



NASNEWS

Newsletter of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society



Website: www.northants-archaeology.org.uk

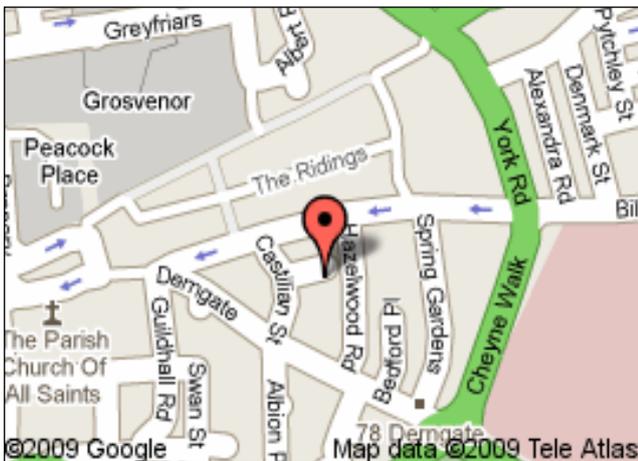
October 2019

NAS AGM and public lecture

Tuesday, 12 November

The NAS Annual General Meeting will be held in the Humfrey Rooms of the Northamptonshire Natural History Society:

**10 Castilian Terrace
Northampton NN1 1LD**



There will be tea/coffee and biscuits from 6.30pm, with the NAS AGM at 7pm:

NAS AGM

Chair: Andy Chapman

Officers' reports

Statement of accounts

Election of Hon. Officers of Council and other members of Council

NAS COMMITTEE

Anyone wishing to join the committee to help keep the Society running, and who can bring in new energy and fresh ideas, please step forward. New candidates should notify the Secretary in advance, together with the names of two members to nominate and second their application, or they can be

nominated on the night.

PUBLIC LECTURE

The public lecture will start at c.7.20 pm.

Chris Chinnock Borough Hill Hillfort Community Project



This year Chris Chinnock from Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) will be giving a talk presenting the results of recent fieldwork at Borough Hill, Daventry.

Borough Hill is home to the fourth largest hillfort in the UK. For the last two years MOLA have been working in collaboration with CLASP to survey this fascinating site. Using a combination of drone survey and geophysical techniques, they have been able to highlight a wide range of archaeological features above and below ground without needing to excavate.

CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

The committee has produced an updated constitution. The present constitution dates from 1974 when the society was founded as a successor to the Northamptonshire Federation of Archaeological Societies. The new proposed constitution will be circulated at the AGM for

approval. If passed the updated constitution will then be sent to the Charity Commission for their approval as is required by our charitable status.

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

A reminder for those who do not pay by direct debit that subscriptions were due in September, apart from those who joined within the past few months whose membership will run through to next September. We would ask all those paying by Direct Debit to check that they have adjusted the amount paid according to the subscription rates as increased a few years ago, mainly to take account of the increased costs of posting the journals.

£12 individual membership,

£15 family membership, £10 students

£15 local associations, £25 institutions

Cheques payable to Northamptonshire Archaeological Society: to Pat Chapman, NAS Membership Secretary, 4 Oat Hill Drive, Northampton, NN3 5AL.

THE JOURNAL

Northamptonshire Archaeology Volume 40, 2019

The new journal is due to arrive in late October and copies will be available to collect at the AGM. Copies will be posted ASAP after the AGM, and hopefully all members will have received their copy by around the end of November.

The journal contains the following main articles, along with notes and the annual round up:

The Brumut Hills: two Neolithic long barrows near Flore by Jim Brown

Flint deposition in the vicinity of the Dallington Neolithic Causewayed Enclosure, Northampton by Andy Chapman

Early Bronze Age, Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon landscapes at Apex Park, Daventry by Simon Markus and Stephen Morris

A later prehistoric landscape at Sandy Lane, Northampton by Nicky Garland, Peter Banks and Daniel Stansbie

Early and Middle Iron Age settlement at Glington, Peterborough by Gareth Rees and Matt Brudenell

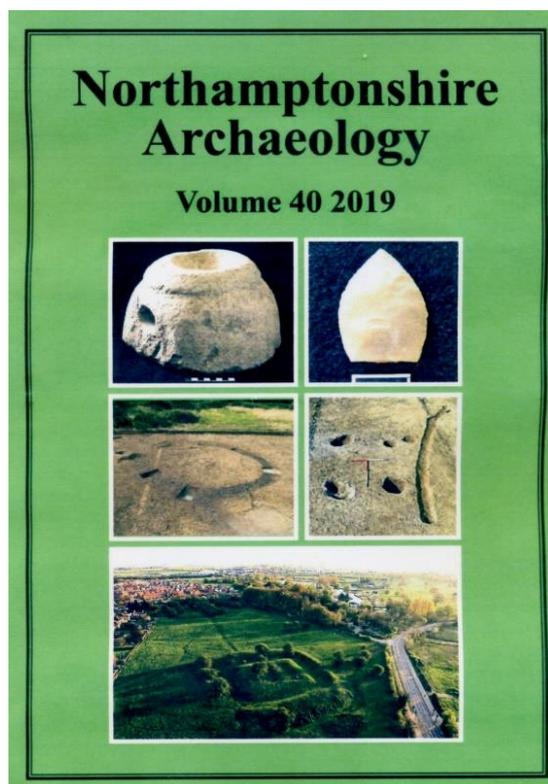
A Late Iron Age trackway and settlement south of Towcester Road, Old Stratford by Stephen Morris

Late Iron Age and early Roman settlement at School Lane, Hartwell by Claire Finn, Andy Chapman, James Burke and Charlotte Walker

Barton Seagrave moated manorial enclosure and other moated enclosures in central and northern Northamptonshire by Dale Munn

A medieval road and buildings at Harbidges Lane, Long Buckby by Adam Reid

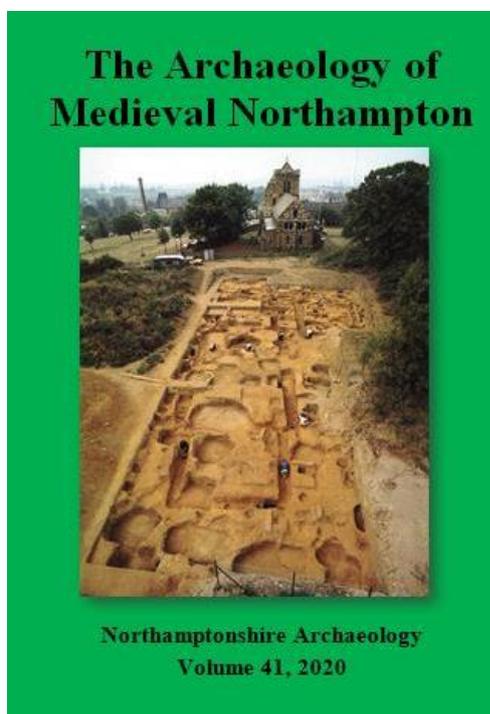
Late medieval and post-medieval roadside settlement at School Lane, Hartwell by Charlotte Walker



**Northamptonshire Archaeology
The Archaeology of Medieval
Northampton
Volume 41, 2020**

Now that volume 40 has been published, work on volume 41, the medieval Northampton special edition, will resume soon and it will be published in 2020.

This volume will contain an overview of the archaeology of the pre-Conquest origins of the town and reports on the excavations at Northampton Castle in the 1960s and in 2013. There will also be further articles and notes relevant to the town. It will be published in the journal series but additional copies will be printed so it will also be available to non-members and through bookshops.



THE JOURNAL ON-LINE

Previous volumes of the journal will become freely accessible online with the ADS (Archaeological Data Service) during 2020. Significant progress has been made with the onerous task of compiling the material for ADS and creating a full database, which is required for the online organisation of the numerous data files.

DATA PROTECTION

Members who are not attending the AGM will be sent the new NAS journal in the post. The newsletter is also sent in the post to those members who don't have email. In order to do this the NAS secretary holds a simple database of members email and postal addresses. It is important to note that NAS will never share these details to a third party and holds this database purely for sending the journal, information on events and newsletters. If members have any further queries about how their information is held and used please get in touch with the NAS Secretary.

A RIGHT ROYAL VISIT



On 29 May two former Chairs of NAS, David Waller and Michael Curtis, attired in their best suits, attended a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace by invitation of our President, HRH, The Duke of Gloucester. On an afternoon marred by rain, David and Michael lined up on the lawn along with representatives of other charities to meet the Duke of Gloucester. His Royal Highness was interested to hear news about the Society and some of the recent projects that were going on in Northamptonshire. He was particularly interested to receive an update on archaeological work at Chester Farm, a site that he had personally visited some years previously.



Sheltering from the rain David and Michael enjoyed tea and cake whilst mingling with other guests to the accompaniment of music played by the bands of the military forces. As it happened Michael's daughter, Sarah, was playing in the band of the Royal Marines on that particular day so it turned out to be a proper family occasion. As the rain cleared David and Michael had time to stroll around the Palace gardens.

GRANTS

In 2019 NAS has issued three grants to help with archaeological projects being undertaken in the county. In September the NAS committee passed a £500 grant to Sophy Charlton of the Natural History Museum who wishes to carry out further analysis (strontium isotopes) on the Middle Neolithic skeletal remains from Banbury Lane, Northampton. This is a unique human bone collection of national significance, comprising partial disarticulated remains from around 150 individuals from the Middle Neolithic (See the interim published report on the site in Northamptonshire Archaeology volume 37).

MidNAG Archaeological Society was paid £250, the second half of a grant towards for their ongoing work on excavations at Nassington. Derek Roberts, their director, laid out the results of MidNAG's excavations at a recent CBA South Midlands conference

held at Bugbrooke, and there is a note in the new journal.

Finally, The Collyweston Historical & Preservation Society was awarded £250 for their work in searching for the Royal Palace of Lady Margaret Beaufort. A geophysical survey and some archaeological trenches have been undertaken, and the results presented at an open weekend.

CBA CONFERENCE: ROMAN VILLAS

The next CBA South Midlands conference on Saturday, 20 October at Winslow, Bucks, looks at Roman villa landscapes in the region. The cost is £22 to non-CBA members and can be booked up to 15 October by emailing David Ingham at: dp.ingham@albion-arch.com.

THE BRIXWORTH LECTURE

**From Mercia to England:
Warfare and Conquest in the Midlands,
c. 865-973'**

Dr Gareth Williams

Curator of Medieval Coins, British Museum
Saturday, 26 October 2019, 5.00pm-6.00pm,
All Saints' Church, Station Road, Brixworth,
Northampton NN6 9DF

THE FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH, BRIXWORTH
with THE UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTERS MEDIEVAL RESEARCH CENTRE

**"From Mercia to England:
Warfare and Conquest in the Midlands c. 865-973"**

Dr. GARETH WILLIAMS
CURATOR OF MEDIEVAL COINS AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM
He is also a key Viking Scholar.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH BRIXWORTH, NORTHANTS
SATURDAY 26th OCTOBER 2019 at 5.00pm

Ticket reservations can be made now by contacting Kate Knight:
Tel: 01604 881810. Email: kate.knight1a@hotmail.co.uk

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER TRAINING COURSES

This winter, ULAS will be running a series of Saturday training courses at the University of Leicester. Ten 1/2-day and 1-day courses will focus on archaeological skills, including how to set up a project, desk-based research, field walking, test-pitting, excavation, reading landscapes and buildings, photogrammetry, how to process and identify finds, report writing and archiving.

The courses are classroom-based and will be of interest to community groups and individuals hoping to carry out archaeological projects.

Programme:

2019

SATURDAY, 2 NOVEMBER: Introduction to planning an archaeological project (1/2 day)

SATURDAY, 16 NOVEMBER: Introduction to archaeological desk-based research

SATURDAY, 30 NOVEMBER: How to carry out archaeological fieldwalking

SATURDAY, 14 DECEMBER: How to dig & interpret archaeological test-pits

2020

SATURDAY, 11 JANUARY: Introduction to archaeological excavation

SATURDAY, 25 JANUARY: Introduction to reading the landscape

SATURDAY, 8 FEBRUARY: How to process & identify archaeological finds

SATURDAY, 15 FEBRUARY: How to read & interpret historic buildings

SATURDAY, 29 FEBRUARY: Introduction to photogrammetry in archaeology (1/2 day)

SATURDAY, 14 MARCH: How to write up & archive your archaeological project

½-day courses are £10 and 1-day courses are £20.

For more information and to book a place, see School of Archaeology and Ancient History, [shop@le](mailto:shop@le.ac.uk)

https://shop.le.ac.uk/short-courses/courses-and-course-essentials/school-of-archaeology-and-ancient-history?fbclid=IwAR1PgG1T_pl5Vp3cRvFlugd8HvV_gae9Kw-DqvfXqJC2-ZU-NHa3vBJ0qD8

PIDDINGTON DICE TOWER

Recent excavations at Piddington villa have found two parts of a rare and unusual object recovered from rubble overlying a corn drying oven. These consist of two fragments of a worked bone panel which depicts a staircase and would have formed part of a worked bone dice tower (a *turricula* or *pyrgus*), which wealthy Romans used for rolling dice. Dice towers were very costly objects as seen by the fact that three of the four examples of these objects recovered from Britain have come from villa sites. The other British examples were from Dorchester, Great Casterton and Richborough.

EXCAVATIONS AT RAUNDS

Excavations by Oxford Archaeology East at Raunds, Warth Park have been described in an article in the October edition of *Current Archaeology* (issue 355).

The excavations, in advance of yet more huge warehouses, have revealed a series of settlements and activity over the last 6,000 years. The so called Cotton 'henge', which is actually an early Neolithic enclosure (c.4,000 - 3,500 BC) comprising an outer ditch forming an irregular oval, up to 72m in diameter, and a small inner enclosure some 19m in diameter, was fully excavated, although finds were sparse. Other remains included an early Bronze Age barrow and an Iron Age to Roman settlement. One of the more intriguing artefacts recovered was a Roman wooden sculptured arm that came from waterlogged deposits in a well where it may have been placed as some form of votive deposit. Saxon buildings were also uncovered.

**CELEBRATIONS FOR 200 YEARS
OF THE FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE,
WELLINGBOROUGH**

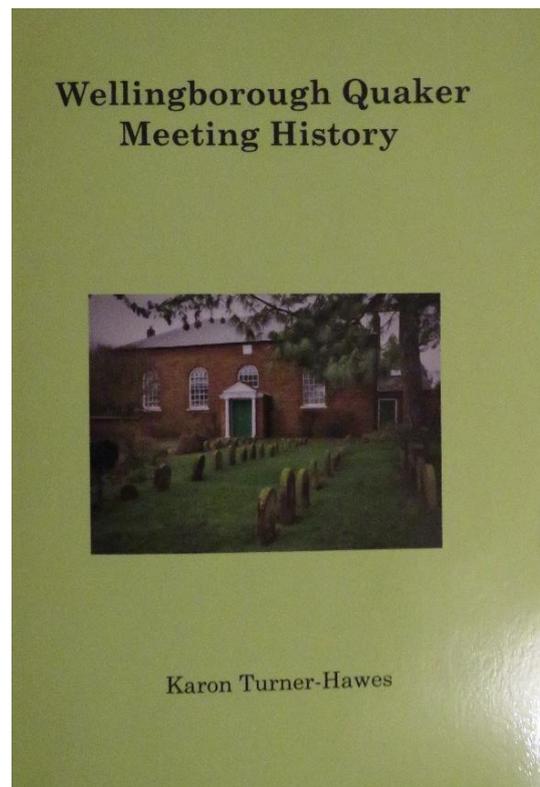
Hidden away in St John Street, Wellingborough, the Friends Meeting House, built in 1819, is a testament to generations of Quakerism in the town. Originally this building was hidden from view by a row of houses, but it now stands clearly visible from the road. On the 20 July 2019 a special open day was held to mark its 200th Anniversary. The building is Grade II listed and maintains some of its original features, including the main meeting hall. Over the years other parts of the building have been tastefully altered to maintain its functional use to the Wellingborough community, whilst still maintaining the spirit and nature of its original character. As visitors found on the open day, it is truly one of Wellingborough's hidden gems.



Many of us also know the building as the home for meetings of the Wellingborough Archaeological and Historical Society.

To mark the celebrations a special limited-edition book, by Karon Turner-Hawes, adds a personal view on Quakerism in Wellingborough and contains interesting information about the Meeting House and some of the Wellingborough Quakers, including those whose grave-stones are still visible in the small cemetery in front of the building.

Enquires about the publication should be addressed to the Friends Meeting House, St John Street, Wellingborough, NN8 4LG.



AND FINALLY.....

News items of interest are also posted on the NAS Facebook page. If you have any items you would like included contact:

Andy Chapman

NAS secretary and journal editor

NAS email: NAS196674@gmail.com

If you have any news or information that you would like included in the next NAS newsletter then please contact:

Mark Holmes

NASNEWS editor

mholmes@MOLA.org.uk