

Great North Museum: Hancock Library

The Great North Museum: Hancock Library is a unique and important resource for anyone who has an interest in the history, natural history and archaeology of the northern region. It was opened in 2009. The Library is located on the second floor of the Museum and contains the following collections that will be of great interest to anyone with a passion for archaeology and architecture.

Library of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle Upon Tyne The Society is the oldest provincial society of antiquaries in the UK and was established in 1813. From its early days the Society began to develop a library which now has over 10,000 books, 300 journal titles and 1700 tracts encompassing local history, architecture and archaeology, with a particular emphasis on north east heritage. The collection is particularly strong on material concerning Roman Britain and the history and archaeology of Hadrian's Wall. A full set of the Society's Transactions and its scholarly journal *Archaeologia Aeliana* are also available.

The collection contains material published from the 17th century to the present day including many rare and fascinating works. These include first editions of John Warburton's 1753 *Vallum Romanum* and Henry Bourne's 1736 *The History of Newcastle Upon Tyne*.

Library of Newcastle University's School of History, Classics and Archaeology This collection is known as the Cowen Library as it was named after John D Cowen, a noted amateur archaeologist who donated his collection of books to Newcastle University in 1976. The material includes around 8,500 academic level books and a wide range of learned journals. The subject areas of particular strength are Roman Britain, including social and military history, local archaeology, archaeological history and methodology and the history and archaeology of the Mediterranean, especially the Byzantine empire. Also included are a large number of local, national and international archaeological excavation reports. The collection includes publications from the 18th century, including a first edition of Alexander Gordon's 1726 *A journey thro' most of the counties of Scotland and those in the North of England*.

Officers 2015–16

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A woodcut from Henry Bourne's *History of Newcastle Upon Tyne*, published in 1736

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Library and Archive of the Natural History Society of Northumbria

This contains an important and unique collection of material about the natural world. Included in this are first editions of many rare and significant works in this field including Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*. A nationally important collection of watercolours by the famous local wood engraver Thomas Bewick is another treasure of the NHSN's Archive.

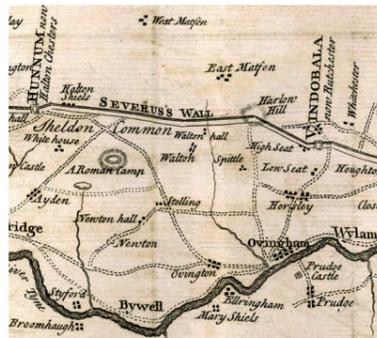
Anyone is welcome to use the collections of the Great North Museum: Hancock Library on a reference basis, though the loan of material is restricted to Society members and staff and students of Newcastle University.

All of the holdings of the Library can be found on Newcastle University's online catalogue. The opening hours of the Library are Monday to Friday 10.00 am to 4.00 pm during University term time and from 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm during vacations.

If you have any queries, or would like to organise a free group tour of the Library please send an email to gnmlibrary@tvmuseums.org.uk.

Ian Bower

Librarian, Great North Museum: Hancock Library



Map of Severus's Wall from John Warburton's *Vallum Romanum*, published in 1753

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ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

OF DURHAM AND NORTHUMBERLAND

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President's letter



Dear Members, I hope you have had an enjoyable summer. Much of my time this summer has been taken up with the skeletons from Palace Green, which I write about elsewhere in this newsletter. Now we have passed the autumnal equinox it is the season to restart our lecture series. We have a range of fascinating topics coming up, so do look at your programme now and put those dates in your diary! The Society is involved in a wide range of activities but we can always do with more volunteers, so if there is something you could contribute to please let a Committee member know – we would be glad to hear from you.

Andrew Millard President

Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland



Visiting St Botolph's Priory, Colchester, during the Ipswich Trip in June 2015

Bow Trust 40th Anniversary reception in Durham Museum & Heritage Centre

There will be a reception in Durham Museum and Heritage Centre on Saturday 17th October, 4.30–6.30 pm, to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Bow Trust. All members of the Society are welcome to attend. Friends and family are also welcome.

The Bow Trust was formed in 1975 to rescue the church of St Mary-le-Bow in North Bailey, Durham. No longer in use as a place of worship, the medieval church of St Mary-le-Bow required urgent repairs and a new purpose. The Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland was one of the founding supporters of the Bow Trust.

It was initially decided to create a Heritage Centre for the display of information and exhibitions about the history of the county and city of Durham. Since 1976, the Heritage Centre has been built-up into an Accredited Museum with permanent displays and collections relating to the social history of Durham City and the surrounding area. The museum also hosts temporary exhibitions relating to Durham's heritage and is available for use by community groups. Brancepeth Archives Group currently have an exhibition on Brancepeth Castle and Gardens.

In summer 2016 Durham Museum will host an exhibition about the work of the Architectural and Archaeological Society. St Mary-le-Bow is an appropriate venue for an exhibition on the history of the Society given that Canon Greenwell lived in North Bailey. The exhibition will also showcase recent excavations.

The Society has remained an important supporter of the Bow Trust over four decades. The Trust's purpose is to maintain this Grade I Listed Building and to ensure its use as a centre for Durham heritage. As a Limited Company and Registered Charity the Bow Trust is responsible for the effective governance of Durham Museum and Heritage Centre. Two trustees are nominated by the Society, and Sue Rothwell represents the Society on the Museum's Management Committee.

St Mary-le-Bow is an important building. It is Grade I Listed because of its national architectural significance. The medieval church had a 'bow' tower straddling the street, and originally marked the division between North and South Bailey. A chantry priest probably had his lodging chamber in the tower. In 1637 a storm brought the tower down and left the church a ruin. In the 1660s a group of Durham clergy and gentry raised funds to repair the church. The tower was built back from the street to enable the gentry to get their carriages into South Bailey. It is likely that the parish boundary between North and South Bailey was altered at this time, with the rebuilt church serving an enlarged parish with the boundary now (as it is today) at the gate to the Cathedral College. The interior woodwork, particularly the chancel screen and pews, are very fine examples of Durham wood carving. Appropriately, Durham Museum is today home to Fenwick Lawson's wood carvings as well as a museum of Durham social history.

We very much hope you can join us on Saturday 17th October to celebrate the achievements of the Bow Trust over its first 40 years.

Adrian Green

Secretary of the Bow Trust

The Society website www.aasdn.org.uk

e-mail archandarch.dandn@durham.ac.uk

Registered Charity Number 227397

Lecture programme available separately

Scottish Soldiers on Palace Green, Durham

In November 2013 human skeletons were found during the construction of a café for Palace Green Library. Excavation by Archaeological Services Durham University revealed a jumble of articulated human skeletons in two pits which appeared to represent two single occasions of burial.

There were no finds with the skeletons to indicate their date, but unexcavated portions of the pits extended under adjacent walls: the building to the east was formerly one of the bishop's stable blocks and appears on a map of 1754; the wall separating the site from Windy Gap dates to at least the 19th century. Suggestions for the origin of the deposit included a plague pit from one of the many outbreaks of plague in Durham or Scottish prisoners from the Battle of Dunbar.

The Battle of Dunbar took place on 3rd September 1650. Oliver Cromwell's forces were in Scotland to forestall a Scottish invasion of England in support of Charles II. In a battle lasting less than an hour, Cromwell's smaller, but more experienced, force defeated the Scots under David Leslie, taking thousands of prisoners. Cromwell released the sick and wounded and the remaining prisoners, likely numbering 4000–5000, were marched south towards Durham.

On route the numbers were diminished by escapes, deaths due to disease and some executions. The officers were detained in Newcastle and 3000 men arrived in Durham. They were confined in Durham Cathedral, which at that time stood empty as Parliament had abolished bishoprics and closed all cathedrals as places of worship. Many men fell ill and were transferred to Durham Castle to be nursed, but over the next six weeks 1600 prisoners died of what contemporaries called 'flux', which was probably dysentery. There are some later accounts indicating that they were buried in mass graves, but the location is not recorded.

Analysis of the skeletons from Palace Green therefore focussed on answering the question of their date and origins. Examination of the skeletons indicated that there were at least 17 and up to 28 individuals. All whose sex could be determined were male and their ages mostly lay between 13 and 25 years, with two older men. There were no signs of battle wounds, either healed or recent. Two skeletons also showed pipe-facets, notches in the teeth which arise from habitually holding a pipe between them. This young and male demographic profile is not the full cross-section of the population that would be expected from a plague pit, but is typical of military contexts. The lack of healed wounds would be consistent with the fact that Leslie's army contained many raw recruits and the lack of recent ones with Cromwell's release of the wounded.



Pipe-facet in the teeth of one of the skeletons
Photo Jeff Veitch
© Department of Archaeology, Durham University

Isotopic analysis of strontium, oxygen and lead in teeth was undertaken to illuminate the childhood geographical origins of the skeletons. This showed that they were of diverse origins. Four had values compatible with northern England or Scotland, six could not have come from England but could have come from Scotland, and a further three were likely to have been immigrants into Britain. This profile is not consistent with a group of plague victims who were local to Durham, but is compatible with the broad geographical origins of the Scots army. A few weeks after the battle 'Dutch' mercenaries (originating anywhere between Belgium and Holstein) were recorded in the Scots army, and this origin would be compatible with the isotopic analyses.

The dating of the skeletons involved integrating a range of evidence. Until the first cheap tobacco from Virginia plantations in 1612, tobacco smoking was occasional and the preserve of the rich. It became widespread in England and Scotland after 1620. So the pipe-facets give a *terminus post quem* of 1612. The map showing the overlying stable block provides a *terminus ante quem* of 1754. Within this range, radiocarbon dating was used to refine the date. The roots of two teeth from each of the two pipe-smokers were dated, and knowing that these teeth grew about 10 years apart allowed the date to be refined using Bayesian statistics. The result was a most likely range 1625–1660, with a very small probability of 1615–1620.

Putting together the jigsaw, the evidence points to these men being prisoners from the Battle of Dunbar. The team from the Department of Archaeology who have been working on this project are considering possible future research on the remains and also consulting with interested parties about commemoration of the prisoners and their final resting place.

Much detailed information can be found on the project webpages at <http://www.dur.ac.uk/scottishsoldiers> and comments may be sent to scottishsoldiers@durham.ac.uk.

Andrew Millard

Hornby Castle fieldwork Summer 2015

Reasonable summer weather has meant that a full session of fieldwork at Hornby has been possible so far without the cancellations that have plagued us in the past.

Following on from the earlier discoveries of the brick vaulted tunnel adjacent to the surviving castle buildings and the possible laundry hearth in trench 5, work has concentrated on a sixth trench running parallel to trench 4, where the remains of the collapsed stone hall were previously uncovered in the last two seasons.

Trench 6 has proved richly rewarding with the history of the wider site illustrated in microcosm. At its southwest corner further rubble incorporating pieces of structural timber from the collapsed hall has been picked up. Bisecting the trench through the centre is a gravel path laid out in the 1760s and illustrated on a plan of 1820 with a central brick-lined drain. A significant quantity of material discarded from the path has been uncovered, including an early 19th-century clay pipe bowl celebrating the victory at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 with Britannia depicted as a mermaid.

At the southeast corner of the trench, beneath the level of the path, a clay rampart has been uncovered showing evidence of ephemeral timber or wickerwork structures that have been dug into it. This lies above



The brick-lined drain in trench 6 © Erik Matthews

a mortar floor of medieval date and has yielded a significant quantity of 17th-century material, including military artefacts such as lead musket shot and an iron cannon ball. This leads to the intriguing possibility that there may have been some token effort to defend the site against Parliamentary forces in the Civil War when the owner Sir Conyers-Darcy commanded a regiment of foot soldiers under Prince Rupert.

At the northeast corner of the trench a substantial stone wall foundation of medieval date has been located, laid in a puddled clay-lined trench. Intriguingly the puddled clay lining then continues beneath the adjacent floor surface, raising the possibility of deliberate damp-proofing. This is significant, bearing in mind the proximity of the infilled moat directly to the north. The possible use of the room has been highlighted by the discovery of the substructure of a small kitchen or bake house oven identical to those surviving at Helmsley Castle in Ryedale. We hope to identify more in the remaining weeks of the season and next year to open a section across the adjacent moat.

Fifth annual extended excursion 22–27 September

Next year's extended excursion, to be led by Dr David Mason, will focus on Portsmouth and the surrounding area, with proposed visits to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard museums (including the Mary Rose, HMS Victory, and HMS Warrior), Arundel Castle, Petworth House, Fishbourne Roman Palace, Portchester late Roman fort, the Weald and Downland open air museum, Butser Iron Age reconstructed village, along with Chichester and its new museum.

This will be a 6-day excursion with longer stop-offs during the journey down and back. We shall be staying at the Langstone Hotel located beside Bosham harbour.

Further details will be available in due course, but please contact David Mason if you are interested in taking part.

Heart of Teesdale fieldwork

Organised by Northern Archaeological Associates with the AASDN.

Brignall shrunken medieval village Aerial photographs have revealed traces of probable buildings and tofts immediately south of the present village of Brignall. At the time of the Domesday survey, Brignall was composed of 12 carucates of land, all waste, but the village must have been of some importance in 1265 to have been granted an annual and weekly market. Four mills are recorded in 1712.

This project is currently in progress, concluding with an open day on Saturday 17 October.

Hawkesley Hill prehistoric rock art At the western edge of Hawkesley Hill, a few miles north-west of Barnard Castle,

field research has identified four 'panels' of Rock Art, with cups, rings, grooves, isolated peck marks, and other more heavily eroded features.

The project will entail the detailed recording of the visible Rock Art features and a search for additional examples in the vicinity both by surface inspection and by excavation. An area around each of the principal rock outcrops bearing Rock Art will be de-turfed and excavated in order to establish if there are other potentially contemporary archaeological phenomena nearby. Training in archaeological excavation, survey, recording and interpretation techniques is included.

Investigations at Hawksley are due to commence once work at Brignall is completed; dates to confirm.

If you would like to take part, please contact Penny Middleton, Project Manager (Heritage Conservation), Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd, Durham Office, Millhouse Court, Gilesgate, Durham DH1 2JJ. email pm@naa.gb.com, telephone (0191) 3750943, mobile 07855 326529.

Membership

Society membership rates have not increased since 1999, so it was agreed at the AGM in May that they should be put up to £20 for ordinary membership, £25 joint membership (including subscription to Durham Archaeological Journal) and £10 for concessions (not including DAJ). Subs are due on 1 January.

After 18 years' service, Maureen Smith has retired from the post of Membership Secretary. In gratitude for all her hard work and dedication, the Committee proposes that she and Eric should be granted Honorary Joint Membership of the Society. Janet McDougall was appointed as our new Membership Secretary, and we are most grateful to her for taking on this vital role.