



## Newsheet of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

Spring 1995

### SOME EXCEPTIONAL FINDS FROM RECENT EXCAVATIONS

Northamptonshire Archaeology have recently been excavating in Daventry, Northampton and Crick. In Daventry between November 1994 and February 1995 excavations took place behind the North Street car park on the supposed site of the 12th century Nether Manor. The earliest feature on the site, a wide ditch, produced an exceptionally fine assemblage of 6th century pottery together with an antler die stamp, one of only thirty found in the country. From the 12th to 14th centuries, the remains of three buildings were found including an enclosed circular structure, 5 metres in diameter and possibly constructed of cob.

The construction of a business park next to the M1 at the Rothersthorpe Service Station, has led to the excavation of two known Iron Age crop mark enclosures. Detailed geophysical survey followed by sample excavation revealed several round houses dating from the middle to late Iron Age.

The proposed development of an international rail freight terminal at Crick has led to the discovery of two Iron Age and one Romano-British areas of settlement. Between August and December of 1994, a large scale open area excavation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology. The Iron Age sites represent two of the densest settlements in the region and the fact that they are so close together is exceptional. One was an unclosed settlement in which over 20 ring ditches were sampled. The other comprised two sub-rectangular ditched enclosures the largest of which measured c. 80 metres by 50 metres. Over 20 ring ditches were sampled in an area of 0.8ha (2 acres), which was approximately half the total settlement area. Sample excavations in the Romano-British enclosure failed to recover evidence of contemporary buildings but an early-mid Saxon sunken featured building and a deep pit were located. Many thanks to Andy Chapman, Mark Holmes and Ian Soden for providing this update for NASNEWS.

The new edition of the Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society reports the finding of a unique reindeer antler "Lyngby" axe near Earls Barton. The axe, which was found during gravel extraction in 1982, has been dated to approximately 10,500 BP. Reindeer antler axes of this type have been found in Poland, North Germany, Denmark and Holland but this is the only known British example.



## N.A.S. Subscriptions

Several members who pay their subscriptions by standing order have not increased their payments when subscriptions were raised several years ago. If there is a red line on the top of your copy of NASNEWS this means that you are not paying the full subscription. Please could you therefore adjust the standing order so that it pays the correct amount (Individuals £10, Family £12 and Student £8). Many thanks.

## N.A.S. Grants for Archaeological Research

The society has decided to give out small grants to help with archaeological research in the county. The first such has been awarded to assist with the cataloguing of the many Iron Age coins that have recently come to light. Grants are open to anyone working in the county and applications should be sent to the N.A.S. Secretary, c/o Northampton Museum, Guildhall Road, Northampton, NN1 1DP. They should include a short description of the proposed research and a breakdown of the likely expenditure.

## FUTURE MEETINGS, LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

### The South Midlands C.B.A. Day Annual Conference.

This year, it is Northamptonshire's turn to host the annual day conference of the South Midlands Group of the Council for British Archaeology. This group covers Bedfordshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire all of whom will be represented at the conference. There will be a series of lectures throughout the day on some of the most exciting archaeological discoveries that have taken place in the last year. Northamptonshire's contribution will be an account by Andy Chapman of the Iron Age site at Crick and Mark Curteis from Northampton Museum will be talking about metal detecting, archaeology and museums in Northants.

The conference will take place on Saturday, 22nd of April at the Hunsbury Hill Centre, beginning at 10 a.m. Tickets bought in advance are £4, obtainable from, Brenda Easterbrook, 10 Gall Close, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 3XY, or £5 at the door.

### The Upper Nene Society

U.N.A.S are to be congratulated for being "Highly Commended" in the British Archaeological Awards: Pitt-Rivers Award category, for the best project by a voluntary body or individual. Their chairman (our vice chairman) Roy Friendship-Taylor was presented with a certificate and a cheque for £1000 by Lord Montagu at a ceremony in York last November. They are being given a talk on "Numismatics: a brief overview from an archaeological perspective" by Mark Curteis at the countryside Centre, Guildhall Road, Northampton on Friday 21st of April. All N.A.S. members are welcome.