

**General architecture****Vernacular architecture: an illustrated handbook** Brunskill, R W

2000

Faber and Faber ISBN 0571195032

**The classical language of architecture** Summerson, J 1980

Thames and Hudson ISBN 0500201773

**English architecture** Watkin, D 2001

Thames and Hudson ISBN 0500203385

**Practical****Surveying for archaeologists** Bettess, F 1998

University of Durham, Department of Archaeology ISBN 0953096718

**Programme 2004**

All lectures will be held at Elvet Riverside, Room 141 New Elvet, Durham, at 2.30 pm (except where noted). Everyone is welcome to attend.

Saturday 17 April  
note change of date

**Recent discoveries at Arbeia Roman Fort, South Shields** Dr Nick Hodgson Tyneside and Wear Museums

Saturday 8 May

**AGM** To be held at Barnard Castle. Notices to follow.

Saturday 12 June

**Community archaeology in Hartlepool: recent discoveries** Mark Simmons Tees Archaeology

Saturday 11 September

**Life and death at Durham Cathedral** Norman Emery Resident Archaeologist, Durham Cathedral

Saturday 9 October

**The excavation of an intact Iron Age chariot burial in West Yorkshire** Angela Boyle Oxford Archaeology

Saturday 13 November

**The Port of London** Gustav Milne University College London

Saturday 11 December

**Members' meeting** Followed by a reception at the Durham Heritage Centre, St Mary-le-Bow

**Excursions**

Saturday 15 May

**The architectural woodwork of Bishop John Cosin and his circle** Led by Martin Roberts, Inspector of Historic Buildings, English Heritage. Details to follow.

To be announced

**Trip to Bollinope Common** Led by Dr Robert Young, Archaeologist, Northumberland National Park. Date and details to follow.

To be announced

**Gilling West, Scots Dyke and Richmond Castle**

Following his talk, 'Humps and bumps at Gilling West', Jon Healey has kindly offered to show people around the site, and suggests that this could be combined with a visit to Scots Dyke and Richmond Castle.

No date has been proposed for this trip yet, but please contact Belinda Burke if you would like to go, so we can gauge the level of interest.

Further information on trips will be available at meetings, or by contacting the Secretary.

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e-mail s.alderston@ukonline.ac.uk

**Fieldwork in industrial archaeology** Major, J K 1975

Batsford ISBN 0 7134 2929 1

**Fieldwork in mediaeval archaeology** Taylor, C 1975

Batsford ISBN 0713428724

**Websites****Durham County Council Archaeology Service**

www.durham.gov.uk/archaeology

**Keys to the Past** www.keystothepast.info**Past Perfect** www.pastperfect.info**ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY****OF DURHAM AND NORTHUMBERLAND****Newsletter |****President's letter**

Welcome, to the first edition of the AASDN newsletter. I hope that these few pages, brought to you twice a year in early Spring and Autumn, will provide our membership with news of future events and lectures, and also keep you all informed on the work of the Society and Committee in commenting and campaigning on your behalf on regional and national issues relating to the historic environment.

A huge vote of thanks go to the wonderful individuals who give up their time to run the Society, without whom this newsletter and our programme of events would not be possible. I hope in future that many more of our members will feel inspired to write short articles for the newsletter, either providing updates on your own personal research or to bring matters of concern to the notice of the Society.

All the very best for the year ahead, and I look forward to seeing as many as possible of you at our meetings.

**Niall Hammond** President

Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland



Medieval bastle house at The Raw

**The Society website**  
www.communicate.co.uk/ne/aasd

**Society AGM at Berwick-upon-Tweed, May 2003**

In April 1603, King James VI spent two nights in Berwick-upon-Tweed en route to his coronation as James I of England in London on 17th May. Four hundred years later, as Berwick celebrated the Union of the Crowns, the Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland headed north to hold its Annual General Meeting in Berwick.

Before the meeting, Mr Francis Cowe, a local historian, led the group on a tour, starting outside the unusual Cromwellian church of the Holy Trinity, then through the Cowport to view the Elizabethan ramparts, based on early sixteenth-century Italian town defences. Berwick

also boasts the earliest purpose-built barracks in Britain, begun in 1717, possibly as a result of anxiety following the Jacobin uprising of 1715 and, at a suitable distance to this, a substantially built magazine.

The AGM itself took place in the sumptuous eighteenth-century Guildhall. Members of the Border Archaeological Society, the Berwick Civic Society and the Berwickshire Naturalists Club were also represented. Our president, Rosemary Cramp, recalled the words of Canon Greenwell: "I can truly say that during the course of a long life I have never experienced more days of unmixed pleasure ... than those which have been occupied with our excursions."



Local historian, Mr Francis Cowe, with the Society president Professor Rosemary Cramp and members

In 1900 the Society held a joint meeting with the Berwickshire Naturalists on Holy Island. The contingent from Durham arrived at Beal station, where some took carriages and others went on foot, meeting up with the Berwickshire Naturalists who went by sea in a tug-boat from Berwick:

*the two societies met on the island, giving an appearance of animation to this usually quiet and remote spot ... No fewer than 110 members of our Society and friends were present.*

We look forward to a full and animated attendance at all our future excursions.

## Field trip to the Otterburn Army Training Estate, Northumberland 14 of September 2003

As well as our regular lecture programme, the Society is keen to promote an active series of fieldtrips. Last year, we enjoyed three successful outings when we visited Berwick for our AGM, Lordenshaws with Northumberland National Park Archaeologist (and AASDN Committee member) Rob Young, and the Otterburn Army Training Estate (ATE) in September.

The MOD kindly provided transport to take members of the Society from Durham to Otterburn, where, following a traditional cup of tea and a safety briefing (don't pick up anything which looks dangerous!), members enjoyed a guided tour of the Ranges in the company of Rob Young and Niall Hammond. Sites ranged from the ancient at Belshiel Long Cairn, a Neolithic funerary monument, through Roman Marching Camps at Chew Green to later defensive structures such as a bastle house and a World War One practice trench system. Good



AASDN members at Belshiel Long Cairn, Otterburn enjoying the wit and wisdom of Rob Young, National Park Archaeologist

weather and splendid company made for an enjoyable day out in an area of exceptionally fine archaeology which, from the Roman Army to the British Army, has seen military training for some two thousand years!

## North-East Regional Research Framework (NERRF)

For many years archaeologists have realised that for our subject to successfully progress what we really need is a much better understanding of what we already know and where the gaps in our knowledge are. This has become even more obvious over the last decade or so, since the requirement for developers to fund and undertake archaeological work in association with new buildings, roads and quarries, has produced huge amounts of archaeological site reports and investigations.

The NERRF aims to produce an archaeological research framework for the region that will provide a viable, realistic and effective academic basis for undertaking archaeological intervention, either as a

result of development-related operations or to underpin future research designs.

It is one of a series of regional research frameworks that were set up following the publication of *Frameworks for Our Past* (Olivier 1996) which called for a series of research priorities to be established in order to publicly justify curatorial policies.

The process consists of a Resource Assessment (what do we already know), a Research Agenda (where are the gaps in our knowledge and where should we focus our attentions), and a Research Strategy, which will comprise the final publication to come out of the process.

The project also aims to bring together all those involved in the study and practice of archaeology in the North East, both independent and professional, to try and increase links and encourage the growth of a positive research community in the region. It is based in the Cultural Services Department at Durham County Council and jointly managed by Durham County Council and the Department of Archaeology, University of Durham.

### Further details

Please contact the Project Officer: Dr David Petts, Archaeology Section Cultural Services, County Hall, Durham DH1 5TY; tel (0191) 383 4225, e-mail [david.petts@durham.gov.uk](mailto:david.petts@durham.gov.uk)

## Denis Coggins MA FSA FSA (Scot) 1923–2003

Members will have been saddened to learn of the death of Denis Coggins, one of County Durham's best-known field archaeologists. A pupil of Bishop Auckland Grammar School who then trained as a teacher, he saw active service during the war as a radio operator behind enemy lines in Holland and Germany, missing the D-day landings in Normandy by only a few days. Denis subsequently taught at Cockfield County School, then in Middleton in Teesdale. In 1949 he married Doris Emerson, who survives him, as do their children Christopher, Louise and Nicholas. In 1955 he moved with his family and in-laws into the High Force Hotel and Farm, living there for twenty-six years.

In 1971, Denis started lecturing in history at Middleton St George College and began his archaeological career, organising various excavations locally with his colleague Ken Fairless. In 1981 he became Antiquities Officer for the County, and the family moved from High Force to Low Crag Farm, Lartington. He obtained an MA from the University of Durham in 1984, submitting a thesis entitled *The archaeology of early settlement in Upper Teesdale, County Durham*. Supposedly 'retired' in 1988, his archaeological and other activities continued unabated. As members will know, he was an active committee member of this Society and was, indeed, its President Elect.

Denis will be best remembered for his long and fruitful collaboration with Ken Fairless. Together they pioneered upland archaeology in Teesdale, exploring Bronze Age to Romano-British sites. Denis and Ken's achievement was to demonstrate the significance of areas of the Pennines previously ignored or dismissed as archaeologically barren. The exemplary excavations at the sites of Forcegarth Pasture North and South, for example, showed that upland Iron Age to Romano-British settlement was not confined to the Northumberland landscape, while the excavation at Bracken Rigg confirmed a possible Bronze Age date for some stone built settlements. Above all, Denis combined an unsurpassed knowledge of individual later prehistoric settlement sites in Teesdale (he had, after all, discovered most of them!) with the vision and foresight to study them in their landscape context, exploring the relationships between sites, looking for

associated field systems, burial monuments, industrial sites and all the other elements that went with the settlements, and producing complex maps illustrating landscape evolution over long time-periods.

This was, and still remains, archaeological research of the highest order, setting standards to challenge all who follow. Denis Coggins did not just collect data, he attempted to push back the frontiers of knowledge in the region, and his overall contribution to our understanding and interpretation of the later prehistoric and historical archaeology of the North Pennines will endure.

A genuine polymath, with a great sense of humour and a marvellous generosity of spirit, he is sadly missed.

I am grateful to the Coggins family for much of the biographical information above.

Rob Young Archaeologist

Northumberland National Park Authority February 2004

## Fieldwork volunteers

Are you interested in becoming involved with field work?

Over the coming months we are hoping to put together a programme of events and activities covering the more practical aspects of field archaeology. Working together with the Archaeology Section of Durham County Council and other professional bodies in the area, the aim is to provide an opportunity for members to take part in a number of field-based projects, including fieldwalking, landscape and earthwork survey, photographic survey and, possibly, some excavation.

If you are interested in taking part, or if you have a field project currently underway which would welcome some willing volunteers, then I would be glad to hear

from you. I would also appreciate hearing from anyone with any specific field skills who would be willing to run or to take part in training days, or from anyone with a field project in mind.

In the short term, the aim is to compile a list of willing volunteers, along with their skills and interests, who can be contacted should the opportunity for fieldwork arise. Eventually we hope to be able to produce a list of events advertised in advance in the AASDN newsletter.

Interested? Then please contact Penny Middleton, 2 Palmers Close, Church Street Head, Durham DH1 3DN; telephone 07855 326529, e-mail [pm@naa-mail.co.uk](mailto:pm@naa-mail.co.uk)

## Suggested reading

The following reading list was compiled as an introduction for new members of the Society and for all those wanting to explore the archaeology and architecture of our area within its wider context. It is not intended to be exhaustive, but if there are any other books that you feel should be included, please let us know. Dates relate to most recent editions rather than original publication.

### Local

**Past, present and future: the archaeology of northern England**  
Brooks, C, Daniels, R, Harding, A (eds) 2002

Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland Research Report 5 ISBN 0 9510388 4 2  
Available from the Society for £25, and to members of the Society for £16.

**Hadrian's Wall** Breeze, D and Dobson, B 2000  
Penguin Books ISBN 0140271821

**Northumbria's golden age** Hawkes, J and Mills, S (eds) 1999  
Sutton Publishing ISBN 0750916850

**The northern counties to AD 1000** Higham, N 1986  
Regional History of England Series  
Longman ISBN 0582492750

**Prehistoric rock art of County Durham, Swaledale and Wensleydale** Laurie, T and Beckensall, S 1998  
County Durham Books ISBN 1897585454

**The buildings of England: County Durham** Pevsner, N 1985  
Penguin Books ISBN 0 14 071009 4

**Green villages of County Durham: a study in historical geography** Roberts, B K 1977  
Durham County Library ISBN 0903268094

**Durham: 1000 years of history** Roberts, M 2003  
Stroud ISBN 0 7524 2537 4

**The buildings of England: Northumberland** Pevsner, N and Richmond, I 1992  
Penguin Books ISBN 0 14 0710 590

**Durham Archaeological Journal**  
Other Society publications

### General archaeology

**Iron Age communities in Britain: an account of England, Scotland and Wales from the seventh century BC until the Roman Conquest** Cunliffe, B 1991  
Routledge ISBN 0415054168

**A companion to Roman Britain** Todd, B (ed) 2004  
Blackwell Publishing ISBN 0 631 21823 8

**The making of the English landscape** Hoskins, W G 1991  
Penguin Books ISBN 0140154108

**The Romanization of Britain: an essay in archaeological interpretation** Millett, M 1992  
Cambridge University Press ISBN 0521428645

**The archaeology of Britain: an introduction from the upper palaeolithic to the industrial revolution** Ralston, I B M and Hunter, J (eds) 1998  
Routledge ISBN 0415135885

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