estate passed into secular hands. Indeed, the village may already have been largely, if not completely, deserted apart from perhaps one or two farms when the land was leased to the Percy and Constable families in the 1530s, and when a muster was held in October 1537 at the nearby Hunsley beacon as part of the local Pilgrimage of Grace uprising.

Documents show that there was still at least one house in Hunsley in c.1530 and 1538, two 'messuages' were noted in 1558, 'Hunsley House' is marked on Saxton's 1577 map, and a 1606-08 reference notes one dwelling house and also a lodge. The locations of these buildings are currently unknown although it is possible that one or all represent the remains of either the priory's medieval grange or bercery, or even the last-to-be-deserted Babthorpe tenement. In the absence of any further information at this stage, it can tentatively be suggested that the bercery might have lain on the site of the present Hunsley House and its farmstead to the west of the village, in which case the large enclosure Q might be part of the associated sheep pens. However, it is equally possible that the bercery lay elsewhere in the township, perhaps in the centre of the priory's sheep walk, assumed to be located in the northern part of the township, or perhaps on the site of Low Hunsley farm.

Irrespective of this, any medieval or early post-medieval structures in High Hunsley had almost certainly gone by the time of the 1672 Hearth Tax, when only two single-hearth houses are recorded. Later map depictions, such as the 1735 plan, suggest they did not lie within the deserted village site. One might have been on the site of the later Hunsley House (built between 1802 and 1810), and the other on the site of the late 19th century Hunsley Cottage to the east, but this is only informed speculation. The site of Hunsley Cottage may well correspond to the farm recorded in High Hunsley in 1685, and it was this that was presumably taken over by Richard Tate in the early 18th century to then form part of a larger complex built by Hugh Fawsitt between 1726 and 1735 - much of this was largely demolished when John Hornby/Fawsitt built Hunsley House to the west between 1802 and 1812.

The deserted village at Hunsley represents a superb example of a medieval settlement which has remained remarkably undisturbed by later activity, whether through the establishment of post-desertion farmsteads or modern agricultural practices. The earthworks, although slight, are well preserved and will contain important information relating not only to the history of the site but also to the people who lived there. It is hoped that the excavations undertaken by Ethos Heritage CIC will provide a valuable contribution to this aspect of the East Riding's archaeology, and perhaps answer many of the questions and confirm (or not) the suggestions raised above.

1. Dennison, E & Richardson, S. 2022, *High Hunsley Deserted Settlement, High Hunsley, Rowley, East Yorkshire: Archaeological Survey* (unpublished EDAS report 2020/610.R01v2)

Changes at Arram

I asked farmers Will and Fiona Wilson to tell me about land-use changes at Arram. The following article reminds us, as archaeologists trying to understand how people lived in the past, that land use has always been a somewhat piecemeal affair. Single overall systems seldom existed as land use always depended on local geology, weather patterns, sea level change and both local and wider economic and power factors..

In 2003 - 2005 after noticing many sherds of Roman greyware in the ploughsoil of one of their fields, Will and Fiona, with the help of ERAS but with little experience of archaeology, ran a most successful excavation project on their farm at Arram, East Yorkshire. Volunteers came from far and wide and features dating from the Late Iron Age were recorded. Although started as an independent dig, it was later adopted as an official ERAS project. A wonderful and very well attended open day was held with demonstrations of Roman cooking, pottery making, wattle and daub making, and much more. In her spare time Fiona is still writing up the excavation for a future volume of East Riding Archaeologist. With their positive and open attitude and willingness to work with others, I am confident that Will and Fiona's new venture will be a success and we all wish them well.

Editor

Beck End Farm to Dumble Farm
By Fiona Wilson

Many members of ERAS will remember excavating at our Romano-British site in Arram and may recall that the farm had dairy cows. In the last year all that has changed and the dairy cows are gone. So I thought I would share our reasons for change and plans for the future. For several years, now, the weather has become more extreme - dry summers and increased flooding in the winter, with many of our fields being under water for months at a time. We tried to battle against it, attempting to drain the land and often having to reseed fields more than once a year. It was becoming increasingly costly, unsustainable and soul destroying each time we saw all our hard work and investment being washed away. So - time for a change.

Instead of the futile task of trying to combat the flooding we needed to find a way to embrace it. In April 2022 the decision was made to sell the cows, (there were lots of tears watching the cows go, but all to happy new homes), it was both petrifying, as we no longer had an income, and liberating, as we were no longer tied to the milking routine and for once had choices. The main aim was to move away from intensive farming, towards sustainable, low intensive farming methods, by way of putting land into countryside stewardship. Our land in Arram Carrs is defined by DEFRA as priority Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh, with lapwing as a priority species. We lie close to an SSSI, are close the the River Hull and are adjacent to a major drain. All these things proved to be both a blessing and a curse!

After discussion with Natural England, who were very excited about our ideas due to our position in the River Hull corridor, we decided to dedicate a large area to providing habitats for breeding waders. This will be achieved by blocking up ditches to hold water on the land, digging scrapes and ripping up high quality rye grass to replace it with old fashioned meadow grasses. In short exactly the opposite of what we had been doing. In addition, closer to the farm, an area of four ponds will be developed, with wild flower meadows and tree and hedge planting, to target species such as tree sparrow. The newly created wet grasslands will be managed by native breed cattle.

After endless discussion, applications and stress we are very close to signing our agreement. We now have a fold of 20 pedigree Highland cattle - totally adorable, we love them. In order to try and supplement our now small income, we also have a small group of very friendly cows and four alpacas, with which we hope to do 'animal experiences', such as cow cuddling and alpaca walking. We have called our project 'Dumble Farm' and you can look for us on social media. For anyone interested in what a 'dumble' is, there is a fantastic article by botannist, the late Eva Crackles, entitled '*A Rush Called the Dumble'*. It is worth a read, even if you are not particularly interested in the finer details of sedges, rushes and reeds. It shows how the dumble was associated with Arram as far back as the 17th century and is available on-line.

Into the future we are basically turning the farm into a nature reserve, welcoming educational access, having open days and possibly even an archaeological trail - and hopefully in a few years, we will be producing high quality sustainable beef. There is a huge amount of work to do, but it's new and exciting and I'm sure will be worth it.

Hopefully you will visit us in the future!

2022/23
ERAS Lecture Programme
By Peter Halkon

In planning this season's lectures, the programme aims to balance current national and international topics with a chance to find out what has been going on in our region. The lectures will be hybrid again with a chance to meet in person at the University of Hull, yet live-streamed to extend our audience - even as far as the USA! Lectures will begin at 7.30pm in the Wilberforce Building at the University of Hull.

Wednesday. 21 September, 2022.
Dr Peter Halkon - A Ring Fort, a Sanctuary, and a Roman Town in East Yorkshire

This lecture will provide an overview of excavations in which many ERAS members have been involved. The later Bronze Age ring fort at Kipling House Farm, near Middleton on the Wolds first appeared as a cropmark. Geophysical survey revealed a massive central roundhouse and complex entrances closely resembling Paddock Hill, Thwing. During excavations which took place 2018-21 the central area of the ring fort and the entrances were investigated but the most spectacular discoveries were the heads of around 60 cattle which had been placed in the palisade slot of a square enclosure to the east of the main entrance of the ring fort after the timbers had been removed. The closest parallels are Later Iron Age sanctuary sites in southern England and the near continent. Moving on to the Roman period, the Petuaria ReVisited project has just completed its third season of excavation in and around The Burrs playing field in Brough. Ground Penetrating Radar survey revealed a dense complex of buildings, defences and roadways. Excavation so far has revealed a large well-appointed courtyard building and sections across the northeastern defences including the wall.

Wednesday 19 October, 2022
Dr Nick Hodgson - Recent Discovery of the Baths at Wallsend Roman Fort and Recent Work on Other Roman Baths on Hadrian's Wall.

2022 sees the 1900th anniversary of the construction of Hadrian's Wall, Britain's most iconic Roman monument. It seemed appropriate therefore to ask one of the leading experts to provide an update on recent work. Nick was Principal Archaeologist for Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums for many years and led excavations on the Roman fort at South Shields and Wallsend. Most recently he has published the remarkable account of rediscovery of the Roman baths at Wallsend in 2014, thought to have been destroyed 200 years earlier: *The Roman Baths at Wallsend* by Nick Hodgson, South Shields, Arbeia Society (Roman Archaeological Studies 2), 2020, x and 91 pp., Illus. 65, £18.00 (Paperback), ISBN 978-1-5272-5769-6.

Wednesday 16 November 2022.
Professor Ian Armit – A later Bronze Age Migration into Britain – New Research

The analysis of ancient DNA has revolutionized our understanding of human movements and migrations in the past. Ian, Professor in Iron Age Archaeology at the University of York, and leader of the Commios project on the European Iron Age, is one of the lead authors in a groundbreaking study of 793 individuals in collaboration with Professor David Reich of Harvard Medical School. This study produced fascinating results revealing a hitherto unexpected large-scale migration from the near European continent in the later Bronze Age with significant implications. Of particular relevance to our region was the inclusion of samples from 35 skeletons from the square barrow cemetery at Burnby Lane Pocklington and two from Nunburnholme Wold.

The results of this study are published in: 'Large-scale migration into Britain during the Middle to Late Bronze Age.*' Nature* **601**, 588–594 (2022).

Wednesday 21 December 2022
Peter Connelly – The South Block House Excavation, Hull

Members of ERAS will have enjoyed the opportunity to excavate with Humber Field Archaeology on the South Block House. A Scheduled Ancient Monument, this once formed part of the defences built on the orders of Henry VIII, between 1541 - 43. It has a unique clover leaf shape and was built to guard the harbour mouth and River Hull. Subsequently it was used as a prison and eventually extended in the later 17th century. Peter Connelly worked for many years for the York Archaeological Trust leading the Hungate Excavation team and is now Manager of Humber Field Archaeology. To keep up to date with progress you can follow the progress of the excavation on Facebook.

https://www.facebook.com/SouthBlockhouse/

2023

Wednesday 18 January 2023
75 Years of the Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society (Speaker to be confirmed)

The Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society, originally the Scarborough and District Archaeological Society was founded in 1947. Since

then, the SAHS has had a long and distinguished history. Their excavations have included a Romano-British site at Crossgates, Ayton Castle and many other sites in and around Scarborough itself. They were winners of the Pitt-Rivers Award of the British Archaeological Awards in 1990 for work by the voluntary sector and runners-up in 2000. The society won an award from the Association for Industrial Archaeology for the Saltwick Alum Works project. More recently they have been excavating on the Medieval and earlier settlement at Hanging Grimston. The talk will be delivered by a leading member of the society, yet to be decided at the time of going to press.

Wednesday 15 February 2023
Dr Jon Kenny - Community Archaeology in the Southern Vale of York.
Winner of the 2015 Council for British Archaeology Marsh Award for Community Archaeologist of the Year, Jon has inspired many groups to explore their heritage in the Yorkshire region. After working with the Archaeology Data Service and then the York Archaeological Trust, he set up his own business supporting Community Archaeology. In this lecture he will be talking about recent projects in the southern Vale of York including Romano-British and medieval Cawood, Hook Manor and many other sites around the Ouse and Derwent. For more details about Jon and his projects see his website
https://www.jkcomarc.co.uk/home

Wednesday 15 March 2023
Alison Spencer (FFWAP) - Geophysical Surveys on the Yorkshire Wolds.
In 2021 the Fridaythorpe, Fimber, Wetwang Archaeology Project (FFWAP) won the Marsh Award for Community Archaeology for the Best Volunteer Project. Led by ERAS committee member Alison Spencer, the group has carried out large scale magnetometer surveys around the villages in the title. Originally tutored by James Lyall, they have undertaken work of a professional quality revealing whole landscapes of later prehistoric and Romano-British features, including ladder settlements, barrows and linear earthworks.

Wednesday 19 April 2023
AGM, followed by lecture, Dr Melanie Giles – Bog Bodies. Face to Face with the Past.
Perhaps better known for her work on Iron Age East Yorkshire, Mel's book *Bog Bodies. Face to Face with the Past* won the Book of the Year in the 2022 Current Archaeology Awards. Aswell as reviewing more familiar bog bodies from Europe, such as Tollund Man, Mel's recent work has involved what has been described as a "ground breaking cold-case forensic study of Worsley Man, Manchester Museum's 'bog head'. According to a recent review, the book "offers a welcome fresh perspective on British bog bodies … As well as being richly detailed, the book is beautifully written, with many memorable and evocative passages". Mel's talk is one not to be missed!

Missed any of last year's lectures?
If you missed any of last year's lectures, they are still available on YouTube, via our website **www.eras.org.uk**

History Association, Hull Branch

This season's talks relate to the 20/21st century and cover such diverse topics as Decolonisation, George Orwell, Yorkshire Cricket, and Urban Encounters, although *Art and Celebrity in the Renaissance* does manage to get in too! If you are interested in these talks, please contact Sylvia Usher (01482 448065) for details of how to join the group. usher@usher.karoo.co.uk or see the website www.herha.org.uk

Pushing the Boundaries,
New approaches in (studying) the prehistoric past
By Valerie Fairhurst

This dayschool event, in March 2022, was hosted by the Prehistoric Society to honour Professor John Coles, one of Britain's most influential archaeologists, who died in 2020. Speakers covered his main areas of interest: Rock Art, Experimental Archaeology, Wetland Archaeology and Heritage Management and there were also many personal reminiscences. Happenstance seems to have played a major part at first. His early university education in Canada, did not include archaeology, and it was only as a tourist in England that, on the way back, and on the advice of friends, he knocked on the door of a history don at Cambridge and subsequently was offered a place to study Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeology. His luck continued, as the very person he needed to speak to in order to get a place at Fitzwilliam College was in front of him in the queue at the Cambridge station ticket office.

Although Professor Coles might have enjoyed some good fortune at the start of his career, hard work soon followed, when he and another student were given the unpaid job of sorting, washing and labelling half a million lithics from the excavation of Haua Fteah, a cave site in Libya. This perhaps
(continued on page 17)

Petuaria ReVisited - Excavations in 2022

Peter Halkon and James Lyall

The main aim of this year's excavation was to continue the investigation of the northern and eastern defences of Roman Brough in two trenches located outside of the scheduled area in the north-west corner of The Burrs Playing Field, directly to the south of Welton Road. This was done primarily to assess the conclusions of the work carried out by Philip Corder and his team in the 1930s, and thus continuing our excavation of 2021.

We were able to locate Corder's original excavation trenches shown on his rather schematic published plans, but either his team had not recorded all the trenches or more likely there have been other unrecorded excavations over the years. Corder's 1935 excavation recorded a clay rampart as being one of the later features. This was immediately visible once the topsoil had been cleared. The crushed limestone layer which had been deposited to protect archaeological layers during the conversion of The Burrs from farmland to a playing field in the early 1970s was absent in this area. Several sections were cut across the rampart revealing various phases of Roman activity. Under the clay was a layer of large stones, which had also been encountered by Corder and under that, what is likely to be the original sand rampart of the first century fort. The ramparts were found to be not as homogenous as Corder's descriptions had suggested, as he had clearly named them after their most common constituent.

Many of the pottery sherds from this year's excavation were found at the southwestern edge of the excavation and are likely to have been residual, possibly disturbed from earlier layers during the construction of the later ramparts. These included sherds of figured samian and mortaria, Nene Valley colour coated wares and east Yorkshire greywares, mainly from Holme-on-Spalding Moor. Other finds included a decorated finger ring (*Fig. 1, right*) made of finely twisted copper alloy wire with close parallels in Germany, military style belt fittings and a bone die. The latest coin found was one of the emperor Magnentius (who reigned from 350-353).

In 2021 we excavated what we thought was part of a curtain wall first exposed by Corder in 1935. On enlarging the trench this year, we found that there was little structure to the stonework and although it was on the approximate alignment of the wall, it had been heavily disturbed, presumably during Corder's excavation. Fortunately, several sections to the south-east remained intact, including several courses laid in a so-called herringbone pattern and at the outer corner were some remaining worked limestone blocks.

Thanks to the great generosity of the homeowner, we were able to open a trench in a garden immediately to the east of The Burrs in order to investigate the possible outer ditch mapped by Corder but not fully investigated and the probable route of the Roman road leading to the east gate of the walled enclosure. At first this looked unpromising due to large dumps of relatively modern detritus including many glass bottles, and several drains. However, at the eastern end of the trench we found what was possibly part of the northen agger of the road and in the final days of the excavation, large unabraded sherds of Roman pottery were encountered (*Fig. 3*) . We hope to continue to investigate both trenches next season.

A highlight of this year was the fantastic response and participation of people living in the immediate vicinity. Casual visitors of all ages ended up taking part in the excavation! On one day we had three generations of a family digging together. None of this would have been possible without the work of our amazing team of volunteers, who created such a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. Thanks are also due to the members of the PFA, particularly to its chair Martin Credland who is also chair of Petuaria ReVisited. Our sponsors include the Roman Society and a number of local businesses.

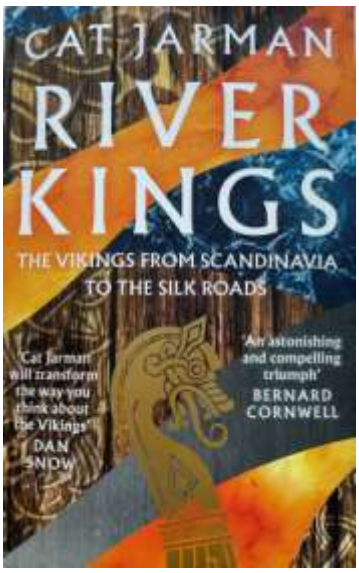
Fig.1. Roman copper alloy ring of twisted wire. Rings of this type are more commonly found in Northern France and the Rhineland.

Photo: Lucy Crosby

Fig.2. The north east corner of the walled enclosure showing in situ stonework. Photo: Lucy Parkes

Fig.3 The 'garden' trench east of The Burrs, showing large sherds of Roman pottery being excavated from the base of the trench. Photo: K. Dennett

Book Reviews



***River Kings, The Vikings from Scandinavia to the Silk Roads*. By Cat Jarman.**
Published by William Collins, 2021
Paperback £9.99. 328pp 8 colour platess, plus illustrations and maps.

I was given this book as a gift, and although I wouldn't have chosen it, as it is not really my period of interest, not only did I find it very readable but it completely changed my perception of Viking geography and timescales. It is well researched, giving a balanced point of view on controversial issues such as the 'Rus' in the east - a topic of particular interest in view of recent political developments in the Soviet region. I found the chapters dealing with "*the melting pot of cultures (Scandinavian, Slav, Khazar, Byzantine and more)*" particularly interesting.

Regarding specific British evidence, some local metalwork specialists might challenge Ms Jarman's declaration that we have (apart from York) no excavated settlements, farmsteads or houses, however, that does not detract from the wider scholarship involved in the writing of this book, with the dense amount of evidence and information presented. If I was to be really critical, perhaps the idea of following the route of a carnelian bead found in a Viking mass grave at the Derbyshire village of Repton, was a literary device, which was unnecessary. For me, this aspect felt a little laboured. (Another irritant, two maps seemed to be the wrong way round on the page.) None-the-less, the emphasis put on the evidence for Viking presence in other parts of the world was a real eye-opener for me and it is a book I will certainly re-read in the future.

Everyday Life in the Ice Age. By Elle Clifford and Paul Bahn. Published by Archaeopress, 2022
Paperback , £24.99, 292pp, 170 colour plates.

I liked the thematic, non chronological approach used by the authors and found this to be a straight forward, generously illustrated, scholarly, yet accessible volume, aimed at the general reader. It has a more explanatory style, compared with the somewhat esoteric, abstract approach often adopted in lithics studies of the period. As one might expect from veteran author Paul Bahn, it is particularly good in looking at the most up-to- date scientific evidence now available, in comparison with previous interpretations of evidence. Broad themes include health, reproduction, social organisation, hunting techniques, subsistence, crafts, ritual and communication. Along the way, some popular myths are shattered, and - a very positive point for me - is the constant reminder that where there is, statistically, only a small amount of evidence, we shouldn't draw major conclusions from it. I really like this cautious approach, from specialists, who advise that often we just cannot know the answers. A very minor irritant – there were far too many exclamation marks. Also, the use of the round-cornered coloured 'boxes' and non-serif typeface, used for the technical or specialist information, separating it from the continuous text, does rather give it the feel of a 1980s textbook. However, this is a tried and tested formula which works well, and is very successful here, where such a dense amount of information is being given. It is certainly not just a coffee table book and although academics might prefer the traditional system of numbered references, a full and wide ranging list of references is given for each chapter. This is a volume which I will be buying, despite recent efforts to reduce my book collection.

Kate Dennett

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John Coles Dayschool (continued from page 13)

puts ERAS's work on the Skiff Lane pottery into perspective! The first dig he took part in, at the Hoxne Palaeolithic site, was a cautionary lesson. Digging out boulder clay to search for stone tools, they removed rather too much clay and an angry brick company owner ordered them off the site. While still an undergraduate, John excavated in France and visited a number of cave art sites. I am very envious of his access to such famous sites as Font de Gaume, Lascaux, and others in the Dordogne and in the Pyrenees, plus Altamira, Castillo and Pindal in Cantabria. I am less envious of the 'accommodation' at the excavation: camping with no toilet facilities except for a wood which was full of large orange slugs, some of which were served fried at dinner. I am assured that conditions are much better for ERAS members on local sites.

Positions at Edinburgh and Cambridge universities followed and John became well-known for experimental archaeology, from bronze horn blowing to the use of replica Bronze Age shields against bronze spears and swords, a demonstration described by Stuart Pigott as 'mortal combat'. Students were able to try spear throwing, using various spear-throwing tools and were successful enough to break a window in the school opposite and hit the windscreen of a passing car. Other practical exercises included metal working and the use of stone, bronze and iron axes in coppicing and felling trees. No opportunity for experimentation was missed.

His teaching responsibilities at Cambridge included wetland archaeology, a field in which he would become well-known. Some ERAS members will remember a lecture on the Somerset Levels by John and Bryony Coles. The Project began with the excavation of wooden trackways, found by amateur archaeologist Stephen Dewar in a peat-cutting area, but was widened when a substantial track, Abbot's Way, was revealed. Later, the Bell tracks and the Baker platform came to light. The most famous and extensive Neolithic trackway, discovered in 1970 was the start of a long-running project when peat-cutter, Raymond Sweet, sent a piece of worked wood he had found to Coles. With the support of what became Historic England, a conservation laboratory was set up to preserve the timber of the prehistoric Sweet Track. Experimentation on the use of polyethylene glycol to preserve waterlogged wood had already begun, under rather primitive conditions involving zinc bathtubs and fish tank heaters, with wood from Abbot's Way, but now environmental research and conservation became better supported financially. A section of the track is preserved at the British Museum and following work to maintain a high water table, a long length is conserved *in situ*.

From 1974 Professor Coles became increasingly involved in the study of rock carvings in Norway and Sweden. One of the speakers, Marta Diaz-Guardamino spoke about the concept of the power of place in Scandinavia, where many carvings are on rocks by the seashore. Prominent among the motifs are watercraft and circles, thought to represent the sea and the sun. Motifs of a horse pulling the sun can be seen in some carvings, most notably at Balken in Tanum, Bohuslän. A similar motif is used for the Danish Trundholm Sun Chariot, a miniature model of a horse pulling a cart with a bronze and gold disc representing the sun.

In 'Talking Pictures' Richard Bradley acknowledged the encouragement he received from Professor Coles. He spoke about the relation of rock carvings to water - on the Galway coast there are spiral motifs near suitable landing sites and he gave more examples of carvings near the sea, estuaries or rivers. Martin Bell's talk 'John Coles and the Coming of Age of Wetland Archaeology' emphasized how John was a leader in the recognition of environmental work - and in prompt publication, influencing wetland archaeology in the Severn Estuary, in Scotland and at Prestatyn and Rhyl in Wales. It was John Coles' insistence that persuaded Cadw to support the excavation at Rhyl. Professor Bell also identified the Must Farm Late Bronze Age site as one of the most important wetland sites -a settlement built on piles, sunk into a river channel and dating to 1000-800BC. Martin also talked about John's work on the transition between the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, for which evidence is often said to be lacking. Sampling at the wetland edge of the Somerset Levels revealed Mesolithic activity and evidence of continuity of use. Work on the coastal margins of Britain, such as the Severn estuary and Prestatyn in North Wales also suggested continuity between the Mesolithic and Neolithic.

The final talk focussed on wetland settlement in the Iron Age: the Scottish Crannogs of the Black Loch of Myrton and of Cults Loch. Rounding off the programme, speakers including Steve Minnett and Richard Brunning, emphasised Professor Coles' communication skills - so important when dealing with the peat-cutting companies. Also, and perhaps of most significance, they spoke of his 'can do' attitude to conservation, his encouragement of younger archaeologists and his innovation.

Whose Fault Was It?

By Richard Myerscough

Recent work undertaken by the British Geological Survey has revealed a large number of faults running mainly West – East across the Yorkshire Wolds, now known as the Flamborough Head Fault Zone (FHFZ). The faults affect the chalk in a number of ways, including metamorphism (hardening), density increase, fracturing, distortion and fluidisation in the form of veins of mineral calcite.

The work was undertaken using a variety of techniques: 1. **Remote Sensing** of subtle ground features such as raised ridges, lineaments, crop growth patterns. 2. **Field Mapping** using brash sampling and landforms. 3. **Palaeontolog**y to date the chalk sequence. 4. **Passive Seismic** work to identify shallow sub-surface features. 5. **Borehole Interpretation**. 6. **Seismic Interpretation**.

The implications to Geoarchaeology of this work are worth exploring and it is hoped that this short paper will lead to future research. Such implications include:

1. The location and use of chalk as a building stone, as metamorphosed chalk is a more durable material.

2. The misinterpretation, in the past, of surface landforms associated with the faults as earthworks, cursuses and dykes.

3. The exploitation of the shattered chalk along the faults to construct such features.

4. Fault line dolines and their use as water supplies and clay sources.

5. Local water supplies due to water movement under pressure along the faults

6. The origins of dry valleys as fault line erosional features.

7. The location of settlements based on the proximity of a fault as a source of building stone and water supplies.

8. The localised use of calcite in the fabric of prehistoric pottery.

8. The relationship between landscape and archaeology associated with large scale faulting, for example, the Great Wold Valley which is cut into the 'Wolds Shatter Belt' fault systems.

I am happy to receive any comments on these views and to take parties out to see the faults and their influence on the landscape and the archaeology.
(another possible for a Field Studies Group visit ? Editor)

Richard Myerscough
Towards a Geopark for East Yorkshire.
East Yorkshire Community Archaeology Project

References

Vernon, R., Ford, J, J., Watkinson, K., Haslam, R., Woods, M., Farrant, A., Burke, H., Davis, A., Lear, J., Tarnanas, H. and Wrathmell, E. 2000. *Surface and subsurface fault mapping in the Yorkshire Wolds, UK.* Gateway to the Earth. British Geological Survey. ON line 2022

Exciting New Joint Ventures in East Yorkshire

Discussing the above article with Richard Myerscough made me realise how much new stuff is going on in our area, which I have missed out on, since being less active, due to the pesky osteoporosis.

Conference - There has been much interest in archaeology in Pocklington, since the excavation of the Iron Age cemetery and chariot burials. On 16 November, a conference is being held at Burnby Hall. It will be a joint venture between Pocklington Heritage Trust and Bridlington U3A. Speakers include Peter Halkon, Paula Ware, David Knight, Marcus Jecock and Laura Eddey. Booking via Eventbrite £8 or £10 on the door.

Tophill Low – TOAST is the (somewhat misleading) acronym for a joint venture comprising Tophill Low Archaeology and Survey Team and Yorkshire Water plus geologists, historians and conservationists. There appears to be some evidence of a trackway and worked timbers, but the site was much damaged in the 1950s when the reservoirs were installed. TOAST is hoping to do some coring and field walking this winter.

ECAP **–** East Riding Community Archaeology Project will incorporate FEAST (Friends of the Chalk Tower in Flamborough) and TOAST (!) all under the Yorkshire Geopark Banner.

Splendid stuff, well done to Richard Myerscough and lets hope ERAS can join in some of these ventures.

Editor

Excavation at South Blockhouse, Hull. August 2022

Volunteers have had the opportunity to work on further excavations of the south blockhouse of Hull's Henrician defences which followed the line of the east bank of the River Hull. Close to the confluence of the River Hull and the River Humber, the southernmost of the three distinctive curved blockhouses, is undergoing further investigation this season. Showing me round the site, Richard George explained that the 19th century brick paving, currently exposed by the excavation, was laid on top of a thick and rather loose deposit of rubble infill at the time when the site became a naval storage area. It is hoped that in areas where the brick paving has already been damaged by the insertion of drains etc, it might be possible to target key points for removal in order to examine the Tudor features, beneath, but permission has to be sought as the whole site is a scheduled monument and all its phases of development are protected.

Henry VIII's south blockhouse comprises only a very small part of Hull's defences, a huge triangular fort, known as the Citadel, having been added in the late 17th century, adapting the old Henrician linear defences along the River Hull frontage and expanding eastwards along the Humber waterfront.

Below, left, Sam Owen and Sophie Featherby, from ERAS, work on cleaning a small area of the brick east wall of the Tudor blockhouse (foreground) which had been exposed by the later insertion of a drain (seen between Sophie and Sam). The blockhouse wall is approximately 4m thick at this point. Sam is seated on what is thought to be part of a cistern added during the lifetime of the later 17th century Citadel defence.

Above: Immediately behind the excavator, the outer brick surface of one of the curved bastions of the south blockhouse can be seen. Photos: K. Dennett

Above: Fragments of stone window mullions, (front left) and part of a spiral staircase (front right) originating from Hulls destroyed Friaries and thought to have been used as rubble infill, although some of the pieces might have been incorporated into the Blockhouse fabric.

ERAS Programme 2022 / 2023

Saturday 17 Sept, **Training Day with Dr James Wright. Learn how to record standing buildings.**.
St Nicholas Church Hall, Beverley and St Nicholas Church. **Booking required, please contact Colin Parr**

Wed 21 Sept. Lecture Hull University (Kipling House Farm, see details page 12)

Wed 5 October Field Studies Meeting, 7.30 at St Nicholas Church Hall, Beverley.

Wed 19 Oct Lecture Hull University, (Roman Baths, see details page 12)

Sunday 6 Nov. Guided tour of Wharram Percy, with Al Oswald.
Meet at the Wharram Percy car park at 1.30pm. Booking required, please contact Colin Parr.

Wed 16 Nov. Lecture, Hull University (Bronze Age Migration, see details page 12)

Wed 7 Dec. Field Studies Meeting, 7.30 at St Nicholas Church Hall, Beverley.

Wed 21 Dec. Lecture, Hull University (Excavation of South Blockhouse, Hull, see details page 12)

Wed 18 Jan. Lecture, Hull University (Work by Scarborough Archaeology Soc., see details page 12)

Wed 1 Feb. Field Studies Meeting, 7.30 at St Nicholas Church Hall, Beverley.

Wed 15 Feb. Lecture, Hull University (Excavations in the Southern Vale of York, see details page 13)

Wed 1 March Field Studies Meeting, 7.30 at St Nicholas Church Hall, Beverley.

Wed 15 March Lecture, Hull University (Geophysical Surveys by FFWAP, see details page 13)

Wed 5 April Field Studies Meeting, 7.30 at St Nicholas Church Hall, Beverley.

Wed 19 April AGM, 7pm at Hull University,
followed by lecture at 7.30pm (Dr. Mel Giles, Bog Bodies, see details page 13)

Everyone is welcome at Field Studies meetings, you don't have to join the group, just turn up and enjoy whatever they are doing. It is likely that on some of the dates listed for Field Studies meetings, in 2023, there will be outdoor meetings, so please check our website or contact Colin Parr.

Cut here ----------

Renewal / Membership Form,

☐ I would like to join ERAS **OR** ☐ Please renew my ERAS membership for 2023 (due Jan 2023)
Name …….. I enclose cheque for **£20 single** / **£25family**/ £**10 fulltime student**

Address ……...

……

Email ……Telephone……

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