

ERAS News

EAST RIDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,

No. 99 APRIL 2023



Al Oswald speaking to ERAS members, (all suitably shod and cosily clad) during a visit to the site of Wharram Percy deserted medieval village in September 2022

Photograph: Colin Parr

Local News ~ Wharram Percy ~ AGM Notice ~ Editorship ~ Rudston Cist ~ Women's Work in the Ice Age ~ Surveying Buildings ~ Commercial Archaeology ~ Events ~ Book Review ~ Storage Problems ~ Obituaries ~ Creativity at CBA ~ Easington ~ Petuaria Revisited

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ERAS LOCAL NEWS . . .

Field Studies

Nathan Berry, who has led our Field Studies activities since last year, and is still organising events will not, sadly, be able to continue in the role, as he has moved out of the area, and indeed out of commercial archaeology. Many thanks to him for all the work he put in. You will see from the AGM notice on page 5 that Matthew Walker is willing to take on the task and we will be offering him lots of support.

Possible Iron Age Museum at Burnby Hall

Following the discovery of extensive Iron Age evidence including a cemetery with chariot burials and horses, at Pocklington during excavations prior to housing developments over recent years, a new local group, Pocklington District Heritage Trust, is campaigning to keep the spectacular finds in the area. The group, chaired by Phil Gilbank, has put in a proposal to Pocklington Town Council to establish a museum in Burnby Hall. The current situation is that East Riding of Yorkshire Council is divesting itself of Burnby Hall and the Town Council has asked for bids from local groups wishing to use the hall for purposes of benefit to the community. Indeed, what could be a better use of the building? To help raise funds for the project, Peter Halkon has produced a fully- illustrated seventeen page booklet *Exploring Pocklington's Past*. Also supporting the project, there is an online petition, which has already reached over 6000 signatures and it would be great if more people could support it. See the link below.

<https://www.change.org/p/phil-gilbank-to-establish-a-heritage-facility-in-pocklington-to-store-and-showcase-the-burnby-lane-and-mile-iron-age-archaeology-finds-join-our-facebook-group-www-facebook-com-groups-pocklingtondistrictheritage?redirect=false>

The major new publication *Chariots, Swords and Spears* (see page 4) detailing the recent excavations was launched at a sell-out event in February, which also featured talks by Paula Ware and Peter Halkon, a question and answer session with editor and dig director Mark Stephens and displays of many artefacts including the shield.

New CBA Representative

Alison Spencer, who has been co-opted onto the ERAS committee, is to be ERAS's new representative at CBA, (Council for British Archaeology). This involves attending meetings usually in York or Leeds several times a year and keeping ERAS in touch with what is going on in the wider organisation of archaeology.

Magazine Loans, Book Sales.

We have started up the *British Archaeology* magazine loan system again at our monthly lectures at Hull University. We would also like to sell a lot more of our second hand book stock, so please come along, meet up with old friends and patronise the book stall at future meetings. April will be the last chance until after the summer break.

Thanks to Helen Fenwick

ERAS really appreciates how much University of Hull lecturer Dr. Helen Fenwick supports us at the monthly lectures, live-streaming and recording the proceedings and dealing with questions from our digital participants. At the last count, numbers are increasing for live attendance at lectures whilst the number of remote attendees is declining slightly.

Viking Weights

Long term ERAS member, Dave Haldenby, a keen metal detectorist, is working towards publishing a paper on the many Viking weights found in the East Riding area and how they might relate to a proposed theoretical standard weight system. He says '*...efficient bullion exchange was essential for the Viking economy and eventual expansion, so a clearer understanding of how this worked is important.*'

Ice Age Women's Roles Controversy

In response to my review of their new book in the previous ERAS newsletter, Hull and East Riding writers Paul Bahn and Elle Clifford have produced a short article for us, explaining how there is some controversy,

especially in France, about the role of women in Ice Age communities. Paul and Elle favour a cautious approach, but other writers have a different outlook on the topic. See page 8 for their interesting article.

South Cave Cottage

I notice that the fate of a 19th century cottage at 68 Market Place, South Cave, is featured in this month's *Casefiles* in CBA's British Archaeology magazine. CBA, the Victorian Society, Historic Buildings and Places and many local people have opposed the proposed demolition of this 'non-designated heritage asset' and are awaiting a decision by East Riding planning authority. To find out more, you can visit <https://casework.jcnas.org.uk/appl/178114>

Editor

Subscription Increase - GUILTY M'Lud ...

I cringe to admit that I have only just this week got around to increasing my ERAS January Annual Direct Debit/Standing Order and so I have just sent Colin an extra £5 in order to stay on the membership list for this year.

IF YOU HAVE NOT INCREASED YOUR ANNUAL STANDING ORDER AT THE BANK, BY £5, PLEASE DO SO – THIS WEEK! (And remember that you will still owe Colin an extra £5 for this year's membership.)

ERAS is incredibly good value – the fee has not increased for many years and your committee works very hard to organise events, newsletters and publications for you. And we really don't want to lose you, but if you don't pay up

Learning How To Survey Standing Buildings

Angela Fawcett

We had an enjoyable, informative and practical day when Dr James Wright of Triskele Heritage hosted an introductory training session on surveying historic buildings last September. We spent a morning in the classroom, in St. Nicholas Parish Rooms where James taught us basic surveying skills. He showed slides of buildings he had surveyed, pointing out some obvious and other more subtle changes to the historic structures, explaining why the changes might have been implemented and how to spot them.

After lunch, we put our newly acquired skills to practical use surveying the nearby Church of St Nicholas. From the churchyard we looked at the various materials used in the construction of the church, the ecclesiastical architecture of the structure and noted any changes or additions we had seen from the outside. We then discussed the interior of the church – again talking about the stylistic attributes and any noticeable alterations. Then we paired off – armed with tape measures, pencils and paper – and attempted to draw a measured sketch of one wall of the church – both interior and exterior. It's definitely harder than you think, with so many details to incorporate!

Many thanks to James for his enthusiastic and patient delivery. I am sure we are all still looking avidly at buildings as we go about our daily business and putting our new-found knowledge to use. Thanks also to Nathan Berry and Colin Parr for organising the day and dealing with the practicalities.

New Book:

Chariots, Swords and Spears: Iron Age Burials at the Foot of the Yorkshire Wolds.

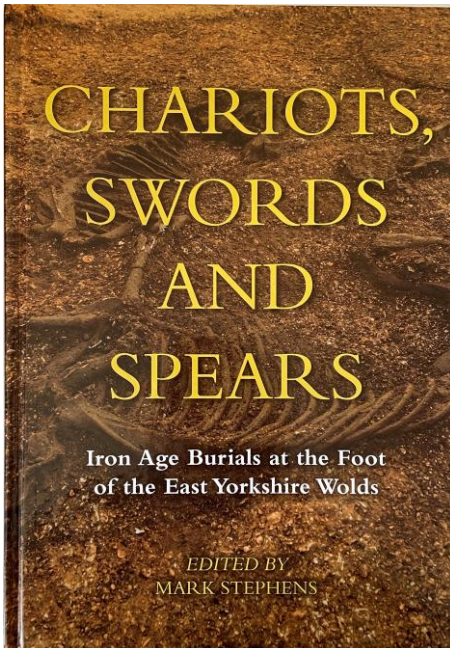
Edited by Mark Stephens

I am not calling this a book review as I do not feel able to make academic judgements on a volume of such scale and expertise, especially in such a short timescale. The new volume carries the results of excavations by the commercial archaeology company, MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd, over the past few years at The Mile

and Burnby Lane, Pocklington, prior to building development. It includes descriptions of the chariot burials – one with two ponies, plus analysis of the Iron Age cemeteries excavated. The material finds were spectacular and include a shield, swords, spears and other grave goods.

This much anticipated book is generously illustrated with photographs, diagrams and data tables and the list of contributors as given in the preface is formidable. The vast amount of information from the many skeletons and finds will provide an excellent database for future analysis of the Iron Age population in the area. Some synthesis is included, as is a chapter on the more unusual circular barrows of the Arras culture. The book, a 295 page hardback (sadly with a rather drab and unexciting cover design) should be available from Oxbow, at £50, although seems, at the moment, to be sold out.

Kate Dennett



**EAST RIDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 7.0pm, WEDS. 19th APRIL, 2023
ROOM LT2, WILBERFORCE BUILDING, UNIVERSITY OF HULL**

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Minutes of the 2022 AGM**
- 3. Matters Arising**
- 4. Officers' Reports**
 - (i) Chairman
 - (ii) Secretary
 - (iii) Treasurer

5. Election of Officers

Nominations from the committee are:

Chair	Peter Halkon
Vice Chair	Fiona Wilson
Secretary	John Deverell
Treasurer	Colin Parr
Programme Secretary	Peter Halkon
Editor	Matthew Reeves
Marketing & Social Media	Enya Horton
Field Studies Officer	Matthew Walker
Records Officer	John Deverell

Any other nominations for the above posts are welcome and should be sent to the acting secretary John Deverell no later than 5th April (john@deverell.karoo.co.uk). Members wishing to nominate somebody should seek their agreement before doing so.

6. Election of Five Ordinary Committee Members

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

Kate Dennett, Valerie Fairhurst, Stuart Leadley, Graham Myers, Jennifer Wilson

Additional nominations are welcome and may be made in advance or from the floor of the meeting. Members wishing to nominate somebody, should seek their agreement before doing so. In the event that there are more nominations than places, an election will be held.

Kate Dennett is willing to continue as newsletter Editor

Alison Spencer, representing FFWAP, has agreed to continue as a co-opted committee member

7. Approval of Auditor

Dave Abel has been nominated and agreed to act as External Auditor

8. Amendments to the Constitution

Suggestions raised by John Parkes for minor changes to the ERAS Constitution (Document U-1) will be discussed at the next ordinary committee meeting, with a view to approval at the next AGM

9. Report by the ERAS Trustees

10. Any Other Business

The meeting will be followed at 7.30 pm by a lecture –

Bog Bodies: Face to Face with the Past, by Dr. Melanie Giles

ERAS Editorship,

Matthew Reeves tells me that he is hoping to get Volume 18 of East Riding Archaeologist out as soon as possible. Retiring editor Dave Evans has handed over the various articles he had in hand and is assisting Matthew in the transfer of editorship. Dave has been a huge asset to the society for more than a quarter of a century and his scholarship, attention to detail and appreciation of graphic quality have been hallmarks of ERAS publications. Much respected author Paul Bahn commented 'Having edited a few books myself over the years, I am only too aware of the trials and tribulations it involves, so Dave's many years of outstandingly efficient editing at ERAS bear eloquent witness to his amazing patience and tolerance!'

Matthew is taking on a big responsibility and will no doubt put his own stamp on the volumes once he has settled in to the job. Let's hope his eyesight will stand up well to the task. Volume 19 will include articles on a Medieval timber bridge at Stray Farm, Holme-on-Spalding-Moor, the Inner Humber Estuary Rapid Coastal Zone Survey & Aerial Mapping Project: The East Riding of Yorkshire, plus an interim report on excavations at Brough on Humber 2020-2022. There will also be the traditional 'Round-up of work in the region' which is always such a useful resource for researchers.

Community Archaeology at Easington, 1996-7

Hoping to get finished in time for East Riding Archaeologist, Volume 20, I am currently writing up a full excavation report of the Neolithic site and overlying Bronze Age Barrow at Easington on the Holderness coast. Partially excavated in the late 19th century and again in the mid 20th century, a full excavation was carried out in 1996/7 by more than 50 volunteers from ERAS.

The project (a finalist in the Pitt Rivers Awards) was led by the late Rod Mackey over two eleven week seasons and drew in many extra members for ERAS, as passers-by on the beach became interested in our public notice board and asked if they could take part. The notice board was quite innovative at a time when so many commercial excavations were screened off from the public gaze.

The community aspect went unremarked, at the time, as, of course the archaeological research aims took priority, but it was a very happy and open site. We had birthday cake celebrations in the trenches in the pouring rain, we stood in a minute of silence for Princess Diana, we had an end of dig barbecue, we frequented the village shop and pub and picked the brains of the oldest inhabitants of the village. We begged for funding from BP Exploration, from CBA, English Heritage, the Environment Agency, the Robert Kiln Trust, YAS and ERART. We liaised with the BP personnel department who logged our progress in their staff news bulletins. The Yorkshire Post sent their archaeology correspondent, who produced a full page article. It was of course very hard work for us voluntary organisers but ERAS membership shot up to record levels and everyone enjoyed their time working there. Some went on to do archaeology at University and have kept in touch ever since.

Full recording took place on the site, with a total of 160 contexts being logged, 47 section drawings, 27 plans produced and 20 reels of photographic transparency films used. An interim report was produced, but a full report detailing all three interventions was never completed. Specialist reports on the flint tools, the saddle querns, the clay weight and the pottery have now all been completed and hopefully the report on the jet button will be updated in time for the publication. It is just up to me now to finish pulling all this evidence together, and I have been generously helped with background references, by both Blaise Vyner and Dave Evans. Had I known that I would be the only one left to write the site up, I might have kept a better diary, but the existing standard records are pretty good.

Kate Dennett.

Obituaries

We were sorry to hear of the death, in January 2013, of **Tim Schadla-Hall**, one time Principal Keeper of Hull City Museums. A few older ERAS members will remember attending his archaeology evening classes at Castle Warehouse in Hull, also his wonderfully eclectic, vivid and lively lecture series at Hull University in the 1980s. A great 'mover and shaker', he revitalised ERAS, arranging trips to Star Carr, the Wolds Barrow sites and Dominic Powlesland's early excavations. Later, when he moved away to be Director of Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service, he showed visiting ERAS members the highlights of his area, casually

pointing out to us, the spot where he thought Richard III was likely to be buried, many years before the recent excavations, publicity and controversial film!

(Obituaries, contd.) Neil Faulkner who died in February 2022 was another memorable character, a freelance archaeologist with decidedly Marxist leanings, was a main contributor to the early meetings of the CIA (Council for Independent Archaeology) This now defunct group, to which ERAS was affiliated for many years, pioneered (with the expertise of electronics expert Bob Randall of TR Systems Ltd) the development of the affordable resistivity meter, which so many independent and voluntary groups, including ERAS went on to buy and use, to great effect. Neil Faulkner could always be guaranteed to provide some drama and controversy at CIA conferences, which might otherwise have been somewhat staid.

Editor

Artefact Storage Problems

Kate Dennett

A news item on Radio4 on 24th February caught my interest and I wonder if it made anybody else pause for thought. The item concerned the ongoing storage crisis for archaeological artefacts. The presenter asked Tristram Hunt (V & A Museum) and Simon Jenkins ‘*what is the point ..?*’ of storing all these boxes of artefacts, if the general public never get to view them. We were not, in this discussion, in the realms of anything special, but simply the great mass of boxes of potsherds, bones, metalwork etc. Tristram Hunt attempted, rather lamely, I thought, to point out that artefact collections are multi-purpose and not there just for public viewing, but for specialist study at some point in the future. However he allowed himself to be completely overwhelmed by the cavalier and rather unpleasant approach of Simon Jenkins who argued it was time to ‘*get rid of a lot of it*’. He opted for a massive dispersal of the stored items, to school and public handling schemes. When Tristram Hunt pointed out that we cannot, legally de-accession items, Simon Jenkins retorted that the law needed changing. There was no discussion of how advances in scientific techniques now allow stored, ceramics, metals and organics to reveal far more information than we ever thought possible. Sites are often proved to be of a very different age from that originally assigned before such testing was available. I do agree that there should perhaps be a rethink on the long-term storage of post-medieval items such as clay pipes and ceramic building materials. However I found the lack of understanding of the value of scholarship in its own right, quite troubling and wished Tristram Hunt had stood up more strongly to Simon Jenkins.

In the 1990s, in the light of some museums starting to charge very high prices for the storage of artefacts, the East Riding Archaeology Forum (now defunct) discussed this looming storage crisis and pushed for a collecting policy and for a county-wide storage facility to be established. However, although this excellent forum (open to local authority heritage officers, commercial archaeology companies, and volunteer heritage groups) did much useful coordinating work, the task of establishing a wider storage facility proved to be beyond the scope of a County organisation. It needed to be done at a national level and of course that never happened. That was thirty years ago. Was Simon Jenkins simply playing devil’s advocate in his attitude to the storage of archaeological items? – I rather think he was not.

I was pleased to receive the following musings from ERAS member, Chris, a retired combat medic/sports injury therapist.

So Near, So Far

Chris Attlesey

I have always been interested in archaeology and feel it was a pity it was not an avenue any of us were directed to, during my 1940s Secondary Modern education. Having done one of Dr Peter Halkon’s Landscape Archaeology courses in later life, my interest continues and I muse that archaeology has touched the margins of my life at so many different stages.

I remember that in the 1940s my friends and I would gather Bluebells in Grunty Fen near Ely in Cambridgeshire, quite close to where a torc of twisted gold with trumpet-shaped terminals was found by a metal detectorist. It is one of the largest Bronze Age torcs ever found. Then later, whilst at Cambridge, I dated

a niece of one of the finders of the famous Mildenhall Treasure, a fabulous hoard of Roman silverware, found in 1942.

When in the RAF at North Luffenham in Rutland, my Sunday morning run would take me through the depression which is now Rutland Water where the fossilised bones of a 10m long ichthyosaur were found, during maintenance work, after a lagoon was drained in 2021. It was excavated and is being conserved and prepared for public display. And finally, my sister, who lives in Peterborough, recently sent me some illustrations of the Harpole Treasure, excavated last year on some land in Northamptonshire on which my sister's firm is about to build. This Anglo-Saxon find included a beautiful and very ornate gold and gemstone necklace.

Ah well, so near ... and yet so far.

Dianas or Drudges?

What did women do in the Ice Age?

Elle Clifford and Dr. Paul Bahn

In recent decades there has been a number of endeavours to re-examine women's lives during the last Ice Age, because for far too long the view of 'man-the-hunter' and woman as 'gatherer, cook and childminder' was an unchallenged hypothesis. Without a doubt, this simplistic view of early hunter-gatherers' division of labour practices was ripe for revision. However, this has recently led to over-zealous assertions, for example in a French book of 2021 called *Lady Sapiens*, that women were big-game hunters too, and as such could not have been dominated by men. In this short article we will examine whether there is any archaeological evidence to support the latter view – indeed, is there anything we can assume about the economic activities of men and women in Ice Age cultures? In our book *Everyday Life in the Ice Age*, we tried to give a balanced perspective from the evidence available. To illustrate, we will take a brief look at two areas of hunter-gatherer life in the last Ice Age – hunting and art.

In early publications of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries, Upper Palaeolithic women were often



Fig. 1

presented as the 'inferior sex' – or were completely invisible in the literature. However, there were some exceptions: Adrien Arcelin's *Solutré ou les chasseurs de rennes de la France centrale* (1872) – the first novel set during prehistory -- featured a young woman who was both chief and artist. Moreover, while most early researchers tended to dismiss the possibility of women making stone tools, no less a figure than the abbé Henri Breuil depicted female toolmakers in a book of 1949, *Beyond the Bounds of History* (Fig. 1, below). In Jean Auel's series of "Earth's Children" novels set throughout the Upper Palaeolithic, her heroine Ayla is not only beautiful but also brilliant at everything!



Where cave and rock art are concerned, it was always assumed (by the almost exclusively male scholars) that only men were artists, and that the imagery reflected male preoccupations of hunting and sex (Fig. 2, below). We now know that this is nonsense, and since women do produce rock art in other cultures – such as in Australia – there is no reason whatsoever to assume that all, or even most, Ice Age imagery was created by men.

Fig. 2.

In most cases, we simply don't know the sex of the artist, be it hand stencils, the red horses of the Altamira ceiling, finger flutings, the painters and engravers of 'vulvas' and female figurines – all of these, it has been suggested, were sometimes the work of female hands. The Magdalenian sculpted frieze of Cap Blanc (Dordogne) is a strong candidate for being the work of a woman artist (as explained in our book), and since some cave art is located in cramped and narrow spaces, the figures there must have been created by small adults, probably females or even children.

And now we turn to the topic of the likelihood of women hunting in the past. The 9000-year-old remains of a young adult were excavated at the Andean highland site of Wilamaya Patjxa (Peru), found buried with a 'hunter's tool kit' comprising projectile points and animal-processing tools. This has received much attention, and has since become known as a 'female big-game hunter.' Osteological analysis revealed this young person had been around 18 years old at death -- but unfortunately the claim that it is a female remains inconclusive, as the evidence (in the small print) is tenuous at best. Furthermore, the simple presence of the toolkit is no proof of ownership, or that the deceased ever used it. The same is true of all burials, of course, be they male or female.

Certainly, strong, agile women would have been just as capable of hunting as men, but despite this reality, among modern hunter-gatherers (something in the order of 10 million) the hunting of big game is almost entirely a male pursuit, and it is quite possible that the same applied in the past. It makes absolute sense that both sexes would have to be competent at every skill necessary for survival: females would need to gain expertise in hunting, tracking and toolmaking, along with the men in these communities. Women, as we know, are perfectly capable of the many skills that are required: knowing the possible location of herds, following tracks, good listening and sight and smell, co-ordination and long-distance accuracy with weapons – and last but not least - physical endurance. It is simplistic to assume that hunting was confined to men. However, although modern hunter-gatherer women like to join a hunting expedition for the excitement of tracking and flushing out animals, there are almost no examples of women in these societies taking part in the actual killing of large beasts. Killing a large animal such as a wild reindeer or bison, after it has been wounded with spears and hand-held implements and is struggling to escape, requires enormous strength, and is usually the most dangerous part of the hunting process. Butchering and transporting parts of the carcass back to the home site are also no mean tasks, and the physical demands required should not be underestimated. Those proposing that women in the remote past hunted big animals with basic weapons have rarely, if ever, considered the enormity of the process of killing large beasts.

There may have been several reasons why women opted out, or 'were excluded' from hunting. Keeping women and children safe from the dangers of hunting large animals would have been a good strategy for the survival of our species, especially women carrying, or accompanied by, small children. Most modern hunter-gatherer women report that hunting is not compatible with their childrearing roles, and instead prefer fishing and the necessary daily task of gathering a nutritious and more reliable supply of food. These women also report that their contribution is just as valued as bringing home parcels of meat – which is by no means guaranteed. The Agta women of the Philippines are one of the few modern hunter-gatherer populations that hunt for wild pigs, deer and monkeys as often as their male counterparts.

It is possible that women hunted alongside men in the past, but at some juncture in our species' prehistory it may have been decided to keep women and their offspring safer by attending to other valuable economic activities necessary for a group's survival. If that was the case, this would have nothing to do with male domination; and even if childrearing became a priority, surely women would still have been capable of hunting and butchering animals and been self-sufficient in order to fend for themselves and their children if men failed to return from hunting expeditions. The logical assumption is, therefore, that during the Ice Age women could hunt and make tools, even if these activities declined during pregnancy and childrearing. It also follows that their male counterparts would be proficient at the numerous tasks listed below -- that is, be able to cook, process hides and sew, and care for and teach their children survival skills. Presenting Ice Age men merely as tool-and weapon-makers and as hunters is also portraying them in a very one-dimensional way. There was always a job to do in the Ice Age, and perhaps hunting 'the big stuff' was a seasonal-only pursuit that took up relatively little of Ice Age people's daily activities.

Economic activities other than hunting – Women's work or men's work?

Butchering and skinning animals

Fishing and gutting, processing skins and furs for clothing etc

Netting animals

Collecting water, wood, bones, animal dung for fires and keeping the fires going.

Gathering seasonal foodstuffs such as roots and plant food, eggs, berries and nuts

Cooking, processing food for storage

Making textiles for clothing, ropes, nets and containers

Collecting stone, bone, antler and ochre

Processing ochre

Making stone, bone and antler tools

Making needles and awls for sewing and skin processing. Making beads and jewellery

Nursing and child minding

Teaching survival skills to children

The Geoarchaeology of the Cists in Rudston Church Yard

Richard Myerscough
East Yorkshire Geopark

In the North East corner of Rudston Church of All Saints is a pair of Bronze Age cists from the floor of the great shaft grave of Greenwell's Barrow 62 excavated by Edward Tindall in 1869. The slabs were transferred by the then vicar Edward James Morlock to the church yard, but unfortunately no PCC records appear to exist for the events leading up to this.

The cists are constructed of 2 cm or so thick slabs of a calcareous ferruginous bioclastic sandstone and measure approx. 250 cm long by 95cm, divided into 2 roughly equal chambers with two broken cap stones measuring 62 x 62 cms and 65 x75 cms respectively. They appear to be similar in size and lithology to others from the barrow described by Greenwell as 'sandstone and oolitic sandstone' They were excavated from different levels within the large stratified barrow that contained, at different levels, a number of cists and isolated slabs, accompanied by inhumations of adults and children, burnt bone, drinking vessels, large hammer stones and flint implements. There was reported evidence of fire on some of the slabs but this may have been oxidation due to weathering prior to burial. All the indications are that this was originally a burial for a person of note within the community, with other burials added later.

Greenwell and later authors were of the opinion that the sandstone slabs had been brought from Filey Brigg where the marine rocks of the Upper Jurassic (Corallian Group, 160 Ma) outcrop. However, analysis of the broken fossil content by Dr John Wright of Royal Holloway (University of London) indicates that the rock is Middle Jurassic in age (Ravenscar Group, 170 Ma). The conclusion is that it is likely to be the Lebberton Member (formally known as the Millepore Bed due to the presence of the bryozoan *Haploecia (Millepora) straminea*), a marine horizon within the deltaic Cloughton Formation which outcrops in the area of Cloughton on the North York Moors. This is the northern sandy equivalent of the oolitic limestones which can be traced down through East Yorkshire into Lincolnshire and on to the Cotswolds.

The rock is presently in a poor state and very fissile (easily split) and even when fresh would not have survived transport by ice during the last global cooling phase and so the only conclusion is that these and other described cists were constructed from material collected from outcrops on the moors and coast. Indeed, Greenwell records that *'the sandstone slabs showed by their peculiar weathered surface that they had been taken from the sea beach'* and that moving them *'must have been a work of time and labour, especially for people who could have possessed nothing but the simplest appliances for effecting the carriage of weighty objects.'* It is suggested here that the slabs may have been transported along the coast and then up the lower Great Wold Valley either along the Gypsy Race or via the seasonal Lake Rudston, this being a similar suggested transport route for the Rudston Monolith, also from the North York Moors. Interestingly, similar examples of this rock have been recorded from the Eastfield Roman site at Scarborough where they were used as flagstones and roofing tiles indicating the continued use of this rock over time. There is growing concern as to the present state of the cists and remedial work and/or relocation is urgently required.

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New ERAS Partnership With Petuaria Revisited Peter Halkon

The East Riding Archaeological Society has had a long association with Roman Brough, taking part in excavations at Cave Road in 1977/8. These revealed the foundations of stone structures which may be associated with some kind of wharf, and large amounts of pottery. The very first issue of the ERAS newsletter edited by Peter Armstrong, one of the most influential early members of the society who led the excavations refers to these digs. In 1980, ERAS members including the writer, then a young Hull History teacher, excavated at Petuaria Close, discovering an oven, what may be the base of an earthen rampart of the early fort annexe, lots of pottery and some fine silver coins of the Emperors Vespasian and Nerva (see ERAS News no 8). Since then, there has been a number of large-scale developer funded excavations by the then Humberside Archaeology Unit and the York Archaeological Trust, however little was done on the scheduled area of the Burrs Playing Field where Philip Corder and his team made their major discoveries in the 1930s, including the important inscription dedicating a stage by aedile Marcus Ulpius Januarius, now in the Hull and East Riding Museum.

In 2014 a magnetometer survey by James Lyall with the writer began to show the extensive nature of the Roman site. At the same time the chair of the Elloughton-cum-Brough Town Council, Martin Credland, was looking for a project to fill the void that the gradual withdrawal of BAe Systems as Brough's major employer was creating and saw exploration of Brough's Roman past as way of filling this gap. Eventually this led to the creation of a community heritage project, "Petuaria ReVisited", chaired by Martin Credland. With funding principally raised through sponsorship from local businesses and individuals, a GPR survey covering most of Burrs and gardens within the scheduled area was carried out by David Staveley in November 2018 and April 2019, under a Section 42 license from Historic England which revealed spectacular results and ERAS complemented this with a resistivity survey. This led to three successful years of excavations in and around the Burrs in which many ERAS members have been involved.

For some time, ERAS has been looking for a field project to get involved in and now a partnership agreement has been verbally agreed with Petuaria ReVisited and just remains to be signed. On July 15th on the Burrs there is the third Roman Festival, featuring Roman army re-enactors, crafts, children's activities and stalls, including ERAS, and help with this will be welcome. It is also the first day of the fourth season of excavation (9am to 5pm every day for a fortnight) designed to explore the Roman defences and the approach road from the east into the walled enclosure. Although most places on the dig have already been filled there may be some spaces on weekdays. For further information see the Petuaria ReVisited Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/petuaria/>

Possible Wolds Geology walk with Richard Myerscough?

Following Richard's article in the September 2022 ERAS news, there has been much interest in the link between geological faulting on the chalk of the Yorkshire Wolds and the siting of settlements and other features such as the well known 'entrenchments'. A discussion group is to be set up to look at any possible relationship of the archaeological features to the geological faulting (which causes fractured chalk to be exposed on or close to the land surface). Richard is organising a walk for other groups to show where the faults are visible in the landscape on the northern Wolds. The walk (about six miles long including refreshments and a toilet stop) is almost fully booked. However, if anyone is interested in doing a shorter walk with Richard, this summer, perhaps using car transport between the sites, please contact either myself or Field Studies organiser Matthew Walker -

m.walker_1985@hotmail.co.uk and we will see what can be arranged.

Possible Skipsea Site Visit

Excavations are taking place at Skipsea Brough between 24 April and 19 May and we are hoping to be able to arrange a site visit, but it would be during the daytime, on a weekday. If you are interested please contact Matthew on

m.walker_1985@hotmail.co.uk

The Archive of Peter Farmer

During January's lecture about the work of the Scarborough Archaeological Society, Chris Hall expressed an interest in finding the archive of Peter Farmer, who was active in the area in the 1970s. He noted that Peter's digs were always distinctive in having scaffold planks around the top edges of the trenches, to keep the edges firm and neat. If any of our older members know where any of Peter's excavation archive is held or how it can be accessed, he would be very pleased to hear from you. (We can pass on any info you might have.)

CBA's 'Creativity' Theme A Personal Point of View

Kate Dennett

CBA has announced that the theme for this year's Festival of Archaeology is to be 'Creativity'. The publicity states that 'Archaeology at its heart is a creative process' and is all about 'making memories.' Archaeology does attract many creative people and I fully support the expansion which has happened in recent years so that

more people are involved. I understand the importance of that tiny seed of interest, which we hope will develop further, in a schoolchild who feels a link with their Victorian ancestors. Spin-off projects such as drama, art and crafts and reconstructions are excellent and long may they continue, but I hope I am not being cynical when I say it must be acknowledged that these spin-offs are also important in giving access to wider funding opportunities, as they contribute to a general well-being of the population in a time of financial difficulties, and at a time when we are less able to access European funding.

However, my perception of archaeology as a subject is a little different. I personally see archaeology '*at its heart*' as a **science**, whose most urgent purpose is to preserve or extract and interpret the fragile evidence of how we behaved in the much earlier periods, about which we know relatively little. Advances in surveying and in scientific testing which have become available in the past twenty years have changed operations and outcomes in many ways. It is now even more crucial that the physical work such as, trowelling, context identification, section preparation and drawing, extraction and labelling of samples etc are carried out in a controlled and scientific manner, if the resultant data are to have any reliable meaning. There's no point in carrying out expensive work on isotope testing or radiocarbon dating, if we are not absolutely certain of the veracity of the context and sample. Yes, one must have creativity in imagining where to place the next new trench, in order to get the most information out of the ground, but even in this scenario, science and knowledge are the winners for me.

How wonderful if the theme for next year's Festival could be '*Communication of Science in Archaeology.*' We have all been to lectures where the graphs and charts put up on screen are either illegible or unintelligible to the average person and yet nobody questions them. Sometimes the audience does not have enough time to read the labels on the x or y axis of a graph. It is only afterwards, if one speaks to individuals, that one finds others who did not understand the diagrams! Let's spend a little time, money and creativity on helping those excellent scientists working in all branches of archaeology to better communicate with the general public. The leap from the analysis of the data to its interpretation and publicising can be fraught with misunderstood statistics. CBA's popular magazine *British Archaeology* manages, in its published articles to communicate the science very well, so we know it can be done.

Various Events

Monday 17 April

****FFWAP meeting Wetwang Village Hall.7.30pm*** An Introduction to Accessing and Using Online Resources, by Matt Oakey

Saturday 29 April

CBA Yorkshire, Spring Symposium at King's Manor, University of York. See their website for programme and booking details. An event usually worth attending.

Monday 22 May

FFWAP meeting, Wetwang Village Hall . 7.30pm

Lecture by Paula Ware. A tale of three Chariots

Sunday 11 June.

Tophill Low Open Day at the Yorkshire Water site. ERAS will be having a stall there and this is usually a really good day out. We can always do with help on the stall, or just come along and enjoy the many attractions.

Monday 26 June

FFWAP AGM, Wetwang Village Hall

Enquiries ffwap.alison@gmail.com

Saturday 15 July

Petuaria Revisited, Roman Festival at The Burrs, Brough. ERAS will be having a stall for recruiting new members, showing artefacts and chatting to visitors. Come along either to help or just enjoy.

Saturday 16 September

Local History Book Fair at Hull Minster. ERAS will be having a stall at this ever popular event and hoping to sell some of our stock of second hand books. Please come along and help on the stall or just buy some books. (There is a fabulous new café built onto the south side of the Minster now, good coffee, proper cakes)

**Fridaythorpe, Fimber, Wetwang Archaeological Project*

Commercial Archaeology:

How it works in practice

Mark Allen (Allen Archaeology Ltd)

After nearly 30 years in the commercial archaeology sector, I still, on occasion, get asked if our company is affiliated with a university due to a notion that archaeology is linked to academia. Yes, the majority of commercial archaeologists have been to university, but this is due to a probably outdated view that it is necessary to do so, in order to follow a path in the profession.

The actual picture is one of numerous commercial companies and self-employed archaeologists across the UK who undertake archaeological work, mostly to assist the construction industry and to inform planning decisions. Many of these companies are Registered Organisations of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), which promotes standards and ethics in archaeology and provides the benchmark for professionalism in the industry.

Planning Policies

Commercial archaeology started to take off in 1990 when Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning (or PPG 16 as it is commonly known) was introduced by the government, to acknowledge the need for archaeological work to be undertaken alongside construction, following a number of scandals at the time, such as the planned destruction of the Elizabethan Rose Theatre in London. It worked on the premise that the ‘polluter paid’, i.e. the company or person seeking to destroy the heritage assets had to pay for its investigation and recording. (In some European countries, pre-construction archaeology is paid for through a tax levied on all construction companies).

The guidance given by PPG 16 was subsequently replaced by Planning Policy Statement 5 in 2010, closely followed by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in 2012, with the specific chapter on heritage being: 16. Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment. NPPF was given a somewhat lukewarm welcome, in part due to its slashing of 1,300 pages of guidance down to 65 pages, but in the heritage industry also, due to the reduction in protection of archaeological remains to a ‘presumption in favour of sustained development’ (NPPF paragraph 14).

Wages

Due to its nature, construction relies heavily on competitive tendering, which is a far from perfect system. The cynics will see this as the cheapest price wins, and with unprincipled contractors involved, as a race to the bottom. This is not the case, although it is clearly a factor in having historically kept archaeological wages lower than they should be. Thankfully, a core aim of CIfA is to consistently see an annual increase in wages to address this imbalance. CIfA has no direct control over units not signed up to their code of practice of course, but wage rises within CIfA Registered Organisations mean that the going rate across the industry steadily increases. The real model of work tends to see many construction companies retaining the services of an archaeological contractor that they know and trust to carry out the work - timescale and flexibility, rather than cost, often being the important consideration.

The Planning Process

For most building schemes, a planning application is submitted, often by the project architect or consultant, to a local planning authority for approval (pre-application advice is also often requested to ensure the necessary investigation and documentation is provided for the application). The application is considered by the local authority planning team and an archaeological advisor within the department will make an informed decision on what archaeological work, if any, is required. To do this they will consult the county Historic Environment

Record, which is a centrally held record of all known archaeological records, from chance discoveries of a Medieval coin to previous excavation of a Roman villa, for example.

If archaeological work is required this is usually needed prior to determination of the application and may involve non-intrusive (e.g. desk-based assessment, historic building recording, geophysical survey, earthwork survey), followed by intrusive evaluation trenching to 'ground-truth' the site. If this is following on from a geophysical survey, the trenching will, in part, target anomalies of potential archaeological interest, shown by the survey. Trenching is generally 2 – 5% of the total area, and if archaeological remains are encountered then a further phase of fieldwork may be necessary. This is known as the mitigation stage, which occurs following planning permission being granted, and may involve monitoring and recording of any construction groundworks (historically known as a Watching Brief), or stripping of an area as part of an excavation or 'strip, map and recording' (SMR).

Costing the work

With regards to tendering for these works, desk-based assessments and geophysical surveys are relatively easy to cost. For desk-based assessments this will almost always include a fee charged by the local Historic Environment Record for a search of their records, to obtain the necessary background data on known archaeological deposits and artefacts close to the site, as well as the costs incurred to visit the site itself. The information is then compiled and a report is produced to assess the potential of any archaeological remains which may exist within the site boundaries. The report may also review the likely visual impact of the development on nearby heritage assets, such as a Grade I listed parish church or a Scheduled Bronze Age barrow for example.

Evaluation trenching is a lot harder to quote for, as it is all about managing and assessing risk, i.e. what volume of archaeology (both features and artefacts) might be encountered and how long it will take to investigate and record the remains with a team of field archaeologists. The first element to include is a written scheme of investigation (WSI). These are fairly generic so the cost is usually simple to identify. The WSI must be approved by the archaeologist in the Local Authority Planning Department, prior to work commencing. Plant and welfare (e.g. secure cabin with canteen and toilet facilities) also has to be included in the quotation. There are then the knock-on concerns, for instance - which 'finds specialists' will be required and how long will they take to report on the material? Specialists might be required to report on animal or human bone, prehistoric worked lithics (flints), Roman pottery, for example, and these specialists may work within the commercial archaeology company, or be independent.

Another factor to be considered is that a portion of the archaeological deposit is required to be sampled. This generally involves c.40 litres of soil being recovered from specific contexts or features on the site. These samples have to be processed through sieves to collect smaller artefacts, as well as charred plant and wood remains and snail shells which an environmental archaeologist then assesses to provide information such as environment and dietary habits. Other factors to be considered include site topography, geology and geography, i.e., how deep the trenches will be, whether they are on heavy clay or soft sand, whether the site is remote or hard to access, and how far it is from the contracting company's office?

Mitigation works are generally split into two types, one being the close observation of any groundworks carried out by the construction company with the archaeologist having the ability to stop the groundworks in order to record any archaeological remains that are encountered. The second type of work is the open area excavation or SMR. For the former, the length (and cost) of this is dependent on the time it takes to undertake the groundworks, with a reporting cost as well, and generally requires a day rate for one archaeologist to attend the site to monitor the works. For the open area excavation (SMR) using evidence from the evaluation trenching and any other associated data, an archaeological project manager will estimate the number of interventions (excavated sections through specific features) that will be required to fulfil the planning archaeologist's requirements, how long each will take to excavate, and then calculate how many person days it will take to complete. It might also be necessary to sub-contract a plant company to strip the overburden on the site, to expose the archaeology, and this might also involve welfare provision.

Reporting the results

Reporting for final mitigatory work is often in two stages; an assessment report and updated project design (UPD), followed by the final analysis reporting. The first stage will assess the results of the work in line with the original Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and identify and date the artefacts. Specialist

recommendations are then included in the UPD, with their costings, as well as revised research aims and any publication proposals now that the site has been excavated. Final reporting may be in the form of an unpublished report (known as grey-literature, as it is only accessible via the Local Authority Archives or online via ADS, the Archaeological Data Service). Alternatively publication may be in the form of an article published in a journal or a published monograph. The latter two will involve printing and publishing costs which need to be taken into account.

Wrapping it all up

Finally, when all is completed, the artefacts, site records, photographs and reports need to be carefully catalogued and boxed in specific archival boxes before submission to the local museum repository. Not only does each museum have its own requirements for cataloguing, they also charge long term storage fees very differently, from no cost to hundreds of pounds per archive box.

This has necessarily been a basic run through of how commercial archaeology tends to work, and how it is costed up. There are numerous complexities and risks to consider when costing any piece of archaeological work, but hopefully the article above has helped you to understand the factors involved.

LECTURE MEETINGS

Formal lectures at the University of Hull will start again in September, and if you are a **fully paid up** member, you will receive the printed newsletter at the beginning of September, giving all the dates and titles. You can also check the ERAS website and if you have email, will receive the eNewsletters.

FIELD STUDY MEETINGS

These are usually held, throughout the year, on the first Wednesday of each month, at 7.30 pm in the upstairs meeting room at St. Nicholas Community Centre, Holmechurch Lane, Beverley. In the past we have worked on sorting and cataloguing pottery sherds or learning to do site drawings, but the meetings are pretty flexible. In the summer months outdoor trips or site visits might be held instead of the indoor meetings. No experience is necessary, everyone is welcome, you don't have to join the group, just turn up and enjoy whatever they are doing, but please check our website first, or contact our new organiser, Matthew Walker, who has lots of ideas for a new programme of activities.

m.walker_1985@hotmail.co.uk

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 the Treasurer, Colin Parr, 32 Woodgate Rd, Hull HU5 5AH

Wharram Percy Visit, September 2022



Photographs: Nathan Berry