



# NASNEWS

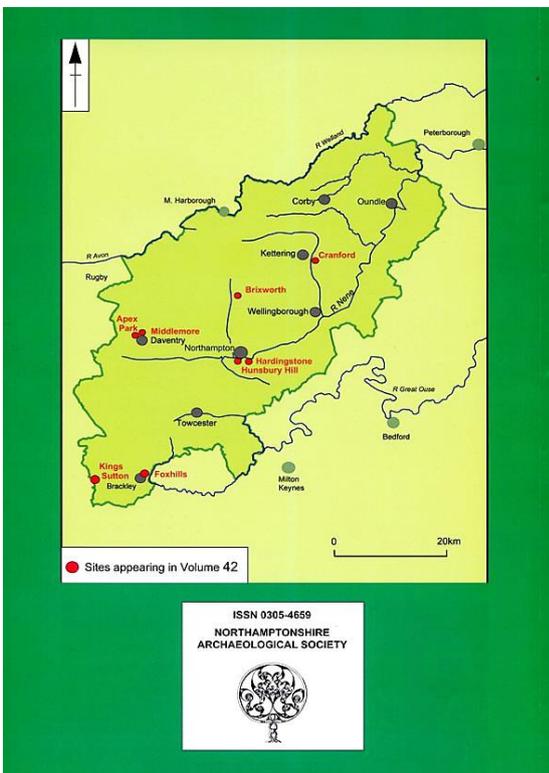
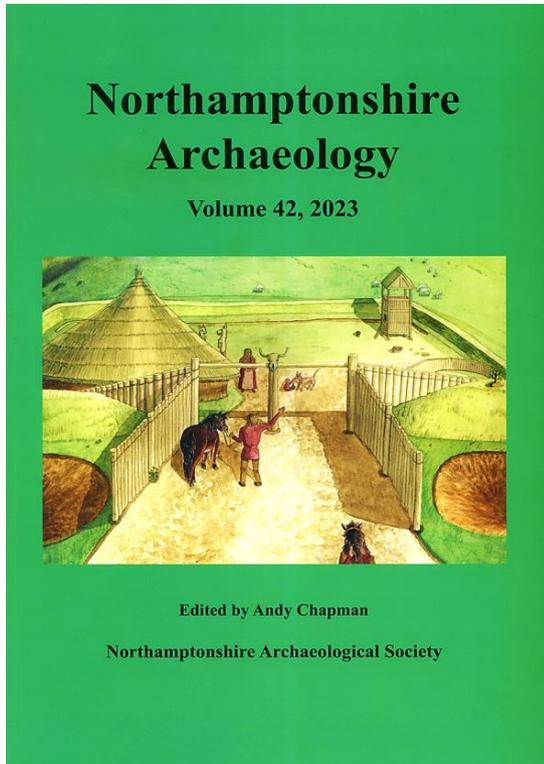
Newsletter of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society



Website: [www.northants-archaeology.org.uk](http://www.northants-archaeology.org.uk)

## May 2024

### Northamptonshire Archaeology 2023, volume 42



The latest journal, volume 42 for 2023, largely devoted to Iron Age settlement, has finally made it to publication, and the copies have arrived.

(A contents list with summaries is already available on the NAS website.)

So Pat and I are now in the early stages of distribution by post or otherwise, see below.

It will also be going only to those members who are up-to-date with their membership payments. Pat will soon be sending out email reminders to those she has listed as behind with their payments.

#### Collection from Chester House, The ARC

A number of our members are volunteers and/or regular visitors to the ARC.

As we will be delivering a copy to the ARC and to Ben, if there is anyone else who would be happy to collect their copy from Ben at the ARC, we could make a bulk delivery there.

However, if you are happy to do this then please email [NAS196674@gmail.com](mailto:NAS196674@gmail.com), so we can deliver the correct number to Ben, along with a list of names.

Please let us know by Sunday, 9 June, and we will then try to deliver the copies to Ben before the middle of the month.

#### Collect it yourself

If anyone would like to drop by and collect directly from us (at 4 Oat Hill Drive, Ecton Brook, NN3 5AL), then please email in advance and suggest a day and time.

**It now costs around £5.00 for the postage and packing for each copy, so each volume delivered otherwise does make a significant saving for the society.**

**NAS walking tour of Towcester  
Thursday, 13 June, 7.30pm**

*We have a planned walking tour of Towcester on Thursday, 13 June, meeting at 7.30 pm at the Tove Long Stay Car Park, Northampton Road, Towcester, NN12 7AF.*

However, only a couple of people had booked places before Rob Atkins, the contact for booking, changed jobs and, therefore, his contact details.

So could we restart booking with Rob Atkins using his new contact details, see below (and please delete any previous contact details), and could those who had booked previously, Kate and Ian Wilson, please rebook:

Please contact Rob Atkins for a place on the tour: Tel: 07969291261

Email: [robotkins1968@gmail.com](mailto:robotkins1968@gmail.com)

The lead for the walk will be Brian Giggins, an historic buildings expert who is currently working on Towcester's Historic Conservation Survey.

The tour will be for a maximum of 14 people. It is free but you can give voluntary donations to: Towcester's Historic Conservation Survey.

**We are also setting a deadline for booking on Sunday, 2 June. If there are insufficient numbers by then, I am afraid we will have to cancel the tour.**

**Stanwick Lakes  
Iron Age Settlement  
Open Day**

**Saturday, 1 June 2024, 11:00am-4:00pm**

To celebrate the official opening of the Stanwick Lakes Iron Age settlement.

Designed and built by the Stanwick Lake heritage volunteers



A "living history" experience for all the family, discover what life would have been like in the Nene Valley 2,000 years ago and take yourselves on an Ancient Adventure!

- Blacksmith and woodworking
- Weaving and spinning
- Magical storytelling
- Ancient Food tasting
- Celebrate the upcoming Summer Solstice with FREE children's craft activities

This celebratory event is FREE to attend, thanks to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and National Lottery Players.

The Iron Age Settlement is 1/2 mile from the main play area, heading north towards the Adventure Trail.

Car parking charges apply

**Chester House Estate**  
**Thursday, 4 July 2024**  
**NAS tour of**  
**Irchester Roman Town**  
**and a tour of The ARC**

Please use the public car park and gather at The ARC for 2.00pm

To book a place please contact Rob Atkins:

Tel: 07969291261

Email: [robatkins1968@gmail.com](mailto:robatkins1968@gmail.com)

**Chester House Estate**

There are also a number of historic craft workshops taking place at the Chester House Estate that members might be interested in.

**Flint Knapping Workshop**  
**with The Prehistoric Workshop**

**Friday, 2 August – Saturday, 3 August 2024**

Have you ever wondered what tools our prehistoric ancestors used? Join The Prehistoric Workshop for an introduction to flint-knapping.

In this session you will learn the basic principles of how to shape a piece of flint into a beautiful tool as we explore the qualities and unique properties of flint stone. As well as working with your own piece of flint, you will get to handle genuine flint artefacts made thousands of years ago. You will go home with your worked flint, and more confidence to try again. This session is suitable for people of all abilities.

We are offering sessions for adults only and as family friendly workshops. Please note for the family friendly workshops, each young person who books a ticket must have one adult accompanying them to support. The adult is included within the price of the ticket.

**For more details about The Prehistoric Workshop, please visit:**  
[www.theprehistoricworkshop.co.uk](http://www.theprehistoricworkshop.co.uk)

**Flax processing workshop**  
**with The Prehistoric Workshop**

**Friday, 16 August – Saturday, 17 August 2024**

Join The Prehistoric Workshop for an introduction to the amazing and ancient flax plant. We use our hands and stone tools to turn a dried plant into lustrous fibres ready for spinning.

You will learn how to **spin flax** on the leg, and will be able to experiment with a range of drop spindles and try your hand at spinning. As well as hearing all about the **history of flax linen**, you will **go home with your flax**, and hopefully some quality yarn or cordage made by your own hands.

This session is suitable for people of all abilities. Please note for the family friendly workshops, each young person who books a ticket must have one adult accompanying them to support. The adult is included within the price of the ticket.

**Medieval Book Binding**  
**with the Roman Traders**

**Weds, 14 August & Sat, 17 August 2024**

**THIS WORKSHOP IS TARGETED AT ADULTS OR OLDER TEENAGERS**

Learn how to make an A6 sized blank journal in a medieval style. With a soft leather cover lined with paper and decorative stitching on the spine with choice of closures.

A day workshop with full instructions and all materials and tools supplied. Some manual dexterity is required to cut the leather and making the sewing holes etc. (Not suitable for young children but would be achievable for older teenagers possibly with adult assisting).

A 'vegan' version of the book is available but please let us know when booking.

**Hafting workshop**  
**with The Prehistoric Workshop**

**Saturday, 24th August 2024**

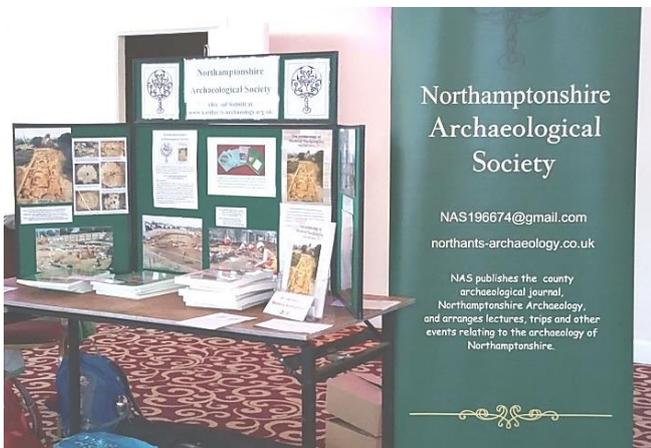
You will learn the basics of flint-knapping, flax cordage-making, wood-working, and hafting with flint tools and tree-sap glue as you make your own flint sickle or bladed tool to take

home. You will get to handle real flint artefacts from the Leicestershire region, as well as replica flint, pottery and textiles made by The Prehistoric Workshop.

**For further details and booking, go to the Chester House Estate website.**

### **Wicksteed Park, Heritage Fair Sunday, 29 April**

NAS had a stall, below, at this very successful event to advertise the society and to sell a few copies of the journals. It was also a good opportunity to chat to the many other stall holders from other local societies.



### **Heritage on the radio with Mike Curtis**

The Rushden Community Radio station, **Beat Route Radio**, is set to launch a new show focused on Northamptonshire's Heritage. The weekly show aims to promote the fantastic range of archaeological and historic places and collections that people can visit and enjoy, along with raising the profile of the heritage sector and some of the challenges that it faces today. The show is planned to air on Thursdays from 11am to 2pm and the presenter will be Mike Curtis, our NAS Chair, who has been presenting some of

the Drive Times shows and the monthly NN Business Show for the station.



Photo: ©Beat Route Radio  
(<https://beatrouteradio.co.uk/>)

The show is scheduled to air weekly from Thursday, 6 June and offers opportunities for those working in this sector to come into the station and chat live on air. Interested parties should email Mike at [mikecurtis1956@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mikecurtis1956@yahoo.co.uk).

**Beat Route Radio** has been entertaining audiences in Northants and the Nene Valley for several years. Aided by the advancement of digital technology it is accessible online and through devices like Alexa, reaching an ever-growing audience both within and outside of the county, and overseas. The station is run entirely by volunteers, who not only broadcast from the Rushden studio but also can, and do, broadcast live from events around the county.

### **NASNEWS**

Any events or news for the next issue of **NASNEWS** please forward to either:

Rob Atkins ([robotkins1968@gmail.com](mailto:robotkins1968@gmail.com)) or

Andy Chapman ([NAS196674@gmail.com](mailto:NAS196674@gmail.com))