

Northamptonshire Archaeological Society



ESSAY COMPETITION

Following the success of the essay competition organised last year, this announcement gives details of a second competition which we hope will attract the attention of 'young archaeologists'.

Entries are invited from schoolchildren between the ages of 11 and 18; anyone may enter - you do not have to be a Family member of the NAS. There will be three prizes awarded: book tokens to the value of £5.00, £3.00 and £1.50. The age of authors will be taken into account in the final verdict. The winning essay will be published in the next issue of the Calendar/Newsletter. Essays may be presented in any form; drawings must be by the author. Entries should be clearly marked with the author's name, age, address and school, and sent to:

Mrs F Williams, c/o NDC Archaeology Centre, Thorplands Farm, Billing Brook Road, Thorplands, Northampton.

- not later than February 28th 1979.

The Essay Titles are:

- 1) Should archaeology be taught in schools?

or

- 2) Hunsbury Hill, August, 100 BC

Hunsbury is one of the finest Iron Age hillforts in Northamptonshire, but what was it like to live there?

The recent BBC TV series will have given an idea of what an Iron Age settlement might have looked like. Useful books are: B.Cunliffe, 'Iron Age Communities of Britain'; D.W.Harding, 'The Iron Age in Lowland Britain'; C.Fell, 'The Hunsbury Hillfort, Northamptonshire', Archaeological Journal Vol. 93, 1937, 57-100. Ask in your library for these and any other related books. Northampton Museum, Guildhall Road, has many objects from the site in its collection.

or

- 3) Write an account of the making, and use, of two objects, each from different periods of time (Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, Medieval). Reconstruct the day-to-day use of the objects. Use your own drawings to show the objects and their uses.

The essays will be judged by Mr John Thornton, one of the Society's Vice Presidents.

LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

The Northamptonshire Archaeological Society grew out of the Northamptonshire Federation of Archaeological Societies, and the many active local archaeological societies continue to provide valuable support for the relatively young county society in its efforts to produce an annual journal containing reports on work in the county, and to generally publicise the archaeological wealth of the area.

A new series of articles begins in this issue of the Calendar/Newsletter, in which we shall take a look at the activities and interests of individual local societies. The first of these articles has been contributed by Mr B.C.Hastings of the South Northamptonshire Archaeological Society.

THE SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
MR B C Hastings

The Society was formed in January 1972 as a result of initiative by the Northamptonshire Federation of Archaeological Societies (as it then was). A public meeting was held at Towcester which was addressed by various members of the Council. As a result a holding Committee was formed and S.N.A.S. came into existence. The Founder Committee was Chaired by Mr. J.H. Mayes to whom the Society owes an enormous debt for his unfailing help and guidance over the years. Mr A.E. Brown of Leicester University has also played a great part in the building of the Society; he chaired the earliest meetings, arranged evening classes and day schools in Towcester and Brackley, and later paid three long visits to the area to direct a major dig. A lecture programme was quickly arranged and during the summer the Society provided the main work force for Peter Woods' excavation at Deanshanger. This was the farm complex associated with the Roman villa previously excavated by Charles Green. During the following winter one of our most devoted field walkers, Ron Isham of Brackley discovered unmistakable traces of Roman occupation on land behind the parish church which was shortly to be developed as a residential area. The developers gave permission for trial excavations and all the evidence of a major Romano-British settlement were confirmed and a piece of road with a closed culvert beside it was stripped. Officials of the Department of the Environment and Dr Graham Webster inspected our finds and urged a major excavation. An open meeting was held in Brackley Town Hall, given free for the occasion by the Borough Council who were very interested, Tony Brown took the chair, and Christopher Young and David Hall spoke. Members put on an exhibition and as a result large numbers of local volunteers for the excavation were obtained and the Society organised a programme of lectures in Brackley for the next two winters. At the last moment the Developers completely refused any further facilities and as a result most Brackley support has faded away. The 1973 lecture season closed with an Exhibition entitled 'One Year's Work' and a lecture by Graham Webster on 'The Problems of the Roman Villa'. An attendance of over 100 fully justified the effort. Early in 1974 the Society played an active part in the field walking required ahead of M40 development.

During the next three summers, 1974, 1975 and 1976, the Society provided almost the entire work force for Tony Brown's excavations of the Roman site discovered by Terry Shirley, another of our field walkers. This turned out to be 'the grotty remains of 4th century suburban Towcester' and not the substantial building which surface finds had led us to expect. However, we did establish the line of the Towcester - Alchester road, and three pieces of architectural masonry, since studied by Paul Woodfield; a metalworkers' hut produced a pewter plate, large pigs of lead, and many coins.

The last excavation in which the Society was involved was at Park Street, Towcester, where the Oxford Archaeological Unit spent six weeks and probably found the Towcester end of the road referred to above.

Following the Park Street excavation the Society organised an exhibition 'Ancient Towcester Displayed' at which George Lambrick, the director of the excavation, gave a preliminary report on his findings there. Attendance at the lecture alone was in the neighbourhood of 160 people and well over 300 visited the exhibition. 1977 saw an extensive reconstruction of the Towcester sewers closely watched by Charmian Woodfield and other members. The most important find was, perhaps, a short section of stone wall built on the Roman bank, near the north gate of the town, which we suspected was part of the defence of Towcester erected on the orders of Edward the Elder after the siege by the Danes from Northampton. The Society's main aim is to interest and educate the people living in the area in the archaeology which lies around them. To this end we offer a comprehensive lecture programme (see Calendar) summer visits to more distant sites, and have recently commenced what is hoped will eventually be a complete survey of the churchyards in our area. If you are interested in receiving more information about the society, please write to: Mr B.C. Hastings, The Folly, Tiffield, Northamptonshire.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE BUILDINGS RESEARCH GROUP:RAUNDS SURVEY

Mr B L Giggins

The impression of Raunds that most people seem to have is that of an unattractive town that reached prosperity during the boom years of the shoe industry in the last century but has now suffered with the decline in the industry. It is a place for passing through, although a few people may visit the church or be attracted to an open day at the archaeological site. Suggest that Raunds is more than just an industrial town and people will assume you are talking about somewhere in another county. This was the attitude which the group had when Andrew Boddington the archaeologist directing the Raunds excavation (see below NCC Archaeology Unit) suggested that we should consider carrying out a detailed survey of the town. The suggestion was treated with scepticism as there were other towns and villages which appeared to offer far more scope than Raunds. However, it was decided to carry out a one day survey of the town to ascertain if the place did offer any potential for research. Andrew's reason for suggesting the survey was in the hope that the information obtained would augment that obtained through earlier research and that revealed by the excavation. In addition it would also produce a detailed record of the town. Much of the town has not been affected by redevelopment but this will probably not be the case ten years hence, so the timing was right for detailed records to be made.

The results of this survey were far better than had been hoped. There are at least two Medieval buildings left in the town and the Tudor period is represented by two buildings of exceptional quality. The Manor House proved to be an unspoilt building of the mid-seventeenth century and still retained many interesting features. It was readily apparent that the town offered ample scope for research and so it was decided to commence the survey as soon as outstanding commitments had been completed. However, shortly afterwards Thorpe House, one of the two Tudor buildings surveyed was put up for sale and so it was decided to record this as a matter of urgency.

The survey of the building took several days. To be an adequate record it is necessary to produce plans of the two main floors, an elevation, one section through the house to show the roof structure and the cellar, and details of the window mouldings, doors, fireplaces etc. It has been found easiest to draw these to scale on site. This alleviates the possibility of missing out vital measurements which would mean further visits to the property but does mean the survey takes far longer.

After the survey comes the problem of interpretation. Virtually every past improvement to a building meant the alteration or destruction of earlier features. Fashion changes also have meant that previous fashionable features have been discarded. In Thorpe House the only panelling to survive was a small piece patching a broken tread on the stairs. In earlier periods there must have been considerably more.

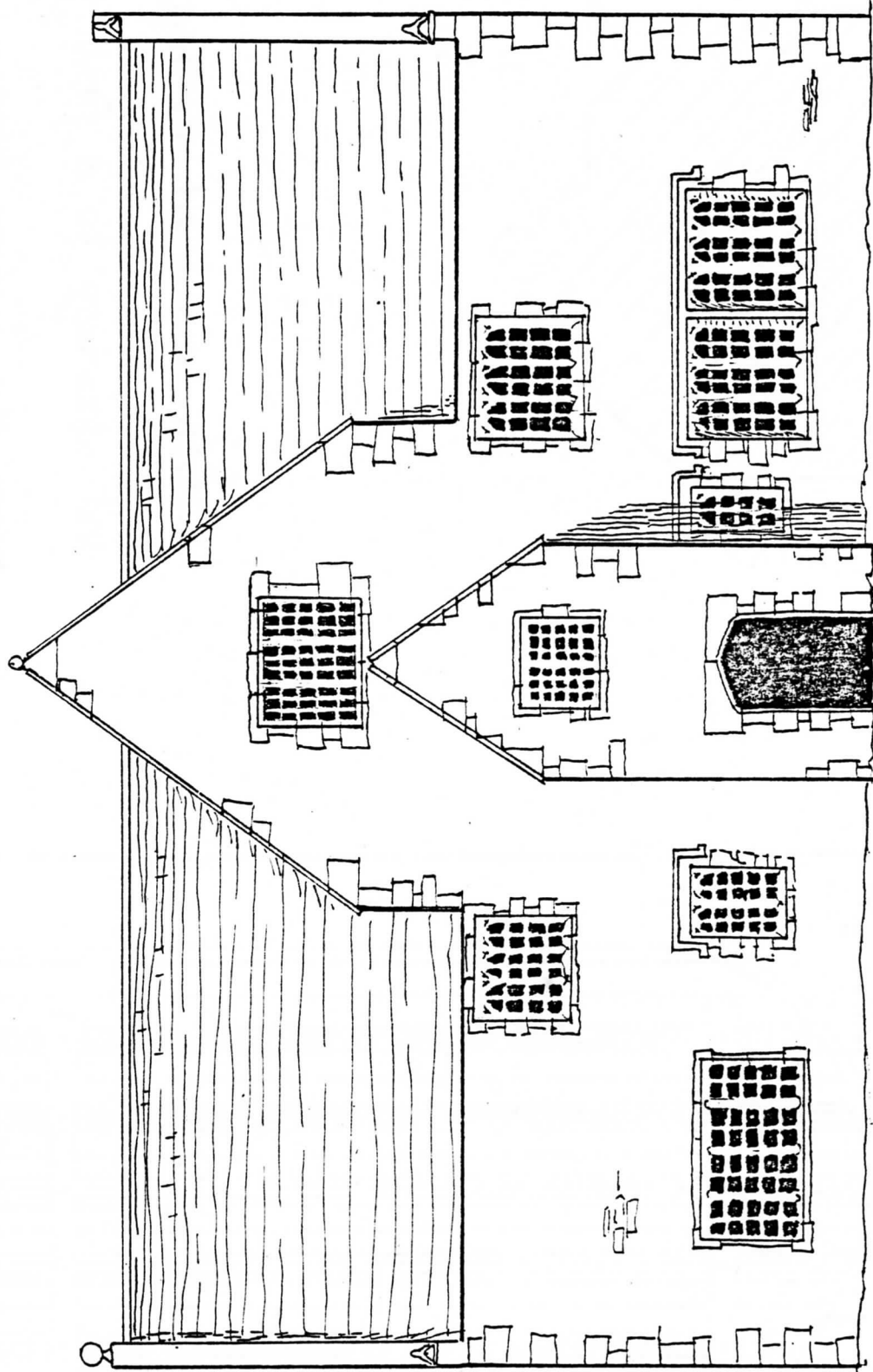
As Thorpe House probably dates from the close of the reign of Henry VIII it is not surprising that the alterations to the building made the interpretation difficult. There was not the usual through passage i.e. a passage running from the front to the rear door, neither was it possible to ascertain the position of the original staircase. There were however many interesting early features left which have enabled us to understand the general development of the house.

It appears that the building was erected by the Lord of the Manor as his residence. He wanted a house worthy of his status and designed to impress the villagers and any visiting gentry. The days of living in draughty, smoky open halls with the minimum of privacy were coming to an end for this class and the era of the great rebuilding had just begun. There had to be greater separation between his family and any of his employees. He above all required privacy in the form of separate bedrooms and rooms in which he could dine, entertain and relax. His principal room lay to the right of the entrance lobby and was identifiable from outside by the large size of the window and the impressive stone mouldings. The room was heated by a stone fireplace with moulded lintels and jambs set against the rear wall. The ceiling of this room was formed by heavy intersecting beams dividing the

ceiling into large squares. Each of these beams had wide chamfers and the two main transverse beams have additional moulding (see illustration). To complete the room the plaster walls were painted with designs or scenes which would probably be too gaudy for modern tastes.

This would be the room in which he dined and entertained, the food being prepared and cooked at the other end of the building. The rooms upstairs were separated by a central corridor running from the front to the rear of the building. Above the main downstairs room was possibly another parlour with a similar but smaller fireplace. The bedrooms were on the other side of the corridor and a spiral staircase off this corridor gave access to the bedrooms and storerooms situated in the loft.

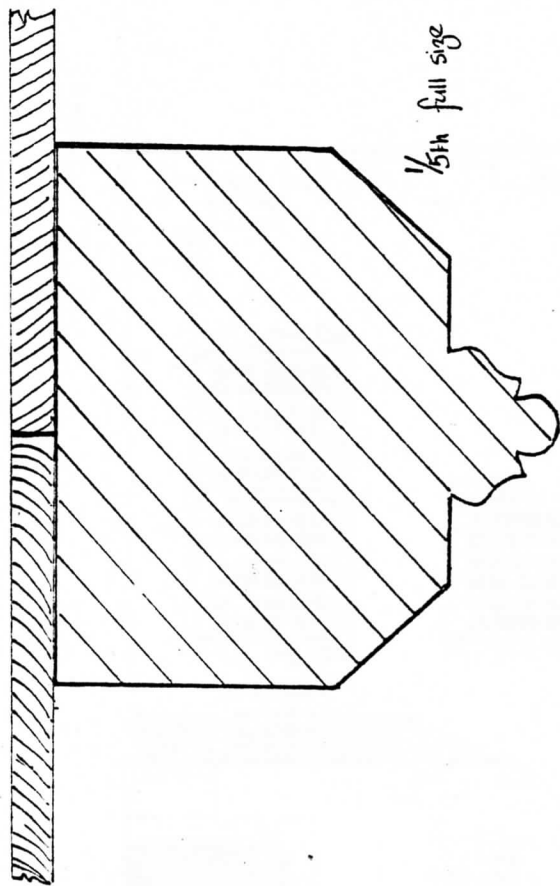
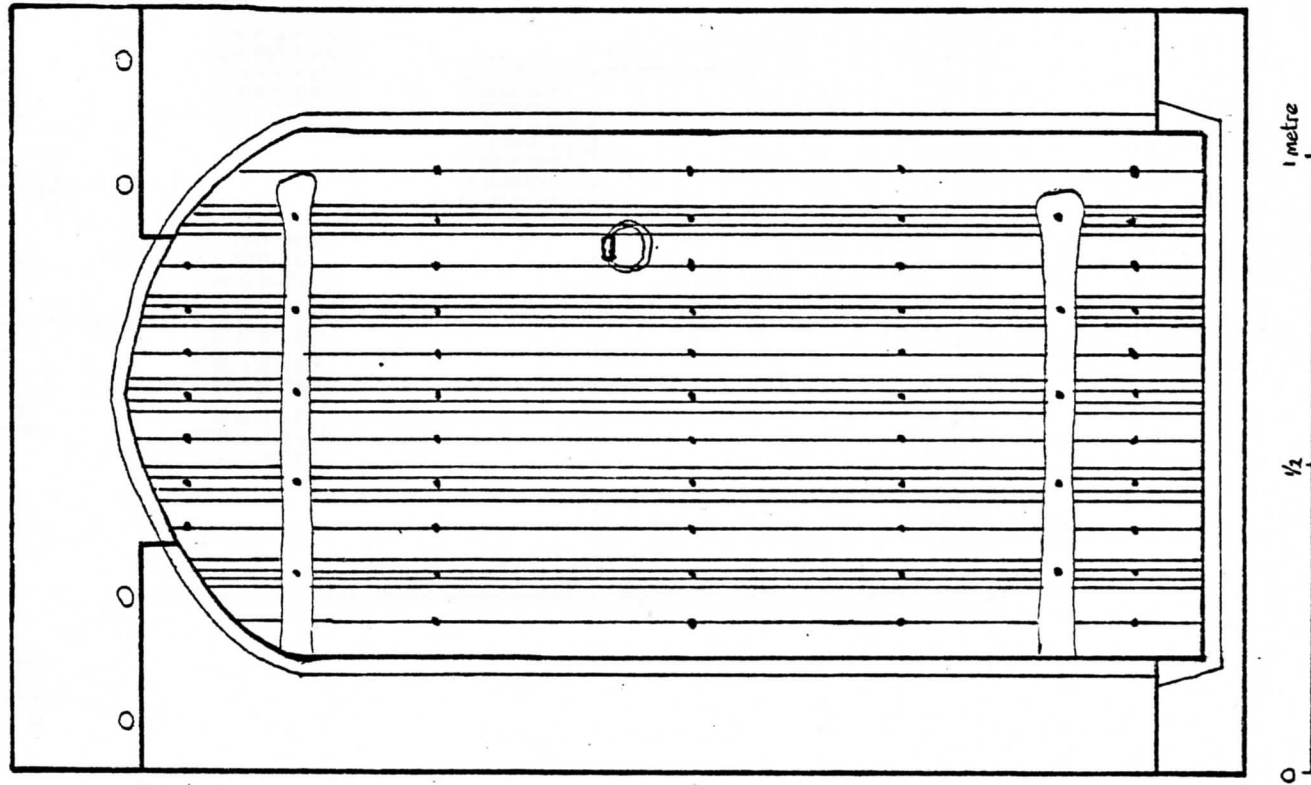
Not surprisingly within a hundred years the building was considered inadequate and so a seventeenth century squire decided to build a new porch, give the upper storey a central gable and build a new flight of stairs. The position of these differed from the original stairs and encroached into the main downstairs room requiring that part of the ceiling had to be cut away. Various other alterations took place in later periods including the digging of a cellar under one of the central rooms to provide cool storage space. There is also a legend that some rear stairs were built to allow access to a manorial court held in one of the upstairs rooms. By this device all the proceedings of the court could take place via the back door. There can be little doubt that the building is one of the most impressive survivals of its period in the county. It is hoped that the new owners will be as sympathetic to the buildings history and features as the present owners have been.



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64/78

Thorpe House, Raunds



C16th moulded ceiling beam
and doorway to a first floor
room at Thorpe House

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

Mr A Hannan

Excavations at Brick Kiln Road, Raunds.

Excavations at Raunds have continued through the summer but have been adversely affected by the continual wet weather. All resources are concentrated on the remains of the churches and on the associated cemetery. There appear to have been three churches on the site, succeeded by the building of the manor in the post-conquest period.

Excavation will continue until January 1979 - volunteers are welcome at weekends and should contact the site director, Andrew Boddington, or the Archaeological Unit, County Hall, Northampton.

A45 New Road

At present it seems the construction of this road will commence in spring 1979. The Archaeology Unit will carry out excavations in advance of construction, and if as planned, will commence these in the autumn.

NORTHAMPTON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

Mr J H Williams

Summer 1978 sees the end of an era at least for part of the Archaeology Unit. Even now the trowels still sharp, a fond nostalgia seems to be setting in for the snow swept barren wilderness of Briar Hill. The excavation is over and now begins the long hard grind of piecing together the fragmentary evidence of 4 seasons work, in all about some 40 months. Obviously it would have been nice to uncover more of the camp, but nonetheless some interesting results have emerged and Helen will be producing a final interim for the next volume of 'Northamptonshire Archaeology'. The early RC date perhaps suggesting use of the site from the 5th millenium BC and the series of Early Bronze Age cremations have been particularly exciting this last year.

Early finds, however, have not been confined to Briar Hill. Our so-called Saxon excavation on the site of Northampton Castle, has also produced neolithic to Bronze Age material in the form of approximately 2000 worked flints, gullies and possibly two house sites. The idea had been to examine an area of the late Saxon town which had been effectively sealed by the construction of the castle bailey. Work on this site will be complete in October.

November sees the start of another major urban excavation in Gregory Street, immediately to the east of St. Peter's Street where we were able to trace the developement of an environment from the Saxon through to the medieval period. Again we seem to have an uncellared street frontage of c.50 metres and are hoping we can extend the medieval environment of St. Peter's Street. Incidentally the St. Peter's Street monograph is virtually complete - just crossing t's and dotting i's - and will shortly be going to the printers to appear in spring 1979 when we will be organising an exhibition of our archaeological work.

Volunteers are required for the excavations in the town from mid-September (Mondays to Fridays) and help with the cleaning of finds at the Archaeological Centre is always gratefully received. Please contact Mr J H Williams, Chief Archaeologist, Northampton Development Corporation, Cliftonville House, Bedford Road, Northampton Tel. Northampton 46444.

NORTHAMPTON MUSEUMS' CONSERVATION LABORATORY

Diane E Friendship-Taylor, Keeper of Conservation

The work of the Conservation Laboratory, situated in Central Museum, Guildhall Road, is one of the least known facets of the Museum's work, except to those excavators, whose small finds join the long queue of material awaiting conservation!

The Laboratory came into being in 1971, over 100 years after the Museum's beginnings, so catching up with work on the long-standing collections poses something of a problem in itself. Add to this all the material constantly coming in from excavations and the necessity of keeping an eye on treated, but potentially unstable objects, and there arises the proverbial 'painting the Forth Bridge' phenomenon.

A large proportion of the Laboratory's work is concerned with archaeological artifacts, but also the so-called 'folk-life' and ethnographical material housed at Abington Park Museum, ceramics, and the extensive collection of the Museum of Leathercraft, recently opened in Bridge Street. Paintings, costume and textiles (other than the occasional excavated fragments) fall into different specialist fields respectively, and are not dealt with internally. Conservation techniques aim to clean and preserve objects for posterity; the final presentation is also important, but any enhancement of the appearance must be non-deceptive and discreet. Restoration is more often reserved for pottery, and ceramics in the broad sense, and then within strict ethical bounds; restored parts of an archaeological object should not constitute a deception as to its completeness on excavation; restoration serves to offer a meaningful and easily assimilatable interpretation of how it should appear. Good examples of restoration work are some of the Sutton Hoo artifacts, in the British Museum, e.g. the helmets.

Conservation work is carried out by both mechanical and chemical means. The Laboratory has steadily accumulated a useful range of equipment and chemicals. A proportion of my time has to be spent on keeping up with recent research, both into methods of treating different materials and into the hazards of chemicals used. There is also my own research, currently into methods of treating excavated leather.

A vital aspect of my responsibilities is the monitoring of the Museum's 'environment' - the temperature and relative humidity, in both the exhibition and storage areas. Conditions appropriate to the different materials are the key to successfully preserving the collections. It is also the most worrying side of conservation in non-purpose-built Museum buildings.

Like my colleagues, I welcome enquiries and give advice to members of the public who wish to find out how particular objects should be cleaned, preserved or repaired or what they are made of - anything from wasps' nests to cannons advised on!

A DISCUSSION OF NEOLITHIC CAUSEWAYED ENCLOSURES

Dr Helen Bamford

The excavation of the Briar Hill neolithic Causewayed enclosure which finished recently was begun in response to a local and specific circumstance. An important prehistoric site was to be developed for housing and it seemed highly desirable that a large scale investigation should be carried out before this happened. Fortunately the opportunity and the means to do so were amply provided.

The results of this excavation would in any event have been of great importance but their significance has been much enhanced by the fact that the five years since work on the site was first projected have seen the publication or inception of several other research projects, including six excavations, into the origins, history and function of these enigmatic earthworks. Thus the study of Briar Hill plays

a major part in a wide-ranging review of an important aspect of neolithic life in Britain. 'Causewayed camps' as they are also termed, are roughly circular enclosures surrounded by between 1 and 4 circuits of banks and ditches of distinctive interrupted construction, like a chain of large, elongated pits. In size they range from 3 - 21 acres. They were first identified as a class of neolithic monument in the South and South West England where some still survived as visible earthworks on the chalk uplands. The first general account of them was published nearly 50 years ago (Curwen 1930). By the early 1950s, when Professor Piggott published his book on the neolithic period in Britain (Piggott 1954) 13 such sites were known, all in the South or South West England. All but 3 had been investigated but only 2 excavations, carried out by Sir Alexander Keiller in the 1920s at Windmill Hill, and by E E Curwen at Whitehawk, near Brighton, in the 1930s, were on a large scale. Several theories as to their function had been put forward, but that proposed by Piggott gained most general acceptance. He postulated, principally on the basis of the findings at Windmill Hill, that they were the scene of an annual autumnal cattle round up and associated activities. In the full report on the Windmill excavations which appeared 11 years later (Smith I 1965) Dr Smith suggested that while evidence pointing to a purely utilitarian function was inconclusive, other features could better be explained as reflecting ritual or religious practices. This idea she developed further after a reexamination of the records of other known sites (Smith 1971). By this time she was able to list 16 of them. In the years since then at least 16 more sites, including Briar Hill, have been discovered as a result of aerial reconnaissance, and their known distribution has extended dramatically as far north as the river Trent. The total of more than 30 sites seems to divide into 4 main geographical groups (Palmer 1976) and the recent excavations, although not planned according to any prior conceived overall policy have sampled all these: Hambledon Hill (Dorset) in the South West, Offham (Sussex) in the Southern Group, Orsett (Essex) and Crickley (Gloucestershire) at either end of the Thames valley cluster and Briar Hill in the Midlands. This recent work has emphasised above all the great differences between the various sites. The chief, if not the only features common to all are the roughly circular form, a neolithic date, and a lack of any clear evidence for prolonged or permanent occupation. The interrupted ditch construction is not necessarily significant, since it is common to other neolithic monuments including some long barrows and settlement enclosures in North West Europe.

Structural variations include not only differences in the number of ditch circuits but the presence in a few instances of traces of timbering associated with the earthworks, including a palisade slot within the line of the inner ditch at Orsett.

For the first time since the excavation at Windmill Hill large areas of the interiors of the enclosures have been examined at Hambledon and Briar Hill, the two most extensive examinations to date, and to a lesser degree at Crickley and Offham. While traces of at least transient neolithic occupation are to be found in the form of scattered pits and post holes at all but the last named site, evidence for internal structures is slight. At Briar Hill the remains of two small rectangular structures of uncertain use have been found, but these belong to the last phase of neolithic activity on the site. Rectangular structures have also been reported at Staines (Middlesex) and Orsett, and air photographs show what appears to be a very large rectangular structure within an unexcavated enclosure at Freston, Suffolk.

None of the enclosures investigated seems to have been designed for defensive purposes, but at Crickley the site was fortified at a late stage in its use, and the outworks at Hambledon may also have had a defensive purpose.

Offham, which was a relatively small site on chalk appears to have been in use for only a short period. The quantities of human bone scattered in the ditches there led its excavator to think that its primary function was funerary (Drewett 1977). He suggested that bodies were brought to the site to be exposed prior to the removal of the cleaned bones for burial elsewhere. Human remains, including complete inhumation burials have been found at several sites, including Hambledon, and their absence at some others including Briar Hill, is not necessarily conclusive where

soil conditions are to acidic for boneto survive.

In contrast to the apparently short-lived site at Offham both Hambledon and Briar Hill were apparently maintained over a very long period. At Briar Hill evidence is particularly striking. The ditches around both sites were extensively recut and although the nature of this recutting differs it indicates in both instances a prolonged continuity of tradition. At Briar Hill the stratigraphy of some ditch segments indicates up to 4 recuts, most of them from a high level in the silt of the preceding cut. The span of time this sequence represents is still not confirmed but a radiocarbon date of 3490[±] 110 bc has been obtained from the lower fill of an outer ditch segment and deposits of the final phase, represented by a late neolithic or Early Bronze Age pit dug into the upper fill of a segment of the inner ditch, have produced a date of 1590[±] 80 bc. A small group of early bronze age cremations within the enclosure may represent further evidence of continuity.

Recutting on a less extensive scale has been recorded at Crickley, and it is probable that several sites excavated in the past also had recut ditches. Many of the implications of these recent discoveries have still to be analysed in detail, but their importance in broadening our understanding of the sites and of the problems they present is already clear. The local importance of some of the sites is underlined by their sheer duration. As to their function, it seems unlikely that any single explanation, applicable to all, will suffice. Such evidence as there is points rather to a multiplicity of uses, whether of the same site or among different sites it is perhaps best for the present to legend the majority of them simply as local centres or as geographical foci of 'tribal' identity, religious, or secular, or both for a scattered populace.

Bibliography

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| Curwen E.C. | 1930 | <u>Antiquity</u> IV (22-54) |
| Drewett P. | 1977 | <u>PPS</u> XLIII (201-241) |
| Palmer R | 1976 | <u>PPS</u> XLII (161-186) |
| Piggott S | 1954 | <u>Neolithic Cultures of the British Isles</u> |
| Smith I | 1965 | <u>Windmill Hill and Avebury</u> |
| " | 1971 | 'Causewayed Enclosures' in <u>Economy and Settlement in Neolithic and Early Bronze Age Britain and Europe</u>
Simpson D.D.A. (Ed) |

DO YOU WANT TO HELP?

Northamptonshire County Council Archaeology Unit Volunteers needed on Saxon-Medieval excavation at Brick Kiln Road, Raunds. See the Director, Andrew Boddington on site, or contact the Unit at County Hall, Northampton.

Northampton Development Corporation Archaeology Unit Volunteers needed on Saxon-Medieval sites in the town from mid-September, and help always welcomed for finds processing at the Archaeological Centre. Contact Mr J H Williams, Chief Archaeologist, Northampton Development Corporation, Cliftonville House, Bedford Road, Northampton. Tel. N'Hmptn 46444.

St. Andrew's Church Trust, Clay Coton It is hoped that the church and site will shortly be transferred to the trust. Repairs and clearance work on the church and any assistance would be gratefully received. Contact Mr R C Whittlesea, Riverside Cottage, Clay Coton, Northamptonshire. Tel Swinford 540.

Northampton Museum Help required in finds processing and cataloguing. Contact

Mr W R G Moore, Keeper of Archaeology, Northampton Museum, Guildhall Road, Northampton.

Westfield Museum, Kettering Help required in finds processing and cataloguing.
Contact Mr F Lyall, The Curator, Westfield Museum, West Street, Kettering, Northants.

CALENDAR

Friday 29 September Upper Nene Archaeological Society. AGM followed, at 8pm, by illustrated talks by Members on the Society's activities, including excavation, fieldwork and visits to sites in other parts of the country. This will be a good opportunity for anyone who is thinking of joining the Society to see the range of activities which are offered. The University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton.

Monday 2 October Milton Keynes and District Archaeological Society. 'Excavations at Odell', Mr Brian Dix. Bradwell Field Centre at 7.30pm.

Thursday 5 October. Bletchley Archaeological and History Society 'Excavations at Quinton', Mr R M Friendship-Taylor, Rectory Cottages, Church Green Road, Bletchley, 8pm.

Friday 6 October NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. 'The Work of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust' Mr S Smith, The University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton 8pm.

Tuesday, 10 October Northamptonshire Natural History Society and Field Club. Discussion of 2 themes: 'Conservation' and 'The use of the microscope in pottery research', by Mrs Diane Friendship-Taylor, and Miss Mary Gryspeerdt, The Humfrey Rooms, Castillian Terrace, Northampton. 7.30pm

Wednesday 11 October Wolverton and District Archaeological Society. 'How to Study an Ancient Church' Dr R Morris, St Mary's Parish Room, (adjacent to Community Centre), London Road, Stony Stratford 7.30pm

Wednesday 18 October South Northamptonshire Archaeological Society 'Excavations at Ashton, Oundle' John Hadman. The Sponne School, Towcester 8pm.

Saturday 21 October CBA Group 9 Annual Conference. Wavendon Tower, Milton Keynes, 'Recent Developments in Landscape Archaeology'. A one day symposium on some recent approaches to landscape archaeology with particular reference to the medieval period. Speakers include J.G.Hurst, D.N.Hall, R.A.Croft and D.C. Mynard. Further details to be announced.

Monday 23 October Milton Keynes and District Archaeological Society. Practical Evening. Bradwell Abbey Field Centre 7.30pm

Friday 27 October Upper Nene Archaeological Society. 'Excavations at Odell 1974-8', Brian Dix. The University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton. 8pm

Wednesday 1 November Wolverton and District Archaeological Society. 'The Use of the Record Office', Miss P Bell, St. Mary's Parish Room (adjacent to the Community Centre), London Road, Stony Stratford 7.30pm

Thursday 2 November Bletchley Archaeological and Historical Society. The Markham Lecture 'The Listed Buildings of Buckinghamshire and their Treatment', Mr E Viney Rectory Cottages, Church Green Road, Bletchley, 8pm

Monday 6 November Milton Keynes and District Archaeological Society. 'The Work of the Area Museums Service', Miss L Ball, Bradwell Abbey Field Centre, 7.30pm.

Friday 17 November NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY joint meeting with Middle Nene Archaeological Society 'The Roman Fort at Longthorpe', Prof. S.S.Frere. The Great Hall, Dundle School, 8pm.

Friday 24 November Upper Nene Archaeological Society. 'New Developments in Northampton Archaeology', John Williams, The University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton 8.00pm

Tuesday 28 November Northamptonshire Natural History Society and Field Club. Members evening. Annual meeting when members discuss or show slides of topics which have taken their interest over the past 12 months. The Humfrey Rooms, Castillian Terrace, Northampton 7.30pm

Friday 1 December South Northamptonshire Archaeological Society 'Bradwell Roman Villa', Dennis Mynard. The Spooone School, Towcester 8pm.

Wednesday 6 December Wolverton and District Archaeological Society 'Archaeology in Milton Keynes 1978' Milton Keynes Development Corporation Archaeologists, St Mary's Parish Rooms, (adjacent to Community Centre) London Road, Stony Stratford, 7.30pm

Thursday 7 December Bletchley Archaeological and Historical Society 'The Bedfordshire Landscape and Its Evolution', Mr A Cox. Rectory Cottages, Church Green Road, Bletchley 8pm

Thursday 7 December Northamptonshire Natural History Society and Field Club joint meeting with the Historical Association, Northampton Branch 'Sutton Hoo' Prof. H.R. Loyd. The Teachers Centre, Barry Road, Northampton 7.30pm.

Friday 15 December South Northamptonshire Archaeological Society Christmas Party and Members' Night. The Spooone School, Towcester 7.30pm

Wednesday 10 January Wolverton and District Archaeological Society. Social Evening St Mary's Parish Room (adjacent to the Community Centre) London Road, Stony Stratford 7.30pm

Wednesday 18 January Bletchley Archaeological and Historical Society Members' Evening, Rectory Cottages, Church Green Road, Bletchley, 8pm

Friday 19 January NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY joint meeting with South Northamptonshire Archaeological Society. 'Recent Results of Field Work in south Northamptonshire', Mr C Taylor, The Spooone School, Brackley Road, Towcester 8pm

Wednesday 24 January Wolverton and District Archaeological Society. Annual General Meeting followed by slides of the Summer Excursions. St Mary's Parish Room, (adjacent to the Community Centre) London Road, Stony Stratford, at 7.30pm

Friday 26 January Upper Nene Archaeological Society 'Excavations at Wood Burcote', Roy Turland. The University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton. 8pm

Thursday 1 February Bletchley Archaeological and Historical Society 'Saudi Arabian Archaeology', Mr P Parr, Rectory Cottages, Church Green Road, Bletchley, 8pm

Wednesday 7 February Wolverton and District Archaeological Society. 'The Origins and Growth of the Medieval town of Northampton', Mr J Williams, St. Mary's Parish Rooms (adjacent to the Community Centre) London Road, Stony Stratford 7.30pm

Friday 23 February Upper Nene Archaeological Society 'Documentary Sources of Village History', Mr P King. The University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton 8pm

Thursday 1 March Bletchley Archaeological and Historical Society. 'The History of Hadrian's Wall', Prof. J.Ferguson, Rectory Cottages, Church Green Road, Bletchley 8pm

Wednesday 7 March Wolverton and District Archaeological Society 'Slides of Old Northampton', Mr K Burman, St. Mary's Parish Rooms (adjacent to the Community Centre) London Road, Stony Stratford, 7.30pm

Friday 16 March NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY joint meeting with Northamptonshire Natural History Society and Field Club 'Catholme-Saxon village' Stuart Losco-Bradley. The Humfrey Rooms, Castillian Terrace, Northampton 8pm

Friday 30 March Upper Nene Archaeological Society. 'The Archaeology of Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries', Martin Howe. The University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton 8pm

Wednesday 4 April Wolverton and District Archaeological Society 'The making of the Buckinghamshire Landscape', Dr. M A Reed. St Mary's Parish Room (adjacent to the Community Centre) London Road, Stony Stratford, 7.30pm.

Thursday 5 April Bletchley Archaeological and Historical Society. 'The Archaeology of the Astrolab', Mr A Chapman. Rectory Cottages, Church Green Road, Bletchley 8pm

Friday 27 April Upper Nene Archaeological Society 'Excavations at Skendelby, Lincs', Derek Simpson. The University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton 8pm

Saturday 12 May NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY AGM followed by Members reports - 'Archaeology in Northamptonshire 1978-9', Willow Room, Festival Hall, Corby 2pm

Thursday 17 May Bletchley Archaeological and Historical Society. AGM Rectory Cottages, Church Green Road, Bletchley, 8pm

Friday 25 May Upper Nene Archaeological Society. Title to be announced - an aspect of archaeology in Oxfordshire. John Steane. The University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton. 8pm

COURSES

British Stone Circles - Temples, Observatories or Computers. Roger Martlew
12 meetings, Monday beg. 25 September 7-9pm £8.40 (Fully retired persons and full-time students £4.20) Vaughan College, University Centre, St. Nicholas Circle, Leicester.

Reading Old Documents. Kate Thompson
12 meetings, Mondays beg. 25 September 7-9pm £4.80 (Fully retired persons and full-time students £2.40) County Record Office, 57 New Walk, Leicester.

Local Administration in the Middle Ages. Prof. G. Martin
6 meetings Thursdays, beg. 12 October 7.30-9pm £2.40 (Fully retired persons and full-time students £1.20) The University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton

Northamptonshire Archaeology Alan Hannan
20 meetings, Wednesday (plus 2 Saturday meetings) 7.30-9.30 Beg. 27 September £10.00 (Fully retired and full-time students £5.00) The University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton.

The Archaeology of Old Crafts and Industries. Geoffrey Starmer.
20 meetings, Wednesday, beg. 27 September 7.45-9.15pm £9.00, Adult Education Centre, Main School, Waynflete Buildings, Magdalen College School, Brackley.

The Art and Archaeology of the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. S.J.Taylor
20 meetings, Wednesdays, beg. 27 September, 7.30-9pm £9.00 Adult Education
Centre, Braunston Church of England School, Braunston, Daventry.

Sources of Local History Mrs S Ranson.
20 meetings, Tuesdays, beg. 26 September, 7.30-9.00pm £9.00 Church of England
Primary School, Brixworth, Northants.

Some Aspects of Welford's History Mrs J.A.Minchinton
10 meetings, Wednesdays, beg. 27 September, 7.30-9pm Welford and Sulby Endowed
School, West Street, Welford.

The Recording of English Churchyards. Alan Hannan
Saturday School 11 November 10am-4pm £1.80 (fully retired persons and full-time
students £1.00) The University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton.

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Residential courses at Knuston Hall, Irchester. For full details: the Principal,
Knuston Hall Residential College for Adult Education, Irchester, Wellingborough.

Drawing for Archaeologists Tutor D.S.Neal 24-26 November 1978

The Art and Archaeology of S.E.Asia Tutors Anthony Christie and Dr Khoo Joo Ee
15-17 December 1978

Glass for Archaeologists Tutors Professor Roy Newton et al 26-28 January 1979

Field-Work in Industrial Archaeology: some complementary studies. Tutors Geoffrey Starmer
et al 9-11 February 1978

Air Photographs and their interpretation. Tutors J.N.Hampton et al 9-11 March 1979

Wood for Archaeologists Tutors G.C.Morgan and F.A.Hibbert 30 March - 1 April 1979

Field Archaeology and the Landscape Tutors A.E.Brown and C.C.Taylor 6-12 April 1979

Castles in England Tutors: D.F.Renn et al 4-6 May 1979

Northamptonshire and its history: an introduction Tutor: R.L.Greenall
1-3 June 1979